



# PARTICIPATORY GENDER ANALYSIS REPORT

(WEST BANK & GAZA  
STRIP)

APRIL 2020

**Prepared by:**

Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD)



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
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# ACRONYMS

<b>ARAs</b>	Access Restricted Areas in Gaza (ARAs)
<b>ARIJ</b>	Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem
<b>AWRAD</b>	Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD)
<b>CBOs</b>	Community-based organizations
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategic Plan
<b>ERWs</b>	Explosive remnants of war
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus group discussions
<b>GAP</b>	Gender Action Plan
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender equality and women’s empowerment
<b>GTP</b>	Gender transformative programming
<b>GRN</b>	Gender Results Network
<b>GDP</b>	Gross National Product
<b>HHs</b>	Households
<b>ILS</b>	Israeli Shekel
<b>IMR</b>	Integrated Road Map framework
<b>KIIs</b>	Key informant interviews
<b>MoSD</b>	Ministry of Social Development
<b>PNCTP</b>	Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organizations
<b>NM</b>	Nautical miles
<b>NPA</b>	National Policy Agenda
<b>PA</b>	Palestinian Authority
<b>PCBS</b>	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
<b>PWWSD</b>	Palestinian Working Women Society for Development
<b>SEFSec</b>	Socio-Economic Food Security Survey
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

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# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

# Introduction

Since 1991, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to meet the food needs and early recovery of the most vulnerable non-refugee populations. WFP provides its assistance through food/in-kind and cash-based transfer modality. With the issuance of the Gender Policy (2015-2020), the associated Gender Action Plan and the Regional Bureau Gender Policy Implementation Strategy and as part of the Integrated Road Map (IRM) framework, WFP – Palestine is carrying out a participatory gender analysis to inform its operational programming. In its Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2022), WFP has committed to integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment into its work and activities to ensure that the various food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed. This is informed through an understanding that equality and empowerment require an address of food and nutrition challenges and building a sustainable food security (as stipulated in WFP’s Gender Strategy in Palestine – 2014). Closely relevant is the Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2021-2022 which focuses on strengthening institutional gender mainstreaming, promoting gender mainstreaming in the service provision and seeking out strategic relationships with partners who work on gender equality.

WFP goals are aligned with the National Policy Agenda (2017-2022) which stipulates that meeting the basic needs of communities and ensuring food security are key priorities. The agenda also places priority on gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE). This is translated as the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls as well as removing barriers which prevent the full participation of women in community, economic development and public life<sup>1</sup>.

WFP’s goals require a participatory gender analysis which highlights the separate needs of women, men, girls and boys in terms of food security, the intersection between a context of ongoing military occupation and food insecurity in Palestine, as well as an understanding of the importance of a gender analysis in contexts where social injustices preside. Against this backdrop, WFP is carrying out a participatory gender analysis for better understanding the respective lives of women, men, girls and boys in order to design targeted activities that are effective, efficient, empowering and transformative. The results of the analysis will be utilised by WFP for modifying and enriching its GAP.

## Methodology

The Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) team conducted a review of essential documentations in order to gain a deeper insight of the respective context for guiding the preparation of the analysis tools as well as inform its results. As illustrated in section 3 of this report, analysis utilises different national statistics and empirical studies as well as national and international documents and reports<sup>2</sup>. In its approach and design, the present analysis draws on WFP’s Gender Toolkit and Gender Analysis Guidance and considers specific practical needs and strategic interests of women, men, girls and boys across the following domains: roles and responsibilities; capacities and vulnerabilities; access to resources; and participation and power.

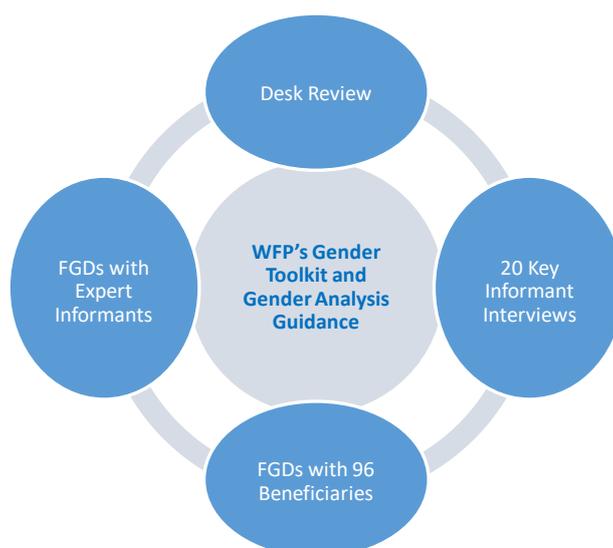
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<sup>1</sup> For more on the Agenda, refer to: State of Palestine, <http://palestinecabinet.gov.ps/WebSite/Upload/Documents/GOVPLAN/NPA%20English.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> For the bibliography, please refer to Annex 1.

Primary data collected for the purposes of this analysis is based on qualitative methods including semi-structured interviews with key informants (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with women, men, girls and boys – beneficiaries of WFP assistance. Twenty (20) KIIs were conducted with selected program and project staff, WFP partners and stakeholders. These included representatives of international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government partners and Palestinian NGOs<sup>3</sup>. The focus of KIIs was to identify new information, updates in programmatic trends and gaps in data<sup>4</sup>. Eight (8) FGDs with 96 participants were conducted with relevant groups of women, men, girls and boys from WFP beneficiary HHs (West Bank and Gaza)<sup>5</sup>. The sample was selected through a systematic random method from the lists of WFP beneficiaries to ensure representation of regions, age groups and gender. In addition, two (2) FGDs were conducted with informants from relevant government agencies, community-based organisations (CBOs), women and child NGOs and implementing partners (West Bank and Gaza)<sup>6</sup>. AWRAD followed internationally-adhered to ethical principles including the protection of participating beneficiaries in terms of privacy, anonymity, confidentiality and data protection, child protection, and respect of gender sensitive considerations. For the analysis, the paper utilised an iterative approach where the quantitative data and the qualitative insights were weaved together to provide a comprehensive storyline.

**Figure 1: Summary of Methods**



The present study is naturally limited by its scope and methods. To avoid overgeneralization, the following analysis must be viewed on the basis of its scope and objectives (listed above). This is not a comprehensive assessment of the lives of women, men, girls and boys in Palestine. It is carried out to align with, and serve, the mandate of WFP. In addition, the following caveats must be taken into consideration:

- 1) The focus was on beneficiaries (women, men, girls and boys) of WFP assistance in the most marginalized and poverty-stricken regions which WFP targets. WFP targets areas

<sup>3</sup> For a list of key informants, please refer to Annex 2.

<sup>4</sup> For more on the guiding questions for the KIIs, please refer to Annex 6.

<sup>5</sup> For more on the distribution of the FGDs, targeted groups and communities, and the guiding questions, please refer to Annex 3.

<sup>6</sup> For the list of participants in the expert FGDs and the guiding questions, please refer to Annex 4.

across the region, including Area C<sup>7</sup>, nomadic communities, and Access Restricted Areas in Gaza (ARAs), in addition to other non-refugee populations. It also targets non-refugees who mostly reside in rural areas. As such, the analysis is indicative of the respective target regions and groups, and not to be automatically applied to all Palestinian society.

- 2) The sample of focus group participants included in the analysis was selected from among the beneficiaries of WFP assistance. Based on agreed criteria, these beneficiaries were selected by WFP and followed up by implementing NGOs or by the Ministry of Social Development and supported with food assistance from WFP. Targeted by WFP, these beneficiaries are among the ranks of the poor and food insecure, and are not necessarily representative of all of the Palestinians including other poor cohorts who receive assistance from the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in its social safety net programme or UNRWA which targets refugees.

The field work for the assessment was carried out over a period of 8 weeks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (November – December 2019).

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<sup>7</sup> Area C is an Oslo II administrative division of the West Bank, defined as "areas of the West Bank outside Areas A and B", and is under Israeli security and civilian control.



# ANALYSIS

# Overview

## Occupation as the Overarching Contextual Factor

The Palestinian case is one where conflict continues to impose itself as the main driver behind food insecurity which affects the livelihoods of 1.7 million people<sup>8</sup>. In a context where a military occupation has been ongoing since 1967 coupled with the 13-year long imposition of a blockade on Gaza, Palestinians have been systematically exposed to land annexation, restrictions in accessing and having control of natural resources, forced displacement, segregation, imprisonment, restricted mobility amongst others. These factors have contributed to the rise of 2.4 million people in need across all humanitarian clusters<sup>9</sup>.

Food security and nutrition among Palestinians are closely linked, and must be analysed in view of the encroaching nature of the occupation and the continuous land annexation, land policies (in terms of access, zoning and land use) and economic dependence on Israel. Combined, gender and age as well as occupation-related, cultural, social, economic and legal factors influence the levels of enjoyment of rights and empowerment. In Area C and Gaza's ARAs, for example, challenges facing Palestinians in accessing land negatively influences

- Conflict continues to impose itself as the main driver behind food insecurity affecting the livelihoods of 1.7 million people.
- 2.4 million people in need across all humanitarian clusters.
- 11 percent of Palestinian HHs are headed by women.
- 21.2 percent of the HHs receiving MoSD assistance are headed by women.

employment, especially for women, where 6.8 percent of women in the formal labour force work in agriculture, compared to 6.2 percent of men<sup>10</sup>. Adding to that, land zoning laws diminish opportunities for economic development, agricultural production, entrepreneurship, labour participation and food security especially in rural and marginalized areas. They also prevent Palestinians from building in lands situated outside of the permitted zones, which leads to vertical buildings and a reinforcement of patriarchal relations within extended family structures in the same building (replacing nuclear families). As such decision-making power is concentrated with higher levels of monitoring of women and more control over the mobility of women and children. In Gaza, the limited spaces for building are resulting in a resort to increased levels of extended family formations especially among poor families receiving assistance from the MoSD Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme (PNCTP).

## Changing Family Formations

While the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS, 2017) data show that 11 percent of Palestinian HHs are headed by women<sup>11</sup>, at least 21.2 percent of the HHs receiving MoSD assistance are headed by women (i.e., mother, daughter or grandmother). The rest (78.8 percent) are headed by a male family member<sup>12</sup>. This implies that women in poverty-stricken HHs must shoulder additional burdens as heads of HHs in the absence of a husband or in case

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<sup>8</sup> Ocha oPt (2020). Humanitarian Response Plan. Online from: <https://www.ochaopt.org/hrp-2020>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> PCBS, 2018. Labor Force Survey. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2433.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3406>

<sup>12</sup> Unpublished study on shifting vulnerability and the Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme, OXFAM and AWRAD, 2020.

of physical or mental health inability. The complexity of the shifting gender roles and needs of Palestinian HHs are further elaborated below:

In general, poverty and current assistance regimes are conducive to higher levels of extended family arrangements and patriarchal relations. For most assistance sources, larger families have a higher chance of eligibility than smaller families.

