

SAWASYA

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW IN PALESTINE

ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021



Photo 1: Legal aid consultation by one of the trainee lawyers. East Jerusalem. ©Sawasya.

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Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: “<i>Promoting the Rule of Law in Palestine</i>” (Sawasya II) MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00111750 	<p>State of Palestine</p> <p><i>Agenda 2030: <u>Goal 16</u>: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels; <u>Goal 5</u>: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</i></p> <p><i>2018-2022 UNDAF: <u>SP2</u>: All Palestinians, especially those exposed to vulnerabilities, have equal access to accountable, effective, and responsive democratic governance, in line with international human rights standards</i></p> <p><i>2017-2023 National Policy Agenda: <u>Pillar 1</u>: Path to independence; <u>Pillar 2</u>: Governance reform; <u>Pillar 3</u>: Sustainable development</i></p>
Participating Organization(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP/UN Women/UNICEF 	
Programme Cost (US\$)	Programme Duration
<p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD 50,000,000</p> <p>Agency Contribution UNDP BPPS: USD 945,000</p> <p>Contributions from Donors to MPTF/JP Netherlands: 15,208,120 SIDA: 10,133,630 European Union: 2,428,400</p> <p>Total Contributions to MPTF/JP 27,770,150</p> <p>Contributions from other donors parallel to MPTF/JP Spain (earmarked/non MPTF): USD 1,420,560</p> <p>TOTAL: USD 30,135,710</p>	<p>Overall Duration: 60 months</p> <p>Start Date: 01.07.2018</p> <p>Original End Date: 30.06.2023</p> <p>Current End Date: Extended until 30 June 2023.</p>
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	Report Submitted By
<p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: D. Christopher Decker Title: Joint Programme Manager Participating Organizations: UNDP/UN Women/UNICEF Email address: chris.decker@undp.org

X	Yes	No	Date: 19.01.2021		
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SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME

Sawasya II represents the primary programmatic vehicle of the United Nations (UN) for advancing the rule of law, gender justice, justice for children and human rights in the State of Palestine for the period 2018-2023. *Sawasya II* is designed to contribute to key priorities of the five-year United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the State of Palestine (2018-2022), to the realization of the 2030 Agenda and of its sustainable development goals (particularly SDG 16 and SDG 5) and to the implementation of the National Policy Agenda of the State of Palestine (2017-2023).

Bringing together the main UN entities mandated and invested in these areas – the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations’ Children’s Fund (UNICEF) - in an integrated Programme framework, *Sawasya II* seeks to support the Government of Palestine in building a progressively functioning and increasingly inclusive rule of law system that respects, protects and fulfils human rights and gender equality and, in parallel, promotes peace and security.

Sawasya II targets specific bottlenecks in justice and security service provision. Security and justice institutions are supported to strengthen the quality and efficiency of the services they provide to Palestinian rights holders. Moreover, *Sawasya II* supports all relevant Palestinian government institutions and civil society organizations in providing legal aid to the Palestinian population. This support is developed and tailored to respond to the specific needs of the different areas of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Acknowledging that the ability to access justice is a human right in itself and is key to the realization of all other human rights, *Sawasya II* also addresses gender justice gaps and discrimination against women, which are deeply entrenched in the Palestinian justice and security systems. Finally, *Sawasya II* works with relevant national partners in strengthening the services provided to children in contact with the law as offenders, victims, and witnesses by promoting effective partnerships and integrated constructive work among constituent entities of the child protection sector.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out achievements of the Joint UNDP/UN Women/UNICEF Programme “*Sawasya II: Promoting the Rule of Law in Palestine*”¹ realized in 2021. By every measure, the operational situation continued to prove exceptionally volatile.² The period witnessed the worst escalation of violence of the past seven years, claiming 261 lives in Gaza³ and leaving thousands injured across the oPt.⁴ In this context, Palestinians continued to bear the brunt of a deteriorated political situation, an enduring COVID-19 crisis and narrowed democratic avenues. While the announcement of since-cancelled presidential and general elections raised high hopes for the resumption of the Palestinian dialogue, the ever-menaced civic space, and the lack of prospect on the peace front represented the greatest obstacles to the promotion of the rule of law in Palestine during the period.

Despite this, the rule of law gains made since 2018, and prior, seem to have solidified during the period. Palestinians’ perceptions measured this year by the **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the bi-annual ‘Rule of Law and Access to Justice’ survey indicate an increase of about 13 per cent in the trust Palestinians place in their judiciary and 20 per cent in their satisfaction with judges’ performance** as compared to 2018.⁵ In step with this, a strong priority of focus was put on strengthening institutional accountability. As a result, citizens will now be able to **report any alleged wrongdoing or misconduct by the police, judges, or prosecutors using their laptop or mobile phone** following the digitalization, this year, of complaint mechanisms at the level of the Palestinian Civil Police, High Judicial Council and Attorney General’s Office. Emphasis was also placed on enhancing accountability and access to justice in places of detention with the further **operationalization of the Nelson Mandela and Bangkok rules by the Attorney General’s Office Human Rights Unit** that introduce minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, including women offenders. As a key policy conduit for the mainstreaming of human rights obligations, **standard operating procedures for the Attorney General’s Office Human Rights Unit** were also developed this year as well as for the **investigation of torture cases**. This is in line with steps taken to **activate the Human Rights Unit at the level of the Supreme Judge Department** to improve the responsiveness of family law services, most likely to impact women and children. This was complemented by the update of the **inspection draft bylaw and standard operating procedures at the Supreme Judge Department** that establish well-defined criteria upon which **reporting templates for inspection visits** were developed. In addition, **more than 1,549 criminal sessions in courts were monitored by the coalition of civil society actors and a civic-led advocacy strategy for advancing justice reform was produced**. Work was also invested to strengthen citizens’ equal access to legal information with the uploading of **4,780 new judgements to the automated *al-Muqtafi* database, including 1,000 rulings by family courts**.

Accountability work also translated into improved institutional processes with the further **development of a planning and project management community of practice across the justice sector**, including through the standardization of training modalities by the Palestinian National

¹ The “Programme” refers to the *Sawasya* Programme. Both *Sawasya* and the “Programme” are used interchangeably.

² See *Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned*.

³ Gaza and the Gaza Strip are used interchangeably, unless specified.

⁴ See data OCHA, data on casualties, available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties> [consulted on 19 April 2022].

⁵ The data collection and production of the report took place in 2021. The last ‘Rule of Law and Access to Justice’ survey was produced in 2018.

School of Administration. This constitutes an important first step towards the standardization of such practices across the government and hence further consolidates the justice sector's leadership on this front. In step with this, **M&E processes in the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council were further digitalized**, allowing for automated reporting against sectoral but also national policy targets in a manner that can inform pivotal governmental dialogue. The **Ministry of Justice human resource management system was also automated**, thereby freeing up critical staff at the level of the institution.

Citizen oriented rule of law systems are ones in which justice outcomes are inclusive and accountable but also predictable. In this regard, progress continued to be made as the **enforcement of judgments by conciliation courts in the pilot governorate of Hebron increased by nearly 8 per cent and even 77 per cent for first instance courts** against annual targets. The latter represents a 56 per cent and an 8 per cent increase when respectively compared to the years 2020 and 2019. This builds on efforts to improve the physical mobility of notifiers and enforcement staff, including as **regular courts and the Judicial Police in the Hebron pilot area received six motorcycles**. It is also premised on the harnessing of a digital transformation that contributed this year with a substantial reduction of enforcement costs for both institutions and justice clients. At the level of family courts, **enforcement orders are now automatically transferred from the courts to the banks**, thereby eliminating critical barriers for vulnerable women to access alimony. Furthermore, **justice clients can now file enforcement motions online**, which is contributing to reducing transactional costs for citizens and improving access to justice. On this front, **work also translated into the establishment of a single-judge pilot court** for the rapid settlement of low-value claims. To make justice even more accessible – including outside the court room, **71,200 citizens had access to online content on alternative methods of resolving disputes** and work continued to build a comprehensive legal framework, including through the **production of a study on current obstacles to mediation and arbitration**. Emphasis was also placed on improving jurisprudential consistency and responsiveness with the **operationalization of technical offices in the Court of Cassation and appeal courts** as well as the **finalization of violence against women (VAW) instructive guidelines** for the formulation of prosecutorial arguments that enhance the environment within which VAW cases are litigated.

