

Her Future at Risk.

The Cost of Humanitarian Crises on Women and Girls.

Focus. Lived Realities and Collective
Action of Palestinian Women and
Women-Led Organisations



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Introduction

Humanitarian crises are never gender-neutral. In Palestine, decades of military occupation intersect with entrenched gendered norms to produce compounded harms for women and girls. Since October 2023, the escalation of conflict and the intensification of occupation policies have aggravated pre-existing inequalities, turning systemic discrimination into a life-threatening condition. In Gaza, the near-total destruction of health, education, shelter, water systems, and livelihoods has placed women at the centre of survival under extreme conditions. Women shoulder the majority of care responsibilities while navigating limited mobility, unsafe infrastructure, and disrupted ser-

vices. In the West Bank, movement restrictions, demolitions, settler violence, and checkpoints sharply reduce women's safe access to livelihoods, public services, and civic participation. These conditions have created a new normal of protracted emergency, where the distinction between everyday life and crisis has all but disappeared. Throughout these experiences, the concept of *sumud*—steadfastness and resilience in the face of adversity—remains central to women's strategies for survival, resistance, and community support.

This study examines the impact that Palestinian women and girls have faced, and continue to endure, as a re-

sult of the escalation of hostilities and the intensification of occupation policies since October 2023 in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The research is part of *Her Future at Risk: The Cost of Humanitarian Crises on Women and Girls*, a series published by WeWorld, first focusing on Afghanistan in March 2025—launched at a side event at the Conference on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York—and later updated to highlight Ukraine in July 2025, presented at a side event at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 in Rome.

This report draws on mixed-methods research combining:

- **57 in-depth interviews** with women and girls from Gaza, the West Bank, and the diaspora, including displaced populations; women-led and wom-

en's rights organisations (WLOs/WROs) and frontline humanitarian staff from WeWorld;

- Operational, monitoring, and secondary data collected by WeWorld and partners.

The research integrates anthropological, non-Western-centric, and ecological perspectives, supported by a Research Committee with over 60% Palestinian members. This structure ensured contextual grounding, ethical rigour, and practical relevance for humanitarian programming.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report is organised into five chapters, following this introduction:

• CHAPTER 1: METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the mixed-methods approach employed to produce the study. In addition to drawing on secondary data from authoritative sources and programme data from WeWorld and partners, we collected 57 interviews with women from the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the diaspora, as well as with WLOs/WROs and WeWorld humanitarian staff.

• CHAPTER 2: A WOMEN'S LENS ON PALESTINE

This chapter provides a lens for the rest of the report. It traces the history of women-led movements in Palestine and offers a composite narrative of the evolution of women's roles in society. It also examines the perspectives of Palestinian women-led and women's rights organisations (WLOs/WROs) and explores how women frame their own stories, resisting simplistic portrayals as either solely victims or solely heroic figures.

• CHAPTER 3: SECTORAL IMPACT OF ESCALATING HOSTILITIES ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

This chapter analyses the gendered effects of the last two and a half years of intensified violence and enforcement of occupation policies on access to essential services and rights across key sectors: WASH, health, education, livelihoods, food security, and shelter. Each factsheet combines qualitative testimonies with quantitative data, highlighting differences, as well as similarities, between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Within each sector, the chapter examines how gender shapes exposure to risks—such as gender-based violence—and opportunities for women's participation, solidarity, and resistance. Short summaries of WeWorld's interventions illustrate practical responses to these gendered challenges.

• CHAPTER 4: WOMEN HUMANITARIAN WORKERS IN PALESTINE

Using secondary data from reputable INGOs and CSOs, alongside testimonies from WLOs/WROs and WeWorld staff, this chapter examines the everyday challenges faced by women humanitarian workers, amplifying voices that often go unheard.

• CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The final chapter draws on the collected evidence to provide actionable insights for gender-transformative interventions and programming, aiming to inform both immediate humanitarian response and long-term recovery strategies.

