



State of Palestine

Environment Quality Authority (EQA)

Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)

*“Technology Roadmap for the Implementation of Climate Actions
Plans in Palestine”*

Gender Mainstreaming Report

Version 2

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Acronyms

CTCN	Climate Technology Center and Network
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
INCR	Initial National Communication Report
IEWS	Institute of Environmental and Water Studies
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PA	Palestinian Authority
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Introduction

The State of Palestine is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change with severe implications for its economy, as well as for the livelihoods of the Palestinian people. Impacts significant to the region include decreased precipitation, significant warming, more frequent and intense extreme weather events and rises in sea level. These could lead to greater water scarcity, decreased agricultural productivity and saline water intrusion.

The Palestinian Government is committed to addressing these climate change vulnerabilities while achieving its national development and policy objectives. This is reflected in its submissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) namely, Initial National Communication Report (INCR), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

To achieve sustainable economic development while contributing to the efficient adaptation to climate change impacts and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, it is important to prioritize various adaptation and mitigation measures through the development and diffusion of climate friendly technologies. In order to identify relevant technologies which could be applied in the Palestinian context and can be implemented to achieve the country's climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives, there is a need to identify and assess the different barriers that exist hindering the development and transfer of these technologies. Some of these barriers may be related to gender or social inequities. "Whether people can healthily adapt [to climate change] or not is affected by their access to information, social capital, credit, productive resources, savings, available time, and mobility—all of which can look very different for men and women, boys and girls."¹

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes gender equality – or inequality - as a critical crosscutting issue that will affect the quality and impact of all climate change interventions if not properly assessed and addressed. It advises governments and practitioners to ensure women's active participation in leadership and decision-making roles, analyze the impacts of climate change and the social and economic consequences of mitigation from a gender perspective, increase women's access to finance, technology and capacity building and mainstream gender into all national adaptation strategies and action plans.²

This report provides a high-level gender analysis of the following relevant areas; laws and policies, societal norms and attitudes, climate change, workforce, energy, agriculture, transport, water, waste and wastewater, as well as general recommendations for integrating gender into the Technology Roadmap for the Implementation of Climate Action Plans in Palestine.

While this report focuses on the relationships, social norms, control over resources, decision-making power, roles and responsibilities of women and men in Palestinian society in relation to climate change, any intervention should take into account the vulnerable subgroups of the two genders, including refugees, young parents, parents of young children, the elderly, youth, female-headed households, persons with disabilities and families with member(s) in detention, among others.

¹ Theis, S. & Martinez, E. (2018, Oct 14). *How Gender Shapes Responses to Climate Change* [Blog Post]. Retrieved from: <http://www.ifpri.org/blog/how-gender-shapes-responses-climate-change-new-tools-measuring-rural-womens-empowerment>

² WEDO and GGCA *Gender Equality And The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change: A Compilation Of Decision Text*, 2013

2. Methodology

To develop the gender mainstreaming report, the consulting team conducted a desktop review of available literature (see Annex 1 for complete list) and met with project stakeholders to validate the findings during its second mission to Palestine.

3. Limitations

The consulting team faced the following limitations while compiling the report:

- The gender mainstreaming report was developed mainly based on desktop review of available literature and did not include in-depth literature review or comprehensive consultation with project stakeholders.
- While some work has been done to mainstream gender into Palestinian policies and plans, there is still a lack of sex-disaggregated and verifiable data to rely on at the national level.
- The gender assessment included brief meetings with members of the Palestinian National Climate Change Committee, who were not well-versed on gender in climate change. The Committee, comprised of representatives from all relevant ministries, academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, includes only a few women.

4. Palestine gender profile

The dimensions of gender inequality among the various groups in Palestine is reflective of the diversity of its people and their experiences. A 2016 study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) found that Palestinians differ according to their characteristics, history of movement and migration and geographic location, among other things, and that gender issues vary accordingly.³ Nonetheless, the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) identified four broad areas in which women face specific challenges, laws, regulations and policies; traditional norms and practices; the oppression of the Israeli occupation and the separation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.⁴

Overall, policy, institutional and societal inequalities as well as the daily restrictions posed by the occupation on movement, construction, water and energy affect the livelihoods, education, health and infrastructure of the Palestinians, impacting women, men, girls and boys in different ways.⁵ The following sections provide some insight into the challenges, but the successful implementation of a gender-responsive Technology Roadmap will require deeper analyses to fully understand and address them.