In line with this, **registered levels of prosecution and adjudication of cases involving violence against women continued to be on the rise**, exceeding by nearly 47 per cent and 57 per cent these of the targets. A **41 per cent and 39 per cent increase in the number of VAW cases transferred to the courts and perpetrators convicted** was reported when compared to 2020. However, cognizant that there remains structural obstacles that prevent vulnerable Palestinians from reporting instances of violence, **904 individuals (89 per cent women) reached out to the new Palestinian Civil Police helpline**, which was operationalized by the **guidelines endorsed this year by the Chief of Police**. Furthermore, the **establishment of two additional One-Stop Centers in the underserved areas of Hebron and Nablus was initiated** along with the **equipment of a specialized court to better respond to the multi-sectoral needs of women victims of violence**. Access to increasingly responsive services continued to be supported by the active **work of 37 gender champions (62 per cent women) underpinned by improved women's representation**, as well as the **endorsement of emergency plans by the Chief of Police, Chief Justice, and Minister of Social Development**. Efforts also focused on improving the litigation environment with the **finalization of standard operating procedures that unify the**

adjudication of cases of violence against women. This is in line with efforts to **standardize family law knowledge through enhanced access to e-Learning,** and to **better coordinate first and second respondents with the formalization of a Memorandum of Understanding** between the Ministry of Social Development, Palestinian Civil Police and Attorney General's Office. It is in step with the work conducted during the period to better understand the underlying factors hindering the adoption of legislation more protective of human rights through the undertaking of an **in-depth research on the Family Protection Bill** that **accompanied a critical dialogue on the jurisprudential evolution of family law.**

On the child justice front, a **77 per cent increase in the number of children who accessed mediation and a nearly 7 per cent increase in alternative to detention** was observed against the annual targets. When compared to pre-covid levels, **this represents an increase of respectively 28 and 35 per cent in the number of children that benefitted from diversionary and non-custodial measures.** This substantiates the **16 per cent decrease in children having received a prison sentence** as compared to the annual target. It builds on the **identification of six centers for the provision of alternatives to detention** this year and on the further operationalization of the mediation guidelines by the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Social Development. The continuous enhancement of the Mizan II case management system is also now **allowing juvenile prosecutors and child protection counselors to access cases of children at risk of delinquency.** This is in congruence with the **development of a code of conduct for judicial staff on principles of child protection and international standards.** The **first national supervision diploma was also completed by protection counselors and police officers** and steps were taken towards its standardization going forward. This is important progress towards improving access to justice for children, particularly as the **Convention on the Rights of the Child was published in the Palestinian Gazette** this year and that **amendments were made to the Juvenile Protection Law that strengthen guarantees of confidentiality.** However as there remains the need to ensure access to representation early in judicial proceedings, steps were taken for the operationalization of **legal aid standards for children piloted this year by the Palestinian Bar Association.**

In step with this, **Ecclesiastical courts and the Supreme Judge Department took critical steps towards the institutionalization of legal aid mechanisms in front of family courts.** This operationalizes key elements of the work of the National Legal Aid Committee to guarantee equality of arms for all, and particularly women. Such work is paralleled by a **23 per cent increase in public awareness on the existence of specialized legal aid services** and a **95 per cent in satisfaction with state-sponsored representation** when compared to 2018, which is anticipated to positively impact demand going forward. To ensure sustainability on this front, **clinical education programmes continued to be rolled out,** focusing on socially responsible, gender transformative and practice-oriented lawyering. This was complemented by access for **31 Gaza law students (52 per cent women) to scholarships for qualifying traineeship in specialized CSOs.** Meanwhile, **15,565 (73 per cent women, 8 per cent boys, 0.5 per cent girls) vulnerable Palestinians accessed legal aid services** across the oPt. Furthermore, **13,184 (68 per cent women, 5 per cent boys, 2 per cent girls) accessed in-person legal awareness,** and more than **498,300 had access to online content.**⁶

⁶ Disaggregation is not available.

LIST OF ACRONYMS





ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
A2D	Alternatives to Detention
AG	Attorney General
AGO	Attorney General's Office
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
COGAT	Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories
COM	Council of Ministers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EJ	East Jerusalem
EUPOL	EU Police Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
COPPS	
FJPD	Family and Juvenile Protection Department
FJPU	Family and Juvenile Protection Unit (PCP)
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GLC	Gender Legislative Committee
GPC	General Personnel Council
GoI	Government of Israel
GoP	Government of Palestine
GRM	Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism
HJC	High Judicial Council
ICHR	Independent Commission for Human Rights
IG	Inspector General (PCP)
IS	Internal Security (PCP)
JAL	Judicial Authority Law
JSS	Justice Sector Strategy
LAB	Legislative Advisory Bureau
LoA	Letter of Agreement
LHC	Legal Harmonization Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOSD	Ministry of Social Development
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
OSC	One Stop Centre
PA	Palestinian Authority
PBA	Palestinian Bar Association
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics






PCP	Palestinian Civil Police
PG	Palestinian Government
PJI	Palestinian Judicial Institute
PMF	Palestinian Maintenance Fund
PMO	Prime Minister Office
PPMU	Planning and Project Management Unit
PSL	Personal Status Law
RAP	Results Action Plan
RRC	Rehabilitation and Reform Center
SJD	Supreme Judge Department
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of trainers
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAW SPPs	Specialized Public Prosecutors on Violence against Women
WPC	Women's Protection Counsellors

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I. Progress Against Key Targets

	Progress Against Outcome 1 Targets		
	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>
	O.1.1	2 (met)	3: There was three new/existing laws that were adopted/amended in line with international standards. This includes amendments made to the Juvenile Protection Law of 2016 to reinforce guarantees of confidentiality in criminal cases involving juveniles, the introduction of quotas for women's representation in electoral lists and the publication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Official Palestinian Gazette. *Not to be solely attributed to Sawasya
	O.1.2	2 (met)	3: The Attorney General's Office/Palestinian Civil Police cybercrime guidelines and the guidelines operating the Palestinian Civil Police helpline were adopted by the Chief of Police. This is in addition to the endorsement of three emergency plans by the Chief of Police, Chief Justice, and Minister of Social Development. The emergency plans at the level of the PCP and MOSD were already reported against the target in 2020. Therefore, among the three emergency plans endorsed this year, only the HJC plan is accounted for against the target. The protocol/plans further align the policy framework with obligations contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. These achievements are reported under Outcome 4. *Not to be solely attributed to Sawasya
	O.1.3	2 (unmet)	0: There were no adopted policies/harmonized laws/plans linked to the Gaza Strip/West Bank reunification process.

	Progress Against Output Targets				
	<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>		<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>
	2 (met)	o.1.1.1: 2 new/existing laws were reviewed/revised to align with human rights standards (see Indicator Outcome 1.1).		2 (met)	o.1.2.1: 2 annual/biannual integrated workplans were adopted. This includes the 2021 annual work plan of the High Judicial Council as well as the Palestinian Civil Police gender justice action plan for the years 2021-2023.
	2 (unmet)	o.1.3.1: 0 Work during the period focused on the production of knowledge that can inform CSO strategy on this front, including through the update of the "Prospects for Justice Sector Reintegration in the State of Palestine" report.		2 (unmet)	o.1.4.1: 1 The 'Rule of Law and Access to Justice' survey was produced by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The production of the court monitoring report was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation.

Outcome 1: Rule of Law Institutions are Strengthened and Reunified by Legal, Regulatory and Policy Frameworks in line with International Standards

Output 1.1: Key Legislations are Revised to Strengthen the Independence of the Rule of Law Institutions and Ensure their Consistency with International Standards



Evidence-based knowledge produced on the adoption of legislation protective of women's rights



4,780 judgements added to Al-Muftafi that fosters equal access to legal information

Progress was made during the period on the legislative reform front. **Amendments were made to the Juvenile Protection Law (JPL) (Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021) introducing provisions that better align with international standards**, particularly as they reinforce guarantees of confidentiality as well as strengthen the role of the Family and Juvenile Protection Department (FJPD) and of conciliation courts in hearing of juvenile justice cases. Furthermore, the share of women's representation in lists presented to local elections increased by **30 per cent following the introduction of quotas by Decree-Law No. 01 of 2021 amending Decree-Law No. 01 of 2007 on general elections**⁷ (*Indicator Outcome 1.1/Indicator output 1.1.1*). This is in addition to the **publication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the Palestinian Official Gazette in 2021** (Decree-Law No. 25 of 2021).