CHAPTER 1. Methodology

This study was designed to place gender at the centre of humanitarian programming, rather than treating it as a separate issue. It adopts a mixed-methods approach grounded in anthropological, non-Western-centric, and ecological frameworks, combining quantitative trends with qualitative narratives to capture both systemic constraints and lived experiences.

Research Design and Objectives	Data Collection	Analytical Approach
<p>The central question guiding the research was: How has the intensification of violence and enforcement of occupation policies since October 2023 affected Palestinian women and girls? The study aimed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess changes in access to fundamental rights and services. 2. Examine consequences on gender-based violence in its direct, structural, and indirect forms. 3. Explore implications for women's participation in decision-making at family, community, civic, and political levels. 4. Understand how Palestinian women and girls narrate and represent themselves, moving beyond the dominant binary that casts them solely as victims or as symbols of resistance. 	<p>The study combined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth interviews with women and girls across Gaza, the West Bank, and the diaspora; • Interviews with WLOs/WROs and WeWorld staff; • Analysis of operational, monitoring, and secondary data from WeWorld and partners. <p>A purposive sampling strategy ensured diversity by geography, age, displacement status, social role, and ability, capturing a broad spectrum of experiences.</p>	<p>Data were analysed across four interconnected levels: individual, family/community, institutional, and structural/political.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative data identified access gaps and sectoral trends. • Qualitative narratives highlighted daily survival strategies, agency, and psychological burden. • Integration across levels enabled a holistic understanding of how systemic and personal factors interact.

This study addresses highly sensitive topics and strictly follows international ethical standards to protect the dignity, safety and well-being of participants and researchers. It is grounded in the principles of beneficence, non-maleficence and respect for autonomy, ensuring voluntary, informed and culturally appropriate participation. Research tools and settings were designed to minimise harm, respect cultural sensitivities and guarantee privacy and emotional safety. Strong confidentiality measures were applied, including data anonymisation and GDPR-compliant storage and access. Ethics were treated as an ongoing, relational practice, with attention to power

dynamics and trust-building throughout the research process. Despite access and contextual limitations, triangulation,

oversight mechanisms and staff duty-of-care procedures helped ensure responsible and robust research.



CHAPTER 2. A Women's Lens on Palestine

This chapter offers a narrative-driven, evidence-based analysis of the lives, roles, and agency of Palestinian women across Gaza and the West Bank. Drawing on interviews with women and WLOs/WROs, alongside secondary literature, it reframes Palestinian women not as symbols of victimhood or heroism, but as active agents, decision-makers, and narrators of their own experiences.

KEY FINDINGS

Palestinian women are knowledge-holders, community anchors, and political actors whose experiences illuminate broader societal dynamics under occupation. Recognising their complexity and agency challenges reductive portrayals and informs effective, context-sensitive programming. Women's voices provide a critical lens for understanding both resilience and societal fractures, shaping pathways toward gender justice and national liberation.

Theme	Key Points	Implications / Observations
Double Oppression	Intersection of strict gendered norms and military occupation.	Creates structural barriers while fostering resilience, leadership, and everyday resistance.
Structural & Historical Context	Overlapping oppressions: male-dominance, political fragmentation, militarisation, violence. Decline in formal visibility post-PA; NGO-isation of activism.	Locally grounded, non-Western-centric movements are stronger.
Gender Roles & Societal Norms	Disproportionate reproductive, social, economic, community burdens, intensified after October 2023. Mobility, decision-making, and economic autonomy constrained. Religion emerges both as a source of resilience and a framework influencing social behaviour.	Social norms continue to limit opportunities even as education and labour work participation increases.
Economic Marginalisation	Labour force participation ~15%. Paid work adds to unpaid care; dependence fuels vulnerability, especially among widows, divorced women, and marginalised groups. Targeted livelihood support improves agency.	Economic empowerment requires addressing unpaid care and structural barriers.
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Structural/intergenerational trauma, worsened by displacement, militarisation, and economic stress. Early and forced marriages, domestic violence, and risk of exploitation increase during crises.	Limited institutional protection; interventions must address structural and crisis-driven GBV.
Political Participation	Formal representation remains very low. Barriers include gendered norms, politicised institutions, donor agendas. Women engage via grassroots networks, youth initiatives, digital activism.	Political empowerment occurs outside formal institutions; requires enabling structures.
Everyday Resistance & Activism	Sustaining families, social cohesion, economic survival, protective community spaces. Cultural/narrative production (stories, diaries, literature).	Resistance is embedded in daily life; activism navigates internal conservative pressures and donor influence.
Feminisms in Palestine	Diverse but united: women's empowerment appears inseparable from national aspirations. WLOs/WROs provide humanitarian, legal, psychosocial, and economic support. To be effective, movements should be grounded in local context.	Effective gender equity action is context-rooted and community-centred; not imported.
Voices of Women	Solidarity and mutual support as survival strategies. Resilience driven by necessity. Desire for dignity, safety, and ordinary life. Hope persists despite fatigue and invisibility.	Programming should centre lived experience, dignity, and women's everyday priorities.