4.1 Laws and legislation

There are areas within Palestinian legislation, particularly in the Personal Status laws, where women and men are not considered to be equal. For example, the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls is different. Girls as young as 14 can get married with a judge's approval. Women cannot marry or work outside the home without the approval of a male guardian. Women can be prevented from traveling if it is deemed harmful to the family's unity. Husbands are to provide materially and financially for their spouses, while wives owe their husbands "obedience."⁶

A man can unilaterally divorce his wife without grounds for doing so. A woman can resort to two types of divorce; one where she must show grounds for divorce and another which forces her to forfeit her financial security. Fathers are the sole guardians of their minor children, though laws have recently been passed which allow mothers to transfer their children to different schools and open bank accounts and apply for passports for them.⁷

In the West Bank, divorced women are entitled to custody over their children until the girls reach the age of 12, and the boys reach the age of 10. Custody is then moved to the father unless the courts order otherwise. In the Gaza Strip, the mother is awarded custody of girls until they are 11 and boys until they are 9.⁸

Other inequalities include reduced penalties for crimes that are committed under extenuating circumstances, a stipulation which is often used in favor of perpetrators of so-called "honor crimes" (this law has been repealed in the West Bank, but not in Gaza), provisions in the Labor Law which bar women from some occupations and conditions in the Social Security system which, in case of death, do not allow the children of women contributors to benefit in the same way as the children of male contributors. Sexual harassment is inadequately addressed in the Labor Law and there is no law on domestic violence.⁹

4.2 Strategic policies and plans

A desktop review of available literature reveals that there is some high-level support for gender-responsive national plans and strategies. The 2017-2022 Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, developed by the

³ Ibid

⁴ Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

⁵ Alami, N. (2015, Jan 26). *From Needs To Opportunities: Working as a Gender Advisor in the Palestinian Territories*. [Blog Post] Retrieved from: <https://genderatwork.org/reflections/palestinian-territories/>

⁶ UNDP, *Palestine: Gender Justice and the Law*, 2018

⁷ UNDP, *Palestine: Gender Justice and the Law*, 2018

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs, is the result of a collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including the ministries of transportation, public works and housing and agriculture.¹⁰ The strategy's objectives include improving women's participation in the labor market and economic decision-making and mainstreaming gender concerns into Palestinian ministries.¹¹

Following the establishment of the MOWA in 2003, women's units were meant to be formed in all government ministries.¹² In 2008, a Council of Ministers' decision changed their titles to "gender units", with specific roles, responsibilities and structures, with the goal of supporting and monitoring gender integration in ministerial policies and programs.¹³ Similarly, a decision was issued in 2009 directing ministries to develop gender-sensitive budgets.¹⁴ However, there appears to be a lack of political will to empower and properly staff the gender units, provide them with adequate budgets and include them in planning processes.¹⁵ The 2016 Palestine National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change found that the gender units may be unsustainable due to the fact that they are donor-led for now, but will eventually be subject to Palestinian management, where the lack of women in leadership positions, a lack of formal gender policies and the persistent belief in traditional gender roles, among other things, prevail.¹⁶ As of 2015, only 11 out of 27 institutions were found have operating gender units, with an additional four having gender departments under different names.¹⁷ There is also a dearth of updated sex-disaggregated data within most ministries.¹⁸

While early reviews by the MOWA of government policies and plans found them to be lacking in gender integration and responsiveness,¹⁹ there appears to have since been some improvement. The National Agricultural Sector Strategy 2017-2022 for example, has mainstreamed gender into its strategic objectives.²⁰ The Palestinian National Policy Agenda 2017-2022 aims to reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth by focusing on statehood, effective government and sustainable development through the lens of citizens. It includes a call for action to mainstream gender in government reform processes and boost job creation for excluded groups, including women.²¹ In 2017, the General Directorate of Cooperatives launched the Cooperative Sector Strategy. The Strategy highlights the need to invest in cooperative education and literacy amongst youth and to explore the potential of technology industry for both youth and women. The 2017-2022 strategies of both the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development have a strong focus on women, specifically vulnerable and marginalized groups.²² MOWA has found however, that gender mainstreaming is not consistent across Palestinian policies and has committed to strengthening the government's capacity in this regard in its current gender strategy.²³

4.3 The Israeli occupation

The gendered impact of occupation on Palestinians is well documented. Overt violence disproportionately affects men and boys, who are targeted simply because they are Palestinian males.²⁴ Females and males are plagued by the physical, psychological and economic effects of occupation on a daily basis through night raids, restrictions on resources, expression and movement, eviction and demolition, settler violence

¹⁰Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶Palestine Environment Quality Authority, *National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change*, 2016

¹⁷ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

²⁰Palestine Ministry of Agriculture, *National Agricultural Sector Strategy 2017-2022*

²¹World Bank, *Second Country Gender Action Plan (C-GAP II) for Palestinian Territories 2018-2021*

²² UNDP, *Palestine: Gender Justice and the Law*, 2018

²³ Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

²⁴ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

and separation from their children in case of arrest or imprisonment.²⁵ A number of factors, including socio-economic situation, family status, geographic location and socio-cultural norms lead women, men, boys and girls to experience these impacts differently.^{26 27 28} Some of those differences are mentioned briefly throughout this document.