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“Your Palestinian typical family is receding, leaving much space for varied forms of families. You have families that are coming together again; nuclear families are going back to extended families as that is the viable arrangement for many HHs. It is less expensive and more cost-effective. In addition, large HHs attract more assistance. This is reinforcing a patriarchal system where women and men have less independence; but then leading to more violence as older male members feel the need for more control.” (Gender and Development Expert, Gaza)

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Poverty is also leading to a reinforcement of early marriage, for both girls and boys:

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“In marginalized areas, some very young men are going into marriage as there isn’t really much else to do; but they also think that they will be better qualified to receive micro credit and assistance. This is leading to early marriage for both genders.” (NGO representative, West Bank)

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Unemployment among men as well as salary cuts and delays are adding to the burdens of women:

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“My husband sits around the house and in the yard. He goes back and forth to the mosque. He has lost his motivation for life. People think that my taking responsibility and having to do work is empowering, it isn’t. I am always exhausted and without any real loving support.” (FGD participant, female, 48, Hebron region)

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“I am working in a government job getting only 40 percent of my very small salary. I am married with three children. To make ends meet, we pretend to be separated and my wife gets assistance as an abandoned woman.” (FGD participant, male, 34, Gaza)

Harsh living conditions are leading to higher levels of immigration especially among males in Gaza, exposing women and children to increased economic and social risks:

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“My husband left to Norway. He got there illegally and now he is a refugee. He can barely support himself. I have four children to support. I work here and there, very little income, with many commitments.” (FGD participant, female, 38, Gaza)

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## Employment and Poverty

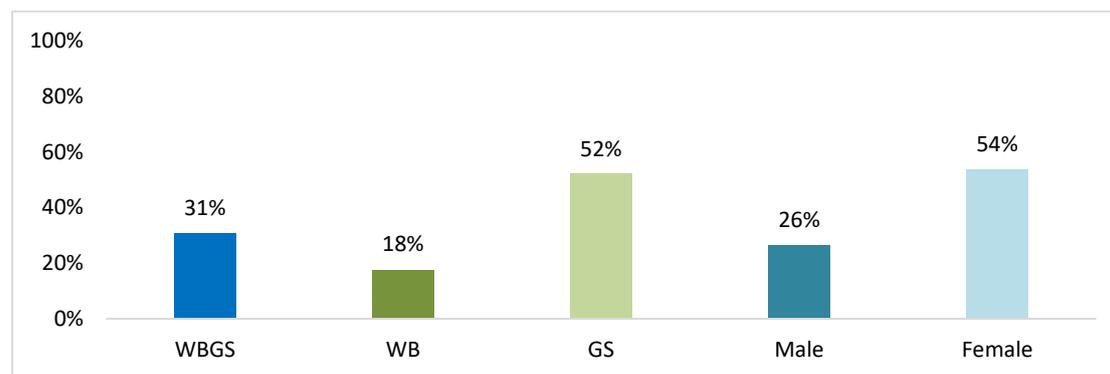
The complex occupation and policy drivers have a direct effect on economic growth and employment rates, with a decline in the Gross National Product (GDP) growth from 1.4 percent in 2017 to 1.2 percent in 2018<sup>13</sup>. Similarly, unemployment rates remain high across the West Bank and Gaza (30.8 percent) – an increase of 2.4 percentage points from 2017 (with 17.6 percent in the West Bank and 52 percent in Gaza in 2018). There are significant gaps in labour force participation and employment. This, in part, is influenced by the productive roles

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<sup>13</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2496.pdf>

of women. While declining (from 5.9 in 1991 to 4.1 in 2013), the fertility rate among Palestinian women continues to be higher than international standards. Childcare continues to mainly be the role of Palestinian women, as the average family size is 5.1 (4.8 in the West Bank and 5.6 in the Gaza Strip).<sup>14</sup> Resultantly, the participation of women in the labour force is 20 percent, compared to 70 percent among men. Disparity in unemployment rates between men and women continue to grow. In 2018, the rate for men was 26.4 percent compared to 53.7 percent for women.<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 2: Unemployment Rates by Region and Gender 2018**



In 2018, average daily wage of Palestinian women (95 ILS) is 70 percent of the average daily wage of men (135.3 ILS).<sup>16</sup> Closely related is women ownership of businesses. Only 3.5 percent of working age (15-64 years old) women set up their own businesses compared to 16 percent for working age of men in Palestine.<sup>17</sup> There are 7,000 businesses that are owned and operated by women in Palestine.<sup>18</sup>

Moreover, the agriculture sector in Palestine has been adversely impacted by the occupation, resulting in the decrease of its share within the Palestinian economy where in 1994 it constituted more than 12 percent in and a mere 3 percent in 2018. The overall poverty rate is at 29.2 percent. It is slightly higher among females (30.6 percent) than males (29.2 percent). A total of 53 percent of Palestinians in Gaza are living below the poverty line, compared to 13.9 percent in the West Bank<sup>19</sup>. In Gaza, only 10 percent of households have “direct access to safe drinking water” and in December 2017, access to electricity was an average of 4-5 hours per day<sup>20</sup>. Such stresses have been linked to gender-based violence (GBV), including early marriage, and given the increasingly limited resources<sup>21</sup> shelters and other service providers struggle to meet needs.

<sup>14</sup> PCBS, Press Release, 2019. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3642>

<sup>15</sup> PCBS (2019). Press Report on the Labour Force Survey Results, Labour Force Survey (October – December, 2018) Round (Q4/2018), February 13, 2019. Online from: [http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/\\_pcbs/PressRelease/Press\\_En\\_13-2-2019-LF-e.pdf](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_13-2-2019-LF-e.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> PCBS, Q2/2019. Labor Force Survey. [http://pcbs.gov.ps/portals/\\_pcbs/PressRelease/Press\\_En\\_7-8-2019-lf\\_3-en.pdf](http://pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_7-8-2019-lf_3-en.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> OECD (2013). Gender inequality and entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa

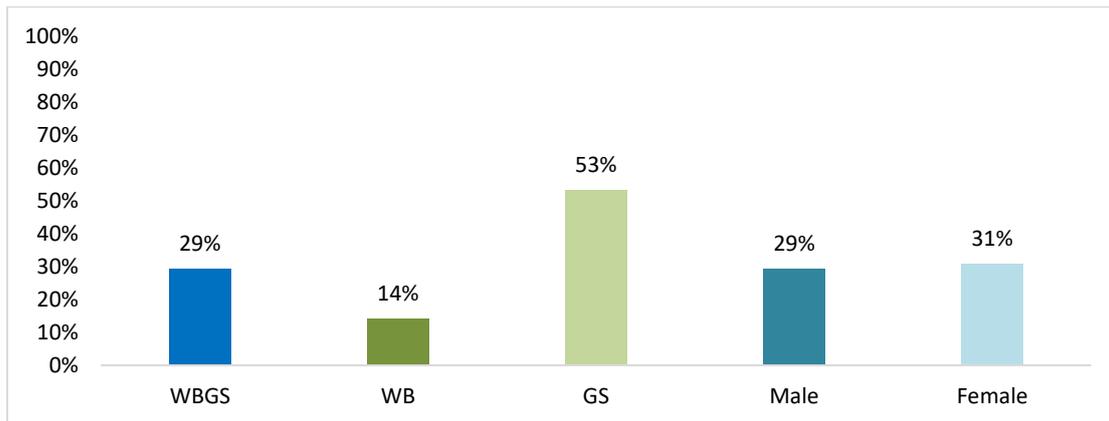
<sup>18</sup> Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) (2014). Policies for Up Scaling the Female Entrepreneurship in the State of Palestine.

<sup>19</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2433.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> UNICEF (2018). Children in the State of Palestine, November 2018. Online from: <https://www.unicef.org/sop/media/341/file/Children%20in%20the%20State%20of%20Palestine.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> GBV Sub-Cluster Palestine (2018). Gender-based violence in Gaza Strip: Situation Analysis. United Nations Population Fund, November 2018. Online from: <https://palestine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Situation%20Analysis%20Gaza%20-%2020%20March%202018.pdf>

**Figure 3: Poverty by Region and Gender 2018**



The burdens of poverty falls hardest on several disadvantaged regions and groups, including: women-headed households, youth and children, persons with disabilities, Bedouin and herding communities, displaced persons, Area C, H2 area in Hebron, East Jerusalem, ARAs and the Seam Zone<sup>22</sup>. Persons with disability are especially impacted, where the 2017 census data indicated that the unemployment rate in Palestine among persons with disabilities participating in the labour force who are aged 15 years and over was 37 percent, (19 percent in the West Bank and 54 percent in Gaza Strip)<sup>23</sup>. According to the Labour Force Survey 2018 data, participation rate for women with disabilities in the labour force accounts for 4 percent of women with disabilities compared to 21 percent of the total number of men with disabilities<sup>24</sup>.

In East Jerusalem, 75.4 percent of families live in poverty as calculated against the Israeli poverty line and 36 percent of children fail to complete the full 12 years of school<sup>25</sup>. In the West Bank, Palestinians are exposed to settler and army violence on a regular basis. In 2019, Israeli authorities demolished or seized a total of 623 structures in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, marking a 35 percent increase compared with 2018<sup>26</sup>. Israel controls all ground and surface water, allocating Palestinians a daily average 84.3 litres of water (in some cases, as low as 20), well below the 100 litre minimum recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). In Area C, Palestinians are prohibited from building cisterns or other water retaining/collecting infrastructure without permits. Though the vast majority of the Palestinian population (95 percent) is connected to an energy grid, Palestine is energy-insecure. Both male and female labour force participants in Area C are much less likely to have stable full employment than their counterparts across the West Bank. Almost 69 percent of males aged 15 years and above in Area C were in some form of employment, compared to 62 percent of males across the West Bank. But they were four times as likely to be only partially employed (28 percent), in comparison to males across the West Bank (at 7 percent)<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> A term used to refer to a land area in the Israeli-occupied West Bank located east of the Green Line and west of Israel's separation barrier.

<sup>23</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3607>

<sup>24</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3406>

<sup>25</sup> UN Country Team, 2016. [https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/cca\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/cca_report_en.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> OCHA, 2020. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-demolitions-and-displacement-december-2019>

<sup>27</sup> OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018.

[https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hno\\_20\\_12\\_2017\\_final.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hno_20_12_2017_final.pdf)

In Gaza's ARAs, the mean household family size is 8.5 – larger than the average of 5.6 in Gaza and 4.8 in the West Bank in 2017<sup>28</sup>. The share of women headed families in the area is 13 percent - also higher than the average of 9.1 percent in Gaza 2016<sup>29</sup>. The area is characterised by particularly high poverty levels, chronic malnutrition in a context of marked food insecurity (more than 96.5 percent and 97.8 percent of ARA households in Rafah and Khan Younis, respectively), low levels of education amongst women, poor access to clean water and poor sanitation, and limited access to quality health services<sup>30</sup>. There is great concern in regards to violence against boys and girls, early marriage, violence against women and the prevalence of explosive remnants of war (ERWs) in the area<sup>31</sup>.

## Food Security

Limitations imposed on agricultural development include- *inter alia*- expropriation of agricultural land and harassment of farmers, control of water resources, and restrictions over access to market and trade, destroying essential equipment, banning of imported items as well as increasing production cost. Combined with and in addition to other factors, these measures largely affect Palestinians' access to and production of food. Findings from OXFAM's comprehensive household survey conducted in 2019 in Area C concluded that the largest percentage of humanitarian assistance received by the most vulnerable communities in the village areas was food aid in comparison with aid in the forms of water and road projects, health and agriculture projects, and legal aid and income generating projects. The volume of food assistance in Area C, from the total assistance, has increased from 30 percent in 2014 to 32 percent in 2017<sup>32</sup>.

