



## ASSESSMENT REPORT

# ON THE POLICIES AND THE PROCEDURES OF WORK WITH YOUTH IN THE WEST BANK INCLUDING JERUSALEM, AND GAZA STRIP

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**Assessment report on the policies and the procedures of work  
with youth in the WB including Jerusalem, and Gaza strip.**

**Submitted to:**

**Palestinian Youth Union (PYU): Coordinator of the youth  
sector in the Palestinian NGOs Networks (PNGO).**

**Funded by Olof Palme International Center**

**and**

**the European Union through the Palestinian NGOs Network**

**Submitted by:**

**Human Resources and Development Company (HR&D)**

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## Speech of General Director

The Palestinian Youth Union–PYU initiated this study as it resonates with its values and goals which include promoting and empowering Palestinian youth sector locally.

The Palestinian youth union–PYU is pleased to showcase this study (especially for research centers and civil associations working with youth) this study titled “Assessment report on the policies and procedures of work with youth in the West Bank including Jerusalem and Gaza strip” implemented by HRD company for human resource development that was selected by PYU, according to criteria of research methodology and price offer.

The significance of this study that it examines the state of Palestine’s youth sector (males and females) directly in different aspects and sectors whereas previous studies considered youth to be a part of those sectors without focusing on them directly.

The Palestinian youth union– PYU believes that change is done by and for youth, thus making this study important for supposed change and improvement in different local organization’s strategies.

Finally, the Palestinian youth union–PYU expresses gratitude to its partners “Olof Palme International Swedish Center” and the Palestinian Non–Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) for their support during the study’s implementation.

The Palestinian youth union–PYU hopes for this study to have a positive impact on the youth sector in Palestine, to eventually create a positive change on our Palestinian community now and in the future.

**Muharram Al– Barguthi**

**General Director / PYU**

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## Executive Summary:

The Palestinian Youth Union, through funds from Olof Palme International Center and the Palestinian NGOs Networks, has executed an assessment report on the policies and the procedures of work with young men and women in the West Bank including Jerusalem, and Gaza strip. In an attempt to implement this initiative, the Palestinian Youth Union contracted with the Human Resources and Development Company HR&D.

This study aims to achieve a strategic vision with a participatory research process that is closely related to economic, social, and health rights, as well as social protection and agriculture, To create a better reality for youth that is just and equal, make a difference in the community, and change power dynamics by creating constructive dialogue among youth and civil institutions, for the purpose of ensuring the participation of young men and women in decision making as well as bringing up new working mechanisms and methodologies based on the effective participation of those who have the right to create this vision.

The Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics for year 2019 indicates that Palestinian young men and women who are between ages 18 – 29 constitute around 23% of the total population, and although they represent a big percentage, there are still a lot of things to be done to activate their role in the Palestinian community. in reality there are many problems that encounter the youth sector in Palestine on the political, economic and the social levels, which this study will attempt to shed light on in order to develop solutions for these problems in cooperation with decision makers. This study was carried out during the months of November and December of 2020 and its work methodology was based on reviewing documents and literature review, as well as using the available statistics on the youth sector. The study also included the implementation of a series of in–depth workshops with a group of young men and women from both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Seventeen workshops were held in the West Bank and three workshops in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, 339 electronic questionnaires were filled out by young men and women.

The study concluded that there are various challenges facing the youth sector, which require the need for a comprehensive plan and a shared vision by all institutions in order to meet the growing needs of youth and provide them with a decent life as well as involving them in the design of future policies.

The study included many recommendations on the community and social responsibility levels through dealing with young men and women as capable partners who have the power to create change, and not just as an implementation entity of activities.

Through the study, young men and women emphasized the importance of their involvement in the positions of decision making as they have a larger impact and role in integrating the youth sector in the economic and agricultural fields.

Some of the study's recommendations indicated the importance of involving young men and women in defining their priorities and needs, enabling them to integrate in the job market. Moreover, the study suggested a set of recommendations related to activating the political participation of youth in political parties and movements. This requires taking actions on different levels, including the parties themselves and the activation of their internal systems or through activating the legislative aspect by

adapting new laws for Palestinian youth.

In the end, the study revealed several recommendations in various fields, including social, political, economic, educational, legal, and agricultural fields. The most prominent of these recommendations related to those of the youth sector who were politically involved. Young people demanded to implement their right to vote, whether in civil or non-civil institutions. Youth are also calling for the necessity of amending the current election law and reduce the age of participation of young men and women in elections to 23 years old instead of the current adopted law that allows youth who are 25 years old and above to participate in elections. This step will increase the chances of young men and women to reach political positions in their local communities. It is important to point out that activating this policy as one of the tools and mechanisms adopted is crucial to the enhancement of youth participation and integration which will allow them to participate in local political institutions.

Besides the need to open the way for male and female youth to be represented more as leaders in political parties and become decision makers in the community where they can meet the youth needs and requirements, the young men and women who filled the questionnaires also recommended having programs to help improve their knowledge and abilities in order to increase their opportunities in entering the labor market. Moreover, youth recommended encouraging youth centered initiatives and business incubators that reflect their needs and aspirations and can provide them with the required support and funding for youth initiatives and activities.

Youth also noted the importance of developing vocational training plans for youth and enhancing the legal environment to support youth projects.

through the recommendations related to the youth role in youth institutions, the study focused on the necessity of youth participation in decision-making centers and their inclusion in administrative boards and bodies. also, the need for institutions working in the youth sector to work on reformulating their dialogue towards young men and women through community institutions in order to attract young men and women to stimulate them positively with community participation. It is necessary to fight patriarchal, partisan, and factional authorities in order to promote the effective citizenship concept among young men and women.

Youth stressed out on the need to activate the Palestinian Youth Law based on the Prime Minister's decision to consider 2020 as the year of Palestinian youth, as this represents an opportunity for development in several sectors, including the agricultural sector. The strategy of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture for the years 2017-2022 has been confirmed to support youth institutions and help youth access agricultural services.

Despite the existence of the Palestinian Public Health Law, young men and women are asking for health and psychological services so they can enjoy good physical and psychological health. Young men and women noted the importance of strengthening the role of youth institutions in the

field of health awareness regarding mental, sexual and life health issues. through the study youth suggested recommendations from many different sectors.

## Chapter One

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. An overview of the reality of Palestinian youth:

The Palestinian youth sector is excluded and marginalized in the decision-making processes and from processes related to expressing their opinions regarding their future perceptions on the economic, social, and political levels. There is still a gap between the youth and other generations, which gave a space for more marginalization and weakness among youth, especially young women, as they suffer from duplicate injustice; from society on the one hand and from occupation on the other.

Young men and women form an important and essential part of the Palestinian society; therefore, the role of young men and women will be more visible and influential in the various social, political and economic aspects. When speaking of the social, political, economic reality of youth, it is important to consider the variables that played a crucial role in developing young men and women in the Palestinian society, whether from those political changes since the Nakba, or the growth of the national sentiment and the emergence of the prominent role of young people in the issues of national liberation, which helped in the emergence of the General Union of Palestine Students as a place to gather Palestinian students since the fifties of the last century. Then after 1967 and in the seventies and the eighties of the last century sports clubs were one of the forms that helped to shed light on the role of youth. In the eighties Palestinian universities were important incubators for political work and community activities that had a voluntary nature. Voluntary work activity emerged significantly during that period through the formation of volunteer work committees, and a great role was noticed for young people. During the first intifada in 1987 and the formation of popular committees as a form of organizing work Community, and after the Oslo Accords, a new reality emerged on the Palestinian level, and this was reflected on the youth sector. with the beginning of the Palestinian Authority, the Ministry of Sports and Youth and Young Women was formed, and then it was transformed into the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, and work became more specialized with young men and women.

Young men and women suffer from the decline of their social participation, and we can confirm that their role has become limited to either implementing community campaigns or implementing some voluntary activities, even though there are attempts here and there to promote the reality of young men and women, and actively involving them, but that role still needs more concerted efforts between all parties working with the youth sector. There are many reasons behind the causes to why youth participation is lacking, as this study seeks to diagnose these causes. As a result of the unstable political reality, the Palestinian division, the high unemployment rate, the lack of job opportunities for graduates, and the Covid 19 pandemic have increased the reality of the difficulties faced by the youth sector in Palestine. The participation of young men and women in the public life has become an essential element in the Palestinian society since youth constitute 23% of the total population, and this is a big number which can be effectively used in the economic, social and sustainable development. This kind of diagnosis requires the partners and actors to take an action by developing a roadmap and

defining a unified workstrategy towards this sector through multiple steps, including the representation of youth in political parties, ensuring the presence of young men and women in the governmental institutions through working on enacting laws that allow youth to be part of those institutions.

## **1.2. Defining youth in the local and international context**

The concepts of defining young men and women varied according to the countries' policies, priorities and programs towards young men and women, which are affected by the political, social and economic reality. Some countries depend on age in defining youth, and others depend on the social structure. Defining youth aims to determine the transition period from childhood to adulthood and social maturity. For instance, the United Nations defines youth as this group age who are between 15 and 24 years old, which is the same definition that the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics relies on.

The United Nations defines youth as individuals within the age group 15–24 years, leaving the room for states to define the category of youth according to the specificity and need of each country, and for the purposes of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Young men and women are considered an essential component in Palestinian society, as the percentage of young men and women (18–29) in Palestine reached 23% of the total population (1.13) million people, and the data of the Central Statistical Organization indicates that 15% of Palestinian families are headed by young men. Young men and women are considered to be the most influential group in Palestine, and the potential force capable of making change and building the future, as they constitute the only resource and real investment for the Palestinian people. Therefore, all community institutions (governmental, private and civil) must invest in this category in order to bring about real and sustainable development. Not investing in this productive group and leaving it without the required care will negatively affect society and the goal of achieving development, especially as marginalizing the energies of young men and women and leaving them without empowerment turns them into destructive elements of development in the present and the future.

## **1.3. Demographic characteristics of Palestinian youth**

Young men and women represent a large segment of the Palestinian society, which is classified as a young society, and as indicated by the Central Bureau of Statistics statement, Palestinian men and women constitute 23% of the total population in Palestine, noting that the population estimates for 2019 indicate that the total population in Palestine (4.98) million people, the sex ratio between male and female youth from the age of 18–29 is 105 men for every 100 young women.

## **1.4. Social characteristics (education and health) COVID–19 pandemic and its impact on health and education.**

### **➤ 1.4.1 Education**

Education, as stipulated in international laws, is a right for all citizens, and as stated in the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals, that it must be available for young people as the other groups of society.

The data of the Labor Force Survey 2018 showed that 37% of young men and women in the age group (18–29) are enrolled in education, 45% of the age group (18–22) and 7% of the age group

(23–29), there is also a decrease in literacy from 1.1% in the year 2007 to 0.7% in the year 2018 among male and female youth, there is also a percentage of 20% of young men and women who are enrolled in education compared to 28% of young women.

The data of the Population and Housing Census for 2017 indicates that 3 out of every 100 young men have a difficulty in education as a result of disabilities, in addition to approximately 15% of young men and women who suffer from difficulty not enrolled in education (32,464) male and female youth from the category (18– 29) a year in both the West Bank and Gaza. The data of the socio-economic conditions survey for the year 2018 showed that about 82% of young men and women between the ages (18–28) who use the computer have basic skills such as pasting, copying, and sending emails.

From the beginning of the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic in Palestine and the closure of educational institutions, whether universities, institutes and schools, led to the complete closure of educational institutions and the transition from face to face education to electronic education through electronic platforms, as the number of students in Palestinian universities was estimated to be 786,187 students, and universities closed for about 30 days at the beginning of Covid 19, and this matter exacerbated many challenges and problems for young people, and on the other hand, the transition to e-learning has added more economic burdens on many families in light of the need for the availability of cardboard devices or the need for Internet connection. Distance education means the necessity of having an internet line in every home, and this matter requires reducing the cost of the internet for families, especially the poor and marginalized.” From the study of Covid-19, a shock or an opportunity for creativity (Shark Forum, UNFPA), the weakness of the Internet infrastructure and network in Palestine and increased the problems of young men and women in following up on the requirements of their study, other influences such as the social life of students at the university, which was interrupted due to the lack of communication between students on campus. In addition, the absence of students from the university campus has limited the practice of extracurricular activities by young men and women in universities or schools, whether related to political or trade union issues.

#### ➤ 1.4.2 Health

The survival chances of adolescents and young adults vary greatly around the world. In 2019, the risk of dying among those between the ages of 10 and 24 was highest in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Southern Asia, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and Latin America and the Caribbean (1). The average risk of dying a 10-year-old before reaching the age of 24 in sub-Saharan Africa is 6 times that of North America and Europe. At the country level, adolescent mortality rates in the age group from 10 years to 14 years ranged between 0.2 and 14.8 deaths per 1,000 adolescents aged 10 years, while adolescent mortality rates in the 15 to 19 age group ranged between

0.8 and 24.9 deaths per 1,000 adolescents aged 15 years, and youth mortality rates in the 20 to 24 age group ranged from 0.8 to 27.9 deaths per 1,000 adolescents aged 20 years. The highest death rates are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Major health problems

##### Violence

Violence is considered the fourth leading cause of death for adolescents and young people worldwide,

and its significance varies widely according to regions of the world. Violence kills one out of every three male adolescents in low- and middle-income countries in the WHO Region of the Americas.

According to what is reported in a global survey on the health of schoolchildren, 42% of teens and 37% of adolescent girls experience bullying. Sexual violence also affects a large proportion of young people, with 1 in 8 young men reporting sexual assault. Violence during adolescence also results in an increased risk of infection, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, mental health problems, poor academic performance, school dropout, early pregnancy, reproductive health problems, and infection with communicable and non-communicable disease.

#### **– Mental health**

Depression is one of the leading causes of morbidity and disability among adolescents, and suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15–19-year-olds. Mental health conditions account for 16% of the global burden of disease and injury in this age group. And begin suffering from half of all mental health disorders in adulthood, starting at the age of 14 years, but most cases go untreated or treated. There are many factors that affect adolescents' well-being and mental health. Violence, poverty, stigma, exclusion and living in fragile human situations are all factors that may increase the risk of mental health problems. The consequences of neglecting adolescents' mental health treatment extend to adulthood, which impairs their physical and psychological health alike and reduces their chances of living an accomplished life upon adulthood.

#### **– Addiction to alcohol and drugs**

Alcohol addiction among teens is a major concern in many countries, and it can reduce self-control and increase risky behaviors, such as unsafe sex or reckless driving. Drinking alcohol is a major cause of injury (including from road traffic accidents), violence and premature death. It can also lead to health problems that affect life expectancy. Globally, more than a quarter of adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 drink alcohol, with nearly 155 million adolescents. In 2016, the prevalence of excessive alcohol consumption among this age group was 13.6%, with males being most at risk.