Despite such advances, the legal framework is still not fully aligned with international standards, and particularly with the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to which the State of Palestine is a party since 2014. In this regard, progress with regard to the Family Protection Bill (FPB) and the reform of the Personal Status Law (PSL) of 1976 was limited during the period (*see Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned*). Cognizant of the need to foster a comparative approach that showcases best legislative and jurisprudential practices, 32 legal practitioners (40 per cent women) from the Supreme Judge Department (SJD), the High Judicial Council (HJC) as well as representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Gender Unit, Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) and Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) discussed the compatibility of Shari'a law and human rights examining how the evolution and dynamism of *Fiqh*⁸ can inform PSL dialogue reform.⁹ This in line with the **findings of the socio-political analysis produced during the period, which recommends to pair dialogue with religious and traditional actors with a more in-depth understanding of the attitudes and practices of Palestinians**, and particularly men. According to the analysis, establishing a platform for the public to engage in an open debate between main opponents and supporters of the FPB may help renew political impetus and the likelihood of passage of legislation more protective of women's rights. To inform such dialogue, an analytical report of the National Violence Survey was initiated in close collaboration with the Palestinian Central Bureau of

⁷ The first round of local elections took place on 11 December 2021; the second round of elections is anticipated to take place on 26 March 2022 (*see Implementation Challenges & Lessons Learned*).

⁸ The term "*Fiqh*" refers to Islamic jurisprudence.

⁹ Four sessions were organized.

Statistics (PCBS)¹⁰ and the Men and Women for Gender Equality Programme.¹¹ The report will offer analytical insights with a focus on identifying interrelations, causalities, and patterns as well as policy entry points, including through national programming. During the period, work also continued to be invested to support the FPB drafting process. In December, the Bill was jointly submitted to the Council of Ministers by the MOSD and MOWA, without however, prior consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs). Moreover, an analysis of these recent developments, produced by the Programme, shows that notions of discrimination and sexual violence were eliminated from the most recent version, thereby constituting a departure from progress made thus far. Such work aims at supporting legal drafting efforts and inform advocacy efforts by the Programme and other invested stakeholders going forward.

In a context that continues to bear the brunt of the non-functioning Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the expansion of the *Al-Muqtafi* database remains key to promoting transparency and equal access to legislation by citizens and the legal community. In line with this, **4,780 new judgements were added to the automated database, including 1,000 rulings by Islamic family courts**¹² by Birzeit University's Institute of Law. Furthermore, five policy papers on the harmonization of Palestinian laws against international standards were developed in the priority areas of rights to equality, right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture, right to fair trial as well as right to health. Once finalized by the team of experts, the papers will inform the Legal Harmonization Committee's (LHC) strategy and methodology moving forward. This is in line with the completed review of the Gender Justice Country Profile this year, which highlighted key legislative and policy changes introduced since 2018, including in relation to the increased age of marriage to 18 and the repelling of penal provisions that allowed rapists to evade prosecution if they married their victim or mitigated sentencing for perpetrators of crimes under the pretext of honor. This was undertaken in collaboration with CSOs, and institutional partners invested on this front and will be disseminated with a view to identify priority areas of engagement.

Output 1.2: Evidence-Based Planning and Policy Development in the Justice and Security Sectors are Strengthened



M&E and planning training further standardized across justice and governmental sectors



Automated generating of reports against accountability frameworks fostered

Support to the implementation of justice and security plans

Important strides were made towards evidence-based planning and policy development in the justice sector during the period. **One key achievement was the production of the biannual '[Rule of Law and Access to Justice](#)' survey by PCBS in 2021, which reflects Palestinians' views and perceptions on the judicial sector (Indicator output 1.4.1).** Since 2018, Palestinians reported considerable improvements on nearly every PCBS indicator (*see Results and Resources*

¹⁰ It is anticipated to be finalized at the beginning of 2022. Analyzed data will be mainly from 2019 when the National Violence Survey took place, and will be correlated with most recent developments, particularly under COVID-19.

¹¹ It is a UN Women's Regional Office for the Arab States' Programme. It is funded by SIDA and seeks to improve understanding of the root causes of gender inequalities in the Arab States, and address these through a bottom-up approach, including through the engagement of men and boys for gender equality.

¹² The other 3,780 decisions were issued by Courts of Appeal in Hebron, Nablus, and Ramallah.

Framework/II. Monitoring & Evaluation). This includes a **9.7 per cent increase in the share of public who has trust in the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP)** (8.6 per cent against the biannual target) (*Indicator G-1*) and **10.9 per cent increase in those satisfied of their performance as compared to 2018** (8.7 per cent against the biannual target) (*Indicator G-3*). Improved perception of judicial actors was also reported with a **12.7 increase in the public's share who has trust in the Judiciary** (11.5 per cent increase against the biannual target) (*Indicator G-2*) and even a **20 per cent increase in the expressed satisfaction with the performance of judges as compared to 2018** (17.7 per cent as compared to the biannual target) (*Indicator G-4*).

The PCBS survey represents an important tool to measure improvements in the judiciary but also better inform policy development and evidence-based planning. On this front, strides continued to be made as the **MOJ and HJC will be able to produce automatically generated reports against policy targets** of the Justice Sector Strategy (JSS) and the National Policy Agenda (NPA) for 2017-2023 building on the further digitalization of their M&E systems. After the Attorney General's Office (AGO), this represents a crucial step forward towards the full digitalization of the Strategic Results Framework (SRF). It will contribute to centralizing critical knowledge and hence strengthening the MOJ and HJC leading policy production role. Such work will accompany the development of the next Justice Sector Strategy (JSS) (2023-2027). Steps in this regard were already taken by the HJC with the production of a five-year outlook, which was linked to the M&E system during the period. The document will serve as basis for the HJC's contribution to the new JSS. This is in addition to the integrated workplans developed this year by the HJC and the PCP (Gender Strategy) (*Indicator output 1.2.1/see also output 4.2*).

At the operational level, standardized training is crucial for the proper implementation of justice and security plans. Taking this forward, **24 participants (66 per cent women) completed the Palestinian National School of Administration's (PNSA) first standardized programme for M&E and planning staff of all justice institutions**.¹³ Such approach is anticipated to produce results on two fronts. First, it incentivizes staff to envisage longer-term professional prospects, as the completion of the training will provide for career advancement-based recognition by the General Personnel Council (GPC) within the Planning and Project Management Units (PPMUs).¹⁴ Second, it will help strengthen the PPM community of practice across justice institutions, and more broadly within government, as well as promote joint planning. In view of this, 18 PPMU staff (50 per cent women) participated in training-of-trainers (ToT) capacity building opportunities with support from *Sawasya* with a view to enhance in-house capacity building. The ToT focused on aspects relating to unified strategy and annual planning processes. In this regard, discussions are currently underway for the standardization of the training modalities across other governmental sectors. As a result, a first pilot course was designed this year and focuses on the mainstreaming of SDG16[+], thereby further capitalizing on robust synergies between the PNSA and the SDG16[+] national team on this front (*see below Monitoring & Implementation of SDG16[+]*).

¹³ The closing ceremony was held in 2021; however, this activity was also reported in 2020. It focused on planning and budgeting, project management, M&E, basic legal educations and draws on a need assessment conducted in 2018 by *Sawasya*. See *Sawasya* (2018), "Annual Programme Narrative Report" available [here](#).

¹⁴ "A study conducted on the luxury hotel Serena, Faisalabad, showed a strong positive association between training and development and retention (Khan et. al., 2011)." See Shakeel N. & But S. (2015), "Factors influencing employee retention : An integrated perspective", *Journal of Resources Development and Management*, Vol. 6, pp. 32-59

To make policy development more accountable to the citizenry – particularly in view of the lack of prospect for a functioning PLC, the work of the Outreach Campaign Committee resumed during the period. Bringing together communication teams from all seven justice institutions and the Judicial Police,¹⁵ work was initiated for the launch of the second phase of the unified media campaign, whose rollout was postponed to 2022. New products and opportunities for amplifying social media content were identified. However, turnover in some of the media departments hindered the development process. Therefore, a strong focus was put on knowledge transfer during the period as well as on unifying approaches within the Outreach Campaign Committee. Such efforts are critical as they helped create a platform last year through which more than 244,000 citizens directly engaged¹⁶ (30 per cent women) on judicial work.