The discrepancies between Gaza and the West Bank can be explained in relation to additional factors that have contributed towards a collapse of Gaza's agriculture sector and an increased vulnerability to food insecurity. Gaza's GDP share of the agriculture sector has also declined from 15.1 percent of the overall economy in 2005 to 12.3 percent in 2018. Almost 35 percent of cultivable lands exist in a restricted area to which people in Gaza have been denied access<sup>33</sup>. In addition to previously existing limiting factors on the economy in Palestine, 13 years of closure on Gaza has had severe implications on trade and on the cost of import and export. Agriculture-related items, such as "fertilizers" are banned from entering the Gaza Strip as they have been placed on the "dual-use" list of items that could be being used for military purposes<sup>34</sup>. Further restrictions have been in place since 2000 on the fishing zone in the Mediterranean Sea. Initially, and under the Oslo II Accords, fishermen in Gaza were allowed

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<sup>28</sup> PCBS (2018). Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2017: Census Final Results Summary. 2017 Ramallah – Palestine.

<sup>29</sup> PCBS (2017). Women and Men in Palestine: Issues and Statistics, 2017. Ramallah – Palestine.

<sup>30</sup> El Hawajri, J. and Al Sharif, A. (2017). Health Need Assessment in Access Restricted Area. World Health Organization, August 2017.

<sup>31</sup> UNOCHA (2017). 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Occupied Palestinian territory, November 2017.

<sup>32</sup> OXFAM and Birzeit University, 2019.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Area%20C%20Complete%20Report%20web%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2496.pdf>

United Nations (UN) (2019). Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. July 2019.

Online from: [https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/tdbex68d4\\_en.pdf?user=46](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/tdbex68d4_en.pdf?user=46)

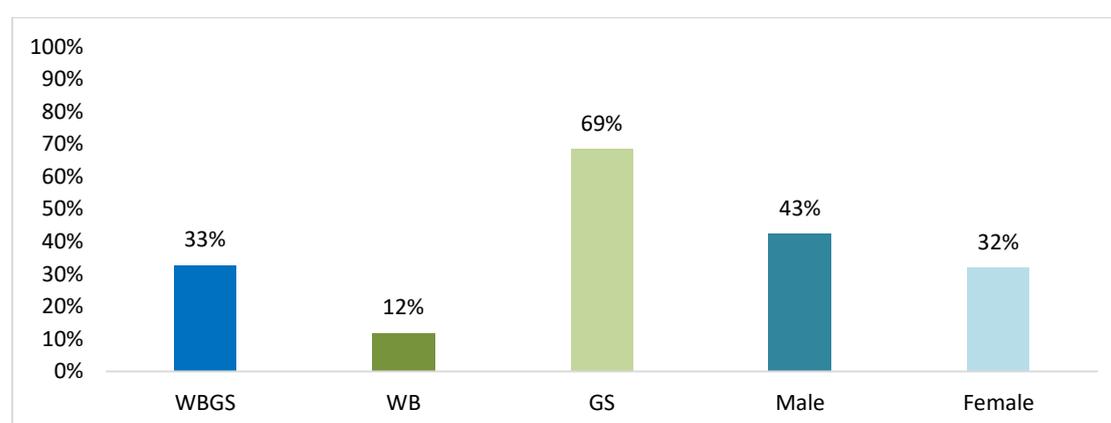
<sup>34</sup> United Nations (UN) (2016). Common Country Analysis. Leave No One Behind: A Perspective on Vulnerability and Structural Disadvantage in Palestine. Online from:

[https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/common\\_country\\_analysis.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/common_country_analysis.pdf)

access to 20 Nautical miles (NM). However, this figure has been limited to 6 NM and on occasions to 3 NM off the coast. This limitation has affected the livelihoods of fishermen, and has had destabilizing effects on nutrition, food availability, employment and income<sup>35</sup>.

In 2018, approximately one-third (32.7 percent) of households in Palestine were assessed to be food insecure. An assessment of these circumstances on a regional level reveals stark divergences. In the West Bank, only 11.9 percent of households are food insecure, declining from 18.6 percent in 2013. However, in Gaza, 68.5 percent of households are food insecure, increasing from 61.0 percent in 2013. Further, among these households in Gaza, 47.0 percent are classified as severely food insecure<sup>36</sup>. Vulnerable groups face heightened food insecurity. According to the Socio-Economic Food Security Survey (SEFSec) - 2018, food insecurity among households headed by women (32 percent) is less prevalent than among households headed by men (42.5 percent). This could be attributed to the focus of the government and humanitarian actors on women-headed households in terms of the provision of assistance<sup>37</sup>.

**Figure 4: Food Insecurity by Region and Head of Household 2018**



Further, though the rate of food insecurity among households in Bedouin families in Area C in the West Bank is close to 60 percent<sup>38</sup>. Limited economic access to food is the primary determinant in food insecurity, a restriction that has deepened through the acceleration of the economic slowdown in the West Bank and the economic crisis in Gaza in the past year. The findings of the Gaza Strip Nutrition Multi-Sectoral Assessment (2019) showed that 23 percent of the households in Gaza having a poor food consumption score. The assessment also revealed a high risk of iron deficiency “anaemia” among households due to an insufficient consumption of “iron rich food”. For 71 percent of assessment respondents (population), coping strategies focus on the reduction of meals and variety of foods. As for the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and girls, 18 percent of pregnant women and 14 percent of lactating mothers were found malnourished. This is also related to early marriage as indicated in other sections of the report. Moreover, 4 percent of children between 6-59 months of age were found acutely malnourished which is still below the emergency thresholds of WHO. Given the “chronic energy deficit” production costs for food producers are raised,

<sup>35</sup> United Nations (UN) (2019). Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. July 2019.

Online from: [https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/tdbox68d4\\_en.pdf?user=46](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/tdbox68d4_en.pdf?user=46)

<sup>36</sup> PCBS (2018). Socio-Economic Food Security Survey: 2018 Preliminary Results, 10 December 2018.

Online from: [https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/sefsec\\_2018\\_-\\_food\\_security\\_analysis\\_preliminary\\_results.pdf](https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/sefsec_2018_-_food_security_analysis_preliminary_results.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> PCBS, Main Findings of Living Standards in Palestine (Expenditure, Consumption and Poverty), 2017.

<sup>38</sup> WFP and UNRWA, Food insecurity assessment, 2016/2017.

[http://lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT\\_ID=31861](http://lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31861)

making “it difficult for households to refrigerate food items and caused increased expenditure and work for women.”<sup>39</sup> Further, the Palestinian diet is assessed to be of limited nutritional value. As Palestinian households increasingly opt for refined flour of Western diets, the Palestinian pantry is increasingly stocked with “empty calorie[s]” contributing to obesity. Female Palestinians traditionally live lives that are more sedentary and involve less physical activity, leaving them more vulnerable to the negative effects of a diet with inadequate nutrition<sup>40</sup>.

Food insecurity is also related to poverty, unemployment, as well as food assistance. Poverty rates between women- and men-headed households were relatively similar in 2017: 30.6 percent and 29.2 percent respectively<sup>41</sup>. However, women-headed households are one of the highest recipients of public assistance in both Gaza and the West Bank. It is likely that without such social protection and assistance, a greater number of women-headed households would fall deeper into poverty. In addition to the sex of the head of household, other determinants of food insecurity and poverty are the employment status of household head, being a refugee, urban poor or a small-scale farmer or herder, living in a refugee camp, having a high dependence ratio and having a household member with a disability or chronic illness<sup>42</sup>. Bedouin communities in Area C are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, reaching a staggering 61 percent<sup>43</sup>. Pregnant and lactating women and girls are particularly vulnerable to the risks of malnutrition due to food insecurity. Elderly women are more vulnerable to disease, violence, neglect and have limited access to services compared to elderly men and the rest of the population<sup>44</sup>.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The roles of women, men and children have been greatly impacted by the political and economic climate as well as and policy. Chronic poverty, unemployment and dependence on international funding and the Israeli economy play a major role in the changing gender roles (elaborated below).

### Labour Force Participation

Participation in the labour force among women, men and children has been shifting. The high fertility rate and unemployment rate among educated women, and low labour participation rates are among the distinct features of conditions faced by women in Palestinian society. PCBS data (2015) reveal that 22 percent of women aged 20-24 years gave birth before the age of 18 and this percentage is higher in Gaza (25.1 percent) compared to the West Bank (19.6 percent)<sup>45</sup>. At the same time, PCBS (2019) Labour Force Survey shows that the overall labour force participation rate of those aged 15 years and above was 46.4 percent. However, the rate

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<sup>39</sup> Gaza Strip Nutrition Multi-sectoral Assessment, 2019. [https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/UNICEFSAVEWFP\\_270519.pdf](https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/UNICEFSAVEWFP_270519.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) and WFP (2017). Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine (2017), June 2017. Online from: [https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/strategic\\_review\\_of\\_food\\_and\\_nutrition\\_security\\_in\\_palestine\\_2017.pdf](https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/strategic_review_of_food_and_nutrition_security_in_palestine_2017.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> PCBS, 2018g, p. 4.

<sup>42</sup> Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute, 2017, p. 16.

<sup>43</sup> WFP, 2017b, p. 2.

<sup>44</sup> OCHA, 2017a, p. 13.

<sup>45</sup> PCBS, 2015. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2175.pdf>

of participation among males was 71.5 percent in 2018, while among females it was 20.7 percent in the same year. This is an overall increase of 5.3 percent from 41.4 percent in 2008 (an increase of 4.7 percent from 66.8 percent among males and 5.3 percent from 15.4 percent among females). This might be partially due to declining rates of early marriage among female Palestinians (from 24 percent in 2010 to 20 percent in 2017)<sup>46</sup>. Individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 showcased the highest rate of labour force participation (63.6 percent), where males account for 91.0 percent and while females constitute 35.3 percent. The labour force participation rate for individuals aged 35-44 years was 59.7 percent (92.0 percent for males compared with 26.9 percent for females). For individuals aged 15-24 years labour force participation was 33.2 percent (53.1 percent for males compared with 12.4 percent for females). The labour force participation rate in the West Bank was 46.1 percent for individuals aged 15 years and above: 73.7 percent for males and 17.6 percent for females. The results indicated that the labour force participation rate in Gaza Strip was 46.9 percent: 67.8 percent for males compared with 25.7 percent for females.

In 2017, approximately 3.4 percent of children aged 10-17 years (6.6 percent males and 0.1 percent females) engaged in paid or unpaid work. The rate reaches 4.6 percent in the West Bank and 1.7 percent in Gaza Strip. The percentage of children enrolled in schools and engaged in labour reached 1.2 percent (1.6 percent in the West Bank and 0.7 percent in Gaza Strip). It was 2.4 percent among males and 0.1 percent among females in 2017<sup>47</sup>. While the participation of women in the labour force has been on the rise, unemployment particularly among women has also been on the increase. PCBS data show that unemployment among women has almost doubled since 2009 (from 27 percent to 51 percent in 2018). The increase among men was minimal (from 24 percent in 2009 to 25 percent in 2018). In addition, women continue to receive 77 percent less of the pay received by men<sup>48</sup>. Women carry out 87 percent of the agricultural animal production labour and 54 percent of agricultural plant production labour, which are a source of income for thousands of Palestinian families in Palestine, in addition to their role in securing the food basket by supplying fruits and vegetables<sup>49</sup>.

