

نساء تقود التغيير في القدس
Women Leading Change in Jerusalem

**EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MARGINALIZED
EAST JERUSALEM COMMUNITIES**

Research Report



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FOREWARD

Why is a research report like “Empowering Women in Marginalized East Jerusalem Communities” needed to document the status of Palestinian women’s empowerment and leadership in East Jerusalem? Palestinian women are a global example of struggle and organization against the dual oppressions of Israel’s military occupation and a traditional, patriarchal societal structure.

For decades, Palestinian women fought for economic and political empowerment, access to education for girls, gender equality within the law and an end to gender-based violence. And their achievements have been significant: Creation of a Ministry of Women's Affairs in 2003; establishment of Gender Units within all Palestinian Authority (PA) Ministries; and a Gender National Strategy and National Strategy to Combat Gender Based Violence, both spearheaded by the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Yet, Palestinian East Jerusalemite women remain discriminated against, marginalized and disempowered. Much of the oppression stems from Israel’s occupation, annexation and militarization of East Jerusalem, a situation rife with human rights abuses which affects all Palestinians yet exerts an additional gendered impact upon women and girls. Add to this life within a patriarchal society, where domestic violence, violence within the extended family and violence in community institutions is common. And, disturbingly, a critical gap remains between legal frameworks and the effective implementation of laws with the power to protect and advance women's status.

The reality of life lived by Palestinian women on the ground – especially in the most marginalized communities of East Jerusalem – is a world apart from lofty concepts of gender equality or women’s empowerment. As Juzoor, a Palestinian public health non-governmental organization focused on the public health of Palestinians, and with deep connections to the local communities of East Jerusalem, we wanted to hear and learn from Palestinian Jerusalemite women themselves.

Utilizing indicators from the World Health Organization’s Toolkit for Women’s Empowerment and Leadership in Health and Welfare, our research team carried out a cross-sectional study to examine the determinants of women’s empowerment and priority needs among close to 1,000 women. Ranging from 18-68 years of age, the women all resided in one of six marginalized East Jerusalem communities.

Assuming that the concept of empowerment refers to the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make choices acquire such ability, Palestinian Jerusalemite women and girls remain dispossessed. Our research study findings show that while Palestinian East Jerusalemite women are very aware of their priority needs for empowerment, especially in terms of economic and public participation, only 18% saw themselves as empowered.

Planned interventions to promote and enhance Palestinian women’s empowerment, particularly in East Jerusalem, will need to tackle various dimensions through an integrated, multi-sector approach. It is my hope that data from this research study will prove useful to local, national and international stakeholders as they undertake renewed efforts to improve Palestinian women’s and girl’s health and welfare in East Jerusalem. As global data proves again and again, improving the lives of women and girls reaps benefits for the society at large.

On behalf of everyone at Juzoor, I would like to extend the deepest appreciation to the individuals and institutions - both local and international, both governmental and non-governmental - who assisted and participated in the planning and research of this study.

And a very special thank you to the many Palestinian women who shared their stories and experiences with us during the research process. It is my hope that this report will serve as another step forward in their struggle for equality and empowerment in East Jerusalem.

Dr. Salwa Najjib

Director, JUZOOR



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Goal 5: Achieve gender equality
and empower all women and girls

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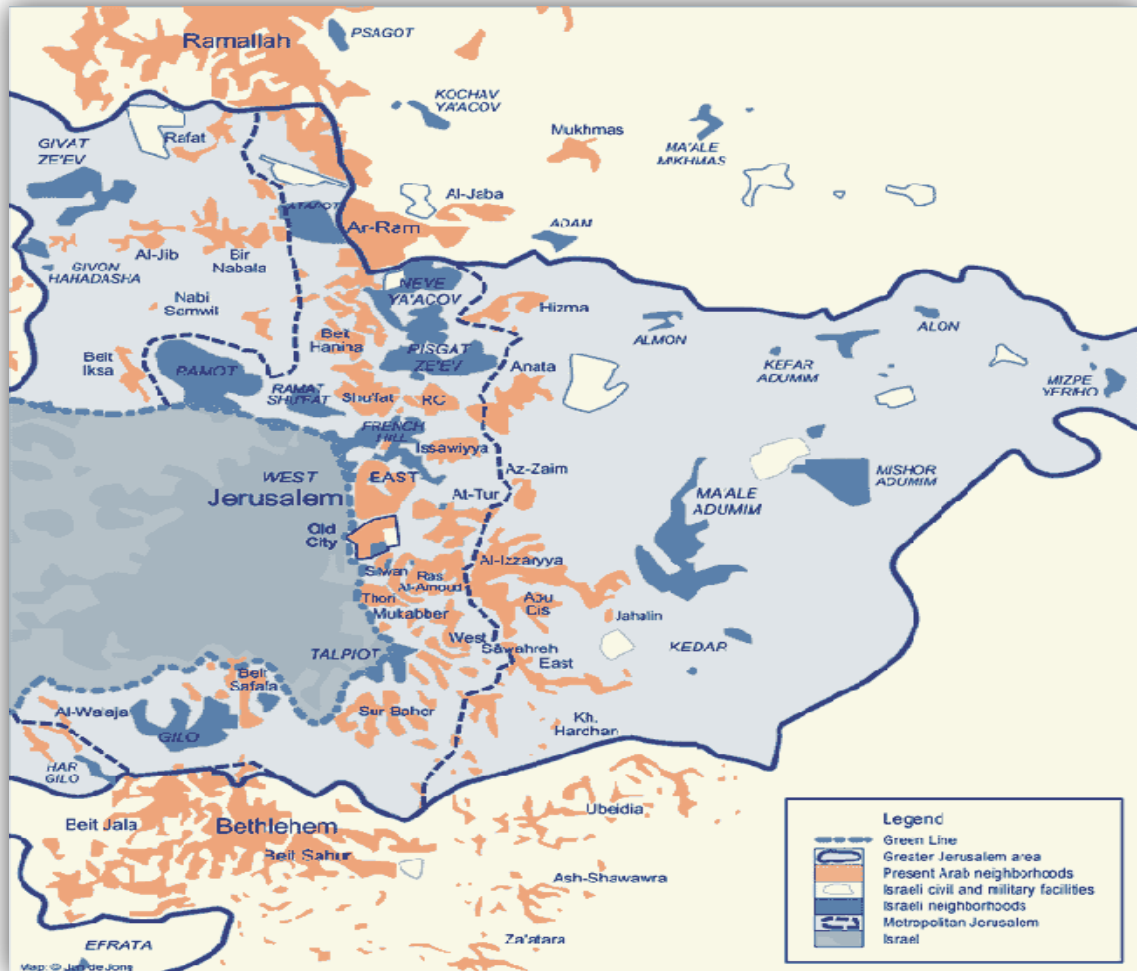
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MAP OF JERUSALEM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research study was undertaken to assess the status of gender equality and empowerment of Palestinian women and girls residing in East Jerusalem. In large part, it was inspired by Goal 5: "Gender Equality - achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," part of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, "17 Goals to Transform the World" adopted by the global community in 2015.

Gender inequalities are deep-rooted in every society. Across the globe, women and girls are victims of violence, under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes, and suffering from a lack of access to work, education and health care. These inequalities are dramatically worsened by situations of conflict and war. In East Jerusalem, a unique and overwhelming combination of these challenges face Palestinian women and girls.

To date, no comprehensive data on women's empowerment in Palestine in general, and in Jerusalem in particular, has been done. Juzoor, a long-established Palestinian non-governmental organization (NGO) focused on public health (physical, as well as mental and emotional health) was well-positioned to carry out such research.

In designing and implementing the study, internationally recognized research tools were utilized. Foremost among these was the World Health Organization Toolkit for Women's Empowerment and Leadership in Health and Welfare, a guidance document which has been the gold standard for assessing gender inequality and women's empowerment globally since its publication in 2005. The Toolkit outlines eight critical dimensions for assessing empowerment: public participation, familial/interpersonal, economic, access to basic services, freedom of movement and gender roles, as well as a specific tool for assessing women's felt needs. While using the Toolkit's suggested assessment indicators, both the study's approach and research questions were modified to more accurately reflect the Palestinian context of life in East Jerusalem.

Following a formative assessment composed of focus groups and interviews, a cross-sectional study among 953 women - aged 18-68, and living in the most marginalized East Jerusalem communities (the Old City, At-Tur, Jabal Makabber, Issawiyya, Al-Ram and Shufat) - was carried out. Data was then analyzed for results.

Similar to previous findings from studies done in Egypt, India and East Asia, certain key factors were associated with empowerment of Palestinian Jerusalemite women and girls: age, residency status, education, and employment. And confirming widespread anecdotal evidence, while Palestinian Jerusalemite women are well aware of their priority needs for empowerment, only a small percentage - 18% of the women in our research study -- saw themselves as empowered. Geographically, the Old City, At-Tur and Shufat camp had the smallest proportion of empowered women. Overall, access to, and control over, resources such as money are highly

constrained, as are access to health and legal services and family decision-making. But the most striking result was the prevalence of violence. While the majority of violence stemmed from Israel's military occupation of East Jerusalem and the growing number of settlers and settlements, participants from all six areas included in the study described increasing levels of domestic violence. Coupled with a dramatic increase in the prevalence of child marriage, such data paints a grim picture of the obstacles facing women and girls living in East Jerusalem.

To move towards gender equity implies not only the elimination of discrimination against women but also attention to the differentiated needs of women. This report focuses on women as a "vulnerable population" and explores ways for women to become participants in their own empowerment because gender equality is a fundamental human right. However, it is important to note that the beneficiaries of greater gender equality will also be men, families and the community of East Jerusalem as a whole.

INTRODUCTION

Gender Inequality as an Issue

Serious global attention to the issue of gender inequality – and its negative effects not only on women, but upon society as a whole - has been a long time coming. In 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in a unanimous vote, entering into force in 1981 (1). In later years, the Convention worked to comprehensively codify international legal standards for the protection of women. Only in 1994 was women's empowerment first called for by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), a call echoed the next year at The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (2).

But it wasn't until the launch of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2000 that the issue of gender inequality took on international prominence. The MDG's laid out a broad vision to fight poverty and combat issues hampering development progress in the form of eight target goals, with Goal 3 being the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. For the next 15 years, the MDG's remained the world's overarching development framework for international, regional and local efforts. However, within a decade, shortcomings in the achievement of the MDG's were apparent, necessitating a new set of revised targets (2).

Spear-headed by the United Nations (UN), with the involvement of its 193 member states, a non-binding document was released at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. A final agreement was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on September 25–27, 2015, with the title: "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2).

These new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) included Goal 5: "Gender Equality, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (3)." Its stated goal was to "provide women and girls with equal access to education, health care, work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes." What was different - and noteworthy – in change from MDG to SDG was a focus on importance of gender equality not solely for the benefit of women (4). "Though goal 5 is the gender equality stand-alone goal, the SDG's as a whole can only be successful if women are completely integrated into each and every goal." Long excluded from the global narrative of power, women had, at least on paper, been invited inside (3).

The SDGs were welcomed for their more realistic approach to progress, as well as their focus on the need for laws to accompany and safeguard progress in gender inequality. "Progress goal 5 2017: Gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities. Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will require more vigorous efforts, including legal frameworks, to counter deeply rooted gender-based discrimination that often results from patriarchal attitudes and related social norms" (4).

The SDG's will remain the global benchmark for progress towards gender equality until 2030, when progress will be reviewed. Meanwhile, the Spotlight Initiative, a joint venture of the European Union and the UN, has offered significant support on a critical aspect of women's empowerment: ending all forms of violence against women and girls. A global, multi-year initiative, it will work to bring violence against women into the spotlight, placing it center-stage. (4)

But this is a global perspective on gender inequality and efforts to change it. What happens when we zoom in on a particular group of women, in a particular place – in short, Palestinian women in East Jerusalem? To understand the particular challenges facing these women in terms of gender equality and empowerment, its critical to understand their recent history, as well as the current political situation under which they live.

The Changing Status of Jerusalem 1948-2017



Throughout most of the first half of the twentieth century, Jerusalem was a vibrant cultural and economic center of Palestinian life - its streets filled with cafes, shops and cinemas, with spacious and beautiful garden suburbs (5). This way of life was destroyed in 1948, when relentless attacks by Jewish military forces emptied neighborhood after neighborhood, forcing out Palestinian middle and upper classes in a massive refugee exodus. Robbed of both its economic base and intelligentsia, Palestinian Jerusalem became a rural and leaderless population, soon falling under Jordanian rule and confined to the area which became known as East Jerusalem (5).

While estimates of Palestinian Jerusalemite losses from the war are difficult to quantify, an idea of their magnitude can be gleaned from the larger Palestinian picture: confiscation of overall Palestinian land in 1948 has been estimated at \$2,131,467,000 (1948 dollars) with the loss of moveable assets estimated to have been \$453,375,000 (1948 dollars) (5).