4.4 Social norms and attitudes

Despite the united front that Palestinian women and men present against one system of subordination – occupation - it has been found that women continue to submit to the second system of subordination governing their lives, patriarchy.²⁹ Studies show that male attitudes around their spouses' behavior and movement and female employment follow traditional patterns. 56 percent of Palestinian men say that they have the final word on whether their spouse can leave the house. 80 percent of men believe that a woman's most important role is to take care of the home and cook for the family, compared to 59 percent of women. Additionally, 70 percent of men believe it is more important for a woman to marry than for her to have a career, compared to 51 percent of women.³⁰

4.5 Land and property ownership

Globally, research has shown a direct correlation between land and property ownership and increased women's agency and voice. Data from Palestine indicates that only 5 percent of women possess land or have a share in land, compared to 24 percent of men.³¹ Additionally, only 7 percent of women own a house or real estate property, compared to 57 percent of men.³² While the law divides inheritance according to Sharia law, women often do not receive their fair share as they are pressured to give it up to their male family members, primarily their brothers.³³

To illustrate the gendered impact of a disastrous event and the costs of gender-blind planning, the Minister of Women's Affairs, Her Excellency Amal Hammad, informed the consulting team of the properties which had belonged to women in Gaza and had been destroyed by the Israeli occupation. During reconstruction and rebuilding the homes were registered in the names of their male relatives. While this transfer of ownership, blamed on chaos in the aftermath of a bombardment campaign, occurred after a manmade disaster, it is not a stretch to assume that a climatic event might have similar consequences.

4.6 Education

The numbers for female education offer encouragement. Palestine has achieved 83.83 percent enrolment in secondary education for girls.³⁴ More female students are in higher education than male students.³⁵ The reason for boys not to enroll in schools or to drop out is that they tend to start working, rather than studying, in reaction to a floundering economy and increasing poverty.³⁶

²⁵ Joint Submission to the UPR Working Group, *Palestinian Women Under Prolonged Israeli Occupation The Gendered Impact Of Occupation Violence*, 2018

²⁶ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

²⁷ Amnesty International. *Israel and the Occupied Territories Conflict, Occupation and Patriarchy Women Carry the Burden*, 2005

²⁸ Joint Submission to the UPR Working Group, *Palestinian Women Under Prolonged Israeli Occupation The Gendered Impact Of Occupation Violence*, 2018

²⁹ Amnesty International. *Israel and the Occupied Territories Conflict, Occupation and Patriarchy Women Carry the Burden*, 2005

³⁰ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

³¹ Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

³⁵ Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

³⁶ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

5. Gender analysis: climate change

Global studies have shown that the effects of climate change impact women and men differently. Women and men suffer different negative health consequences as a result of floods, windstorms, droughts and heatwaves.³⁷ On average, natural disasters kill more women than men or kill women at a younger age.³⁸ When studying the potential risks faced by women due to climate change, it is important to consider several factors. Women and children have unique nutritional needs at different stages of their lives and may be affected more quickly than men when faced with a disruption of agriculture and food insecurity.³⁹ Due to breakdowns in social order and public security, women and children are also at higher risk for exploitation and sexual harassment after natural disasters.⁴⁰ Traditional dress codes sometimes inhibit the ability of women to react swiftly in case of a climatic effect, either because of a need to properly conceal themselves before being seen in public or because their garments get in the way of their movement.⁴¹ Social norms may inhibit women and girls from learning lifesaving techniques; not knowing how to swim or climb a tree for example could prove deadly in case of flooding.⁴²

Women are the main providers of care for children, the elderly, the disabled and the sick⁴³; the main users and decision-makers regarding the use of water and energy at the household level and major players in home gardens, on farms and in caring for livestock.⁴⁴ They will, therefore, be directly impacted and burdened by the potential effects of climate change and natural disasters including infectious disease, water shortages, sanitation problems, disruption of agriculture and conflict over depleted resources.⁴⁵

It is essential to note that women have local knowledge of, and leadership in, sustainable resource management and/or leading sustainable practices at the household and community level. They will therefore play a vital role in mitigating, and adapting to, the effects of climate change.⁴⁶ Numerous studies have shown that women often prove willing to change environmentally harmful practices and make lifestyle choices to “solve” the problem.⁴⁷ For example, women are more likely to choose low carbon practices and make changes in their daily practices, while men are more likely to choose green technologies such as an electric car.⁴⁸

It is not only women and girls that will be impacted differently by climate change due to their gender. A potential decline in food security and livelihood opportunities can cause considerable stress for men and boys, given social norms which dictate that they should provide economically for their households. Men are higher consumers of energy than women, particularly in terms of private transportation. Men in some socioeconomic circumstances might be more prone to die during heatwaves; either due to isolation or because they may be more physically active during heatwave periods than women.⁴⁹

Evidence shows that, due to their limited capacity to adapt or mitigate, the poorest communities in society are the most affected by the negative impacts of climate change and the natural disasters caused by climate

³⁷World Health Organization, *Gender, Climate Change and Health*, 2014

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹Ibid

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² World Health Organization, *Gender, Climate Change and Health*, 2014

⁴³ Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

⁴⁴World Health Organization, *Gender, Climate Change and Health*, 2014

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ European Institute for Gender Equality, *Review of the Implementation in the EU of area K of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the Environment Gender Equality and Climate Change.*, 2012

⁴⁸ European Commission, *Europeans' Attitudes Towards Climate Change*, Brussels, Belgium: European Parliament, 2008.