One fifth of the women in the labour force (22 percent) contribute to the agricultural sector. However, because most of women's labour in the informal sector remains hidden, their contribution to the agriculture sector in the form of home-based activities is much higher than what is officially reported. The World Bank reports that over 30 percent of informal agricultural work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is performed by women as part of their domestic responsibilities<sup>50</sup>.

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<sup>46</sup> This is based on the percentage of all marriage contracts registered during each year for females under the age of 18 divided by the number of all contracts. PCBS, 2019.

[http://pcbs.gov.ps/portals/\\_pcbs/PressRelease/Press\\_Ar\\_7-3-2019-woman-ar.pdf](http://pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_Ar_7-3-2019-woman-ar.pdf)

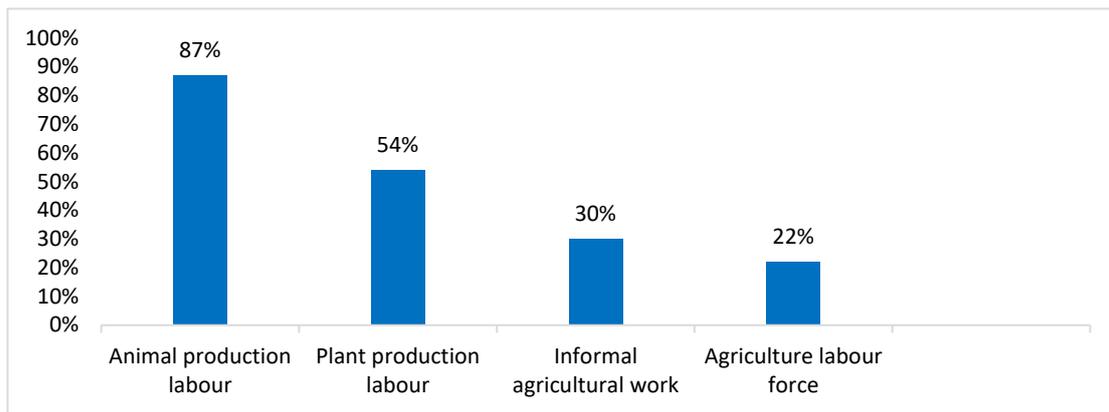
<sup>47</sup> PCBS, 2018. Palestinian Children's Day 2018.

<sup>48</sup> PCBS, The Labour Market from a Gender Perspective, <http://pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2457.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> PARC, 2018. [https://www.ciheam.org/uploads/attachments/918/WL40\\_2Palestinian\\_women.pdf](https://www.ciheam.org/uploads/attachments/918/WL40_2Palestinian_women.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> FAO, 2011. <http://www.fao.org/3/al807e/al807e00.pdf>

**Figure 5: The Contribution of Women to Agriculture and Production**



## Limited Changes in Cultural and Social Norms

While gender role changes (listed above) in the formal and informal labour market are noticeable; they were not matched by cultural and social changes. Opinion polls show that both genders hold patriarchal views of the “rightful” roles and capacities of women<sup>51</sup>. For instance, around 80 percent of men and 60 percent of women agree that a woman’s most important role is to take care of the home. Notably, there is no difference in gender-related attitudes between younger and older men. The political reality, however, has some impact on attitudes. For example, in the cases of political prisoners’ families, the change in women’s roles during the husband’s absence was met with more appreciation and a reconsideration of women’s abilities to perform different roles, compounding the double-burdens shouldered by women. At the same time, this led to a reevaluation of men’s domestic work, reflected in the willingness of many ex-prisoners to share household work with women<sup>52</sup>. The same study shows that women continued to play a role in public life as a result of their empowerment during the duration of their husband’s imprisonment.

Still, when asked if “a woman’s place is in the home,” the majority of Palestinians (54 percent) disagreed and 46 percent agreed (70 percent of the women disagreed, compared to only 39 percent of men)<sup>53</sup>. These attitudes are supported by PCBS empirical data (2019) which show that 17.8 percent of the daily time is used by women for house and child care, compared to 3 percent for men. Women between the ages of 25 and are especially busy with house and child care, as they spend 27.2 percent of their time on house and child care, compared to 3.4 percent of men<sup>54</sup>.

While most FGD participants believe that the relationship between men and women must be based on solidarity and cooperation, the day-to-day realities of families’ present elements of cooperation but also conflict and violence among members. This is mostly exemplified by GBV. The qualitative data confirm such a paradox (cooperation versus conflict). In addition, the data

<sup>51</sup> World Values Survey. (2010-2014). Wave 6: Official Aggregate v.20150418. Madrid: World Values Survey Association.

<sup>52</sup> See for example, Understanding masculinities: Palestine, 2017. <https://imagesmena.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/03/Understanding-Masculinities-in-Palestine-English.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> UN Women and AWRAD, Caught Up Between A Rock & A Hard Place: Occupation, Patriarchy And Gender Relations A Case Study Of Palestinian Women In Area C & H2, 2018. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20palestine/attachments/publications/2019/2/english.pdf?la=en&vs=4723>

<sup>54</sup> PCBS, 2019. The Reality of Gender in Palestine in view of the Sustainable Development Goals.

from the FGDs confirm that the role of women in the household serves to compensate for the weak services to persons with disability, children and older people provided by government and non-government institutions in other communities. A survey conducted by the MoSD among families with members with disability reveals that 88 percent of HHs provide full care for these members where 91 percent of the care is provided by the mother<sup>55</sup>. This role becomes even more essential as marginalized families suffer from economic difficulties and insecurities where available income must be spent on the most essential needs of the family. This 'income-saving role' that women play is exemplified in the following activities listed by women from the three target communities:

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"My 6-year old son has down-syndrome. Every day I must walk him to and back from school. He goes to a specialized school." (Female, 43 years old, Hebron region)

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"I do all the management of the income generated by my husband. I allocate our limited income and do all the shopping and take care of my three children in full." (Female, 47 years old, Gaza)

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"I have two children with diabetes; I must take care of all of their needs. It is very difficult to find reliable health services for them; sometimes I can't take them to the clinic. It is too far and I in many cases, I don't have the needed money for transportation." (Female, 54 years old, Jordan Valley region)

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"I was trained in first aid. I use that to help kids participating in demonstrations and to help neighbours exposed to tear gas or in case of need for emergency assistance." (Young female, 20 years old, Gaza)

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"I am a health worker volunteering with many organizations. I help people in my village and in the neighbouring villages." (Female, 41 years old, Jordan Valley region)

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## The Impact of the Political Situation

In addition to the adjustments in the lives of families as well as the role of women in coping as it pertains to economic pressures and the occupation, the roles of men and women, as well as children, are changing due to internal factors including intra-political strife between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the governing authorities in Gaza (led by Hamas). The impacts of these political realities are reflected in a number of ways which include women taking on new and increased roles (burdens) :

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"I had to work very hard to protect my family members especially the male members from the violence and the threat of violence from the armed groups. I had to watch every step that they make, where they go and who do they talk to." (Female, 52, Gaza)

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"I am under so much pressure because of the impact on the political reality on my family. My husband sits around and doesn't go to work. He feels like a burden and he is feeling depressed. The pressure is causing him to be violent against me, the children, especially the

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<sup>55</sup> MoSD, 2018. Unpublished survey, Living conditions and access to services by families with persons with disability.

boys. He wants them to leave school and work. The girls, he wants them to marry and be the responsibility of another man.” (Female, 56, Gaza)

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“With my husband receiving less than half of his salary, I had to work in the house of a wealthy family. But since working in strange people’s homes is considered as shameful, I wear the Niqab to cover my face when I leave the house. I take my daughter with me to help; we made her leave school.” (Female, 41, Gaza)

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The impact of the political reality is also felt by women in the West Bank:

“My husband is political prisoner with the PA. I had to work, and my two boys work in selling vegetables in the local market to help sustain the family.” (Female, Jordan valley, West Bank)

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## Resources

Family members have varying levels of access and control over material and non-material resources. Access to resources is highly influenced by the occupation and other socio-economic and household – related variables explained throughout this study.

Over the period of July 2016-June 2018, Israeli authorities continued to impose wide-ranging and systematic restrictions on movement and access that were applicable only to Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory. They have undermined economic growth, restricted women and girls’ access to basic services and opportunities and infringed on their economic, social and cultural rights<sup>56</sup>. Generally, women continue to have limited access to and use of assets and resources (such as credit). Data show that while 34.4 percent of males have a bank account, only 15.9 percent of females have such accounts. Women have lower rates of access to the Internet compared to men (60.3 percent to 68.4 percent)<sup>57</sup>. Families residing in vulnerable and marginalized areas have limited access to medicine and family planning services which compromises maternal and child health.

“I live with my unemployed husband and six children. Three of my pregnancies were unplanned because I have no income and the services are not readily available. I go to the clinic to get my contraceptives, more than once, they were not available.” (Female, 41, Gaza)

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“Poor women like me can’t afford the expenses of going too far to seek any services. Transport is highly limited even if I want to seek maternal services.” (Female, 61, Hebron region)

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Women in general and elderly women in particular, are more vulnerable to poverty than men and elderly men. This is largely because of their lower educational levels and more restricted access to productive resources and income. For example, a recent study on land and productive resources indicates that only 16 percent of the women respondents report that they have a piece of land (either curtilage, agricultural, barren or investment land) registered in their name. This implies that 84 percent of the women have no land at all. Another 9 percent report that they are partners in a common land registered in the names of a number of family

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<sup>56</sup> UN ESCWA, 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/social-economic-situation-palestinian-women-2016-2018-english.pdf>

<sup>57</sup> PCBS, 2019. Sustainable Development Goals.

members. Only 5.5 percent report that the house is registered in their name, while 94.5 percent report otherwise. In addition, 3 percent report the house is a common property with the husband or other male family members and 3.4 percent report sharing the registration of the house with other female and male family members<sup>58</sup>. The same study reveals that 31.8 percent of women report that they are able to access curtilage land, while 68.2 percent say that are unable to do that. Only, 39.7 percent report that they are able to access agricultural land, while 60.3 percent say that are unable to do that. At the same time, 56.1 percent of the female respondents report that they are able to access livestock and poultry sources owned by the family, while 43.9 percent say that are unable to do that<sup>59</sup>. In addition to occupation-related land policies and restrictions, cultural values and norms, as well as patriarchal social arrangements and institutions (e.g., the family and marriage institutions), as well as religious interpretations and teachings, are considered as the forces that grease the political, legal, and economic restrictions against women.

## Power and Participation

Recent surveys had shown that a vast majority of Palestinians (72 percent) believe that “a man should have the final say in all family matters.” Only 28 percent disagree. And while the majority of women and men agree, they show varying degrees of support for the statement, with 86 percent of men but only 58 percent of women believing that the final authority over family matters should be in the hands of male family members (a gender gap of 28 points)<sup>60</sup>. The findings above, however, are inadequate in revealing the complex power – relations within the household and the fact that Palestinian society is in a state of transition and flux, and rhetoric about masculinity masks a reality where women have much more say in matters relevant to the family than admitted by both women and men, as the current study reveals. This is consistent with a culture that provided men with a perception of masculine leadership role, at least in the public eye, while shielding a real level of influence that is exuded by women within the HH, but must stay unrecognized. This was reiterated by a number of female focus group participants (*let him be a man in public, and make all the decisions behind closed doors*). Women, especially women who are outside of the formal work force, cited many examples of decision-making roles that they play at the level of the household and the community:

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“My husband is working all the time. I must make decisions on home and children affairs all the time.” (Female, 43, Hebron region)

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“My husband hands me all the money that he earns. I am responsible for managing all the money issues. While this is good for me, it is also a burden that I must carry.” (Female, 47, Gaza)

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<sup>58</sup> AWRAD and Palestinian Working Women Society for Development (PWWSD), 2020 (A study on land access and control from a gender perspective; to be published during March 2020).