Palestinian Jerusalem society had been dealt a devastating blow. Yet life continued, and during the 1960s East Jerusalem experienced an economic renaissance. A burgeoning tourism industry focused on the many holy sites inside the Old City attracted increasing numbers of pilgrims from the region and internationally. But East Jerusalem's growing prosperity ended with the outbreak of the 1967 War (5). Victors in the war, Israel forcibly integrated East Jerusalem and nearby Palestinian villages into a "greater" Jerusalem. For the first time, Palestinian Jerusalemites found themselves occupied and under the jurisdiction and administration of the state of Israel (5). The absentees' property law (1950), was applied to Jerusalem in 1967 and enabled Israel to confiscate Palestinian properties of those who live outside the expanded boundaries of Jerusalem.¹

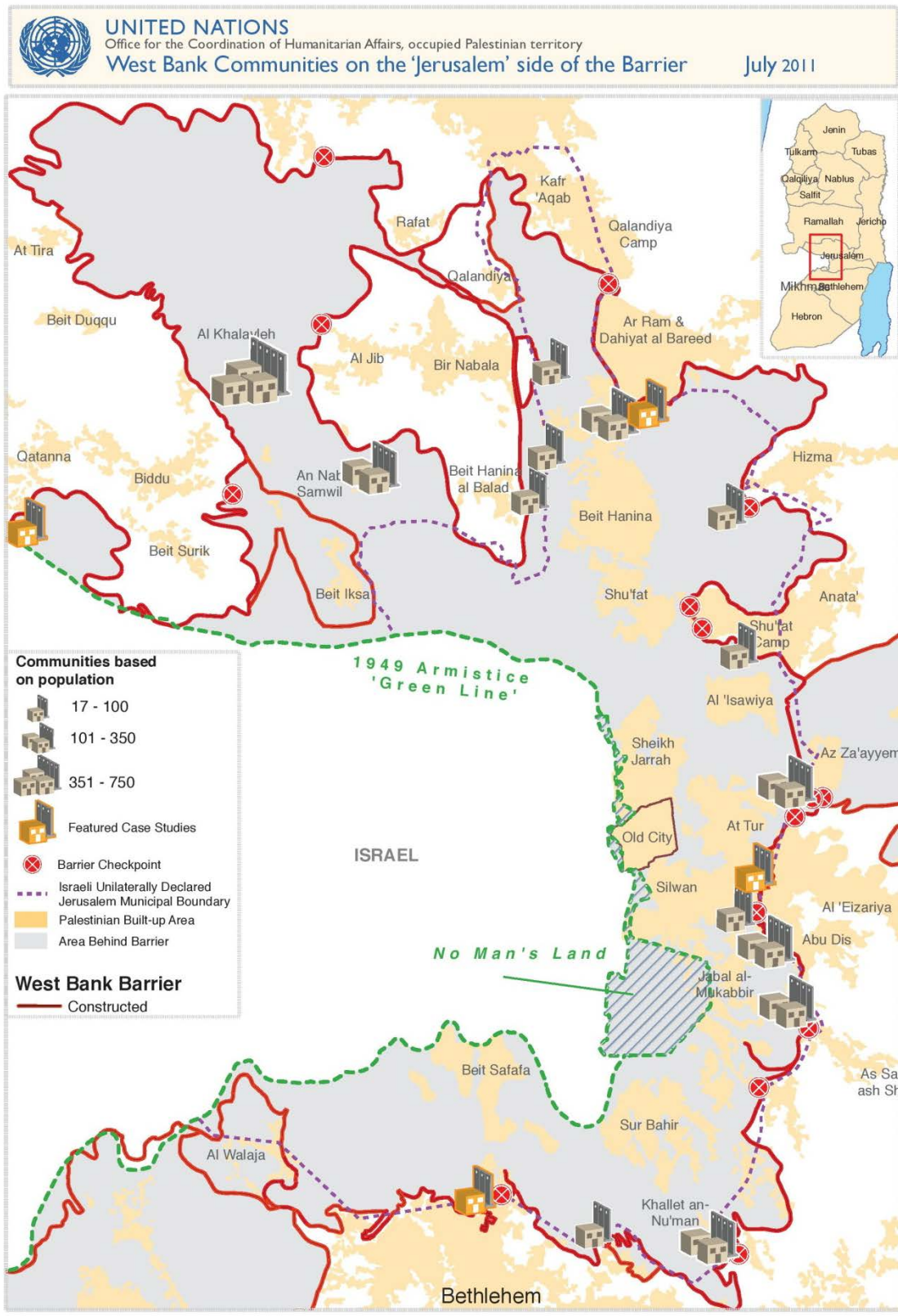
Then, in 1980, Israel's Parliament passed a law declaring "Jerusalem, complete and united, the capital of Israel," unilaterally annexing East Jerusalem. This move by the Israeli government was accompanied by the building of the first Jewish settlements inside East Jerusalem - a process of on-going expropriation of Palestinian lands and homes which continues, even more rapidly, today (5).

In the mid-90s Palestinian hopes were raised by the promises of the Oslo Accords. An internationally-recognized Palestinian government, the Palestinian Authority (PA), was formed and in 1997 Palestinian Jerusalemites participated in their first election of government leaders (5). But Israel soon reneged on its many of its signed agreements, plunging Palestinians into a second and more deadly conflict with Israel, the second "intifada" (uprising.)

Soon after, East Jerusalem suffered yet another devastating blow. Israel announced that it would surround Jerusalem's eastern perimeter with what it termed a "security barrier." Progressively, one year after another, the Barrier separated East Jerusalem neighborhoods from each other and from adjacent West Bank suburbs (5). East Jerusalem and West Bank villages and suburbs were forcibly severed, resulting in East Jerusalem becoming isolated and marginalized, its economic and social fabric torn apart (6).

It is estimated that construction of the Barrier caused a direct economic loss of over a billion dollars to Palestinian Jerusalemites (2). And since the occupation of East Jerusalem by Israel in 1967, Palestinians have lost more than one-third of the territory of East Jerusalem, expropriated for the construction of Israeli settlements (35).

¹ <https://www.adalah.org/en/law/view/538>



Without understanding the impact of 1948 and 1967 - and the consequent building of settlements, failure of the Oslo Accords and construction of the Barrier - no serious analysis of gender inequality in East Jerusalem today would be accurate (5). As the United Nations, along with international and local organizations, has repeatedly reported, the gendered effects of Israeli military and settler violence, home demolitions, movement restrictions and reduced access to critical services such as education and healthcare disproportionately impact women (5).

The United Nations Human Rights Council special rapporteur on violence against women has stated: “Establishment and expansion of settlements has been accompanied by an increase in settlers’ violence against Palestinians, including women and girls.” This report stated that Palestinian women who had been detained described being subject to ill-treatment and torture: “Beatings, insults, threats and sexual harassment were common practices, as well as intrusive body searches, occurring before and after court hearings or during the night as punitive measures” (35).

The Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling, a Palestinian organization, collected testimonies on military and settler violence from 100 Palestinian women living in East Jerusalem. Many of the women described being “scared to leave their houses after experiences of [attacks by Israeli settlers],” with a majority reporting “increases in Israeli police brutality, including nighttime raids on family homes.” (36) Such experiences are known to cause “severe psychological impact”, with affected women “experiencing serious sleeping disorders, stress issues and depression” (35).

Palestinian women have significantly worse health outcomes than their Israeli counterparts in Jerusalem. Israeli soldiers block pregnant Palestinian women on their way to hospital to give birth. Checkpoints and related movement restrictions deny Palestinian women and their infants access to critical maternal health care, while Palestinian women often cannot reach treatment for chronic medical conditions.

But perhaps the most devastating Israeli occupation practice for Palestinian women is the loss of home due to eviction, threat of demolition or demolition – an event causing profound psychological, economic and social consequences for women and their families. Literally overnight, they are left homeless, or forced to inhabit small, over-crowded, sub-standard and expensive rentals. Along with vandalism and property destruction by settlers, the destruction of Palestinian Jerusalemite homes “overburdens women with increased responsibilities, including financial ones, for members of their family” (36).

Israel's actions created the dire realities under which Palestinian Jerusalemites are forced today. But the Palestinian women of East Jerusalem are not only constrained by Israeli policies (7). They must also battle within their own society entrenched patriarchal traditions and structures which resist women's empowerment, as well as new challenges such as rising child marriage and violence rates (7). In both their

private and public lives, East Jerusalemite women experience discrimination and marginalization (7).

This research study aimed to document the impact of these dual oppressions – military occupation and patriarchy. It also aimed to explore the felt needs as expressed by the women themselves, for it is through the extraordinary strength and resilience of the women of East Jerusalem that a path forward will be made. In addition to serving as a baseline data, the study will inform interventions to promote women's empowerment, and to strengthen the capacity of 12 community-based organizations (CBOs) in fostering women's public participation and leadership.

METHODOLOGY

Study Population

Following Israel's occupation and annexation of East Jerusalem, the overall population of Jerusalem - now including both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs - underwent change. The Jewish population declined, while the Arab population increased. In 1967, the proportion of the Arab population was 26% (8). By 2014, it had increased to 37% (8). In 2014 the fertility rate for Jewish women in Jerusalem was 4.3 (3.0 inside Israel), and 3.3 for Arab women (3.2 inside Israel) (8). In terms of age, the Arab population of Jerusalem was, and continues to be, younger than the Jewish population (8).

In mid-2016, the largest Arab population inside Israel were Palestinian Jerusalemites: 426,533 (9). Of that number, 264, 540 (62%) resided in area J1 (15), with 162,083 (38%) residing in area J2 (Annex 1). Five of the study's six sample neighborhoods were in J1: The Old City, Issawiyya, Jabal al-Mukabber, At-Tur and Shufat. The remaining neighborhood, Al-Ram, is located in J2.

A brief description of each of the six selected marginalized neighborhoods:

1. **The Old City of Jerusalem** is a one square kilometer walled area within the eastern side of the city of Jerusalem. It is divided into four neighborhoods: the Christian, Armenian, Muslim and Jewish Quarters. Settlement enclaves surround the Old City from the south, east, and north, with some positioned on main roads leading to the Old City. Additionally, settlement enclaves have been established in the Muslim and Christian quarters of the Old City, causing the loss of property and the expulsion of their Palestinian residents (10).
2. **Issawiyya** is a Palestinian village in East Jerusalem located on what has become known as Mount Scopus. Taken over by Israeli forces during the 1967 War, in recent years Issawiyya has been the target of large-scale Israeli military incursions, raids and harassment and, since October 2015, suffered under a tight Israeli military siege. Residents of Issawiyya are especially vulnerable to Israeli police's heavy firing of teargas which penetrates houses, causing suffocation and breathing problems among residents.
3. **Al-Ram** lies northeast of Jerusalem just outside the city's municipal border, and includes Atarot industrial zone, the neighborhood of Beit Hanina to the west, and Neve Ya'akov settlement bordering al-Ram on the south. To the north is Qalandia camp, most of which lies outside Jerusalem's municipal boundary. It's estimated that 58,000 people live in Qalandia camp, with more than half holding Israeli identity cards (11). The separation barrier under construction will surround al-Ram on three sides.

Since the barrier's construction began, several thousand residents with Israeli identity cards have been forced to move. The barrier will severely hamper access for the twenty thousand students currently studying in al-Ram schools, as well as obstructing access to higher education. Al-Ram has one college, with 700 students, most of whom live outside and will face serious difficulties reaching the college once the barrier is completed. Access to hospitals and medical clinics will also be affected, as medical services are virtually non-existent in al-Ram. The barrier will also affect the livelihood of Al-Ram residents, most of whom work in areas of Jerusalem and/or Israel, areas that will become unreachable. And within Al-Ram itself, formerly a lively commercial center, the construction of the barrier has caused most shops and factories to close.

4. **Shufat camp** was established in 1965 to provide housing for Palestinian refugees forced out of 55 villages in the Jerusalem, Lydd, Jaffa and Ramleh areas during the 1948 war. Located on the outskirts of Jerusalem, Shufat is five kilometers from the northeastern part of the Old City, lying between the villages of Anata and Shufat (10), and has been almost entirely walled off by the Israeli government and Jerusalem municipality since 2004. The Israeli settlement of Pisgat Zeev is located to the camp's north. Although only 12,500 Palestine refugees are registered as living in Shufat camp, UNRWA estimates the actual number to be approximately 24,000 (12). The high towers which populate part of the camp area are home to a much larger number of people — around 70,000. Along with Qalandia, Shufat camp lies outside formal Jerusalem jurisdiction, meaning that Jerusalem municipal services (garbage collection, fire and emergency services, hospitals, public schools) do not operate, despite residents being required to pay city taxes. Entering or leaving Shufat camp requires movement either through a militarized checkpoint which is often closed on the Jerusalem side, or a narrow road towards Anata surrounded by three Israeli settlements - effectively severing connection for residents to Jerusalem and the West Bank.
5. **Jabal Mukkaber**, located 3.3km from the Old City, is bordered by East Talpote to the west, Abu Tor and Silwan to the north, and Sur Baher to the south. With a population of 14,000, its main streets are blocked with Israeli concrete barricades, and its perimeter faces the barrier wall. Built to isolate Jabal Mukkaber from Armon Hanatziv settlement, the barrier serves to isolate residential blocks, one from another. The barrier also impacts 7,000 students who, to reach schools and colleges outside the neighborhood, must stand in long queues at checkpoints. The area of Jabal Mukkaber also includes two Jewish developments: Nof Zion, a luxury apartment complex, and Kidmat Zion, a fledgling settlement on the fringes of the neighborhood.
6. **At-Tur**, commonly known as the Mount of Olives, is located approximately one kilometer east of the Old City. Many homes have been demolished in At-Tur (10). Near to At-Tur are two settlements: Beit Hoshen and Beit Orot. Beit Orot was the first Jewish settlement inside an Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem and includes a yeshiva

that combines religious study with military service, families and several dozen yeshiva students. The project is carried out by Ateret Cohanim, a pro-settler organization that has helped hundreds of Jews move into areas of East Jerusalem and the Old City.