⁴⁹ World Health Organization, *Gender, Climate Change and Health*, 2014

change.⁵⁰

A technical paper developed by the Environment Quality Authority under the Clima - South Regional project makes specific recommendations of climate change adaptation practices for women in Palestine, including making improvements for the efficient use of water in agricultural small businesses and projects, using home gardens to grow food and training women in water-poor areas on methods they can apply to help prevent major diseases related to water, sanitation, and food.⁵¹ These measures are particularly significant in light of the warning found in the Palestine National Adaptation Plan that **“the level of food insecurity among female-headed households is 17 percent higher than among male-headed households.”**⁵²

Despite the above, discussions with the Palestinian National Climate Change Committee reveal that the differing needs and requirements of women and men and their subgroups - categorized by age, ability or socio-economic status – as related to climate change, the effects that climate change may have on existing gender inequalities and the ways in which gender inequalities may be exacerbated by climate change have not been fully analyzed or addressed in current climate change adaptation actions.

⁵⁰ European Institute for Gender Equality, *Review of the Implementation in the EU of area K of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the Environment Gender Equality and Climate Change.*, 2012

⁵¹ Palestine Environmental Authority, *The Economics of Climate Change In Palestine*, 2017

⁵² Palestine Environment Quality Authority, *National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change*, 2016

6. Gender analysis: workforce

While Palestinian women have achieved high levels of education, this has not translated into workforce participation in either the West Bank or Gaza, which is currently less than 20 percent.⁵³ There are several reasons for this; among them the high fertility rate for women⁵⁴ and the fact that the caregiving of elderly parents⁵⁵ and children⁵⁶ is usually left to women. The poor ability of the Palestinian economy to generate job opportunities, the general perception that employing women harms the opportunity of men to secure work⁵⁷, a persistent gender wage gap⁵⁸ and a lack of employment policies that support maternity and motherhood needs⁵⁹, as well as decent working conditions, also factor into the equation.⁶⁰

While a third of working women are employed in the agricultural sector, studies show that female students are almost completely absent from vocational education in this field, as well as in industry.⁶¹ It is important to note that while measuring the participation of women in the workforce, female labor and economic activity in the agricultural sector often goes uncounted (*see Gender Analysis: Agriculture*), while women's representation in other areas, such as the manufacturing sector, while it is counted, is often quite low.⁶²

There are more women working in the public sector than in the private sector, which is less preferable for - and by - women for several reasons. Employers do not view women to be as skilled as men, and women tend to be less qualified for the private sector due to their concentration in the fields of education, health and humanities, which are viewed as more appropriate for females.⁶³

In ministries, the gap between women and men's employment widens as one moves upward and into leadership and decision-making positions; currently women hold only 12 percent of ministerial seats, which is the minimum quota.⁶⁴

⁵³Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵UN Women-OCHA Factsheet " *The Gaza Strip: The long-term impact of the 2014 hostilities on women and girls*, 2015

⁵⁶Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

⁵⁷ Palestine Environment Quality Authority, *National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change*, 2016

⁵⁸ Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹Palestine Ministry of Women's Affairs, *Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Partners in Development 2017-2022*

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

⁶⁴ Ibid

7. Gender analysis: access to finance and entrepreneurship

There are very few women in micro, small and medium enterprises.⁶⁵ There are also very few women entrepreneurs, and women's enterprises tend not to expand or develop, one reason being that women do not have the opportunity to develop the business or entrepreneurial skills they need.⁶⁶ Due to women's limited mobility, the domestic burden placed on women, the negative perception of male family members towards women-owned businesses and women's limited access to information on business and skills, access to financial services, other than that of microfinance, is difficult⁶⁷. It is reported that in many cases women become 'loan windows', who simply bring the borrowed money to their husbands or fathers, meaning that access to finance or resources has not translated into women's agency or empowerment.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Ibid

8. Gender analysis: energy sector

There is a lack of information on the gender dimensions of the energy sector in the West Bank. Electricity supply is controlled by Israel which decides on its value and volume⁶⁹. Due to the domestic burden of women at the household level, it is assumed that an interrupted supply of electricity has a disproportionate effect on women. As previously noted, while women are generally the decision-makers regarding energy use at the household level, men are sometimes higher consumers of energy.⁷⁰