<sup>59</sup> The low level of female ownership is due to multiple and complex factors. In general, however, this is due mainly to the customary belief that men are in charge of financial decisions and the income and assets of their female family members, women often lack control over their income. Shares of the inheritance are calculated according to Shari’a (traditional Islamic law). In most cases, the shares stipulated by the law are not implemented.

<sup>60</sup> Understanding masculinities: Palestine, 2017. <https://imagesmena.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/03/Understanding-Masculinities-in-Palestine-English.pdf>

Women working in the formal sector show a higher level of involvement in decision-making in the household, citing a level of egalitarian relations:

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“We both work in the farm; we both decide together in household matters.” (Female, 45, Jordan valley region)

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In some cases, women have full decision-making power as a result of some atypical circumstances like in the absence of a husband or family separation:

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“My husband is ill. I must work here in the settlement. My son has to work near the checkpoint and my daughter had to leave school to stay with my younger children. I am the earner of income for the whole family, he doesn’t make any decision without my approval.” (Female, 54, Jordan valley region)

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“My husband has a disability. He sleeps on his back and smokes all the time. His wish is to die. He has no interest in making decisions; I must do all of them.” (Female, 53, Gaza)

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“When our house was demolished, we were separated. My husband took two of the kids and I took two. We hardly meet and we have separate lives.” (Female, 61, Hebron region)

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While many women have an unrecognized role in decision making within the household, others accumulate a negotiated ability to influence decisions. This is derived from their presence at home and in the community in the absence of the husband, but also through utilising their relations with their older sons and educated daughters:

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“I work with my older sons to make decisions. They help me assert my opinion as they see my point of view and use their influence as educated males to negotiate decisions.” (Female, 48, Gaza)

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“Women in our society have more power than what outsiders think. At the level of the family most men are absent and women must be there and make decision on all aspects of family life. Men are always tired from hard work and they show no interest.” (Female key informant, West Bank)

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While this reflects the complexity in the situation of gender roles, this should not conceal the fact that society is still highly patriarchal. The experiences and views of women and men who participated in the qualitative research reflect the complex reality of control over women:

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“I do all the work at home and in farm, but my husband has the final say in all decisions.” (Female, 41, Gaza)

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“He allows me to make decisions on small matters. All the big issues that matter to me and my family including education, health, spending money and mobility are in his hand.” (Female, 47, Jordan Valley region)

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“Society gives men the full power to decide. They use it when it is convenient to them.” (Young male, 17, Hebron region)

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Another indicator of the relative role in power and decision-making relates to land and productive resources. For example, the previously-mentioned land study<sup>61</sup> estimates that the relative weight of female versus male reported decision-making power in relation to curtilage land is 21 to 79. The relative decision-making power is even more problematic when it comes to control over mechanized farm equipment. The relative weight of female versus male reported decision-making power is 9 to 91.

In the public sphere, however, there were some improvements. Women occupy few central roles in key institutions. In 2019, women comprised only 18 percent of judges, 20 percent of public prosecutors and 27 percent of the lawyers. Moreover, Palestinian women ambassadors accounted for only 5.8 percent and 43 percent of employees in the public sector (civil servants) were women. Women comprised 12 percent of higher-level positions in the PA. Moreover, women occupy three ministerial level posts in the Palestinian cabinet out of a total of 21 posts<sup>62</sup>.

## Capacities and Vulnerabilities

### Policy-related vulnerability

Vulnerability to poverty is also shifting with new causes and new groups exposed to it. The unfolding political, economic and cultural factors are continually reinforcing gender roles and increasing burdens on women and other family members leading to additional vulnerabilities<sup>63</sup>:

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“It used to be that poverty is among the unemployed and those who suffer from low income. Now new factors have been introduced new groups including those who suffer from lower wages and irregular payments, while they have significant commitments such as loans, house payments, and student tuition.” (Gender expert, Female, Gaza)

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“New groups of women are suffering from poverty. They include women who are divorced during the engagement period (before consummating the marriage), women who are not married, living with their families but not qualified to get good jobs or eligible for any type of assistance. In addition, women who became heads of households as a result of the emigration of the husbands, who are still in limbo in the host countries have additional responsibilities and are exposed to further social pressure. Children who face violence and forced to work are also not supported by families and are not recognized as qualified for assistance and are unable to apply for any type of assistance. Another group that has moved into the ranks of poverty is the businessmen who went bankrupt because of the economic crisis, and are unable to pay their many debts; leading to the imprisonment, leaving the household in dire

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<sup>61</sup> AWRAD and PWWSD, 2020.

<sup>62</sup> PCBS, 2019. <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/postar.aspx?lang=ar&ItemID=3405>

<sup>63</sup> The concept of shifting vulnerability is detailed in an unpublished study by OXFAM and AWRAD (2020). The study elaborates on the causes of the shifting vulnerability and the new groups joining the ranks of the poor on the one hand and the role of the national cash transfer systems to respond to such shifts.

need and women must provide for the family and deal with social isolation.” (Civil society leader, West Bank)

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“The payment of part of the salary in the West Bank and Gaza, cutting off salaries from some government staff members in Gaza, and the new retirement rules for PA employees (financed retirement) is affecting families. Thousands of families in both regions were removed from assistance lists, posing new stressors on households.” (Male key informant, Gaza)

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## Vulnerability to Occupation-Related Violence and GBV

A study by UN Women and AWRAD (2018) elaborates on the exposure of women and men to occupation-related violence in the West Bank. The study shows that while 62 percent of Palestinian men reported insults and cursing from soldiers and settlers, around 30 percent of the women reported the same. Almost 42 percent of Palestinian men reported that they were arrested or detained by Israeli forces, and 7 percent of women report the same. In addition, 38 percent of Palestinian men reported that they were beaten, hit or injured by occupation forces or settlers, compared to 6 percent of women. Finally, an equal percentage of men and women reported exposure to the trauma of witnessing the killing of a first-degree relative<sup>64</sup>.

Research indicates that the deleterious impact of the occupation on women’s capacities and vulnerabilities is multi-faceted and not uniform. Rather, women face a compounding series of abuses, harassments, restrictions and violence in the course of their daily life. Participants in the focus groups indicated that women do not face singular or isolated abuses at the hands of the occupation, but rather a series of interlinked violations. This includes the double burden of isolation in the home and the immediate community as a result of limitations on mobility, as well as the inflicting of harassment and violence during the rare moments in which women travel across checkpoints. The isolation in the home is compounded by the sense of impotency that is imposed by the poverty and denial of services that define the occupation. Despite the fact that the vast majority of their time is spent in the home, women find themselves powerless in the environment. A tightly restricted water regime denies them the opportunity to clean or promote hygiene, while the scant financial resources keep them from repairing or renovating houses, providing clothes or food for children with enough frequency to promote security or pursuing activities to relieve boredom or stress. As a result, women must contend with the crushing double burden of monotony and powerlessness, particularly its serious consequences for health and well-being.

The occupation also serves to reinforce patriarchal norms that encourage, in some cases, GBV. Critical factors include the state of financial crisis that families are reduced to on a regular basis, as a result of a choked labour market and inadequate social services. These circumstances force families into a condition of financial triage, in which finances are rationed according to utility. Female family members are the first to suffer under such a system, which commonly includes girls being taken out of school or wives denied income for themselves or maintenance of the household. This may happen simultaneous with boys being given money as disposable income, for expenses like gasoline or cigarettes, as patriarchal perspectives assert that boys need spending money to be social and maintain appearances, while women do not. This also leads to child labour and exposure to violence in their attempt to enter Israeli

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<sup>64</sup> UN Women and AWRAD, 2018. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20palestine/attachments/publications/2019/2/english.pdf?la=en&vs=4723>

labour market without a permit. The research also reveals that early marriage is another consequence of limited financial circumstances.<sup>65</sup>

Additionally, the occupation also exacts a toll on Palestinian men, a cost that is regularly passed on to women and is regenerated at home. When the image of masculinity is challenged, either by direct abuse by Israeli soldiers and settlers or indirectly by the poverty and absence of opportunity imposed by the Occupation, men feel frustrated and inadequate. Such feelings may incite men to attempt to reassert their strength by exerting control and domination over weaker individuals, such as wives or children<sup>66</sup>.

Adding to occupation-related violence, GBV continues to be an issue of concern. While the latest PCBS survey on GBV (2019) reveals a decline of most forms of GBV, additional forms of GBV are on the rise including electronic crime and harassment. The most salient PCBS (2019) results are:

- While male and female children (12-17 years old) are almost equally exposed to violence within the home, male children are more vulnerable in public places. For example, males report a level of 36 percent exposure to violence in the street compared to 11 percent among females. Male children in Gaza are most vulnerable (52 percent); compared to 24 percent among males in the West Bank, 12 percent among females in the West Bank and 10 percent among females in Gaza<sup>67</sup>.
- Children under 12 are the most vulnerable to violence by caregivers (within the household) and 79 percent of male children and 74 percent of female children report exposure to emotional violence while 68 percent of male children and 64 percent of female children report exposure to physical violence. This is mainly due to cultural beliefs that children must be disciplined using corporal punishment and to the increasing economic and emotional pressures on parents due to the overall decline in the economy as stated above.
- The overall level of exposure to household violence among youth (18-29) is 17 percent. Again males in Gaza are most vulnerable (26.8 percent), compared to females in Gaza (21.2 percent), males in the West Bank (13.3 percent) and females in the West Bank (11.8 percent). Exposure to sexual harassment or violence during childhood is reported by 3 percent of the youth (2 percent females and 4 percent males).
- Exposure to any form of violence by husband is reported by 29 percent of women (38 percent in Gaza and 24 percent in the West Bank). The majority of women report responding to violence through silence, while only 3 percent report consulting with a lawyer with 1 percent reporting to the police and another 1 percent resorting to a service provider (government or civil society support centres).

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<sup>65</sup> AWRAD, Assessment of GBV in Palestine and Media Programming (Surveys of Women and Men), supported by DFID and WhatWorks Network, 2017.

<sup>66</sup> UN Women and AWRAD, Caught Up Between A Rock & A Hard Place: Occupation, Patriarchy And Gender Relations A Case Study Of Palestinian Women In Area C & H2, 2018.

<https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20palestine/attachments/publications/2019/2/english.pdf?la=en&vs=4723> and AWRAD, Impacts of Israeli Occupation on Palestinian Women, 2017.  
<http://www.awrad.org//files/server/publications/impact%20occupations/english%20impacts%20of%20occupations%20on%20women%201.pdf>

<sup>67</sup> Violence against boys in public places including the street and school include bullying and peer- to – peer violence.

- One third of persons with disability report being victims of one form of violence (with higher rates among females than males).
- Elderly exposure to violence/mistreatment is reported by 8 percent (8.4 percent among females and 6.5 percent among males) and as much as 22 percent report medical neglect (24 percent among females and 19 percent among males).



# OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the challenges described throughout the above analysis, the overall context provides opportunities for WFP programming. They include:

- 1) The PA, through its fourth National Policy Agenda: Putting Citizens First (2017-2022) (NPA) offers practical strategic and policy directions towards independence, government reforms and sustainable development; the third of which occupying the highest hierarchy of priorities. Sustainable development in Palestine and its related national policies include, but not limited to, “Job creation, Gender equality and Women’s Empowerment, Escaping Poverty, Improve Health and Wellbeing, Revitalizing Agriculture and Strengthening Rural Communities.”<sup>68</sup> Moreover, the PA advocates for interventions that will lead to economic growth through empowering vulnerable and poor citizens and focusing on their needs by ensuring clean water, safe housing and food security among others.
- 2) Furthermore, the United Nations has put forward a Development Assistance Framework for the State of Palestine (UNDAF 2018-2022), which provides strategic priorities to “enhance development prospects for the people of Palestine, by advancing Palestinian statehood, transparent and effective institutions, and addressing key drivers of vulnerability.” Supporting sustainable and improved economic development is a third strategic priority under which the UN aspire to eradicate poverty and food insecurity as well as achieve an outcome of “highly vulnerable producers to benefit from market-led development”. The UN will target the most vulnerable “farmers, Bedouins, herders, and households with minimal assets” to support their livelihoods, increase their resilience to economic shocks, and ensure their engagement in the market<sup>69</sup>.
- 3) WFP has been active in Palestine in pursuing its mandate to provide “unconditional food assistance” to households suffering severe food insecurities amongst non-refugees. Today, WFP is reaching almost 70,000 families across West Bank and Gaza to provide urgent food assistance and enhance their resilience. WFP’s Palestine Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) focuses on “the non-refugees, poor and severely food insecure people, primarily in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank.” Furthermore, WFP has greatly shifted its modality of food assistance from in-kind to Cash Based Transfer (Voucher Programme); a strategic change that “increases the transparency, choice and accountability of the beneficiaries”. The latter modality was also reported to have achieved a greater result on assisted people’s food security and nutrition status and a trickle-down effect on the livelihoods of small-medium local businesses<sup>70</sup>. This is best combined with and complemented by programmes that aim at behaviours change communication.
- 4) WFP resilience programme and previous experience in food for work and school feeding programmes.
- 5) WFP’s participation in the gender transformative programming (GTP) and the presence of the Gender Results Network (GRN).

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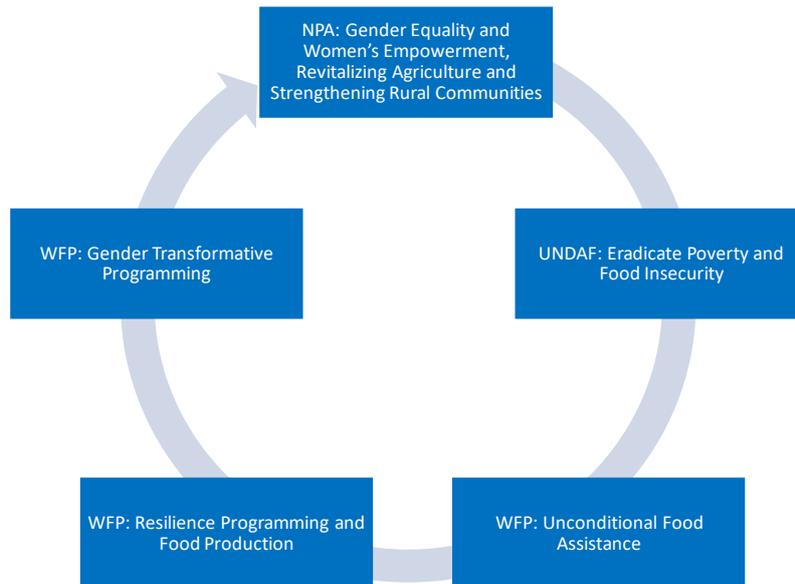
<sup>68</sup> State of Palestine (2016). 2017-2022 National Policy Agenda. Putting Citizens First. December 2016. Online from:

[https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/palestine\\_draft\\_final\\_npa.pdf](https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/palestine_draft_final_npa.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) State of Palestine (2018-2022) Online from: [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/papp/docs/Publications/UNDP-papp-research-undaf\\_2018-2022.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/papp/docs/Publications/UNDP-papp-research-undaf_2018-2022.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> WFP (2017). State of Palestine Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022). November 2017. Online from: [https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp293161.pdf?\\_ga=2.176377509.1043345632.1570271745-1026010367.1557564716](https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp293161.pdf?_ga=2.176377509.1043345632.1570271745-1026010367.1557564716)

**Figure 6: Drivers of Future Interventions**



- 6) WFP's commitment to mainstream gender into all units and functional areas through participating in the GTP. WFP is keen on adequately addressing the needs of women, men, girls and boys and gender equality in its mandate. WFP's vision for gender transformative food assistance was reiterated in its Gender Policy (2015-2020); in which it emphasized on a needed capacity to "deliver food assistance that addresses the different needs and priorities of the women, men, girls and boys whom it serves". This is achievable through adapting food assistance to the different needs to food assistance, mainstreaming gender across programmes and operations, increasing women's power in decision making and ensuring protection of women and girls from GBV. This has further informed WFP's CSP for Palestine (2018-2022), which aimed to prioritize assisting food-insecure households headed by women<sup>71</sup>.

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<sup>71</sup> WFP (2017), State of Palestine Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022). November 2017. Online from: [https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp293161.pdf?\\_ga=2.176377509.1043345632.1570271745-1026010367.1557564716](https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp293161.pdf?_ga=2.176377509.1043345632.1570271745-1026010367.1557564716)

## Priorities and recommendations of women, men, girls and boys

The following priorities and recommendations were forwarded by all groups as (a wish list not verified by the study). The emphasis, however, is different among groups. As such, they must be treated as interlinked in order to ensure that the particular needs of each individual person within the household are attended to. The demands are listed according to the number of times mentioned by each group in the FGDs.

Women		Men	
West Bank	Gaza	West Bank	Gaza
<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect assistance with our right to access health services</li> <li>Ensure that women have a real say in spending priorities</li> <li>Provide psycho-social counselling and help families prevent friction and violence</li> <li>Provide families with basic furniture, toilets and kitchen equipment</li> <li>Provide heaters and warm clothes</li> <li>Renovate ailing housing conditions</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP- related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the size of allocations per family member</li> <li>Make the application and renewal process easier in terms of proximity of location and application length</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target men who are unemployed to be productive by doing work around the home through promoting productive home gardens and other home – based income –generating activities. Other suggestions include promoting and encouraging male role models who are sharing home and child care at home</li> <li>Improve the capacity of women to produce foods for sale, by providing the required raw material and equipment</li> <li>Help women protect their children from exposure to occupation – related danger near confrontation areas</li> <li>Help women care for the ill, disabled and children</li> <li>Renovate ailing housing conditions</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP – related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training for families on decision-</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men in poor families suffer from chronic diseases; this is financially and emotionally draining to families; hence provide health services to men</li> <li>Provide psychological help to some of the men</li> <li>Treat older men who worked and retired without pension and give the right to respectful assistance (pension)</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP – related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help men produce food.</li> <li>Let me do work and give me more food.</li> <li>Support prevention of smoking among men and young boys.</li> <li>Engage men in economic empowerment projects by</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate that men who historically worked in Israel receive their severance payments (held by Israel); that will help them stop reliance on assistance</li> <li>Provide extensive psycho-social assistance to men who are not working</li> <li>Provide health assistance to older males in the family</li> <li>Work on improving the relations between men and women in the household</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP – related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase quantity of food items provided according to the different needs and the number of family members of each household.</li> <li>More flexibility in choosing items</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Empower women to produce food through their small farms / hydroponic gardens</li> <li>▪ Ensure that older people and persons with disability are automatically eligible (rights-based)</li> <li>▪ Specify the needs of pregnant and lactating women and make sure that assistance is conditional upon meeting their needs ( percent of voucher) and maybe include that under specific assistance for Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLWG)</li> <li>▪ Help women open their own business in marginal communities.</li> </ul>	<p>making, avoiding conflict and accommodating each other, and prevent violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve family awareness of nutritional habits</li> <li>▪ Do not connect eligibility with housing conditions as some families have good houses but are suffering now from poverty</li> <li>▪ Ensure availability of products in shops.</li> </ul>	<p>providing micro credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help men produce food through home and hydroponic gardens.</li> </ul>	<p>that are not food related. Those include heating and cooking gas/kerosene.</p>
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Girls		Boys	
West Bank	Gaza	West Bank	Gaza
<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early marriage is a key issue, where girls of poor families are forced to marry to relief the economic burden. Awareness and empowerment programmes are necessary to curb the phenomenon.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many of the children in beneficiary families have to work in the streets; others have to beg. Work with relevant ministries and NGOs to deal with their exploitation, empower them and get them off the streets.</li> <li>▪ Violence in the family is reinforced by</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boys have to work near the checkpoints and that places them in danger and exposes them to various forms of exploitation. Work with relevant ministries and NGOs to deal with their exploitation, empower them and get them back</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children who go to the Great March of Return, according to the FGD participants, come from poor families. These children must be provided with meaningful engagements such as sports and other hobbies, and empower their</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tension and violence in the household is high; help parents better communicate and negotiate away from violence.</li> <li>▪ Children are exposed to deprivation. Parents are unable to attend to the children needs. Some children violate the law and resort to stealing.</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP – related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Girls care the most about health and nutrition awareness; utilise their interest, and through school, and have them help as educators to the rest of the family.</li> <li>▪ Girls have nutrition needs and they must be attended to. At times, girls need foods and supplements that help them grow and be strong.</li> <li>▪ Attend to the needs of girls in making sure that they avoid potential osteoporosis.</li> <li>▪ Support the establishment of school gardens.</li> </ul>	<p>overall low quality of life and other economic stresses. Help parents cope and provide them with awareness about child rights.</p> <p><b>WFP – related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Girls care the most about health and nutrition awareness; utilise their interest, and through school, and have them help as educators to the rest of the family.</li> <li>▪ Girls have nutrition needs and they must be attended to. At times, girls need foods and supplements that help them grow and be strong.</li> <li>▪ Attend to the needs of girls in making sure that they avoid potential osteoporosis.</li> <li>▪ Provide school lunches.</li> </ul>	<p>to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide vocational training as children like to help their parents.</li> <li>▪ Boys from poor families face discrimination and stigma at school. Work with the school system to alleviate the implications of stigma.</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP – related:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They would like to eat fun food (chips, sweets, chocolate) sometimes. Parents refuse to buy that.</li> <li>▪ Some fathers leave and just stay away; children must have role models to look up to (big brother or so).</li> <li>▪ Provide school lunches.</li> </ul>	<p>families to help them keep the children away from danger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide vocational training as we like to help our parents.</li> <li>▪ Boys from poor families face discrimination and stigma at school. Work with the school system to alleviate the implications of stigma.</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP – related</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To them, the food obtained by parents through assistance is very boring; it is the same all the time. They like more diversification with children having a role in deciding food priorities.</li> <li>▪ They would like to help in the house, but unable to do that (cooking) because they are boys.</li> <li>▪ Support the establishment of school gardens.</li> </ul>
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# Overall Policy Guidance

Recommendations directed at the UN, other international organizations, the PA, local NGOs and CBOs include the following:

- 1) Continued need to emphasize the obligations and relevance of UNSCR 1325<sup>72</sup>;
- 2) The integration of a rights-based approach- with consideration of the particular needs of women, men, girls and boys most impacted by the occupation- into policy frameworks and associated budgets;
- 3) Collection of data at the individual-level disaggregated by sex and age;
- 4) Increased advocacy and coordination between humanitarian and development actors in Palestine in general and ARAs, Area C and H2 in particular, to alleviate the political obstacles that prevent meaningful development especially in the agricultural sector;
- 5) Provision of increased resources to Palestinian women and human rights organizations working on economic and social empowerment in marginalized areas.

