



## **Gender Analysis Study Report :**

# **The Impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation On Women and Marginalized Groups in The Areas of H1/H2 in Hebron City**

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## 1.0 ACRONYMS

Abbreviation	Meaning
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
NAP	National Action Plans
RWDS	Rural Women's Development Society
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.
WAP	Women and Peace groups
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security



## 2.0 STUDY SUMMARY

This study aims to analyze the effects of systematic Illegal Israeli occupation policies on women, girls, and marginalized groups in the city of Hebron from a gender perspective. It focused on the impact of these policies on the experiences of women and girls living under Illegal Israeli occupation. The study highlighted various dimensions of these effects, including social, cultural, economic, and political factors.

The study summarized a set of sub-objectives, which included:

1. Analyze the diverse effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups in Hebron, highlighting their unique challenges and specific needs.
2. Develop recommendations for more effective policies and programs to address these impacts, enhance the resilience of Palestinian women in overcoming challenges, and contribute to strengthening the human rights system for women and girls in the region.
3. Utilize the study's findings for mobilization and advocacy at local, regional, and international levels to defend the rights of Palestinian women in alignment with the human rights system and international instruments. This includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant, and other relevant agreements, as well as both contractual and non-contractual mechanisms. Additionally, address UN Security Council resolutions on the protection of women, girls, and young women in armed conflicts, with a particular focus on Resolutions 1325 and 2250, and the broader protection framework established by international charters and instruments.
4. The analysis results were based on evidence and live testimonies provided by women living in the area, which contribute to developing a system of non-impunity and holding accountable those responsible for violations committed against women, girls and marginalized groups in the city of Hebron.
5. Enriching the research library with a scientific and documented study on the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups.

The study highlights the adverse impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation and its systematic policies on the lives of women, girls, and marginalized groups in the city of Hebron. The findings reveal a range of effects and consequences that manifest across various dimensions, underscoring the profound challenges faced by these communities. which vary between the following dimensions:

**Direct violence:** Women and girls are exposed to various forms of direct violence by Illegal Israeli occupation soldiers and terrorist settler attacks, including physical, psychological, sexual, economic, social and cultural violence.

**The restriction of freedom of movement,** with averages ranging between (3.54 and 4.18) out of 5, highlights the severe limitations imposed by the Illegal Israeli occupation forces on citizens. These restrictions disproportionately impact women, girls, and marginalized groups, hindering their access to essential services such as education, employment, healthcare, and social engagement. As a result, the social fabric has been significantly damaged, leaving women deprived of key sources of family protection and experiencing increased social isolation.

**Arrest and detention of women and girls:** many women and girls have been arbitrarily detained, tortured, and subjected to violations of all international humanitarian law regulations from the moment of their arrest through investigation, visitation, and trial.

**Forced displacement:** Hebron city is experiencing the forced displacement of numerous Palestinian families due to systematic policies and practices. Women who have provided live testimonies have emphasized that these measures—including restrictions on freedom of movement, the isolation of neighborhoods through gated closures, terrorist settler harassment, the erosion of the social fabric, limitations on the right to adequate housing, and a lack of security—are all designed to push residents toward displacement in search of safer living conditions.

**Impacts on women's economic rights:** the results indicate that oppressive and arbitrary Illegal Israeli occupation policies have significantly worsened the economic situation of Palestinian families, with a score of **(3.74)** The continued isolation of certain areas deprives citizens of adequate educational and employment opportunities. Additionally, the closure of private businesses, the confiscation of land, and the shutdown of shops have all contributed to this economic decline. As a result, poverty rates have increased, particularly among women and marginalized groups, who are the most vulnerable to marginalization and harm due to these policies. They face challenges in obtaining essential materials and struggle with transporting and marketing their products, ultimately leading to the failure or weakening of their businesses.

**Impacts on women's psychological and social health:** the psychological and social health of women and marginalized groups is significantly impacted by systematic Illegal Israeli occupation policies and practices, which score a high level of severity (3.98). These pressures contribute to a decline in their mental well-being, resulting in elevated anxiety, depression, and other psychological disorders stemming from the daily oppressive and arbitrary acts of violence and ongoing threats from occupying forces. Furthermore, these pressures disrupt their social relationships, leading to social and economic instability that fosters isolation and diminishes essential social support.

**Impact on the right of women and marginalized groups to receive health services:** The study's findings revealed that limitations on citizens' movement, along with ongoing closures and barriers, hindered women and marginalized groups from accessing necessary health services at health centers with a score of (3.83). This situation also contributed to a shortage of medical staff within local health facilities because of ongoing closures and barriers, further worsening the impacts of the Illegal Israeli occupation. Additionally, medical transport and ambulances faced difficulties reaching isolated areas, intensifying the hardships faced by the population during emergencies.

**Impact on the Right to Education:** the findings reveal that the Illegal Israeli occupation practices have adversely impacted the education sector, scoring (3.49). This has led to a decline in educational quality, primarily due to restrictions on movement and the establishment of checkpoints and iron gates that operate at irregular intervals. Such obstacles severely impede communication between regions and restrict access to educational institutions, which has particularly affected women and marginalized groups in different areas and towns of Hebron. Consequently, many women and girls have been deprived of educational opportunities at different stages of their academic journeys.

**Effects on women's right to access "legal" fairness and justice:** The study findings reveal that women's personal and legal rights are being compromised, with a significant number of respondents indicating that the Illegal Israeli occupation infringes on these rights with score of (3.52). This issue is worsened by limitations placed on human rights organizations attempting to access restricted areas, preventing them from delivering essential legal services. Additionally, the lack of



protection for women experiencing violence in these regions is intensified by constraints on the Civil Police's Family Protection Unit, which is unable to fulfill its preventive functions effectively. Furthermore, barriers to organizations offering social and psychological support services leave women in perilous situations, significantly jeopardizing their safety and well-being.

**Impact on the right to personal security:** The study reveals a significant concern regarding personal security among the population living under Illegal Israeli occupation, with a score of (4.14) out of 5. In particular, women and girls report high levels of anxiety and fear related to the possibility of being killed or detained. This state of insecurity heavily affects their daily lives, largely due to arbitrary measures by the occupying forces, including ongoing closures and the installation of iron gates at the entrances of villages, towns, and regions within their homeland.

By calculating the average responses from participants across various axes, it was discovered that the most significant impacts were in the area of movement restrictions. Women and marginalized groups experience considerable difficulties in moving around and accessing basic services. These restrictions greatly contribute to the deterioration of living conditions within the local community.

As for the least impacted, it was in the health field, which can be attributed to arbitrary and repressive measures, continuous closures, and restrictions on women's access to health centers. Although the health impacts were less severe compared to other areas, there were still clear effects observed in this regard.

Conversely, certain aspects revealed higher average scores than anticipated, particularly regarding the impact of Illegal Israeli occupation on mental health and marriage opportunities. This is largely attributed to the harsh and repressive measures associated with the Illegal Israeli occupation, especially in the city's closed areas following the recent events on October 7, 2023. These circumstances have significantly heightened the suffering of the residents in those regions.

**The key recommendations from the study are as follows:**

1. Enhance social, health, and legal support for communities impacted by the Illegal Israeli occupation and its systematic practices against the Palestinian people.

2. Improve access to educational and health services that have been severely hindered by restrictions on movement.
3. Promote legal awareness programs to assist women and marginalized groups in confronting ongoing violations of their rights.

**The study's conclusions emphasize the following points:**

1. Advocacy efforts should adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses the immediate needs of women and marginalized groups and confronts systemic inequalities.
2. It is essential to build alliances between local, national, and international actors to amplify the voices of women and marginalized groups in Hebron. This collaboration is crucial for achieving sustainable progress within the framework of the women, peace, and security agenda.

The study concentrated on various areas in Hebron, specifically targeting areas H1 and H2, with particular attention to the closed sections of the Old City and the vicinity of the Ibrahimi Mosque. Field research was conducted during August and September of 2024.

Data was collected using various tools, including questionnaires, focus groups, and interviews. Additionally, the theoretical literature on the impact of Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups was studied. The research also examined the application of international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, along with the women, peace, and security agenda. This included a particular focus on Security Council Resolution 1325.

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### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

Hebron is one of the oldest and largest Palestinian cities, and like other Palestinian cities, it has been under constant Illegal Israeli occupation for decades. This Illegal Israeli occupation has had a profound impact on all aspects of people's life in the city, which is divided by political agreements with the Illegal Israeli occupation, especially on women, who bear an additional burden due to their social role.

After the signing of the Oslo Accords, an agreement was reached regarding the city of Hebron. The city was divided into two areas according to these agreements. The first area, known as H1, was home to approximately 115,000 Palestinians, and both security and civil powers were transferred to the Palestinian Authority, similar to other cities in the West Bank. The second area, H2, encompasses the Old City and all the settlement areas, which at that time had about 35,000 Palestinians and 500 settlers. In H2, security powers remained under Israeli control, while civil powers related to the Palestinian population were transferred to the Palestinian Authority.

Today, the estimated number of settlers in H2 is around 700. They reside in an area of approximately 800 dunams, which includes the regions surrounding the settlers' homes and the streets they utilize. Out of these, about 400 settlers live permanently in the city, while around 300 are students at the Shavei Hebron yeshiva. In contrast, the Palestinian population in the area is estimated to be about 7,000, including roughly 1,000 individuals who live in a narrow strip extending from the Ibrahimi Mosque area through Al-Shuhada' Street to Tall Rmeida neighborhood, the region's largest settlement bloc.

The expansion and control of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories violate all international conventions and resolutions. As Resolution 2334 affirms that these settlements constitute a flagrant violation of international law and are a "major catalyst for human rights violations." This includes restrictions on freedom of movement, demolition of Palestinian homes and properties, terrorist settler attacks, property confiscation, and impunity. Additionally, a 2019 report by the organization "Peace Now" revealed that the rate of settlement construction in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, has increased by an average of 25% annually since 2017.

