



Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development
جمعية المرأة العاملة الفلسطينية للتنمية

Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development Grassroots Approach



Annual Narrative Report - 2016
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1. Executive Summary

Main Highlights during 2016

1. Civic and political participation: PWWSD continued to mobilize women and organize them in various bodies and structures, mainly in shadow councils, which are support structures for women members in local councils, as a means to enhance women's civic and political participation and prepare them to become agents of change and active members in decision-making positions. During 2016, PWWSD established 23 new shadow councils across the West Bank and Gaza Strip with 153 women and young women as members, totaling the number of shadow councils established since 2013 to 73. The shadow councils play an active role in 1) supporting newly-elected women members of local councils, 2) encouraging and supporting women and young women to run for local councils, 3) monitoring the work and plans of local councils from a gender perspective. With regard to local elections, PWWSD worked intensively with women in all locations to raise their awareness on the importance of participating in the local elections, both as voters and as candidates. One outcome of the work of shadow councils is that 50 members of these councils have registered as candidates for the upcoming local elections. However, the announcement of the postponement of the date of the elections and the proposal to amend the Law of Local Elections negatively affected the decline of public freedoms and the political participation of women, which led PWWSD to intensify activities related to pressure to set a new date for the elections and to pressure the Ministry of Local Government to open community and sectoral dialogues to involve women and the society in these dialogues.

2. Working women's rights: PWWSD worked intensively with women workers from various sectors, mainly the beauty sector, through: 1) raising their awareness of their labor rights, 2) encouraging them to join existing unions or establish new ones, 3) monitored labor violations in the work place and provided women workers with legal support, 4) and continued to support the work of the Syndicate of Private Schools & Kindergarten Owners. This aimed to increase their participation in decision-making and public life, particularly in running and being elected for decision-making positions. In this regard, a founding committee was established for women workers in the beauty sector.

3. Lobbying and advocacy and policy dialogue: PWWSD participated intensively in various lobbying and advocacy efforts on national, regional and international levels to hold Israel accountable for human rights violations against Palestinian women and children. One example is the meeting with the United Nations Special Envoy on Combating Violence against Women, with the aim of providing live testimonies from victims of Israeli human rights violations, and discussing Palestinian women's right to peace, security and protection based on UNSCR 1325.

4. Mobilization and campaigns for the amendment of laws: PWWSD actively participated in the mass national mobilization for the amendment of the draft Social Security Law and the monitoring of the Minimum Wage Law. PWWSD was represented in the Committee of the National Campaign for the Social Security Law, composed of civil society organizations and the private sector, which conducted lobbying actions on the Law, such as launching a national discussion on the draft Law, and submitting recommendations for the amendment of the Law. With reference to the Minimum Wage Law, PWWSD organized a protest in front of the Ministerial Council to demand the activation of the role of the Ministry of Labor in monitoring the application of the Law.



5. Joint and/or complementary actions: PWWSD is member in a number of national networks and coalitions, and there was intensified coordination with relevant civil society and governmental organizations, such as the members of the National Referral System for Abused Women, whereby cases of abused women were referred from and to the member organizations. In this regard, PWWSD actions complement those of other relevant bodies to guarantee an efficient and wider provision of services to the target groups. Another example is PWWSD's leading role in a joint national campaign titled: "I and You ... One Homeland", together with a number of partners (UN Women, local women's and media organizations) to enhance women's participation in the upcoming elections, both as voters and as candidates. Moreover, through its Mobile Psycho-social Units, PWWSD coordinated with various PA ministries, such as Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs, to provide psycho-social support services to minors in schools in various marginalized locations in the West Bank.

6. Sensitizing the community towards women's issues: PWWSD played an important role in opening discussion of sensitive issues related to women's rights and gender equality, such as its campaign to protect women from sexual exploitation through social media networks, and its efforts to confront religious fundamentalism. Such actions contributed in expanding the circle of community dialogue on women's issues, promoting women's rights and increasing the local community's knowledge of them, and helped PWWSD promote the feminist discourse, which resulted in different levels of interaction with PWWSD's activities, particularly in the light of the organized attack launched by fundamentalist religious trends. For example, the campaign on "The Protection of Women and Girls from Sexual Exploitation through Social Media Networks" had a positive impact on the community as a whole, indicated through the level of high interaction of society and political parties, and contributed to increasing the knowledge of the local community, especially with the use of audiovisual media and the recruitment of citizen support.

The prevailing political situation in occupied Palestine affects the entire community in general, and women in particular. In fact, women are the most affected, as they suffer from the external practices of the Israeli occupation as well as from a patriarchal system governing their lives, the absence of indiscriminating laws and the spread of social negative phenomenon such as gender-based violence. Moreover, despite the latest developments in women's status and participation, yet, the judiciary system is not performing a reasonable role in protecting women's rights in spite of the endorsement of CEDAW by PNA. Women's lives are still controlled by a patriarchal system, their participation is still limited, and they are still unable to focus on their individual rights and their empowerment. PWWSD strongly believes that the required tool to achieve women empowerment is through involving women themselves in the process of defending their rights and advocating for them. Consequently, it works mainly on empowering women and increasing their involvement in public life on the base of equal citizenship and full rights. This includes educating women about their rights, as well as developing their capacities and providing them with the access to defend these rights. Educational activities are considered a tool to push women towards a phase where they are capable of defending their rights and functioning as agents of change on more than one level. In addition, PWWSD works on creating supportive public opinion of women's rights in order to achieve the second level of empowerment. Believing in the importance of laws, the organization lobbies and advocates towards issuance of modern set of Palestinian laws that could provide



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protection for women. The focus is on promoting women's rights on the base of human rights and equal citizenship as well. Achieving good governance within the Palestinian community is essential in democratizing the public life and providing all individuals with the opportunity to participate. In this regard, the organization works through lobbying and advocacy campaigns in order to amend the laws that are capable of protecting women's rights. Additionally, PWWSD offers counselling and psychological consultation services, crisis intervention and awareness sessions, works to develop the capacities of women in the face of domestic and societal violence, and seeks to change and create conditions that respect human rights in general and women's rights in particular, and combating discrimination on the social and legal levels.

PWWSD is in constant quest to maintain a **balance between the political and social rights**: on one hand it initiates and participates in activities of a national character, and on the other hand it focuses on activities of a social, economic nature that aim to change the reality of women in order to ensure justice and equality. PWWSD targets women in all the localities (cities, towns, and villages) throughout occupied Palestine, and works on recruiting additional resources in order to fulfil its tasks and access new groups of women. The activities are derived mainly from the needs of women themselves, identified based on direct contacts with the target groups and the needs assessment that is conducted with the groups. In 2016, all activities were implemented according to plan, to achieve the program's strategic goal of contributing to women's empowerment and strengthening their participation in all aspect of life, on the basis of gender-equality and women's rights as human rights. To achieve the strategic goal, measurable objectives were set in 4 main areas:

I. Women themselves: This is in terms of raising women's awareness of their legal and civil rights, and developing their capacity to defend these rights. To reach this objective, many activities were implemented such as workshops, trainings, expanded meetings, discussion sessions, litigation for women, as well as office, phone, and field consultations. The program also targeted women's grassroots institutions and CBOs, aiming to strengthen their participation in social change. It also implemented broad activities encouraging women to organize in various committees and bodies such as labor unions, cooperatives, and shadow council. Women workers were a main focus, particularly in the beauty sector, and in supporting the work of the Syndicate of Private Schools & Kindergarten Owners. This aimed to increase their participation in decision-making and public life, particularly in running and being elected for decision-making positions. Other activities included lectures, discussion circles, and educational activities. In addition to the integration of targeted women in many national mobilization activities, in order to increase women's participation in the struggle for women's rights and human rights. Activities were also implemented to increase women's role in anti-corruption efforts, in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Commission.

II. Decision-makers: This is in terms of an increased willingness of influencers to fulfill their moral and legal obligations and commitment to strengthening women's rights. To reach this objective, a number of lobbying and advocacy activities were implemented. These included expanded meetings, joining coalitions, continuing last year's campaign for protecting women and girls from exploitation through social media, launching a new campaign on minimum wage and social security law, as well as individual and group lobbying meetings with decision makers including legislative councilmembers, ministers, party leaders, community leaders, politicians, etc. Lobbying and advocacy included participating in meetings and conferences on international and regional levels,



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which aimed to highlight women's social and political issues in the context of the occupation, as the Israeli occupation's practices violate women's rights. This aimed to lobby international influencers to take responsibility for holding Israel accountable for its crimes.

III. Local community: This is in terms of raising the community's awareness and sensitivity to gender-equality. To reach this objective, several activities were implemented including media activities, expanded meetings, educational activities, as well as integrating the local community in gender advocacy by continuing to form new shadow councils, which support elected women in local councils. In addition to following up with the councils formed in past years.

IV. Women's participation in the labor market: This is in terms of strengthening and empowering women's economy. To reach this objective, several activities were implemented including workshops and meetings on economic and civil rights as well as the importance of women's economic participation and social protection. Additionally activities include various trainings and follow up visits to cooperatives formed last year, and providing them with supplies and equipment that helped develop their production, as well as launching marketing campaigns.

During the reporting period, the most notable achievements include:

- 1) Organizing women in shadow councils: More women were organized in shadow councils, as support structures for women members in local councils, and as a means to enhance women's civic and political participation and prepare them to become agents of change and active members in decision-making positions. In this regard, PWWS won Al-Manara Award for Gender Equality which focuses on three fields of Gender Equality. PWWS has competed with several organizations on "Women as active citizens – capacity development for decisions-making" and has got the first place in Women Shadow Councils in local government. The initiative focuses on empowering women to take part in political, community, and developmental fields as well as enhancing their leadership roles in the marginalized areas.
- 2) Expanding the dimension of women's economic empowerment, through the continued support of 10 cooperatives and 1 women's group in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where PWWS is present. The cooperatives received assistance to develop their resources and production and raise their capacity to ensure the success of their economic role in the management of these cooperatives.
- 3) Increased networking, lobbying and policy dialogue with local, regional and international organizations, and more partnerships are established. In this regard, PWWS participated in preparing the National Plan for the National Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- 4) More women have to access justice, through consulting services and litigation.
- 5) Opening horizons for women to raise their voices and express the extent of the suffering they face as a result of the occupation, through organizing a range of national lobbying activities.
- 6) Strengthening women's national and social roles, through the participation in various national activities, whether of political or social nature.
- 7) Providing women and minors with psycho-social counselling services, including counselling and consultations, either in the office, field or through an open line, the work was intensified with the activation of children-friendly psycho-social mobile clinics in the West Bank. Such clinics intensified the work with the target groups, i.e. women and minors, and enhanced the coordination with the Ministry of Education. PWWS also provides community awareness sessions and crises



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intervention activities. The counselling services are provided in a complementary manner with other services, such as legal services.

8) *Sensitizing the community towards women's issues*, PWWSD is leading a campaign, together with a number of partners (UN Women, local women's and media organizations) to enhance women's participation in the upcoming elections, both as voters and as candidates.

9) *Strengthening the influential role of PWWSD* and its role as an effective reference for governmental and non-governmental organizations. PWWSD seeks to provide integrated services through cooperation and coordination with governmental and civil society organizations. In this regard, PWWSD is part of the national referral system, whereby cases are referred to and from the organization to other GOs and NGOs working in the same field according to the needs of the case.

2. General Background and Context

2016 witnessed the continuation of oppressive occupation practices, political dead ends, continued settlement expansion, Judaization of Jerusalem, as well as the continued impact of Israeli aggression and war on the Gaza Strip on economic, social, and psychological levels, as a result of continued siege and delayed reconstruction. These are all factors that caused an increased level of the occupation's impact on people's lives, and on women in particular. Not to mention the destructive effects of continued Palestinian division over the recent years, whereby this will take decades to repair the internal rift inside every Palestinian citizen. Added to that, is the decline of liberties and democratic life in Palestine, due the legislative council's work coming to a halt, which marked the end of parliamentary supervision and legislation.

On the political level, the West Bank suffers from daily violations of the rights of Palestinians in the form of daily assaults, incursions and raids by the Israeli occupation army and the illegal settlers, manifesting in murder, detainment, land confiscation, dispossession of rights of life and mobility and lack of economic, social, cultural, political and psychological stability. Settlement activity continued to escalate by building and expanding settlements, which limits women's access to services, deeply impacting dignified living conditions, combined with increasing daily violations of women and girls' rights to security and protection. Such escalation in the violations of the occupation has led to popular uprising of October 2015. The Gaza Strip is still under siege, and is still suffering from the aftermath of the latest Israeli aggression in the Summer of 2014, and the internal division between Fateh and Hamas. There were a number of events that took place in 2016, which have an important effect on the Palestinian cause and society, mainly the on-going Al-Quds Intifada against the occupation, which left hundreds of Palestinians martyred, injured and detained, including women and children.

