



Italian Development
Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN PALESTINE

FACTSHEET

25 NOVEMBER 2015



WELOD Programme

مركز نواصل لتمكين النساء

Women's Empowerment Center Tawasol

This factsheet focuses mostly on women because they are more disadvantaged in society and experience violence in their every day's life.

SITUATION

In Palestine, women and girls continue to experience different kinds of violence at home and within their society.

It is a **structural violence** including **discriminatory laws, traditional practices, domestic violence from family members and intimate partners.**

The **severe shortage of anti-violence services, shelters and social support system** in the country does not allow to properly address the phenomenon.

Within this context, the violence perpetrated by the Israeli military forces contribute to the increase of cases.

*Although there is a significant lack of comprehensive and central data on violence, (last reliable statistic are from the PCBS in 2011)¹ and a difficulty to get information from women's organizations and service providers, some evidence attest that **the level of violence (in its various kinds) is getting worse and being aggravated during escalation of political violence.***

TYOLOGY OF VIOLENCE



Gender based violence takes place when there is imbalance in power equation and when one abuses his/ her power against the other.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is the **main reported form of violence** experienced by Palestinian women.

On **950** cases in 2015, **18%** are victims of sexual abuse, **12%** of rape, **15%** of abandonment and **2%** of witnessing of violence (data by SAWA). The highest rate of abuse takes place in Gaza Governorate (28%) and Hebron Governorate (25%).

Violence Rate according to age groups:

24% among 16-18 years old

23% among 21-25 years old

20% among 26-35 years old

RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE OUTSIDE THE FAMILY

Data evidence also a very high percentage of rape outside the family:

- Up to 20%:
 - 6% attempted rape,
 - 3% of indecent behavior
 - 18% of unspecified abuse.

Sexual violence is not something that can be openly talked about. It is due to stigma, shame and social pressures.

FEMICIDE

Palestinian women's organizations reports and statements suggest that the majority of the women who die from femicide are killed by their male family members.

The "Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic Violence Against Women (**Al Muntada**) affirms that **20 women were killed until today in West Bank and Gaza.**

CHILD & EARLY MARRIAGE

Child marriage is relatively high in Palestine

- Out of **10** women marry between 15 and 19 years old¹.

Some of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy occur in Palestine

- One in every **10** women aged 15-19 years old give birth every year.

The risks surrounding early pregnancy and childbirth are well documented, and combined with other wide-ranging health implications

SHELTERS

In 2015, **the three shelters in Bethlehem, Jericho and Nablus received a total number of 115 abused women** whose ages range between **14 to 55 years old** (with a high rate between 18-35 years old) from all over the West Bank, especially Hebron area. The target group is made up of women who are subjected to all kinds of violence, in particular domestic violence (from the husband and his relatives – if married – or from the family of origin's members), which mostly include sexual abuse, physical and economic violence. The abused women who seek protection usually are sheltered with their children. In 2015 a total number of **53 children have been hosted in the three shelters.**

Mehwar Center also provides external social and legal counseling services and it provided 64 cases with psycho-social counseling and 53 legal counseling and follow-up which are mostly about the issues of divorce, alimony and children's custody.

Violence against males

Sawa's statistics show that males are more exposed to violence outside the family.

From a total of 254 recorded calls:

OUTSIDE THE FAMILY

- 146 cases of abuse and violence
- 33 cases of rape outside the family (age range category 13-15 and 19-21)

WITHIN THE FAMILY

- 13 cases of sexual
- 4 cases of rape have been reported (age range category 19-21 and 26-35)

- Out of 39.6% of women experienced domestic violence.
- 44.6% of the never-married women experienced violence by their fathers, brothers, mothers and sisters¹.

Streets, public places, workplaces, prisons, homes and high density areas such as refugee camps are the places where violence and abuses against women occur.

GAZA