“ There are radical causes in society and compelling reasons that have imposed a certain reality in Palestinian society. Violence, for example, is linked to the violence of the occupation (...), what psychology calls ‘projection,’ as well as poverty, unemployment, psychological and social pressure, and sometimes fear.” - Woman, representative of the Rural Women’s Development Society

“ Historically, the more severe the political and economic challenges, the greater the role women are forced to assume, and often it is not a choice. Palestinian women, like the Palestinian people as a whole, have rarely experienced freedom. From the era of the Ottoman Empire to the Mandate and ongoing occupation, they have faced persistent social and political struggles, carrying burdens and paying a high price throughout history.” - Woman, representative of the Rural Women’s Development Society

“ Throughout all stages of Palestinian history, women have been an integral part of the general struggle and an essential part of the resistance to occupation. In all sectors of life, women are present and active: in education, in health, in agriculture, and in every other sector. All of this is part of women’s struggle for their rights, and this struggle represents the sumud of society itself. Even the woman who remains inside the home is a working woman.” - Woman, representative of the Women’s Affairs Centre

“ We, the women of Gaza, are not supernatural beings. We have to endure all these experiences, we have to get hurt, but we have learned very well how to hold out and stand tall until the end. These two years have not defeated us; they have made us stronger, more resilient, and determined to reach the life we deserve.” - Woman, 33 years old, Gaza



CHAPTER 3.

Sectoral Impacts of Escalating Hostilities on Women and Girls

This section examines the gendered impact of the conflict and occupation across six essential sectors: Education, Food Security, Health (including SRH and Mental Health), Livelihoods, Shelter, and WASH. Each factsheet combines qualitative testimonies, operational data, and lessons from WeWorld interventions, illustrating both challenges and practical responses.