Women in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in areas like H2, encounter various obstacles that hinder their participation in public life. These challenges are

intensified by Illegal Israeli occupation and settlement policies. Many women are not fully aware of their rights under domestic and international law, as they face daily consequences of the Illegal Israeli occupation, including security threats and economic instability that affect their families. Furthermore, legal awareness campaigns are often limited to small groups of women in urban areas, making it difficult for those in occupied and settled regions to access this crucial information.

The Illegal Israeli occupation and settlement policies contribute to the reinforcement of cultural and social attitudes that marginalize women's roles in decision-making within families and society, while also restricting their movement and participation in public activities. For instance, the measures associated with the Illegal Israeli occupation and military checkpoints impose limitations on women's movement and violate their rights to access essential services, which further hinders their involvement in economic and social activities. These policies align with certain traditional attitudes that limit women's roles in Palestinian society. Additionally, there are arguments rooted in a desire to protect women from the potential dangers posed by Illegal Israeli occupation soldiers, including harassment, arrests, and humiliating searches, which undermine their dignity. This concern is intensified by the increasingly challenging and complex realities of living under Illegal Israeli occupation.

Throughout its history, Hebron has suffered many Illegal Israeli occupations and wars. As the Zionist Illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories continues since 1967, women in Hebron bear the brunt of this Illegal Israeli occupation in particular, as they are subjected to serious violations of their human rights.

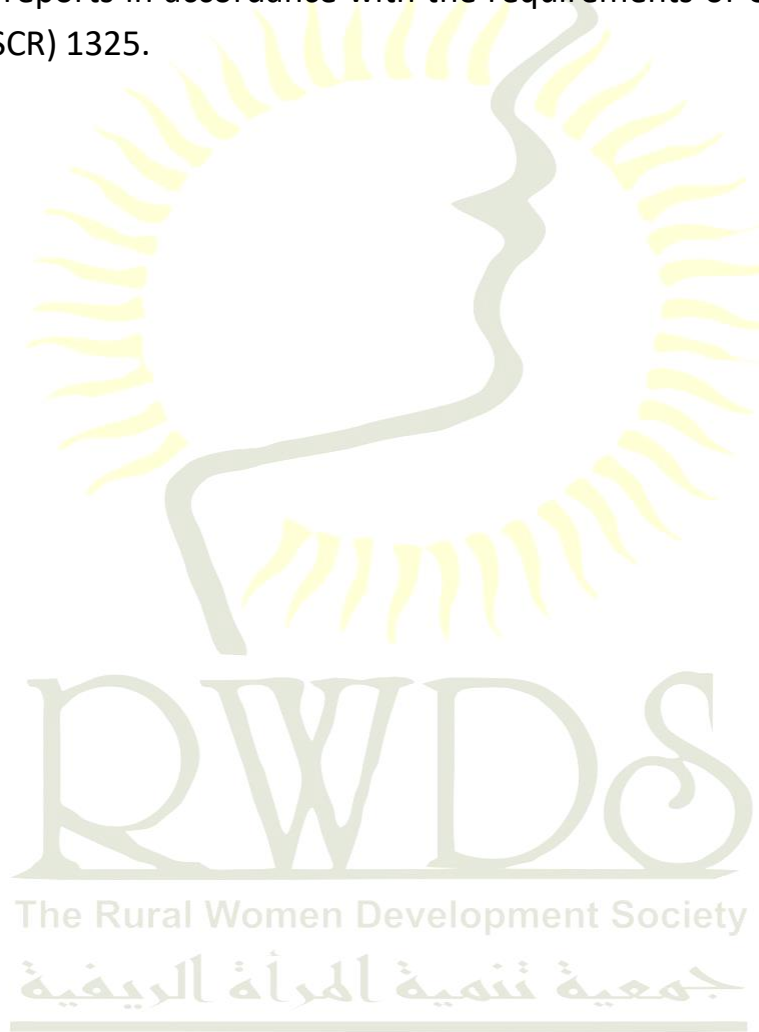
Therefore, this study aimed to prepare a gender analysis report about the impact of the Israeli Illegal Israeli occupation on the women and marginalized groups mainly in H1 and H2 areas in coordination with the WAP members to be used for lobbying and advocacy nationally and internationally.

The study will also contribute to the development of right perceptions of how to prevent or mitigate the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups in the Hebron areas, as well as address the various effects of this Illegal Israeli occupation, by surveying the opinions of women as well as local and international institutions working with women in the targeted areas.

The study was accomplished with full coordination and assistance from the WAP committees formed in the targeted areas through the activities of the Rural Women's

Development Society (RWDS). The WAP members have fully participating and engaged in the implementation of the focus groups, and assisting in filling the study questionnaire, in addition to that, several WAP members help in reaching out for the players of the women rights and protection to conduct the key informative interviews.

The study is based on a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation from a gender perspective. The study attempts to provide sufficient evidence and proof of these effects and provide recommendations to facilitate the implementation of Lobbying and Advocacy campaigns for women's rights and documentation reports in accordance with the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.



## 4.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

To provide a focused literature review on the situation of women and marginalized groups in H1 and H2 areas, we first need to clarify the specific geographical or socio-political context.

H1 and H2 commonly refer to areas in Hebron, divided under the Oslo Accords, where H1 lies under Palestinian Authority control and H2 lies under Israeli control. More than 40,000 Palestinians live in the old city of Hebron, on a land named (H2) according to Hebron agreement conducted on 1997. The entire area is under the control of the Israeli military, which protects illegal settlements, facilitates their expansion, and allows settlers to live at the expense of Palestinian people. Women and children are disproportionately affected under these conditions (Said, 2017).

There are several factors that hinder women's participation in the public space. Women in the marginalized areas such as (H2) have limited knowledge of their rights under local and international laws and charters is limited due to their daily struggles and worries to maintain their family's survival, in addition to the limited scope of awareness-raising campaigns that focus on limited numbers of women in urban areas. In addition, societal cultural attitudes and beliefs about women's economic role, household decision-making, mobility, and public participation are additional barriers. These beliefs and attitudes reflect traditional attitudes and contradictions within a complex and ever-changing reality (Said D. N., 2018).

In Hebron's old city, located in the Israeli-controlled area (H2), unpredictable restrictions on entries and exits impact all aspects of life for the Palestinians living there. H2 has long been one of the most restricted areas within the West Bank, with 21 permanent checkpoints operated by Israeli forces that regulate the movement of Palestinian residents and pose significant barriers to health care workers trying to access the area.

In the first weeks following the start of the Israel-Gaza war in October 2023, Israeli forces imposed further movement restrictions, limiting the opening of checkpoints to only a few days per week, for only one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. At times, Palestinians haven't been allowed to leave their homes for four consecutive days, not even to take out the trash or open their windows to breathe in fresh air (MSF, 2024).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, is an international policy adopted in 2000. It emphasizes the need to increase women's participation in peace and security decision-making, protect women and girls from gender-based violence in conflict zones, and prevent conflicts by addressing gender-related issues. This resolution has since formed the basis for the Women, Peace and Security agenda, promoting gender equality in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding (Muhareb, 2023). The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system. (Shalaldeh L. , 2023).

Implementing the UNSCR (1325) in Palestine and in the city of Hebron faces several significant challenges due to the complex and multi-layered nature of the Israeli Illegal Israeli occupation. These challenges undermine the resolution's goals of enhancing women's participation, protection, and access to justice in conflict zones.

UNSCR 1325 is non-binding resolution, meaning there are no legal or enforceable obligations for Israel or other parties to implement its provisions in a city such as Hebron. The international community has been inconsistent in holding violators accountable, leaving women in Hebron without adequate protection or recourse for justice. In addition to that Hebron's H2 area, under Israeli control, is heavily militarized, with checkpoints, military patrols, and the presence of armed terrorists' settlers. This constant tension exacerbates the vulnerability of women, there the Illegal Israeli occupation prioritizes its security concerns over human rights, sidelining UNSCR 1325's focus on women's protection and participation (Tutah, 2024).

The settlers in the West Bank, and in Hebron in particular, do not abide by the laws and form continuously armed military militias that attack Palestinian communities and use all tools that contribute to the suffering of Palestinian citizens, including women and marginalized groups. Women in Hebron, particularly in H2, face harassment,



violence, and intimidation by Israeli settlers, due to the fact that, the Israeli justice system rarely holds settlers accountable for violence against Palestinians, further discouraging women from seeking legal remedies or asserting their rights.

Checkpoints, curfew regulations and restricted road access in Hebron severely limit women's freedom of movement. Women are often unable to participate in activities such as attending trainings, attending community meetings, participating in advocacy campaigns, or engaging in political processes due to these physical barriers, limiting the implementation of 1325's call for greater participation in peacebuilding (Biltaji, 2024).

The Illegal Israeli occupation has contributed to the destruction of the national economy in Hebron city, disproportionately affecting women who are often the primary caregivers and breadwinners for their families. Economic hardships contribute to their ability to advocate for change, participate in public life, or access resources for empowerment initiatives linked to UNSCR 1325. This is compounded by the emergence of more patriarchal norms and societal traditions that prevent the full realization of the goals of UNSCR 1325. Women face the obstacles of the Illegal Israeli occupation in addition to internal societal obstacles that increase the vulnerability of their roles (Tamimi, 2024).

These societal pressures limit their role in peacebuilding efforts and minimize the impact of advocacy campaigns that focus on the resolution. On the other hand, despite some efforts to improve the representation of Palestinian women, the extent of their participation in leadership roles in institutions and society still does not grant women full participation (Al-Qawasmeh, 2024).

Resolution 1325 is a landmark resolution that emphasizes the importance of women's full and equal participation in peace and security efforts and their protection from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations. Lobbying and advocacy under this resolution means working to motivate the international community, governments and organizations to implement its provisions and change policies and practices that impede gender equality in the context of peace and security (Fields, 2023).



Lobbying and advocacy efforts, started by understanding the provisions and objectives of the resolution, followed by identification of the gaps between what the resolution stipulates and what is applied on the ground. Women's organizations should collaborate with local, regional and international women's organizations, to approach the with governments at all levels to integrate a gender perspective into their policies and programs, in addition to communicating with international organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union, to ensure their activities are gender-sensitive and gender mainstreamed in all developmental tools and programs (Affairs, 2020).