Workers in the health sector in Palestine form the first line of defense, and an important center for their role in providing health care, prevention, guidance and direction to confront Covid 19 virus and its health implications. This sector is also considered one of the most influential and extended operational sectors in the Palestinian society, where approximately 31,873 cadres work in this sector, of whom 24,432 are in the West Bank, accounting for 76.7%, and 7441 are in the Gaza Strip, at a rate of 23.3%, and the percentage of women participating in this sector is approximately 49%. They work and provide health services through health institutions operating in the health sector in Palestine, namely: the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Military Medical Services, National Health Associations from civil society institutions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in addition to the private medical sector ... Occupies Palestine Rank No. (113) in health services worldwide according to the International Human Development Report issued by the United Nations, health services are still below the required level, despite the fact that the Palestinian Authority allocates a large part of its resources in the GDP to the health sector, so it is classified within Countries with medium development, due to many subjective and objective factors, which are difficult to enumerate in light of the conditions that our Palestinian people inexperience in the battle

of liberation and national construction, and the increase in the size of the challenges, obstacles and burdens that hinder the development and advancement of the health sector.

In regard to the most important health issues related to young men and women, which are diseases resulting from unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and respiratory problems, as a 2017 Palestinian census study indicated that 4 out of 10 men smoke. Most of those who use tobacco today started using it when they were teenagers. It is imperative to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors (under the age of 18 years) and raise their prices by raising taxes imposed on them, imposing a ban on tobacco advertising, and ensuring the creation of smoke-free environments. Globally, one out of every 10 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15 who use tobacco. there are regions in which the number of adolescents who use tobacco are numerous and much more than that. The Palestinian Ministry of Health works to secure youth needs, whether from health services or increasing awareness of health matters. The data indicated that about a third of young men and women who are between 15–29 years old have correctly defined the concept of health as the ideal state of mental, physical and social health, not merely the absence of diseases. 93% of the age group who are between 15–45 evaluated their health information between good and excellent, while 1.5% rated it as bad, moreover 40% of those surveyed considered psychological services as one of the most important priorities, while 24% of young men and women considered physical needs as the most important.

## **1.5. Economic characteristics (unemployment, agriculture) the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on unemployment and agriculture.**

### **➤ 1.5.1 Unemployment**

The problem of unemployment is a global phenomenon, and it has become a challenge for all countries with different political and economic systems. Unemployment rates give us an indicator that helps identifying the conditions of the national economy and they are inversely related to the real growth rate in the country. Unemployment is one of the economic indicators that reflects the state of the general imbalance in the economy. Nationalism, and its negative effects extend to the social and political balance, so it is a complex and multifaceted problem. Unemployment is a major challenge facing the youth sector in Palestine, and its negative repercussions have devastating effects on various aspects of the public and private life of youth. Unemployment is defined as forced or sometimes voluntary unemployment for a part of the labor force in a society, despite the ability of the workforce and its desire to work and produce.

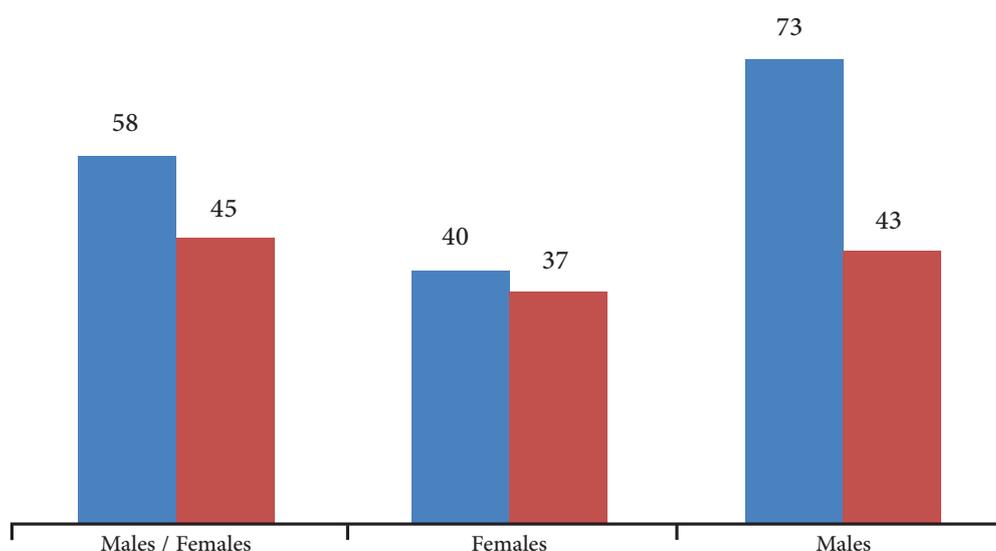
#### **The International Labor Organization definition of unemployment:**

It is the case that includes people who their age allows them to work and have the ability and the desire to start a job, but they could not find it.

The unemployment rate among young men and women (18–29) increased in 2018 to reach 45% (36% among males, while it reached 79% among females, compared with 37% in 2008, noting that there is a high percentage among young men and women in the Gaza Strip, it is noticeable. The unemployment rate among females is higher than that of males, and perhaps one of the most important reasons is due to the prevailing social concepts of restricting some jobs to women and on

the other hand, the male domination of the work sector in Palestine.

The unemployment rate among young men and women of the age group (15–29) who hold diploma



certificates reached 58% during 2018, 40% for males and 73% for females. The unemployment rate among young graduates and young women (18–29) who hold a diploma in Palestine according to their gender.

Due to the spread of Covid 19 pandemic worldwide and the attempts of many countries, including Palestine, to limit the spread of this virus and eliminate it, the repercussions of this crisis have directly reflected on the Palestinian labor market and exacerbated the high unemployment rates in the youth sector in general and women in particular. Many institutions, especially those working in the services and hotels sector, laid off workers or reduced the number of their workers, this has led many young men and women into unemployment, and many women who work in the unregulated sector associated with products supply to service institutions have lost their sources of income as a result. These establishments stop buying products from home-based women and in handicrafts such as embroidery, accessories, or food processing products. Palestine has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic like other countries of the world, which has left unprecedented deep economic and social impacts (for example, high rates of poverty and unemployment, and lack of care for the elderly and people with disabilities), especially on the poor and marginalized groups that do not have any social protection. Such as women, the elderly, and people with disabilities – in addition to the young men and women.

### ➤ 1.5.2 Agriculture

The contribution of the agricultural sector in the gross domestic product (GDP) has decreased from 36% in the 1970s to about 3% in 2017. Despite the fact that the agricultural sector is considered one of the most important sectors affecting the development process because of its significant impact on many important economic, social and political indicators as well. It has an impact in the rest of the sectors in providing raw materials and production inputs. The agricultural sector in Palestine is distinguished by the diversity of its products due to the diversity of its four climates.

The budget of the agricultural sector is considered one of the lowest budgets in comparison with the other sectors. In 2018 the budget did not exceed 1% of the total budget.

Within its strategy 2017–2022, the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture has developed the agricultural sector strategy – resilience and sustainable development 5 strategies to enhance the role of the agricultural sector, and this requires setting government policies to serve agricultural strategies, including strengthening the role of young men and women in the agricultural sector and enhancing the orientation of young men and women to work in the agricultural sector. The reality confirms that there is reluctance and retreat among young men and women and women to work in the agricultural sector despite the high level of unemployment at the Palestinian agricultural level. This is largely due to the disappearance of this group, and the decline in the level of education for workers, as well as income, compared with the various economic activities in the Palestinian territories, and all this is due to the occupation's control over all resources of land and water, which are the focus of the agricultural productive process. Young men and women view the agricultural sector as unattractive., young men and women keep away from working in this sector due to the limited opportunities therein, on the other hand, the need to invest in infrastructure and the lack of resources to invest in it. The male and female youth component contributes to temporary agricultural employment (often from unpaid family members) by about 58%, while the contribution of young men and women to permanent agricultural employment is about one third. The agricultural sector, like other productive sectors, incurred great losses due to the complete closure of all aspects of life, and it can be said that all components of

the agricultural sector were affected by the crisis, for example, the livestock sector, which includes (milk cow's farms, layer chicken farms, broiler farms, sheep farms). Also, plant production has been affected by the accumulation of products as a result of closures, market closures, and farmers' inability to market their products.

## Chapter Two

### 1. Study Objective

The Palestinian Youth Union, in cooperation with the Palestinian NGO Network and the Olof Palme Center, carried out this evaluative research on the policies and mechanisms of working with young men and women in the West Bank including Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. To implement the mentioned initiative with the aim of:

- Producing a strategic vision for young men and women within a participatory research process related to economic and social rights (health, education, social protection and agriculture) from the perspective of young men and women to create a better reality that is more just and equal, effecting change and adjusting the balance of power in favor of young men and women by creating a dialogue between young men and women and civil institutions to ensure Participation of young men and women in decision-making).
- Create working and methodological mechanisms based on the effective participation of those who have the right to produce this vision, in addition to comparing it with existing national youth policies and lobbying and advocating for its adoption by civil society institutions and placing them on the government's table for approval.

### 2. The importance of the study

This study is considered one of the studies specialized in studying the reality of young men and women in Palestine in order to support and formulate a national strategic vision for the participation of young men and women, as well as expanding the institutional and legal framework to enhance their participation and representation in public life at all levels. It is also possible that the study will encourage innovative models to involve young men and women in decision-making and assist in the inclusion of their demands in the context of public policies, additionally the study will work on formulating a strategic vision related to economic and social rights and from a youth perspective to create a more just and equal reality to bring about change in favor of Young men and women, by creating a dialogue between young men and women and partners related to the youth sector and decision-makers to ensure the participation of young men and women in the decision-making process.

### 3. Study methodology

The study team worked on developing a work methodology consistent with the objectives of the study. This included the use of a set of methods and tools to implement this study, considering the specificity of the subject being studied. The team combined the quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and

accordingly the study team applied a multi-method methodology to implement the study mission. In detail, the methodology used included the following qualitative and quantitative methods and tools:

#### **1- Literature review:**

The team staff who were assigned to collect and review the available literature, including previous studies and research which are available to give an overview on the reality of Palestinian youth and young women, and then analyze this data to infer from it the reality of young men and women in order to help develop this research. The methodology of disaggregation along with comparison were adopted in the literature review, by identifying all previously written materials on “young men and women in Palestine” and then researching the topic in general. The importance of a broad view of the research question stems from highlighting the work that has been carried out so far, and from a broader point of view, including general characteristics related to young men and women and the reality of young men and women, from the methods in place to examine the topic and the recommendations that have been put forward to date at the policy level.

#### **2- Interviews with partners:**

Conducting interviews with parties from various related fields (see Appendix No. 2), including (institutions working in the youth sector), to recognize their opinions and suggestions regarding the best tools suitable for youth participation in the public life, the determining factors, and the options for increasing their participation.

#### **3- Focus Groups**

A special form was designed, see Appendix No. (1) for the focus groups, where (17) meetings were conducted in the West Bank region, and (3) meetings were conducted in the Gaza Strip area in order to learn about the reality of young men and women and to know their opinions and suggestions About the best tools for male and female youth participation and inclusion in public life. find table that shows the locations of the workshops in Appendix (4)

#### **4- Electronic Questionnaire:**

An electronic Questionnaire was designed for young men and women, see Appendix No. (3), in order to identify the reality of Palestinian youth on multiple aspects and try to understand the policies and mechanisms of work with the youth sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and examine the extent of the participation of young men and women regarding issues related to economic and social abuse And political issues, in order to create a fertile environment for the participation of young men and women in policy-making and planning.

#### **5- Data entry and analyzing results:**

The number of forms entered was 339, distributed between the West Bank 172 forms and Gaza 167 questionnaires, distributed geographically according to city, village and camp and gender. The forms were analyzed through SPSS and the third part of the study includes an analysis of the results.

#### **4- Obstacles that encountered the study:**

1. Due to COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown decision, the research team was unable to reach and make face-to-face meetings with young men and women on a large scale.

2. Difficulty coordinating meetings with groups of young men and women by partners due to Covid 19.
3. The lack of zoom techniques for some young men and women, which sometimes led to the cancellation of the meeting.
4. As a result of the declared state of emergency in Palestine due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Al-Mawarid Company designed an electronic form for young men and women in coordination with the Palestinian Youth Union (Appendix No. 3).

## **5- Palestinian Youth Union**

The Palestinian Youth Union is non-Profit organization established on 1992 and registered on 2002 under Registration No. PA.: RA-2229-CU (in the Ministry of interior) that aims to improve the participation of Palestinian youth (males and females) in reducing poverty and enhancing the resources of their families, in addition to enhancing the interaction of Palestinian youth, young women, and boys and girls with social and political issues of concern to Palestinian society and the world, as well as increasing the interest and exposure of young men and women to cultural aspects. Associated with the Palestinian society and humanitarian in general and improving the general performance of the Union towards achieving its vision and commitment to its mission and continuity. Young men and women have become an important source for many workers in the development and in the activation of the role of young men and women in order to give them a greater role in designing policies for the young men and women sector, and this study came in order to analyze and review the reality of the Palestinian youth sector in both the West Bank and Gaza within the age group. (29-18) years, based on many indicators, including those related to economic and social rights (health, education, social protection and agriculture) with the aim of analyzing national policies towards the youth sector in general, and the roles and responsibilities of the main partners and relevant parties.

## Chapter Three

### 1. Results of the study and analysis

#### Results of the questionnaires and focus groups

This study relies on analyzing and gathering information on quantitative and qualitative research methods.

#### 1.1 Results of the questionnaires

\* Distribution by gender

Table No. (1) Indicates the distribution of participants according to gender

	Gender						
	Male		Female		Total		
	Numbers	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Region	West bank	40	30.5%	132	63.5%	172	50.7%
	Gaza strip	91	69.5%	76	36.5%	167	49.3%
	Total	131	100.0%	208	100.0%	339	100.0%

The questionnaire was distributed to 339 male and female participants, who live in the West Bank and Gaza. The study sample was divided according to gender (male and female). The sample from the West Bank included 172 participants, distributed over (40 males, 132 females). As for the Gaza Strip, the sample included 167 participants in quantitative and qualitative research. (91 male, 76 female). This analysis showed that the female participation rate is 63% compared to the male participation rate, which is 30.5%. On the contrary, the percentage of males participating in the sample in the Gaza Strip was higher, at 69.5% compared to 36.5% for females.