Monitoring and implementation of SDG16[+]

Work to operationalize SDG16[+] within current policy frameworks and institutional practices continued during the period. **The PNSA developed its first standardized training for all PPMUs across governmental sectors on SDG 16[+]**, which will also serve as introductory course for new members of the national team. In addition, steps were taken during the period to ensure that the work of the SDG 16 and 5 national teams and working groups reflect the justice needs of women with disability. To achieve this, one partner CSO specialized in the rights of women with disability initiated a collaboration¹⁷ with the national team placed under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for the identification of priorities and the mainstreaming of key targets within the NPA (2017-2023), with support from the PCBS-led National Statistics Team and the National Sustainable Development Forum. The specialized partner CSO initiated a collaboration with the MOJ, the FJPD, the MOWA, the SJD, and Ecclesiastical courts for the collection of baseline data to support PCBS in adapting its data management structure. Moving forward, the specialized partner CSO will provide capacity building and research support for the SDG 5 and SDG 16 working groups. Such work is critical for strengthening disaggregation work, measuring progress against Agenda 2030 and informing domestic policy efforts to enhance access to justice for women with disability.¹⁸ Work during the period continued to focus on building the capacity of SDG national teams and groups locally in view of the restrictions placed on international travels throughout the year.

Output 1.3: West Bank and Gaza Rule of Law Institutions are Reunified



Evidence-based knowledge produced
on reintegration

In May 2021, work focused on **updating the report entitled “Prospects for Justice Sector Reintegration in the State of Palestine”** that was developed under *Sawasya I*. This corresponded with the window of opportunity that opened when the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections was announced in January 2021.¹⁹ Although such prospects has since faded into the

¹⁵ The outreach campaign committee is comprised of the seven justice institutions as well as the Judicial Police.

¹⁶ They either clicked on, liked, commented, or shared the post.

¹⁷ Another MOU was signed with the PCP to improve services for women with disability.

¹⁸ Under output 4.3 in the annual work plan.

¹⁹ N. Al-Mugrabi & al. (30 April 2021), “Palestinian leader delays parliamentary and presidential elections, blaming Israel”, *Reuters*.

background (*see Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned*), the production of an up-to-date assessment of existing capacities and limitations of justice institutions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank is crucial to identify priority areas. Tailored programming can help reduce growing judicial asymmetry and address legal and jurisdictional insecurity. Such work will strategically inform policy and planning efforts at the level of the Programme and with partners going forward.

Considering the absence of policies, harmonized laws, or plans linked to the Gaza Strip-West Bank reunification process during the period (*Indicator Outcome 1.3/output 1.3.1*), focus was put on activating the recommendations of the four position papers as part of the report entitled “*Civil Society Organizations: Vision on Integrating Transitional Justice Mechanisms in the Reconciliation Process*” (2020). With emphasis placed on prosecution, reparations, vetting and institutional reform, strategic discussions were conducted for the development of a national transitional justice strategy and the establishment of a civil society-led community coalition, which will be further taken forward next year in partnership with CSOs invested on this front. This is anticipated to help shed light on the criticality of ensuring that any process of reconciliation factors in mechanisms for the defense and reparations of victims, women's participation in the transitional justice process – including through representation and participation in debates and committees – as well as ensuring that any relevant tools are gender sensitive and geared towards the prevention of reoccurrence.

Output 1.4: Advocacy on Strengthening Rule of Law Institutions and Promoting Human Rights is Reinforced



Advocacy strategy produced by CSOs to advance justice reform



Phase II of court monitoring project launched to improve justice accountability

During the period, **a coalition of CSOs produced a comprehensive advocacy strategy to advance justice reform** in the State of Palestine. This is based on the recommendations of a public dialogue that brought together 700 legal practitioners, civil society actors and members²⁰ to present the findings of countrywide consultations organized over 2019 and 2020.²¹ The quality of the contributions during the dialogue were pivotal in informing the production of the strategy that outlines policy steps towards strengthened independence of the judiciary as well as guaranteed accountability and human rights, particularly for women and children. While the dialogue took place online due to COVID-19 restrictions, it presented a unique opportunity for broader participation to a timely dialogue, particularly in view of the adoption of Decree-Laws No. 39, 40 and 41 of 2020 that amended the Judicial Authority Law (JAL)²² and instituted a two-tier administrative court system. The state-of-the-art online platform also presented additional guarantees in terms of confidentiality that helped inform a more open dialogue, particularly at the time of the expiration of the Interim HJC’s mandate.

In line with this, the second phase of the **court monitoring project was launched with the monitoring of 1,549 criminal sessions in courts**, including 40 criminal cases involving juvenile

²⁰ Disaggregation is unavailable.

²¹ With 240 participants (60 per cent women).

²² Under 1.1.3 in annual work plan.





offenders with specific emphasis placed on specialized judges and court staff. This builds on the first phase's evaluation, which recommends shifting away from a hearing-based approach to focus more on the trajectory of criminal cases within the judiciary. This change in approach led to several adjustments, including improvements in the measurability of indicators. Furthermore, a set of specific indicators relating to violence against women and the identification of child rights breaches²³ (*see output 2.1*) was developed in line with international standards and with support from international expertise. The coalition is also now able to access Mizan II data and statistics following a decision by the HJC, which is anticipated to strengthen the quality of monitoring reports going forward. However, the production of reports was delayed during the period due to the epidemiological situation that resulted in various COVID-19 infections among key coalition members (*Indicator output 1.4.1*). Despite this, all monitors were able to access training during the period, particularly on aspects relating to gender²⁴ and child justice with support from Sawasya's partners and building on UNICEF joining forces under the second phase. With more than 12,000 criminal hearings attended in 2020 by the member coalition, the project is pioneering the systematization of court monitoring across the oPt and serves as basis for evidence-based advocacy with decision makers,²⁵ including on pre-trial detention, witness summoning and the systematic prosecution of torture.










²³ The indicators assess assessing child-friendly environment and procedures, in addition to assessing the principles of child participation, privacy, confidentiality and best interest of the child.

²⁴ Including using the Gender Transformational Approach (GTA); see Outcome 3.1 for more details on the approach used.

²⁵ Based on the two analytical reports produced last year and entitled "*Criminal Trials before the Serious Crimes Court and First Instance Courts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*" and "*Trials before the Juvenile Courts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*."

Outcome 2: Service Provision by Rule of Law Institutions is Effective, Accountable and Inclusive

	Progress Against Outcome 2 Targets		
	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>
	O.2.1	Decrease of 1 per cent yearly (N/A)	N/A data on unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population against the annual target. Not available for the period due to delays in producing and verifying data.
	O.2.2	Decrease of 3 per cent yearly (N/A)	N/A data on the number of children in conflict with the Palestinian law detained at the Family and Juvenile Protection units against the annual target. Not available for the period due to delays in producing and verifying data.
	O.2.3	Increase of 10 per cent by 2020 (met)	1.9 per cent increase against the target in the share of Palestinians who have confidence that they will receive a fair trial if charged with committing a criminal act/delinquency.

	Progress Against Output Targets				
	<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>		<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>
	Increase of 10 per cent in pilot areas by 2020 (met)	o.2.1.1: 49.8 per cent increase in the number of Palestinians aware of the Palestinian Civil Police community policing strategy in the pilot area of Jericho governorate against the target.		Increase of 1 per cent in the pilot areas yearly (met)	o.2.1.2: 7.8 per cent increase in the number of judgements enforced at the level of conciliation courts and 77.2 per cent increase at the level of first instance courts in Hebron pilot area against the target.
	Increase of 2 per cent by 2020 (unmet)	o.2.1.3: 0.6 per cent decrease in the number of justice sector users satisfied with Mizan against the target.		Decrease of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.2.1.4: 16.2 per cent decrease in the number of children who received a custodial sentence against the annual target.
	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.2.1.5: 6.8 per cent increase in the number of children who benefitted from alternatives to detention against the annual target.		Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.2.1.6: 77.3 per cent increase in the number of children who benefitted from mediation in the investigation process as alternative to detention against the annual target.
	Increase of 1 per cent in the pilot areas yearly (unmet)	o.2.2.1: 6.4 per cent decrease in the number of judgements enforced in unserved areas against the annual target.		5 yearly (unmet)	o. 2.2.2: 0. Services remain to be rolled out, as implementation was hindered by COVID-19 and critical turnover at the PCP.

Output 2.1: Quality and Efficiency of Security and Justice Services Provided to the Palestinian Citizens Are Improved



Automatic transfer of alimony orders between courts and banks rolled out through the expansion of the Mizan II technology



Electronic complaint mechanisms launched/developed to report misconduct across the judicial chain



Execution costs reduced with online filing of enforcement motions by clients or lawyers



Single-judge pilot court established mandated to settle low-value civil claims in Ramallah



Minimum standards for prisoners operationalized by AGO Human Rights Unit based on Nelson Mandela and Bangkok rules



Technical offices in the Court of Cassation and appeal courts operationalized to improve the jurisprudential environment



SOPs for the investigation of torture cases developed as well as SOPs for the AGO Human Rights Unit



e-Learning platform further developed, and 18 new e-Courses uploaded



Online access of children at risk of delinquency cases launched for prosecutors and child protection counselors.



