

UN Women in Palestine is pleased to present its first newsletter!

In this issue, find out about the latest activities of UN Women and its partners in Palestine as well as global calls/opportunities and our most recent publications.

NEWS UPDATES

The Palestinian Civil Police Family Protection Unit strengthens its commitment to combat family violence

The Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) held a national press conference for the official launch of their Family Protection Unit (FPU) Strategy and Regulation.

[Read more](#)

Implementing CEDAW in Palestine: visit of Ms. Pramila Patten, Vice-Chair of the CEDAW Committee

Ms. Pramila Patten undertook a 2-week mission in Palestine to train and address questions on CEDAW and its implementation on the ground.

[Read more](#)

UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group opens discussions on national development goals

In the context of the current national planning cycle, UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group held a special meeting with MoPAD on the current national development processes.

[Read more](#)

New research on the situation of Palestinian women: a baseline for national planning

UN Women and the Women Studies Institute organized a special briefing to present key findings and recommendations of the first comprehensive research on the situation of Palestinian women.

[Read more](#)

Find out more about UN Women programmes in [Programme Updates](#) and [Stories from The Field](#)

GLOBAL CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES



UN Women global call for a transformative agenda



Call for Communications: allegations of human rights violations affecting the status of women

NEW PUBLICATIONS



UN Women Annual Report 2012 - 2013



Cooperation for Development Effectiveness in the occupied Palestinian territory: Addressing the Gender Equality Gap



Exploring the Dynamics and Vulnerabilities of HIV Transmission amongst Sex Workers in the Palestinian Context



Market Research on the Cultural and Creative Industry in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

The Palestinian Chief of Police officially endorses the Strategy and Regulation of the Palestinian Civil Police Family Protection Unit

The **Family Protection Unit** was established in October 2008 by the Palestinian Civil Police, in recognition of a growing demand for specialized policing capacities and services.

The specialized branches of the FPU are now present in 10 districts in Palestine, where they handle and support adequate investigation of cases, protect victims and raise public awareness.



Taking another step in combating violence against women, the Palestinian Civil Police held a national press conference on 5 June 2013 to officially launch the Family Protection Unit Strategy and Regulation. Developed with the technical support of UN Women and EUPOL COPPS – under the UN-Women programme “Support for Delivery of Security and Justice Services for Women Victims of Violence”, funded by the UK Department for International Development – the Regulation and Strategy strengthen the capacity of the Family Protection Units to prevent and respond to family violence and offer effective protection to victims.

The CEDAW Committee trains professionals from justice and security sectors on the implementation of CEDAW

The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, often described as the international bill of women’s rights, was officially endorsed by the Palestinian Authority through presidential decree in 2009.

At the invitation of UN Women, Ms. Pramila Patten, vice-chair of the CEDAW Committee, undertook a 2-week mission in Palestine to conduct trainings for professionals of the justice and security sectors on CEDAW and its implementation. Ms. Patten also worked closely with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and gender equality advocates on CEDAW reporting requirements in event of future ratification of CEDAW.



UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group opens discussions on national development goals

The UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) was established in October 2012, in line with a UN Women global initiative.

Aiming at ensuring strong, effective civil society engagement with UN Women, the CSAG sets up a forum of exchange of views, ideas and perspectives between UN Women and Palestinian civil society.

CSAG members include representatives of grassroots organizations, gender equality networks, women's organizations, academia, and others NGOs and CBOs.



On 27 May 2013, UN Women Civil Society Group met in Ramallah with the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MoPAD) to discuss the post-2015 Agenda, the current national development planning processes and the involvement of civil society. The UN Women CSAG discussed opportunities for a nation-wide forum for communities across the West Bank and Gaza Strip to engage on national development programming priorities. The forum will be organized by the CSAG in cooperation with MoPAD and UN Women.

Launch of the Palestinian Women Situation Analysis: a new baseline for national planning

The Palestinian Women Situation Analysis was carried out as part of a Cooperation Agreement signed between UN Women and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), and endorsed by the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MoPAD) to mainstream gender in national planning processes.

The Situation Analysis was conducted by the Women's Studies Institute of Birzeit University.