In Gaza, frequent electricity cuts have increased women's vulnerability and stretched the coping mechanisms of households.⁷¹ Power outages have also threatened the life and well-being of vulnerable groups, particularly those needing urgent medical attention.⁷² The general decline in the access of people to basic services in relation to water and electricity has undermined the ability of women and girls to engage in income-generating activities.⁷³ This is directly linked to the customary division of labor in Palestinian society, where women and girls bear the primary responsibility for the functioning and maintenance of households, which has become more time-consuming.⁷⁴ Married women with disabilities face additional hardship.⁷⁵

Possible implications of the technology roadmap

An increased, more reliable energy supply will have life-altering benefits for women and for Palestinians whose livelihoods - and sometimes even lives – depend on steady electricity supply. It is expected that household chores, normally performed by female members of the family, will be accomplished more efficiently, leaving time for women and girls to pursue educational, work-related, social or leisure activities. For the infirm, elderly or those requiring urgent medical attention, a steady supply of electricity may be necessary to meet their health needs, possibly also decreasing the burden on their caregivers who would most likely be women.

For those whose income depends on electricity – a requirement of most occupations, no matter who they are held by and including the home-based businesses typically owned by women - a strong correlation between a reliable supply and increased productivity and therefore income, would be expected. Additionally, the use of solar and energy efficiency technologies is expected to ease the financial burden on households resulting from the use of more expensive energy sources, possibly enabling families to be more resilient towards climate change. There is also room for the training of women in the sale, installation and maintenance of solar PV and other technologies.

⁶⁹ Heinrich Boll Stiftung (2014, Sept 4) *Socio-Economic Analysis of Renewable Energy Usage in Palestine*. [Blog Post] Retrieved from: <https://ps.boell.org/en/2014/09/04/socio-economic-analysis-renewable-energy-usage-palestine>

⁷⁰ World Health Organization, *Gender, Climate Change and Health*, 2014

⁷¹ UN Women - UN OCHA: *Needs of women and girls in humanitarian action in Gaza: Gender Alert for the 2016 Response Plan*

⁷² GBV Sub-Cluster: *The Humanitarian Impact of Gaza's Electricity and Fuel Crisis on Gender-based Violence and Services*, 2017

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ GBV Sub-Cluster: *The Humanitarian Impact of Gaza's Electricity and Fuel Crisis on Gender-based Violence and Services*, 2017

⁷⁵ UN Women - UN OCHA: *Needs of women and girls in humanitarian action in Gaza: Gender Alert for the 2016 Response Plan*

9. Gender analysis: agriculture sector

While earlier agricultural policies did not consider gender mainstreaming, the 2017-2022 National Agriculture Sector Strategy does give it some strategic importance, though the outcomes of this are yet to be measured.⁷⁶ The importance of the agriculture sector in terms of its share of GDP has been shrinking, yet it is still significant in terms of women's employment, with 20 percent of women in the labor force working in agriculture.⁷⁷ This does not, however, necessarily empower women. Their contribution is often underestimated, not only by others but also by the women themselves.⁷⁸ This could be attributed to the fact that many women work in family-run farms, in many cases as unpaid family members.⁷⁹ Men benefit from the majority of agricultural projects, especially the training and extension services necessary for mitigation and adaptation, although women perform most of the labor.⁸⁰

While agricultural cooperatives are popular in Palestine, the proportion of women members is small. In men-led cooperatives, women tend to have little decision-making power.⁸¹ Women-only cooperatives tend to concentrate on 'feminine' work which is in line with traditional women's roles as caregivers.⁸² At the household level, women are often the decision makers regarding food management and rationing. As mentioned earlier, female-headed households bear the brunt of food insecurity.

Feedback from stakeholders, mostly the women in the Agriculture, Food, Water and Wastewater Working Group of the Climate Change Committee, was that men would be willing to invest in technologies that would make their own lives easier but wouldn't necessarily do the same for women. They concurred with the findings of the literature that women would have a more difficult time accessing finance for technologies. Nonetheless, there was consensus among members of the group that agriculture was a more focused, concentrated sector – than transport for example –, with females making up a large part of the workforce and therefore might be more amenable to gender mainstreaming. They also discussed the "invisibility" of women as they perform most of the harvesting which requires less mobility, whereas the purchasing of raw materials as well as marketing produce are the role of men and lead to high visibility.

Women harvest most of the cucumbers and okra in Palestine, two crops which the group considered very difficult to harvest. One area where the group has found women to be leading is home-based, small scale aquaponics, while large-scale systems are mostly managed by men. The group also sees a role for women in work in water harvesting, crop alteration systems, plowing, conservation agriculture and more.