Table No. (2) The demographic distribution of the sample:

		Gender					
		Male		Female		Total	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Area	West bank	40	30.5%	132	63.5%	172	50.7%
	Gaza strip	91	69.5%	76	36.5%	167	49.3%
	Total	131	100.0%	208	100.0%	339	100.0%
Place of residency	City	74	56.5%	74	35.6%	148	43.7%
	Town/ Village	38	29.0%	100	48.1%	138	40.7%
	camp	19	14.5%	34	16.3%	53	15.6%
	Total	131	100.0%	208	100.0%	339	100.0%

The questionnaire was distributed to 339 male and female participants, distributed between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 172 West Bank and 167 Gaza Strip. The study sample was divided according to gender (male and female). The sample from the West Bank included 172 participants, distributed over (17 males, 132 females). As for the Gaza Strip, the sample included 167 participants (91 males, 76 females). The sample also included the demographic distribution between a city, a village, and a camp.

**Table No. (3) Join as a member in a community organization (youth, women, and sports, cooperative institutions) to activate your role**

		Region		
		West Bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
Join as a member in a community organization (youth, women, sports, cooperative institutions) to activate your role	Yes	76.2%	80.8%	78.5%
	No	23.8%	19.2%	21.5%

Some questions from the questionnaire were devoted to the importance of the participation of young men and women (male and female) in community institutions, and about their effective role. The results showed the importance of joining community institutions (youth, feminist, sports, and cooperative institutions) to activate the role of young men and women. 76.2% of males and females in the West Bank stated the necessity of joining, noting that the results came from the Gaza Strip higher than in the West Bank, reaching 80.8% in terms of the necessity of joining. In contrast, 23.8% of males and females from the West Bank and 19.2% from the Gaza Strip said that joining is not important.

**Table No. (4) – The extent of commitment and support given by the Ministries of the National Authority to implement the participation of young men and women in the decision–making process.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
<b>Describe the extent of commitment and support given by the ministries of the National Authority to implement the participation of young men and women in the decision– making process</b>	<b>There is a high commitment to the participation of young men and women in making decisions related to the needs of their communities</b>	8.2%	7.4%	7.8%
	<b>There is limited support for the participation of young men and women in activities related to their communities</b>	48.0%	53.4%	50.6%
	<b>There is no support available for the participation of young men and women in their communities</b>	43.9%	39.3%	41.6%

Some of the questions from the questionnaire were dedicated to the commitment and support given by the ministries of the National Authority to implement the participation of young men and women in the decision–making process. The results showed that 8.2% of males and females in the West Bank have a high commitment to the participation of young men and women in making decisions related

to the needs of their societies, 48.0% of males and females in the West Bank answered that there is limited support for the participation of young men and women in activities related to their communities, 43.9% of males and females in the West Bank answered that Ministries of the National Authority do not provide any support for the participation of young men and women in their societies. In contrast, the results from the Gaza Strip came about the commitment and support given by the ministries of the National Authority to implement the participation of young men and women in the decision-making process. 7.4% of males and females have a high commitment.

For the participation of young men and women in making decisions related to the needs of their societies, 53.4% there is limited support for the participation of young men and women in activities related to their communities, 39.3% there is no support available for the participation of young men and women in their societies.

**Table No. (5) – Participation of young men and women in political movements and parties.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
<b>Can it be said that the participation of young men and women in political movements and parties?</b>	<b>Effective at all levels.</b>	10.4%	18.0%	14.2%
	<b>Active in some fields</b>	64.0%	54.0%	59.1%
	<b>Inactive and young men and women are not represented</b>	25.6%	28.0%	26.8%

In regard to the politics, the results showed that 10.4% of the West Bank reported that the participation of young men and women in political movements and parties is effective at all levels and at all levels, and 64.0% is active in some fields and ranks the highest in the West Bank. As is the case in Gaza, with a smaller difference, reaching 54%, however 25.6% of young men and women from the West Bank believe that their role is ineffective, and that young men and women are not represented or participating in political movements and parties. As is the case in Gaza, the percentage is even higher, reaching 28%, as they believe that their role is ineffective, and that young men and women are not represented or participated in political movements and parties.

Table No. (6) – The type of activities that young men and women practice in society.

		Region		
		West bank	Total Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
1. What kind of activities do you practice in the community?	1. Participation in public activities	23.4%	19.4%	21.2%
	.2 Cultural and health symposiums.	13.0%	10.8%	11.8%
	3. Sports activities	3.5%	8.7%	6.3%
	4Volunteer works	22.5%	21.7%	22.1%
	5. Participation in building business plans and strategies in the country	5.6%	3.7%	4.5%
	6. Writing projects	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%
	7. Relief initiatives	4.2%	6.9%	5.7%
	8. Support and advocacy	8.1%	8.3%	8.2%
	9. Development activities	7.9%	10.0%	9.0%
	10. others	6.7%	5.4%	6.0%

With reference to the type of activities practiced by young men and women in society, the results showed that 23.4% of the young men and women in the West Bank participate in public activities (masses), and 22.5% of their activities are in volunteer work. As for the participation rate of young men and women in health education seminars, it reaches 13%. As for the participation of young men and women in constructing plans and strategies, the results of young men and women in the West Bank showed that 5.6% of them participate in constructing work plans and strategies. The results also indicated that 5.1% of young men and women participate in writing projects, 4.2% of young men and women participate in relief initiatives, 8.1% of young men and women participate in support and advocacy activities, and 7.9% of young men and women participate in development activities.

Regarding the Gaza Strip, male and female youth reported that 19.4% of young men and women from the Gaza Strip participate in public activities (masses), and 21.7% of their activities are in volunteer work. As for the participation rate of young men and women in health education seminars, it reaches 10.8%. As for the percentage of the participation of young men and women in building plans and strategies, the results showed that a rate of 3.7% of young men and women in the Gaza Strip of them participate in constructing work plans and strategies. Also, 5.2% of young men and women participate in projects writing, 6.9% of young men and women participate in relief initiatives, 8.3% of young men and women participate in support and advocacy activities, and 10% of young men and women participate in development activities.

**Table No. (7) – recognizing the type of institution through which young men and women practice their activities.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
<b>3. If yes? What type of institution is this?</b>	<b>Governmental institution</b>	11.1%	8.0%	9.6%
	<b>Non-profit corporation</b>	26.3%	28.4%	27.3%
	<b>Cooperative societies</b>	25.3%	25.0%	25.1%
	<b>Youth clubs</b>	33.3%	33.0%	33.2%
	<b>Other</b>	4.0%	5.7%	4.8%

Some of the questions from the questionnaire were dedicated to knowing the type of institution through which young men and women practice their activities. The results showed that 33.3% of young men and women practice their activities through male and female youth clubs, where 26.3% of young men and women from the West Bank practice their activities through non-profit institutions. Also, 25.3% of young men and women from the West Bank reported practicing their activities through cooperative societies. As for 11.1% of young men and women from the West Bank, they practice their activities through governmental institutions. In contrast, the results showed that 33.0% of young men and women from the Gaza Strip practice their activities through youth clubs. Also, 28.4% of young men and women from the Gaza Strip reported practicing their activities through non-profit organizations. And 25.0% of young men and women from the Gaza Strip practice their activities through cooperative societies. As for 8% of the young men and women from the West Bank, they practice their activities through governmental institutions.

**Table No. (8) – Measuring the participation of young men and women in institutions and community activities.**

		Region		
		West Bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
<b>The participation of young men and women in institutions or community activities is weak, or very weak. Are the reasons?</b>	<b>The institutions are not aware of the role of young men and women</b>	16.1%	16.5%	16.3%
	<b>The lack of programs and activities to serve young men and women</b>	31.3%	33.9%	32.7%
	<b>The ability of institutions to communicate with young men and women is weak</b>	20.1%	18.3%	19.1%
	<b>The lack of a specialized institutions working with young men and women</b>	28.3%	28.4%	28.4%
	<b>Other than that</b>	4.3%	2.9%	3.5%

Table No. 8 shows that 31.3% of the participation of young men and women in institutions or community activities is weak, or very weak because of the lack of programs and activities to serve young men and women, as is the case in the Gaza Strip, and the percentage reached 33.9% among young men and women who believe that the lack of programs and activities to serve young men and women are one of the reasons for that weakness

The participation of young men and women in institutions or community activities. 28.3% and 28.4% of young men and women in the two regions (West Bank and Gaza Strip), respectively, said that the absence of a specialized facility working with young men and women leads to their weak participation in the activities of the institution. The study also showed that 20.1% of young men and women in the West Bank attribute their weak participation in the activities of institutions to the weak ability of institutions to communicate with young men and women. This percentage is not much lower in Gaza, where 18.3% of young men and women in the Gaza Strip attribute their weak participation in the activities of institutions to the same reason, that is, we agree that part of the problem is the language of communication.

**Table No. (9) – How to activate your role as a young person in society.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
In your opinion how you actively participate as a young man/ women in society?	The availability of youth groups aiming to activate the role of young men and women	24.8%	31.9%	28.5%
	Youth initiatives through acquaintances and friends	19.8%	20.1%	19.9%
	Participation in programs and activities sponsoring youth initiatives (an incubator)	30.0%	24.5%	27.1%
	Participation in the activities of student unions and trade unions aimed at activating the role of young men and women	23.0%	21.0%	22.0%
	Other than that	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

Some questions from the questionnaire were devoted to how to activate the role of young men and women (male and female) in society. The results showed that 30% of young men and women stated the importance of participating in programs and activities sponsoring youth initiatives (incubators). In

contrast, in the Gaza Strip, where the highest percentage, 31.9%, indicated the need for youth groups that aim to activate the role of young men and women. 24.8% of the young men and women in the West Bank assert that the availability of youth groups that aim to activate the role of male and female youth occupies the second highest percentage over the Gaza Strip. On the other hand, 24.5% of young men and women from the Gaza Strip said that it is important to participate in programs and activities that sponsor youth initiatives (incubators).

**Table No. (10) – The type of activities that contribute in enhancing the role of young men and women in society.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
The type of activities that contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women in society:	Empowering young men and women in the social, economic and political fields	22.4%	20.7%	21.5%
	Inviting young men and women to work and invest their energies in the agricultural field	14.2%	16.1%	15.2%
	Training young men and women in vocational, economic, etc.	19.2%	19.8%	19.5%
	Community activities for youth in the country	14.5%	13.4%	14.0%
	Networking activities with institutions working in the same field	15.2%	14.1%	14.7%
	Inviting young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal	14.0%	14.1%	14.1%
	Other than that	0.5%	1.7%	1.1%

Table No. 10 shows the types of activities that contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women in society. The results showed a convergence between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Empowerment of young men and women in the social, economic and political fields ranked first, with a rate of 22.4%. And in second place with a rate of 19.2%, comes training young men and women in professional and economic fields, in third place with up to 15.2%. comes the activities of networking with institutions that work in the same field, And the fourth rank with a rate of 14.5%

is community-based activities for youth in the country. The fifth rank at a rate of 14.2%. is inviting young men and women to work and invest their energies in the agricultural sector, And the sixth rank with up to 14% is a call for young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal, Priorities converged, but the agricultural sector ranked third from what is in the Arab West Bank and ranked first with a rate of 20.7% for the priorities for empowering young men and women in the social, economic and political fields And in the second place with a rate of 19.8%, training young men and women in professional and economic fields,. And the third rank by 16.1%. is inviting young men and women to work and invest their energies in the agricultural field, And in fourth place with a rate of 14.1%. community activities for youth in the country and in fifth place with a rate of up to 14% comes the call for young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal. The sixth place with a rate of 13.4% is for networking activities with institutions working in the same field.

**Table No. (11) – The effective role of young men and women in decision-making at different levels.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
<b>How does the role of young men and women effective in decision making?</b>	<b>Very Effective in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors</b>	19.4%	22.1%	20.8%
	<b>Very Effective in youth, charitable, cooperative organizations, clubs, and coalitions</b>	28.9%	26.9%	27.9%
	<b>Effective just in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors</b>	19.8%	25.5%	22.8%
	<b>Effective just in youth, charitable, cooperative organizations, clubs, and coalitions</b>	24.5%	21.4%	22.9%
	<b>There is no effective role</b>	7.3%	4.1%	5.6%

Table No. (11) Shows the effective role of young men and women in decision-making at different levels. The results showed that 27.9% of young men and women play a well-effective role in youth institutions, charitable, cooperative, clubs, and coalitions. In second place, the results showed that 22.9% are effective in a limited degree in youth, charitable, cooperative organizations, clubs, and coalitions. 22.8% of male and female youth reported their active role to a limited extent in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors. Finally, 20.8% of the male and female

youth reported that their role is well effective in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors.

**Table No. (12) – The role of young men and women in various institutions.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
What is the role of young men and women within the various institutions?	planners	21.9%	21.4%	21.7%
	Decision makers	23.5%	18.5%	21.1%
	Executives	22.1%	22.4%	22.2%
	trainees	15.4%	19.5%	17.4%
	Trainers	16.2%	17.1%	16.6%
	Other than that	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%

Questions were asked to young men and women through a questionnaire about their role within the institution. What is meant here is to know how young men and women view their role in decision-making or planning within institutions. The results showed that 22.2% of young men and women view themselves as implementers. As for the other part, male and female youth, at a rate of 21.7%, view themselves as planners, 21.1% view themselves as decision makers, 17.4% as trainees, and 16.6% as trainers.

Table No. (13) to ensure wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions.

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
To ensure a wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions	Involving the largest number of young men and women within the institution's administrative structure	19.2%	21.0%	20.1%
	Participation in the meetings of various institutions as participants, observers or implementers	16.3%	18.0%	17.2%
	Addressing young men and women through programs that work with young men and women	18.6%	19.5%	19.0%
	Developing the life and professional skills of young men and women to help them enter the field of work	25.0%	22.8%	23.9%
	Provide youth with workplaces to ensure wider participation.	20.9%	18.7%	19.8%

Table No. (13) Shows the distribution of percentages about ensuring a wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions, 23.9% (25% from the West Bank, 22.8% in the Gaza Strip) answered and unanimously agreed to develop the life and professional skills of young men and women to help them enter the work force. 20.1%, distributed between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (19.2%, 21.0%) responded to the importance of involving the largest number of young men and women within the institution's administrative structure in order to ensure a wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions. 19.8% of young men and women from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (20.9%, 18.7%) stated the importance of giving workspaces to young people for a wider participation. causing it to rank third on the hierarchy of priorities for young men and women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to ensure a wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions, by addressing young men and women through programs that work with young men and women, as 19% of young men and women from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (18.6%, 19.5%) noted its importunacy. 17.2% of young men and women

from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (16.3%, 18%) reported the importance of involving the largest number of young men and women within the institution’s administrative structure, in order to ensure a wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions.