The **economic level** is closely related to the Israeli colonial measures. The general situation is still difficult, with women being the most vulnerable group. As Israel controls the natural resources of the West Bank, many Palestinians remain dependent on external relief aids. Land confiscation and settlement activities have reached unprecedented levels, with Palestinians being prohibited from accessing almost 60% of the West Bank. Consequently, there is an increase in unemployment and poverty rates. Most women in the labour force, either on the formal or informal levels, are involved in the agricultural sector, hence, the damage caused to this sector by the wall, resulted in a devastating impact on women. Women's reality has been deeply impacted by these circumstances and factors. Despite the women's movement's struggle to change this reality, Palestinian women experience discriminatory circumstances on all levels. In spite of the increase in women's education, their participation in the labor market remains low, barely surpassing 19%, the lowest



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percentage in comparison with other countries. In addition to the continuing rise in rates of unemployment among people in general and women in particular, where the economic environment continues to be characterized by the decline in the growth rate and limited job opportunities. Also, the expansion of employment opportunities, despite their limitations, tends to favour males than females, and the gender gap is still visible on the level of participation in the labour force, wage rates and unemployment. This applies also to poverty, where its severity increases with the increasing repressive Israeli measures that stifle local resources, both human and financial. Women and children are classified as the poorest of the poor, and additional roles fall on women's shoulders as a result.

The economic level sheds its light on the **social level**, where the provision of services is still below the average. Several negative phenomena dominate the Palestinian community: Violence against women is on the rise, alongside with other discriminatory practices. Women in Palestine are being killed on the basis of the so-called family honour, while their killers receive lenient sentences. During 2016, 17 women were killed. Through follow-up of cases of killed women, it was found that domestic violence (which has many causes such as unemployment, poverty, lack of dialogue and the social culture that promote violence and discrimination) is one of the key motives for killing women. The psycho-social circumstances in oPt are still difficult, as the instability in the political and economic circumstances is reflected on the social level. In general, domestic violence, violence in the school and the community, it is still on the rise in the Palestinian society, and particularly Palestinian women suffer from social, legal and domestic violence, according to the data from PWWSD's psycho-social Counselling Program and to a 2011 survey on the indicators of violence in Palestine, conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, which shows that about 37% of the women had been subjected to a form of violence by their husbands (30% in the West compared to 51% in Gaza), while the percentage of those subjected to economic violence is 55%, and social violence 54.8%, and physical violence 23.5%, and sexual violence 11.8%, and these statistics do not reflect all aspects of violence against women, whether because of what the official statements missed or the cases unreported for various reasons. Violence against women is not limited to violence against women to the house, according to the survey, about 5% of women were subjected to psychological violence in the streets and 1.3% were subjected to sexual harassment and 0.6% were subjected to physical violence. In contrast, 4.0% of the women experienced psychological violence by service providers in areas of public service delivery in addition to the escalation of killings of women in recent years. This is due to the Jordanian Penal Code of 1965 applied in the West Bank, and the Egyptian Law of 1930 applied in the Gaza Strip, both of which legitimize gender-based violence and provide mitigated sentences for murderers of women. Despite a Presidential Decree declaring any killing of women a crime, texts remain in the law that help murderers of women escape punishment. Also, the number of cases seeking safe houses for protection from killing and death threats increased. This is as a result of several reasons, most notably the repressive actions of the occupation, the deteriorating economic situation, customs and community traditions and obstacles in women's access to justice and the law, which have negative effects, particularly on women. Through networking and coordination with governmental and non-governmental service providers, there are many cases of attempted murder that are not registered and documented in the reports of such organizations. The report on the cases of violence prepared by the Counselling Program shows that there is an increase in 2016, with 166 documented cases of violence, and 10 cases were protected from death through self and legal empowerment or referral to other relevant organizations.

On the **internal level**, there are no developments with regard to the reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas, despite the great efforts by many parties to end the division. Also, the local elections, planned to take place on 08.10.2016, were postponed to 13.05.2017, which left a state of frustration



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among Palestinians. However, a new date was set for the local elections to take place on 13.05.2017 and only in the West Bank. Hopes were high that the local elections will lead to the long-awaited presidential elections and elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). Also, there is continued mobilization that started following Palestine joining a number of international treaties and conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which is considered a progress step towards upholding women's rights, but the main challenge remains to make these commitments applicable and not mere slogans. Nonetheless the struggle for its inclusion in local laws continues.

At the level of political participation and decision-making, the status of women remained as it is due to the continued disruption of the presidential and legislative elections on one hand, on the other hand the continued exclusion of women from dialogues to end the division, especially in the committees of reconciliation that emerged from the agreements which are devoid of women. The postponed local elections place responsibility on the PLO to honor the commitment of its Central Council to raise women's quota to 30%, and open opportunities for women to strengthen their role in political participation, despite the exclusionary tactics they still face. Despite this achievement, the challenge remains in the practical and legal measures to include these agreements in the procedures and policies and local laws.

The PLC is yet not functioning and consequently, on the **legal level**, the Palestinian community is still living without national laws. The continued disruption of the legislative environment is the result of the occupation's repressive measures on one hand, and on the other hand absence of horizon for national reconciliation and ending the state of division, which delayed the preparation for the presidential and legislative elections as an outcome of the reconciliation agreement. This affects women's legal rights, both in terms of monitoring the application of Palestinian laws applicable, such as the Basic and labour Laws, or in terms of the deficiencies in the adoption of important laws for women, such as the Family and Penal Laws. Despite the presidential decree to suspend articles 340 (a and b) within the operating Penal Law, yet the decree is not implemented in the courts. Crimes against women are treated as if they were acts to protect male's honour in accordance with the previous mentioned article. The courts are not performing the role they should in the process of protecting individual rights in general and women's rights in particular. Also, despite the fact that the women's movement, and as a result of the lobbying and advocacy activities, was able to achieve some achievements, such as freezing Article 97 of the Penal Law, preceded by a presidential decree to cancel the terms unfair to women in the Penal Law and to consider murder under the pretext of so-called family honour a crime punishable by law, nonetheless, these efforts remain largely ineffective and not enough to stop the killing of women and to deter aggressors in light of the legal texts that still give the opportunity to the offender to impunity, specifically with the increasing violation of human rights, the suppression of freedoms, political arrests and the inaction of the legislative environment, and in light of the continued existence of a legal environment that fosters discrimination against women and does not deal with them as citizens with full rights, especially the continued absence of Family and Penal Laws.

3. Objectives and Activities Implemented during the Reporting Period

With reference to PWWSD's Strategic Plan and the planned activities for 2016, and being aware of women's needs and as grassroots organization, during the reporting period, PWWSD focused on the following activities within its program:

Strategic Objective I: Palestinian women in OPT targeted by the program are empowered, widely involved and actively participate in public as well as in private sphere.



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To achieve this strategic objective, PWWSD worked on achieving the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: By the end of 2019, Palestinian women targeted by the program in OPT are aware of their legal and civic rights and have the capacity to advocate these rights.

Outcome: 1.1 Women participate in awareness raising and capacity building activities on legal and civic rights, and demonstrate increased awareness of these rights and are better able to influence and take initiative to defend their rights.

In 2016, **5331** women, young men and women participated regularly and effectively in the educational activities implemented by PWWSD. The work methodology in 2016 was built on the basis of vertical work with the targeted groups, in order to achieve a knowledge accumulation of the target groups, and to monitor the output resulting from the workshops through the use of pre- and post-questionnaires, which are considered an indicator of the cumulative change in working with groups. The cumulative workshops were preceded by a workshop to monitor and assess the needs of each group in order to determine their topics. Also, the work in 2016 was marked by the fact that some women and male and female youth beneficiaries of community outreach transferred their knowledge and cognitive experiences, gained from the awareness workshops, to other groups, which in turn contributed to the expansion of knowledge about PWWSD's services, as well as the issues raised. 2016 was also marked by targeting male youth groups, which is in line with the trend of PWWSD, and the participation of a number of influential decision-makers in a number of workshops, such as heads and members of local councils, members of the student boards in universities, directors and coordinators of the Central Election Commission in a number of areas, representatives of the Gender Unit Type at the Ministry of Local Government in a number of areas, lawyers, heads of vocational centers, representatives of CBOs, feminists activists, and representatives of a number of PA ministries.

1.1.1 Awareness-raising activities: During the reporting period, **(600)** workshops and lectures were implemented for **(5197)** beneficiaries, such as worker women, housewives, young women and men, male and female students, female members of CBOs, female representatives of women's and human rights organizations, female members of political parties, female members of shadow councils, female academics, feminist and community leaders and worker groups. The activities were conducted in all locations where PWWSD is active the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The topics varied according to the needs of the target groups and the speciality of the workshop, and handled the issue of women's rights as human right, and covered: 1) Worker rights, political participation, gender, legal and economic rights, and life skills topics. Moreover, **(1)** seminar was organized with **(30)** participants on the postponement of the local elections and **(2)** study circles with **(104)** participants on women's access to justice and women's political participation.

Outcome: - The workshops on **workers' rights** targeted working women in a variety of sectors, including cosmetics, secretarial work and kindergarten teachers, as well as trainees in colleges and vocational training centers to inform them on the situation of the labor market prior to their involvement in it, and the rights guaranteed to them by the Palestinian Labor Law and the Minimum Wage Law. The aim of the workshops was to raise awareness among women on their legal and trade union rights and encourage working women to join unions. One direct outcome of these workshops was to increase women's knowledge of their rights, workers' fundamental right of expression, freedom of opinion, the right of trade union organization and the rights enshrined in the Palestinian Labor Law or international conventions, such as CEDAW and international labor regulations. Additionally, a dialogue was created with the targeted women about the importance of trade union organization, which encouraged them to start the formation of workers' committees according to their professional sectors. Other direct outcomes of the workshops include the fact



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that many female workers benefited from the workers' legal consultation provided by PWWSD through its offices, as well as over the phone, whether in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, and a number of violations have been documented, after which a number of beneficiaries were referred to present labor cases in front of cases, whether through PWWSD lawyers, trade unions or the labor office.

- The workshops on **political participation** were implemented for various groups, especially members of shadow councils, local councils, youth groups such as university student and housewives. The aim of these workshops was to increase the targeted women's political awareness of their political rights and the importance of their participation in public life, as well as to encourage them to participate in the upcoming municipal and local elections as voters and as candidates, particularly that the date of local elections has been announced and was later postponed to 2017. The direct outcomes of these workshops include: 1) raise the level of women's awareness of their political rights, especially their right to run for the election, 2) some women announced their desire to stand for election, 3) contribute to the increase in the number of those registered in the electoral register according to the statement of one of the directors at the Central Election Commission, 4) a number of volunteers implemented workshops related to the elections in rural areas, 5) the creation of support committees for women candidates in the elections.

- The workshops on **gender topics** were implemented with the majority of the groups targeted by PWWSD in 2016, considering that raising awareness on gender issues is a pivotal and key issue, because all the other issues and topics are based on it. The participants include: youth groups of university student, groups of trainees in vocational training centers of the Ministry of Labor, as well as women in the locations of the shadow councils. The aim of these workshops was to increase the awareness of these groups on the concepts of gender, make them aware of the discrimination against women and encourage them to take appropriate steps to defend the rights of women. Although the outcomes related to gender issues are long-term, non the less the pre and post questionnaires filled in by the participants indicated some outcomes, including: 1) increased knowledge of women and youth groups in gender issues, especially gender-based violence, and they have knowledge of the sources of support for the protection of women from violence and knowledge of the institutions that offer services of empowerment, prevention and protection from violence, 2) a number of beneficiaries transferred their experiences and acquired information to other groups through the implementation of activities and workshops (the transfer of knowledge and experience gained from beneficiary to beneficiary).

- The workshops on **legal topics** were implemented for various groups, especially youth groups and housewives, and in coordination with a number of grassroots organizations (CBOs). The aim of these workshops is to raise the awareness of women, particularly young women, of their legal rights and to inform them of the local sources of support in order to facilitate women's access to justice and inform them of the judicial proceedings necessary to follow up their cases if they do decide to take steps and procedures. The main outcomes monitored through pre and post questionnaires, which resulted from the workshops, include: 1) increased knowledge of the target groups of women's legal rights, as well as the mechanisms of the legal and judicial proceedings followed the courts, 2) increase in the number of cases addressing PWWSD to seek its services, whether to request legal services, such as consultations and litigations or to request psycho-social services, such as individual sessions, or field, office and phone legal consultations, 3) part of these workshops have been implemented through trainee lawyers who received a number of trainings and professional supervision sessions, and as a result they were commitment to transfer the knowledge they gained to other community groups. This in turn promotes the concept of volunteer work amongst them and also raises the level of social responsibility of trainee lawyers, which will help in the future in their involvement to defend women as duty-bearers.