When discussing gendered challenges relating to the occupation, the group highlighted the fact that in order to protect women, the elderly and youth from the occupation, men usually take on the responsibility of night-time irrigation, particularly in C-zones.

Possible implications of the technology roadmap

Building on the knowledge of women regarding sustainable home gardening and farming practices and developing their capacity on relevant agricultural technologies will directly impact the ability of families – particularly those most vulnerable - and farms to maintain or improve food security. Building the capacity of

⁷⁶ Palestine Ministry of Agriculture, *National Agricultural Sector Strategy 2017-2022*

⁷⁷ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

⁷⁸ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

⁷⁹ Ibid

⁸⁰ Palestinian Water Authority, *Water Governance in Palestine Sector Reform To Include Private Sector Participation National Report*, 2015

⁸¹ Ibid

⁸² Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

female-owned or female-led farms may lead to increased production and therefore increased income, offering women farmers greater resilience towards climate change.

10. Gender analysis: water, waste and wastewater sectors

Women are underrepresented across the water sector. They do not exceed 8 percent of employees in water provision utilities, and 32 percent in ministries and authorities, none of which are decision-making or leadership positions.⁸³ The Water Sector Reform Plan 2013 - 2015 states that there are segments of Palestinian society, - including the poor and women - with limited access to water and wastewater services.⁸⁴

Limited access to drinking water, domestic use of water and wastewater and solid waste management in the Gaza Strip, Area C and East Jerusalem have significant impacts on household spending, health and hygiene, as well as on school attendance.⁸⁵ Women are decision-makers regarding water use at the household level. Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities expose women and girls to threats and burdens associated with meeting their personal hygiene needs, undertaking basic domestic chores, managing household water needs, and securing the needs of children, people with disabilities, the elderly and the chronically ill.⁸⁶

Hygiene and sanitation in Palestinian refugee camps is especially poor, with infrastructure (water systems, electricity, roads) and housing not properly built or maintained.⁸⁷ Infrastructure and social services are provided by local authorities and UNRWA, both of which suffer from insufficient financing.⁸⁸ Consequently, services are dependent on inconsistent support by donors and NGOs.⁸⁹

In discussions with the consulting team, Palestinian National Climate Change Committee members and stakeholders saw opportunities for women in waste and waste-sorting, particularly at the household level where most organic waste originates. Waste separation, reduction and composting would reduce waste quantities in landfills, thereby decreasing gas emissions. It is imperative, however, that any activities associated with the Technology Roadmap do not increase the domestic, unpaid burden on women. Awareness-raising and capacity building activities should emphasize the vital role that all family members, especially men, play in addressing climate change, while also providing income generation skills for women. In this regard, the members of the Waste Working Group under the Palestine National Climate Change Committee were unsure if it would be culturally appropriate for women to be involved in waste sorting on a larger scale outside of the home. An in-depth analysis of gender norms within the sector would provide more insight.

Possible implications of the technology roadmap

Improved water supply and knowledge of disease prevention from contaminated water is expected to decrease household spending and increase school attendance, health and hygiene, particularly in impoverished families. Increased water security will directly affect the ability of women to effectively manage water and wastewater, as well as influence other members of the family to do the same. It will allow women and girls to meet their personal hygiene needs and more efficiently undertake basic domestic chores and secure the needs of children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the chronically ill and themselves. Likewise, knowledge and enforcement of disease prevention practices will have a direct effect on decreasing their domestic burden.

⁸³ Palestinian Water Authority, *Water Governance in Palestine Sector Reform To Include Private Sector Participation National Report*, 2015

⁸⁴ Ibid

⁸⁵ UN Women - UN OCHA: *Needs of women and girls in humanitarian action in Gaza: Gender Alert for the 2016 Response Plan*

⁸⁶ UN Women - UN OCHA: *Needs of women and girls in humanitarian action in Gaza: Gender Alert for the 2016 Response Plan*

⁸⁷ UN Women - UN OCHA: *Needs of women and girls in humanitarian action in Gaza: Gender Alert for the 2016 Response Plan*

⁸⁸ Ibid

⁸⁹ Ibid

Awareness raising activities associated with the Roadmap should emphasize the contribution of all family and community members to solid waste management. In this way, the social, economic, safety and health benefits of solid waste management can also lead to a decreased domestic burden on women and girls.

11. Gender analysis: transport sector

A robust public transportation system is necessary for the safe, efficient movement of the population. In case of a natural disaster due to climate change, such a system could prove lifesaving, by transporting those in need of medical assistance and bringing supplies to affected communities.