**Table No. (14) – The reasons behind the reluctance of young men and women from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to participate in community activities.**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
The reasons for the reluctance of young men and women to participate in community activities?	The lack of conviction of young men and women in the programs and activities of community institutions	10.8%	15.1%	12.9%
	The unsustainability of projects that lead to youth in community institutions	19.7%	16.9%	18.3%
	Lack of financial support for community enterprise projects and activities	25.2%	25.6%	25.4%
	Non responding to youth initiatives in youth institutions	14.8%	12.0%	13.4%
	Lack of participation of young men and women in the stages of preparing plans and future planning in youth institutions	16.6%	13.4%	15.0%
	Community institutions have a political character and color that are not independent	11.2%	15.9%	13.5%
	Other than that	1.6%	1.2%	1.4%

Table A

Order	Reasons	Percentage	Region
1	lack of financial support for community enterprise projects and activities	25.2%	West bank
1	Lack of financial support for community enterprise projects and activities	25.6%	Gaza Strip
2	The unsustainability of projects that lead to youth in community institutions	19.7%	West bank
2	The unsustainability of projects that lead to youth in community institutions	16.9%	Gaza strip
3	Lack of participation of young men and women in the stages of preparing plans and future planning in youth institutions	16.6%	West bank
3	The lack of participation of young men and women in the stages of preparing plans in youth institutions.	13.4%	Gaza strip
4	Community institutions have a political character that are not independent	11.2%	West bank
4	Community institutions have a political character and color that are not independent	15.9%	Gaza Strip
5	Non responding to youth initiatives in youth institutions	14.8%	West bank
5	Non responding to youth initiatives in youth institutions	12%	Gaza strip
6	The lack of conviction of young men and women in the programs and activities of community institutions	10.8%	West bank
6	The lack of conviction of young men and women in the programs and activities of community institutions	15.1%	Gaza strip

The reasons behind the reluctance of young men and women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to participate in community activities and the priorities and the reasons for the reluctance of young

men and women to participate in community activities were clarified, the table above titled (table A) provides a percentage listing of “the reasons of reluctance of young men and women to participate in community activities” from the highest ranking to the lowest.

**Table No. (15) – Interventions or activities during Covid 19 crisis**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column N %	Column N %	Column N %
<b>Interventions or activities during Covid 19 crisis?</b>	<b>Participation in emergency committees</b>	15.1%	15.3%	15.2%
	<b>Participate in rising awareness programs</b>	25.6%	26.3%	25.9%
	<b>Participate in love barriers</b>	8.5%	9.1%	8.8%
	<b>Participation in distributing relief aid (health, food, etc.)</b>	17.0%	16.9%	17.0%
	<b>Community initiatives</b>	23.0%	21.9%	22.4%
	<b>others</b>	10.7%	10.6%	10.7%

The results in table No. 15 show that 25.9% of young men and women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip participated in awareness programs related to interventions and activities for Covid 19. 22.4% of young men and women reported that their work was directed towards working on community initiatives during the period of the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020. Also, A rate of 17% worked on participating in the distribution of relief aid (health, food, etc.). Moreover, 15.2% of the male and female youth reported that they participated in emergency committees, and 8.8% participated with the love barriers initiative.

**Table No. (16) collaborative activities with other community organizations within the youths neighborhood or area**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column % N	Column % N	Column % N
<b>Collaborative activities with other community organizations within your neighborhood or area</b>	<b>Yes, inside the community</b>	24.3%	25.3%	24.8%
	<b>Yes, around the region</b>	26.8%	28.9%	27.8%
	<b>Yes, outside the populated area</b>	17.4%	12.0%	14.8%
	<b>Yes, outside the populated area</b>	7.7%	10.2%	8.9%
	<b>I did not participate</b>	23.8%	23.6%	23.7%

A question addressed to young men and women about participating in joint activities with other community organizations within their neighborhood or in the region, 27.8% of young men and women reported participating in activities around the area. The participation of young men and women in their community comes in the second degree, where 24.8% of male and female youth reported that they participate in community activities inside the community. Table No. (16) Shows that joint activities with other community organizations within your neighborhood or area.

Table No. (17) methods to promote and empower youth, women and women with disabilities to participate in political and social life

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column % N	Column % N	Column % N
Promoting and empowering young men and women and women with disabilities to participate in political and social life	It works to educate persons with disabilities about their social, economic, educational, and health rights	21.2%	25.2%	23.2%
	Rehabilitating and empowering people with disabilities to integrate them into the labor market	22.7%	20.0%	21.3%
	Ensure the rights of people with disabilities in order to obtain their rights to be employed in community institutions	15.7%	19.1%	17.4%
	Rehabilitating public buildings and facilities (institutions, public facilities, restaurants) to become suitable for persons with disabilities	16.1%	17.4%	16.8%
	Implementing programs and activities for the benefit of persons with disabilities	21.2%	16.6%	18.9%
	There is no role	3.2%	1.7%	2.5%

The results of the questionnaire showed that 23.2% of young men and women support the promotion and the empowerment of young men and women with disabilities to participate in the political and social life

by educating those people and increase the awareness of their social, economic, educational, and health rights. Also, 21.3% of young men and women stated the importance of rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities to be integrate in the labor market. Raising awareness of the rights of women and people with disabilities is important in promoting and enabling participation in political and social life. 18.9% of young men and women reported the importance of implementing programs and activities for the benefit of persons with disabilities, and 17.4% reported the importance of including the rights of persons with disabilities in obtaining access. He / she has the right to be employed in local community organizations.

**Table No. (18) ways to support youth in their involvement in decision making positions**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column % N	Column % N	Column % N
<b>How can Palestinian youth be supported to become more involved in decision-making positions ?in institutions</b>	<b>Involving young men and women in decision-making</b>	21.8%	23.5%	22.6%
	<b>Enhancing their role in exercising their right to be nominated and elected within the institution's work structure</b>	21.1%	19.7%	20.4%
	<b>Supporting youth initiatives and community projects</b>	23.3%	21.8%	22.5%
	<b>Participating in various workshops</b>	15.5%	15.8%	15.7%
	<b>Training and developing life skills for youth</b>	18.2%	19.2%	18.7%

When speaking about the wider participation of young men and women in decision-making centers, the percentages indicated the convergence between the participation of young men and women in decision-making mechanisms and the support of youth initiatives in community projects. Where 22.6% to 22.5%. Putting the participation of young men and women in first place with a rating of 22.6%", as for involving young men and women in the decision-making process. 22.5%believed that the support for youth initiatives and community projects to be important. The youth had an opinion about exercising their right to nominate and vote within the institution's work structure. The results showed that 20.4% see support for young men and women in order to become more involved is to enhance their role in exercising their right to nominate and vote within the institution's work structure. The percentage is not much less, regarding training and developing life skills for youth. 18.7% of young men and women reported supporting training and life skills development programs for young people as a tool and a mean to become more involved in decision-making positions.

**Table No. (19) The level of commitment that the institutions of the authority to increase the participation of youth in public life**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column % N	Column % N	Column % N
The commitment that the institutions of the authority give to increase the mechanisms of the participation of young men and women in public life	For example, budgets are allocated in institutions for youth activities	22.1%	24.4%	23.3%
	Specialized training programs are allocated for young people to build their capabilities and develop their skills	36.9%	34.4%	35.7%
	Providing financial and technical support to set up special projects for youth	27.6%	25.1%	26.3%
	Involving young men and women in planning and formulating policies related to young men and women	13.4%	16.1%	14.8%

When asked, through the questionnaire, what is the commitment given by the institutions of the authority to increase the mechanisms of the participation of young men and women in public life, 35.7% of young men and women stated the need to allocate specialized training programs for young people to build their capabilities and develop their skills. And 26.3% of young men and women agreed to provide financial and technical support to set up special projects for young men. In other words, the higher percentage of young men and women showed the importance of financial support to programs and projects for young men and women. The results showed that 23.3% of young men and women stated the need to allocate budgets in institutions for youth activities.

Besides the reasons mentioned above, about the commitment required from the institutions of the authority to increase the mechanisms of the participation of young men and women in public life, the questionnaire another aspect of concern which is the participation of young men and women in planning and formulating policies related to young men and women. Where 14.8% of the male and female youth reported on the importance of involving young men and women in planning and formulating policies related to young men and women.

**Table No. (20) Women’s participation in political life in existing parties and in decision making positions**

		Region		
		West bank	Gaza strip	Total
		Column % N	% Column N	% Column N
<b>Women’s participation in political life is weak, whether through the existing parties or in the role they play in decision-making</b>	<b>A female quota is considered a positive discrimination towards a woman</b>	23.7%	20.3%	22.0%
	<b>Women’s political participation is weak in comparison to men</b>	30.7%	33.2%	31.9%
	<b>The participation of women in civil society organizations is high</b>	13.5%	16.6%	15.0%
	<b>There are not many women in important leadership positions that influence decision-making positions</b>	32.1%	29.9%	31.0%

The research team carried out a series of workshops with youth groups in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as (17) workshops were held in the West Bank – (the northern, southern and central governorates) in addition to (3) workshops in the southern governorates and Gaza. The research team designed a questionnaire that examined the degree of participation of young men and women in local community institutions, what are the roles, as well as the mechanisms and work methodologies of institutions for integrating and activating the role of young men and women in institutions. The questionnaire also examines the challenges facing young men and women because of their reluctance to participate in non-governmental and governmental institutions.

### **1.2. Focus group results**

The research team carried out a series of workshops with youth groups in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as (17) workshops were held in the West Bank – (the northern, southern and central governorates) in addition to (3) workshops in the southern governorates and Gaza.

The research team designed a questionnaire that examined the degree of participation of young men and women in local community institutions, what are the roles, as well as the mechanisms and work methodologies of institutions for integrating and activating the role of young men and women in institutions. The questionnaire also examines the challenges facing young men and women because of their reluctance to participate in non-governmental and governmental institutions.

The participation of young men and women in the various civil society institutions such as Clubs, associations, village councils or municipalities.

**Through answering questions No.3,5, and 6 the youth focused on their role and participation in community organizations**

1– Institutions are aware of the importance of the role of young men and women and their participation in community institutions, but the role is limited.

2– Institutions’ acknowledgement of the needs of young men and women is limited.

3– The role of young men and women in implementing activities and planning is limited.

4– The involvement and participation of young men and women in institutions is just a requirement to attract funding.

5– Institutions consider young men and women to be the vehicle for implementing institutional activities.

6– Foundations implement their policies without taking into consideration the desires and the needs of young men and women.

The staff asked young men and women about the tools and the methodology used to activate the participation of young men and women in institutions.

**Through answering questions No.5,6,7, and 9 youth concerning the methods implemented by institutions for youth participation in their activities.**

1– The participation of young men and women in training that qualifies them to participate in administrative bodies.

2– Providing projects, programs and community activities that contribute more to the participation of young men and women.

3– Participation of young men and women in committees of the administrative bodies.

4– The participation of young men and women in the administrative bodies and youth councils of local and youth institutions.

5– Participation of young men and women in local elections for councils and bodies, which contribute to the availability of mechanisms to represent young men and women in local institutions.

The research team asked about the challenges and recommendations that ministries and institutions could use to direct the institutionalization and the participation of young men and women in the public and the institutional life.

**while answering questions No10,11, and 12 the youth discussed the challenges and recommendations they mention to various ministries or institutions regarding the institutionalization and participation of young men and women in public and institutional life See appendix.**

Trusting the role of young men and women and giving them opportunities to represent themselves in decision–making positions.

1. Participation in the electoral process, giving them the right to participate and run for decision–making positions.

2. Participate young men and women in the decision-making process.
3. Encouraging and activating youth initiatives.
4. Empowering young men and women in order to integrate them in the job market.
5. Providing youth with programs that seek to improve their skills and abilities so they can have the ability to plan and lead.
6. Involving youth in decision-making positions within public institutions and local bodies.
7. Integrating youth in the process of composing plans and strategies for the roles of young men and women in society.
8. Educating young men and women on the participation mechanisms in strategic planning and the roles of young men and women in society.
9. Educating young men and women on their roles in society.
10. Promote the roles of active youth institutions that work to empower young men and women in society.

### **1.3 Discussing the results.**

This chapter contains the analysis for the results based on the indicators referred to in the reference document and supported by the results of the questionnaire and the focus groups.

#### **The importance of youth participation in community institutions.**

Young men and women are the most valuable when working on building and developing society, as they are the instrument of change in society. For this change to happen, young men and women must have an effective participation in all sectors of society. Some questions from the questionnaire were devoted to shed light on the importance of young men and women (male and female) participation in community institutions, and about their effective role. The results showed the importance of joining community institutions (youth, feminist, sports, and cooperative institutions) to activate the role of young men and women. Where 78.5% of males and females reported positively on the necessity to join said institutions, while 21.5% of males and females considered joining these institutions not important, and when asked about the effectiveness of young men and women in community activities. The results indicated that 35.7% viewed the role of male and female youth is very effective, 26.3% significantly, 26.3% weakly, 5.3% very weak, and 6.5% I do not know. The largest percentage indicates that young men and women are active in societal institutions, the equal percentage of 26.3% for those who believe their role is very effective and for those who believe to have an ineffective role indicate that youth view themselves as implementers in their society.

Young people have a great role in the development and building of society, and their role is the youth sector has a great role in developing and building society, and their role is not limited to a specific field, but rather intersects with all social, political and economic fields, and various sectors of development. Its employment is a priority for all social institutions and groups that seek change. The Palestinian youth sector sense isolation and emptiness at all levels, given that the political, economic and health conditions beset the Palestinian society. 16.1% of youth in the West Bank and 16.5% of

youth in the Gaza Strip, expressed their weak participation in institutions or activities of the institution, because institutions are unaware of their role and 31.3% of youth in the West Bank and 33.9% of youth in the Gaza Strip expressed the lack of programs and activities that serve the youth. 20.1% of youth in the West Bank and 18.3% of youth in the Gaza Strip reported that institutions capacity to communicate with young men and women is weak., 28.3% of youth in the west bank, and 28.4% of youth in the Gaza Strip stated that there is no specialized facility for the youth sector, this emphasizes the reasons for the weak participation of young men and women. Through the questionnaire, young men and women explained the reasons for their reluctance to participate in community activities, the youth responses focused on the lack of financial support for projects and activities concerning young men and women through Table No. 14 the youth explained their reluctance to participate in community activities. 25.2% of youth in the West Bank, and 25.6% of youth in the Gaza Strip, responded to the lack of financial support for projects and activities concerning young men and women. 19.7% of youth in the west bank and 16.9% of youth in the Gaza strip also reported that youth projects in institutions are unsustainable, both males and females, agreed that financial support is important for the participation of young men and women in community institutions. and is also important to ensure a wider participation in the activities of civil institutions, 23.9% of youth (25% of the West Bank, 22.8% of the Gaza Strip) answered and unanimously agreed on the necessity to develop the life and professional skills for young men and women to help them enter the work force. 20.1%, distributed between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (19.2%, 21.0%) responded to the importance of involving the largest number of young men and women within the management structure of institutions in order to ensure a wider participation of young men and women in the activities of civil institutions. 19.8% of youth in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (20.9%, 18.7%) stated the importance of giving workspaces to young people for the sake of wider participation. this comes in the third rank on the hierarchy of priorities for young men and women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (18.6%, 19.5%) are important. 17.2% of youth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (16.3%, 18%) reported the importance of involving the largest number of young men and women within the institution's administrative structure, in order to ensure a wider participation in civil institutions. When discussing the types of activities that contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women in society: the results showed that 22.4% of youth in the west bank and 20.7% of youth in the Gaza strip considered the empowerment of young men and women in social, economic and political fields to be the highest priority”

even though the youth sector is the backbone to society, they are still considered to be the implantation force for youth institutions' activities. although 21.7% of those who answered this question through the questionnaire see their roles as planners. the bulk of the answers point towards the fact that the roles of young men and women do not go beyond the level of implementation Where 22.2% of young men and women believe themselves to only be the implementers of policies and activities of these institutions. When young men and women were asked about activating their role to become more involved in decision-making positions in institutions, 22.6% of youth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip answered that institutions should involve young men and women in decision-making, and provide programs to support youth initiatives, development and community projects. Young men and women stressed the importance of enhancing their right to run for and vote in elections as a democratic tool to enhance their roles. 20.4% of youth reported the importance of participating in candidacy and

election within the work structure of institutions.