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- The workshops on ***economic topics*** targeted various groups, such as housewives and young women, but the focus was on female members of cooperatives, as well as the women who run projects or have project ideas. These workshops aimed to increase women's knowledge of women's economic rights as well as civil rights and economic environment and the law of cooperatives, providing them with the skills to ensure good management of cooperatives and to raise the level of cooperatives' work, quality control and marketing. The outcomes of these workshops were monitored through pre and post questionnaires, as well as through an assessment report that was prepared in this regard and through the quotations of the beneficiaries. All these sources indicated the increase in women's knowledge of economic rights for women, as well as encouraged them to raise the level of cooperative management and production, especially that awareness was accompanied by marketing campaigns and training workshops. The beneficiaries' skills in cooperative management were also enhanced, leading to improved product quality, as well as expanding the horizons of marketing.
- The workshops on ***life skills topics*** were implemented for diverse groups, based on a needs study came of the groups, and aimed at strengthening them and building a balanced character that is capable of engaging in defending her private issues and the issues of women in general.
- In general, there was increased knowledge of the participants of their rights based on providing them with new human rights and civil rights concepts, such as the concept of transformative leadership, and increased their readiness to participate and interact with the activities of PWWSD and other community activities, because work with them was on a cumulative basis.
- The workshops contributed to raising the level of networking and coordination with CBOs, civil society organizations, women's rights and political party leaders.
- Targeted women were informed about the legal, political and social surrounding environment and opened up horizons and support sources for them, which was reflected through the benefit of women from the services of PWWSD, especially the service of legal and counseling services.
- As an outcome of the awareness workshops on the importance of women's participation in the local elections, 14 supportive committees of women candidates to local elections were created with 126 members, including women, male and female youth, aiming at providing support to women candidates when local elections take place.
- The seminar and the study circles were characterized by the fact that the participants were male and female, which enriched the debate. These activities provided an opportunity for the participants to go deep into quality issues of concern to women and youth. They also contributed to opening discussions on these topics between community groups and decision-makers.

1.1.2 Training Workshops: During the reporting period, (34) trainings were implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and benefiting (609) participants, including female lawyers, trainee female lawyers, women members of shadow councils, women members of local councils, women candidates to local councils' elections, women members of cooperatives, women workers, male and female members of the Family Protection Unit in the Police, women members of CBOs.

Outcome: - The outcomes were monitored through pre- and post-questionnaires, which indicated the contribution of the training on gender in increasing the knowledge of the participating workers' sectors in the concepts of gender and international references of these concepts, especially CEDAW.

- These economic trainings aimed at helping women to become economically independent, as well as the enhancing the administrative and organizational capacity of the targeted cooperatives to serve the improvement of the quality of production, reduce costs, expand the horizons of marketing and the development of personal, administrative and financial skills of members of the cooperatives. The outcomes were monitored through quotations and evaluation reports of the beneficiaries who participated in the trainings, whereby these documents pointed to several



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outcomes, including: 1) increased knowledge in the discussed topics, 2) enhancing the administrative, financial and bookkeeping skills of the female members of the cooperatives, 3) expanding the circle of marketing through participation in exhibitions, whether at the PWWSD permanent exhibition in Ramallah or participating in exhibitions organized by PWWSD or other institutions. These skills were reinforced through the practical on-job trainings implemented on the ground at the cooperatives' sites, which enhanced the learning skills of the participants and expanded the circle of training beneficiaries.

- The legal training aimed to increase the knowledge of lawyers in the discussed topics and provide them with skills in dealing with the issues of the courts in terms of regulations and judicial proceedings concerning women's issues related to UNSR 1325 and CEDAW. The outcomes indicated that the desired goal was achieved through the trainings, whether the increase in knowledge of the trainees in the topics related to international conventions, provide them with the skills needed to deal with women cases in courts, and raise their willingness to work in the defense of women's legal rights. As a direct outcome of the trainings, the most active trainees were selected to participate in legal supervision sessions conducted by a legal expert, after which they transferred their gained expertise and knowledge to feminist and youth groups, through the implementation of legal awareness workshops for a number of PWWSD's target groups following a needs assessment of the most pressing legal topics.

- The aim of trainings on workers' rights was to increase the knowledge of working men and women participants of the ToT in gender concepts, notably the principle of equality in general and in the workplace in particular, being one of the basic principles of CEDAW. The training sessions contributed to changing the thinking patterns of the trainees and the way they perceive issues that concern them, their self-esteem and appreciation of their surroundings, themselves, their roles and their various rights, particularly that some female participants expressed their pre-training lack of knowledge of gender concepts and their wish to dig deeper into these concepts after the completion of the training because they are tied to their daily lives. It is worth mentioning that, as an outcome of the ToT, the trainees will transfer their newly acquired knowledge to other workers' groups.

- As a direct outcome of trainings received by women, a number of them carried out workshops on the role of women in combating corruption in coordination with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission.

Deviation: As a positive deviation to the Operational Plan, (5) additional trainings were implemented for (85) additional male and female youth participants in Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarim and Hebron, which aimed to increase their knowledge about the rights of women and encourage them to engage in defending them and developing their personal skills. The trainings were characterized by being vertical\cumulative.

Outcome: - The trainings contributed to increase the knowledge and skills of the participants, especially on women rights, and encourage them to participate in defending them, and open horizons to increase their ability to influence and transfer their knowledge to other groups.

- Opened to the participants an opportunity to deepen the discussion in specific issues of interest to women, particularly young women, and contributed to opening discussions on these topics between community circles surrounding participating groups.

- Contributed to raising the youths' sense of responsibility and raising the level of willingness to contribute to the process of societal change and their desire to volunteer.



1.1.3 Open meetings, discussion sessions and public meetings: During the reporting period, (11)¹ open panels/meetings were implemented, benefiting (717) participants, including (629) women and young women and (88) men and young men. The participants included: housewives, women and young women, representatives of governmental and civil society organizations, duty-bearers and decision-makers, female lawyers, male and female media personnel, male and female volunteers, feminist leaders, women workers, women unionists and PWWSD employees. The open panels/meetings discussed the topics of integrity, transparency and combating corruption based on the Law and mechanisms to Combat Corruption, the Social Security Law, women political participation and women's role in reconciliation, enhancing the role of women in local elections, postponing the local elections and the suggested adjustments to the local government law.

Outcome: The open panels/meetings and discussion sessions contributed in increasing the knowledge and skills of the participants and open prospects to increase their ability to influence and transfer knowledge for other groups, and encouraged them to expand their involvement in PWWSD's activities. They also opened up opportunities for women to express their issues in front of decision-makers and human rights organizations, and contributed in lobbying duty-bearers to take women's issues seriously, considering that women rights is a community responsibility and is not limited to women. Additionally, these meetings contributed in expanding the circles of debate on women's issues. These activities were characterized by the participation of officials and decision-makers, and male and female youth groups, whereby these events contributed to breaking down the barriers between them.

Deviation: As a positive deviation, (1) open panel was conducted in Tulkarim with (37) participants on women's access to justice. Also, 6 discussion sessions were implemented for (138) participants in Ramallah, Nablus, Bethlehem, Tulkarim and Jenin on various topics related to women's access to justice and women's rights.

Outcome 1.2: More targeted women are organized and playing leading role in CBOs, trade unions, and different forms and structures.

More women and youth were organized in various bodies and structures, such as:

- (35) youth and women groups (18 women groups and 17 youth groups) with a total of (625) participants, whereby each group consists of 15-20 participants.
- (23) new shadow councils were created with (153) women and young women as members. Additionally, PWWSD continued working with (50) shadow councils created in 2013/2014 and followed up with them, totalling the number of shadow councils PWWSD works with to (73) councils. The shadow councils play an active role in supporting newly-elected women members of local councils and monitor the work and plans of local councils from a gender perspective. This experience has become a model for other organizations.
- Follow-up of work with (9) cooperatives. Additionally, 3 new cooperatives were created.
- Implementation of activities with (76) CBOs in marginalized areas targeted by PWWSD.
- PWWSD continued work and follow-up with (3) groups of working women in the beauty sector in Ramallah, Tulkarim and Nablus. Additionally, 1 labour group was created in Ramallah for female workers in the beauty sector composed of 18 members, and establishing a founding committee for women workers in beauty sector.
- PWWSD continued work with (6) women's neighbourhood committees that were formed in 2015. Additionally, (3) neighbourhood committees were formed in Ramallah.

¹ Planned were 12 open panels/meetings, but one was deleted based on request of donor.



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- PWWSD continued its work with workers and trainees in the beauty sector in Ramallah, Nablus and Tulkarim areas with the aim of encouraging them to establish a syndicate to defend their causes. Also, PWWSD continues its work and implementation of activities with the Union of Workers in Kindergartens.

Outcome: - The activities contributed to increasing the knowledge and skills of the participants and open horizons to increase their ability to influence and transfer their knowledge to other groups.

- Women's interest increased to organize themselves in bodies and structures that enhance their demands for their rights, especially the Union of Workers in Kindergartens, which plays an important and effective role in reflecting the issues of women in this sector, including lobbying and advocating the cabinet and the Minister of Labour to monitor the implementation of the Minimum Wage Law.

- Shadow councils play an active role in supporting women to run for local councils, especially that shadow councils are elected and monitor the plans and work of local councils from a gender perspective. The initiative of shadow councils has become a model for other civil society organizations. One outcome of the work of shadow councils is that 50 members of these councils have registered as candidates for the upcoming local elections.

Outcome 1.3: More targeted women are encouraged to participate on the various decision-making levels.

With regard to local elections, and following the announcement of the Cabinet to hold local elections on 08.10.2016, PWWSD worked intensively with women in all locations through shadow councils to raise women's awareness on the importance of holding elections and preparing women to run for elections and participate in the upcoming electoral process. PWWSD targeted women potential election candidates, including shadow councils, through workshops and trainings. In preparation, 15 members of the new and old shadow councils, established by PWWSD, were delegated in 2015 to escort members of local councils, and in some cases accompany heads of local councils. The shadowing opportunities were resumed in 2016, whereby 27 members of shadow councils were delegated to shadow decision-makers. The shadow councils' members accompanied female members or the head of local councils for a period of up to 3 weeks. However, the announcement of the postponement of the date of the elections by the Prime Minister negatively affected the decline of public freedoms and the political participation of women, which led PWWSD to intensify activities related to pressure to set a new date for the elections. On the other hand and after the Minister of Local Government submitted a proposal to amend the Law of Local Elections, PWWSD intensified its activities to pressure the Ministry of Local Government to open community and sectoral dialogues to involve women and the society in these dialogues.

Outcome: The shadowing opportunities contributed to the activation of the role and community activism of the members of shadow councils. They also helped increase the members' confidence in themselves and in their abilities, whereby they acquired new experiences, which will contribute to encourage them to run for the election when take place they occur, in addition to expanding the knowledge of the society of their abilities.

Outcome 1.4: More women are involved in the struggle for women's rights and human rights.

PWWSD participated in many activities in all its work locations across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, based on its aim to harmonize between national, social and legal issues, in order to ensure the promotion of women's political participation. This includes:

- **Participation in coalitions:** PWWSD continued participation in (6) national coalitions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that were established in the previous years. Additionally, PWWSD joined a new coalition in 2016 titled "Patriots for Ending the Division".



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- **Formation of Youth Forums:** Follow-up of the activities of the Youth Forums established in Nablus and Tulkarim and involved them in PWWSD's activities.
- **Activities to End the Division:** PWWSD is a member of the Coalition "Patriots for Ending the Division", where it participated in all founding meetings and activities.
- **Crisis Intervention:** Crisis intervention activities were implemented in the areas adjacent to the Israeli apartheid wall and the Jewish settlements and to groups affected by the violations and measures of the Israeli occupation. PWWSD participated in an intervention group with relation to the effects of the aggression on Gaza, and mainly continued implementation of field visits and debriefing activities for women, children and families in shelters and in affected areas. PWWSD also participated in an important meeting in the Gaza Strip, upon invitation by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), whereby a unified emergency plan between humanitarian institutions operating in the Gaza Strip was presented.

Outcome: The national, regional and international activities contributed to encouraging women to take an active role in their communities, and this is evident by the women's interaction with civic and political activities, and stimulating organizations to organize mobilizations around their issues. PWWSD started creating women and youth forums wherever possible to activate their political role. Additionally, these activities have sought the activation of work to hold Israel accountable before international bodies and force it to stop its war crimes. There has also been an activation of work on international treaties on women's rights and the necessity to activate the Advisory Resolution of the International Court of Justice on the Wall, and a focus on the need to document human rights violations women are exposed to, so as to raise their voice in the human rights and legal spheres.

Outcome 1.5: More women have access to the available supportive resources within PWWSD and the community.

- **Legal Consultations:** (1249) office and field legal consultations were provided for (928) women in various legal issues connected with the Personal Status Law (such as marriage, divorce, alimony, custody, disperse and obedience, lawful residence, viewing, widowhood argument, proof of parentage, right of residency for divorced women, etc.), and with the Penal and Civil Status Law (traffic violation), inheritance, labour and property rights, violence, beatings, abuse, reconciliation, implementation of judicial rulings and other issues. These came either as a result of community awareness, through PWWSD field officers, the promotion of the services of the organization in various media outlets, from women to women, and through referral from other GO and NGO, especially the Department of Legal Counselling in Shari'a courts and the Alimony Fund. These consultations expanded women's knowledge of their legal rights and open access to them to legal alternatives to their reality.