On 27 May 2013, UN Women organized a donor briefing to present the preliminary findings of the Palestinian Women Situation Analysis. The Situation Analysis constitutes the most comprehensive research carried out to date which explores the situation of Palestinian women in the different sectors related to national development planning: health and population; education; access to social services; work and employment; assets; access to justice; political participation; access to civil life and public culture; violence against women and international aid. Dr. Islah Jad, Director of the Women Studies Institute explained that "the Analysis aims to go beyond numbers and address real gaps and discrimination against women". Developed in cooperation with MoWA and MoPAD, the research will provide them with the tools to effectively engage with and ensure inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment priorities in the current development planning cycle. The full report will soon be available in Arabic with an Executive Summary in English.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

UN Women supports MoWA in the establishment of the first Serious Case Review (SCR) mechanism -

Through the project "Support for Delivery of Security and Justice Services for Women Victim of Violence", funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), UN Women has brought on board an international expert to prepare the ground for the establishment of the SCR mechanism led by MoWA. The mechanism will help parties (individuals, agencies and services providers) to review cases of femicide and provide lessons learned for the future on the way they work together to safeguard and promote welfare of women and young female.

The Government of Iceland brings new support for anti-violence centres

- The Government of Iceland is supporting UN Women in Palestine to upgrade management and staff capacities of the women's shelter in Nablus owned by the Family Defense Society and functioning under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, along the standards developed under the Mehwar Centre project, generously funded by the Government of Italy for the past 10 years.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

Hand over of the first mud-brick women centre in the Jordan Valley -

Al Dyouk Women Centre, the first women's centre constructed with mud-brick under the UN joint Human Security Trust Fund Programme has been handed over to the local women's CBO. The women's centre is already benefiting 200 women in the community and UN Women is working closely with the centre to identify income generating projects. On another hand, following the approval of land clearance by the Ministry of Local Government, UNESCO and UN Women are now preparing to launch the construction of the second mud-brick women centre in Aqrabanya.

Launch of Spring Forward for Women -

Funded by the European Commission and UN Women, the new regional programme was officially launched in Brussels in October 2012. The Programme provides a mechanism to advance the economic empowerment of women living in the southern Mediterranean region by assisting them to reposition themselves in the political and decision making spaces so that they may have greater influence in shaping the future of their countries. UN Women is undertaking specific activities under this programme in the occupied Palestinian territory, building on local initiatives that promote sustainable change through local leadership and ownership, and it will also be facilitating capacity building, advocacy and programmatic actions targeting all programme countries at the regional level. A local Advisory Group for the programme has been established and the programme is due to have an official local launch ceremony in September 2013.

"Building for change" celebrates the achievements of the Saudi Committee funded project -

UN Women Palestine office organized an event in Amman on 15 April 2013 to celebrate the construction and/or rehabilitation of 8 women's community-based centers in the Gaza Strip and West Bank built under a project funded by the Saudi Committee for Palestinian's People Relief. By providing access to services that were hard to reach, ranging from psycho-social aid to vocational trainings, the establishment of these centres significantly contributed to support women in coping with harsh economic and social conditions. The event served as an opportunity to present these achievements, challenges and opportunities for women's economic empowerment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through the direct testimonies of the supported under the project.

The new phase of the Women-Run School Canteens Programme -

UN Women, the Ministry of Education and Ma'an Development Centre have selected 9 new women centres and 45 schools to participate in the women-run school canteens programme, which will add to the 32 CBOs and 209 schools already part of the programme. The UN Women office in Jerusalem and the Government of Norway renewed their partnership on 11 December 2012 by launching the third phase of the "Socially Responsible Development Planning Through Women-Run School Canteens" Programme.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Consultations on the draft national gender strategy -

Following a review of the 2011-2013 strategy and the finalization of the first draft of the Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, MoWA is undertaking a round of consultations with UN agencies, civil society and women's organizations to discuss the new 2014-2016 strategy. Developed also as a baseline to help mainstreaming gender in national sector strategies, the draft was sent to MoPAD to serve as one of the strategies in the development of the new Palestinian national development plan.