Sector	Impact on Women & Girls	Programming Insights	Programmatic Impact (WeWorld Example)
WASH	Water scarcity, poor sanitation, and inadequate MHM compromise health, dignity, and safety. Women bear disproportionate responsibility, increasing harassment and physical risk.	Well-lit, lockable, sex-segregated facilities; reliable water supply; MHM materials and guidance; women-led design, monitoring, and management.	Women-led WASH solutions reduce protection risks, increase accessibility, and strengthen local ownership and sustainability.
Health (SRH & Mental Health)	Health system collapse causes forms of reproductive violence: unsafe pregnancies, limited contraception, MHM deprivation. Mental health distress is widespread but stigmatised; access delayed by insecurity.	Integrated, co-located, confidential SRH, MHM, WASH, and psychosocial services; community midwifery; emergency referral funds; adolescent-friendly care; women-only listening spaces; low-threshold psychosocial pathways.	Embedded psychosocial support increases uptake, reduces stigma, and improves health outcomes for women and girls.
Education	School destruction removes safe spaces for girls, increasing dropout, early and forced marriage, and loss of learning. Female teachers face similar insecurity and care burdens, reducing educational continuity.	Temporary learning spaces with social-emotional learning, psychosocial support, female facilitators; MHM-sensitive WASH; safe transport; confidential feedback; rapid rehabilitation; protective scheduling.	Safe, gender-responsive spaces increase girls’ attendance, enable early protection interventions, and strengthen community engagement.
Livelihoods	Economic collapse hits women hardest; informal/home-based work limited by care responsibilities (water collection, cleaning, preparing food, etc.) and safety concerns. Economic stress exacerbates GBV and exhaustion, as financial pressure leads to harmful coping strategies.	Care-aware interventions: childcare hubs, flexible cash, time-saving assets, digital/home-based work; integrated GBV risk mitigation and referral.	Flexible economic interventions improve participation, reduce risk exposure, and support women’s agency in livelihoods.
Food Security	Catastrophic food insecurity; women skip meals for the sake of children and other family members; pregnant and breastfeeding women at major risk. Aid distribution can expose women to harassment; cooking constraints reduce nutritional quality.	Protection-sensitive food/cash assistance; reduce queues and unsafe travel; home delivery for high-risk households; safe cooking spaces, fuel-efficient stoves, nutrition messaging.	Protection-integrated distribution reduces harassment, improves maternal and child health, and supports equitable access.
Shelter	Overcrowding, lack of privacy, insecure shelters expose women to harassment, sexual violence, and health risks. Damage/displacement restricts mobility and access to services.	Safe, lockable, sex-segregated shelters; privacy, lighting, secure communal spaces; women-led site committees for monitoring, accountability, and engagement.	Inclusive, women-informed shelter design enhances safety, participation, and community resilience in temporary or overcrowded settings.



“ This year, education has been reduced to three days instead of five, and new methods are being tried, such as open education without textbooks for students. Teachers often cannot afford laptops to keep up with modern teaching, which increases their workload. Schools do not provide these resources. Additionally, the curriculum is generally beyond the students' abilities. It doesn't account for individual differences and contributes to gaps in learning. For students who lack basic skills, parents rely entirely on the teacher's explanation, but teachers lack the necessary resources. All of these factors have resulted in weak and regressive education. The social status of teachers has also declined, especially since they are not receiving their full salaries or benefits.” – Teacher, age unspecified, West Bank

“ I would spend around three hours with my husband going around the market looking for basic food that was at least somewhat healthy for the kids, like vegetables, meat, nuts...anything to keep them from getting sick. The scale of priorities kept shifting. What began as searching for meat and vegetables turned into searching for anything edible.” - Woman, 37 years old, she left Gaza and now lives abroad

“ I am a heart patient. My operation was scheduled for the day the war began, just three days after my diagnosis. As a result, my surgery was postponed for 18 days (...) The operation lasted nine hours, and I went through very difficult circumstances. The hospital did not neglect us, but for the poor, they could not provide everything we needed. I remember living for three months with only one shekel in Gaza.” – Woman, age unspecified, she left Gaza and now lives abroad

“ Palestinian women play complex roles as mothers, wives and women who are active in society, and these roles are not easy. The dialogue with the husband is a part of it (...) For example, rural women are responsible for agricultural work, but women's access to the proceeds of agricultural work is very limited, and it usually goes to the man who spends it on his favourite smoke and other things.” - Woman, representative of the Women's Social Counselling Centre

“ As you can see, this is a room for fishermen where I live. It is made entirely of stone, and water leaks from everywhere, but it doesn't matter. It has a door, which I lock from the inside with a stone and secure from the outside with a wire. Right now, this is one of the better places that people live in. It even has a bathroom. I don't need a kitchen because I don't have the ingredients, and I don't prepare any food. I have two plates for me and my brother, and three glasses for drinking. Thank God, that is enough.” – Girl, 17 years old, Gaza

“ Displaced women from the camps in the north of the West Bank consistently come together as though they were one family. Among them is an elderly woman who was injured as a result of the army's violence during the displacement. Despite this, she took it upon herself to support the displaced families. She began sourcing vegetables and fruit from local traders and selling them to the displaced women. Before the displacement, she owned a shop, which she was unable to reopen afterwards. Nevertheless, despite the extremely difficult circumstances, she adapted her work to the new reality and continued in a way that was both appropriate to the situation and responsive to the needs of the displaced women as a whole.” – Woman, representative of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid & Counselling, West Bank