In addition, programming must be based on a comprehensive understanding of institutional set ups, with services linked to national economic and social policies, capacities of civil society organizations, and international funding. Programming must ensure relevance and ownership; consider highlighting the importance of effective participation of women and men (and girls and boys) in planning, design, implementation, monitoring and review of programmes.

## WFP – Related Programming and Operations Recommendations

Programming priorities for women, men, girls and boys living in vulnerable and marginalized communities must include the following:

- 1) Gender – transformative economic empowerment programmes in conjunction with rural, agricultural development and entrepreneurial initiatives;
- 2) Legal support to HHs to preserve and reclaim land and access to water resources and grazing areas;
- 3) Psychosocial support;
- 4) Improvement of the utilisation of the referral system related to GBV as part of WFP outreach to HHs;

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<sup>72</sup> The Security Council adopted [resolution \(S/RES/1325\)](#) on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

- 5) Carefully framed advocacy, which emphasizes the real human impact of occupation and the heterogeneous impacts on women, men, girls and boys.

AWRAD will be providing concrete input of the WFP Palestine Gender Strategy and Gender Action Plan as part of this assignment. The recommendations will be based on the findings of the analysis and the experiences of other relevant organizations. Here, we provide a brief list of recommendations for the purposes of this document:

- 1) In future analysis, intervention designing and planning, many of the experts and participants recommended that a gender approach must be based on considering the family as one production/support unit with members who have common and varying needs, hence requiring careful data collection at the individual level from women, men, girls and boys. The experience of partners, working in similar fields, indicates that targeting one group without addressing all the other issues facing other members will be detrimental for achieving gender equality and women empowerment. This is more urgent in the case of families under distress where most probably all members must endure extreme living conditions. In taking into consideration the needs and priorities of members with varying power levels, the solidarity and support for all members will ensure collective and personalised empowerment that is essential for the enjoyment of rights by the more disadvantaged members. It is important that WFP recognises the interconnected conditions, roles and activities of men, women, girls and boys in the public and private spheres that enable households and communities to cope with stresses and transform into empowered production and support units. This further confirms the need for proper and detailed understanding of and responding to the particular needs of women, men, girls and boys, and account for intra-household differences, in order to adequately tailor programmes; rather than treat households as homogeneous units (this analysis confirmed differences among household members). While the situation, roles and needs are interconnected, they also remain unique for each individual.
- 2) In future interventions, the design must take into consideration the paradox of the increasing burdens of women, as they are entering to the labour market and higher rates and taking on new chores due to occupation and economic factors on the one hand and the lack of transformation of these additional burdens into legal and social rights and entitlements, as well as power and decision-making on the other hand. A new modality or intervention must not add additional burdens on women, while leaving them without additional rights within a transformative environment that takes the role of all family members into consideration.
- 3) In the same vein, WFP and partners must try to advocate for policies and entitlements that are connected with the increasing care and support roles that women are providing in the absence of reliable and comprehensive government services. This requires awareness promotion of the value of home care for both men and women. In addition, the 'double burden' that women must endure must be considered as an impediment to empowerment.
- 4) The constraints facing humanitarian aid modalities to reach women, men, girls and boys and the limitations over their access to services provided by humanitarian actors must be taken into consideration. For example, the fact that the vast majority of focus group participants and key informants prefer the cash-based modality (voucher) must be considered as the way forward for all programming. In doing that, additional measures must be attended to: Women are taking the burden of seeking assistance and going through the process of application and other requirements to ensure that the family

receives aid. The widespread conception that women will automatically be qualified encourages families to place pressure on women to be the front actor on behalf of family, but without additional powers. For example, a woman who applies for assistance is not necessarily considered the head of household and the card will be registered in the name of the male head of household in most cases. While women are capable of using the card, still the fact that the card is in the name of male member gives him more leverage in the relationship. The study could not find sufficient support that registering the cash transfer cards in the name of the women in the HH would lead to improvement in gender relations and enjoyment of rights. This must be further explored in future specialised studies.

- 5) Other issues that must be attended to is the need to raise awareness and gender sensitivity of service providers including the staff involved in the management of the cash – based transfers and in-kind assistance (e.g., Global Communities and Oxfam in Gaza), and the shop keepers. The specific training and capacity needs must be further explored by WFP through a rapid assessment.
- 6) A mapping of potential shops that are owned by women in full or in part would help in engaging women in the interventions as entrepreneurs and investors rather than recipients of aid. The identification of present and potential female shopkeepers might help in graduating some of the households from the present assistance lists.
- 7) WFP, in coordination with government and non-government partners and other UN agencies, must initiate additional work in the field of nutritional needs, gender roles and rights, and child rights including the right to stay in school and refrain from early marriage, in addition to encouraging health choice of food that attends to the needs of children and teenagers, as well as elderly and disabled family members. Such awareness campaigns might be implemented through printed material, social media and other technological modalities.
- 8) The WFP experience in resilience programming must learn from previous experience. When the present programme is completed, it must be fully evaluated and assessed for cost-effectiveness and value for money. In addition, WFP must ensure that interventions in this regard are sustainable and are based on a comprehensive understanding of families and context based on gender analysis rather than targeting of isolated members.
- 9) Ensure that project and area specific participatory gender and protection analyses are carried out throughout the project cycle. The role of the GRN is vital in advocacy and knowledge sharing.
- 10) As regards gender capacity it is evident from interviews that WFP staff appreciates the need for gender mainstreaming, gender equality and women’s empowerment in the programme. The GRN is functioning with representatives from various units. The members are composed of women and men, who meet regularly to provide updates and information on gender related issues. Still, more capacity building and harmonization of understanding and implications of gender analysis and implications for programming are needed. Further trainings on gender, gender mainstreaming in humanitarian and food security – related programming is needed. In addition, a Gender Transformative Programme approach must be further articulated and operationalised.
- 11) More capacity in data requirements and analyses is needed to ensure going beyond disaggregation by sex to a fully – fledged gender analysis through reinforcing country office gender capacities; and ensuring consistent use of (individual-level) sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD) as a vital component of a gender and age analysis.

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## Annex 2: List of Key Informants

	Organization	Name	Title
1-2	WFP Management	Stephen Kearney Hildegard Lingnau	Country Director and Representative Deputy Country Director
3	WFP	Salah Lahham	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Officer
4	WFP GRN Coordinator/team	Samah Helou	Programme Policy Officer/Head of Programme
5	WFP M&E Unit	Arwa Smeir	M&E officer
6	WFP GRN Coordinator/team	Inas Sesalim	Senior Programme Assistant/GRN
7	WFP Gaza	Ameer Yasin	Senior Programme Assistant -
8	WFP Donor Relation	Yasmine Abu Al Essal	Donor Relation Officer
9-10	MoSD	Khaled Al Barghouthi Mohammad Samarah	Poverty Alleviation Programme
11- 12	UNRWA	Lubna Madyeh Tareq Hashhash	Poverty Alleviation Porgarmme
13	Global Communities	Raed Hananiyah	Programme Manager
14	Oxfam – Gaza	Najla Shawa	Food Security and Livelihood Manager
15	Oxfam – Gaza	Fida' Al Araj	Gender Justice and Protection Officer
16- 19	Ministry of Social Development - Gaza	Ahmad Ruba'i Awwad Abu Hadayed Imad Abu Mansour Sami Nabaheen	Ministry of Social Development
20	Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)	Nader Hraimat	Programme Director

## Annex 3: FGDs - Description of Beneficiary Participants

N.	Region covered	Target Group	Males	Females	Totals
1.	Shuja'iyya – East of Gaza City	Children aged (10-17)	12	0	12
2.	Al-Garara – Khan Younis	Children aged (10-17)	0	15	15
3.	Beit Hanoun – North of Gaza Strip	Female beneficiaries	0	8	8
4.	Rafah – South of Gaza Strip	Male beneficiaries	10	0	10
5.	Yatta - Hebron	Children aged (10-17)	11	3	14
6.	Old City - Hebron	Female beneficiaries	0	15	15
7.	Fasayel – Jordan Valley	Female beneficiaries	0	12	12
8.	Tuqu' Village - Bethlehem	Male beneficiaries from Tuqu' and surrounding villages	10	0	10
<b>Total</b>			<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>96</b>

## Annex 4: FGDs - Expert Participants

Gaza Strip		
	Name	Title / Organization
1	Talal Abu Rikbeh	Ministry of Social Development
2	Nihal Al Saftawi	Project Coordinator – MAAN Development Center
3	Fida' AlA'raj	Oxfam
4	Taghreed Jum'a	Director of Union of Palestine Women's Committee
5	Ahmad Al Ruba'i	Head of Food Programme – Ministry of Social Development
6	Lu'ai Al Madhoun	Ministry of Social Development
7	Imad Mansour	Ministry of Social Development
8	Rami Murad	Center for Development Studies - Birzeit University

West Bank		
	Name	Title / Organization
1	Muna AlKhalili	General Union of Palestinian Women
2	May Jarrar	Women Development Training Program - YMCA
3	Asma' Qudsi	Women Programme - Ministry of Social Development
4	Khaled Al - Barghouthi	Poverty Alleviation Programme - Ministry of Social Development
5	Naseh Shaheen	Project Coordinator - Palestinian agricultural relief committee
6	Qasem Shreteh	Palestinian General Union of People with Disabilities
7	Hadeel Shehadeh	Ministry of Women Affair / Palestinian General Union of People with Disabilities
8	Salma Hantouli	Gender Expert – Ministry of Social Development

# Annex 5: Guidelines for Qualitative Tools

## First: Key Informants Questionnaire and FGDs with Experts (Guiding Questions)

### Background:

Please introduce yourself, your position, your organization and its relevant work (policies, legislation, programmes and interventions) that relates to any or a combination of the following: gender equality, gender mainstreaming, social protection, humanitarian assistance, and food security.