- **Litigation:** Legal representation of women in courts witnessed a noticeable rise during 2016, especially in light of the limited institutions that offer this service, where (504) cases for (347) women and young women were submitted to the courts. Decisions on (363) of these cases were issued by the court, all for the benefit of the women. (54) of the total number of cases were dropped at the request of the beneficiary of the legal service for several reasons, notably reconciliation between spouses, an agreement on divorce by understanding between the spouses, etc. More than 95% of the women won the cases and attained their rights which reduced the burden on them and reduced their fear of loss and enhanced their economic situation. (87) cases are being litigated in courts and will be followed up in 2017.

- **Legal open-line:** (215) open-line consultations were provided, including (48) consultations that were referred to litigation and follow up by PWWSD lawyers.



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Outcome: - PWWSD provides free litigation services to women who do not have the financial resource to hire a lawyer to obtain their legal rights, enabling women after the termination of the case to improve their financial resources, starting with obtaining alimony for them and their children, to cases that empower women economically such as obtaining their right to inheritance. The litigation service has left a positive impact on the lives of women, where they are more confident of themselves and their decisions and the possibility of self-reliance.

- The legal consultations and litigation of women contributed in opening horizons for women to access their legal rights through the judiciary, and PWWSD became a reference for women and organizations in legal issues.

- Consultations and cases are referred to and from the organization, and internally to and from the Counselling Program and through the civic educators, other organizations and through media promotion, and through the Department of Legal Counselling at the sharia courts. The number of referred cases referred internally to and from the Counselling Program are (164), and (256) cases were referred externally from and to PWWSD, and all were women.

- Student Scholarships: Completion of granting (88) scholarships to pupils and students, and provision of support to families suffering from economic and social hardships.

Specific Objective 2: By the end of 2015, duty bearers targeted by the program in OPT demonstrate increased readiness to fulfil their obligations to reinforce women's rights.

Outcome 2.1 PLC members, politicians, government officials, and civil society are introduced to women's demands within the proposed changes with drafted laws, and express tendency to support them.

There are on-going lobbying and advocacy activities on all levels in order to ensure duty-bearers' fulfilment of their legal and moral obligations towards gender equality and women's rights. Additionally, women were encouraged to raise issues relating to violations of their rights, such as violence against women and human rights violations. During 2016, PWWSD worked with MPs, politicians, government representatives and civil society organizations to achieve these outcomes through the implementation of a variety of activities, namely:

- Meetings with decision-makers: A variety of meetings were held and at various levels with decision makers and influential people on various themes including: 1) several meetings in Ramallah with political party leaders, MPs, and representatives of human and women's rights institutions to prepare for holding a National Roundtable Dialogue Workshop on the government's responsibility to follow-up the Conclusions of the 2013 Paris Ministerial Conference, 2) a meeting upon invitation by the Ministry of Women's Affairs to coordinate efforts between the bodies participating in the 60th Session of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women, seeking to foster supportive attitudes towards Palestinian women at the conference, 3) several meetings with the governor of Tulkarim to discuss means of increasing women's participation in municipal elections, 4) a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to find ways of broadening marketing opportunities for Tulkarim cooperatives, and discussing the idea of establishing a permanent market supportive of women's production, 5) a meeting with the Head of the Sharia court in Tulkarim to discuss referral mechanisms to and from Sharia courts, 6) a meeting with the secretaries of a number of political parties in Tulkarim, to discuss activating women's political role in the governorate, and the parties' role in this process, 7) a meeting in Gaza, upon invitation from PNGO and the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) on strengthening the role of civil society organizations in increasing the accountability of decision-makers, 8) a meeting upon invitation by the Gaza Municipality and the Gaza Reconstruction Committee on the need to involve women in the Gaza



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Reconstruction Committee, invited, 9) several central meetings in all governorates to follow up on lobbying activities, whether to support the teachers' mobilization, or to protest the Social Security Law, 10) 2 encounter meetings between members of shadow councils and the Ministry of Local Government to focus on challenges facing female members of local councils and the female candidates to local councils, and the importance of activating the role of the Ministry in dealing with complaints from the female members and to pressure for setting a new date for holding the local elections, 11) meetings with members of political parties and MPs to discuss the repercussions of the decision to postpone the local elections and discuss mechanisms to deal with the proposed amendments to the Local Councils Law proposed by the Ministry of Local Government.

- Hearing Sessions: (2) hearing sessions were held on the violations against Palestinian women, whether political, social or legal, in which (42) women from CBOs participated, including abused women, in addition to women's rights organizations. The women spoke about their sufferings and gave testimonies. The sessions concluded with a number of recommendations, including: strengthening the rule of law, lobbying for the adoption of laws that protect women, such as the Penal, Family, and the Family Protection from Violence laws, encouraging women to break their silence by giving testimony, submitting complaints to the competent authorities, and continuing to hold such sessions because they contribute to breaking the barrier of silence of abused women.

- Campaigns: During 2016, PWWSD launched (3) campaigns: (2) Media campaigns aimed at increasing the participation of women in decision-making positions, the first on the importance of women's participation in the political life, and the second titled "I and You ... One Homeland", implemented in partnership with a number of organizations, with the objective of encouraging women to participate in the local elections as voters and candidates. Moreover, (1) campaign on the Minimum Wage was launched in mid-February till the end of 2016 on the topics of minimum wage and social security, and included various activities. PWWSD also participated in "Mirathi Mirathak" (My Inheritance, Your Inheritance) campaign: a protest in front of the governorate, organized by the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC), YMCA, and Women's Affairs Center – Gaza, as an accumulation of PWWSD's past efforts. It is worth mentioning that PWWSD continued its campaign on Protecting Women and Girls from Exploitation through Social Media Networks: including several lobbying and awareness activities and workshops.

- Lobbying Activities: PWWSD participated in various activities including: 1) activities related to the Campaign on the Minimum Wage and the Social Security Law, such as organizing a mass demonstration in front of the Council of Ministers to demand the activation of the role of the Ministry of Labor on the applications of the Minimum Wage Law, in which 142 workers from various sectors participated. A memorandum was presented to the Prime Minister on the demands of working women, after which the Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Labor to take practical steps to activate the inspection, 2) Continuation to collect signatures for a memo calling to expedite the adoption of the Palestinian Penal Law, based on the principles of gender equality according to CEDAW, and to be presented to the Palestinian President, 3) Continuation of the efforts regarding the protest memo presented to the Prime Minister at the beginning of 2016, preceded by a memo presented to the Minister of Local Government in 2015, protesting the exclusion of women from the caretaker committees, 4) Participation in a protest organized by the Forum to Combat Violence against Women in front of the courthouse in Nablus, to protest the killing of women, and to lobby decision-makers to fulfill their responsibilities, 5) Participation in a Conference on women's issues, which dealt with various topics and presented various papers, most notably: the position of women on the formation of the Supreme Council for Women, the position of women on the feminist agenda in the national reconciliation, the position of women on amending the Election Law and to emphasize the importance of periodic elections of local councils, and holding the elections as soon as possible, 6) Participation in an open meeting in Gaza to discuss the decline in public freedoms,



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and to strengthen the role of civil society in holding decision-makers accountable, 7) Participation in all lobbying activities in solidarity with the teachers' mobilization to meet their union demands, 8) Participation in a lobbying meeting in Gaza on women's participation in Gaza's reconstruction.

Outcome: The campaigns on Minimum Wages and Social Security Law and the Protection of Women and Girls from Sexual Exploitation through Social Networks have had a positive impact, indicated through the level of high interaction of society and political parties. All these media campaigns and activities have contributed to promoting women's legal issues and increasing the knowledge of the local community, especially with the use of audiovisual media and the recruitment of citizen support.

Outcome 2.2 Presidential decrees related to UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW are activated and incorporated within the Palestinian laws.

The program worked to achieve this outcome through the following activities and indicators: 1) PWWSD is member in the National Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325. The coalition is composed of the General Union of Palestinian Women and women's organizations. Additionally, PWWSD as member of the UNSCR 1325 Coalition, created by MIFTAH organization, participated in the various efforts to implement the National Plan for UNSCR 1325, with the participation of the General Union of Palestinian Women and women's organizations and centres through the National Coalition, 2) Participation in a 2-day workshop in Bethlehem during the period 04-05.05.2016, upon invitation from the UNSCR 1325 Coalition Secretariat, and with funding from Kvinna till Kvinna (Sweden), resulting in an Executive Plan for Implementing UNSCR 1325, 3) Participation in a workshop in Gaza April on evaluating and planning the structure of the National Coalition for Implementing UNSCR 1325, upon invitation from GUPW and the participation of organizations members in the Coalition Secretariat, whereby the Coalition's plan and rules of procedure were presented, and the workshop concluded with amendments to the rules of procedure and recommendations for the plan, as well as challenging the selection process of Secretariat members, 4) Participation in a planning meeting held during the period 01-09.02.2016 in Amman to review the Strategic Framework for UNSCR 1325, upon the invitation from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, attended by 45 institutions and experts, including the members of the National Committee for UNSCR 1325, 5) Participation in the meetings to draft a CEDAW Shadow Report, upon invitation from GUPW and joined by women's institutions. The meetings resulted in an agreement on the report's approach and a main committee to follow up on the draft, as well as subcommittees on five topics, determined by the main committee, and PWWSD participated in 3 of them, after which the final draft of the Shadow Report was prepared, 6) Participation in the first consultative meeting held on 03.02.2016 to present the government's CEDAW report, in order for the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Women's Affairs to consult with women's institutions, CBOs, and human rights institutions. Participants were divided into work groups to discuss suggested amendments and remarks that were presented to the ministries.

Outcome 2.3 Penal, Personal Status and Family Protection from Violence laws are discussed and adopted in the line with the proposed amendments suggested by women movement and civil society.

PWWSD is an active member in the Coalition of the Penal and Family Laws, in partnership with women's and civil society organizations, and participated in a number of open meetings organized by non-governmental organizations to discuss the Penal and Personal Status laws.

Outcome 2.4 PWWSD is more visible and involved in advocating women's rights and gender equality in front of all duty-bearers including relevant ministries.



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PWWSD is member in several coalitions and networks on the governorates level, such as the Palestinian Network for the Defence of Children, the Steering and Supervision Committee of Safe Houses in Nablus and Bethlehem in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Training and Employment Council, the Coalition for the Enhancement of the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Bringing about Social Change. PWWSD is also member in several central coalitions and networks on the national level, such as the National Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, the Coalition for Childhood Protection of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Tawasul Coalition, Network of Civil Society Organizations and the National Committee for Employment, the National coalition to Amend the Personal Status and Penal Laws, the Committee for Gender Just Legislation of the Ministry of Justice, Coalition of the Gender Forum of the Ministry of Local Government. In addition, PWWSD is member in several regional coalitions, such as Aisha Network, Jusoor Forum and Karama Forum. Also, it participates in international coalitions, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Initiative which includes many countries as members.

- Policy dialogue and expansion of coordination and networking with governmental and non-governmental organizations:

On the local level: 2016 witnessed a marked rise in PWWSD's policy dialogue, networking and coordination, both with human rights and feminist civil society organizations and ministries and government institutions. Through these activities, carried out in intersection with other institutions, PWWSD played a key and visible role in the process of influencing policies and duty-bearers, especially after the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, and what is required from lobbying and advocacy efforts, whether for the reconstruction or to activate the claim of the Palestinian Authority and the President to go to international bodies to hold Israel accountable, especially to join the International Criminal Court. Also, it participated in consultative meetings on civil rights and liberties and documenting the crimes of the occupation through coordination with various committees, such as the Independent Commission for Human Rights and through partner organizations. Moreover, PWWSD played a key role in influencing policies and duty-bearers in order to improve the legal environment and the adoption of legislations and laws fair to women. This is done through lobbying and advocacy activities carried out by PWWSD, such as demonstrations, petitions to PLC members and the President, media activities and campaigns, and through referrals to and from many institutions, such as Sharia courts, the Alimony Fund and others. Moreover, PWWSD won the Manara Award for Gender Equality, a regional competition sponsored by the German Press Agency DPA. The organization entered the competition in the category of Political Participation Initiatives, and got first place with its initiative on shadow councils, beating 60 other initiatives presented from Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon. During the final round, PWWSD presented the experience of forming shadow councils, and won a prize of €10,000, which was allocated to developing more shadow councils. During the competition, the organization's women-made handcraft products were put on display, which is an indicator of the unique services provided by PWWSD to women, particularly the shadow councils' initiative, considered an important tool for strengthening women's role in local communities.

Outcome: Through its various coalitions, PWWSD contributed to raise the voice of Palestinian women and deliver their message to regional and international gatherings. Locally, it contributed to the discussion of important laws and the development of amendments to them, such as the Penal and Family Protection from Violence laws, whereby these amendments and recommendations were raised to related parties for consideration. This role of PWWSD is considered a clear indication of the consideration of PWWSD as a reference in gender issues, for women in general and for many governmental and non-governmental organizations, the local community, and decision-makers. In addition to holding meetings with governors and legal advisers in different governorates to discuss women's issues and ways of cooperation in the reception and referral of cases in need of protection



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by official bodies. These activities have also contributed in encouraging women to raise issues regarding the violation of their political, economic and social rights, such as the participation in protest demonstrations organized by PWWSD in collaboration with the Forum to Combat Violence and human rights organizations to protest against the killing of women.