MOUs between 6 alternative to detention centers and MOSD formalized in the West Bank



Finalized legal aid standards for children piloted by lawyers



18-month supervision professional diploma completed by child protection counselors and specialized police officers.



Human resource management at MOJ enhanced through digitalization of in-house system



40% increase in delivery by notifiers who accessed a motorcycle in line with provision of six motorcycles/electric bikes in Hebron pilot.

Support to inclusive and accountable policing

During the period, important strides were made towards enhancing citizen-centered and accountable policing. The main result on this front was the operationalization of an online complaint mechanism by the Bureau of Grievances and Human Rights within the Palestinian Civil

Police (PCP). Wherever located in the West Bank, **citizens can now report any alleged wrongdoing or misconduct by the police on their laptop or using their mobile phone.**²⁶

This represents an important step forward towards strengthening the PCP's accountability environment. Hitherto, the lack of access to and clarity on the mandate of the PCP accountability units²⁷ had constituted major obstacles for citizens seeking to report human rights violations, particularly for those residing outside of Ramallah. Therefore, the establishment of a unique and easy-to-access online portal is removing such barriers but is

Photo 2: PCP online complaint mechanism form. © Sawasya.

also contributing to reducing critical knowledge management gaps in a manner that can help inform policy work. The system is generating critical data on the nature of complaints but also on delays in processes of examination, referral, and treatment. In this regard, it is also key to reducing tampering vulnerabilities and highlighting case management gaps. Such progress has built on the resumption of the joint PCP-CSO accountability taskforce, with 15 of its members (27 per cent women) having met during the period and [explored ways to incentivize citizens to make use of accountability mechanisms](#), particularly for those living outside of Ramallah.²⁸ In view of this, the potential establishment of complaint offices in northern and southern parts of the West Bank was put on hold by the Programme in order to ensure that interventions are in line with preliminary findings generated through the online accountability system. Similarly, the media campaign was postponed to the upcoming year, as focus was put on operationalizing the online system and as methodology divergences between institutions emerged (*see output 1.2*).

Continuous accountability progress is expected to further reinforce public trust in the PCP. Important strides were made on this front with an increase of 9.7 per cent in public trust in the PCP as compared to 2018 (8.6 per cent increase as compared to the target) (*Indicator G-1*). In line with such progress, emphasis was also placed on making police officers more aware of their duties and responsibilities as well as on the limitations placed on their privileges. As a result, the PCP accessed 10,000 copies of the unified disciplinary code that will be utilized as basis for awareness raising, with specific emphasis placed on the use of force and the conduct of disciplinary and investigation procedures. However, the death of activist Nizar Banat in June 2021 and the protests

²⁶ However, not through a dedicated app. Data on the number of complaints have not been made available by the PCP yet.

²⁷ Within the PCP, the Bureau of Grievances and Human Rights established in 2009 is responsible for receiving complaints along with the Internal Security, which has been an integral part of the PCP since its inception in 1994 and possesses branch offices across the West Bank. Their oft-conflicting jurisdiction is generally determined based on the nature of the offense.

²⁸ Under 1.4.2 in annual work plan.

that ensued demonstrated the urgency of ensuring access to more inclusive policing services to the citizenry, in a manner that mainstreams accountability (*see Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned*). While important strides were made this year on strengthening the accountability environment, progress on the community policing front was more limited, despite the PCP's launch of two additional initiatives in the two governorates of Tubas and Ramallah, in addition to Jericho. The lack of political will and critical turnover resulted in additional delays in the activation of the Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in the three pilot localities (*Indicator output 2.2.2*) (*see Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned*). However, despite such hindrances, the work done to promote and operationalize community policing by *Sawasya* and other invested actors appears to have contributed to a 65 per cent increase in awareness of the PCP's strategy on this front in the Jericho pilot area as compared to 2018 (49.8 per cent increase against the target) (*Indicator 2.1.1*), which will be further capitalized upon going forward (*Indicator output 2.1.1*).

Support to fair and equitable judicial procedures

Protracted litigation remains one of the main obstacles to the development of fair and equitable procedures that guarantee access to justice in the State of Palestine.²⁹ In view of this, work continued to focus on improving judicial time management during the period. Strides were made in this regard, with the **establishment by the HJC of a single-judge pilot court³⁰ mandated to settle low-value civil claims in Ramallah³¹**. The court was operationalized in September 2021 following equipment support from *Sawasya*³² and an assessment of the pilot will be undertaken in 2022 to measure the impact of the intervention on backlog reduction.³³

Jurisprudential consistency is also a key element of backlog reduction. In view of the need to enhance the technical capacity of appellate jurisdictions on this front, work was invested to further **operationalize the technical offices in the Court of Cassation and the appeal courts** through equipment provision. The operationalization of such offices is contributing to the uniformity of justice decisions, and thereby to enhancing litigation processes for citizens. To further foster jurisprudential consistency, efforts also focused on promoting judicial professionalization by the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI). In view of this, the **e-Learning portal was further operationalized during the period and 18 new courses were added to the online platform** building on *Sawasya*'s scaling up of the PJI's hardware and IT capacity. As a result, all Palestinian judges (222 -10 per cent women) accessed continuous training by the PJI on *i.a.* civil proceedings, appeal proceedings, enforcement, civil and commercial evidence law, witness examination as well as labor law. They were also able to opt for online modalities, which is a pivotal aspect of continuous education for many judicial staff. This is in addition to the six PJI staff (17 per cent women) who accessed training on e-Learning content creation. Furthermore, and in view of the issuance of Decree-Law No. 41 of 2020 that establishes a two-tier administrative court system, 15 judges (13 per cent women) accessed capacity building in 2021 on administrative justice, with expertise from the Jordanian Judicial Institute.³⁴

²⁹ See Istiqlal (October 2020), "Monitoring report: Criminal trials before serious crimes court and first instance courts" (with support from *Sawasya*).

³⁰ Located in Ramallah.

³¹ Including equipment material.

³² The pilot court was refurbished with support from the Programme.

³³ The backlog current stands at 108,394.

³⁴ The initial scope of training for the High Court of Justice was readjusted in light of Decree-Law No. 41 of 2020.

Solid evidentiary processes, including the proper disposal of seized assets, are also key to improving access to fair and equitable justice. Cognizant of this, the HJC conducted a need assessment with support from the Programme, which highlighted limitations in the maintenance and preservation of confiscated goods, particularly in terms of their registration. As a result, the HJC recruited data entry staff in the two pilot locations of Nablus and Ramallah and accessed necessary equipment³⁵ with support from the Programme. Work was also initiated to assess needs in relation to the operationalization of the toxicology laboratory by the MOJ Forensic Medicine Unit. However, the completion of the need assessment was postponed until 2022 in view of the lack of available in-country expertise and liaison was made with the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the recruitment of a regional expert. In parallel, efforts were invested to make judicial procedures more inclusive and accessible to the public, and particularly to the most vulnerable segments of Palestinian society. This translated into the production and dissemination of the HJC annual report. Furthermore, the development of a dictionary of sign legal terminology is underway and will be completed in 2022 to fully reflect Palestinian language's variations.

Support to inspection and prison monitoring mechanisms

Inspection and prison monitoring are key instruments through which citizens, including those deprived of liberty, can exercise their rights and hold duty bearers to account. Important strides were made on this front, with the **operationalization, this year, of the Nelson Mandela³⁶ and Bangkok rules at the level of the AGO Human Rights Unit.**³⁷ As a first step, all 24 staff members (17 per cent women) accessed training (three days) on effective, accountable, and inclusive service provision for women in detention. The participants learned about responsive mechanisms and oversight standards for Rehabilitation and Reform Centers (RRCs), including practices of admission and registration of female detainees that reflect their caretaking responsibilities and the best interest of their children. Focus was also put on how to mitigate the lack of support female offenders experience due to prevailing societal stigma and ostracization. A solid understanding of the Bangkok rules is central for articulating prison systems within which women's rights are protected, and violations are monitored, identified, and remedied.

Such work is key to enhancing public trust in the ability of the judicial system to offer fair trial avenues for defendants in criminal cases. In this regard, progress continued to be made with a **12 per cent increase in the proportion of individuals who have confidence that they would be fairly tried may they come into contact with the criminal justice system**³⁸ (1.9 per cent increase compared to the bi-annual target) (*Indicator Outcome 2.3*). Progress also translated into the further digitalization of monitoring processes that allow for the immediate synchronization of information during prison visits and the taking of rapid corrective measures and which will contribute to informing the work of the National Preventive Mechanism once instituted. Twenty-two (22) HJC staff and members of the AGO Human Rights Unit (23 per cent women) in Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron accessed training on the use of the newly rolled out software. The user manual produced last year with support from the Programme constituted the basis for the training. Access to IT

³⁵ It includes furniture, printers, and scanners.