Develop a clear strategy is an important step towards effective lobbying and advocacy, where issues that fit the local context is prioritized, and an identification process of the audiences for advocacy such as decision-makers, media, and civil society, is completed, in addition to that, research and studies to provide compelling evidence of the importance of implementing Resolution 1325, should be done to report on the status of implementation of the resolution in a particular country.

Development of lobbying and advocacy campaigns, should be done with full participation of women affected by the conflicts, started by development of the goals and setting the performance indicators to measure the success of the advocacy campaign, and conducting an ongoing evaluation of the advocacy campaign and adjust the strategy as needed. Advocacy campaigns should include all groups of women, including minority, displaced and refugee women (Taylor, 2019).

UNSCR 1325 identifies four basic pillars to which all mandates are intended to relate: participation, protection, prevention, and relief & recovery. These pillars have impacted conflict-affected regions in various ways, including through National Action Plans (NAPs), international statutes, and organizations.

Forming a National Action Plan (NAP) for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is crucial for several reasons, as it provides a strategic framework to advance gender equality and enhance women's roles in peace and security. Here are the key points highlighting its importance. NAPs translate global objectives of Resolution 1325 into actionable national strategies tailored to specific contexts, for example the Palestine's NAP adapts 1325 to its unique challenges in a conflict-affected region.

Forming a NAP for 1325 is not just about fulfilling international obligations but also about recognizing and utilizing women as key actors in creating sustainable peace. It ensures that gender equality becomes integral to national security and peacebuilding agendas ([Farr, 2014](#)).

Although, the UNSCR 1325 aims to increase the participation of women in peace and security processes. But implementing this resolution in Hebron, Palestine, faces several challenges:

- Limited political space: The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict creates a complex and volatile environment, restricting political space for women's participation in decision-making processes.
- Patriarchal structures: Deep-rooted patriarchal norms and practices limit women's access to resources, education, and leadership roles, hindering their full participation in peacebuilding efforts. ([Affairs, 2020](#))
- Security concerns: The frequent violence and security threats in Hebron pose significant challenges to women's safety and mobility, limiting their ability to engage in public life and participate in peace processes.
- Resource constraints: Limited financial and human resources hinder the implementation of programs and initiatives aimed at empowering women and promoting their participation in peacebuilding.
- Lack of data: Insufficient data on the specific needs and experiences of women in Hebron hampers the development of targeted interventions and the effective monitoring of progress in implementing UNSCR 1325 ([Farr, 2014](#)).

Despite these challenges, several efforts could be done to implement the UNSCR 1325 in Hebron. These efforts could include:

- Advocacy campaigns: Civil society organizations and women's groups are advocating for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and raising awareness about the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding ([Tutah, 2024](#)).
- Capacity-building programs: Training programs are being conducted to enhance the skills and knowledge of women in leadership, negotiation, and conflict resolution.
- Networking initiatives: Platforms are being created to connect women peacebuilders and facilitate collaboration among different stakeholders ([Shalaldeh L. , 2021](#)).

## **5.0 DATA COLLECTION**

### **5.1 Data Collections Tools**

The consultant used a multi-tool and multi-dimensional data collection process for achieving the objectives of this vital study, combining quantitative and qualitative methods to collect and analyze the data. This was done by utilizing a research questionnaire, conducting focus groups with women and marginalized groups affected by the Illegal Israeli occupation and its various measures, holding a key informative interview with actors in the protection sector, whom working with the women and marginalized groups and analyzing reports and statistical data related to violence against women, restrictions on movement, and other indicators.

As the data collection process is a vital and important process in order to achieve the objectives of the research study, the consulting used several tools to collect data as follows:

#### **5.1.1 Desk Review for previous documents, reports and research studies**

The consultant studied several documents and reports issued by local and international institutions regarding the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups in the two sides of Hebron (H1, H2), as well as the findings and recommendations of some scientific and research studies that discussed the topic.

It is worth noting that analyzing media reports, human rights reports, historical documents, and social media posts provided a broader context for understanding the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women in the city. Previous studies helped identify areas of the research, formulate the components of the research questionnaire, and determine the questions for the focus groups and individual interviews.

#### **5.1.2 Quantitative Data Collection**

The consultant designed a research questionnaire consisting of (35) items distributed in seven areas of Illegal Israeli occupational influence, which was filled out by (50) women living in both parts of Hebron city. Half of the questionnaires were filled out

directly through a paper form, while the other half were filled out through an electronic form.

### **5.1.3 Focus Discussion Groups**

The consulting team facilitated three focus groups, the first group consisted of (12) female residents in H2, the second group consisted of (10) female residents in H1 and H2, while the third group included a mixture of women and men from both areas with the aim of providing proposed solutions to deal with the Illegal Israeli occupation's impacts on women and marginalized groups in the different areas of Hebron.

The discussion through the groups focused on the qualitative data collection and digging more on the different aspects of Illegal Israeli occupational impacts on the women and marginalized groups in the city of Hebron.

### **5.1.4 Key Informative Interviews**

The consulting team organized (10) unstructured individual interviews with a group of women working in different types of institutions in the city and those who have information at the city level, such as the Director of the Department of Culture and Youth in Hebron Governorate, the Deputy Mayor of Hebron Municipality, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, the Hebron Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) and others as shown in the appendices.

Interviews were also held with the directors of some women's organizations such as the Hebron Women's Charity Association, Roles for social change association (ADWAR), Happy Homes Association for Culture and Development, and other women's organizations.

### **5.1.5 Consultant's Observations**

The consultant team directly participated in some of the daily activities of women and marginalized groups in Hebron during the study period, such as participating in marches or family visits, to directly observe the challenges faced by women and

marginalized groups. The consultant team monitored various Illegal Israeli occupation influences, and how the women react with these influences.

## **5.2 Utilization of Data Collections Tools**

It is important to note that the used tools were designed to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the extent and severity of the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups, as well as qualitative and qualitative data on the vulnerability caused by the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation, the reasons behind these effects, the coping and mitigation methods used and how women use local resources to overcome these effects.

It is worth mentioning that the team of consultants facilitated focus group workshops and interviews with a variety of target groups to ensure the best representation and collection of accurate data on the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups.

In any case, the experience of the targeted women and their dealings with the daily effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation was the focus of the consultants' team in all the tools that were used, as these tools were used to obtain data and information from the reality of women's suffering and their direct consequences of the Illegal Israeli occupation impact and to obtain their testimonies or some of them on the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation and its various effects on their lives.

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## 6.0 DATA ANALYSIS

### 6.1 DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

The data analysis process complements the data collection process and contributes to providing clearer insights and information with clear trends about the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups in Hebron city, the data was analyzed as follows:

**Quantitative analysis:** Include the interpretation and study of the results of the quantitative data collection, which was carried out by distributing the research questionnaire to a random sample of women in the targeted areas.

**Qualitative analysis:** Include the analysis the discussion held with the group of women from the three focus group workshops that were carried out in order to know the nature of the Illegal Israeli occupation impacts and the procedures and resources required to confront and deal with them.

**Institutional analysis:** Analyzing the capacity of local institutions of various types to assist women in confronting, mitigating and addressing the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation.

It is also important to mention that the analysis was based on a comparison between the outputs of the analysis and the study of previous documents, research and reports on the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups. These comparisons will be explained in the section dedicated to this, while stressing that some of the targeted women have already participated in gender analysis studies similar or close to this study

In addition, the study attempted to examine the disparities between H1 and H2 and to examine the extent, severity, quality of the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation and its differences between the two areas by examining the correlation of the results with fixed variable of (Living area) as declared in the research forms or focus groups

### 6.2 ANALYZING THE QUANTITATIVE IMPACT

To study the quantitative impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups in the targeted areas, the questionnaire was used to collect data from a random sample of (50) women who live in multiple areas in both parts of



Hebron city, and from different age groups, the following table summarizes the demographic data of the respondents:

Table : 1 Demographics Data for Targeted groups

Variable	Levels	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Female	50	%100
Area	H1	38	76.0%
	H2	12	24.0%
Age	Less than 18	2	4.0%
	18 – 25	10	20.0%
	26 - 40	25	50.0%
	41 - 60	8	16.-%
	60+	5	10.0%
Marital Status	Married	24	48.0%
	Single	17	34.0%
	Widow	4	8.0%
	Divorced	5	10.0%
Working Status	Non- Working	22	44.0%
	Private Sector	18	36.0%
	Public Sector	6	12.0%
	NGOs Sector	4	8.0%
Education Level	Graduate Studies	6	12.0%
	B.A	11	22.0%
	Diploma	7	14.0%
	Secondary	10	20.0%
	Basic Education	16	32.0%
Family Income	More than 3000	6	12.0%
	3000 – 2001	8	16.0%
	2000 – 1001	12	24.0%
	Less than 1000	14	28.0%
	Non-Provided	10	20.0%

To complete the statistical analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaires, the calculation of percentages and averages of the respondents' responses, and the correlation with some variables such as age, area of residence, educational level, etc. were used. The respondents' responses were determined according to a five-point scale as follows:

Scale	(5)	(4)	(3)	2)	(1)
Meaning	Totally Agree	Agree	Neutral	Don't Agree	Totally Don't Agree

The mean and standard deviations of the respondents' responses to the specific items were calculated for each of the research areas. The most important quantitative indicators of the questionnaire items are analyzed below:

#	ITEM	Mean	Deviation
<b>1) Economic Impact</b>			
.1	I lost my direct source of income	3.66	0.0453
.2	The family has lost its source of income	3.74	0.1018
.3	The family's business has been closed and banned	3.36	0.1669
.4	I was denied the opportunity to work to enhance my income or establish self-employment work	3.68	0.0594
.5	I was denied access to markets and places to sell my products	3.54	0.0396
<b>2) Social Impact</b>			
.1	I was subjected to direct violence from the Illegal Israeli occupation (ISF, Terrorist settler attacks)	3.2	0.1414
.2	Subjected to indirect violence from the Illegal Israeli occupation	3.98	0.4101
.3	I was subjected to internal violence as a result of the Illegal Israeli occupation practices	3.6	0.1414
.4	My mental health has been damaged and relapsed	3.98	0.4101
.5	I was deprived of marriage opportunities as a result of the Illegal Israeli occupation practices	2.24	0.8202
<b>3) Impact on Education</b>			
.1	Deprived of educational opportunities	2.82	0.4723
.2	Difficulty in accessing educational institutions	3.38	0.0764
.3	Educational institutions were damaged by the Illegal Israeli occupation practices	3.90	0.2913
.4	The quality of education in my area has been affected	4.02	0.3762
.5	There are no opportunities for technical and vocational education in the area	3.32	0.1188
<b>4) Health Impact</b>			
.1	There are no health institutions in the region	3.12	0.1047
.2	Poor quality of health services	3.72	0.3196
.3	Rescue and ambulance vehicles cannot reach my area	3.28	0.0085
.4	The Illegal Israeli occupation's practices have caused direct damage to my health	2.74	0.3734
.5	The Illegal Israeli occupation's practices have caused health issues for my family members	3.48	0.1499
<b>5) Impact of Movement freedom</b>			

.1	I find it difficult to move around on a daily basis	3.82	0.0028
.2	We are prevented from accessing services and markets	3.54	0.2008
.3	Community issues arise as a result of movement restrictions	3.94	0.0820
.4	Fewer opportunities for work and employment as a result of barriers and movement restrictions	4.18	0.2517
.5	Nuclear and extended family ties are severed as a result of restrictions	3.64	0.1301
<b>6) Impact of Personal Security</b>			
.1	I suffer from personal insecurity	4.14	0.3818
.2	My family suffers from insecurity and constant fear	3.80	0.1414
.3	I cannot leave the house or the area individually	3.20	0.2828
.4	Family restrictions are placed on my activities due to personal and collective insecurity	3.32	0.1980
.5	I and my family are at risk of being killed or detained	3.54	0.0424
<b>7) Legal Impact</b>			
.1	My personal rights as a woman are being violated	3.52	0.0424
.2	I find it difficult to access legal and human rights support	3.56	0.0141
.3	I/my family is prevented from communicating with legal authorities	3.34	0.1697
.4	Human rights organizations do not have access to the area in most endowments	3.74	0.1131
.5	Legal services are not available in the area	3.74	0.1131
<b>8) Other Non-mentioned impacts</b>			
.1	Denial of travelling		
.2	Difficulty in getting funds into closed areas		
.3	Direct terrorist settler attacks		
.4	Denial of medical treatment in hospitals inside Gaza		
.5	Increased tribal issues and the activation of vendettas		

The analysis of the arithmetic averages for each field indicates that the most significant impacts stem from the Illegal Israeli occupation effects related to freedom of movement, which have notably hindered access to the health sector. This situation can be attributed to the stringent measures implemented in the Hebron Governorate, particularly in the city of Hebron. The presence of closures, gates, and barriers in the H2 area—especially in the southern parts of the city—has severely restricted individual mobility. This restriction has been exacerbated over the past year, particularly following the events of October 7, 2023. Consequently, access to healthcare, educational services, and job opportunities has been severely obstructed

due to these arbitrary measures and ongoing restrictions. The figure below shows the quantitative ranking of the effects as expressed by the respondents.

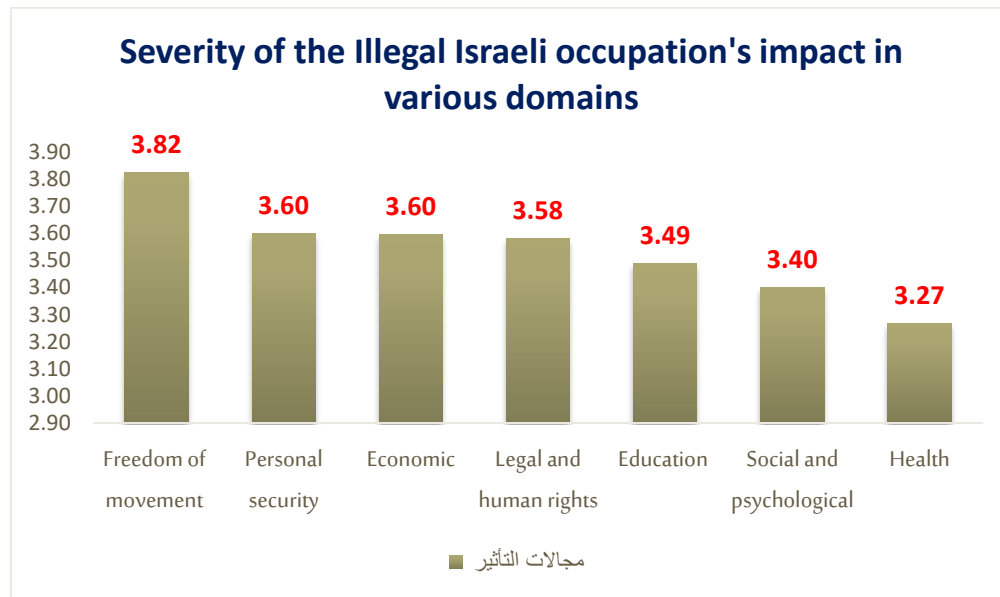


FIGURE : 1 THE AVERAGE SEVERITY OF THE IMPACT OF THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON WOMEN IN DIFFERENT FIELDS

In the economic landscape, the most significant impact observed was the loss of family income. This was closely followed by the challenge's women faced in accessing job opportunities and establishing self-employment ventures to secure a sufficient income. In contrast, the closure of family businesses was deemed the least severe impact.

The primary factor contributing to this economic decline is the closure and restriction of freedom of movement. These limitations have severely affected women's ability to seek employment and grow their family businesses. They struggle to obtain essential materials and face difficulties in transporting and marketing their products, which ultimately leads to the failure or weakening of their businesses.

The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:

Impact	Mean
Loss of family source of income	3.74
Denial of the opportunity to work to increase income or establish self-employment	3.68
Loss of personal income	3.66

<b>Denial of access to markets and places to sell products to women</b>	<b>3.54</b>
<b>Closure of a family business</b>	<b>3.36</b>

The social and psychological effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation are as significant as its economic impact. as it was found that the majority of the female respondents were exposed to direct and indirect violence perpetrated by the occupying forces and settlers, which has adversely impacted their psychological well-being. The Illegal Israeli occupation is a primary factor contributing to the social ramifications, particularly the rise in domestic violence rates. This increase can be attributed to various pressures, including restrictions on movement and deteriorating economic conditions, which have heightened psychological stress among women and girls, rendering them more susceptible to domestic violence.

The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Mental health damage</b>	<b>3.98</b>
<b>Exposure to indirect violence from the Illegal Israeli occupation</b>	<b>3.98</b>
<b>Exposure to internal violence as a result of Illegal Israeli occupation practices</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Exposure to direct violence from the Illegal Israeli occupation (army, terrorist settler attacks)</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Denial of marriage opportunities as a result of the Illegal Israeli occupation practices</b>	<b>2.24</b>

Respondents reported that the Illegal Israeli occupation practices have adversely impacted the education sector, resulting in a decline in educational quality. The restrictions on freedom of movement, along with the establishment of checkpoints and iron gates that operate at irregular intervals, have significantly obstructed effective communication between regions. This situation has hindered access to educational institutions, particularly affecting women and marginalized groups in various areas and towns of Hebron. Consequently, many women and girls have been deprived of educational opportunities at different stages of their academic journey.

The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Poor quality of education in the region	4.02
Damage to educational institutions due to Illegal Israeli occupation practices	3.90
Difficulty in accessing educational institutions	3.38
Lack of technical and vocational education opportunities in the region	3.32
Denial of educational opportunities (at any stage)	2.82

In the health sector, the most significant consequence was the hindrance to women's access to healthcare facilities and hospitals due to closures and barriers at village and town entrances, which restricted citizens' movement. These factors severely affected the health of women, marginalized groups, and their families.

The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Poor quality of health services	3.72
Health issues of another member of the women's family	3.48
Inability of rescue and ambulance vehicles to reach the area	3.28
Lack of health institutions in the region	3.12
Direct damage to health due to Illegal Israeli occupation practices	2.74

In the Impact most affected by the arbitrary measures of the Illegal Israeli occupation, which is freedom of movement, participants have reported that restrictions such as continuous closures and iron gates significantly hinder affect work and access to employment opportunities. These limitations not only create social challenges but also disproportionately affect women and marginalized groups, complicating their ability to navigate daily life. Furthermore, these barriers restrict access to markets and essential services, disrupt the cohesion of nuclear families, and impede social interaction among family members.

The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Fewer opportunities for work and employment	4.18
Community issues arise as a result of movement restrictions	3.94
Difficulty in daily movement	3.82



<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Nuclear and extended family ties are severed as a result of restrictions</b>	3.64
<b>Preventing access to services and markets</b>	3.54

Many participants expressed feelings of personal insecurity due to the Illegal Israeli occupation, which contributes to a broader sense of collective insecurity among families and residents in certain areas. This environment fosters a constant fear of arrest, violence, or even death. Following of October 7, 2023, oppressive and arbitrary measures have intensified, with iron gates installed at the entrances of villages and towns, severely restricting movement and travel for everyone. As a result, individuals in the Hebron region are left in a state of heightened fear for their safety, experiencing ongoing tension, anxiety, and panic.

The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Lack of personal security</b>	4.14
<b>Families are insecure and exposed to constant fear</b>	3.8
<b>Women and their families are at risk of being killed or captured</b>	3.54
<b>Personal insecurity restricts women's movement and mobility</b>	3.32
<b>Women's inability to leave the house or the area on their own</b>	3.2

In the realm of human rights and legal implications, a significant majority of respondents asserted that the Illegal Israeli occupation infringes upon women's personal rights. This concern is exacerbated by the restricted access of human rights organizations to closed areas, hindering their ability to provide essential legal services. Furthermore, the lack of protection for women facing violence in these regions is compounded by limitations on the Family Protection Unit of the Civil Police, which is unable to fulfill its protective role effectively. Additionally, access restrictions imposed on organizations that offer social and psychological support services leave women in perilous situations, significantly jeopardizing their safety and well-being.