### Themes/Questions

1. In your view, what are the major developments in the lives of Palestinian women, men, boys and girls (economic, social, cultural, livelihoods,)? What are the key changes that have taken place during the past three years?
2. What are the key factors leading to the changes? (Occupation, closure, division, government policies, laws, donor practices, etc.)
3. How do they impact the different regions? Area C? Gaza in general and boarder areas in particular? Bedouin communities?
4. How do the impact the different cohorts (women, men, boys and girls) within the HH (especially in marginalized and poverty-stricken, food insecure families)?
  - Adult women:
  - Adult men:
  - Girls:
  - Boys:
  - Persons with disability:
  - Elderly women:
  - Elderly men
  - Persons with chronic illness:

(Please provide evidence/examples of the suggestions/arguments; data/examples from your work; basis for the various arguments)

5. Based on your work/experience in the field and within the past three years, what has changed of women, men, boys and girls in relation to the following issues/questions (within the HH and outside):

Issue/question	Women	Men	Girls	Boys
The domestic roles - Home care - Child care - Care for the elderly - Care for PwD - Others (specify)				
The productive roles - participation in the labour market, - employment - agriculture and food production,				

- income generation – formal or informal)				
What are the implications on the life of each category? - What negative results? - What positive results? (such as Time use, income, food security, health, violence, mobility, participation)				
Did the rights ( <i>de facto</i> – <i>de jure</i> ) of each groups change? How?				
How did the changes influence their ability to obtain and exercise rights?				
How did relations within the HH between men and women/girls and boys (decision – making, use of violence,...) change for each category?				
How about their health situation and their access to health services?				
Their ownership/ control of assets/ resources?				
Their food security situation? (access/consumption, expenditure and coping strategies)				
Further dimensions of vulnerabilities as you see them?				
Their access to social protection/ social assistance, cash, food and in-kind assistance				
Their use/utilization/ of assistance to self-empower and build capacity within the HH				
The enjoyment of services/opportunities outside of the HH				
Their role in obtaining/managing and deciding on the obtained social assistance				
Participation and engagement in community affairs/ committees and the decision-making bodies in the community (local council, community organisations)				

6. In your view and based on your experience, what are the key needs and priorities of these groups (especially marginalized groups, in marginalized areas, poor and food-insecure HHs)?

- Adult women:
- Adult men:
- Girls:
- Boys:

- Persons with disability:
- Elderly women:
- Elderly men
- Persons with chronic illness:

(Please provide reason/evidence why do you believe that these are the needs and priorities; data/examples from your work; basis for the various needs and priorities)

7. How do you assess the role of the following in meeting these needs of older, younger, PwD, women, men, girls and boys? What has been achieved and what are the gaps that remain and must be attended to? How do they contribute to gender equality/mainstreaming or otherwise promote inequality)? What results (intended or unintended) come out of them?
  - Social protection policies, strategies, laws, regulations, programmes and interventions of the main providers:
  - Government (MoSD in the West Bank and Gaza)
  - UNRWA
  - WFP and its partners
  - Other providers (civil society, regional governments, private sector and individuals)
  - Specific to food and in-kind assistance Programmes, how do they meet these needs and what gaps remain in relation to meeting the needs of each category (women, men, girls and boys, etc)?
  - Existing strategies, programmes and interventions that aim to mainstream gender equality in general, and in the social protection and food security sector in particular. What are the exact interventions?
8. How does your organization view/how do you analyze the relationship between gender, social protection and food security?
9. What does your organization do to mainstream gender into your policies/programmes/projects? Do you carry out any activities/initiatives that have as a (main or secondary) objective contributing to gender equality/transforming gender relations? What results have you achieved in terms of advancing gender equality? What has worked for you? What has not worked for you? What do you think could work? What needs to be done differently?
10. How about other providers/partners? What do they do to mainstream gender into their policies/programmes/projects? Do they carry out any activities/initiatives that have as a (main or secondary) objective contributing to gender equality/transforming gender relations? What results have they achieved in terms of advancing gender equality? What has worked for them? What has not worked for them? What do you think could work? What needs to be done differently?
11. How about WFP and its overall programme structures and delivery? What do they do to mainstream gender into their policies/programmes/projects? Do they carry out any activities/initiatives that have as a (main or secondary) objective contributing to gender equality/transforming gender relations? What results have they achieved in terms of advancing gender equality? What has worked for them? What has not worked for them? What do you think could work? What needs to be done differently? What specific recommendations do you have for WFP to engage in gender-transformative approach in its design, planning, targeting, modality of provision, operational programming, country gender action plan, country strategic plan, and internal capacity needs.

## Second: Guidelines for FGDs Adults (Women and Men)

AWRAD organize 4 FGDs with women and men from families (recipients of WFP assistance), two in Area C in the West Bank (one with men and one with women) and two in Gaza (one with men and one with women).

### Guiding themes and questions

- Welcome and thanks for giving the time.
- Introduction about the research (objectives and methodology): AWRAD... is conducting an analysis of the diverse situation of women, men, girls and boys in Palestine/specific area, in particular their food security.
- FGD rules
- Role of participants
- Rights of participants (to withdraw from the conversation at any time and to refuse answering any questions)
- Duration: 2 hours

### Themes

#### Roles & responsibilities

- How do you spend your time? Which are your roles and responsibilities within the HH? And in the community?
- And how about the roles and responsibilities of the other women/men in your HH?
- Who benefits?  
*Issues to probe:* domestic work, employment (formal/informal) within and outside of the HH, time use and work loads

#### Food & nutrition

- How do you contribute to the food and nutrition requirements of your HHs? How do other family members (women, men, girls, boys) contribute?
- Who in the HH is hungry? Malnourished? Who eats first? Who eats what?
- How has this changed since ... (e.g. 2017), and for whom (for you, for other HH members)?  
*Issues to probe:* coping mechanisms (for example, limiting portion size; restricting consumption by adults in order for small children to eat; reducing number of meals eaten in a day) - who in the HH employs which coping mechanisms?

#### Resources

- What resources (income, assets) do you have access to (can you use)?
- Do you face any risks accessing these resources? How about the other women/men/girls/boys in your HH?
- What resources (income, assets) do you have control over (you can decide about)? What extent of control do you have? (For example, do you have any assets or income that you can decide about alone/use without permission? That you decide about together with other person(s)?
- How is this different for other men/women in your household?  
Consider probing separately for income (type of income, source of income) and assets (different household assets, community assets).

## Participation & power

- Household: who makes the decisions in the HH? About what? (e.g. food – what to buy, what to cook; education; money; small/big assets etc.). What do you decide about? How about the women/men in your HH?
- Who decides how common resources (income, assets) are used?
- Who benefits? Who doesn't benefit?
- Community: to what extent is your voice heard in the community? How (for example, participating in committees, organisations, activities)? On what issues/topics? Are those issues and interests addressed?
- How about the voice and interests of men/women?
- Access & mobility: do you move freely? What are the obstacles that you face in accessing and utilising services to your benefit? Do you feel that you are able to advance and improve your situation? In what ways?

## Capacities & vulnerabilities

- What capacities (knowledge, skills, network, ideas, strengths etc.) do you, personally, have, which can use (probing: in relations to food security, other issues)?
- Do you perceive yourself as vulnerable (probing: to food insecurity, to other issues)? Why/why not? How about the women/men/girls/boys in your HH?

## Assistance

- What assistance do you receive, under which form (cash, vouchers etc.)? From who? What specifically do you receive from WFP (if known)?
- Relevance: How relevant is this assistance to you personally, to your personal needs? And to the needs of your family?
- Process: Who in your HH collects the assistance (and why)?
- Decision-making: Who in your HH decides how to use the assistance? Do you think the assistance could be used in a better way, and how? Who, within the HH, benefits most from the assistance?
- Access to information: Do you personally have enough information about the assistance (for example, do you know exactly what/how much is provided, how often, how to register, when and how to collect it etc.)?
- Barriers to access: Is there anything that prevents you/your family members/other community members from accessing assistance?
- Quality and modality: How could the assistance be improved to better suit your needs? And those of the women/men/girls/boys in your family? Which form of assistance (e.g. cash, food, in-kind, cash for work, credit, cash grants, commodity and cash vouchers, training and capacity building, etc.) is the most appropriate for your HH?
- Needs and priorities: Which are the three most important needs for you personally (e.g. health, education, work, etc.)? Which are the most important needs for the women, men, girls, and boys in your HH?
- HH relations: What could be done to improve relations between men, women, girls and boys within the HH? What needs to be done to improve your own relation with other members of the family (adult men/women, other boys/girls)?
- Any other comments or recommendations?  
*We will consider probing, for all/some questions, the current state, and if/how this has changed for the past*

## Third: Guidelines for FGDs Children (Girls and Boys)

AWRAD plans to organize 4 FGDs with children from families (recipients of WFP assistance), two in Area C in the West Bank (one with boys and one with girls) and two in Gaza (one with boys and one with girls).

### Guiding themes and questions

- Introduction about the research (objectives and methodology)
- FGD rules
- Role of participants
- Rights of participants (to withdraw from the conversation at any time and to refuse answering any questions)

Duration: 2 hours

### Themes

#### As a girl/As a boy....?

### Roles & responsibilities

- How do you spend your time? Which are your roles and responsibilities within the HH? And in the community?
- And how about the roles and responsibilities of the other boys/girls/women/men in your HH?
- Who benefits?  
*Issues to probe:* domestic work, employment (formal/informal) within and outside of the HH, time use and work loads

### Food & nutrition

- How do you contribute to the food and nutrition requirements of your HHs? How do other family members (women, men, girls, boys) contribute?
- Who in the HH is hungry? Malnourished? Who eats first? Who eats what?
- How has this changed since ... (e.g. 2017), and for whom (for you, for other HH members)?  
*Issues to probe:* coping mechanisms (for example, limiting portion size; restricting consumption by adults in order for small children to eat; reducing number of meals eaten in a day) - who in the HH employs which coping mechanisms?

### Resources

- What resources (income, assets) do you have access to (can you use)?
- Do you face any risks accessing these resources? How about the other women/men/girls/boys in your HH?
- What resources (income, assets) do you have control over (you can decide about)? What extent of control do you have? (For example, do you have any assets or income that you can decide about alone/use without permission? That you decide about together with other person(s)?)
- How is this different for other men/women in your household?  
Consider probing separately for income (type of income, source of income) and assets (different household assets, community assets).

## **Participation & power**

- Household: who makes the decisions in the HH? About what? (e.g. food – what to buy, what to cook; education; money; small/big assets etc.). What do you decide about? How about the women/men in your HH?
- Who decides how common resources (income, assets) are used?
- Who benefits? Who doesn't benefit?
- Community: to what extent is your voice heard in the community? How (for example, participating in committees, organisations, activities)? On what issues/topics? Are those issues and interests addressed?
- How about the voice and interests of men/women?
- Access & mobility: do you move freely? What are the obstacles that you face in accessing and utilising services to your benefit? Do you feel that you are able to advance and improve your situation? In what ways?

## **Capacities & vulnerabilities**

- What capacities (knowledge, skills, network, ideas, strengths etc.) do you, personally, have, which can use (probing: in relations to food security, other issues)?
- Do you perceive yourself as vulnerable (probing: to food insecurity, to other issues)? Why/why not? How about the women/men/girls/boys in your HH?

## **Assistance**

- What assistance do you receive, under which form (cash, vouchers etc.)? From who? What specifically do you receive from WFP (if known)?
- Relevance: How relevant is this assistance to you personally, to your personal needs? And to the needs of your family?
- Process: Who in your HH collects the assistance (and why)?
- Decision-making: Who in your HH decides how to use the assistance? Do you think the assistance could be used in a better way, and how? Who, within the HH, benefits most from the assistance?
- Access to information: Do you personally have enough information about the assistance (for example, do you know exactly what/how much is provided, how often, how to register, when and how to collect it etc.)?
- Barriers to access: Is there anything that prevents you/your family members/other community members from accessing assistance?
- Quality and modality: How could the assistance be improved to better suit your needs? And those of the women/men/girls/boys in your family? Which form of assistance (e.g. cash, food, in-kind, cash for work, credit, cash grants, commodity and cash vouchers, training and capacity building, etc.) is the most appropriate for your HH?
- Needs and priorities: Which are the three most important needs for you personally (e.g. health, education, work, etc.)? Which are the most important needs for the women, men, girls, and boys in your HH?