Training on gender responsive budgeting and planning in ministries -

Under the Project "Financing for Gender Equality" funded by the EC, UN Women and MoWA have organized a series of 8 workshops at the end of June 2013 on gender responsive budgeting and planning for planning teams and gender units of Palestinian Authority key line ministries in social, economic, infrastructure and governance sectors.

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Closing of the MDG-F Programmes -

A joint programmes closing ceremony was held for the MDG-F Programmes on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as well as Culture and Development on 28 November 2012. The closing ceremony marked the formal hand-over of the MDG-F Programmes to the Palestinian Authority. Final evaluations for both programmes continued until the first quarter of 2013. Moreover, the MDG-F Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment was selected as one of 5 case studies among joint gender programmes globally. UN Women worked to up-scale MDG-F activities through the development of new programmes building on the MDG-F Programmes. Indeed, lessons learned and best practices have been reflected in regional and global fora in preparation for the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Evaluation of the UN Joint Gender Programmes -

Under the supervision of UN Women, and with the financial support of the Government of Norway and Spain, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and the MDG Secretariat have undertaken a global case study review to assess the overall impact of joint gender programmes. Out of the 24 UN joint gender programmes, under the study, 5 in-depth case studies have been selected, including the UNDP/Spain MDG Trust Fund Gender programme in Palestine. The case study looks at the contribution of the programme to national development results, as well as the coordination among UN partner agencies, sustainability, coherence, and synergies it created.

The UN Interagency Gender Task Force (GTF) strengthens its relationship with MoWA -

GTF members held 2 meetings with the Director of Policy and Planning as well as the Director of International Relations at MoWA, as part of a set of discussions established to reinforce coordination between UN Agencies and MoWA, in particular in relation to the implementation of the upcoming Palestinian National Gender Strategy 2014-2016.

GLOBAL CALLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

UN WOMEN GLOBAL CALL FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA



In a new position paper, UN Women offers clear direction on policies necessary for the post-2015 framework to usher meaningful transformation, so that women's and girls' rights can be universally secured.

The position paper calls for freedom from violence, equality in capabilities and resources, and women's voice to be the cornerstones of a stand-alone gender equality goal. Along with the stand-alone goal, UN Women is also calling for integration of gender equality concerns throughout the other priority areas of the post-2015 development agenda.

UN Women is hosting an online discussion to get your feedback and ideas for making sure that a stand-alone gender equality goal is included in the post-2015 agenda. Join the conversation at www.worldwewant2015.org/node/357447.



Call for Communications:

Allegations of human rights violations affecting the status of women

Individuals, non-governmental organizations, groups and networks are invited to submit written communications—including, but not limited to, complaints, appeals and petitions—to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) with information on alleged injustices and human rights violations against women in any country. Examples of claims include arbitrary arrests of women, domestic violence, unfair employment practices and discrimination against women under immigration and nationality laws. The deadline to submit such communications is 1 August 2013.

The communications procedure aims to identify emerging trends on injustices and discriminatory practices against women for policy formulation purposes.

UN Women section will collect and compile the claims as well as replies on the communications from Governments concerned into a confidential report. Following that, a Working Group of the Commission, composed of representatives from all five regions, will identify trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women. The Working Group will present their findings in a confidential report to CSW at its annual session (CSW58) in March 2014 for review.

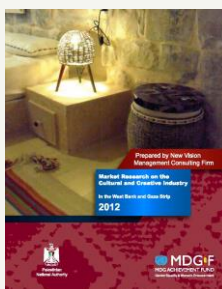
For more information on how to submit a claim, categories of claims received in the past, the communications procedure and contact information, visit the submission page: <http://www.unwomen.org/csw/communications-procedure>

NEW PUBLICATIONS



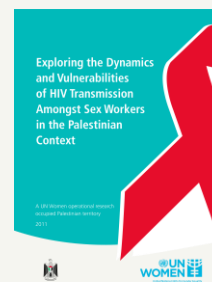
Cooperation for Development Effectiveness in the occupied Palestinian territory: Addressing the Gender Equality Gap

Are national priorities for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment reflected in the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013 (PNDP) and its sector strategies, or embedded in donor and aid coordination activities? In the context of the review and development of the new Palestinian National Development Plan, the study provides a needed analysis and recommended actions to strengthen the gender perspective in aid and development effectiveness for donors, national partners and other development actors, including the United Nations.