Study Design

Formative Assessment

A series of focus groups and interviews were held between October 2016 and January 2017. They involved female populations and stakeholders representing six marginalized communities in East Jerusalem: The Old City, Issawiyya, Kafr 'Aqab, Silwan, Jabal al-Mukabber and Shufat camp. These meetings provided crucial information for the creation of a baseline for research study goals to develop activities to promote women's empowerment, and to strengthen the capacity of 12 community-based organizations (CBOs) in fostering women's public participation and leadership.

The six focus groups were held with 8-12 participants in each group. Participants provided responses to guided questions within a discussion format. Seven interviews were conducted with stakeholders, including with the Jerusalem Center for Women, the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce, Sunflower Association for Human and Environment Protection, Al-Maqdese for Society Development, Ma'an center, Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WLAC), and Al Maqased Hospital (interviews with gynecologists).

Quantitative study

A cross-sectional household study among 953 women, aged 18-68 years, was conducted from October 2016-January 2017. All women participating in the study resided in one of six marginalized East Jerusalem communities. Approximately 150 women participated from each locality with the exception of the Old City, where 200 women participated. In each selected household, only one woman was eligible to participate.

Two approaches were utilized for sampling. The first approach used to recruit most of the study sample was area sampling, wherein the total area under investigation is divided into small sub-areas which are then sampled at random, according to a restricted process (area sampling.) In our study, after dividing localities into neighborhoods, we selected all households on the right side.

However, in two localities, a larger proportion of recruited women were housewives from older age groups. This necessitated use of a second sampling approach in order to sample younger women working or still in school. These women were then recruited at bus stops, colleges, or close to a mosque on Fridays.

Data Collection

Data was collected between March and April 2017. The majority of women were interviewed inside the privacy of their homes or, alternately, at the front door of the household. A small proportion was interviewed in public areas. Interviews took 20-40 minutes to complete. The study survey asked about indicators of empowerment, access to

social support, mental health and training, and exposure to violence (Annex 2). The overall response rate was 67%. There were two reasons for a lack of response: the respondent didn't open the door or was too busy to participate.

Study Variables

Outcome Variables

Women's Empowerment and Leadership

The main outcome variable was measured using the WHO Toolkit for Women's Empowerment and Leadership (13), adapted to the Palestinian context. Empowerment was measured based on eight dimensions of empowerment at the individual level: public participation, familial/interpersonal, economic, access to basic services, freedom of movement, and gender roles (marriage and family, socio-cultural, work factors).

Women's Felt and Priority Needs

The second outcome variable was also based on the WHO Toolkit for Women's Empowerment and Leadership, this time their indicators for *woman's felt and priority needs* as adapted to the Palestinian context. Outcome variables were measured based on the following six dimensions:

1. ***Well-being***: controls own income, shares decision-making in the home, travels out of the house.
2. ***Illness and injury***: perceived importance of domestic violence against children, domestic violence against women, street violence, settlers' violence, accidents outside the home, and accidents in the home (e.g. fire).
3. ***Environment***: inadequate sewage systems, solid waste.

4. **Socio-economic, social and community:** important to have women in local committees, need open-minded community to empower women, need to grant women access to resources, need for leaders to support women, need for media channels to be accessible for women's groups, need for women's organizations at the local level.
5. **Household factors:** need for privacy, house requires repairs or renovation.
6. **Governance:** active participation in political activities at the local/community level, discrimination against women's participation in public sphere, funding for projects to benefit women, building women's capacity for active participation in social and political sectors, acceptance by family and society of women's participation in social and political activities.

Gender-based violence:

For assessment of gender-based violence, four questions were taken from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics violence survey made in 2011, which examined social, economic, physical, and sexual violence against women from father/brother/relative, husband/ex-husband.

1. **Social:** In past 12 months, were you forced to quit work, prevented from seeing friends/ family/neighbors, prohibited from going out with friends/family/neighbors?
2. **Economic:** in the past 12 months, did he refuse to give you enough money for living expenses, withdraw money from your bank account without your permission, control your belongings or take over your inheritance/personal property?
3. **Physical:** in the past 12 months, were you slapped on the face/beaten/strangled/burned?
4. **Sexual:** Ever been touched inappropriately, attempted rape, or rape?

Explanatory Variables

Explanatory variables are those that can explain the variability in the outcome variables.

Demography: age, social status, years of schooling, employment, income, residency, refugee status, size of household, number of rooms, living with extended family, receiving financial support from family, age at marriage.

Deprivation: a rating was constructed for the number of affirmative responses to the following dichotomous items: did not have enough money for living expenses, did not have money to pay bills, felt child/children were deprived. Responses were then coded into a binary variable, based on reporting one or more forms of deprivation (Yes/No).

Social support: the perceived social support factor was drawn from items on the Social Provisions Scale, an instrument which measures the degree to which respondent's social relationships provide dimensions of support. Ratings were based on yes/no answer to the following queries: has someone to count on for help, has friends/family to make her happy and secure, has somebody to trust to talk about problems, does not feel alone or isolated from family/friends/ others, has someone with whom can feel intimacy (15).

Mental health: the perceived mental health factor was measured using the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12), a widely used screening instrument to detect psychiatric disorders in community settings/non-psychiatric clinical settings (4). The GHQ-12 has Likert scoring methods (0-1-2-3). The Arabic version of the GHQ-12 proved to be reliable as indicated by Cronbach alpha of 0.86. The best balance between sensitivity and specificity was found at the General Health Questionnaire cut-off point of 11/12. At this threshold, sensitivity was 0.88 and paired with a specificity of 0.84. It possesses three factors: Factor A (general dysphoria), Factor B (lack of enjoyment), and Factor C (social dysfunction). The GHQ-12 discriminates between clinically distressed and clinically non- distressed subjects (16).

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to examine general sample characteristics. Factor analysis was used to determine the number of observed indicators under each latent empowerment dimension/factor. For factor analysis, simple component extraction method was used, along with Varimax rotation to ensure that factors were not correlated. The criteria for extraction was eigenvalues (extracted variance) greater than 1 (any factor with an eigenvalue ≥ 1 explains more variance than a single observed variable.)

Variables underlying each factor were chosen based on variables that loaded most strongly on each factor, i.e., the variable with the strongest association to the underlying factor. Based on factor analysis, ended up with following are the eight extracted factors used to measure empowerment:

Public participation: Ability to continue education, if wishes to; ability to join women's organizations; ability to participate in meetings and workshops to empower women.

Familial/interpersonal (reported sharing of decision-making): measures by three items: ability to participate in decision making, ability to decide alone, high self-esteem.

Economic (financial autonomy, economic security): Ability to spend from own/family income, and access to resources with/without consultation with head of household.

Access to basic services: Access to health information, access to preventive services, access to treatment services, access to counselling services, and access to legal services.

Freedom of movement: Do not need permission to: visit a friend, go to the market, go to a health center, visit relatives, and move around outside the neighborhood.

Marriage and family: Marriage is important for happiness, better for girls to get married before turning 18, children cement marriage, and big families are the happiest.

Socio-cultural: (women's emancipation, reported sharing of roles): women are as intelligent as men, men are the breadwinners and women have to take care of their husbands and family, women should obey their husbands, husbands have the right to beat their wives, and important to teach sex education at schools.

Work factors: some jobs suit men and others suit women, men and women should receive equal pay for the same work, women respect men who do not dominate her.

The score for each dimension was calculated by summing up all observed variables underlying each factor, and then giving equal weight to all components so as to avoid arbitrary judgement. Each dimension was converted to dichotomous variable with a cut-off point of the top 25th percentile in each dimension. Composite empowerment score was calculated by summing up all eight dimensions of empowerment. Finally, the empowerment scale was converted to binary variable "empowered" using the cut-off point as having at least 5 of the 8 dimensions of empowerment. Logistic regression analysis was used to examine factors associated with the different dimensions of empowerment.

Subject Protection

To protect participants' privacy and to ensure confidentiality, data was anonymous. Verbal informed consent was obtained from participants following a description of the study. Participants could skip any question they did not want to answer, and could stop the interview at any time.

RESULTS

Demography

Household Density

The average size of the house hold in our study was 5 (Table 1), similar to the size reported for Arabs in Jerusalem (5.3) (8) and for Palestinians in the West Bank (5.2) (17) by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2016. However, the average size of our household was higher than the average size of a Jewish household in East Jerusalem (3.2). The average housing density of our study sample was similar to that of the Arab population of Jerusalem (1.7 and 1.9 respectively), but higher than the average housing density among the Arab population of Israel (1.4) (8).

Dwellings in East Jerusalem are generally small and overcrowded, especially in the Old City of Jerusalem, Silwan and Shufat camp (14). Overcrowding in households means a lack of privacy and a lack of public space between households. This situation is worsened by the near-total absence of green spaces or public recreational areas (18).



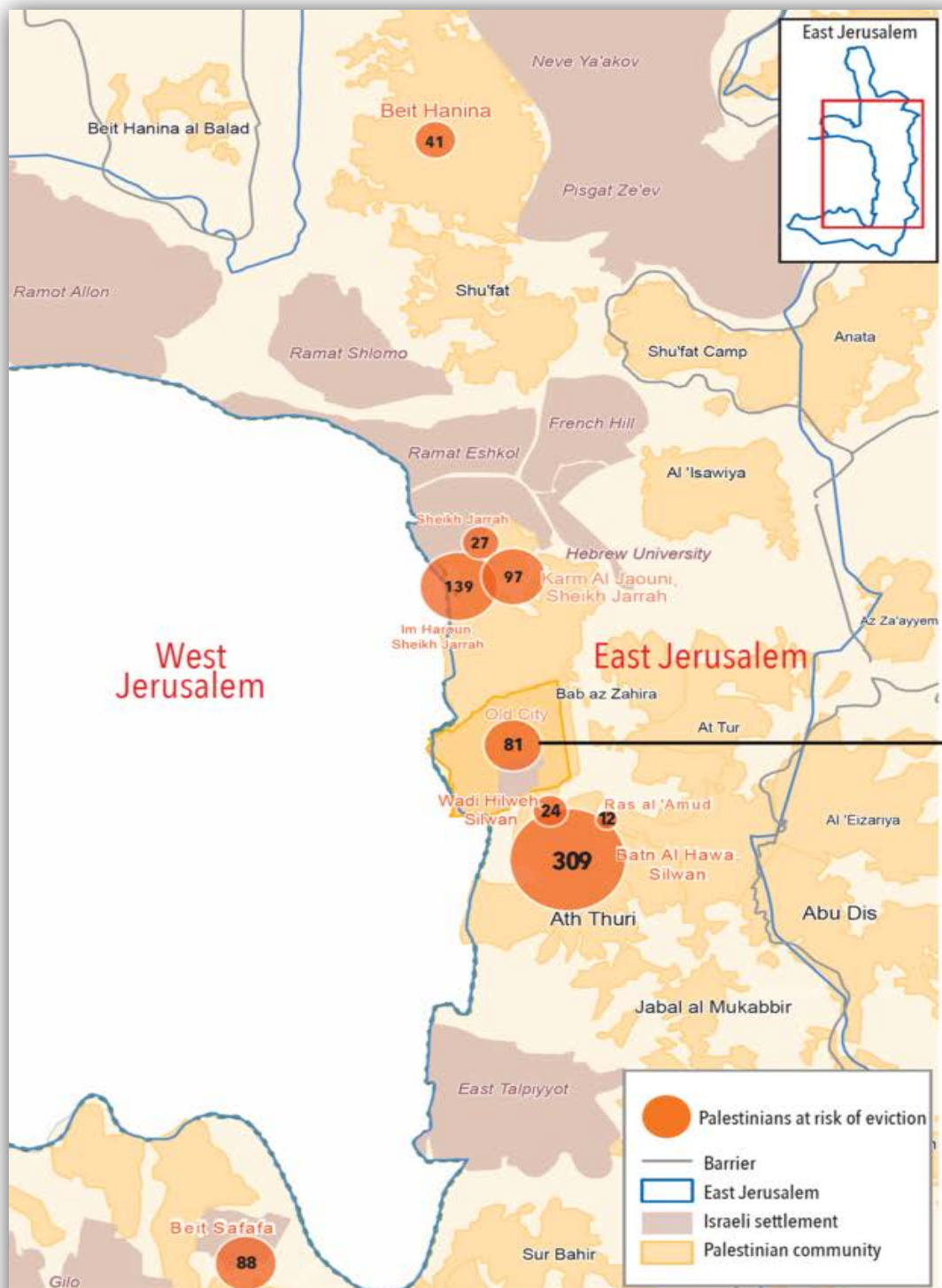


Table 1. Study Sample Characteristics (N=953)