The research questions came in order to harmonize the first strategic objective in the national strategic plan for the Palestinian youth sector, which is to activate and expand levels of political and civic participation for groups of young men and women by increasing the role of young men and women in influencing public life and decision-making at the national level, and activating the role of youth in elected frameworks, institutions, clubs and youth centers, and between the insight of young men and women about their role and the effectiveness of their participation in community institutions. Accordingly, their insight was as follows:

The results for youth participation in community institutions:

- 1- The importance of having youth institutions that are aware of young men and women needs.
- 2- Availability of financial support for youth programs and initiatives.
- 3- The importance of strengthening the role of young men and women in their right to run and be elected as a democratic tool to enhance their roles.
- 4- Empowering young men and women in the economic, social and political fields.
- 5- Developing the professional skills of young men and women to help them enter the work force.

### **The role of young men and women in political life**

Palestinian youth see that activating social, professional, civic and political participation ranks first, and that it is important to pay attention to the high youth participation rate in Palestinian political life, which can be inferred by a high percentage of voters in the second legislative elections, which reached 66%, as well as the percentage of young men and women arrested by the Israeli occupation, where there are currently about 11 thousand detainees, the vast majority of them are young men and women in the age group 18–29. Palestinian civil society contributed to the presidential and legislative elections by increasing the participation of young men and women in this process through the “Raise Your Voice” campaign launched by many Palestinian civil society institutions, along with educational workshops on the mixed electoral system and the importance of their participation in the voting process. Additionally, the Palestinian civil society organizations especially working with youth recorded attempt on improving youth participation not only in the voting process but also through participation in terms of reducing the nomination age for young people (the amendment has been made 30 years ago to 28 years, and youth organizations are still looking to reduce the nomination age to 25 years). In addition, the quota system that Palestinian civil society institutions have worked to incorporate into the Palestinian electoral system for local and legislative elections has guaranteed the participation of women by no less than 20% of these councils.

The relationship between young men and women and political parties is somewhat tense. Many young men and women do not trust political parties, while party leaders complain about the lack of participation of young men and women. Despite the fact that most political parties and forces in Palestine give attention to young men and women and their role within these parties, these issues still constitute a great concern for the representation of young men and women within these forces and parties. In regard to the questionnaire, 10.4% of youth in the West Bank reported that the participation of young men

and women in political movements and parties is effective at all levels, and 64.0% of youth in the west bank are effective in some fields As is the case in Gaza, with a smaller difference, reaching 54%, but the highest remains in the eyes of young men and women, provided that their role is effective in some areas. However, 25.6% of youth in the West Bank believe that their role is ineffective, and that young men and women are not represented or participated in political movements and parties. As for youth in Gaza, the rate is even higher, reaching 28%.

They believe that their role is ineffective, and that young men and women are not represented or participated in political movements and parties. The national plan for the youth sector also indicated the need to increase the role of young men and women in influencing public life and decision-making at the national level, within the first strategic objective of activating and expanding levels of The political and civic participation of young men and women groups and the second strategic objective, which is to increase awareness of the values of citizenship and civil and political rights for young people in their study about the role of young men and women in the process of societal change. researchers ziad othman and ghazi ban-odeh noted that this change is not only One of the basic demands for the democracy of the political system but also that youth political participation is a real and effective expression of their interests. And they add, "Without the active participation of young men and women, it is not possible to talk about equality of rights and duties between the different groups of society, in a way that guarantees effective participation in the development process." Also, Dr. Omar Rahal, a specialist in youth issues, indicated that although young men and women make up a large percentage of the Palestinian society, they represent a minority in the political sense.

Rahal emphasized that excluding young men and women from political participation and marginalizing them will lead to dangerous consequences that may lead to a growing sense of frustration and undermining social cohesion, which in turn exacerbates some social problems such as poverty, crime, violence and extremism. Through the questionnaire, young men and women confirmed that 19.4% of youth indicate that the role of young men and women is well effective in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors in the West Bank. As for Gaza, the rate is higher, reaching 22.1%. On the other hand, 28.9% of youth said that their role is well effective in youth institutions, charitable organizations, cooperatives, and clubs. And coalitions in the West Bank.

However, in Gaza, the numbers showed the lowest percentage compared to the West Bank, reaching 26.9%. This is an indication that young men and women see their roles in youth institutions, charities, cooperatives, clubs. And coalitions are more than those who have roles in political parties. Here, we find that there is an intersection with the first strategic objective of the national strategic plan for the Palestinian youth sector (young men and women are our future) 2017-2022: which is to enhance, activate and expand levels of political and civic participation for groups of young men and women.

Young men and women highly demanded to be represented more in administrative bodies and political parties, as well as at the level of decision-makers, where work can be done to attend for the needs and requirements of young men and women. 22.6% of youth expressed the need to involve young men and women in the decision-making mechanism, to enhance their role in exercising their right to nominate and vote within the institution's work structure. The questionnaire revealed the opinions of young men and women about the extent of the commitment of the ministries and institutions of the Palestinian National Authority to support and participation of young men and women

in the decision-making process, and they emphasized the importance of government support for young men and women at all levels and fields of human rights, financial, and youth initiatives and programs. Young men and women required the government and institutions to provide allocations to support youth programs and activities and to have fixed funding within their budget. Young men and women reflected their views on this issue through a questionnaire, where 53.4% of young men and women expressed that the commitment and support given by the ministries of the National Authority to implement the participation of youth in the decision-making process is limited. Moreover, 39.3% of young men and women reported that the participation of young men and women in the decision-making process is not available, meaning there is no support for the participation of young men and women in their societies. When questions about what commitment the authorities give to increase mechanisms for the participation of young men and women in public life were directed to the youth, 35.7% of them answered that it is the allocation of specialized training programs for young men to build their capabilities and develop their skills, and 26.3% said that it is to provide financial and technical support to establish private projects for youth. 23.3% said that it is through allocating budgets in institutions for youth activities.

The results from the questionnaire showed that 23.2% of young men and women noted that order to promote and empower young men and women and women with disabilities to participate in political and social life, is to work on educating persons with disabilities of their social, economic, educational and health rights. Also, 21.3% of young men and women stated the importance of rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities to integrate them into the work force. Raising awareness of the rights of women and people with disabilities is important to enhance and enable their role in participating in political and social life. 18.9% of young men and women reported the importance of implementing programs and activities for the benefit of persons with disabilities, and 17.4% reported the importance of including the rights of persons with disabilities. In obtaining his / her right to be employed in local community institutions, and the national strategy for the youth sector has indicated within the proposed policies on increasing the participation of persons with special needs and the less fortunate and their integration into society.

### **The Outputs of youth participation in the political life**

1. The call for the adoption of the current amended election law, by lowering the participation age for young men and women to 23 years for running instead of the current 25-year-old, which will increase the opportunities for young men and women to reach decision-making positions in their local communities.
2. The need to open the way for male and female youth to be represented more in administrative bodies and political parties, as well as at the level of decision-makers.
3. Enhancing their role in exercising their right to be nominated and elected within the work structure of the official institution and political parties.
4. Involving young men and women in planning and formulating policies related to young men and women.
5. Implementing programs and activities for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

## The role of young men and women in the economic, agricultural, health and educational sector.

### The economic sector

The unemployment rate among young men and women in the age group (18–29) increased in 2018 to reach 45% (36% among males, while it reached 79% among females, compared with 37% in 2008 – knowing that there is a high percentage among young men and women. In the Gaza Strip, it is noticeable that the unemployment rate among females is higher than that of males, and perhaps one of the most important reasons is due to the prevailing social concepts of restricting some jobs to women and on the other hand the male domination of the work sector in Palestine. The unemployment rate among young men and women in the age group has reached (15–29) Those who hold a diploma are 58% higher, during 2018, they reached 40% of males and 73% of females. The National Strategic Plan for the Youth Sector proposes in the Education and Unemployment Axis “The Second Strategic Objective: Improving the economic situation of young men and women through Creating more job opportunities for youth and stimulating an entrepreneurial business environment “The study also emphasized the need for concerted national efforts to alleviate unemployment, by working through the public and private sectors to provide job opportunities for graduates. It contributes to empowering young men and women economically, the most important of which is empowering them in the social, economic and political fields. 22.4% of young men and women reported the need to empower young men and women .

In the social, economic and political levels, as the highest priority, and in second place, 19.2% of male and female youth reported training male and female youth in professional and economic fields. On the other hand, 20.7% of young men and women in the Gaza Strip reported the need to empower young men and women in the social, economic and political fields in the first place, and in the second place 19.8% of the male and female youth reported training young men and women in professional and economic fields. The National Strategy for the Youth Sector works through the Education and Training on Action axis to define the priorities of Palestinian youth through the second strategic objective in the Education and Training axis “Enhancing training opportunities, capacity development and skills development for young men, young women and girls.” And the youth surveyed indicated a great obstacle for them, as 19.2% of them emphasized the importance of their training in professional fields, and 21.5% of the young men and women who were surveyed indicated their views on the type of activities that contribute to strengthening the role of young men and women in order to empower them in social Economic and political fields, and the national plan for the youth sector also called for the second axis, including the “axis of work and economic empowerment”, enabling young men and women and graduates to keep pace with the requirements and needs of the Palestinian labor market. The young men and women agreed, through the interviews, on the need to provide vocational training in order to improve job opportunities. Accordingly, 19.5% of young men and women answered the necessity of obtaining vocational training, whether in professional or economic fields, in order to improve their chances of obtaining a job, and this is also a goal that the national plan for the youth sector seeks to answer and strengthen in the strategic goal by strengthening the culture of vocational education And the technical in the pillars of society and support the creation of job opportunities in the economy.

## **The Outputs of the role of young men and women in the economic sector**

- 1- Empowering young men and women in the social, economic and political fields.
- 2- Vocational training, whether in professional fields or economic fields, in order to optimize employment opportunities for youth.
- 3- Raising the capabilities of young men and women in life skills to enable them to integrate and join the labor market.

### **The role of young men and women in the agricultural sector:**

The agricultural sector is considered to be one of the most important sectors affecting the development process because of its great impact on many important economic, social and political indicators. It also has an impact on the rest of the sectors in providing raw materials and production inputs. The questionnaire questions were devoted to the quality of activities that contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women. Where no more than 15.2% of young men and women reported working and investing their energies in the agricultural field. And for less, 14.1% of young men and women formed formal or informal cooperatives. In fact, it confirms that there is a reluctance and retreat in the work of youth and women in the agricultural sector despite the high level of unemployment at the Palestinian agricultural level. It has been found that this sector is noticeably missing the element of young men and women despite its importance in moving the rest of the economic sectors. young men and women voiced the reasons behind the disastrous situation of the agricultural sector in Palestine, which are political reasons represented by the occupation, as occupation measures prevent access to agricultural lands in addition to converting them to military lands and dispossessing lands to demarcate borders, in addition to occupation facilities for young men to enter work in settlements, which made them reluctance to work in Their land. In addition to the temptations of work and the high salaries in the Israeli labor market, it has contributed to the exclusion of young men and women from working on land and agriculture, and this has contributed to neglecting and leaving large areas of agricultural land. In addition to the internal migration from the village to the city and the orientation to service and productive work, it contributed to the reluctance to work in the agricultural sector. Through the answers of young men and women, however, there is a group of young men and women who are interested in working in the agricultural sector. The results showed that the percentage of young men and women from the camps and the city have more interest in agricultural work than the son / daughter of the village. 15.8% of the young men and women living in refugee camps stated that the activities that contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women in society include the investment of their energies in the agricultural field., while 15.1% of youth w living in the city stated that activities that contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women in society through inviting young men and women to invest their energies in the agricultural field ranking them in second place. And The youth living in villages coming in third with 14.9% in terms of importance of inviting young men and women to work and invest their energies in the agricultural field.

Young men and women stressed out on the importance of providing financial grants to support youth initiatives and cooperatives related to agriculture by the institutions and the government. And 14.1% of the male and female youth who answered the questionnaire reported inviting young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal. Young men and women reported the

importance of the existence of agricultural cooperatives because it could reduce the unemployment rate among young men and women and contribute to creating new opportunities for young men and women, returning young men and women to work on the land, and restoring the national value of the land and not only for the economy.

### **Outputs related to agriculture included the following:**

- 1– Supporting youth projects and initiatives related to the agricultural field
- 2– Inviting young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal.
- 3– Supporting young men and women to set up agricultural projects by providing them facilities or grants.