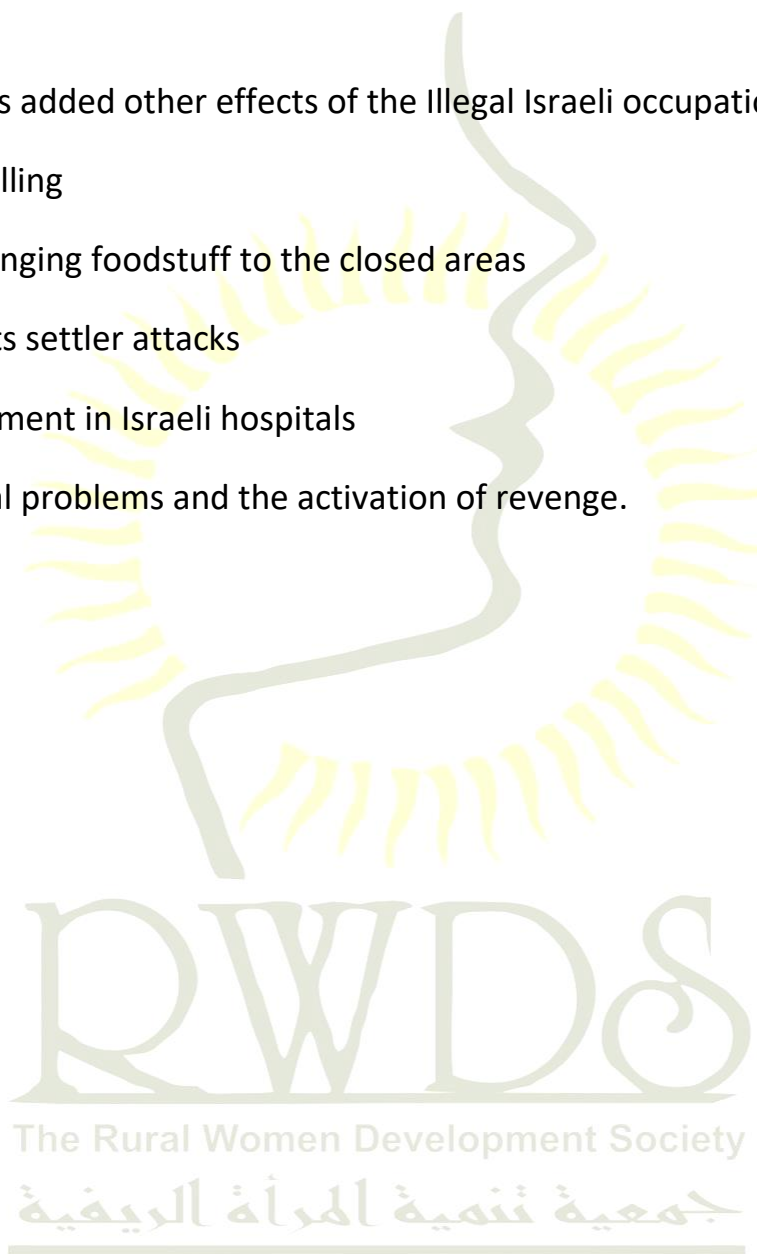
The table below illustrates the severity of these impacts, ranked according to the average responses from participants:

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Violation of women's personal rights</b>	3.52

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Difficulty in accessing legal and human rights support</b>	<b>3.56</b>
<b>Preventing women from communicating with legal authorities</b>	<b>3.34</b>
<b>The inability of human rights organizations to access the area at most times</b>	<b>3.74</b>
<b>Lack of legal services in the area</b>	<b>3.74</b>

The respondents added other effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation such as:

- Denial of travelling
- Difficulty in bringing foodstuff to the closed areas
- Direct terrorists settler attacks
- Denial of treatment in Israeli hospitals
- Increased tribal problems and the activation of revenge.



## **6.2 ANALYZING THE QUALITATIVE IMPACT**

The Illegal Israeli occupation has a significant impact on women in Hebron city, both in terms of economic and social burdens and in terms of the impact of direct and indirect violence on their lives. While the quantitative analysis of the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and groups revealed a lot of information about the types of areas of these impacts, their severity and the amount of impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation from the respondents' point of view in different items, descriptive analysis was necessary to clarify the nature of these impacts as well as explore ways to stop or mitigate these impacts. The impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women in Hebron can be divided into several areas that will be discussed in this section.

### **6.2.1 THE FORM AND NATURE OF THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI OCCUPATION EFFECTS**

Participants in the focal workshops indicated that the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation includes many areas, and these areas vary from one region to another, as the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation appear in the (H2) areas, specifically the closed areas, while the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation decreases in other areas of Hebron city. The participants also explained that the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation includes women and men, and this impact increased after the events of 7/10/2023.

The participants indicated that the basis of the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation begins with restrictions that prevent movement, such as closing the entrances to the city, and ban the transportation to neighboring villages or other cities and governorates, which results in many impacts in the fields of health, economy and other areas that depend on freedom of movement. The participants pointed out that the internal closure and prevention of movement between the two parts of the city (H1 and H2) has been going on for many decades, but it is tightened in periods of political instability or in cases of Fedayeen operations carried out by the residents of the city, where the Illegal Israeli occupation adopts its usual policy of collective punishment, closes communication routes between the two parts of the city, and tightens checkpoints that cut off movement between different areas.

The participants indicated that women in Hebron are directly exposed to physical and psychological violence by the Illegal Israeli occupation forces and terrorist settler attacks, through military checkpoints permanently set up in closed areas such as

'Shuhada Street', which makes daily movement full of dangers, which negatively affects women's sense of security, and this continuous violence creates an atmosphere of fear and constant anxiety for women and with women for their children and daughters. Participants indicated that Illegal Israeli occupation checkpoints in closed areas prevent women from accessing workplaces or markets, they are searched and asked to reveal the faces of veiled women, and if they refuse, they are not allowed to pass, which reduces their economic opportunities and leads to increased poverty.

In general, freedom of movement is usually linked to the mood of the police officers or the soldier guarding the gate or checkpoint, and this mood becomes aggressive for the slightest reasons, and sometimes anti-settlement activists are deliberately targeted, so that they are prevented from moving without giving reasons.

But it should not be overlooked that this soldier is carrying out a policy formulated by his political and military leadership, which aims to displace Palestinians from their land and make life more difficult in the closed areas of Hebron, forcing residents to migrate away from these areas.

As a result of the restrictions on movement and transportations between different areas, women's economic conditions are greatly affected, as women are prevented from reaching their work and jobs, and many women may lose their jobs as a result of this ban, which leads to a high unemployment rate and an increase in the number of families that fall below the poverty line due to the closure of small economic businesses owned or managed by women, as well as the inability of workers to reach their work in the 48 occupied areas and the closure of some commercial interests and factories and the elimination of many workers, or the reduction of their working hours and days.

Restrictions on movement affect trade and agriculture, which considered are the major two sources of livelihood for many women in Hebron. The closure of shops and the destruction or denial of access to agricultural land directly affects family income, increasing women's burdens in providing for basic needs.

Women often bear the brunt of the burden of running the family, whether by providing food and basic needs under the siege and closure, or assuming the role of

breadwinner if the head of the family is arrested or martyred, and even in the presence of the breadwinner, families do not have the money to provide all basic needs, and if they do, it is in very small quantities and limited to the most essential items.

As a result of the economic impact of movement restrictions, many women and families in the Hebron areas are forced to cut back on certain expenditures that they believe have become unnecessary and urgent, such as not sending their children to kindergarten, engaging in recreational activities, or other matters that are at the discretion of women and housewives in terms of affordability.

It is important to note that the Illegal Israeli occupation's practices lead to the destruction of the social fabric with the rest of the family and the impact on women's loss of primary sources of support (father, uncle or brother)

However, it should be noted that the loss of the opportunity for education is not only related to the deteriorating economic situation, especially for girls, but is directly related to the practices of soldiers at the gates and checkpoints inside the area, as more than one activist and child indicated that soldiers practice a policy of sexual harassment and daily search of female students and their school bags, which prompts parents to prevent their daughters from completing their education because there are no schools inside the area because they do not want their daughters to be sexually harassed by soldiers, so the economic dimension is a result but not the cause in denying the right to education.

Some women also explained that as a result of the economic situation, some activities have stopped, such as holding graduation ceremonies in schools and universities, or restricting engagement and marriage ceremonies to official activities only, which leads to economic losses and income loss in some areas of service provision such as transport and communication services, flower and decoration shops, ladies' salons, and other services that constitute a source of income for women in Hebron city.

Participants in the workshops pointed out that reducing and stopping celebratory and party activities contributes to reducing social interaction between women in different areas, who are forced to reduce participation in social events due to the deterioration of the family's economic situation and because of restrictions on movement in some streets. Participation in events is limited to close family members and relatives, and the quality and quantity of hospitality were reduced, and many manifestations of joy



and celebrations on occasions are cancelled, and this may cause distress and tension for young men and women because it was against their will and plans, which leads to increased family and social issues between neighbors due to lack of work and sitting all the time at home. Due to the difficult economic conditions, some events such as engagements and marriages are postponed, and sometimes engagements are cancelled due to the economic inability to complete the marriage ceremony.

All the social and economic impacts generate many psychological impacts among women, as a result of their interaction with these conditions and their sense of fear for the future of their sons and daughters. The Illegal Israeli occupation measures lead to more psychological pressure on women, which translates into psychological ailments and diseases on women's mental health, including lack of good sleep, stress, anxiety, constant fear of violence, loss of family members or homes, or displacement. Constant military restrictions and sudden attacks lead to women losing their sense of security in their daily environment, which has a significant impact on their mental health. Women may find themselves forced to take on the role of main breadwinner if a husband or family member is arrested or martyred, adding to the challenges, responsibilities and psychological pressures.