Jerusalem 2017	Number (%) Unless otherwise indicated	
Residency		
Old City	201	(21.1%)
Issawiyya	150	(15.7%)
Al-Ram	149	(15.6%)
Shufat camp	152	(15.9%)
Jabal Mukabber	150	(15.7%)
At-Tur	151	(15.8%)
Refugee	224	(23.5%)
Median age [min,max]	33	[18,68]
Youth (18-29)	393	(41.0%)
Median years of schooling [min,max]	12	[0,21]
Weekly employment		
Works 1-14 hours	129	(13.6%)
Works 15-34 hours	69	(7.2%)
Works 35+hours	52	(5.5%)
Retired	5	(0.5%)
Student	164	(17.2%)
Husband works in Israel	435	(66.3%)
Monthly Income		
<2000 NIS	87	(9.2%)
2000-<4000 NIS	306	(32.3%)
4000- <6000 NIS	344	(36.3%)
6000 + NIS	210	(22.2%)
Perceived deprivation	759	(79.6%)
"Sometimes I don't have enough money for	607	(63.7%)

living expenses"		
"Sometimes I'm unable to pay all my bills"	552	(58.4%)
" Sometimes I think my children are deprived compared to other children I know"	283	(30.5%)
Family receives financial support (in-laws/grandparents)	82	(8.6%)
Median size of household [min,max]	5.0	[1,14]
Median number of rooms [min,max]	3	[1,9]
Median crowding (persons/room) [min,max]	1.7	[0.25,10]
House needs renovation	309	(32.5%)
Social status		
Single	266	(27.9%)
Engaged	36	(3.8%)
Ever married	651	(68.3%)
• Married with children	521	(80.0%)
• Married without children	44	(6.8%)
• Separated	12	(1.8%)
• Divorced	32	(4.9%)
• Widowed	42	(6.5%)
Traditional marriage (arranged)	522	(79.1%)
Median age at marriage[min,max]	19	[13,44]
➤ Married before 15	22	(3.4%)
➤ Married before 18	229	(35.2%)
Median age difference between spouses (years) [min,max]	5	[0,33]
Median education gap between spouses [min,max]	1.0	(-16, 15%)
Women with more schooling than husbands	343	(52.9%)
Median age at first childbirth [min,max]	21	[15,42]
First child before 18	105	(20.2%)
Living with extended family (among 565 currently married)	64	(11.3%)

Education

Half of women in the study only finished high school. Based on the formative study, perceived barriers to education were: the Israeli occupation (checkpoints, confrontations with soldiers), traffic, lack of security, high costs, discrimination (societal preference for educating sons over daughters) early marriage, girls not being allowed to study abroad and a quite conservative culture.



One explanation can be that of the approximately 36% of East Jerusalem students who fail to complete high school, the majority are boys, with many leaving school to enter the child labor force. However, other factors contribute to high drop-out rates such as oppressive and even dangerous environments surrounding schools, an acute shortage of classrooms (estimate: 1,000 new classrooms urgently needed) and the very poor quality of existing schools and classrooms (19). An additional factor could be the Israeli government's efforts to progressively replace Palestinian curriculum with an Israeli one which, very understandably, alienates students (19).

"My parents prevent me from going to study in Jerusalem, how will they let me go abroad?"

"We work hard to educate our daughters because it's their weapon."

Employment

Despite high education rates, women's participation in the labor force is low. Only 5% of study participants had a full-time job, with 21% holding a part-time job. In the first quarter of 2017, the labor force participation rate was 46% in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip – with a huge gap in the participation rate between males and females in Palestine: 72% and 19% respectively. The unemployment rate for males in Palestine was 22% compared to 47% for females (20). Within Israel, 39% of women were unemployed (21).

"Females continue education, and males work hard to help their parents and pay taxes to the Israeli government."

Based on the formative study, perceived reasons for unemployment in Jerusalem included a lack of job opportunities, political violence, movement restrictions, gender stereotypes and cultural restrictions, including a husband's perceived insecurity.

Since employment prospects are not good for most women in the study, employment for their husbands becomes crucial. The proportion of husbands working in Israel was between 41% in Al-Ram to 80% in Jabal Mukabber and 85% in Issiwiyya. In 2015, based on PCBS data, 33% of employed Jerusalemites worked in Israel and/or on Israeli settlements, while the remainder worked in the West Bank (9). There is an economic or class component to these statistics as well; Palestinian Jerusalemites are employed in "low strata" jobs inside Israel, while Palestinian Jerusalemite young professionals and business leaders largely move to, and work in, Ramallah (5).

Poverty and Deprivation



Due to the Israeli policy of physical, political, and economic segregation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), East Jerusalem is cut-off from the remainder of the West Bank, which impedes access to its markets.² Due to limited economic opportunities, most East Jerusalem Palestinians find employment in low strata jobs inside Israel, while many businesses and young professionals have moved to Ramallah and other parts of the West Bank. These circumstances have led to the fact that most of the Palestinian population in Jerusalem lives below the poverty line (5). Most participating in the study sample had an income between 2000-6000 NIS, with the poverty line for a standard individual being NIS 2,461 per month. Approximately 76% of households with at least 5 members had monthly incomes less than 6000 NIS, and are deemed poor (22). More than 58% of participants sometimes did not have enough money for living expenses and were not able to pay all the bills. Furthermore, 31% of women reported that they believe their children are deprived compared to other children they know.

"We live in a neighborhood that is full of drug dealers who target widows and divorced women and children. It is the Occupation's plan to destroy our boys and girls at early ages."

Previous studies done in Israel in 2016 showed that 22% of the population (54% of the Arab population) lived below the poverty line. In Jerusalem, 82% of the Arab population (87% of children) lived below the poverty line – compared to 28% of the Jewish population (8). In line with previous studies such as the United Nations Development Fund report, "Palestine 2030: Demographic Change," women with more years of schooling had more household income (2).

² http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2012d1_en.pdf

Exposure to Violence and its Impact on Health

Most difficulties faced by Palestinian women in East Jerusalem are caused by Israel's occupation, either directly or indirectly. Based on the responses of study participants, the main challenges, in descending order, are:

1. Occupation: Barrier, checkpoints, movement restrictions, home demolitions/forced evacuations, lack of general safety and security, violence from soldiers and settler violence.
2. Revocation of residency rights (Blue ID card)
3. Poverty/unemployment
4. Culture of violence/social injustice
5. Gender-based violence

Exposure to Israeli Military and Settler Violence

"I wish we could move, or go out after 5 pm. But it's impossible! The Israeli settlers would follow and kill us."

Almost all participants stressed the need to address settler violence (Table 2). More than three out of four women in the study indicated that settler violence was a problem in their neighborhood, causing them to worry about their safety and the safety of their families (Table 2).

Almost half of participants from Issiwiyya and Al-Ram had a family member who had been detained by Israeli soldiers. Approximately half of participants from the Old City and Jabal al-Mukabber had their homes either demolished, seized by Israelis or currently at risk of demolition/evacuation (Table 2). Between 2000-2010 about 7,392 demolition orders were issued, with 1,250 demolitions carried out, leaving thousands of Palestinian Jerusalemites displaced (5).

1,184 Palestinians, including 406 minors, were arrested in Jerusalem in the second half of 2014. Our study findings are in line with a previous 2014 study of Palestinian youth where 12% of boys and 6% of girls were injured by bullets (live/rubber) and 19% of boys and 6% of girls were detained/imprisoned (24).

Table 2. Rapid Assessment of Women's Felt and Priority Needs, (N=953)

Jerusalem 2017	N (%)
Participation of women in political activity at local/community levels	713 (75.0%)
Discrimination against women participating in public life	892 (94.1%)
Existence of funds to finance women's projects	905 (95.5%)
Training to enable women to actively participate in social and political sectors	840 (88.3%)
Family and community acceptance of women's participation in political activities	885 (93.1%)
Perceived importance of following empowerment criteria	
Controlling own income	803 (84.8%)
Being able to share decision-making in the home	913 (96.4%)
Being able to travel outside the home	833 (88.1%)
Important to have women in local committees	914 (95.9%)
Need open-minded community to empower women	884 (92.8%)
Need to grant women access to community resources	924 (97.0%)
Need for leaders that support women	918 (96.3%)
Need for media channels accessible by women's groups	903 (95.1%)
Need for women's organization at local level	893 (93.9%)
Importance of following issues	
Domestic violence against children	941 (98.9%)
Domestic violence against women	936 (98.4%)
Street violence	925 (97.3%)
Settlers violence	924

	(97.3%)
Street accidents	918 (96.6%)
Home accidents	939 (98.9%)
Inadequate sewage	887 (93.3%)
Solid wastes	878 (92.3%)

Table 3. Exposure to Political Violence (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017

Residency	Cross checkpoint to go to work/school N (%)	Participant/ family member ever detained N (%)	Participant/ family member ever imprisoned N (%)	Home demolished/ seized by Israelis or at risk of demolition/ evacuation N (%)
Old City	31 (31/140=22.1%)	59 (29.4%)	63 (31.3%)	54 (26.8%)
Issawiyya	27 (27/106=25.4%)	68 (45.3%)	43 (28.7%)	40 (26.6%)
Al-Ram	51 (51/123=41.5%)	71 (47.7%)	68 (45.6%)	13 (8.8%)
Shufat camp	80 (80/128=62.5%)	44 (29.8%)	43 (28.3%)	11 (7.2%)
Jabal Mukabber	24 (24/103=19.4%)	53 (35.3%)	38 (25.3%)	47 (31.3%)
At-Tur	16 (16/106=15.1%)	25 (16.6%)	53 (35.1%)	18 (11.9%)



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory

PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES AT RISK OF ISRAELI SETTLER VIOLENCE

September 2012

Risk of Settler Violence *

- Moderate
- High
- Road Junction at risk of closure due to settler violence

*Source: OCHA oPt 2012 Settler Violence assessment

Israeli settlements, outposts and land cultivated by settlers

Border

- International Border
- Armistice Line (Green Line)

Barrier

- Constructed / Under Construction
- Planned

Oslo Agreement

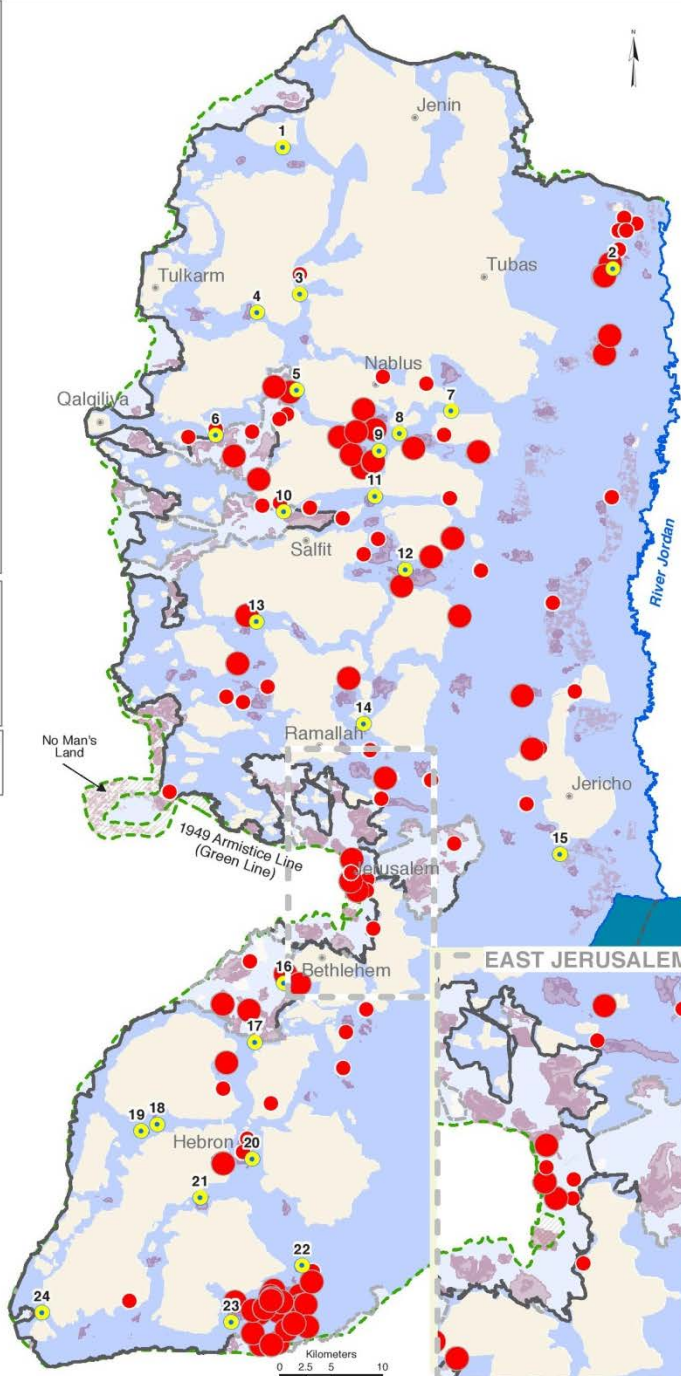
- Area A / B
- Area C & "Wye River" Nature Reserves