### **The role of young men and women in the health sector:**

Young people in the Palestinian territories encounter many problems and challenges that negatively affect their conditions and their healthy lives. The challenges entrusted to them in the Palestinian general situation are linked to many variables, whether in the narrow spatial space, or difficulties in movement as a result of occupation practices through the separation of areas or the wall, To the current economic reality and unemployment as a result of the crisis in the Palestinian territories, in addition to this wasted spare time for young people, which increases with the negative effects in the absence of institutions that care for them. Young men and women reported through the questionnaire questions and focus groups of their reluctance to participate in the activities of civil institutions, as these institutions are not aware of the needs of young people, and do not provide programs and activities to serve the youth. In terms of their economic, political, social, and health needs. In addition, 28.4% of young men and women reported that there is no specialized facility that works with youth . directing young men and women towards practicing harmful behavioral activities and moving towards spending their leisure time staying up late, drinking and smoking.

the Covid-19 pandemic had a great impact on all lifestyles. Health sector was the sector that got exposed to great pressures, which required concerted efforts to support this sector. They have participated in awareness programs during the Covid 19 pandemic, and 22.4% stated that they also participated in community-based initiatives related to health. The pandemic increased youth sense of isolation in addition to the decrease in the ability to handle the pressure, weakness and lethargy of many youth sectors that have become associated with the crisis of Covid 19 among the axes of the national strategy for the youth sector “The second strategic objective: increasing awareness of the values of citizenship and civil and political rights of youth.” Through the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing and activating the participation of young men and women in civic and political life, the role of young men and women during the COVID-19 pandemic intersects with Many community initiatives to reduce and mitigate its effects through their participation in many community activities, whether by distributing health parcels or participating in awareness campaigns related to many health aspects. These initiatives have strengthened the responsibility of young men and women towards society and also contributed to casting the voice of young men and women as an active element in society. Health- related Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) includes a specific target that is by 2030 the world must ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning services and information and awareness about it. On the other hand, the

strategic plan of the Supreme Council for Youth and Youth Sports indicated.

through its strategic goals, the importance of health and healthy behaviors for the youth sector, as follows:

- The first strategic goal: to improve the health of young men and women and the positive behaviors that stimulate healthy lifestyles.
- The second strategic goal: to meet the needs of young men and women in the field of mental health and social well-being.
- The third strategic goal: to raise the level of health awareness for students and promoting school health practices.

39.4% of young men and women indicated that they had participated in the distribution of food and medical aid during the Covid-19 crisis, or they had worked on initiatives in order to alleviate the effects of this crisis on their communities. There was a distinct role for young people in their communities during the Covid-19 crisis, 24.8% of them indicated that they had participated in various awareness programs related to Covid 19, and some of the participants in the workshops in Gaza and the West Bank indicated the participation of young men and women in various sterilization campaigns in nearby neighborhoods, in partnership with local authorities and the competent authorities. youth indicated that they have participated in various activities, whether they were related to the Covid crisis or were carried out throughout the year in institutions by producing some awareness-raising films about violence against women or implementing recreational activities for children.

### **Outputs related to the health sector:**

- 1- Designing and implementing youth initiatives related to distributing health parcels or participating in awareness campaigns related to many health aspects.
- 2- Building the capacities of young men and women to be able to make decisions and take responsibility in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 3- Enhancing the role of young men and women in bearing responsibility towards society, especially in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 4- Providing health and psychological services to the male and female youth sector in order for them to enjoy good physical and psychological health.
- 5- Strengthening the role of youth institutions in the field of health awareness in relation to mental, sexual and life health issues.
- 6- Raising health awareness among young men and women regarding health rights.
- 7- The lack of private institutions that serve the needs of young men and women in society.

### **The role of young men and women in the education sector**

In our increasingly complex and interconnected world, learning is the key to lifelong personal and professional success. Learning allows us to seize and create opportunities. Out of interest or necessity, each of us seek to gain new knowledge or engage in new trainings to acquire, update and enhance

competencies. This is particularly critical for the current generation of young people, given the rapidly changing future of work, marked by technological advances and the need for a rapid transition to inventing new technologies that transform the way we learn. However, while these technologies support learning for many, access to them is not always universal. It is our duty to ensure that technology leaves no one left behind. Only when policies adopt a life-cycle approach, and education and training are well funded and available in equal measure, will individuals have the strength and capacity to act independently and make free choices. And as stipulated by international laws, “education” is a right for all citizens, and as stated in the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals, where work must be made to facilitate it for the youth like the rest of other groups in society. 23.9% of young men and women reported the importance of developing youth’s life and professional skills to help them engage in work within private institutions. When young men and women were asked about how to activate the role of youth in society, 19.5% responded to the importance of training youth in professional and economic fields, etc. It is noted that the priorities of young men and women in their involvement and activation of their role in society and civil institutions is to empower and train them in various fields.

The Ministry of Labor, through vocational training centers, provides training opportunities for young people by providing vocational training services that are consistent with the basic needs of the market and graduating a skilled professional workforce who can provide services to the local market and compete in the foreign market. These centers offer training courses on celebrated topics, including (electricity, Auto mechanics, auto electricity, aluminum, tiles, office equipment maintenance, carpentry, secretarial, air conditioning and refrigeration, etc.).

There are many institutions that give vocational trainings in Palestine, and there are many types of vocational trainings, which give the opportunity for diversity and flexibility.

These centers aim to provide the labor market with its professional needs by training young people to meet the needs of the Palestinian labor market and also in order to facilitate youth involvement and access to the labor market.

The study indicates that despite the high percentage of young people who have a university degree, there is still a gap between university education and its suitability with the requirements of the labor market.

Also, vocational training still lacks societal awareness and acceptance of the culture of society with the involvement of young people in vocational training, and there is also a need for these centers to develop their programs to keep pace with the professions of the 21st century and not be limited to traditional professions.

### **Outputs related to the education sector**

- 1– Increasing knowledge and life skills, enabling young people to reach their forests quickly and successfully.
- 2– Young people seek new learning and knowledge in order to engage in new trainings to acquire, update and enhance their competencies.
- 3– Civil institutions should adopt the policies of the training courses approach, fund them well, and make them available equally to young men and women. Individuals will have the strength and ability

to act independently and make free choices.

4– Civil society organizations should provide a learning approach that is related to technological progress and the need to invent new technologies.

5– Non–governmental organizations should provide training to young men and women in professional fields in order to increase the opportunities for their involvement in the labor market.

### ***The legal aspect of the sectors: overview of the laws related to youth in Palestinian society.***

Young people represent an important and large social segment of the Palestinian people because they are a very strong and vital source that should not be ignored. And the plans must meet the future needs of young people, whether these needs are economic, social, cultural or health in order to enable policy makers and decision makers to develop laws and policies that serve its work to meet the needs of the youth group. In this paper, we review the most important laws and legislations related to Palestinian youth, with the aim of reviewing these laws and trying to shed light on the extent to which these laws are compatible with the requirements and needs of Palestinian youth.

### **Laws related to political participation**

Political participation reflects the democratic aspect of life, and there are many issues regarding political participation, as it represents a fundamental axis in many aspects, whether participation in the political parties and organizations or those related to legislative bodies.

Youth political participation: The election law stipulated that every Palestinian aged 18 or older has the right to exercise the right to vote – as confirmed by the electoral system in the electoral system, the general elections.

Nominating to presidency: starts from age 40. Text of Article 12 of Law No. (9) of 2005

- Concerning elections and above – and nomination for membership of the Legislative Council from the age of 28 and over, the text of Article 15 of Law No. 9 of 2005, and thus the law deprived all young people of the right to run
- Legislative Council laws related to youth Although the Legislative Council has been inactive for more than 15 years until now, no laws have been issued by the Legislative Council concerning youth and their care/ Likewise, there are no special committees to discuss youth issues in the Legislative Council.
- The Supreme Council for Sports and Youth.

Based on the president’s decision for the year 2011 to form the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports

As part of its strategy to work with the youth sector, the council developed a strategic plan, “Youth is our future 2017–2022,” as this strategy aims to integrate youth into the sectorial development plan for the years (2017–2022).

it is observed that there is a deficiency in the representation of young people in the leadership bodies of political parties or those related to participation in legislative institutions, as young men

and women raised the need to open the way for the representation of young men and women more in administrative bodies and political parties as well as at the level of decision-makers, where work can be done on Providing the needs and requirements of young men and women. Through the questionnaire, young men and women confirmed that 19.4% of youth indicate that the role of young men and women is well effective in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors in the West Bank. As for Gaza, the rate is higher, reaching 22.1%. On the other hand, 28.9% of youth in the West Bank said that their role is well effective in youth institutions, charitable, cooperative, and clubs. And coalitions. However, with regard to Gaza, the numbers showed the lower percentage than the one in the West Bank, reaching 26.9%. This is an indication that young men and women see their roles in youth institutions, charities, cooperatives, and clubs. And coalitions to be more influential than those who have roles in political parties. Also, 22.6% of youth expressed the necessity to involve them in the decision-making mechanism, in order to enhance their role in exercising their right to nominate and be elected within the institution's work structure. As reported by 39.3% of young men and women, the participation of young women in the decision-making process is unavailable.

From the researchers view, there are still obstacles that may transform the possibility of youth political participation, these obstacles vary, as the political participation of Palestinian youth is only limited to integrate them through voting. Or the participation of young men and women in movements and political parties. 25.6% of youth in the west bank believe their roles and participation to be ineffective in political parties. It is clear that the participation of young people in political parties is also weak due to their lack of effective representation in the leadership levels of these parties or from the important participation, as there is still an attempt to marginalize the youth sector.

Promoting the concept of participatory development would enhance the role of youth in the development process in their society. The paper proposes adopting a national formula through which the national policy towards the youth sector is defined and that young people are seen as partners in building their society through participation in planning and designing special policies. aa well as evaluating these policies, the implementation of that participation would work to meet the aspirations and dreams of young people / thus enhancing their active participation, whether in political, economic, social or cultural life. The presence of a strategic vision with youth participation in all institutions and community frameworks (clubs Youth centers, municipal and village councils, the Legislative Council) constitute the guarantee towards more youth integration in the various policies and institutions.

The Palestinian law did not grant specific benefits to youth. The absence of political elections for more than 15 years did not allow youth to participate in the democratic process moreover the Basic Law did not grant youth a quota that guarantees their participation. The participation of young people in political parties is weak because they are not effectively represented in the leadership positions of these parties, as there is still an attempt to marginalize the youth sector.

### **Economic laws related to youth**

- The labor market and unemployment for both genders: The Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) Of 2000 stipulated in Article Two that work is a right for every citizen and the National Authority shall work to provide it on the basis of equal opportunities and without any kind of discrimination in order to join the labor market.

Despite this, there are still many young people of the age group (18–29) suffering from an increase in the unemployment rate, reaching 46% knowing that the unemployment rate for females is higher than for young people, as it reaches 79% for females, where higher rates of Unemployment have negative consequences for the youth sector, including depression, low self-esteem and constant anxiety.

Through the study, young men and women emphasized the importance of activities that contribute to the economic empowerment of young men and women, the most important of which is their empowerment in the social, economic and political fields. 22.4% of young men and women mentioned that the need to empower young men and women in the social, economic and political fields is the highest priority, 19.2 % of young men and women have set the training of male and female youth in professional and economic fields to be the second priority. On the other hand, 20.7% of young men and women in the Gaza Strip reported the need to empower young men and women in the social, economic and political fields in the first place, and in the second place 19.8% of the male and female youth reported training young men and women in professional and economic fields.

The main reason behind the high unemployment rate is the gap between job requirements and the qualifications of job applicants. The wage survey for 2017 which was carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics indicated that there is a 28% gap between job requirements and qualifications, so it is important to work on directing young people to know more about the specializations required for the labor market and to work on building the capabilities of young people and empowering them by providing appropriate training that help them match their job requirements.

### **Laws – Economic policies and regulations related to youth**

Small Enterprises Registration Laws, Small companies in Palestine represent more than 90% of the business sector in Palestine, and the existence of such companies requires a set of procedures, which require their registration with the Companies' Comptroller which is the first of the legal requirements. Palestinian laws impose on any establishment operating inside Palestine a license and this depends According to the nature of the establishment's work and the party responsible for it, and in some cases, there are many licensing agencies, and there may be registration and licensing for a small enterprise, the situation is not clear because there is no legal defect that regulates its registration and deals with it as a company. There are some initiatives approved by the Palestinian Council of Ministers to encourage investment in some sectors, such as the information and communication technology sector. This is a promising sector for the youth entrepreneurship sector, but it needs big investments.

Until now, there is still no special law for small enterprises in Palestinian, and financing for small projects is the biggest challenge that the youth sector, especially females, encounter when acquiring funds for projects, the requirements and conditions of financing institutions represent a major obstacle for young people to implement their entrepreneurial projects, as many girls come from marginalized and low-income areas and are unable to meet such conditions, which means that they lose opportunities to implement their own project ideas. 16.1% of the West Bank and 16.5% of the young men and women in Gaza Strip expressed their weak participation in institutions or the activities of the institution because institutions are not aware of youth's role, 31.3% from the West Bank and 33.9% from the Gaza Strip expressed the lack of programs and activities to serve male and female youth.

25.2% of young men and women in the West Bank, and 25.6% of young men and women in the Gaza Strip, responded to the lack of financial support for projects and activities of young men and women. Also, young men and women reported that their projects in institutions had a role in the reluctance of young men and women, as 19.7% of young men and women in the West Bank responded to the lack of sustainability of financial projects for projects and activities of community institutions, as well as the case in the Gaza Strip, as 16.9% reported from young men and women about the unsustainability of projects that lead to youth in community institutions. The two parties, both male and female, agreed that financial support is important for the participation of young men and women in community institutions.

### **Laws – Gender perspective**

Personal status law, which is the only law applied in Palestine, and the definition of marriage, its types and effects, the rights arising from a marriage contract, the rights of wives towards husbands, and the legal procedures related to women's rights towards their husbands, that most women are not of knowledge about, which our honorable religion has legalized for them, and include: alimony, And the deferred dowry, and protection. The new law was passed, which raised the age of marriage to "18" years.

### **Shared funds**

Marriage according to the standing personal status law in Palestine is based on the existence of an independent financial liability for the wife from that of the husband. The husband is responsible for the financial needs of the wife according to this contract. Therefore, there is no concept of shared property in this law. when in reality woman is a basic partner for the man in carrying the financial and economic burdens of the family, whether in their work outside the home or in their work inside the home. In many cases, the law does not recognize the woman's contribution, as this contribution is not documented and not legally binding.

### **Wages:**

Low wages in the labor market are considered one of the major challenges for young people to join the labor market. The minimum wage is 1,450 NIS, while the poverty line is 2,470 NIS. It is expected that the minimum wage in 2022 will be raised to 1880 NIS, according to what was agreed upon between the three parties, with a clear gap in the average daily wage between women and men, the average daily wage for women is 98 NIS, compared to 102 NIS for men.

The Palestinian labor law is one of the most important internal laws in any country, therefore it usually receives the attention of international countries and organizations, due to its close association with social, economic and political developments, its interaction with them and its response to their requirements. Usually, the legislator in any country seeks to establish some sort of balance between the interests of both parties of production, the worker and the employer. This law faced great criticism in its application, whether at the level of workers or employers, especially because it did not take into account the economic situation of the labor market additionally it was formulated separately from the Basic Law, thus included general provisions and rules that were already organized by the Basic Law Which made some of its texts tainted by shortcomings and weaknesses. Young men and women reported, through the focus groups, the importance of adjusting the minimum wage so that the youth

can integrate into the local labor market instead of migrating to the Israeli or foreign market.