³⁶ UN General Assembly (2015), "The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners", A/RES/70/175, New York.

³⁷ UN General Assembly (2010), "The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders", A/RES/65/229, New York

³⁸ 44.6 per cent in total (44.4 per cent women; 44.6 per cent men).

equipment was also supported with the provision of ten tablets to the AGO/HJC to further accompany the process of digitalization.

The role the AGO Human Rights Unit is invited to play with regard to prison monitoring reinforces its position as key policy conduit for the mainstreaming of international law obligations. Its role was further fostered in the second half of the year with the **development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the investigation of torture cases** in line with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional protocol (OPCAT) as well as the Istanbul Protocol,³⁹ which sets standards for effective investigation and documentation. The SOPs focus primarily on prosecutorial investigation practices in cases involving torture allegations. In such cases, quality investigation is crucial to determine the state responsibility for victims and their families but also to prevent recurrence and facilitate adequate financial compensation, medical care, and rehabilitation. Further to this, all 24 members of the AGO Human Rights Unit (17 per cent women) took part in a four-day capacity building with the aim of rapidly operationalizing the new procedures. While the SOPs for the AGO Human Rights Unit were developed during the period, efforts continued to be invested to mainstream human rights principles in the work of justice institutions. The HJC conducted a need assessment – with support from *Sawasya* - which revealed the need to establish a dedicated Human Rights Unit to further catalyze policy efforts. These recommendations will inform programmatic engagement going forward, with a specific focus put on capacity building and organizational improvements. This was complemented by the organization of the International Human Rights Day by the MOJ this year, which focused on the internationally consecrated human right to a clean and healthy environment.⁴⁰ As a result, 350 citizens (35 per cent women, 25 per cent children)⁴¹ took part in the various activities in close collaboration with the Environmental Quality Authority and *Sawasya*.

In addition to policy progress, work continued on the digitalization front with the development of an **electronic complaint mechanism at the level of the HJC and the AGO**. The mechanism, which is due to be activated in March 2022, is underpinned by the comprehensive review and update of existing non-automated complaint systems undertaken this year by a legal expert. This builds on the Mizan II case management technology and will help strengthen the current accountability framework through systematizing the review of complaints and promoting transparent and secured ways to access information by citizens. Therefore, it promotes the development of a culture within which citizens are empowered to realize their rights. With the proportion of unsentenced detainees standing at around 50 per cent between 2018 and 2020 (*Indicator Outcome 2.1*),⁴² such support is critical. In view of this, emphasis continued to be placed during the period on the strengthening of court inspection mechanisms across the judicial chain. Key strides were made last year with the development of a joint inspection manual that builds on the unification of the HJC and AGO court inspection procedures. Steps were taken this year towards their operationalization at the institutional level, with the organization of a second joint training for inspection departments. The members of inspection departments accessed regional and

³⁹ OHCHR (2004), “Istanbul protocol: Manual on the effective investigation and documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”, Professional training series No. 8/Rev. 1.

⁴⁰ It was consecrated in 2021 by the UN Human Rights Council (2021), “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”, HRC/RES/48/13. It is also cited in article 33 of the 2003 Amended Palestinian Basic Law.

⁴¹ Gender disaggregation for children unavailable.

⁴² Data was unavailable in 2021.

international expertise and honed their practical inspection skills, including through the undertaking of a joint assessment of Jericho's First Instance Court. Going forward, these skills will be further capitalized on for the institutionalization of the joint inspection manual, through its operationalization within dedicated SOPs. The customization of the Mizan II case management system will also be taken forward and emphasis on the digitalization of inspection processes will be placed building on the provision of 10 laptops to the AGO and HJC during the period.

Support to enforcement and notification mechanisms

The **enforcement of judgements by first instance courts in the Hebron governorate (pilot area) increased by 56 per cent** as compared to 2020 and 8 per cent as compared to 2019 (77.2 per cent increase against the annual target) (*Indicator output 2.1.2*). At the level of conciliation courts, a slight decrease was witnessed as compared to the years 2020 and 2019 by respectively 7 per cent and 2 per cent (7.8 per cent increase against annual target) (*Indicator output 2.1.2*). In contrast, progress in non-pilot areas has been slower, with respectively a 15 per cent decrease and 25 per cent decrease in the enforcement of first instance court judgements compared to the years 2020 and 2019.

The combination of strengthened access to digitalized processes and increased mobility of notifiers and enforcement staff in the pilot area of Hebron seem to correspond with sustained enforcement improvements.⁴³ A preliminary assessment conducted by the HJC is further substantiating such results as it shows a **40 per cent increase in delivery by notifiers who accessed a motorcycle** and a 25 per cent increase by those who were equipped with electric bikes in 2020. In line with this, **regular courts as well as the Judicial Police in Hebron accessed six motorcycles with support from the Programme**. Considering these encouraging results, further emphasis was placed on expanding the Hebron pilot approach to the West Bank governorates of Ramallah and Nablus. In these locations, the Judicial Police accessed equipment with a view to create more conducive working conditions for enforcement staff.⁴⁴ Moreover, seven additional motorcycles were procured to improve notifiers' mobility and will be delivered to the HJC in 2022 with support from *Sawasya*. Furthermore, an IT expert was recruited by the AGO and HJC to develop additional features that will help better manage the exchange of warrant information and judgments.⁴⁵ Work on this front is anticipated to be completed in 2022 as well as the communication campaign on enforcement work under the auspices of the Outreach Campaign Committee, which was postponed to 2022 (*see output 1.2*). Similarly, activities relating to reinforcing synergies between the AGO and the PCP in relation to enforcement will be implemented in the upcoming year - including capacity building for district prosecution offices, based on the challenges identified this year during a meeting facilitated by *Sawasya*.

Support to the development and implementation of the e-Justice strategy

In line with the above, substantial progress was made towards further automating the enforcement of justice decisions, particularly for the most vulnerable segments of Palestinian society. This includes the **digitalized transfer of alimony orders from the courts to the banks using the**

⁴³ With support from *Sawasya*, the Judicial Police accessed six electronic tablets in 2020. In addition, regular and family courts were equipped with 12 electric bikes in 2020.

⁴⁴ Including four AC units, six spike systems and kits comprising reflective vests, police signs, illumination kits.

⁴⁵ Work to develop a system to record instances of movement restrictions during enforcement operations will be implemented by the PCP independently.

cutting-edge Mizan II case management technology.⁴⁶ Prior to this, it rested on an alimony creditor to collect proof of their right and ensure necessary liaison with the relevant financial institutions, thereby requiring from claimants a significant degree of involvement in the enforcement process. This burden particularly affected women as they are the ones highly likely to receive alimony after divorce, being lower range earners, and constituting Palestine's primary care providing force. However, the Mizan II-based digitalized transfer of alimony orders from the courts to the banks is contributing to reducing such disproportionate impact: not only does it shift the responsibility of alimony execution away from women, but it also frees up critical court resources, particularly at the level of enforcement departments. In addition, digitalization helps curtail instances of payment failures or delays by allowing for the automatic recording of incidents that can inform timely corrective measures for the benefit of women. To underpin the rollout of the e-Service, nearly 180,000 enforcement documents were archived in the Mizan II system during the period. In line with this, **execution costs were further reduced with the launch of a new e-Service for the filing of enforcement motions by justice clients or lawyers** and as the **number of users satisfied with the performance of Mizan II continued to increase during the period** (although a decrease of 0.6 per cent against the target was registered - *Indicator output 2.1.3*).

The implementation of the e-Justice strategy is also helping make justice sector management systems more efficient. During the period, the **MOJ human resource (HR) management system was digitalized**, thereby simplifying pathways for employees to apply for leave or upload medical certificates. It also frees up critical HR resources making it easier to retrieve evaluations and other important documents. In parallel, efforts continued to be invested for the operationalization of the e-Justice portal with the upgrade of the MOJ data management center as well as the IT capacity of the HJC, SJD, AGO and the PNSA against the e-Justice matrix.⁴⁷ Inter-institutional connectivity was strengthened through training – including 5 HJC and AGO IT specialists (20 per cent women) - as well as access to software and equipment, including hardware, servers, computers, laptops, scanners, storage, firewalls and tablets.⁴⁸ To further mainstream child justice principles and international standards into the work of practitioners, work focused on upgrading Mizan II for the digitalization of reporting processes between the HJC, AGO and the Judicial Police (*also see below Support to the development of child-friendly justice procedures*). Considering the State of Palestine's substantial advances on the case management front, work continued to be invested to foster south-south cooperation and Mizan II technology transfer to Djibouti. The Djibouti Ministry of Justice conducted an assessment to determine the feasibility of Mizan II's implementation in its courts, which will be taken forward in 2022 along with communication work within the framework of the Outreach Campaign Committee (*see output 1.2*)

⁴⁶ Adalah is the case management for family courts; however, enforcement departments use the Mizan II technology.