Oslo Interim Agreement

- Area A: Full Palestinian civil and security control
- Area B: Full Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control
- Area C: Full Israeli control over security, planning and construction

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Cartography: OCHA oPt, Sep. 2012. Base data: OCHA, PA MoP, JRC
update 08. For comments contact: ochaopt@un.org
or Tel. +972 (02) 582-9962 <http://www.ochaopt.org>

ID	Name
1	Ya'bad/ Mevo Dotan
2	'Ein al Hilwe/ Maskiyot Junction
3	Bizzaria junction
4	Enav Junction
5	Jit Junction
6	Kafr Laqif Junction
7	Beit Furik Junction
8	Huwara Junction
9	Yitzhar Junction
10	Kifl Haris Junction
11	Za'tara Junction
12	Shilo Junction
13	An Nabi Salih/ Halamish Junction
14	Beit El Junction
15	Jericho Entrance
16	Al Nashash Junction
17	Gush Etzion junction
18	Telem Entrance
19	Adora Entrance
20	Kiryat arba Entrance
21	Hagagay Entrance
22	Karmel Junction
23	Suseya Entrance
24	Eshkolot Junction





Gender-based Violence



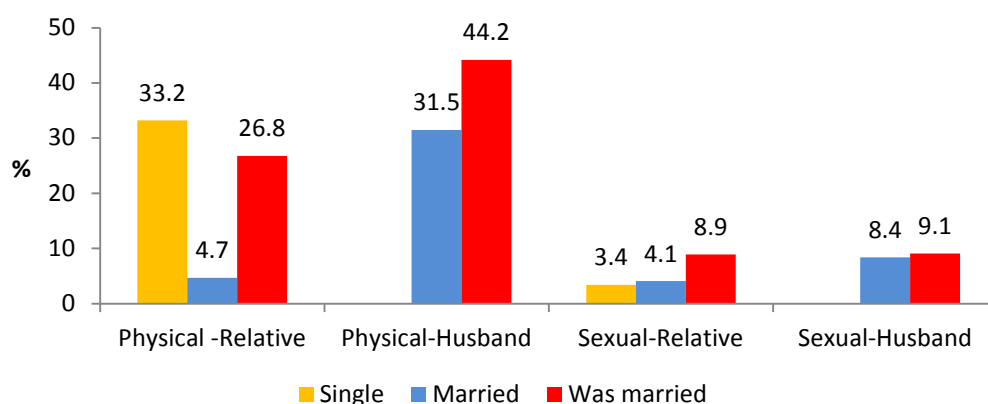
Palestinian women are affected not only by Israel's occupation, but also by a patriarchal society which uses history and religion to maintain a societal structure discriminatory towards women. Such structures manifest in a variety of ways.

Gender-based violence was common among the study sample, with the neighborhoods of Shufat, Issiwiyya and Jabal al-Mukabber showing higher rates. Most reports of violence were either social, economic or physical, with most incidents stemming from husbands/ex-husbands. Exposure to physical violence from a close relative increased five-fold among separated, divorced or widowed women. Exposure to physical and/or sexual violence was nearly two-fold the prevalence among single or currently-married women. For half of the women exposed to physical and/or sexual violence, the first exposure was at age 15 or before, with the minimum age cited as nine.

Certain groups of women – those separated, divorced or widowed – face a special set of challenges: lack of resources, lack of support, movement restrictions, blame for their situation along with stigmatization. They are also the groups most likely to suffer denial of the right to continue education, and the right to work.

The prevalence of violence among married women by their husbands was in line with findings from the PCBS 2011 violence survey (14): approximately 55% of participants were exposed to domestic violence. More than 98% of women expressed their belief that domestic violence against women and children is an important issue - one that must be addressed (Table 2).

Figure 1. Exposure to Physical and Sexual Violence in the 12 months prior the Study Survey by Social Status, (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017



"My daughter got married to a divorced man when she was 16 years old. A year later she divorced him because he used to hit her so badly. Now she is staying with us with no school degree and she is hopeless..."

"One of my classmates was exposed to violence from her older brother because he saw her laughing with her friends in the street. His punishment for her was to put her in a closed room with an opened jar of gas so that she fainted."

"My husband got married to three other women by the time I was 50 years old. Now he doesn't give me money and doesn't come to see me. But I cannot get a divorce because I'm not young anymore! My sons are in their 20's. What would people say about me?"

"The Committee recommends that State parties:
(a) Prohibit all forms of gender violence by State and
non-State actors including through legislation, policies,
and protocols."

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of
Discrimination against Women (1999)

Child Marriage

Half of women in the study were married at, or before turning 19 - a figure close to a 2014 PCBS survey estimate of 19.9 years (9). However, more than one-third of women got married before 18, much higher than the 24% rate of child marriage in the West Bank in 2014 (25). This is in line with a UN Women Palestine Country Office 2014 report of different neighborhoods in East Jerusalem (including the Old City and At-Tur) (18) which reported that child marriage is increasing as a phenomenon in East Jerusalem - a major societal concern. Compared to those married at age 18 and above, women who married at age 18 or below had less education, lower employment rates, more children, were poorer, and were married to men who were also less educated (Table 4).

Study results show that several factors contribute to child marriage (2). Firstly, a negative coping response to insecurity caused by the protracted Israeli occupation. Secondly, negative coping mechanisms towards poverty, i.e., families marrying off their daughters at an early age to reduce the economic burden of raising and educating them, thereby passing the responsibility to a husband. Thirdly, girls are not protected from child marriage by national law. Although Israeli law prohibits child marriage, Palestinian Jerusalemites use Sharia law to marry, registering the marriage with Israeli authorities only when the girl becomes 18.

"When girls turn 18, they become too old to get married."

There is also a cultural tradition of girls being expected to marry young, coupled with family pressure to uphold family "honor" (safeguarding them from sexual harassment or assault).

Combined with very limited economic opportunities, and a general environment filled with movement restrictions and violence, parental stress and worry related to raising girl children is a common reality. Numerous studies have linked a rise in child marriages to times of increased political tension. Some respondents also cited as a reason for early marriage the wish to escape

from familial (father/brother) abuse (7).

Table 4. Comparison: Women Married before 18 versus Women Married at age 18 and Above, (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017

	Married <18	Married 18+
Residency	Mostly in Shufat, At-Tur, Jabal Mukabber	
Employed	15%	32%
Income <4000 (couple <4900 NIS)	48%	42%
Median years of schooling	9	12
Median number of children	5	3
Median age difference between spouses	6	5
Husband's median years of schooling	9	12

Mental Health



Mental health is a serious issue for both adults and youth living in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where exposure to violence is associated with psychiatric symptomology (depression, anxiety) (26). Females were four times as likely to report elevated psychopathology, despite being less likely to experience each type of violence (26).

Based on the Israel National Health Survey 2007, the mental health of study participants was worse than Israeli women, or Arab-Israelis in general. One third of women had poor mental health. There was significant variability in the extent of poor mental health by residency; the highest was in Jabal Mukabber (Table 5). A GHQ mean score in our study is equivalent to a doubled mean score among Arab-Israeli women and almost three-fold among Jewish women (27). (Note: the higher the score, the worse the mental health.)

"When my husband is at home, I am not allowed to leave the house. It's killing me."

Table 5. Mental Health of Women living in Vulnerable Communities in East Jerusalem (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017

	Number (%) Unless otherwise indicated	
Poor mental health*	300	(31.7%)
Old City	72	(36.0%)
Issawiyya	24	(16.0%)
Al-Ram	43	(29.3%)
Shufat camp	55	(36.7%)
Jabal Mukabber	70	(47.0%)
Al-Tur	36	(24.2%)

Social Support

More than 80% of study participants possess family and friends who make them feel happy and secure, have someone they trust, and have someone with whom they can share real intimacy (Table 6). However, almost one-third of the study sample had no one to count on if

something happened to them, and sometimes feel alone and isolated. 37% of participants reported that they do not trust their neighbors, a result often found to correlate with poor mental health (28).

"Palestinian law prevents abortion for any reason. Women are forced to try unsafe ways of abortion that may cause death."

Table 6. Perceived Social support, (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017

	N (%)
"If something happened and I needed help, there would be someone I could count on to help me"	329 (35.0%)
"I have family and friends who make me feel safe, secure, and happy"	821 (87.2%)
"I have someone in my life I trust to talk about my problems with"	786 (83.4%)
"Sometimes I feel isolated from my family, friends and others"	385 (40.8%)
"There is someone in my life with whom I feel real intimacy"	779 (82.9%)

Women's Empowerment

Public Participation

"It's a muscular community, controlled by men."

Based on study findings, Palestinian women in Jerusalem need empowerment in a myriad of dimensions, particularly economically and in terms of public participation. Almost half of the participants are not able to join women's organizations or attend workshops or training. While 96% believe it is important to have women participate on local committees, 94% say there is discrimination against women participating in public life. Almost all participants agreed on the need for an open-minded community if women are to become empowered. Approximately 88% of women expressed the need for training which would better enable women to better participate in social and political life (Table 2). Close to 40% of participants completely lacked access to recreational activities and/or public areas for recreation.

Familial/interpersonal

While almost all participants (96%) agreed upon the importance of participating in decision-making at home, 26% do not possess the ability to decide upon household issues by themselves. This could be explained by a strong patriarchal structure and general societal oppression – discrimination and prejudice – towards women acting as decision-makers.

"When a girl who has been raped comes to the hospital, the only thing her family cares about is her virginity - not her health after such a disaster."

"A woman needed medication after delivery, due to complications. However, her mother-in-law prevented the treatment because the baby was a girl and not a boy."

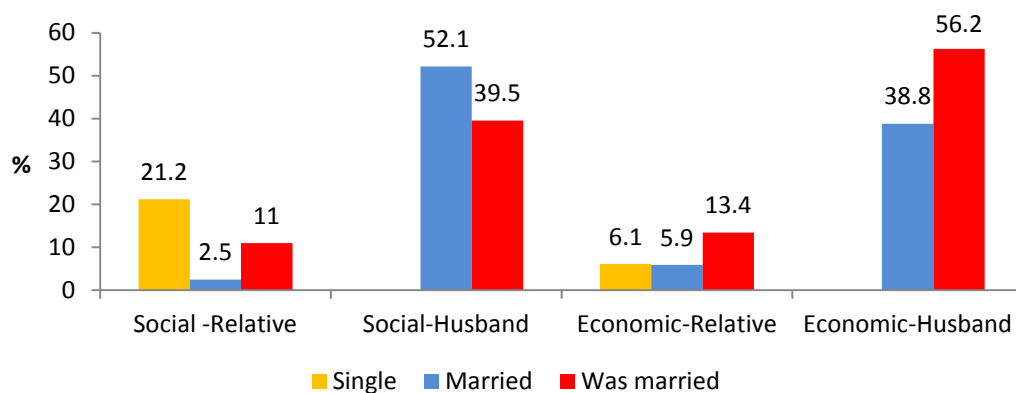
Economic Empowerment

More than 75% of women in the study do not have access to small loans or income-generating projects, while 85% do not have access to income or resources (Figure 2). When asked about training needs, the skills training most mentioned and requested included hairdressing, cooking, secretarial skills, project management, languages, counselling, and photography.

Participants believed these skills would best enable them to enter the labor market.

"I opened a small store to sell woolen pieces that I knitted. I was working hard and making good money. Then my selfish husband started stressing me out, nagging and claiming that I was neglecting my housework and the

Figure 2. Exposure to Social and Economic Violence in the 12 months prior the Study Survey by Social Status, (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017



Access to Health Services

"There was a young lady, 15 years old, when she married a 19 year old man. She gives birth to a baby every year because her husband prevents her from taking contraceptives for birth control."

Overall, women have good access to health care: 80% to preventive healthcare, and 87% to healthcare treatment. However, a much lower percentage, about half, have access to counselling. Approximately 21% know where to secure a confidential sexually transmitted infection (STI) test. A poor financial situation, family restrictions on movement, checkpoints and/or the Barrier, and transportation were the obstacles most often mentioned as barriers to seeking healthcare.