Hence this law's impotency for the social sector, as the labor law applies to a large segment of society members who have a dependent relationship with their employers, as it regulates this relationship, either interferes in the daily life of workers and reflects on their family life, or through its concern with organizing the work of juveniles and women, in addition to all the aforementioned, its concern with a vital matter for workers and their families, namely the wage that has an impact on their personal and family lives, and when the law intervenes to regulate these and other issues, it aims to achieve peace and social security, and this goal depends largely on the extent of Labor law development and progress, as it determines the ability to develop human resources in the field of work in the private sector.

This study believes that the guidance and vocational guidance processes for young people may work to reduce the wage gap for females, as it is considered to be one of the means of improving youth access to the labor market, and this matter needs intensified work by the Ministry of Labor to encourage enrollment in vocational training and provide skills that help Palestinian youth joining the labor market, and this requires work to a positive increase in infrastructure investments especially in rural and marginalized areas. along with insure the implementation of the law about raising minimum wage to become 1880 NIS, as agreed on between concerned parties and specialists.

### **Laws – related to youth and agriculture**

In 2003, the Palestinian Agriculture Law was issued as an alternative to laws that had prevailed since the Jordanian era. Also, in the years 2005 and 2006, amendments were introduced related to the Fund for Risk Prevention.

Within the strategy of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture in the agricultural sector, resilience and development for the years 2017–2022, young farmers have been referred to within more than one axis of the aforementioned strategy, within the policy priorities and under the policy of supporting steadfastness and within the strategic objective No. (1) the steadfastness of male and female farmers and their adherence to the land has been strengthened In Axis (4) of that priority, “providing an appropriate environment for agricultural production and development for youth and farmers in Areas (C) and Jerusalem through continuous coordination with all parties to provide services to farmers in marginalized areas and to provide agricultural programs and projects for the poor, marginalized and entrepreneurial women.”

As it also indicated in the aforementioned strategy and within the policy priorities is Strategic Objective No. (4) and under the Support Services Policy No. (4) and in Axis (1) “Creating mechanisms for young farmers, women and youth to access financing to develop their current farms and establish pioneering agricultural businesses.” 2) the strategy also pointed to “enabling youth, women, farmers and entrepreneurs to access services in the field of agricultural business development and intensifying efforts to support entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector.”

Within the framework of the current plan to develop the economy, it began to focus efforts in the agricultural sector, especially in the areas Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Tubas, in order to work to create agricultural development. The Ministry, and through the Palestinian Ministry of Endowments, launched

a campaign in the Jericho governorate to guarantee agricultural lands of 10 acres to encourage Young people to engage in agriculture and setting up agricultural projects that would employ young people by searching for opportunities in agricultural–food value chains The aim of that is to support economic disengagement plans and reduce dependence on the Israeli agricultural market by supporting current and new food value chains with technologies and services, And enhancing the sustainability of local food systems, creating space for youth employment and thus reducing unemployment rates.

The Prime Minister declared that 2020 is the “Year of Palestinian Youth”, which represents a valuable opportunity to engage youth in addressing development challenges in many sectors by proposing solutions that would accelerate development in Palestine in several areas: agriculture, education, and utilization of technology, and responding to the social and economic consequences of the Corona epidemic. In addition, the Palestinian government launched the cluster development initiative focusing on the sectors of agriculture, tourism and industry, which is considered a reference for encouraging innovative solutions to the challenges facing the implementation of cluster plans and strengthening the resilience of Palestinian communities. In addition, the agricultural sector strategy for the period 2017–2022, also focuses on the role of relevant institutions in enhancing the active participation of youth in the agricultural sector, supports young entrepreneurs to access high–quality agricultural services needed to develop the agricultural value chain.

According to the study, there is a good opportunity for young people, especially in marginalized areas and areas C, to initiate small agricultural projects where the people of these areas have land resources that can be exploited, young men and women emphasized on the need to provide financial grants for initiatives and cooperatives related to agriculture by institutions and the government. And 14.1% of the male and female youth who answered the questionnaire reported inviting young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal. Young men and women reported the importance of the existence of agricultural cooperatives because it could reduce the unemployment rate among young men and women and contribute to creating new opportunities for young men and women, returning young men and women to work on the land, and restoring the national value of the land not only for the economy.

### **Laws related to youth and health**

The general picture indicates that there is no chapter in the Palestinian Public Health Law No. (20) of 2004 that concerns Palestinian youth, in comparison to the child and woman for whom Article No. (4) of Chapter Two of the Law is devoted to. Although ensuring the provision of comprehensive and integrated health services for all groups of people, “the first goal of the strategic plan of the Palestinian Ministry of Health.”

There is still a need to deal with the health needs of youth, as it was mentioned earlier that there are no special care services for young people unlike children, on the other hand, access to health services remains a source of concern for many young people, especially in marginalized areas or for unemployed youth. For example, there is no health insurance for young people that enables them to benefit from these services.

For example, the lack or the limited availability of health education programs for youth health is the predominant characteristic of young people’s health, in addition to the lack of psychological and

counseling support in light of the economic crises and unemployment suffered by young people, which increases depression and introversion among young people.

This study believes that the good health of young people is an important motive for growth and development that we must work to bridge the gap in health care services provided to young people, as securing and providing these services would encourage young people to take care of their health, whether physical or psychological, thus ensuring the strengthening of the economic and social role of a group. Youth can actively participate in social and political participation in their society, and we believe that work can be done through means of supporting the provision of services related to the health needs of young people so that the Palestinian Ministry of Health can provide and respond to the health needs of young people, and it is also possible to work on the long term by working to prepare The National Youth Policy, which is represented in the formulation of a declaration by the Ministry and the government about their stance towards youth. We believe that young people can be powerful catalysts for the development of themselves and their community, and the participation of young people in health promotion efforts will enable them to participate in their own development.

### **Laws related to education and youth**

Academic education for youth: The first goal of Palestinian education includes “ensuring safe access to education, inclusiveness and equity in education.”

➤ There are many sub-sectors involved. The education sector in the State of Palestine is numerous, and these subsectors intersect with many sub-sectors of other sectors. Palestinian youth are involved either in higher education or in the education and vocational training sector, as part of Palestine’s commitment to the agenda of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan. The Palestinian government decided to launch a strategic planning process for the strategic constituent sectors of Palestinian development, which includes the education and higher education strategy, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The percentage of young people (18–29 years) who have a bachelor’s degree or higher in Palestine increased from about 120 per a thousand young men in 2007 to about 180 per a thousand young men in 2019. As for gender, the percentage of young women with a bachelor’s degree or higher increased from About 130 per a thousand young women in the year 2007, to about 230 per a thousand young women in the year 2019, while the number of young men with a bachelor’s degree or higher in Palestine increased from about 110 per a thousand young men in 2007 to about 130 per a thousand young men in 2019. Education is part of the fourth goal of sustainable development, and it is at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

This study believes that education is the path to knowledge as it provides young men and women with good life and educational skills to build their own independence. 23.9% of the male and female youth reported the importance of developing the youth’s life and professional skills to help them engage in work within private institutions. And when young men and women were asked about how to activate the role of youth in society, 19.5% responded to the importance of training youth in professional and economic fields, etc. It is noted that the priorities of young men and women in their involvement and activation of their role in society and civil institutions is to empower and train them in various fields.

## Challenges facing Palestinian youth

The reality of young men and women in the Palestinian territories is linked to many problems and challenges that negatively affect their conditions and lives. They face difficult economic, social, cultural, psychological, political and health conditions, these conditions affect, directly and indirectly, the conditions of young men and women in various sectors.

Young men and women in Palestine face a number of interrelated challenges, the most important of which are:

- Political challenges related to movement restrictions and repeated arrests, travel bans or their underrepresentation within political parties, the absence of a law to protect young men and women due to the absence of their role in the Legislative Council, etc. And other internal and external violations.
- Palestinian laws and legislations hinder the representation of young men and women in administrative and local bodies and councils.
- Challenges related to health conditions and an increase in mental illnesses as a result of the pressures faced by young men and women.
- Economic challenges in addition to an increase in the unemployment rate among young men and women graduates
- Limitations of what is allocated to the development of young men and women in the budget of the Palestinian government
- Social challenges related to the high rate of poverty among young men and women, the high costs of marriage, which led to the reluctance of many young men and women to marry or the late age of marriage for young men and women. An increase in the incidence of violence against women and persons with disabilities.
- Lack in the voluntary work culture among young men and women, in addition to the lack of effective volunteer management in many civil society institutions, which leads to a loss of their rights and duties.
- Challenges related to activating the participation of women, in addition to challenges related to increasing the participation of persons with special needs and the less fortunate and their integration into society.
- Challenges related to activating the role of young men and women in elected frameworks, institutions, clubs and youth centers.
- Opening the way for young people to determine their future options to unleash their energies and innovations that are sometimes prevented by some of the prevailing cultures in society.
- The problem with the nature of university majors and their suitability with the needs of the labor market, as education statistics indicate that 62.2% of all students enroll in social, commercial, legal and educational sciences programs.

- A challenge at the level of legislation and laws. These challenges emerge in the exclusion of Palestinian youth from decision-making and leadership positions in various institutions. There are gaps in legislation governing the rights and duties of young men and women, and the lack of intermediary institutions that are truly capable of representing young men and women socially, economically and culturally.
- The lack of programs and projects targeting young men and women
- Most of the programs for young men and women are conditional on the availability of financial support (funding).
- The negative theory towards young men and women who bear political, social and economic responsibility.
- Migration of young men and women.

### **General recommendations:**

- At the society and community participation level
- There must be a change in the “attitudes” towards young men and women towards the direction that young men and women are partners today in order to be the leaders of tomorrow, that they’re worthy of trust and responsibility, and are able to shape their present and their future without tutelage.
- Greater participation of young men and women in the electoral process to ensure effective participation of young men in local bodies.
- Activating the participation of young men and women in youth councils in various institutions, specifically youth councils in municipalities, local bodies and various institutions.
- Activating the inclusion of male and female youth issues within the sectoral and national development plans.
- Activating the participation of young men and women in community education sessions to enhance community participation.
- Reconsidering the bylaws and regulations related to the participation of young men and women in various institutional events and reviewing the participation rates of youth to ensure that young men and women reach decision-making positions and represent young men and women and their aspirations.
- Involving young men and women in developing strategic plans from the beginning and integrating young men and women in councils and decision-making processes of institutions and municipalities.
- Establishing youth centers in municipalities, villages and camps, and holding elections to choose their administrations.
- The need for institutions working in the youth sector to work on reformulating their discourse directed towards young men and women by community institutions to attract young men and women in order to stimulate them positively through community participation.

- It is necessary to work on fighting familial, factional and narrow partisanship in order to promote the concept of effective citizenship among young men and women.
- The use of various media and social media to pressure and influence decision-makers in terms of the participation of youth and women.
- Providing equal opportunities for young men and women to realize their potential as individuals and as partners in the development process.
- Forming supportive youth committees in local bodies and various institutions with representatives of both sexes that would enhance the participation of young men and women in local bodies and various institutions.
- Recommendations on the economic and agricultural level
- Developing the professional capabilities of young men and women to raise their capabilities in life skills in order to integrate them into the labor market.
- Encouraging youth initiatives that reflect their needs and aspirations by providing support and funding for these youth initiatives and activities and encouraging business incubators.
- Developing vocational training plans for youth and encouraging the legal environment for youth projects.
- Despite the limited reference to agriculture as a youth employer sector, it can be said that it is possible to support young men and women in establishing agricultural projects through grants or financial facilities provided by youth or financial institutions.
- Encouraging formal and informal youth cooperatives, which contributes to encouraging young men and women to work in the agricultural sector.
- Encouraging young men and women to exercise their right to run and vote at all economic levels, starting with the Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Commerce and Economy.
- Recommendations on the level of political life
- Promote the principle of working to empower young men and women in the decision-making process, starting from the family, passing through educational institutions, to local community institutions, and political and legislative institutions, towards decision-making positions.
- The existence of the activation of the Palestinian Youth Law based on the Prime Minister's decision to consider the year 2020 as the year of Palestinian youth, as this represents an opportunity for development in several sectors, including the agricultural sector.
- There is an opportunity for local bodies in which youth councils exists in to obtain allocations higher than those bodies in which youth councils do not exist, based on the Ministry of Local Government's direction to support youth councils in local bodies.

- Calling for the adoption of the current amended election law, by lowering the age of participation of young men and women to 23 for running instead of the current 25-year-old, which will increase the opportunities for young men and women to reach decision-making positions in their local communities.
- Activating the policy paper regarding the enhancement of youth participation in local governance as one of the tools and mechanisms adopted, which will enhance the integration of young men and women and enable them to participate positively in local bodies and increase their participation.
- The need to open the way for male and female youth to be represented more in the leadership bodies of political parties as well as at the level of decision-makers, where work can be done to increase the participation of young men and women in the leadership bodies

### **Recommendations on the economic and agricultural level**

- Developing the professional capabilities of young men and women to raise their capabilities in life skills in order to integrate them into the labor market.
- Encouraging youth initiatives that reflect their needs and aspirations by providing support and funding for these youth initiatives and activities and encouraging business incubators.
- Developing vocational training plans for youth and encouraging the legal environment for youth projects.
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- Activating the policy paper regarding the enhancement of youth participation in local governance as one of the tools and mechanisms adopted, which will enhance the integration of young men and women and enable them to participate positively in local bodies and increase their participation.
- The need to open the way for male and female youth to be represented more in the leadership bodies of political parties as well as at the level of decision-makers, where work can be done to increase the participation of young men and women in the leadership bodies of parties by providing the needs and requirements of young men and women.
- Encouraging young men and women to exercise their right to run for and vote at all political levels, starting with political parties, the Legislative Council, the National Committee, and the Central Committee.

### **Recommendations related to the health sector**

- Supporting youth initiatives related to the health sector, especially in awareness programs.
- Designing and implementing youth initiatives related to distributing health parcels or participating in awareness campaigns related to many health aspects.
- Building the capacities of young men and women to be able to make their decisions and take responsibility in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Activating health awareness programs by private institutions working in the field of health.
- Strengthening the role of youth institutions in the field of health awareness in relation to mental, sexual and life health issues.
- Raising health rights awareness among young men and women.
- Providing health and psychological services to the youth sector in order for them to enjoy good physical and psychological health.
- Supporting the activities and programs of civil institutions that serve the needs of young men and women in the community.

### **Recommendations related to the education sector**

- Increasing knowledge and life skills, enabling young people to quickly and successfully achieve their desires.
- Young people seek new learning and knowledge in order to engage in new training to acquire, update and enhance competencies.

- Civil institutions should adopt the policies of the training courses approach, fund them well, and make them available equally to young men and women. Individuals will have the strength and ability to act independently and make free choices.