Specific Objective 3: By the end of 2015, the local community in OPT is more sensitized on Gender equality and feminist progressive discourse.

Outcome 3.1: Media is utilized effectively in promoting women's rights and gender equality.

PWWSD plays an important role in tackling sensitive issues related to gender equality and women's rights, and continues to engage in discussing these issues by raising them in the local media. The organization deals with various media outlets to ensure access to wider segments of the society. Moreover, PWWSD addresses women's issues intensively through the informative activities that it conducts and in the interviews (audio, visual, and written) conducted with the staff members by external media agencies. Additionally, as social media plays a role in attracting young generations to be involved in the empowerment process, PWWSD utilizes it as a tool to increase women's awareness of their rights, as well as increase the local community's sensitivity towards women's issues. In 2016, the following media activities were implemented:

- PWWSD produced and aired (23) radio episodes of the program "Through Women's Eyes" and produced and aired (12) radio spots on various topics related to women's issues for (1291) times, in addition to publishing media reports.
- PWWSD continues to develop its website and activate its Facebook and twitter accounts.
- Local newspapers, electronic news sites and social media networks were supplied with reports on PWWSD's activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, particularly with regards to the workshops, trainings, open meetings, campaigns and partnerships.
- PWWSD staff participated in at least (18) TV and (111) radio interviews in various central, local and satellite radio and TV stations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The interviews handled issues related to the political, social, economic and legal empowerment of women, combating GBV and women's political participation.
- PWWSD carried out (1) flash mob in Ramallah during the campaign "You and I... One Homeland".
- PWWSD issued the following publications and publicity: 1) 1 training manual on Gender Equality in Work Place (preparation only), 2) 1 awareness-raising brochure on the Rights of Working Women from a Gender Perspective, 3) 1 brochure on shadow councils, 4) reprinting 500 copies of the booklet on shadow councils, 5) 1 research on "The Informal Legal System and Gender in the West Bank", 6) 1 analytical study on "Palestinian Women's Participation in Local Government: Evaluating Experiences and Future Implications", 7) 1 documentary booklet on success stories of women members of local councils, 8) 1 documentary booklet on shadowing opportunities of women members of shadow councils, 9) 1 study on the responsiveness to legal services provided to women from a gender perspective, 10) 1 poster on women's economic rights, 11) 1 poster on the minor-friendly psycho-social mobile units, 12) 1 research on the situation of Palestinian female refugees, 13) 1 manual on psycho-social counselling services, 14) 1 manual on psycho-social support services for mothers and teachers, 15) 1 research on legal support services provided by PWWSD 2014-mid 2016, 16) 1 sticker on the minor-friendly psycho-social mobile units, 17) 1 poster on women's products, 18) publicity material for women's products in the form of bags.
- PWWSD issued several statements on different occasions, including the 8th of March and the 1st of May, in addition to protest statements against the continuation of the killing of women, hiding women's names in electoral lists.



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Outcome: The media activities and the campaigns contributed in expanding the circle of community dialogue on women's issues, promoting women's legal issues and increasing the local community's knowledge of them, and helped PWWSD promote the feminist discourse, which resulted in different levels of interaction with PWWSD's activities, particularly in the light of the organized attack launched by fundamentalist religious trends. The various campaigns launched by PWWSD, particularly the two campaigns on political participation and women and girls protection from sexual exploitation through social media networks, had a positive impact in terms of the high level of interaction of the local community and the political parties. These campaigns and the media activities have contributed to the promotion of women's legal issues and to increase the knowledge of the local community about these issues, especially with the utilization of audiovisual media and recruiting citizens to support these campaigns.

Outcome 3.2 Women's rights and gender issues are more debated and mainstreamed within various community circles.

1) PWWSD participated in various cultural activities upon invitation from other organizations, 2) several film screening were implemented by PWWSD during educational workshops with the target groups, 3) the local community was involved in various activities and debates related to women's issues, 4) PWWSD is member in various networks and coalitions, and participated in various networking and coordination activities.

Specific Objective 4: By the end of 2019, women are empowered economically.

Outcome 4.1: More targeted women address income-generation initiatives and play key role in developing local businesses.

During 2016, the following was achieved: 1) 3 new cooperatives were created in Tulkarim, 2) 10 women from the West Bank received grants to start their small income-generating project, 3) 3 women cooperatives received grants to develop their production, 4) The continuation of work with 9 and 1 women's economic groups in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and individual women's small income-generating projects from various locations throughout the West Bank, which were created or worked with during 2014-2015, 5) Developing the production of the cooperatives PWWSD supervises in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through providing them with raw material and equipment based on their needs, 6) Participation of women cooperatives in the West Bank and Gaza in many of the exhibitions carried out by other institutions to help them develop and market their production, including 2 exhibitions organized in Tulkarim, in addition to PWWSD's permanent exhibition (Arts and Crafts) in Ramallah to market women's cooperatives' products through the trademark Zuwadeh, 7) Launching 2 marketing campaigns for women's cooperatives' products in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that included numerous media activities, 8) Follow-up of an agricultural organic unit in Beit Sira, through renting a piece of land for a period of 5 years, that is cultivated with a variety of vegetables. 6 women were selected to benefit from the project, 9) The adoption of the brand name for the products of Al-Zewadeh after a laboratory examination of food samples that were certified to carry Al-Zewadeh brand name.

Moreover, PWWSD worked on developing the production of the cooperatives PWWSD supervises in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through providing them with raw material and equipment based on their needs, and it is constantly opening marketing prospects for the various cooperatives and economic groups, either through organizing in exhibitions, through PWWSD's permanent exhibition in Ramallah "Arts & Crafts", and through launching 2 marketing campaigns for women's cooperatives' products in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that included numerous media activities.



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Outcome 4.2: More women have increased awareness of their legal and socio-economic rights.

Women from cooperatives are involved in trainings, whether those organized by PWWSD or other organizations. (13) on-job trainings were implemented for (3) new cooperatives and 10 individual women with small income-generating projects in food processing, animal husbandry.

Strategic Objective II: The mental health (psycho-social well-being) of targeted women and girls is improved.

The individual counselling process is a process of interaction within a clear and planned professional relationship between the counsellor and the beneficiary. It is directed and centered on the beneficiary, whereby the counsellor assists the beneficiary to address the difficulties and psychological problems in their personal, social, familial and cultural dimensions, until achieving the goals of the beneficiary in adapting and facing difficulties and crisis management within the family. The Counselling Program at PWWSD has been working since 1992, and providing individual and group counselling service, psychological counselling service and crisis intervention. During 2016, the Program worked with 1981 cases of individual counselling, psychological consultation telephone consultation, through 3304 sessions, 55 support groups with (1050) participants, and 402 community awareness workshops with (6978) participants, (3241) of whom were women, (3563) children (1075 males and 2488 females), and (174) men, in various areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including rural areas, refugee camps, cities and "Area C". This service came to meet the needs of the local community, as a result of political and social conditions and repeated shocks faced by Palestinian women, which in turn create psychological crises, characterized by psychological, mental and physical, social and economic symptoms that have an impact on the individual, family and community, and an increase in violence and the level of crime. Also, the Counselling Program provides awareness activities in mental health in order to enhance the capacities of women and minors in the development of strategies to address domestic and community violence, and it seeks to change and create legal and social conditions that respect human rights in general, and women's rights in particular.

The Counselling Program also seeks to contribute to improving the mental health of women in the Palestinian society and combating all forms of violence against women on the social, economic and legal levels, so as to assist beneficiaries of the counseling services to change their view of themselves from marginalized in the community to significant citizens who are appreciated in the society and who contribute to community development. Moreover, the Counselling Program works to strengthen the coordination and networking with civil society organizations, locally, in the Arab and internationally, whereby it plays an important role through a wide network of national, legal and psychological coalitions that seek the respect of human rights, combating violence and discrimination on the political and social levels, respect of freedom of expression and public and private freedoms. Among the most important indicators of the coordination and networking with relevant local institutions, is that the Program is considered a reference for the implementation of several awareness workshops offered to women in the field, and also the referral of cases to and from the organization, whereby during 2016 (116) cases were referred from PWWSD to various institutions and (158) cases were referred from various governmental and non-governmental institutions.

PWWSD plays an active role in combating all forms of violence and discrimination from which Palestinian women suffer, through organizing protest events and campaigns to expand community participation in various activities ranging from those against killing women and the increasing violations against women, to the adoption of fair laws that protect the rights of women and acknowledging women rights are human rights. In this regard, PWWSD documented (17) cases of



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women murder and suicide during 2016, 12 from the West Bank and 5 from the Gaza Strip. Also, and as part of the campaign on protection from sexual exploitation through social media networks, 16 cases of violation were documented, and there was cooperation with the official authorities for the protection of some of them, and there is ongoing work to provide self-empowerment and self-protection for the girls who had been exploited. There was also focus on working with supportive groups in protecting male and female teenagers. Moreover, PWWSD plays an active and strong role in the Forum for Combating Violence, which seeks to lobby and advocate policies and change laws that promote discrimination against women, and it also seeks to enact Palestinian Penal and Family Protection Laws to enhance women's access to justice and equality. It is worth mentioning that the Forum adopted the campaign which PWWSD has been working on in the past three years, on the protection of girls from sexual exploitation through social networks, and worked on it as the title for the 16 Days Campaign to Combat Violence, with participation of PWWSD. Among the most important achievements of the program is raising many issues experienced by women through the media and the empowerment of women through providing opportunities to them through personal and external recruitment of resources to enable them to improve their circumstances and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Also, the Program raised through the media many of the issues from which the society suffers in general and women in particular, and it was able to reach through the media to vast sectors of the local community and was also able to create a dialogue on women's issues, specifically the killing of women, GBV, domestic and political violence.

To achieve this objective, PWWSD worked on achieving the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: A healthy psychological balance of targeted individuals is fostered by the end of 2019.

Outcome 1.1: More individuals benefit from counselling services and gain balance with the self and the surrounding environment.

During the reporting period, individual and group consultations and psychological counselling services were provided, as well counselling through an open-line. Additionally, counselling groups were created and counselling tools used that contributed in increasing the ability to express thoughts and feelings. Consequently, some beneficiaries were referred to PWWSD lawyers, in order to enhance their psychological balance.

- Individual psycho-social counselling and consultation and consultation through open-line: The Counselling Program provided individual psycho-social counselling services through a specialized counselling team and with high professional ability under the diminishing number of counselling institutions, many of which were shut down during the past two years due to a lack of funding in this aspect. This service corresponded to the psycho-social needs of many community groups, specifically marginalized and abused Palestinian women, in the light of the growing gender-based violence and the growing poverty, unemployment and crime intensity. The growing political violence, including the killings, the administrative and political detention and the suffering at the Israeli checkpoints between cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem, added to the suffering and the emergence of social and psychological symptoms on affected families in particular, and members of the community in general, which demands exerting additional efforts from the Counselling Program to implement activities that seek to protect Palestinian women and children from political, social and legal violence in order to improve their psychological immunity and psychological health.



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During the reporting period, the following counselling services were provided:

- **1981** beneficiaries received individual and family counselling and psycho-social consultations services, including through open line, in **3304** sessions, distributed as follows:
- **612** cases of individual counselling (467 women, 34 men, 53 boys and 58 girls) in **1935** individual counselling sessions.
- **871** field and office consultations.
- **498** open-line consultations.
- **25** families received family counselling serves.
- **325** women were subjected to violence.
- **166** women received protection, including **10** women who received protection from being killed, through coordination with the police, MoSA, the governorates and safe houses.
- **103** men received individual counselling and consultation.
- **158** cases were referred from various institutions to the Counselling Program
- **116** cases were referred from the Program to various social, health and economic institutions, **56** cases referred to PWWSD's lawyers, **37** cases referred from PWWSD lawyers to the Counselling Program.