⁴⁷ The e-Justice matrix was formally adopted in 2020 by the e-Justice Committee comprised of the MOJ, HJC, AGO, SJD, Palestinian Judicial Institute, Constitutional Court, Legislative Advisory Bureau, PBA, Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, Judicial Police, the military judiciary as well as the PMF.

⁴⁸ An interactive screen, and a sound and video conference system were also provided to the HJC with support from the Programme following comprehensive assessment of needs. Support was provided across the oPt.

Support to the development of child-friendly justice procedures

The important policy gains made under *Sawasya* to divert child offenders away from oft-traumatic criminal proceedings and outcomes continued to be consolidated into juvenile justice work. When compared to 2020, a **4 per cent increase in the number of children who accessed mediation was registered**, even reaching **28 per cent when compared to 2019** (77.3 per cent increase against the target) (*Indicator output 2.1.6*). This builds on the further operationalization of the mediation

guidelines by the AGO, MOSD, and the FJPD. The guidelines were adopted in 2020 by the National Juvenile Justice Committee tasked under the JPL of 2016 to operationalize enshrined child justice commitments.⁴⁹

Taking this work forward, 14 community

members (36 per cent men) from the

West Bank were identified as mediators by the AGO, MOSD and FJPD. This was done through a robust selection process over the course of which 72 potential mediators (24 per cent women) accessed training on the mediation guidelines and were tested on their theoretical and practical skills, with a focus on JPL obligations as well as child-friendly and child-safeguarding practices and policies. In view of the need to also enhance judicial staff's knowledge on mediation, 72 juvenile justice actors (24 per cent women) accessed training in November, which is due to be completed in 2022. This is the result of continuous efforts invested for the promotion of non-custodial and non-judicial measures as foreseen in article 23 of the JPL. It also builds on the enhancing of the Mizan II (AGO) case management system to meet the emerging requirements of the juvenile justice system, particularly in terms of mediation and enforcement. Important strides were made on this front as **juvenile prosecutors and child protection counselors are now able to access online cases of children at risk of delinquency**. It builds on enhanced connectivity between the juvenile prosecution and the court system initiated this year based on a comprehensive assessment of partners' needs. This is also contributing to strengthening the National Juvenile Justice Committee's role in monitoring the implementation of diversionary measures, including through the automated generating of critical statistics.



Photo 3: Opening session of community mediator training. Ramallah. ©IP.

⁴⁹ The mediation guidelines were developed during the years 2019 and 2020. The National Juvenile Justice Committee is headed by the MOSD and is comprised of both governmental and CSO actors.

In line with this, important strides continued to be made on the alternative to detention (A2D) front. **An increase of 35 per cent was registered in the number of children accessing A2D when compared to 2019.** Such results seem to indicate a longer-term shift towards the systematization of non-custodial practices that rather accelerated under COVID-19. **This is substantiated by the continuous A2D increase (3 per cent) witnessed in 2021 (6.8 per cent against the target)** (*Indicator output 2.1.5*) even as the epidemiological situation that led to the release of most children from places of detention⁵⁰ substantially improved as compared to 2020. To sustain A2D gains made since *Sawasya* was launched, efforts continued to be invested to identify new providers and improve access to quality services, with a priority of focus put on vocational training as juvenile offenders frequently find themselves unable to return to school even after being diverted from the custodial system. As a result, **six centers entered into partnerships (MOUs) with the MOSD⁵¹** after being identified as suitable for the provision of A2D vocational training. During the period, 122 children (20 per cent girls) from across the West Bank have thereby



Photo 4: Vocational training on media production. Bethlehem. ©IP.

developed practical skills in the area of cooking, carpentry, hairdressing, blacksmithing as well as glass-drawing. In addition to this, 65 children (8 per cent girls) accessed vocational training on photography and videography skills within the framework of a dedicated media capacity building programme in the Bethlehem governorate.⁵² This builds on the assessment of 132 children in conflict with the law (17 per cent girls) by social workers through *Sawasya*'s partner which was complemented by the referral of ten children (10 per cent girls) to the Beit Jala vocational center, the Commercial Chamber, and the Child Protection and Development Center in Bethlehem that better cater to their professional aspirations and needs. To further promote A2D good practices, 42 monitoring visits were conducted to A2D centers, with a focus on ensuring compliance with the 2020 guidelines for child protection that unified standards for focal points and service delivery,⁵³ but also access to appropriate support for centers' staff. In step with this comprehensive approach

⁵⁰ The vast majority of released children were boys (> 6 per cent girls).

⁵¹ MOUs were signed between the MOSD and the vocational centers. They were identified in the five governorates of Tubas, Nablus, Tulkarem, Ramallah and Hebron.

⁵² The 65 children (8 per cent girls) have taken specialized media training as follows: 16 children undertook 60 trainings hours in graphic design, 20 children undertook 60 trainings hours in photography, 29 children undertook 80 hours in videography. According to *Sawasya*'s partner, 83% of these children stated that they have improved their skills in design, photography, and videography.

⁵³ They aim to ensure respect for the best interest of the child and safeguards enshrined in national laws and international standards.

to long term reintegration and rehabilitation, 55 children (38 per cent girls)⁵⁴ at risk of delinquency accessed art and reading therapy sessions in the pilot locations of Nablus, Tubas, Tulkarem, and Hebron. Such approaches were instrumental to improve self-esteem in young offenders, through increased feelings of mastery, connection, and self-approval.⁵⁵ They are also crucial to promote reintegration, mental well-being and to diffuse the social



Photo 5: 'We Want to Dream' exhibition. Ramallah. ©IP.

stigma often surrounding juvenile offenders. As a result, 45 children (38 per cent girls) accessed mosaic and art sessions⁵⁶ (including woodcarving), and ten children (40 per cent girls) opted for written and drawn storytelling. An exhibition was organized to showcase children's work and was themed '*We Want to Dream*.' Its objective was to raise awareness on the necessity to ensure detention at last resort and that due consideration is given to the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders into society, including among justice actors. In Gaza, a plan was developed to strengthen the capacity of A2D service providers in line with the 2020 mapping exercise that helped identify 19 suitable centers. However, due to COVID-19, the educational facilities, including the vocational training centers, were closed for most of the year, although work was initiated for the provision of such services to 30 children next year.

Raising awareness among justice actors and ensuring access to adequate support for juvenile offenders remains a priority of focus. While **the number of children detained each year in Family and Juvenile Protection Units (FJPUs) was unavailable this year** (*Indicator Outcome 2.2*), **a 14 percent decrease in the number of children having received a custodial sentence was observed as compared to 2020 (decrease by 16.2 percent as compared to target)** (*Indicator output 2.1.4*).⁵⁷ Accordingly, 132 children (17 per cent girls) in conflict with the law accessed psycho-social support through *Sawasya*'s partner, placing emphasis on developing their sense of agency and competence, with 91 per cent of them having already reportedly shown behavioral improvements. Following a comprehensive approach that focuses on accompanying both children and families to lessen the negative impact of exposure to the criminal justice system, 19 girls detained at the Beit Jala RRC (Dar al-Fatayat) also accessed psychosocial support and actively engaged in psychodrama therapy along with their mothers. In Gaza, 43 families worked on evaluating their parenting style and on ways to ensure that their educational approaches do not perpetuate the violence of the criminal justice system through a mix of family therapy sessions and

⁵⁴ These sessions were rolled out in the governorates of Nablus, Tubas and Hebron.

⁵⁵ According to partners. See also L. Hartz & L. Thick (2011), « Art therapy strategies to raise self-esteem in female juvenile offender: a comparison of art psychotherapy and art as therapy approaches », *Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*, Volume 22, pp. 70-80.

⁵⁶ Including using recycled material.

⁵⁷ Around 3 per cent of sentenced children are girls.

psychosocial/legal support. This is addition to the 195 boys who accessed structured psychosocial support, including online sessions after being released from the Al-Rabea RRC this year. Furthermore, a recreational day was organized for 62 boys from the Center, during which they took part in outdoors games.