Market Research on the Cultural and Creative Industry in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

The cultural and creative industry in the occupied Palestinian territory is in dangerous decline. Decades of difficult economic conditions and periods of low tourism have caused workshops to close and production units to shut down. From the obstacles faced by the producers in marketing their products to the review of legal status related to industry, the study examines the ways to revive industry and preserve Palestinian heritage while contributing to strengthening and stabilizing the Palestinian economy.



Exploring the Dynamics and Vulnerabilities of HIV Transmission amongst Sex Workers in the Palestinian Context

Undertaken by UN Women within the framework of the joint UN programme "Scaling up universal access to prevention treatment and care of HIV/AIDS in oPt", the operational research explores the dynamics of sex work and its associated vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS in the Palestinian context. Investigating the factors that drive women in both elective and forced sex work and their varying vulnerabilities in acquiring HIV/AIDS, the research provides the first-ever assessment on sex work and HIV vulnerability in the Palestinian context.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

Iqbal and her family are celebrating. Today, her daughter graduated from high-school and with her work in the school canteens, Iqbal will now be able to send her daughter to university.

However, the future did not always look so bright for Iqbal, especially when her husband started to suffer from health issues that only allowed him to work part-time. Living in a small village near Nablus, she was left with the responsibility of supporting her family of 6 children. As is the case for many Palestinian women, when Iqbal looked for employment, she was left with few opportunities.

"I married early and I did not finish my studies. I used to be in the house, taking care of my family" explains Iqbal.

In Palestine, as households have been losing income due to access restrictions, killing, injury or imprisonment, women have been put under increased responsibility to cope with the economic pressures. Still, for women in Palestine, social exclusion, undeveloped capacities and limited access to and/or control over productive assets (especially in rural areas), have created additional challenges in finding employment opportunities or a sustainable source of income. For Iqbal, as for the other 416 women beneficiaries, the Women-Run School Canteens programme offered a unique opportunity to work and receive a monthly salary.

"The project helps us to overcome our problems and to pay for family expenses, and it is useful for the village and its women" says Iqbal. Indeed, beyond its financial aspect, the



programme has fundamentally helped to increase community acceptance of women's involvement in non-domestic activities. According to Siniora, who works as a saleswoman in the canteen of Azmut Secondary School in Nablus:

"With my job at the canteen, I defied my community, which regards widows negatively" ... "They believed that I was leaving the house because I was looking to remarry, but I showed them that I can get out of the house and have a job. Now, my family encourages me and I am working to establish a small project next to my home."

Through the Programme, Siniora and Iqbal have gained confidence in their ability to succeed as well as to enhance not only their life and livelihood but those of their family and community.

"My work at the Women-Run School Canteen gave me the opportunity to get a monthly salary to cover my family's expenses and it will also allow me to pay for my daughter's university education. I am prepared to spend all my salary on her tuition fees because I would prefer for her to learn and have a decent employment rather than feeling the pressure of not having a good job" says Iqbal.

THE WOMEN-RUN SCHOOL CANTEENS PROGRAMME



Implemented by UN Women since 2009, with funding from the Government of Norway, the Women-Run School Canteens programme was expressly designed to respond to the needs of women and households in the Palestinian context. It has offered an innovative approach for empowering marginalized women in rural areas

by addressing their needs as well as those of their community. In its second phase, the programme targeted 32 women's centres and 209 schools, with the goal of generating, from the production and selling of healthy snacks in school canteens, an income for the centres and their women workers, while contributing to improve the health of the school's children.

TO DATE ...

- ☐ 32 women centres have a permanent income from the activity which ensure their sustainability and outreach to an estimated 28,000 women
- ☐ 416 women workers have secured a regular monthly salary of USD 250 to 300.
- ☐ Almost 82,000 school children were offered healthy and affordable snacks made by the women centres
- ☐ Anaemia rates have dropped from one quarter of the children to just a handful, according to Zain Hamad, a dietician at the Palestinian Ministry of Education.