“ We had to buy necessities, and we suffered a lot because we couldn't do without them, especially sanitary pads. At times, I couldn't even buy food because I had to prioritise sanitary pads. For me, the most important thing is that I cannot imagine wearing dirty clothes. What dignity is this, when I have to take an escort with me just to use the bathroom, standing there by the door? What dignity did I have when I lost my job and became dependent on my family, after being the one who provided for them?” - Woman, age unspecified, she has a visual impairment, Gaza

“ When water is not available, we use wipes or vinegar for sterilisation, and as I mentioned before, we store water in containers to use when needed. As for soap, when a bar of soap becomes very small and crumbly and can no longer be used normally, my mother grinds the remaining pieces and gathers them inside a piece of gauze. When soap is unavailable, we use these collected crumbs instead. When sanitary pads are not available, I use a clean cotton cloth as an alternative.” – Woman, age unspecified, Bedouin community, West Bank



CHAPTER 4.

Women Humanitarian Workers in Palestine

Palestinian women humanitarian workers play a critical role across multiple sectors, including WASH, sexual and reproductive health, shelter, education, livelihoods, and food distribution. Beyond service delivery, they provide protection and advocacy, mediate community risks, facilitate safe disclosure channels, offer psychosocial support, and foster social cohesion and local decision-making. Their presence is particularly vital for women and girls, as it builds trust, ensures safety, and enables access to services that might otherwise be inaccessible or unsafe. **In many contexts, women staff are the link between communities and humanitarian systems, translating community needs into operationally effective, context-sensitive programmes.**

CHALLENGES AND RESILIENCE

Despite their centrality, women humanitarian workers face overlapping and persistent challenges. Mobility restrictions imposed by checkpoints, curfews, settler violence and restrictive social norms limit access to communities and programme sites. Continuous exposure to trauma—from engagement with survivors of gender-based violence, displacement and conflict—creates chronic stress, compassion fatigue and emotional strain. Many frontline staff are simultaneously grieving personal losses and navigating insecurity within their own families and communities, while continuing to provide care and support to others. At the same time, domestic responsibilities and unpaid care work reduce availability and

contribute to time poverty, while organisational precarity—short-term contracts, unpredictable funding and high security risks—further undermines stability, well-being and professional development.

Yet women staff consistently demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and operational ingenuity. They establish peer-support networks, adjust programming schedules to accommodate family and safety constraints, and develop context-specific solutions to maintain service delivery under restrictive conditions. This combination of lived experience, technical skill, and relational trust allows women humanitarian workers to ensure programmes are not only operationally functional but genuinely accessible, safe, and dignified for the communities they work with.

“Access to the field was also affected and reduced because it was surrounded by many dangers, which led to an increase in violations and, as a result, an increase in work pressure. The context was accelerating, violations (...) were unprecedented, and we could not be aware of all the violations that we received or monitored.” – Woman, representative of the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid & Counselling

“With repeated waves of violence and displacement, much of the work of women rights organisations has shifted toward providing psychosocial support, humanitarian relief, and protection for women against various forms of violence and exploitation, while continuing awareness-raising and human rights work. Despite the political divide, women rights movements have maintained a critical distance from partisan polarisation, focusing on issues that affect women regardless of political affiliation. This has allowed them to remain relatively neutral spaces, serving society as a whole. (...) They continued documenting violations and engaging in international advocacy, ensuring that the human rights dimension of the feminist struggle remained central even in the most extreme circumstances.” – Woman, representative of the Women’s Affairs Centre

INSIGHTS FROM WEWORLD STAFF

An internal qualitative survey of 21 WeWorld staff (10 women, 11 men) across Gaza and the West Bank further illuminates these dynamics. Using open-end-

ed questions analysed thematically, the survey explored operational challenges, programme design, and gendered perspectives. **Findings reveal a dual lens: women emphasise the everyday usability of services, highlighting points where life becomes unsafe or undignified, while men tend to focus on struc-**

tural systems and programme-level planning. Together, these perspectives provide a comprehensive understanding of both frontline practice and organisational design, illustrating that effective humanitarian response requires integrating experiential knowledge with systemic planning.

