

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

17.2%

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

20.2%

PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL POSITIONS

11.8%

OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS HELD BY WOMEN AFTER THE 2006 ELECTIONS

Palestinian women have one of the lowest rates of labor force participation in the world (17.2%) despite having one of the highest primary and secondary education enrollment rates in the region. Women entrepreneurs accounted for nearly 14.5% of women's total employment; however, this rate has not increased significantly over the past 15 years. Such gender-based disparities in labor force-related statistics are indicative of the multifaceted, gendered constraints faced by Palestinian women – including skilled and highly-educated women– in accessing decent employment opportunities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic women have more frequently lost their jobs and faced stronger relative reductions of their working hours in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank, and women-owned businesses have been more severely impacted compared to men-led ones.

Gender-related barriers also impact the ability of women and girls to access health (including but not limited to sexual and reproductive) information and services.



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Violence against women remains at an alarmingly high rate with 29% of ever-partnered women and girls (15 years and older) having been subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, of whom less than 1 percent sought legal and/or psychosocial support.

Women and girls in Palestine are also increasingly subject to digital gender-based violence including through family and partners controlling their access to ICT. Sexual harassment including, in some cases, blackmail is prevalent. In recent years, women's human rights defenders are increasingly subjected to online misogynistic attacks and threats by those hoping to silence women's human rights defenders.

UNITED NATIONS IN ACTION FOR WOMEN

- A first Specialized Court Section on violence against women was established through the support of the UN joint programme, Sawasya II. Women victims and survivors of violence can now have greater access to court services, with greater confidentiality and safety.
- In 2022, 2,000 women and girls increased their access to service providers through the delivery of awareness, advocacy and services provision initiative (such as the mobile info clinic and mobile services clinics) in marginalized areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- UNWomen supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs to strengthen the national action plan against gender-based violence which included the provision of health and counselling services to women and girls, enhancing national capacities to combat gender-based violence and strengthening the national referral system.
- UNWomen strengthened the capacity of 24 stakeholders in the economic sector to provide gender and women economic empowerment services to women workers, business owners and entrepreneurs.
- In Gaza, the Mine Action Service implemented a community-based resilience training initiative focusing on women's empowerment, which reached 4,424 individuals, including 3,514 women.

Data sources:
United Nations Common Country Assessment for Palestine, 2022;
Atlas of Sustainable Development, 2020.



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