In terms of accessing counselling services, an inability to do so had different causes: lack of awareness that such facilities existed, combined with distrust of such services and/or restrictions on movement to access them. Based on a previous study done with Palestinian women, fear of stigmatization is the main reason women are deterred from seeking help. A lack of knowledge of counselling, along with a lack of confidence in response mechanisms, further impedes women reaching out (29). Around 10% (92) of women in the study were un-insured. Their median age was 31, and all resided in Al-Ram, Shufat and the Old City. One-in-three uninsured women had no access to preventive healthcare or health treatment, even in the case of an emergency, compared to one-in-seven insured women.

Due to the discriminatory application of Israel's Health Insurance Act, Palestinians married to Israeli citizens or to Jerusalem residents are subject to a wide array of restrictions, despite universal health coverage in Israel. Participants spoke of how Palestinians married to Israeli citizens must submit a payment of six months in arrears to a health maintenance organization, while those married to residents must submit a payment of 27 months in arrears, on top of a monthly fee of 285 NIS. Unlike Israelis, Palestinians who do not pay these amounts are deprived of healthcare. Such expenses further impoverish Palestinians, 80% of them already living on/under the poverty line (30).

Family planning, central to gender equality, is also an indicator of access to healthcare. About 21% of married women wanted less children (in At-Tur and Jabal Mukabber, 30%) while 31% of married women with children have an unmet need for family planning – almost three-fold the 11% rate among married women in the West Bank (Table 7). Most reported barriers to family planning were lack of awareness of the existence of such services, family restrictions and the family's financial situation. This is in line with a recent study on demographic change in Palestine, which found several barriers to family planning (2): limited access to information on family planning methods; weak counselling services, which negatively affected utilization; and irregular access to contraceptives. Worsening access further is the fact that family planning is neither promoted or covered by Israeli health insurance.

Table 7. Family Planning (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017

	N (%) Unless otherwise listed	
Number of children [min,max]	4	[0,13]
Number of children (planned)	396	(66.3%)
Wanted less children	111	(21.3%)
Person/s who decides about having more children (N=510)		
➤ Husband	71	(13.9%)
➤ Wife	60	(11.8%)
➤ Shared decision	372	(72.9%)
➤ In-laws	7	(1.4%)
Access to family planning (N=565)	390	(69%)
Person/s who decides about using family planning methods (N=565)		
➤ Husband	53	(9.4%)
➤ Wife	152	(26.9%)
➤ Shared decision	327	(57.9%)
➤ In-laws	3	(0.5%)

Access to Legal Services

A United Nations Commission on the Status of Women report published in 2017 was entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women." The report took particular note of the problems Palestinian face when attempting to access legal services: "Palestinian women face specific challenges to accessing justice, a result of laws that discriminate on the basis of sex; women's limited knowledge of their rights and procedures; economic dependency; and social pressures and stigma. Even in cases where women manage to access justice services, they often face service providers who lack professional knowledge in dealing specifically with women and girl victims of violence, and who continue to interpret outdated laws pertaining to the Penal Code and personal status law in ways that violate women's human rights"(1). Participants echoed these concerns.

"We cannot use the train because Israelis bully us and take off our head scarf! So we are obliged to take a taxi and pay much more money, just to access the service we need."

Freedom of Movement

More than 40% of study participants need permission to visit a relative or friend, or to go health center or shopping area. Family restrictions on movement may be explained by genuine concern on the part of families for their daughter's safety due to the possibility of experiencing political or gender violence outside the home. This concern can feel oppressive, as participants noted, since families then prevent their daughters from leaving the home or travelling around their community unescorted (31).



"Our families are afraid of sexual harassment! It is very common in our area, especially on public transportation and in the streets. And not to forget cyber bullying and harassment on social media."

"I wish I lived somewhere else, so as not to be exposed to soldiers every morning on my way to college."



Marriage and Family Empowerment

Virtually half of study participants believe that marriage is important for happiness. Approximately 14% believe it is better for girls to marry before age 18. Among those 30 and older, 17% agreed, while for those participants younger than 30, only 8.7% agreed. While such beliefs certainly contribute to the rise of child marriages in East Jerusalem, it is also important to note that high percentages in both age brackets – 40% for those 30 and older, 67% for those under 30 – disagreed or strongly disagreed with girls marrying before age 18.

A question regarding whether a man has the right to beat his wife garnered 4% overall agreement from participants, with 7% from Shufat camp agreeing, and only 3% from At-Tur and Jabal Mukabber. Yet, even these relatively low numbers reflect Palestinian Jerusalemite women's perceived inferiority and poor self-esteem, coupled with misinterpretation of Sharia laws.

"I got married when I was fifteen years old, and gave birth to two children. Problems got bigger and bigger between me and my husband. As a result of having left school and lacking financial resources, my parents offered for me to stay with them but without my two children. So I gave up and went back to my husband."

Socio-cultural

This study adds to a body of evidence on the continued prevalence of the traditional family model, wherein men are viewed as the primary breadwinner and source of safety and protection, while women are seen as dependent housewives and primary care-givers. In our study, one-in-five women believe that women should obey men while one-in-three women agreed that women's main role is to raise a family. This, too, is in line with a recent study of 1,200 men and 1,199 women aged 18-59 from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In this survey 80% of men and 60% of women agreed that a woman's most important role is to take care of the home (32).

"The man works outside, and comes back home to eat and sleep. He cannot help in the housework because it's a taboo."

Work Factors

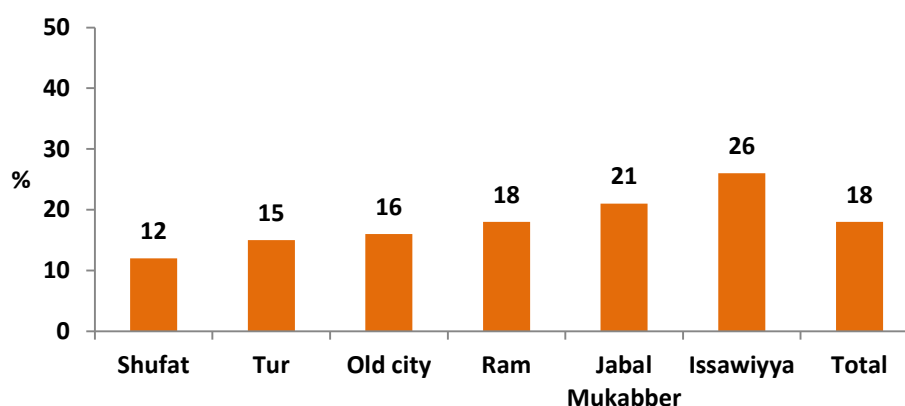
When asked "if some jobs suit men, and other jobs suit women" 87% of women in the study agreed, while 50% of women believe that a woman respects a husband that does not dominate her. Looked at together, these beliefs yet again reveal both the poor self-esteem of women, and the widespread misinterpretation of Sharia law.

"Luckily, I live in a democracy at home. My brother once tried to prevent me from travelling to Europe with an organization that I work with. However, my parents supported me and ignored his objection."

Contextual Variation in Empowerment

Contextual variation was found in both total empowerment and in dimensions of empowerment. The proportion of empowered women was low, between 12-26%, with Shufat, At-Tur and the Old City having the lowest number of empowered women (Figure 3). According to stakeholders who work in the neighborhoods used in this study, At-Tur and Jabal Mukkaber was the most, with Al-Ram the least, constrained. Out of the six neighborhoods surveyed, Al-Ram can be considered the most supportive of women's empowerment and leadership, with a strong base of community respect and tolerance. This may be explained by Al-Ram's close proximity to Ramallah.

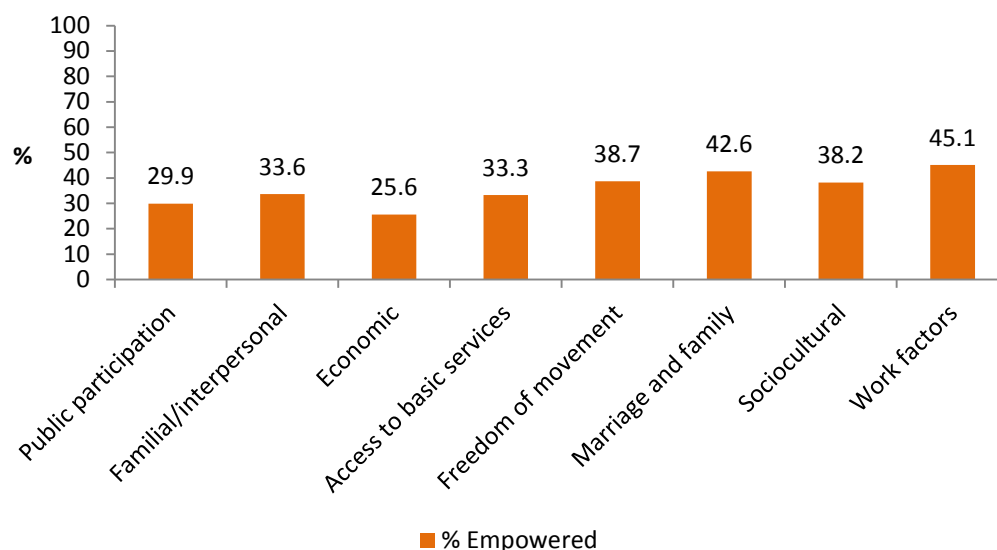
Figure 3. Percentage Empowered by Residency, (N=953), Jerusalem 2017



Dimensions of Empowerment

Similar to previous studies done in East Asia, Egypt (33) and India (34), the main factors participants related to empowerment were age, education, employment and residency. However, different variables were associated with different dimensions of empowerment (Figure 4):

Figure 4. Proportion of Empowered Women by Dimension, (N=953), Jerusalem, 2017



1. **Public participation:** younger age, more years of schooling, employed, not suffering from mental health problems and living in either At-Tur, Al-Ram or Jabal Mukkaber.
2. **Familial/interpersonal:** older age, employed, not suffering from mental health problems and living in At-Tur, Al-Ram or Jabal Mukkaber.
3. **Economic:** older age, employed and living in At-Tur or Al-Ram.
4. **Access to basic services:** older age, more years of schooling, possessing health insurance and not suffering from mental health problems.
5. **Freedom of movement:** older age, more years of schooling, employed, separated/divorced/widowed and living in Issiwiyya or the Old City.
6. **Marriage and family:** younger age, more years of schooling, living a nuclear family in the Old City, Al-Ram or Jabal-Mukkaber.
7. **Socio-cultural:** younger age, more years of schooling, employed and with social support.
8. **Work factors:** monthly income of 6000 NIS or more, not suffering from mental health problems and living in Issiwiyya.

DISCUSSION

This study makes clear the tremendous impact Israel's decades-long military occupation of East Jerusalem has had upon Palestinian women and girls. The Israel state's continuous violation of international law and international humanitarian law (7) - in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention's rules regarding the protection of civilians during war and under foreign occupation - directly address issues pertaining to the on-the-ground reality of life in East Jerusalem, revealing a systematic and willful refusal by Israel to assume its responsibilities towards an occupied population. This, in turn, places enormous pressures upon the most vulnerable populations, foremost among them women and girls (7).

The Geneva Convention affirms responsibility by the occupying state to ensure family unity, give adequate medical care and food supply, secure freedom movement and prevent deportation. It prohibits forcible population transfer, systematic demographic change of the occupied territory and all measures that amount to collective punishment, including military and/or other methods of retaliation towards the occupied population. While such blatant and on-going violations do receive international attention, it's inevitably under the general umbrella of human rights abuses, with gender-based violations largely overlooked.

A broad rubric of human rights abuses also fails to take into account the negative impact of endless violence upon Palestinian East Jerusalemite women, the frustration it generates and the consequences it has on family life, which is the responsibility of women to maintain. As the fabric of Palestinian life is progressively destroyed, traditional patriarchal structures grow stronger within society, discriminating against and marginalizing women and girls even further. And, yes, in a very dangerous manner, such a violative situation fosters violence by men towards women and girls as a negative coping mechanism (7).

When a Palestinian Jerusalemite woman or girl loses a husband or father to death, injury or imprisonment, the woman and/or girl family member is then forced into becoming the household's income provider – despite not having the necessary skills or support to do so. In short, while the physical and psychological terror wrought by continuous settlement expansion, land confiscation and house demolitions, along with arbitrary detentions and imprisonments, affects all of Palestinian society, it has a gender specific impact on women.

Although this study adds meaningfully to existing literature on the situation of Palestinian women in East Jerusalem, its research – like all research - has limitations. Firstly, there exists a possible report bias by respondents. Secondly, while the study can be generalized to all women living in vulnerable communities in Jerusalem (and in Palestine generally) it cannot be generalized to less vulnerable localities. Thirdly, in examining women's empowerment, only the perspective of women was examined.