Freedom of movement in Palestine is restricted for both women and men due to Israeli occupation, settlement and blockade policies. However, for women, these restrictions are double-edged as they are, a) restricted in their movements by the occupation and b) restricted in their movements by male family members who aim to “protect” them from Israelis. This is due to body searches and the danger of harassment, including sexual harassment, at the checkpoints.⁹⁰

Checkpoints constrain men’s and women’s travel routes and choice of transport from villages and towns to cities and within urban centers⁹¹. The Israeli occupation has been known to hold women who are in labor at checkpoints for hours on end.⁹²

Women use public transport extensively in the West Bank, where most men travel for work and markets and most women travel for education and health care for children and social activities.⁹³ Both women and men complain about the irregularity of public transportation.⁹⁴ The occupation often causes routes to change at the last minute.⁹⁵ Many educated women have given up aspirations for employment due to poor or lack of transportation.⁹⁶ Security is a serious mobility constraint for women.⁹⁷ Transport costs are affordable for women and men with good incomes, but not for the poor in the refugee camps.⁹⁸ Drivers often charge above standard rates, particularly where roads are poor.⁹⁹

According to the members of the Palestinian National Climate Change Committee, sexual harassment is an issue to be addressed within the transport sector, but it is not clear how widespread it is. The Ministry takes complaints very seriously and has even explored the possibility of introducing segregated taxi services especially for women in order to deal with the issue. To support inclusion in the transport sector, the Ministry has requested that every taxi office have one car adapted for persons with disabilities. One bus on the border bridge has already been adapted in this manner. A previous Minister once called for women to apply for public transportation licenses on live television, but there are less than a handful of women in the entire country who have such licenses. A nationwide campaign to increase the number of female public transportation drivers has not been considered.

Possible implications of the technology roadmap

It is expected that improved roads and clean, efficient public transportation services will have a direct impact on all segments of the Palestinian population. Women and youth, who are often more likely than others to use public transport services for education, work and social – related travel will see their mobility and access to employment opportunities increased. They will be able to better manage their travel time - important for women due to childcare and domestic responsibilities - and have access to safe vehicles and roads. In

⁹⁰ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Gender Profile: Palestinian Territories Final Report*, 2016

⁹¹ World Bank. *Making Transport Work for Women and Men*, 2012

⁹² Joint Submission to the UPR Working Group, *Palestinian Women Under Prolonged Israeli Occupation The Gendered Impact Of Occupation Violence*, 2018

⁹³ Ibid

⁹⁴ Ibid

⁹⁵ Ibid

⁹⁶ Ibid

⁹⁷ Ibid

⁹⁸ Ibid

⁹⁹ Ibid

case of a climatic event, improved transport services and infrastructure will support vulnerable communities to receive help or to evacuate, possibly limiting the number of resulting deaths.

It is vital that all plans regarding transport be designed with a disability perspective to make the services as inclusive as possible, including for persons with disabilities and the elderly. It is also important that public transportation services remain affordable for all segments of the population.

12. General comments

The working groups of the Climate Change Committee were largely open to the discussions around gender mainstreaming. Groups that included more women, particularly in senior-level positions, were vocal in their expressions of support for gender mainstreaming and the necessity of addressing it in the technology roadmap. Many men in the groups agreed that patriarchal attitudes and gender norms dominated their social and professional lives but were unable to correlate that with mitigation and adaptation or the successful implementation of the technology roadmap. The Committee advised the team to take into consideration that in some rural areas, sociocultural norms prohibited women and men from mixing and that capacity building and other activities would need to be segregated. Integrating persons with disabilities into the design and implementation of programming was a concern for the members of the Climate Change committee who agreed with the concept but were unsure how implementation would progress, especially given that the infrastructure to support PWDs is not readily available.

Their Excellencies, the Minister of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority, Adala Al Ateera and Minister of Women's Affairs, Amal Hammad, expressed their support for the work of the consulting team and were looking forward to the outcomes of the gender-responsive technology roadmap. Her Excellency, the Minister of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority, stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender, youth and disability throughout the Ministry's work.

13. Conclusions

Gender inequalities can exacerbate the impacts of climate change and/or be exacerbated by them. Addressing gender inequality at policy, institutional and societal levels is a vital tool in climate change mitigation and adaptation. In Palestine, women are especially affected by inequalities in laws and policies, the Israeli occupation, patriarchal norms and practices and the separation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Due to social and physical factors, women, men, boys and girls experience the impact of climate change in different ways. Palestinian women are currently ill-equipped to secure income for their families or access expensive technologies at the level that men are. They also may not be as resilient to natural disasters or climate change as Palestinian men and may carry a greater burden in the aftermath. However due to their knowledge of sustainable resource management, they can play a vital role in mitigation and adaptation. There are numerous other opportunities to involve women in climate change resilience activities including the sale, installation and maintenance of technologies; home gardening; influencing behavior change; aquaponics; water harvesting; crop alteration systems; plowing; conservation agriculture; waste separation, reduction and composting and the prevention of water-borne diseases.