“Working closely with women means understanding the challenges they face every day and listening to their concerns. It gives a bigger sense of responsibility to support more inclusive and respectful humanitarian work.” - Man, WeWorld Staff, West Bank

“Personally, being a woman in the humanitarian sector means a great opportunity to be supportive, even if only emotionally, to help another woman overcome crises, remain resilient, and develop herself.” - Woman, WeWorld Staff, West Bank

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMMING

Evidence from WeWorld shows that programmes led or co-designed by women enhance service uptake among female recipients, reduce exposure to harassment, improve psychosocial outcomes, and strengthen community engagement. Sustaining this workforce demands deliberate investment in safety-aware policies, flexible schedules, low-threshold psychosocial support, meaningful participation in programme design and budgeting, multi-year predictable funding, and leadership development. Programmes designed around women’s lived realities, supported by systemic infrastructure, are better able to address barriers to access, protect dignity, and ensure effective, durable interventions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN’S PERSPECTIVES AND GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

Women humanitarian workers are indispensable to the operational and ethical success of humanitarian programmes in Palestine, as elsewhere. Their expertise, relational trust, and contextual knowledge not only improve the usability and safety of services but also foster long-term resilience, agency, and community empowerment. **Gender-responsive programming that integrates women’s lived experience with structural design ensures that interventions are not only effective in the short term but transformative, supporting communities to navigate crisis while maintaining dignity and hope.**

CHAPTER 5.

Conclusions & Recommendations

Palestinian women experience crises under occupation as deeply gendered, where patriarchal norms and systemic violence intersect with social, economic, and political constraints. Vulnerability is widespread: women face restricted mobility, unpaid care burdens, limited access to essential services, exposure to gender-based violence, and psychological strain. Resilience is often a survival strategy rather than a choice, expressed through everyday agency—managing households, sustaining informal economies, organising communities, and maintaining social cohesion. Women’s leadership is central to humanitarian and development responses, ensuring programmes are safe, accessible, and relevant.



Recovery will not be possible without women because women are capable of virtually everything. Without their prior efforts and the steps they have already taken, we would have no hope of reaching this point. No one else would speak my language, and no one else would understand my needs. – Woman, representative of the Women’s Programme Centre Association

Gender-transformative approaches in this context require pragmatic, incremental interventions that **redistribute labour and resources, engage men and boys as allies, increase women’s decision-making authority, ground programmes in local realities,** and **monitor outcomes reflecting women’s lived experiences.** Effectiveness arises when lived experience and structural systems are integrated: services must be not only available but also usable, safe, and dignified.



KEY CONCLUSIONS

- Crises are never gender-neutral; structural and social barriers intersect to constrain women’s agency.
- Women’s resilience is everyday and situational, requiring recognition and support to avoid chronic physical and psycho-social burdens.
- Women-led and women’s rights movements and organisations are essential infrastructure, sustaining trust, contextual knowledge, and access to marginalised communities.
- Effective humanitarian and development responses require integrating experiential knowledge of women with systemic programme design, ensuring interventions are transformative in practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

Recommendations, drawn from interviews, organisational reports, and WeWorld staff insights, provide practical pathways to address immediate needs while strengthening long-term resilience, agency, and structural change. They target four key stakeholders—donors, humanitarian and development actors, local governance institutions, and WLOs/WROs—offering adaptable, evidence-informed guidance to ensure women’s authority and decision-making shape programmes and policies in a rapidly evolving context. The guidance is structured around **five strategic pillars** while specifying actions for each stakeholder.