## **Recommendations related to youth institutions and strategy for working with Palestinian youth**

It is possible to sense the concept of marginalization that the youth sector suffers from in many institutions, and which is expressed by young men and women in many cases, and this matter is considered to be the tocsin for the need to listen, not the needs of young men and women, and this matter required different youth institutions to work on:

- Review the work strategy of civil or governmental institutions in order to examine the extent of young men and women participation in the formulation of the institutions' work strategy.
- Developing work mechanisms and methodologies based on the active participation of those who have the right to produce this vision, in addition to comparing it with existing national youth policies,
- Exercising a mechanism of pressure on decision-makers and calling for their adoption by civil society institutions and placing it on the government's table for approval.

## **Recommendations – laws related to youth in Palestinian society**

### **Recommendations – political life**

- Work to pass a law stipulating that the nomination age for local councils and the Legislative Council be reduced to 25 years, so that these councils can express the reality and aspirations of young people.
- Adopting a national formula in which the national policy towards the youth sector is defined and that young people are viewed as partners in building their society through participation in planning and designing their own policies and their participation in evaluating those policies
- The issuance of a law that grants young people, for instance, a special quota that guarantees their participation in councils and national institutions.

### **Recommendations – economic level**

Facilitating access for young entrepreneurs of both genders to funding and reducing the requirements and conditions for obtaining financing for their projects, as these conditions sometimes hinder the young entrepreneurs from reaching funding, especially women, because they are unable to secure such conditions.

- Work to enact a law for entrepreneurial projects in Palestine to encourage the establishment and expansion of entrepreneurial projects in order to enable young entrepreneurs to build their projects, as the existence of such a law provides a suitable environment and an incentive to work on solving youth unemployment problems.
- Work to pass a law for small projects that would encourage young people of both genders to start their own projects.

## Recommendations – level economic policies

Facilitating registration procedures for young people to register projects

- Facilitating the access of young entrepreneurs to funding sources, whether through
- banks or lending institutions. It also motivates young people to obtain the necessary financing to start their own entrepreneurial projects.
- Establishing a bank for small enterprises to be a financing incubator for youth entrepreneurial projects
- Speed up the implementation of the law on the minimum wage of 1,750 NIS
- Implementing the Palestinian Labor Law, in terms of its healthy and comfortable environmental conditions guarantees for the employer and employee, .

## Recommendations – from a gender perspective

- Speed up the implementation of the law on the minimum wage of 1,750 NIS.
- Palestinian law is considered one of the most prominent economic legislation, but it needs to develop and keep pace with social and economic developments in society.
- Establishing gender units in the various ministries of the National Authority, and the national strategy to combat violence against women,
- Developing laws related to personal status law.
- Wider participation of young men and women in the system and legal and human rights institutions.

## Recommendations – The Agricultural sector

- Enhancing the role of relevant institutions in the active participation of youth in the agricultural sector, through supporting young entrepreneurs to access high-quality agricultural services needed to develop the agricultural value chain.
- Supporting young men and women, especially in marginalized areas and Area C, in small agricultural projects where the people of these areas have land resources that can be exploited.
- Providing financial grants for young men and women to support initiatives and cooperatives related to agriculture by institutions and the government.
- Empowering youth agricultural cooperatives, which contribute to reducing unemployment among young men and women and contribute to creating new opportunities for young men and women.
- Providing financing, and activating the Agricultural Credit Fund, to encourage women entrepreneurs to start their own agricultural projects.
- Providing protection in the markets for the products of small farmers from the policy of

flooding the markets with agricultural products from the settlements or from the Israeli side.

### **Recommendations – Health sector**

- Include the Spasticity of young women and men in the Basic Palestinian Health Law, just as the child is referred to.
- Providing educational programs for youth health.
- Supporting health services that encourage young people to take care of their physical and psychological health, and learn about youth-friendly health services.

### **Recommendations – The Educational Sector:**

- Provide educational opportunities for everyone through projects and aid.
- Provide scholarships in the fields of entrepreneurial and professional projects.
- Include the life skills of young men and women that qualify them for the labor market within the educational curriculum in educational institutions

## Appendix No. (1): Focus group questions

Reference questions for youth focus groups

1. What are the community activities in which you participate in the area (country)?
2. Are there community institutions (youth, women, municipalities)?
3. How do the country's institutions in your region deal with the principle of the participation of young men and women (male, female) in the various civil society institutions, clubs, associations, village councils or municipalities?
4. Do you think that young men and women as a target group of different projects participate in planning future interventions?? Why not?
5. How do young men and women see the relationship between your work and your strategy with the participation of young men and women in different local bodies?
6. What are the services at the municipality level, for example, the club, or the institution that have been developed in order to keep pace with the interests of young men, young women and women?
7. Do you think that the tools and methodology of male and female youth participation applied in institutions will have the effect of improving the quality of services provided to young men and other groups?
8. To what extent do you think that the different institutions work to enhance and empower young men and women, women, and persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making?
9. Do you think that the tools for the participation of young men and women applied in institutions are effective and effective? Has the effect of improving the quality of services provided to youth and other groups?
10. What advice would you give to the various ministries and institutions regarding the institutionalization and participation of young men and women in public and institutional life?
11. From your point of view as a youth, how can the principle of male and female youth participation be promoted in various activities?
12. What would you suggest as youth to increase the level of participation of young men and women in various bodies and institutions?

## Appendix No. (2): Interview questions

### Enterprise in–depth meeting questions

1. Are there programs within the institution related to the empowerment or integration of young men and women into the institution?
2. Are you aware of the needs of young men and women in their gatherings? What tools has your organization developed to know the needs of young men and women?
3. What tools has your institution developed to increase the participation of young men and women in different institutions?
4. Have you participated in the National Youth Plan? if not? Are you partners working with youth institutions?
5. How does your organization deal with the participation of young men and women in various institutions / village councils, club, association?
6. How do you see the relationship between your work and your strategy with the framework of the participation of young men and women in different community institutions?
7. What would you suggest to increase the participation of young men and women in the decision–making process?
8. What is the role that you see for civil society institutions in the future with regard to the participation of young men and women in local governance?
9. What would you see different in the organization if young men and women were involved in all activities?
10. From your point of view as an institution, how can the principle of youth participation be promoted in various activities?
11. What are the difficulties facing the different youth participation?
12. What would you suggest, as an official, to increase the level of participation of young men and women in various bodies and institutions?

## Appendix No. (3) Survey.

Name:

Age:

Area of residency: 1– City 2 – Camp 3– Village.

Educational level: 1– elementary 2 – intermediate 3– secondary 4 – university.

– **What kind of activities do you practice in the community? More than one answer can be chosen:**

1. Participation in public activities.
2. Cultural and healthy symposiums.
3. Sport activities.
4. Voluntary works.
5. Participation in setting up work plans and strategies.
6. Writing projects.
7. Relief initiatives.
8. Support and advocacy.
9. Development activities
10. Others.

– **Are you a member in any institution in your community? 1– Yes 2– No**

3. What type of organization or institution you are a member of? More than one answer can be chosen.

1. Governmental institution.
2. Non–profit organization.
3. Cooperative societies.
4. Youth clubs.
5. Other than that.

– **To what extent do you think that the participation of young men and women in institutions or community activities is effective?**

1. Largely effective.
2. Very effective.
3. Poorly effective.

4. It is not effective at all.

5. I don't know.

**– Do you think that the participation of young men and women in institutions or community activities is weak or very weak? Are the reasons related to: More than one answer can be chosen?**

1. The institutions are not aware of the role of young men and women.

2. The lack of programs and activities that serve young men and women.

3. The institutions' ability to communicate with young men and women is weak.

4. The lack of a specialized facility that works with young men and women.

5. Other than that.

**– Do you have to be a member of a community organization (youth, women, sport, and cooperative institutions) to activate your role in society?**

1– Yes

2– No

**– In your opinion, how is your role as a young person being activated in society? More than one answer can be chosen.**

1. The availability of youth groups aiming to activate the role of young men and women.

2. Youth initiatives through acquaintances and friends.

3. Participation in programs and activities that sponsor youth initiatives.

4. Participation in the activities of student unions and trade unions that aim to activate the role of young men and women.

5. Other than that.

**– In your opinion, what kind of activities contribute to enhancing the role of young men and women in society: More than one answer can be chosen.**

1. Empowering young men and women in the social, economic and political fields.

2. Inviting young men and women to work and invest their energies in the agricultural field.

3. Training young men and women in vocational and economic fields.

4. Community activities for youth in the country.

5. Networking activities with institutions working in the same field.

6. Inviting young men and women to form cooperatives, whether formal or informal.

7. Other than that.

– **To what extent do you think that the role of young men and women in decision-making at different levels is effective? More than one answer can be chosen.**

1. Well effective in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors.
2. Well effective in the, youth, charitable, cooperative organizations, clubs, and coalitions.
3. Effective to a limited extent in the political, economic, social, civil and governmental sectors.
4. Effective to a limited extent in youth organizations, charities, cooperatives, clubs, and coalitions.
5. Not effective at all.

– **In your opinion, what will be the role of youth inside institutions?**

1. Planners.
2. Decision-makers.
3. Executives.
4. Trainees.
5. Trainers.
6. Other than that.

– **In your opinion, what do you recommend to ensure a wider participation for youth in the activities of governmental, civil, and feminist institutions? More than one answer can be chosen.**

1. Involving a large number of young men and women within the institution's administrative structure.
2. Participation in the meetings of various institutions as participants, observers or executives.
3. Addressing young men and women through programs that work with young men and women.
4. Developing the practical and the professional skills of young men and women to help them enter the labor market.
5. Giving work spaces to youth for wider participation.

– **Do you know about the National Youth strategic plan?**

1. Yes I know.
2. I do not anything about the national youth plan.
3. Other than that.

– **In your opinion, what are the reasons behind the reluctance of young men and women to participate in community activities? More than one answer can be chosen.**

1. The lack of conviction of young men and women in the programs and activities of community institutions.

2. The unsustainability of projects that lead youth in community institutions.
3. The lack of financial support for the projects and activities of community institutions.
4. Lack of responding to youth initiatives in youth institutions.
5. Lack of participation of young men and women in the stages of preparing plans and future planning in youth institutions.
6. Community institutions are not politically independent.

**– What kind of activities did you do in the pandemic of Covid 19? More than one answer can be chosen**

1. Participation in emergency committees.
2. Participation in rising awareness programs.
3. Participation in love barriers.
4. Participation in distributing relief aid (health, food, etc.).
5. Community initiatives.
6. Others.

**– Have you ever participated in joint activities with other community organizations within your neighborhood or area? More than one answer can be chosen.**

1. Yes, inside the community.
2. Yes, around my living area.
3. Yes, outside the populated area.
4. Yes, in other governorates.
5. I did not participate.

**– What is the role of non-profit, governmental, feminist, and youth institutions in promoting and empowering young men and women with disabilities to participate in the political and social life? More than one answer can be chosen**

1. They work on educating people with disabilities about their social, economic, educational, and health rights.
2. Rehabilitating and empowering people with disabilities to integrate into the labor market.
3. Ensuring the right of people with disabilities to work and be employed in the local community institutions.
4. Rehabilitating public buildings and facilities (institutions, public facilities, restaurants) to become suitable for persons with disabilities in order to access and obtain services.
5. Implementing programs and activities for people with disabilities.
6. There is no role.

**– In your opinion, how can Palestinian youth be supported to become more involved in decision**

making positions in civil, governmental, feminist, and youth institutions? More than one answer can be chosen

1. Involving young men and women in the decision–making process.
2. Enhancing their right of participation in the nomination and election process inside institutions.
3. Supporting youth initiatives and community participation.
4. Participating in various workshops.
5. Training and developing youth practical life skills.

**– In your opinion, how can we describe the extent of commitment and support given by the ministries of the National Authority to implement the participation of young men and women in the decision–making process (in local bodies, for example)?**

1. There is a high commitment to the participation of young men and women in making decisions related to the needs of their societies.
2. There is limited support for the participation of young men and women in activities related to their communities.
3. There is no support available for the participation of young men and women in their communities.

**– What is the extent of commitment given by the institutions of the Palestinian authority to increase the participation of youth in the public life? More than one answer can be chosen**

1. For example, budgets are allocated in institutions for youth activities.
2. Specialized training programs are allocated to youth to build their capabilities and develop their skills.
3. Providing financial and technical support to set up special projects for youth.
4. Involving young men and women in planning and formulating policies related to young men and women.

**– Can we say that the participation of young men and women in political movements and parties?**

1. Effective at all levels.
2. Effective in some fields.
3. Ineffective and youth are not being represented.

**– Can we say that the participation of women in the political life is weak whether in parties or in decision making?**

1. The quota for women is considered positive discrimination towards women.
2. Women’s political participation is weak in comparison to men.
3. There is a high participation of women in civil society organizations.
4. There are not many women in the important leadership positions that has an influence on the decision–making positions.

Appendix No. (4) Shows the distribution of the workshops' places.

Region	Number of meetings	Place	Date	# of attendance	M	F	Target members
Nablus Governorate	1	Askar Women Center	9/12/2020	7	0	7	Women
Nablus Governorate	1	Community Youth Center	9/12/2020	12	1	11	Young people from both sexes
Jenin Governorate	1	Almajed for community development	14/12/2020	8	3	5	Young people from both sexes
Jenin Governorate	1	Local Youth Council	14/12/2020	8	6	2	Young people from both sexes
Tubas Governorate	1	Zoom meeting	19/12/2020	10	1	9	Young university students from both sexes
Sharek Youth Forum	2	Sharek Youth Forum	9/12/2020	20	8	12	Young people from universities
Jifna	2	Village Club	7/12/2020	20	9	11	Young people from both sexes
Bethlehem Governorate	2	Health Center-Health Work Committees	10/12/2020	18	6	12	Young people from both sexes
Al-Smou' Hebron	1	As Samu Livestock Association	21/12/2020	14	6	8	Young people from both sexes
Shuafat	1	Shuafat Camp Women's Center	20/12/2020	11	0	11	Women
Qalqilia Governorate	1	Qalqilya Club	22/12/2020	12	7	51	Young people from both sexes

<b>Tulkarem Governorate</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Tulkarm camp youth center</b>	<b>20/12/2020</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Young people from both sexes</b>
<b>Northwest of Jerusalem</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Zoom meeting</b>	<b>15/12/2020</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Young people from both sexes</b>
<b>Salfit Governorate</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Zoom meeting</b>	<b>20/12/2020</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Young people from both sexes</b>
<b>Gaza</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>PalTech Foundation</b>	<b>10/12/2020</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Young people from both sexes</b>
<b>Gaza</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Gaza Graduates Association</b>	<b>12/12/2020</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Young people from both sexes</b>
<b>Gaza</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Palestinian Center for Human Rights</b>	<b>12/12/2020</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Young people from both sexes</b>