A gender responsive Palestine technology roadmap must take care not to increase the domestic burden already placed on women. It should, in fact, aim to ease it. It should also provide equal opportunities to women and men, and their subgroups, for inclusive participation, skill-building and decision-making.

14. Recommendations

Within the sectors relevant to climate change, the gender analysis has unearthed a gap between women and men in Palestine that may affect the ability of women and other vulnerable groups to fully reap the benefits and outcomes afforded by the Palestine technology roadmap. Following are some general recommendations to ensure the full and active participation of all members of Palestinian society, women or men, in all related areas. In addition to these recommendations, it is advisable that the Palestine technology roadmap applies a gender lens in all tasks and activities going forward to ensure that the roadmap is fully gender responsive and more specific interventions can be identified.

Short or Long-Term Action	Gender Intervention	Notes
Policy development and enforcement:	<p>Make gender mainstreaming in local and national-level policies standard practice.</p> <p>Build the capacity of the Palestinian Climate Change Committee on gender.</p> <p>Conduct in-depth analyses of the relevant sectors to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gendered access, knowledge, use and decision-making regarding resources and technologies; • existing adaptation techniques employed by women and men; • the ways in which existing gender inequalities can be exacerbated by climate change; • the ways in which gender inequalities can intensify the impacts of climate change for individuals and communities. <p>Integrate gender into policies, plans and programs based on findings of the analyses.</p> <p>Develop gender-specific indicators to monitor compliance.</p>	Gender mainstreaming ensures that the needs and expectations of both women and men, and their subgroups (youth, disabled, refugees etc.), are met.
Institutional capacity building:	<p>Aim for at least 50 percent representation of women in all related committees, meetings and capacity building activities.</p> <p>Build the capacity of committee members, climate change experts and practitioners on gender.</p> <p>Build the capacity of and empower gender units within</p>	<p>Including women in decision-making roles ensures that policies and regulations serve the needs of both women and men.</p> <p>Building the capacity of climate change experts</p>

	<p>relevant ministries.</p> <p>Build the capacity of female staff in relevant entities to grow into decision-making roles through providing mentorship or job shadowing opportunities.</p>	<p>and practitioners ensures that national plans are gender responsive.</p>
<p>Technical capacity building:</p>	<p>Aim for at least 50 percent representation of women in all capacity building activities.</p> <p>Support internships or job shadowing programs to increase the technical knowledge of women and other groups, for example, for the installation and maintenance of solar PV.</p> <p>Employ specific outreach mechanisms, such as working with universities, civil society, female-owned enterprises, women's cooperatives and associations and relevant ministerial bodies to encourage women, youth and persons with disabilities to join capacity building activities, including internships.</p> <p>Identify women-owned or women-led businesses to receive capacity building support</p>	<p>Providing women, youth and persons with disabilities with capacity building will not only allow them to install, use and maintain different technologies, but will provide them with vital income generation skills and therefore increased resilience to climate change.</p>
<p>Feasibility studies and mapping exercises:</p>	<p>Design all feasibility studies with a gender perspective. Include gender parameters in the terms of reference, ensure that gender expertise is present to conduct the study and analysis and disaggregate all data by sex.</p>	<p>Mainstreaming gender into the design of any program will ensure that gender is considered throughout the program cycle.</p>
<p>Stakeholder consultations:</p>	<p>Ensure that all consultations are inclusive of as many segments of society as possible. Aim for equal representation of women and a percent representation of youth, persons with disabilities, refugees and female heads of households</p>	<p>Involving as many groups as possible means that a wide variety of perspectives are brought to the table.</p> <p>Women tend to bring community concerns and needs to the forefront of planning meetings and discussions.</p>
<p>Awareness raising:</p>	<p>Ensure that communications strategies target key users and influencers such as women and youth.</p> <p>Behavior change messages and means of communication -social media, radio, TV, home visits - should be specially crafted for the different targeted groups.</p>	<p>Women and youth generally act as behavior change influencers among their immediate families, neighborhoods and communities.</p> <p>Care must be taken that</p>

	<p>Persons with certain disabilities such as the seeing or hearing-impaired require accommodations in messaging, as do those with literacy issues, including elderly women.</p>	<p>messaging does not reinforce gender stereotypes.</p> <p>Care must be taken not to advocate for the increase of the domestic/unpaid burden on women (through the promotion of solid waste management practices at the household level for example).</p>
<p>Financing scheme development:</p>	<p>Include a gender perspective in training offered to financial sources. Set targets for the access to green finance for women and female-owned or led businesses.</p> <p>Identify income generation/access to finance opportunities for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Develop and implement tailored products and services to meet financial needs of women entrepreneurs and female heads of household.</p> <p>Identify women-owned businesses as project vendors to supply technologies and/or services where possible.</p>	<p>Designing financing schemes with a gender perspective ensures that women and other groups overcome common barriers to accessing finance.</p>

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