Pillar	Stakeholder	Core Focus
PILLAR 1 - Shift to Gender-Transformative Action	Donors	Fund redistribution of unpaid care work, engage men and boys, embed transformative outcomes in monitoring.
	Humanitarian & Development Actors	Conduct gender analyses, track power shifts, engage men and boys as allies, embed transformative indicators.
	WLOs/WROs	Lead community-based initiatives, engage men and boys, document local gender norm changes.
PILLAR 2 - Strengthen Women’s Economic Agency	Donors	Fund livelihoods programmes, digital/home-based enterprises, and time-saving infrastructure.
	Humanitarian & Development Actors	Support childcare hubs, cash-for-care schemes, fuel-efficient technologies, safe employment initiatives.
	Local Governance Institutions	Remove barriers to home-based and digital enterprises, streamline licensing, ensure safe transport.
	WLOs/WROs	Implement livelihoods, childcare, and time-saving initiatives; provide skills and financial literacy support to women heads-of-household, widows, and single women.
PILLAR 3 - Address Gender-Based Violence Structurally	Donors	Fund GBV-prevention, survivor-centred services, menstrual hygiene supplies.
	Humanitarian & Development Actors	Ensure safe lighting, partitions, privacy, female staff, and protection protocols at distribution points.
	Local Governance Institutions	Support shelters, lighting, and WASH in public spaces; streamline reporting and legal protection for survivors.
	WLOs/WROs	Continue GBV-prevention programming and advocacy, train community focal points, document violations, provide gender transformative education on gendered norms.
PILLAR 4 - Reinforce Women’s Access to Rights & Services	Donors	Fund mobility-sensitive service delivery, neighbourhood hubs, mobile teams, digital infrastructure.
	Humanitarian & Development Actors	Deliver integrated SRH, MHPSS, legal aid, education, WASH; establish safe distribution points.
	Local Governance Institutions	Strengthen neighbourhood-based health/social services, improve WASH and shelter infrastructure, ensure safe access.
	WLOs/WROs	Maintain safe spaces, provide SRH, MHPSS, and education services; tailor programmes for displaced women and girls, adolescents, women with disabilities, and other marginalised groups.
PILLAR 5 - Resource & Centre Palestinian WLOs	Donors	Provide multi-year, flexible core funding; reduce reporting burdens; protect WLOs/WROs’ operational space.
	Humanitarian & Development Actors	Include WLOs/WROs in cluster coordination, planning, and decision-making; provide capacity-building and operational support.
	Local Governance Institutions	Cooperate with WLOs/WROs, grant access to facilities, avoid restrictive approvals.
	WLOs/WROs	Strengthen operational resilience and emergency preparedness; diversify funding and partnerships; document violations; sustain advocacy and leadership in local/international forums.

In sum, **investing in women, women-led and women's rights organisations is both a protection and operational priority.** Programmes that centre women's voices, reduce structural burdens, and integrate gender-transformative approaches are better positioned to deliver safe, dignified, and sustainable humanitarian and development outcomes.



WeWorld's Work in Palestine

WeWorld has been present in Palestine since 1992, delivering humanitarian assistance and emergency support to communities in vulnerable conditions across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The organisation focuses on lifesaving interventions that address urgent needs across multiple sectors, including WASH, education, protection, health, shelter, livelihoods, food security and the environment. Within these sectors, WeWorld combines hard components, such as infrastructure rehabilitation and construction, with soft components, including service delivery, training and community engagement. All interventions are accompanied by awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives, enabling communities to manage resources independently, sustainably and effectively. Beyond immediate relief, WeWorld promotes economic and social development by supporting livelihoods and income-generating activities, and by strengthening community resilience in the context of protracted crises.

Since the outbreak of the latest hostilities in the Gaza Strip and the intensified enforcement of occupation policies in the West Bank, WeWorld has expanded its operations to provide targeted assistance where needs are most acute. Interventions are regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure they contribute to longer-term development outcomes alongside emergency response. Across all programming, particular attention is given to the needs of women and girls, who face specific barriers in accessing services, mobility and protection. **WeWorld integrates gender-sensitive approaches throughout its work, ensuring that services are safe, accessible and responsive to the lived realities of women and girls across Gaza and the West Bank.**





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