Outcome: The counselling services contributed to 1) enhancing the human dimension of the beneficiaries based on the principle of respect, acceptance and respect for human rights, 2) the beneficiaries were assisted in internal self-renewal, and to express their thoughts and feelings to reach a positive behaviour and psychological immunity that enables a self-control of internal and external environment, which in turns helps create a feeling of happiness and healthy psycho-social condition and an ability to adapt and take decisions, which in turn reaffirms the relationship between the individual and his/her surroundings, 3) the culture of dialogue within the family and the importance of positive communication between family members were promoted, 4) the counselling services reflect the increased knowledge of beneficiaries of the importance of better understanding the psychological needs of their children, 5) the knowledge of beneficiaries to invest sources of internal and external support was enhanced, their ability to administer feelings of anger and sadness increased and their ability to develop the concept of self-protection in case of violence was enhance, 6) the efficiency of the participants in the ability to manage crises and feelings of anger and grief was increased by focusing on their internal strengths at the level of ideas, feelings and behavior, 7) the Program opened job opportunities for women to contribute to their self-empowerment towards a dignified life that achieves self-sufficiency and to restart managing resources. In this regard, the Program used a number of counselling tools, to alleviate tension and psychological pressures of the beneficiaries, that are based on different counselling schools, such as emotional debriefing, which contributes to increased ability to express thoughts and feelings, relaxation exercises, psycho-drama, projection exercises, therapy skills through story-telling, the Butterfly Technique, techniques that rely on the process of creating positive rather than passive thinking to develop strategies that contribute in modifying lifestyles, the skills of psychological first aid for people living in stressful psychological conditions, and techniques of self-care, including the "River of Life" and the "Five-Dimensions", which includes the five aspects of the individual which are the revelation, mental, emotional, physical and spiritual dimensions, and the Time-line technology that contributes to the collection of information among users, the identification of psychological trauma in different stages of life, and the skill of prolonged review to deal with traumatized persons. The various utilized counseling tools have contributed to creating an atmosphere of trust, confidence and trust between the program staff and the beneficiaries.



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- *Supportive Groups*: During 2016, (55) supportive counselling groups were created in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with (1050) participants, including (394) women and (656) children (475 female and 181 male), 4 men, attending (385) sessions. 43 cases from the groups were referred to individual counselling.

Outcome: The impact of the meetings of the supportive groups on individuals participating in these meetings was measured through focus groups and pre-and post-questionnaires. The creation of supportive groups focused on pupils, students, marginalized women who suffer from psycho-social difficulties in various locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The groups were created in order to 1) enhance self-protection from violence and strengthen the personal capacities of adolescents, and 2) enhance the ability to adapt within the difficult economic and political climate faced by Palestinian women. The implemented meetings left a good impact on the supportive groups in terms of topics that have been raised and that came as a result of an assessment of the needs of the target group, with the actual result of increasing the theoretical and practical knowledge in the discussed topics, such as: emotional debriefing, re-adjustment in difficult situations, trauma, violence, coping and protection mechanisms, and sexual harassment and sexual exploitation through social networking, adolescence and the relationship with parents and educational staff, school dropout, time management, identifying future goals for the target groups.

The meetings left a positive impact and contributed to: 1) improved educational capacity and improved academic performance, respect for the culture of dialogue, increased capacity to express negative and positive emotions and increased confidence in dealing with parents, 2) the dislocation of the concept of behavioral violence where the use of violence among male individuals was reduced, 3) increased knowledge of women, young women, pupils, mothers, teachers and children of preventive measures for protection from sexual abuse and exploitation through social media networks, 4) strengthened positive self-abilities, 5) enhanced self-esteem, 6) enhanced trust between the counsellors and the beneficiaries, 7) encourage participants to express their feelings and concerns and daily life, 8) development of social life between individuals, 9) create future life and professional goals and aspirations, 9) breaking the barrier of silence between males and females in the mixed groups, 10) enhancing the feeling of happiness despite the difficult situation women live in, 11) providing them with conversational skills that enhance their ability to express and promote effective communication, 12) the alleviation of symptoms of trauma and increase awareness about it among the participants. Also, working with groups presents a special space for individuals, whereby many artistic talents were discovered with similar types of problems, and the meetings help the female participants to discover their own problems, and create a kind of shared empathy among the members of the groups, as the similarity in problems and feelings gives them a chance to change for the better and stronger. The meetings also give them the chance to see the problems of others, allowing them to exchange experiences in the face of feelings of anxiety, frustration, sadness and traumatic experiences, and allowing them to increase the ability to learn and make decisions. Additionally, the sessions contributed to increasing the awareness of women and young women to provide them with adaptive strategies within the conditions and closures experienced by women in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the siege, economic conditions, poverty and unemployment, whereby the sessions worked on enhancing the positive self-capacity of the participants, enhance their self-confidence and provide them with conversational skills to reinforce their relationship with themselves and with their families, increase their ability of to express themselves, promote effective communication and develop a relationship with others, and to strengthen the skill of listening as an educational life value that contributes to a better understanding of psychological needs of the family and the children. Various techniques were used, such as drama skills, relaxation and meditation as a means to manage the tension in the group.



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- Crisis Intervention: (37) crisis intervention meetings were held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for women and children living under difficult social and political conditions. These activities varied between providing emergency assistance, paying condolences or providing psycho-social support for a number of families whose houses were demolished, their children detained or martyred, or families where the breadwinners were martyred. 10 interventions were implemented in Gaza for 174 participants, including 108 children (20 male and 88 female) and 66 women. Counseling skills were used to enhance their capacity to alleviate negative emotions. Also, 5 debriefing and recreational sessions were held for 285 persons divided as: 140 women, men, 126 children (28 male and 98 female). Moreover, during visits to families subjected to political violence, such as families whose homes were demolished, and the implementation of debriefing meetings for women and children, 11 cases were referred to individual counseling.

- Referral of cases to and from counterpart organizations and conducting case conferences according to need: Abused women use strategies that may be effective or ineffective in protecting themselves from violence, perpetrated by the husband, brother, father or others. Often abused woman neither leave their houses nor seek protection from the police or from any third party, believing that violence must be covered up. Some women leave their homes, only to return back, creating a kind of self-satisfaction to live permanently in the cycle of violence. Some choose to seek help from one of the supporters within the network of social relations, and very few seek the police to file a complaint or go to courts. Civil society and government institutions are still unable to provide assistance to all abused women, despite the fact that there is social and institutional mobilization seeking to develop protection policies and reintegrate abused women in the Palestinian society. In general, a National Referral System for Abused Women was developed and adopted by a number of civil society organizations, and as a result there was cooperation between the organizations to meet the needs of the referred groups. Consequently, in 2016, (166) women were protected from violence through individual, social and legal empowerment, and (10) women were protected from murder through coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Police, through holding a case conference, which brought together a number of institutions, with the aim of developing the relation with parents in order to improve communication with the family. During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented: 158 cases were referred from various institutions to the Counselling Program, 116 cases were referred from the Program to various social, health and economic institutions, and 56 cases referred to PWWSD lawyers, and PWWSD lawyers referred 37 cases to the Program. Despite all efforts of women's and human rights organizations to protect women, in 2016, 17 cases of women murder or suicide were documented by PWWSD, 5 in Gaza and 12 in the West Bank.

- Speech therapy service: PWWSD provided speech therapy to 162 cases, including 156 children (97 males and 59 females) and 6 women.

Specific Objective 2: Targeted women and community have increased awareness of psycho-social well-being and contribute to combating GBV by the end of 2019.

The elements of psychological health are individual's sense of satisfaction and happiness, and the ability to produce and adapt and enjoy a decent life to reach self-esteem, independence and positivity in daily behaviour. The issue of psychological health is often linked to the concept of human rights, which means the right to a dignified life and the right to work and the right to citizenship and obtaining social and health insurance and guarantees. The increase in cases of violence and human rights abuses, and the increase in the level of crime in the Palestinian society create a sense of frustration and anxiety and deficit, and a difficulty of adaptation, which means an increase in the severity of social and psychological disorders. The Palestinian people have suffered



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over time from many psychological, social and political crises, which affected Palestinian women one way or another, and were represented in non-humanitarian behaviours and symptoms, and reinforced the oppression and inferiority of women, which contributed to create a kind of feeling of dissatisfaction, anxiety and lack of productivity on the personal and community level, which in turn reinforced the idea of discrimination, lack of equal opportunity and the lack of social justice.

Outcome 2.1: Women subjected to violence break the silence and are encouraged to participate in debating their issues at the community level.

Despite the fact that many Palestinian women broke their silence and expressed the degree and seriousness of the violence they face, women and the community still deal with the issue of violence as a private issue that is connected to the privacy of the family, and it is not entitled to others to break this Privacy, due to the promotion of the cultural heritage and the community of this approach. Within its preventive strategy, the Counselling Program worked on increasing women's awareness of the importance of psychological health. Community awareness is considered a free platform that helps women to express their feelings, ideas and the concerns they suffer from.

- Community Awareness: During the reporting period, the Counselling Program implemented **(402)** community awareness workshops that targeted women, children and male and female youth, for a total of **(6978)**, including 3241² women and young women, **(3563)** children (1075 males and 2488 females), **(174)** men. PWWSD coordinated with various CBOs, schools, women's societies and universities to implement the community awareness workshops in the locations targeted by the Counselling Program. The workshops targeted male and female pupils, youth groups and women in order to achieve a level of awareness on the topic of psycho-social awareness, combating GBV, influencing societal concepts towards women's issues, whereby these workshops have an awareness and preventive aspect in order to increase the knowledge of the participants in the discussed issues, based on their psych-social needs. Through these workshops, focus was placed on the campaign on "The Protection of Women and Girls from Sexual Exploitation through Social Media Networks", whereby (24) community awareness meetings were implemented, and the concepts of individual and group protection were enhanced, and awareness and knowledge were provided on how to file a complaint with the official authorities. It is worth mentioning that **(110)** of those attending the workshops received psycho-social counselling and consultation services, and **(871)** field psycho-social consultations were provided to women in the implementation locations of awareness workshops.

Outcome: 1) The mental health concepts of participants were enhanced through the community awareness workshops in terms of enhancing their ability to cope with stress of life, the ability to enjoy life, enhance relationships with others, and promote self-comfort, and the feeling of happiness, 2) Using counselling skills and tools, relaxation, drama exercises and film screening contributed in building trust between members of a group, and the community meetings helped in the exchange of experience, which in turn deepened the successful family experiences, 3) Community awareness increased the knowledge of psychological education and the knowledge of psycho-social health issues, which in turn increased the productive ability of women and contributed in improving their behavioural performance towards others and improved communications between family members, 4) The community awareness sessions contributed to increasing the targeted groups' sensitivity to abused women's issues, their knowledge of the importance of psychological health as a right and the importance of providing self-care. They also contributed to increasing the beneficiaries' knowledge of the psycho-social effects of sexual assaults

² A number of women attend more than once.



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on children and of the importance of protection and the mechanism of setting borders, 5) Mothers acquired knowledge in reflexes of trauma on the physical, social, behavioural and emotional levels, and women and children received help to express their feelings, 6) The community awareness workshops helped teenagers receive knowledge in different life skills to enhance self-knowledge, 7) The relation was strengthened with grassroots organizations in the locations targeted by the mobile psychological clinics project, so that these organizations contribute to the implementation of various outreach activities, making it easier for different groups to meet their different psychological and social needs. These CBOs took a leading role in the preparation and inviting target groups to the activities of the Program, whereby this experience reflected the professional experience, especially of the volunteers who are humanities graduates, and consequently they received letter of experience in field volunteerism by the Program.

- Implementation of (2) trainings for the target groups on GBV and human rights: 2 training workshops of 55 hours was implemented for 55 members of the Family Protection Unit and the Psycho-social Support Unit at the National Security Forces. The training focused on the topics of psychological trauma and support skills.

Outcome: The trainings contributed to 1) increasing the awareness of the participants in the topic of trauma and mechanisms of psychological intervention, 2) developing the capacity of participants from the Psycho-social Support Unit in the mechanisms of psycho-social intervention in topics of psychological immunity, psychological first aid skills, loss and suicide, the management of psychological stress and preliminary skills in counseling, 3) highlighting the importance of psychological and social support.

- Activities within the international campaign to combat violence

Within the reality of the political situation and the absence of the legislative authority, there has been no change on the campaigns seeking to pass laws that protect women, and Family Protection from Violence Law and the draft Penal Code are still as they are. Some articles of the Jordanian Penal Code were either frozen or modified, such as Article 97 of the Code, and deleting the article on the mitigating circumstances. This is due to the efforts of women's and human rights civil society organizations, nonetheless, there are still shortcomings and the failure of the law to address cases of murder and cases of violence against women. PWWSD played an active role in the lobbying, advocacy and the awareness activities that seek to achieve equality, social justice, and the development of a social system that protects abused women and alleviating the suffering of women in general and marginalized women in particular. In this regard, PWWSD participated in the activities and campaigns that aim at the ratification of the above mentioned laws, despite the difficulties faced by civil society organizations in the approval of these laws due to the failure of the Palestinian Legislative Council to convene and the internal political division, which paralyzed the Palestinian political situation. Moreover, PWWSD participated in the planning of the activities of the Week to Combat GBV through the NGO Forum to Combat Violence and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and participated in the conference to launch the activities of the Week of the Global Campaign to Combat Violence in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Forum under the slogan "The Right of Return and Dignity for Palestinian Women" in conjunction with Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Gaza. Also, PWWSD participated in the activities planned by the Forum to Combat Violence and its campaign on electronic crimes under the slogan "Think... A click determines your destiny... Your privacy is your right.". In addition, PWWSD participated in a media meeting on PWWSD's campaign on sexual exploitation through social networks and cybercrime, and participated in the management of the mock court's presentation on electronic crime. In partnership with the Forum and Nablus Governorate, PWWSD implemented a workshop



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on the reality of institutions and their policies in the face of violence, whereby PWWSD presented a work paper. Also, it participated in the technical arrangements for the preparation of data on abused women in partnership with institutions members of Forum providing legal and psycho-social counseling services. From the reports of the Counseling Program on the cases of violence, there was a significant increase in the number of cases received during 2016, reaching 325 cases. 166 cases of violence were protected through self, legal and social empowerment. 10 women were protected from murder through enhancing the measures and procedures of the Palestinian police and the Ministry of Social Affairs or the referral to various relevant institutions.