While such a research focus was the most obvious and critical one, the perspective of Palestinian men on the issue of women's empowerment could well be useful and a worthy research project for others to undertake in the future. Lastly, as this was a cross-sectional study, we could examine association not causation.

As has been well noted in past literature on the topic, women's empowerment is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and cannot be grouped and aggregated. The six communities varied in the extent of empowered women - in both total and individual dimensions of empowerment - as well as in empowerment at the community level.

Women residing in marginalized communities in Jerusalem need empowerment in a variety of dimensions, especially economic and public participation. Study findings make clear that women are aware of their priority needs for empowerment, both individually and at the community levels.

Study results also show that planned interventions to promote and enhance women's empowerment in East Jerusalem have a greater likelihood of success if the approach to the various dimensions is done using an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach. Potential areas to pursue are many, with the following as starting-points for stakeholder and donor discussion.

- Strengthen local, national and international stakeholder commitment to the critical importance of gender equality and empowerment of girls and women. Work to make this goal a central one in the plans of key decision-makers. Targeted stakeholders should include national and local political leaders and groups; non-governmental organizations; regional and international aid organizations; and community and religious organizations.
- Create an effective body at the national level, with resources and governmental support, to monitor progress towards gender equality and women empowerment (4).
- Mandate quotas on both political and corporate boards to increase women's representation in decision-making positions (4).
- Work to end gender discrimination in law (1). A good model to follow are the obligations for State and non-State actors as listed under the Geneva Convention.
- To address the rapid rise of child marriage in East Jerusalem, work to amend the Personal Status Law, in particular raising the age of marriage to 18.
- Bring together key actors to enhance women's access to justice, supplying free legal aid and legal awareness training (4).

- Support legal efforts to protect: Palestinian East Jerusalemites from a loss of residency rights; and Palestinian East Jerusalem homes, farms, businesses and other properties from expropriation and demolition.



- As economic advancement was listed by most study participants as a key need, and in light of Israeli-imposed restrictions on business which restrict larger-scale business

enterprises, support and upgrade Palestinian Jerusalemite women's local production so as to be better able to compete in the marketplace. Include the design and development of a digital marketing and sales system (1).

- As business sectors such as information technology, manufacturing, and tourism provide an opportunity for increasing women's economic participation, enlist active support from both governmental and business sources to increase women's participation in these sectors (1).
- Offer career counselling, as well as technical and vocational education, so as to make the choice of technical careers more appealing for young women graduates (1).



- Support school administrators and parents in their efforts to encourage girls to finish high school. Address gender deficiencies in secondary school and university curriculum by mainstreaming courses with the capability to engage youth in support for gender equality.



- Spread awareness among Palestinian men - targeting everyone from family members to societal leaders - of the importance of promoting equality for women and increasing women's participation in public and political life. Utilize compelling global data which proves that women's enhanced equality and participation benefits not only women but the whole of society.



- Foster gender-responsive data design, collection and analysis so that targeted, innovative and effective interventions based on sound research can be designed in the future.
- Increase advocacy and lobbying efforts to expose Israel's on-going militarized presence and settlement agenda in East Jerusalem.



CONCLUSION

Gender equality is a human right. But like too many other human rights, its realization seems far off. The results of this research study provide valuable information on the current status of gender inequality as experienced by Palestinian women in East Jerusalem. Some aspects – such as high poverty rates, difficulties when accessing education and healthcare, and a lack of women’s free participation in East Jerusalem society due to restrictions on freedom of movement – are not surprising, as most of these problems are directly related to a lengthy Israeli military occupation.

However, the *gendered impact* of Israel military violence (soldiers, checkpoints, the Barrier, house demolitions) evident in this study is not widely recognized or understood, nor is the dramatically increased dangers to women and girls from settler violence. Neither is the growing problem of child marriage and domestic violence being acknowledged or addressed in a serious way. Added together, these challenges amount to a very serious public health situation for Palestinian East Jerusalemite women and girls– one that must be addressed by local, national and international bodies.

There continues to be chronic underinvestment in gender equality globally, a tendency exacerbated in Palestinian East Jerusalem, where the needs of women and girls have to compete with very limited resources meant to address a dire humanitarian situation. Additionally, what aid has been available for gender equality has typically concentrated in social sectors such as education and health, with low levels of aid targeted to economic and governance sectors. Women’s organizations remain significantly under-resourced, gender mainstreaming remains extremely limited, and key institutions and mechanisms for promoting gender equality are under-resourced and lacking in political support.

But in coming together in efforts to improve gender inequality and to better empower this vulnerable population, it is critical that the frequently done “top-down” approach not be employed. Instead, before embarking upon action to empower women and girls and to promote their participation and leadership, decision-makers at all levels need to first ask: what are the priority needs of women? What can be done to answer their needs?

This study, with its employment of the World Health Organization’s Toolkit of women’s felt needs, uniquely offers a way forward... One based on the perceptions, experiences and most of all needs of the women themselves. Such indicators are the basis upon which future actions need to be based.

"The concept of empowerment is related to gender equality but distinct from it. The core of empowerment lies in the ability of a woman to control her own destiny. This implies that to be empowered women must not only have equal capabilities (such as education and health) and equal access to resources and opportunities (such as land and employment), but they must also have the agency to use those rights, capabilities, resources, and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions (such as is provided through leadership opportunities and participation in political institutions). And for them to exercise agency, they must live without fear of coercion and violence."

[United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality](#)

"While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes fuels sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large."

[United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5](#)

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MAIN SOURCES

- UN Sustainable Development
Goals: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>
- WHO Toolkit or Women's
Empowerment: http://www.who.int/kobe_centre/publications/womens_empowerment2005.pdf?ua=1
- General Health
Questionnaire: https://www.google.es/search?q=general+health+questionnaire&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gfe_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=ZMQBWrqQJsHw8AeHvJ_wAg
- Social Provisions
Scale: http://www.ucp.pt/site/resources/documents/ICS/GNC/ArtigosGNC/AlexandreCastroCaldas/26_CuRu87.pdf

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Yet our deepest gratitude is reserved for the many Palestinian women who shared their stories, experiences and lives with us during the research process. This report is dedicated to them, and to all Palestinian women and girls in their pursuit of equality and justice in occupied East Jerusalem.

Annex 1. Localities in J1 and J2

J1	J2
Old city (Bab al-Sahira, Ras al-'Amud, Sheikh Jarrah, alShayyah, al-Suwwana, Wadi al-Joz)	Abu Dis
Beit Hanina	Anata
Beit Safafa	Qatanna
Issawiyya	Qalandiya camp
Jabal Mukkaber	Bir Nabala
al-Sawahira al-Gharbiyya	Hizma
Umm Tuba	Bayt Iksha
Shufat	Biddu
Shufat camp	Al-Jib
Silwan	Al-Ram and Dahiyat al-Barid
Sur Bahir	Al-Za'ayyim
At-Tur	

Annex 2: Study Survey: Empowering Women in Marginalized East Jerusalem Communities

No.	Question	Response	Answer	Skip
1	Interviewer			
2	Date			
3	Study site	Jerusalem Old City=1 El Issawiyya=2 Al-Ram=3 Shufat camp=4 Jabal Mukaber=5 At-Tur=6		
Demographic Characteristics				
101	Residency (neighborhood)			
102	Age (completed years)			
103	Refugee status	Refugee=1 Non-refugee=2		
104	Years of schooling			
105	Employment	Working 1-14 hours=1 Working 15-34 hours =2 Working 35 and more hours =3 Looking for a job =4 Not working and Not looking for a job=5 Unemployed (willing to work)=6 Retired=7		

		Student=8		
106	Size of household			
107	Rooms in home(other than kitchen/bathroom)			
108	Live with extended family (grandparents, in- laws, brothers and sisters in law)	Yes=1 No=2		
109	Monthly Income (NIS)			
110	Depend on in-laws to financially support you (at least partially)	Yes=1 No=2		
111	Have health insurance	No insurance=1 Government insurance=2 Military insurance=3 UNRWA insurance =4 Israeli (Kupat Holim)=5 Private Insurance =6 Work insurance=7		
112	Have to cross a checkpoint to go to school/work	Yes=1 No=2 NA=88		
113	You, or any member of your family, been detained	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
114	You, or any member of your family, been jailed	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
115	Your house had been demolished/taken by Israelis/settlers	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
116	Your house currently at threat of demolition/or family at threat of evacuation?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
Indicators of women's empowerment				
	Please answer Yes/No/Partly to following questions			
E1	High self- esteem (Women's perceived self-worth and contribution to the household)	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		
E2	Capacity to participate in decision-making at household level	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		
E3	Ability to decide on household issues alone	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		

E4	Access to education	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3 NA=88		
E5	Access to income/ resources (access to and control over economic resources)	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E6	Access to micro-credit programs	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E7	Membership in any women's association	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E9	Ability to participate in or attend women's empowerment workshops/ meetings	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E10	Access to recreational activities	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E11	Barriers to recreational activities	There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (can't afford it)=4 Family restrictions on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6 Do not know of any services=7 Culture=8 Not safe to go out of the house=9 Other, specify =77		
E12	Where do you meet your friends? (check all which apply)	I am not allowed to leave the house to meet friends=1 In a house (mine, theirs)=2 In a club=3 At work only=4 At school only=5 In a coffee shop/restaurant=6 In a mosque/church=7 Religion lessons=8 Other place, specify=77		
E13	Access to Health information	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E14	Access to preventive Health	Yes=1		

	services (screening, routine physical examination)	Partly=2 No =3		
E15	Barriers to preventive services (check all which apply)	There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (can't afford it)=4 Family restrictions on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6 Do not know of any services=7 Culture=8 Not safe to go out of the house=9 Other, specify =77		
E16	Access to health services	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E17	Access to emergency health services	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E18	Barriers to health services (check all which apply)	There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (do not afford it)=4 Family restriction on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6 Culture=7 Not safe to go out of the house=8 Other, specify =77		
E19	Existence of counseling centers or women's development centers	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		
E20	Access to counselling services	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E21	Barriers to counselling services	There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (can't afford it)=4 Family restrictions on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6 Do not know of any services=7 Culture=8		

		Not safe to go out of the house=9 Other, specify =77		
E22	Access to legal services, if needed	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E23	Barriers to legal services	There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (can't afford it)=4 Family restriction on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6 Do not know of any services=7 Culture=8 Not safe to go out of the house=9 Other, specify =77		
E24	Do you know where to seek protection or shelter if needed?	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
E25	Barriers to seeking protection or shelter, if needed	There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (can't afford it)=4 Family restriction on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6 Do not know of any services=7 Culture=8 Not safe to go out of the house=9 Other, specify =77		
E26	Ability to move around outside the home within the community	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
Do you need permission to go to :				
E26_1	Friend's home	Yes=1 No=2		
E26_2	Market	Yes=1 No=2		
E26_3	Health center	Yes=1 No=2		
E26_4	Family home/relatives	Yes=1 No=2		
E26_5	Out of town	Yes=1		

		No=2		
Attitudes about gender roles: "I am going to read you different people's different opinions. Please indicate how do you feel about the following statements." Strongly agree /Agree /Disagree/Strongly disagree				
No.	Question	Response	Answer	Skip
G1	Women are as intelligent as men	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G2	Some jobs suit men others suit women	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G3	A man should have a job, and a woman should take care of the home and family	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G4	Women and men should get equal pay for equal work	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G5	Marriage is necessary for happiness	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G6	Better for girls to get married before turning 18	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G7	Children cement marriage	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G8	Large families are the happiest	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		

G9	A man should make decisions, and a woman should obey	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G10	A woman respects a husband who does not dominate her	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G11	Husbands have the right to beat their wives	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
G12	Sex education is an important subject that should be taught in school	Strongly agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly disagree =4 No answer=5		
Community level: Perceived importance of the following:				
G13	Presence of women members on local/ community committees	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
G14	Community tolerance and support for women's empowerment and leadership	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		
G15	Women's access to community resources	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
G16	Availability of community leaders sensitive to women's issues	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		
G17	Availability of media channels accessible by women's groups	Yes=1 Partly=2 No=3		
G18	Availability of women's organizations at local/ district level	Yes=1 Partly=2 No =3		
SS1	Marriage status	Single=1 Engaged=2 Married with children=3 Married without children=4 Separated=5		

		Divorced=6 Widow=7			
Gender based violence					
		A By Father/ brother/ relative	B By Husband/ ex-husband		
GBV 1	In the past 12 months, were you socially abused by your father/brother/husband (forced to quit work, prevented from seeing your friends/family/neighbors, prohibited from going out with friends/family/neighbors? Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99				
GBV 2	In the past 12 months, were you economically abused by your father/brother/husband (refused to give you enough money for living expenses, withdrew money from your bank account without your permission, controlled your belongings, prevented you from working, took over your inheritance? Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99				
GBV 3	In the past 12 months, have you been slapped on the face/beaten/strangled/ burned by your father/brother/husband? Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99				
		A By Father/ brother/ relative	B By Husband/ ex-husband		
GBV	Have you ever been				