The economic and psychological pressures resulting from the Illegal Israeli occupation increase the rates of domestic violence, leading to an increase in cases of violence against women and an increase in divorce cases. Some of the participants expressed their fear that women in Hebron will experience a similar experience to what is happening to women and citizens in the Gaza Strip.

The women participating in the workshops expressed a clear concern for the future of women in Hebron, as some women indicated that they feel helpless and fearful of the future, and because the mother is the source of security for the family, this feeling will be transmitted to sons and daughters, especially those who may find themselves unable to continue their university education, lose job opportunities, marriage or others, which may lead, according to the participants, to an internal explosion in the form of crimes or participation in some activities directed against the Illegal Israeli occupation or involvement in some social evils such as drugs and others.

In general, the women participating in the workshops indicated that the actions of the Illegal Israeli occupation and terrorist settler attacks constitute psychological warfare, practiced by holding loud parties for settlers in closed areas, disturbing the population



in all ways, and forcing them to migrate or leave voluntarily, especially in closed areas adjacent to settlers' homes. The women provided numerous testimonies about the emergence of some mental illnesses as a result of the practices of the Illegal Israeli occupation and terrorist settler attacks.

The women pointed out that the Illegal Israeli occupation measures have an impact on the health sector in the Hebron areas, manifested in the inability of doctors and medical staff from outside the governorate to join their work stations, especially in the closed areas, which ultimately leads to poor health services for citizens living in them.

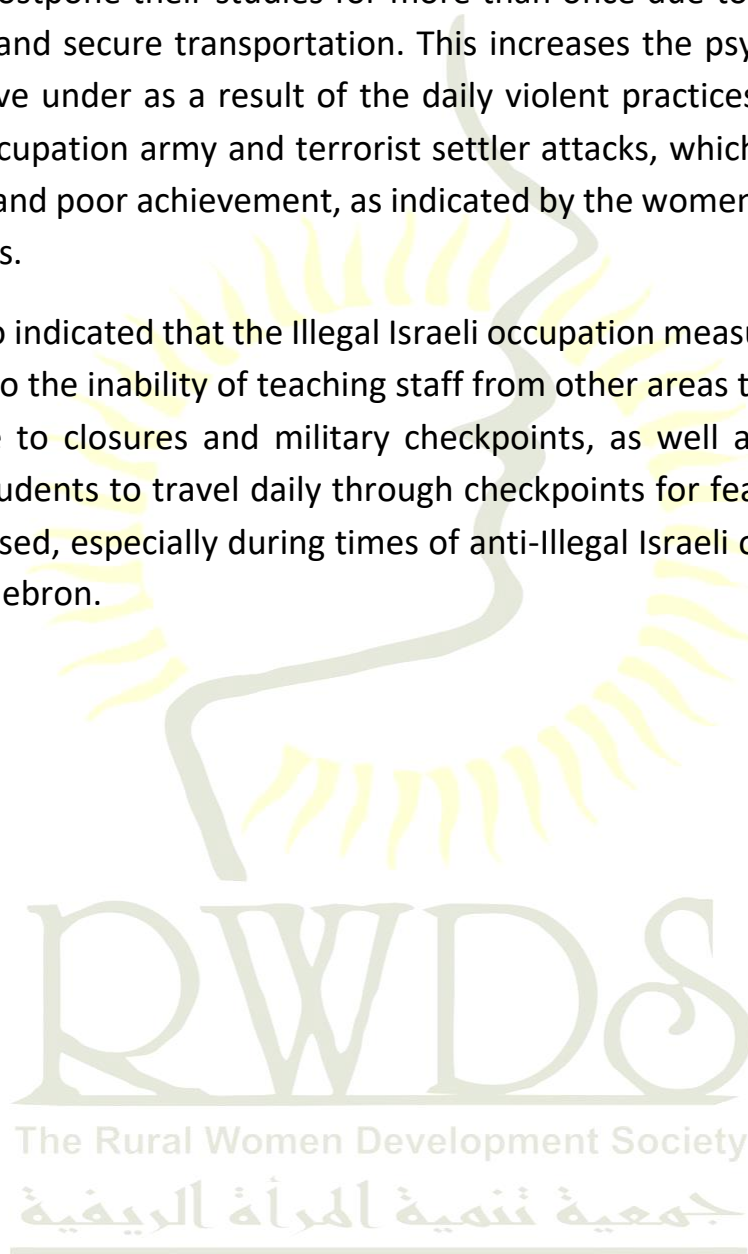
In addition, the Illegal Israeli occupation's obstruction of movement causes more stress and psychological illnesses among patients, especially some diseases such as cancer or kidney disease, who are affected psychologically due to their fear of not being able to reach treatment places in time or having to use expensive private medical services, or their fear of deteriorating their health due to the lack of regular availability of medicines.

The women also indicated that the restrictions on movement prevent women from accessing health facilities, especially pregnant women or women who need specialized medical care, and this leads to the exacerbation of health issues among women, especially pregnant women and children. The participants pointed out that the current war conditions and the closures imposed as a collective punishment have led to the inability of citizens, especially women, to treat and buy medicines, as women resort to government health services as a kind of savings, but if the medicine is not available in the governmental hospital, women may abandon the medicine due to poor economic ability and resort to alternative medicine.

The impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation is also evident in the weakness of health services in some areas, especially the closed ones, the unavailability of specialized doctors due to movement restrictions, the inability of ambulances to reach patients in these areas, the weakness of medical staff and the lack of health supplies for health institutions in the area, as well as the inability to develop and upgrade the capabilities of these facilities, and in the end, citizens and women in these areas pay twice for the Illegal Israeli occupation measures, once by increasing physical and psychological diseases, and once by not being able to treat and receive adequate medical services.

Just as the health sector in Hebron is affected by the Illegal Israeli occupation measures and movement restrictions, the education sector is greatly affected, as evidenced by the inability of school and university students to attend regularly due to closures and movement restrictions, especially in some streets and areas, and some students may postpone their studies for more than once due to the inability to pay university fees and secure transportation. This increases the psychological pressure that students live under as a result of the daily violent practices carried out by the Illegal Israeli occupation army and terrorist settler attacks, which causes an inability to concentrate and poor achievement, as indicated by the women participating in the focus workshops.

The women also indicated that the Illegal Israeli occupation measures of closing some areas have led to the inability of teaching staff from other areas to reach educational institutions due to closures and military checkpoints, as well as the reluctance of teachers and students to travel daily through checkpoints for fear of arrest or being beaten and abused, especially during times of anti-Illegal Israeli occupation activities in and around Hebron.



### **6.2.2 GENDERED IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

The Israeli Illegal Israeli occupation has a disproportionate impact on women and marginalized groups in Palestine, mainly in Hebron city. The participants pointed out that, the Illegal Israeli occupation has put and implement several plans which led to increased violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and harassment. This is due to factors such as stress, trauma, and the breakdown of social structures. Women in Hebron areas are not spared from the violence of the Illegal Israeli occupation, including arrests, detentions, and killings. They are also subjected to humiliation and abuse at checkpoints and during raids. The Illegal Israeli occupational activities have led to the displacement of hundreds from the residence of Hebron, including women and children. This displacement often leads to increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

Women in some areas of Hebron city are responsible for ensuring availability of sufficient water supply for their homes and families. The Illegal Israeli occupation's restrictions on water access make this task even more difficult, leading to increased burdens on women. In addition to that, the Illegal Israeli occupation's confiscation of land has made it difficult for women to access land for agriculture and other economic activities, with continuous demolition of Hebron's citizen's homes by the Israeli Illegal Israeli occupation and banning the construction and licensing in other parts of the city has left many women and children homeless, or living in houses that are not optimized for comfortable living.

Limited access to healthcare, as a result of the Illegal Israeli occupation's restrictions on movement make it difficult for Hebron citizen and women to access healthcare services. This is particularly problematic for women, who may need specialized care for reproductive health and other issues. The quality of healthcare in the Hebron, mainly the closed area is often poor due to a lack of resources and trained staff. This disproportionately affects women, who may be more likely to suffer from health problems related to childbirth, gender-based violence, and other issues.

The Illegal Israeli occupation's restrictions on movement make it difficult for Hebron's students to attend school. This is particularly problematic for girls, who may be more likely to be denied an education due to cultural and social barriers.

The quality of education in the closed areas of the southern part of Hebron is often poor due to a lack of educational resources and trained personnel. This disproportionately affects girls, who may be more likely to be denied an education due to cultural and social barriers.

Economic opportunities for women in Hebron have been greatly affected by various Israeli measures that aim to make life difficult for Palestinians in general, especially in areas adjacent to settlements. The Illegal Israeli occupation has led to high levels of unemployment in Hebron and the occupied Palestinian territories. This is particularly and highly problematic for women, who may be more likely to be denied employment due to cultural and social barriers.

Limited economic opportunities and the permanent Illegal Israeli occupation's restrictions on movement and access to resources make it difficult for women in Hebron to start and run small businesses. Where women may be more likely to be denied access to credit and other financial resources.

These difficulties in education and health and the lack of economic opportunities take a physical and psychological toll on women in Hebron, which mean that a devastating impact on the mental health of women. This is due to the stress, trauma, and uncertainty caused by the Illegal Israeli occupation. If we add the ongoing and escalating restriction of movement towards women in Hebron, all of which leads to further social isolation and great difficulties in life faced by women in Hebron, led to a breakdown of social structures.

On the other hand, the Illegal Israeli occupation has destroyed some Palestinian cultural heritage sites in the old and ancient city of Hebron, which affects and harms women in particular, as they are often responsible for preserving cultural traditions, and some heritage artifacts are a source of income for many Palestinian families, especially pottery, ceramics, and traditional labor tools

It is important to note that this gender analysis is not exhaustive and that the impact of the Israeli Illegal Israeli occupation on women and marginalized groups is complex and multifaceted. However, it is clear that the Illegal Israeli occupation has a disproportionate impact on women and marginalized groups in Hebron. Thus, utilizing UNSCR (1325) can help mitigate these devastating effects on women in

Hebron and help to cumulatively achieve a dignified, comfortable, and quality life for them

Due to the ongoing systematic practices of the Israeli Illegal Israeli occupation aimed at forcibly displacing the population, Palestinian civil society organizations, such as the Rural Women's Development Society, are actively highlighting these violations. This society reaches out to international bodies responsible for protecting the rights of women under Illegal Israeli occupation to emphasize the urgent need for effective measures to be taken.