- Coordination and networking on local level such as Campaign to combat violence led by GUPW

Violence constitutes one of the important challenges faced by human rights organizations in general, and women's centres and organizations in particular, because of the awareness of the devastating effects of violence at the level of individual, family and society, whether psychological, economic, health or legal effects, specifically violence targeted against women and domestic violence, as violence against women is the result of a social, cultural, legal and political system. Also, PWWSD enhanced its membership with governmental and other civil society organizations, whereby it is member in various local, regional and international networks and coalitions, such as the Forum to Combat Violence against Women, the Childhood Protection Network, Tawazun Network and the Psychological support Team. PWWSD participated with civil society organizations, the public and volunteers in implementing activities to combat social and political violence against women and children, such as 1) participating in a discussion workshop at the invitation from the Public Prosecutor on the establishment of a specialized unit in the prosecution to receive abused women, and this is considered one of the achievements sought by human rights and women's organizations to respect the privacy of women who address police stations, 2) participating in a panel workshop on the preparation of the Shadow Report, which will be submitted to the UN at the invitation of the General Union of Palestinian Women, and which addresses the reality of women at all levels, including achievements and shortcomings, 3) participating, together with GUPW and the Forum to Combat Violence against Women, in issuing a protest statement against issuing a mitigated sentence for the killer of his wife, 4) holding a meeting with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee to discuss the creation of a national observatory for abused women, 5) holding a meeting with the governor of Nablus and the legal adviser in order to hold a workshop to standardize the concepts of violence and agree on a mechanism for women's access to justice, 6) in continuation of PWWSD's campaign to combat sexual harassment through social media networks, the Forum to Combat Violence against Women adopted this issue in its campaign to combat violence for 2016.

Moreover, PWWSD participated in a number of coordination and networking meeting, including: 1) 1 joint protest statement was issued by the General Union of Palestinian Women and the Forum to Combat Violence against Women on the issue of issuing a mitigated sentence for the killer of his wife, 2) 1 meeting with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to discuss the work on the creation of a national monitoring database system on abused women, 3) 1 meeting with the Governor of Nablus and the Legal Adviser in order to hold a workshop to standardize the concepts of violence and to agree on a mechanism for women to access justice, 4) 11 coordination meetings with civil society organizations as part of the activities of the psycho-social mobile units and the project with the Ministry of Social Affairs. with the aim of shedding light on the social, psychological and economic problems women and children face in marginalized areas, 5) Several meetings upon the invitation of the GUPW to prepare the Shadow Report in response to the PA Report, which will be presented to the UN, 6) PWWSD continued to work within the campaign that seeks to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation through social media networks, 7) In spite of the significant challenges



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faced by abused women in the absence of laws that do justice to women and the lack of an effective social system that protects women, and through the distinguished relations between governmental and non-governmental protection institutions and through the adoption by these institutions of strategies that seek to prevent violence and reduce it, the Counselling Program was able to protect 166 women, including 10 from being killed through the activation of the relationship between PWWSD and the protection institutions, 8) PWWSD participated in the various activities of the Week against Violence implemented in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 9) PWWSD coordinates with the Family Protection Unit at police stations in the various locations where PWWSD is active, and involves them in the community activities within the campaign for protection from sexual exploitation through social media networks, 10) PWWSD participated in all the lobbying activities demanding the ratification of the Family Protection from Violence Law and the Penal Law, and raised the issue of women killers in the regular courts by organizing a march in front of the courts in the south and north of the West Bank.

Outcome: The impact of the activities implemented contributes to the adoption of a clear strategy to combat violence, and help achieve the following: 1) stir local public opinion to renounce violence in general and violence against women in particular 2) raise the issue of political violence 3) focus on national issues such as Israeli human rights violations through stirring public opinion.

Outcome 2.2: Utilizing media in combating all forms of gender-based violence:

Local media interacted and contributed in increasing public awareness of the local community of human rights, GBV and legal issues, and also carried out a number of audio, visual and print interviews in order to increase public awareness and to reduce domestic and community violence, and reflect the real role of women and the feminist movement. During the reporting period (110) media interviews were implemented: (81) audio, (16) video, (5) print interviews on activities of the Program. The media reports addressed topics related to combating GBV and psycho-social difficulties faced by women, youth and minors. A media report was published on PWWSD's campaign on sexual exploitation through social media networks, that included meetings with relevant organizations and institutions such as the consultants of the governorates, whereby there was focus on the spread of this phenomena amongst many girls, who were subjected to exploitation and received protection through the various consultants of the governorates, and their cases were documented.

- Production of a media material: PWWSD produced the following: 1) a short documentary about its minor-friendly psycho-social mobile units and their effects on the target groups and the outcomes of the project, 2) 375 radio spots were produced and broadcasted through the Mobile Clinic project, 3) 2000 posters and 3000 stickers were printed and disseminated on the free open line of the Counseling Program, 4) An interview was published in Al-Hal newspaper on the reality of abused women, and a working paper was presented in Nablus governorate on the reality of institutions working with abused women, 5) A psycho-social counseling manual was published on working with individuals and groups as a guide for psychologists and social workers, and was distributed to 30 educational and educational institutions, 6) a media report was published on PWWSD's campaign on sexual exploitation through social media networks.

Outcome: The media activities implemented in 2016, contributed in 1) increasing the interaction of various media organizations towards various issues that are raised through the program, 2) in opening dialogue with media students on combating violence against women and disrupting the community culture that blesses violence, 3) a wide network of relations has been established with Arab and local media outlets, 4) the Counselling Program is considered a reference for many media stations, and many media institutions have conducted several meetings, locally and regionally.



Specific Objective 3: The professional capacities of the counselling staff are developed by the end of 2019

Outcome 3.1: Program's counsellors demonstrate enhanced professional competencies related to counselling services.

The implemented activities aim at developing the professional capacities of the counsellors and developing their professional handling of cases. The professional relation between the counsellors has been developed through building confidence and comfort, and the professional work has been developed through discussing and analysing the difficulties that face the counsellors in their work with cases and groups. Within the vision of the organization and its focus on the capacity development for the specialized team in the Counselling Program, PWWSD provided counselling rooms to contribute to the provision of a professional atmosphere where the beneficiaries and counsellors feel comfortable and safe, so that they can deliver their best while working with beneficiaries and to provide an atmosphere of privacy and confidentiality of the service provided.

- Supervision Sessions: During 2016, (23) individual and group supervision sessions were held for the counsellors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The supervision sessions focused on: Expectations from the supervision sessions, mechanisms of empowerment and protection, the ten points to enhance protection, debriefing, post-traumatic stress disorder and discussion of cases by the team.

Outcome: The supervision sessions contributed to 1) the enhancement of self-capabilities and points of strengths of the team, 2) increasing self-awareness towards points of weakness, 3) increasing the team's ability to express their feelings and ideas, 4) the development of cognitive and theoretical skills in working with beneficiaries, 5) developing the capabilities of the team in professional interventions, 6) the improvement of the professional relationship with the team and to the alleviation of the difficulties faced by the team members, whereby psychological care was provided to the team to make them more effective and confident in carrying out their counselling tasks, and strengthened the positive relationships between team members, the exchange of professional experiences in professional interventions with individuals and groups, and increased the ability of appreciating the importance of time and organization at work, 7) the professional capacities of the team and the capacities to administer psych-social crises were enhanced through participation in training at the invitation of various institutions.

- Training workshops: 5 training workshops were implemented for a total of 128 training hours for 87 trainees on various topics, such as preliminary psychological immunity, CBT, psychological trauma and skills of first aid, the skills of counseling, assessment and diagnosis, family counseling, how to deal with sexually abused people and the technique of prolonged review as a tool of Cognitive Behavioral School.

Outcome: The training contributed to 1) enhancing the knowledge of trainees in the above mentioned topics, whereby the training included both the practical and the theoretical aspects, 2) increasing the awareness of the trainees in the subject of psychological trauma as a treatment and as prevention, 3) developing the capacity of the trainees to better understand the conflicts that occur within the family and their relation to sexual assaults, 4) enhancing the skills of the trainees in utilizing the prolonged review technique as a tool used with people suffering from trauma. The skills used in the training were utilized in the various counseling activities.

- Providing training opportunities to the team: The counseling team received 4 trainings (57 training hours), through various institutions, such as Gaza Community Mental Health Program, Medical Relief Committee and the Human Rights Secretaries. The training focused on the following topics: reproductive health, psychological trauma, gender-based violence, and training of trainers.



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Outcome: The training contributed to the development of planning skills of the trainees in the public and private spheres, whereby the skills of the team were developed in how to measure the impact and utilizing measurement and planning tools at the private and public level.

- Holding monthly office and skype meetings with the team: There is daily follow-up of the team through plans, reports and data entry, as follows: 1) 20 individual and collective skype meetings were held with the West Bank team, 2) 3 office meetings and several skype meetings were held with the team of the MoSA project, 3) 7 skype meetings were held with the Gaza Strip team, and 1 training workshop on prolonged review technique through skype, 4) 2 central office meetings were held with the West Bank team.

Outcome 3.2: Further development of system of case documentations.

Evaluation tools, such as pre- and post-questionnaires, were developed to measure the impact on the supportive groups, and the evaluation was utilized in determining the actual outcomes. Also, 10 success stories were documented. Moreover, all information related to the monthly reports was entered in the database, and all counselling activities and awareness workshops were documented through photos, documentation forms and news reports.

Outcome 3.3: Counselling workers and students of humanitarian science are trained and demonstrate improved competencies in counselling.

PWWSD's activities aim to prepare psychologists and social workers to be ready to work in local organizations, and to develop the capacity of trainees to deal with cases. The impact of these activities is manifested in an increase in the confidence of educational institutions in the professionalism of PWWSD counsellors, and an increase in the ability of humanitarian science students to receive individual cases and learn to write intake and primary information forms. Also, PWWSD contributed to developing the experience of volunteers through the implementation of some activities with the target groups. It encourages and enhances the participation of volunteers and trainees in workshops organized by civil society organizations, and activating their role in the activities implemented by the program. The training contributed to developing the personal and professional skills of the trainees, and many of the trainees participated in various national and PWWSD activities, such as workshops on elections.

- Hosting and training undergraduate Humanities students: The Counselling Program in the West Bank and Gaza welcomes many graduate and trainee students, who are targeted as youth for professional empowerment, lobbying and advocacy. During the reporting period, (10) developmental groups were formed from graduates of Humanities, whereby (263) hours of capacity development and supervision were provided to (156) trainees (121 female and 35 male) in (89) meetings. Through the meetings, the participants were trained on: Individual counselling skills, professional intervention plan, team building skill, how to plan for an awareness workshop, in addition to discussion rounds on gender-based violence and sexual harassment through social media networks. Also, 39 students of Humanities from Ramallah, Nablus, Tulkarim, Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza received individual trainings on individual counselling skills, preparing evaluations related to their professional development.

Outcome: The individual and group training of the students contributed to developing their counselling skills and increasing their motivation for volunteering in PWWSD activities. They also participated in several activities organized by PWWSD and they were delegated to participate in several workshops and training.

- Recruiting volunteers for advocacy and lobbying activities: 57 male and female volunteers were delegated to participate in various workshops and trainings of other civil society organizations.



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Outcome: The volunteers increased their knowledge on the National Referral System and treatment with art as a counselling tool, and their capacities in the mechanisms of creating groups, how to implement awareness workshops on topics related to psycho-social counselling.

Strategic Objective III: PWWSD's capacity and resources are developed.

To achieve this strategic objective, PWWSD worked on achieving the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: 1. Administrative and organizational manuals of PWWSD are reviewed and developed.

Outcome 3.1: The Five Years Strategic Plan is developed and adopted by all the organization's levels.

- PWWSD administration started the process of re-evaluating its strategic plan in 2013. The strategic plan was developed and finalized and adopted by BoD in 2016.
- PWWSD staff, members of BoD and the General Assembly participated in a workshop to review and discuss the Strategic Plan.

Outcome 3.2: Organizational bylaws, administrative structure, administrative and financial Manual and information system are developed.

- The implementation guide was revised, updated and disseminated among PWWSD staff.
- Operational Plan for 2016 was drafted and updated according to need.
- Various internal and consultative sessions took place to follow-up the work, networking and advocacy and lobbying activities.

Outcome 3.3: The advocacy and lobbying unit is developed.

- PWWSD is working on developing its Advocacy and Lobbying Unit through the participation of its staff in various related trainings and workshops.
- PWWSD continues the work on developing its website and its social media tools.

Specific Objective 2: Human resources are developed.