4	sexually harassed or assaulted? (touched in an inappropriate way, attempted rape, raped) Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99				
GBV 6	At what age were you sexually harassed or assaulted?				
M: For married/ever married women:					
M1	Traditional marriage		Yes=1 No=2		
M2	Age at marriage				
M3	Age difference between spouses				
M4	Years of schooling of husband/ex husband				
M5	Does/Did your husband work in Israel?		Yes=1 No=2		
M6	If you were working before marriage, did you continue working after marriage?		Yes=1 No=2 NA=3		
M7	Age at first child		No children=99		No - skip to M10
M8	Total number of children				
M8_1	Is this the number you wanted/planned?		Yes=1 No=2		Skip M9
M8_2	Did you want less children?		Yes=1 No=2		
M9	Who decided about having another child?		My husband=1 I decided=2 Shared decision=3		
M9_1	Do you have access to family planning?		Yes=1 No=2 NA=99		If Yes, NA: Skip to M11
M9_2	Barriers to family planning (check all which apply)		There is no barrier=1 Checkpoints/barrier wall=2 Transportation=3 Economic (can't afford it)=4 Family restriction on movement (need permission)=5 Do not trust available services=6		

		Do not know of any services=7 Culture=8 Not safe to go out of the house=9 Other, specify =77		
M10	Who decided about family planning?	My husband=1 I decided=2 Shared decision=3 In-laws=4		
M11	Does/did your husband have another wife?	Yes=1 No=2		
M12	Have you ever been infected with STI?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
M13	Has your husband/ex-husband ever been infected with STI?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
M14	Do you know where you can get confidential screening test for STI?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=99		
PN: Rapid assessment of Women's felt and priority needs "How important are the following issues for you and your family?"				
PN	Q1 Well being			
PN1	Being able to control your own income	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN2	Being able to share decision making in the home	Very important= 1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN3	Being able to travel outside of the home	Very important= 1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN4	Domestic violence against children	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN5	Domestic violence against women	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3		

		Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN6	Street violence and theft	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN7	Settler violence	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN8	Accidents outside the home	Very important= 1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN9	Accidents in the home (e.g., fire)	Very important= 1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
Q3 Environment: How important are the following issues?				
PN10	Inadequacy of the sewage system	Very important= 1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN11	Solid waste in streets	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
Q4 Socio-economic factors				
PN12	Skills training for adult women (cooking, first aid, exercise)	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN13	Training on parenting skills for adult women	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN14	Learning to use new technology (e.g. computer	Very important=1 Important=2		

	skills)	Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN15	Life skills training specifically for women (hairdressing, secretarial, sewing)	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3 Not relevant =4 No answer=5		
PN16	Please list your top 4 training priorities to support and empower women			
	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
Q6 Household factors:				
PN23	Housing conditions: Do you have privacy at home?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=3		
PN25	Does your house need renovation?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=3		
PN26	Child care facilities (day care, babysitting)	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=3		
Q7 Health behaviors				
PN27	Do you exercise?	Yes=1 No=2 No answer=3		
Q9 Governance: How important are the following issues?				
PN28	Women participation in political life at the local/community levels	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3		
PN29	Negative attitude and discrimination against women participating in public life	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3		
PN30	Availability of funds to finance women specific programs	Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3		

PN31	Development of women's knowledge and skills to actively in social and political sectors		Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3		
PN32	Family and community acceptance of women participation in social and political activities		Very important=1 Important=2 Not important=3		
MH : Mental Health					
		0	1	2	3
MH1	Able to concentrate	Better than usual	Same as usual	Worse than usual	Much worse than usual
MH2	Loss of sleep over worry	Not at all	No more than usual	More than usual	Much more than usual
MH3	Playing a useful part	Better than usual	Same as usual	Worse than usual	Much worse than usual
MH4	Capable of making decisions	Better than usual	Same as usual	Worse than usual	Much worse than usual
MH5	Feel constantly under strain	Not at all	No more than usual	More than usual	Much more than usual
MH6	Couldn't overcome difficulties	Not at all	No more than usual	More than usual	Much more than usual
MH7	Able to enjoy day-to-day activities	More than usual	Same as usual	Less than usual	Much less than usual
MH8	Able to face problems	Better than usual	Same as usual	Worse than usual	Much worse than usual
MH9	Feeling unhappy and depressed	Not at all	No more than usual	More than usual	Much more than usual
MH10	Losing confidence	Not at all	No more than usual	More than	Much more than usual

					usual				
MH11	Thinking of self as worthless	Not at all	No more than usual	More than usual	More than usual	Much more than usual			
MH12	Feeling reasonably happy	Better than usual	Same as usual	Worse than usual	Much worse than usual				
Deprivation									
"Now I am going to read you a series of statements that might describe your feelings <u>over the last three (3) months</u>. As I read each one, I would like you to tell me if you <u>agree</u> or <u>disagree</u> with each one, and whether you <u>strongly</u> agree or disagree."						DO NOT READ			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	77	88
	Strongly Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Mostly Agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	No Answer/Refused
D1	"I have sometimes not had enough money for living expenses"								
D2	"I have not been able to pay all my bills"								
D3	"I sometimes think my children are deprived compared to other children I know"								
Social support									
S1	"If something happened to me and I needed help, there would be someone I could count on to help me"								
S2	"I have family and friends who make me feel safe, secure, and happy"								

S3	"I have someone in my life I trust to talk to about my problem"									
S4	"I sometimes feel alone or isolated from my family, friends, or other people"									
S5	"There is someone in my life with whom I feel real intimacy"									
S6	"The amount of litter and debris in my neighborhood is a problem"									
S7	"The amount of noise from firing, shelling, or other bombardments in my neighborhood is a problem"									
S8	"Settler violence is a problem"									
S9	"I am worried about my safety"									
S10	"I am worried about the safety of my family"									
S11	"I believe I can trust my neighbors"									
Challenges of living in Jerusalem										
C1 List up to 3 challenges facing women living in Jerusalem										
1-										
2-										
3-										
C2 List up to 3 challenges facing you personally										
1-										
2-										
3-										

Annex 34. WHO Toolkit for Women's Empowerment and Leadership in Health and Welfare

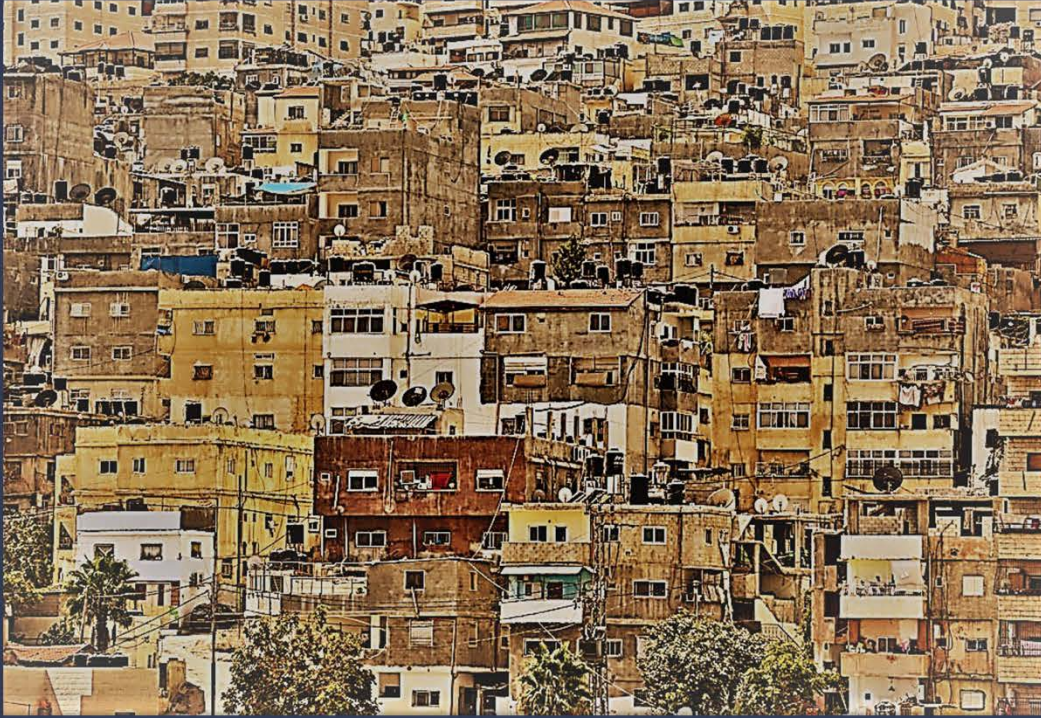
Features to be examined		Yes	No	Partly
Individual level				
1	Capacity to participate in decision-making at household level			
2	Access to health services			
3	Access to health information			
4	Access to education/literacy classes (when needed)			
5	Access to income/resources			
6	Access to micro-credit programmes or revolving fund			
7	Control over money for various purposes			
8	High self-esteem			
9	Participation in decision-making particularly decisions concerning family planning and children (at individual and family			
10	Women's attitudes toward wife-beating by husbands. Women's opinions on whether a woman can refuse sex to her husband			
11	Attitudes about gender roles			
12	Freedom of movement			
13	Membership in any association			
14	Existence of local women's groups, organizations or committees			
15	Ability to participate in women's organizations			
16	Ability to participate in or attend women's empowerment workshops or meetings			
17	Existence of counselling centres or women's development centres			
18	Ability of women to decide on household issues alone			
19	Ability to move around outside the household, within the community (mobility)			
Features to be examined		Yes	No	Partly
Community level				
20	Presence of women members on local or community committees			
21	Community tolerance and support for women's empowerment and leadership			
22	Ability of women to make decisions within local committees			
23	Women's representation in different community health structures			
24	Women's access to community resources			
25	Availability of community leaders sensitive to women's issues			
26	Availability of media channels that are accessible by women's groups			

27	Availability of women's organization at local level (district level)			
28	Active participation of women at local level			
Features to be examined		Yes	No	Partly
National level				
27	High participation of women in political and decision-making			
28	Seeking access to new kinds of information and knowledge relevant to critical issues of one's life, as well as for understanding the world beyond one's horizons			
29	Existence of laws and regulations enhancing women's health, empowerment and participation			
30	Existence of active women's movement and institutions			
31	Existence of a gender policy			
32	Existence of gender-sensitive policies (welfare, health, education, labour)			
33	Existence of sensitive media channels supporting women's health and empowerment			
34	Existence of women's groups, organizations or networks at local level			
35	Existence of an office for women's affairs in different ministries			
A. How Important are the Following Issues for you and your Family?				
Q1	Well-being			
1	Not being able to control own income			
2	Not being able to share decision-making in the home			
3	Not being able to travel outside the home			
Q2	Illness and injury			
1	Domestic violence against children			
2	Domestic violence against women			
3	Street violence and theft			
4	Accidents outside the home			
5	Accidents in the home (e.g. fire)			
6	Communicable diseases			
7	Sexually transmitted disease (e.g. HIV/AIDS, STDs)			
Q3	Environment			
1	Safe drinking-water			
2	Inadequate sewage systems			
3	Solid waste			

Q4 Socio-economic factors		
1	Education for children	
2	Skills training for adult women (cooking, caring for children, first aid, exercising, weight maintenance, parenting skills)	
3	Learning to use new technology (e.g. computer skills)	
4	Life skills training specifically for women (hairdresser, secretarial, sewing)	
Q8 Availability of health care services		
1	Not having access to quality health care services, including prenatal care	
6	Not having access to income-generation activities	
2	Inappropriate health professionals	
3	Screening and treatment of sexually-transmitted disease	
Q5 Social and community		
1	Transportation (better access to public transport)	
4	No access to birth control education	
2	Access to contraceptive methods	
5	Not having access to associations dealing with women's affairs (NGOs for women)	
6	Women's affairs (NGOs for women)	
Q9 Governance		
1	Not being allowed to participate in women's organizations	
3	Not being allowed to participate in women's activity at the local/community levels (assemblies)	
4	No social or family support to help women when in need	
2	Negative attitude and discrimination against women participating in public life	
3	Cultural barriers preventing women from participating	
Q6 Household factors		
1	Housing conditions (living space)	
4	Lack of funds to finance women-specific programmes	
2	Child care facilities (day care)	
3	Lack of knowledge and skills for participating in political sectors	
5	Men sharing responsibility for domestic work	
4	Men sharing responsibility for child care	
6	Men and community acceptance of women participation in political activities	
Q7 Health behaviours		
Please go back over the list of topics and then write below the four most important topics for you in order of priority		
2	Illegal drug use and abuse	3
1	Tobacco use	
3	Being overweight	4
4	Being underweight	
5	Additional comments:	
6	Malnutrition	
7	Being under stress	
8	Sedentary lifestyle (lack physical exercise)	
9		

Photo of Jerusalem: Isabel de la Cruz

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