The analysis of the data collected indicates the importance of addressing this international system to play its role in holding accountable those responsible for violating the rights of women, girls and marginalized groups. This is particularly important regarding their access to essential services such as work, health, and education. To address these issues, the initiatives will be guided by the principles outlined in two key international covenants: The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Additionally, they will comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, emphasizing General Comment No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Palestinian organizations will also reach out to the contracting committees of the international agreements mentioned earlier, as well as to the states that are parties to these agreements and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. This will include references to relevant Security Council resolutions, such as Resolutions 1325 and 2250, which focus on the protection of women, girls, and persons with disabilities in conflict zones.

UNCR No. 1325 includes measures and measures to prevent violence against women perpetrators of violence against women, and to facilitate their access to justice and fairness in the implementation of the resolution, and the inclusion of protective provisions appropriate to the needs of women and their families.

Include protective provisions tailored to the needs of women and girls in the reporting, warning and implementation. (Shalaldeh L. , 2023), but the women participating in the workshop expressed their fear of not being able to benefit from this. They also



expressed their need for awareness and training on how to utilize the provisions of the resolution in a practical manner based on the documentation of testimonies of women exposed to violence in the closed areas specifically and in other areas of Hebron.

In an interview with the consultant, researcher and academic Dr. Sanaa Tutah expressed her fear that everything that is documented against the Illegal Israeli occupation does not usually ends in a proper legal path, due to the Illegal Israeli occupation's lack of respect for international legitimacy and their ability to evade legal entitlements, and therefore it would be useful to think about preventive measures before and afterwards that protect women in armed conflicts. (Tutah, 2024).

The participants unanimously agreed that the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on all aspects is high and strong, as it is the result of arbitrary political and military decisions in which there is no retreat by the Illegal Israeli occupation, which does not respect international laws and human rights, and that the impact in all aspects is intertwined and cannot be separated from each other, and that this requires decisions at an international level and international courts, and even these experiences have proven that they do not bind the Illegal Israeli occupation to implement their decisions.

Women indicated that providing support for initiatives that create job opportunities for women and youth will help improve the economic situation of women and citizens in the different areas of Hebron. Improving the salaries of workers in government institutions, especially the health and education sectors, and committing to pay them on time can help improve the economic situation and increase the quality of services provided in the two sectors.

On the other hand, women propose the establishment and opening of medical and health institutions in the Old City area and the closed areas, as well as increasing the medical and administrative staff in the available centers, in addition to providing mobile clinics, providing an ambulance, and increasing the number of working days of government clinics, all of which will contribute to the development of health and medical services, if accompanied by the provision of medicine, treatment supplies and supporting equipment in each area separately to alleviate movement and mobility.

These services can be provided through a true partnership with NGOs or the private sector to ensure continuous cooperation to provide the best services in closed areas.

To develop the education sector and reduce the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on it, the participants suggested providing classrooms for higher grades in some schools in closed areas to reduce the movement of students, in addition to employing teachers for schools and doctors in medical centers from the same area to ensure that they reach their workplaces on a daily basis.

The women participants suggested providing recreational centers with nominal fees and a public library to contribute to alleviating psychological pressure on women and citizens, and opening a horizon for social dialogue that contributes to solving many societal issues resulting from the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation.

Intersecting identities such as gender, age, disability, and socioeconomic status exacerbate the experiences of women and marginalized groups under Illegal Israeli occupation, creating unique vulnerabilities and challenges.

For example, elderly women may face additional barriers to accessing healthcare and social services due to limited mobility and reliance on others. Women with disabilities may experience heightened vulnerability to violence and abuse, as well as limited access to support services tailored to their specific needs. Women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may be disproportionately affected by economic hardship and food insecurity, further compounding the challenges they face under Illegal Israeli occupation.

These intersecting identities can also create unique challenges for women and marginalized groups in accessing justice and participating in decision-making processes. For instance, women with disabilities may face additional barriers to reporting violence due to communication difficulties or lack of accessible legal services. Women from marginalized communities, mainly from the closed areas and old city, may be excluded from political processes and have limited opportunities to voice their concerns and advocate for their rights.

Individuals with disabilities face additional challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and employment. They may also be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect. The elderly population in Hebron is particularly vulnerable due to age-

related health issues, limited mobility, and dependence on others. They may face difficulties accessing essential services and social support.

Moreover, children and youth are exposed to violence, trauma, and displacement, which can have long-lasting psychological and social consequences. They may also face limitations on their education and future opportunities.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to implement comprehensive strategies that promote gender equality, protect human rights, and empower marginalized groups. This includes providing access to legal aid, mental health services, and economic opportunities, as well as advocating for ending the Illegal Israeli occupation and the establishment of a just and sustainable peace, and there for the activation of the international laws and resolutions may provide some hope for the women and marginalized groups in Hebron.

Addressing the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by women and marginalized groups under Illegal Israeli occupation requires a nuanced and intersectional approach that considers the multiple factors that shape their experiences. This includes providing targeted support services, promoting inclusive decision-making processes, and challenging discriminatory attitudes and practices.

### **6.2.3 COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR DEALING WITH ILLEGAL ISRAELI OCCUPATION IMPACTS:**

Participants in the focus group workshops reported that there are very few community resources that help counter, mitigate, or address the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation, especially in the southern and closed areas of Hebron city. Despite the presence of many governmental institutions, the quality of services provided is poor, working hours are few, and workers in these institutions cannot reach their workplaces on a daily basis, and this applies to governmental medical centers, schools, vocational education centers, and other institutions.

Women pointed out that the presence of an office for the governorate and various ministries such as the interior, foreign affairs and agriculture helps in providing some of the services needed by the residents of the Old City and helps in rebuilding this town with residents, citizens and worshipers from other areas, but this does not help the citizens and women of the Old City much, especially since many workshops and factories have closed their doors, reduced working hours or laid off employees, especially under the current war, which reduces the possibility of being a resource

that helps to withstand and protect women and citizens in different areas of the Old City and its environs, which reduces the possibility of being a resource that helps to withstand.

The number of international organizations that provide services to citizens in the Ibrahimi Mosque area and the Old City also decreased after the end of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), and the weakening of the services of some other organizations such as the Red Cross and other state humanitarian organizations and the government's inability to provide an alternative to these organizations.

There are some institutions that help women to withstand the Illegal Israeli occupation, such as Tkiyet al-Ibrahimi, the Zakat Committee, and some charitable organizations that provide their services to women and citizens of Hebron, especially in the southern and closed areas of the city, on an irregular basis.

The women participating in the workshop pointed out that the closed areas of Hebron lack organized governmental and civil work to help counter the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation, especially in the economic and social fields or in the health and education sectors, while there are some community and individual initiatives that try to fill the gap of the lack of organized governmental action.

To explore the expected contributions of local and international organizations operating in Hebron, a series of individual, unstructured interviews were conducted with women at a senior level in these organizations to explore their views on the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation and to discuss the interventions provided by these organizations to stop or mitigate the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and to address its various effects.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) intervenes because Hebron, like the rest of Palestine, is under Illegal Israeli occupation and is considered a conflict zone according to the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Illegal Israeli occupation restricts freedom of movement, and the Illegal Israeli occupation army and terrorist settler attacks carry out repeated attacks on citizens, which results in social, psychological and economic consequences and impacts, so the ICRC intervenes to protect and help.

According to Ms. Adawiya Beltaji, Protection Officer at the ICRC in the H2 area, the organization follows up on violations and attacks and works to document them as a



neutral party, while coordinating the passage of ambulances and supporting the Palestinian liaison in direct intervention to protect Palestinians in closed areas.

Red Cross interventions also include aiding owners of demolished houses and economic assistance in the form of cash and in-kind assistance or contributing to the financing of small projects for women in the targeted areas, within conditions and criteria that allow the selection of the most affected women to remove the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women and families in the targeted areas.

The ICRC is interested in strengthening the resilience of the Palestinian community and women in the closed areas by implementing programs such as providing alternative energy and economic assistance to families affected by the conflict, especially after the events of 7/10/2023, and providing a social and economic safety net for affected women. The organization supports the Jaber Community Center, a center affiliated with the Hebron Municipality that targets women and children for recreation, education and social interaction, which includes a computer center and a rehabilitation center for people with disabilities in cooperation with the Hebron Rehabilitation Association.

Among the resilience interventions provided by the ICRC is the provision of water to the population, especially families led by women, through special tankers that reach areas where the water network does not reach, and the organization is also trying to expand the water network in some areas as well as extend the sewage network and rainwater drainage in other areas. (Biltaji, 2024).

Action Against Hunger also contributes to providing economic assistance to strengthen the resilience of women in the southern Hebron areas, by providing capacity building programs and then directing beneficiaries to the labor market through temporary internship programs or providing small grants to women to establish small income-generating projects, as well as helping women market their products by holding or supporting women's participation in marketing exhibitions in Hebron city. The Foundation also provided in-kind assistance in the form of food or health packages during the coronavirus pandemic, and in times of lockdown and conflict. (AlHafeth, 2024).

Ms. Abu Asnina, a liberated prisoner and mother of a liberated prisoner, explained that women are subjected to violence at checkpoints by soldiers, sometimes beating,



abuse and harassment, in addition to violence in its verbal, physical and psychological forms in cases of night raids and arrests of a family member, as well as Palestinian families and women are subjected to restrictions on movement and movement, especially between closed places within the city, such as the Old City in the heart of Hebron, Jaber neighborhood, Tal Armeida and some closed neighborhoods, where entry or exit from the neighborhood is allowed at specific hours and on foot only, and for local residents, according to personal identity cards, in addition to Ms. Abu Asnina pointed out that women in Hebron are not immune to arrest and detention, and that many cases of arrest have been documented, especially among female university students, which leads to their deprivation of completing their university education and their forced separation from their families.