Outcome 2.1: PWWSD's staff members' professional capacity, well-being and performance are improved.

- There is on-going internal supervision of PWWSD staff in various Programs and departments.
- PWWSD is working on developing the Resource and Training Unit.
- PWWSD implemented a well-being and self-care activity for its staff.
- PWWSD staff participated in various trainings organized by PWWSD and other counterpart organizations and partners.
- Supervision sessions were implemented for the counsellors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Specific Objective 3: Income- generating activities of PWWSD are developed.

The income-generating activities of the organization were followed up and marketing policy developed, and both PWWSD's and the women's products are being marketed within the permanent exhibition "Arts & Crafts" and at "Al-Zewadeh" and at local exhibitions.

Outcome 3.1: The revenue of the income generating activities is increased.

- Marketing campaigns launched and on-going.
- On-going development of marketing process and products are marketed within "Arts & Crafts", at local exhibitions and via Facebook.



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- On-going networking.
- PWWSD opened a permanent exhibition for the products of the women's cooperatives it works with in the Old City of Ramallah. The shop (Arts & Crafts) exhibits various products of the women's cooperatives, including embroidery and food products.
- Renovation of Al-Zewadeh kitchen and restaurant.

4. Achievements and Internal Developments

During 2016, and based on various evaluations, PWWSD focused on the following issues in its work: 1) organizing women in bodies and structures to enhance their political, social and economic participation, 2) documenting human rights violations against Palestinian women, whether occupation or social violence, particularly with the intensified violations by the occupation, 3) Expanding the successful experience of shadow councils of local government and organizing more women in such bodies, 4) organizing and intensively working with youth groups, both male and female, 5) promoting women's political and civic engagement, 6) intensifying the work in the field of women economic empowerment, 7) enhancing lobbying and advocacy activities on the local, regional and international levels. More specifically, the following developments took place:

- Human resources changes: During 2016, PWWSD had 55 employees, including 5 part-time and tens of volunteers. At the end of the year, PWWSD applied for restructuring of the organization at the Ministry of Labour due to the shrinking of funds.

- Modifications in strategy/organizational processes: PWWSD organized a workshop with its administrative staff and BoD to review and revise its Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.

- New partnerships and projects: PWWSD signed new project agreements with some of its partners, such as the UNDP, DVV, UN Women and the CEC. Additionally, new partnerships were established with the CIS and the Ministry of Social Affairs, FES. Also, PWWSD won the Manara Award for its project with the shadow councils, which allowed PWWSD to implement another 3-month project targeting shadow councils. In general and despite all fundraising efforts, there is still staff and funding shortage due to the general funding atmosphere in the region and the shift in funding focus towards emergency projects and the issue of refugees in Jordan and Syria.

- Organization: PWWSD continues to be a strong reference for the target groups, civil society organizations and governmental organizations, this being evident in the number of beneficiaries that addressed the organization. This is due to 1) relationship with the grassroots through awareness raising, organizing women in groups (such as shadow councils and cooperatives), and capacity building 2) building coalitions and relations with counterpart organizations and duty-bearers 3) specialized staff that has knowledge of the basics of political and developmental work 4) utilizing media 5) transparency, 6) national solidarity activities.

PWWSD achieved the following during 2016:

1. Programmatic Basis:

- 1.1 Despite the continued escalating political situation and Israeli human rights violations and restrictions, PWWSD continued to work in all its locations and adopted an emergency plan.
- 1.2 Intensifying the work with youth groups, and including them in various programs and projects, to enhance their role on the local and national levels as agents of change.
- 1.3 Targeting males more intensively to attract them to participate in PWWSD's programs.
- 1.4 Vertical and horizontal development in the work with CBOs in various PWWSD work locations.
- 1.5 Deepening the work on the economic empowerment of women, whether individually or collectively in the form of cooperatives.



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- 1.6 Enhancing and deepening the work with female workers, since PWWSD is the only organization that has direct intervention with women workers in their place of work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and expanding the work for the establishment of a syndicate for workers in salons and beauty sector, based on the experience in establishing the syndicate of Kindergarten workers.
- 1.7 Continued mobilization of women and organizing them in various bodies and structures, particularly shadow councils, neighbourhood committees and labour committees.
- 1.8 Expanding the provision of legal services and access to justice for women and young women, and the active participation in the Sawasya Network for legal services.
- 1.9 Expanding the psycho-social counselling services through enhanced work of mobile clinics and active participation of the emergency psychological support team.
- 1.10 Working on various campaigns on women's political participation and combating sexual harassment through social media networks.
- 1.11 Developing the networking, lobbying and advocacy activities on women's issues, in terms of expanding and deepening the work and leading networks and coalitions on the local, regional and international levels, with both governmental and non-governmental bodies.
- 1.12 Geographical expansion of the work of PWWSD, especially in "Area C", Jerusalem villages (outside the Apartheid Wall) and marginalized locations in the Gaza Strip.

2. Institutional Basis:

- 2.1 Continue developing the capacities of the staff in topics related to professional needs, gender and well-being.
- 2.2 Developing the documentation and research file, whereby PWWSD produced a number of important documents on women's human rights issues.
- 2.3 Initiated the development of a Youth and a Volunteer File, to enhance the active participation of youth and volunteers and their engagement in the activities of PWWSD.
- 2.4 Deepening the role of the Programs Department in developing and sustaining the work.
- 2.5 Regular meetings of the Board of Director and the General Assembly of PWWSD.

5. Challenges and Deviations from Annual Plan

All programs' activities were accomplished in accordance with PWWSD's Operational Plan for 2016, which was based on the organization's capacity and available resources. During the planning phase, PWWSD takes into consideration the instable conditions within the Palestinian community and the general environment in the region, mainly from a political point of view, and various scenarios are studied in an effort to predict any possible deviations and try to overcome them. However, due to the changes, developments and the instable political situation, particularly the Israeli occupation violations and practices, including Israeli military restrictions, raids and military campaigns in the West Bank, which escalated during the year, and the postponement of the planned local elections, there was shifting in some activities. No negative deviation was registered, and building on last year's achievements, there is positive deviation in some areas, based on the cumulative expertise and knowledge gained by the program's targeted women. In general, on the level of obstacles, challenges and difficulties affecting the organization's work, PWWSD faced the following:

- **Israeli occupation:** the practices of the Israeli occupation and its violations of human rights, including the siege on the Gaza Strip, constitute an obstacle to implementing activities, and affected the work with our team in Gaza, as it prohibited joint meetings and travel of PWWSD staff between Gaza and the West Bank. This situation escalated with the outbreak of the Al-Quds Intifada in October 2015, whereby Israeli human rights violations were on the rise, which caused a shifting in the activities implemented to focus on national, support and crisis intervention activities.



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- **Patriarchal system:** this prevailing system limits women's access to justice and pressures are placed on women, whether from the society or the family, not to pursue their rights, such as the right to inheritance.
- **The inactivity of the PLC:** the disability of the legislative institution in Palestine affects the ratification of a series of laws such as the Penal Code and the Law on the Protection of the Family Violence. This is combined with a weak role of the judiciary system, which affects its credibility and impacts the level of encouraging women to refer to legal channels to protect their rights.
- **Postponement of local elections:** elections are an essential step in democratizing the community and involving women in the decision making process. The local elections, due to take place in October 2016, were postponed to 13.05.2017, which left a state of frustration among Palestinians. However, the elections will only take place in the West Bank. Hopes were high that the local elections will lead to the long-awaited presidential elections and elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). It is worth noting that the activities focusing on enhancing women's participation in these elections were implemented as planned.
- **Economic deterioration:** this issue is still affecting women's tendency towards being empowered and advocating their rights. Women prioritize the daily needs of their children, where in many cases worker women are ready to abandon their rights in order to keep the income resource they have. Although PWWS opened economic opportunities for many women, but the scarcity of operational and financing opportunities for women still constitute a challenging condition.
- **Lack of funds:** the financial crisis affecting the organization led the organization to revisit its operational plan and reduce its activities, which in turn meant lesser outreach with the community and the grassroots base.
- **Lack of specialized services:** such as specialized programs dealing with children victims of Israeli human rights violations, specifically in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, there is a lack of counselling institutions in Palestine, due to the lack of funding, which in turn places pressure on existing organizations

Registered deviation during the reporting period includes:

- 3.1. Positive deviation in the number of activities implemented, such as awareness-raising workshops, discussion sessions, hearing sessions, exchange visits, trainings, open meetings, discussion sessions.
- 3.2 Positive deviation in the number of legal consultations and litigation in courts.
- 3.4 Positive deviation in number of counselling services provided (individual counselling and consultations) and the number of supportive groups created, due to increase in number of people addressing these services.
- 3.5 Positive deviation in the number of psycho-social group supervision sessions.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Main lessons learned during the reporting period include:

1. Continued individual and collective empowerment of women and organizing them in bodies and structures as a step towards increasing their mobilization and enhancing their civic participation, attaining leading roles in the community and to create a single united voice in their communities. These groups and structures include shadow councils, cooperatives, labour committees, neighbourhood committees, etc. There is a need to continue to institutionalize the work of shadow councils as an important mechanism to promote community action and monitor of the work of municipalities.



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2. Continue the focus of the economic empowerment of women, particularly individual women, which is integral to enhancing their political, legal and social empowerment, through grants for small income-generating projects, membership in cooperatives, production and capacity development and marketing support.
3. Forming youth and women's forums in line with PWWSD's strategic objectives in activating the role of women and youth leaders in public life, work must be intensified to form youth and women forums in different governorates. The accumulation of work with these bodies can lead to the formation of a democratic youth and feminist movement that mobilizes and works for the national and feminist issues.
4. Enhancing the work with female workers, since PWWSD is the only organization that has direct intervention with women workers in their place of work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
5. Enhancing the work with men, especially male youth, has been fruitful, particularly related to activities to combat violence against women and enhancing women's civic participation.
6. There is still a need to develop a complaint system for the organization, and develop the documentation, research and volunteerism files. Work on developing these files started in 2016.
7. Continue developing the emergency psycho-social services through psychological support teams.
8. Continue strengthening the visibility of the organization, through improving its media work (for example, through an electronic newsletter and the development of its website and social media sites) and outreach, to create public opinion supportive of women's rights, as well as building partnerships with media organizations and implementing joint campaign.
9. PWWSD works on program-basis to achieve its strategic objectives, thus it is important to continue and strengthen the work with the grassroots, building a strong basis, and focusing on a vertical and horizontal development in the work with CBOs, and a continued balance between service delivery and policy impact. There is a need to expand the interaction and activism of the target groups in public issues, and not limit it to the participation of PWWSD employees, with the aim of involving women in public affairs and enhancing the contribution of the target groups in creating social change.
10. Intensify the engagement in national work in line with the Strategic Plan of the organization, whereby PWWSD emphasizes the need to include community activities related to the public affairs on the monthly plans of all its employees.
11. Continue to open formal channels for women to access justice to provide legal services.
12. Enhance the advocacy and lobbying activities on the local, regional and international levels, and the development of a national and regional advocacy plan with partners and like-minded organizations, coalitions and networks to unite the efforts with regard to UNSCR 1325, especially women's participation in decision-making and providing protection from violence, particularly the occupational violence and the rising fundamentalism. In addition to developing the networking activities, in terms of expanding and deepening the work and leading networks and coalitions on the local, regional and international levels.
13. Determine the identity of the organization and to focus on the importance of secularism in creating change and not to be evasive in this file, because secularity offers the opportunity for a climate supportive of women's rights.
14. The search for new funding remains a priority to enable the organization to carry on with its programs and projects, and there is a need for core funding to provide holistic services.
15. Developing the capacities of the staff in topics related to reporting, monitoring and evaluation, gender and well-being.
16. Enhance women's and minors' access to psycho-social services, especially in marginalized areas.



7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation methodology of PWWSD is of horizontal approach to ensure the participatory strategy of the organization is carried out. Feedback is provided on a reciprocal basis and the different steps of the monitoring and evaluation process are implemented through consultations and workshops. The monitoring of the activities is ensured by the Program and Project Coordinators and supervised by PWWSD Programs Department. They are responsible for running all necessary administrative preparation and integrating the activities, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, various internal and external evaluations of the various projects and of the various capacity development activities implemented for the staff and the target groups were conducted. PWWSD uses a number of tools to monitor and evaluate its implemented activities and ensure their proper implementation:

- Periodical work plans and reports.
- Project Implementation Guide.
- Field visits and participation in activities.
- Regular meetings of the Programs Department.
- Verifying and examination of documents.
- Holding skype meetings for the West Bank and Gaza Strip teams, whereby several meetings were held to discuss reports and provide feedback, and these meetings are documented through minutes.
- Daily feedback and follow-up with the teams in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through telephone and Internet and through the team and the other departments.
- Follow-up of documentation of activities and the Data system.
- Analysis of the various monitoring and evaluation forms, such as pre- and post-questionnaires, training evaluation forms, focus group meetings, etc.

8. Annexes

Annex I: Financial Report 2016.

Annex II: Log Frame, 2016.