Ms. Abu Asnina pointed out that the Illegal Israeli occupation's measures have many economic effects, such as the atrophy of commercial activity and weak movement in the markets, in addition to many psychological and social effects on the citizens of Hebron, especially women who are directly harmed in themselves or their families. (Isneneh, 2024).

On the other hand, women suffer from physical and verbal assault by the Illegal Israeli occupation forces and terrorist settler attacks on an ongoing basis, where they are subjected to severe beatings, insults and violence because they try to protect their family members and homes from attacks launched by the Illegal Israeli occupation forces and settlers. In addition to the high frequency of psychological pressure, pain, fear and frustration, and their increasing negative sense of humiliation and lack of dignity because there is no body to hold the Illegal Israeli occupation forces accountable and there is no protection for them and their families. (Al-Qawasmeh, 2024)

Al-Qawasmeh emphasized that there are many social, psychological and economic effects of the violent practices carried out by the Illegal Israeli occupation forces and terrorist settler attacks against women in the city of Hebron.

Al-Qawasmeh called for the necessity of providing support in all its forms and with different and multiple intervention methodologies, whether social, economic, political, political, policy, legal and humanitarian interventions, and not to be compartmentalized in order to protect women and their families in order to

strengthen their resilience, create a dignified life, respect human rights and social justice, as well as the need to provide psychological and social support services to women, especially those living in closed areas of the city, in addition to Providing income-generating and sustainable economic projects within the available conditions according to the available resources. (Al-Qawasmeh, 2024).

The Medical Relief Foundation, through Ms. Nadia Natsheh, Director of Women's Work in the Hebron branch, stressed the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation and its measures on women in Hebron and called for networking and cooperation between governmental and civil institutions in order to provide real protection for women, and through the integration of roles, work to strengthen the steadfastness of women in all areas of Hebron, and to implement rehabilitation and development programs for women to help them advance their social and economic role. Natsheh pointed out that there is an urgent and real need to implement various and innovative programs and activities to support and empower women socially and economically. And that international tools and charters are used to provide the required protection for women to stop the attacks against them, as well as to protect families who are exposed to the violence of the Illegal Israeli occupation and its terrorist settler attacks on a daily basis in the areas of Hebron, especially the southern and closed areas. (Natsheh, 2024).

Hadeel Tamimi, Director of the Studies and Planning Department in the Hebron Municipality, explained that the amount of pain and fear that women in the Old City of Hebron live with is unbearable and often beyond human endurance. Residents of the Old City of Hebron do not feel safe at all in their homes, due to the repeated attacks and incursions of the army into their homes, especially the psychological violence towards women by the Illegal Israeli occupation forces, which aims mainly and fundamentally to destroy the psychology of women and instill fear in their hearts, the Illegal Israeli occupation army makes repeated incursions into the houses where women live, threatens them and tampers with their personal belongings without any reason or excuse, they also deliberately harass girls at checkpoints, most girls in general are exposed to verbal harassment at checkpoints, which causes them psychological trauma, pain and fear. (Tamimi, 2024).

Hebron Municipality provides all possible means of support through its own resources or through networking and coordination with local and international institutions for

women in the different areas of Hebron, and always seeks to involve women and women's organizations in all activities related to strategic development planning or implementation of programs and projects to be a true partner in making development, protecting the social fabric, and facing the various effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation in all fields. As part of the municipality's commitment to serve all segments of society, it is trying to develop community centers such as Jaber Community Center and Tariq Community Center to be a safe haven for women to alleviate psychological and social pressures, as well as provide them with capacity building and socio-economic empowerment programs.

Al-Sharbati, who is the first deputy mayor of Hebron and the wife of a liberated prisoner, explained that she is fully aware of the role required of women, especially in the absence of the breadwinner or head of the family, and she strives to provide appropriate services for women and help them in their role, by supporting women's groups and institutions and networking with different institutions in order to empower women and protect them from the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation and the consequences of the Illegal Israeli occupation measures. (Sharabati, 2024).



## **7.0 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON WOMEN:**

To discuss possible solutions to address the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women, the third focus discussion workshop was dedicated to discussing these challenges in the presence of the security committee assigned by the Governor of Hebron, with the aim of proposing a set of activities and initiatives that can contribute to mitigating the impact of the Illegal Israeli occupation on women or addressing the effects of the Illegal Israeli occupation in various fields, as follows:

### **Economic Domain:**

- Lobbying to open checkpoints to bring in goods and supplies for small businesses.
- Coordination to allow the opening of small projects for women in the region.
- Providing projects to support women with tools and raw materials to implement small production projects.
- Providing projects to support marketing and marketing exhibitions.
- Coordinating to open the shops and small markets in the old town.
- Set affordable prices for the rehabilitated shops to be used by women.
- Coordinating the delivery of municipal water for drinking and agriculture to closed areas.

### **Freedom of movement:**

- Lobbying through international organizations not to close the area due to issues in other areas.
- Coordinate a dedicated program for the movement of school and university students.
- Lobbying to ease daily movement restrictions on some areas and increase the period of passage to more than 15 hours per day.
- Intensify visits to the campus and the area and its reconstruction.
- Sensitize citizens and residents to changes in laws and cautions (no photography, no ID, etc.).

### **Educational field:**

- Opening the doors of closed schools such as Al-Faihaa, Ziad Jaber, and Al-Ibrahimiya schools for students to enter comfortably through coordination between the liaison and the security committee with the Illegal Israeli occupation.
- The need for the liaison and the security committee to keep abreast of issues before, during and after their occurrence with regard to the movement of students.
- Holding Tawjehi exams inside halls in the closed area with teachers from the same areas, especially the qualified ones.
- Prepare radical solutions for student mobility, such as a special card for students that allows them to pass without hindrance.
- Establishing a primary and secondary school inside the closed areas.
- Strengthening the resilience of the education sector by prioritizing employment for female graduates from the same closed areas.

### **Social and Psychological Domain:**

- Finding creative alternatives to Palestinian security control, and addressing crime through the security committee.
- Providing entertainment programs and services such as food parcels, umrah, and services.

### **Health Domain:**

- Priority for employment in the health sector should be given to qualified locals.
- Providing chronic disease medications to patients.
- Providing high quality health services.
- Improving services at the health clinic and increasing days and medical specialties.
- Providing specialized services such as examining and caring for pregnant women.
- Providing primary and secondary medical tests in the region.
- Holding free medical days and distributing free medicines and tests.
- Fixing appointments and announcing them well in advance.
- Activating the Old City insurance program to include better services.



## 8.0 POLICY AND ADVOCACY RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the specific needs of women and marginalized groups in Hebron, particularly under UNSCR 1325's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, the following actionable recommendations proposed tailored to Hebron's unique socio-political and conflict-affected environment.

### 1. Strengthen Women's Participation in Decision-Making

- **Establish Local Women's Council:** Promote inclusive representation in local governance units and organization by creating women-led council to address community needs and advocate for equitable policies, and foster the adequate representations in all organization.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide leadership training for women, especially from marginalized communities, to enhance their roles in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes.
- **Youth Engagement:** Encourage young women's participation in civil society organizations through mentorship programs and scholarships aimed at fostering leadership in peace and security.

### 2. Address Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- **Legal Reforms and Accountability:** Lobby for stronger enforcement of laws against GBV and the establishment of local reporting mechanisms that ensure survivor confidentiality.
- **Community Awareness Campaigns:** Use culturally sensitive media campaigns to educate communities about women's rights and GBV prevention, particularly targeting men and boys to challenge discriminatory norms.
- **Survivor Support Services:** Advocate for accessible shelters, psychological support, and healthcare facilities specifically for survivors of violence, ensuring services cater to diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

### 3. Promote Economic Empowerment

- **Microfinance Initiatives:** Partner with local and international organizations to provide microfinance loans, grants and seed fund and skill-building programs for women, empowering them to start businesses and gain economic independence.
- **Safe Employment Opportunities:** Advocate for policies that ensure safe working environments for women, particularly in sectors like agriculture, leather shows, gold formation, and trade that dominate Hebron's economy.

#### 4. Advocacy and Lobbying at National and International Levels

- **National Level:**
  - Push for the integration of UNSCR 1325 principles into Palestine's National Action Plan (NAP), ensuring specific measures for Hebron.
  - Advocate for the inclusion of women in formal peace negotiations with clear mandates to address their unique concerns.
  - Partner with Palestinian lawmakers to draft legislation ensuring women's protection and equal participation in governance.
- **International Level:**
  - Engage UN-Women, NATO, and other global stakeholders to spotlight the situation in Hebron, emphasizing the unique challenges faced by women under Illegal Israeli occupation and conflict.
  - Collaborate with international civil society to pressure donor countries to allocate resources for gender-sensitive programs in Hebron.
  - Leverage platforms like the UN Human Rights Council to raise awareness about the impacts of Israeli settlement expansion and military actions on women and marginalized groups.

#### 5. Implement Community-Centered Prevention Measures

- **Dialogue and Mediation Programs:** Foster intercommunity dialogues to address grievances and build trust between divided groups, ensuring women are active participants.
- **Early Warning Mechanisms:** Develop localized systems to monitor and report risks of violence, integrating women's perspectives to ensure responsiveness to gender-specific threats.
- **Education Initiatives:** Promote peace education in schools, highlighting the importance of women's contributions to conflict prevention and resolution.

#### 6. Monitor and Evaluate Progress

- **Establish Independent Oversight Committees:** Create committees composed of local and international stakeholders to monitor the implementation of gender-sensitive policies and initiatives in Hebron.
- **Use Data for Advocacy:** Collect gender-disaggregated data on violence, economic participation, and political inclusion to build evidence-based advocacy campaigns.

## 9.0 APPENDICES

- Data tables
- Transcripts for the three focus group meetings
- Case studies and testimonials
- List of Participants



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