Efforts were also invested towards strengthening the capacity of the judicial sector to ensure the continuity and strengthening of responsive justice services for children across the oPt. Twenty-two regular judges (9 per cent women) improved their knowledge of child protection in line with Palestinian laws, child rights and international standards and conventions through CSO partnership in Gaza (*see output 2.2*). In the West Bank, 15 specialized juvenile judges (13 per cent women) also enhanced their professional skills. The training focused on practical cases and on ways to identify protection gaps. It also placed emphasis on the recent amendments made to the JPL by Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 (*Indicator Outcome 1.1/see output 1.1*) Cognizant of lawyers' central role in children's experience with the criminal justice system, efforts continued to be invested for the endorsement of legal aid standards that ensures alignment of representation work with the best interest of the child as enshrined in the JPL. Important strides were made on this front with the **piloting of the finalized legal aid standards in training sessions among a selection of lawyers invested on this front**. Their comments will be duly incorporated and reflected before final adoption by the National Juvenile Justice Committee moving forward. This is anticipated to further systematize access to high quality legal consultations and representation for children in line with the National Legal Aid Strategy (NLAS) (*see output 3.1*), the JPL and international child justice standards. This is in line with the findings of an assessment conducted in Gaza immediately after the May conflict that claimed the lives of 44 boys and 23 girls, which recommended scaling up access to legal aid and awareness and pair it with mental health and psychosocial support for juvenile offenders. Building on this, 10 lawyers from the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA) (10 per cent women) and 20 newly graduate lawyers (55 per cent women) accessed advanced training on the theoretical and practical framework of juvenile justice, with a focus on national, international standards and best legal practices for remote legal counseling. This is critical as 15 boys already accessed remote legal counseling during the period following the operationalization of the toll-free helpline by the PBA (*see output 3.2. Vulnerable populations in areas unserved by the Palestinian government have access to justice, security, and protection*). Taking this forward at the level of law schools, 119 law students (71 per cent women) accessed awareness⁵⁸ on children's rights and international standards of juvenile justice, protection measures, mediation and A2D with support from the Programme.

During COVID-19, the need to establish safe and accessible reporting channels, assist victims and refer them to adequate service providers came to the limelight. As a result, efforts were invested to develop and institutionalize a training programme with support from Sawasya's CSO partner. This will serve as the basis for initial and continuous training of first helpline respondents (*see output 4.1*). Additionally, work to develop a justice for children action plan in Gaza commenced during the period through consultation workshops with 44 juvenile justice actors (36 per cent women), including juvenile judges, prosecutors, police, the PBA and other relevant CSOs. The initial road map draft was developed and the action plan is currently under review.

⁵⁸ Over the course of 10 sessions.



Photo 6: Graduation ceremony following the completion of the professional diploma programme. Birzeit. © Birzeit University.

In parallel, the National Juvenile Justice Committee continued to invest in the capacity of child protection counselors to meet their obligations under article 2 of the JPL, particularly in relation to the preparation of social inquiry reports based on which, cases involving juvenile offenders are generally prosecuted and adjudicated. However, cognizant that such reports tend to present gaps that can jeopardize a

child's access to fair trial, 45 child protection counselors, juvenile prosecutors, and juvenile judges (66 per cent women) across the West Bank enhanced their knowledge of good reporting practices and ways to inform and order rapid and efficient judicial. This is addition to the **completion by 16 protection counselors and police officers (56 per cent women) of the 18-month supervision professional diploma of the Birzeit University Continuous Education.**⁵⁹ The professional supervision diploma programme was approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) with support from *Sawasya* and partner and consisted in training sessions (320 hours), catch-up sessions (60 hours)⁶⁰ and practice-oriented capacity building (60 hours). Participants were able to develop their mentoring, planning and management skills. Moving forward, efforts will be invested to institutionalize the supervision diploma programme at the level of the FJPD and MOSD. Furthermore, to ensure continuous improvement in the performance of Palestinian courts in accordance with international fair trial standards, the second phase of the court monitoring project was designed during the period (*see output 1.4*). Specific criteria for juvenile cases were developed with a view to monitor the management of juvenile offender cases by specialized juvenile judges and respect for children's rights (e.g., the presence of guardians and child protection counselors, respect for confidentiality). Court monitoring is key to highlighting performance gaps and inform interventions going forward. One gap that has been highlighted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child is the absence of remedy to hold duty-bearers accountable in case of violation. To address this, an e-Complaint system was developed this year following a comprehensive assessment at the level of the HJC. The e-Complaint system is anticipated to be launched next year, and to be accompanied by capacity building for HJC staff and awareness raising for the public. This is in congruence with the current development of a code of conduct for AGO and HJC staff to ensure that child protection principles are systematically applied in judicial work in accordance with international standards. The development of the guidelines was assured by a joint AGO-HJC committee with regional and local expertise support. They provide a benchmark for professional and child friendly behavior and promote best practices that safeguard

⁵⁹ The number of participants to the programme are 13 and not 12 as previously reported in 2020.

⁶⁰ For delays induced by COVID-19.

a child's dignity, safety and right to confidentiality. The code of conduct is in its final review phase and training on the guidelines is due to commence in 2022. Furthermore, steps were taken towards the drafting of technical guidelines for the al-Rabea RRC. Similarly, work was initiated for the further development of child-friendly practices at the level of the AGO and SJD, which will be implemented during the next year.

Output 2.2: Quality and Efficiency of Security and Justice Services Provided to Areas Unserved by the Palestinian Government (Gaza, Area C, Hebron 2 And EJ) are Improved



71,200 citizens accessed content on alternative dispute resolution online and in-person



Research study produced on nexus between alternative dispute resolution and civil peace

Support to enhanced access to justice and security service provision in Area C

A 3 per cent decrease and an 8 per cent increase in enforcement of justice decisions in the Hebron pilot governorate (Area C) was observed for the years 2020 and 2019 (6.4 per cent decrease against the target) (*Indicator output 2.2.1*), which reemphasizes the need to improve access to services in unserved areas. However, the rollout of community policing services continued to be hindered during the period and was particularly impacted by the overall degradation of the security context and critical turnover at the level of the PCP (*Indicator output 2.2.2*). In spite of this, progress continued to be made with the initiation by the PCP of the expansion of the pilot initiative to the two governorates of Tubas and Ramallah (see output 2.1) and extensive groundwork undertaken in 2019 and 2020 seem to have contributed to enhanced levels of awareness on community policing. This includes a **65 per cent increase in the number of citizens aware of the community policing strategy in the pilot governorate of Jericho** as compared to 2018 (26 per cent in total/49.8 per cent increase against the target) (*Indicator output 2.1.1*).

Support efforts to enhance security and justice in the Gaza Strip

During the period, 612 judicial actors (34 per cent women) accessed training on ways to enhance their technical capacity, particularly in the fields of child and gender justice – including family law, litigation of violence against women cases, gender-based violence (GBV) evidentiary mechanisms, referral pathways, cyber-criminality and child friendly police standards. Specific emphasis was placed on enhancing knowledge of and attitudes towards domestic and international standards. Emphasis was also placed on procedural integrity, transparency, and accountability.




Support to the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms







With regard to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, work continued to focus on strengthening the legal framework, with priority given to the passing of the Mediation Bill in a manner that guarantees the rights of the most vulnerable parties – particularly women and children - and makes linkages with specialized mediation mechanisms. Ensuring the alignment of such mechanisms with international standards is one of the main challenges of mediation. In view of this, the Mediation Bill Committee spearheaded by the MOJ, with representatives from the AGO, the SJD, MOSD and CSOs as well as governorates accessed expertise to produce a legislative policy memorandum that assesses the cost of the passing of the Mediation Bill. This work will be

presented at the local level in 2022. In line with this, a **research study was completed that focused on the nexus between arbitration and civil peace**. It revealed that the main hindrances to fostering ADR mechanisms lie with inadequate processes for the accreditation of arbitrators, a lack of dedicated training programmes and capacity development as well as the absence of oversight and accountability systems at the level of the MOJ. With ADR being key to resolving and preventing conflicts at the community level, while offering access to justice guarantees in terms of enforcement similar to these of court processes, interventions continued to focus on raising awareness as a way to stimulate demand for such services among citizens. About **71,200 citizens had access to online [content](#) on alternative methods of resolving disputes**.⁶¹ This is in addition to thousands of radio listeners having had access to radio content. Furthermore, 231 citizens (84 per cent women) took part in focus group discussions and other community dialogue sessions on the use of ADR to resolve disputes and the difference in nature between ADR and informal processes of justice such as tribal courts. As a result, Hebron community members produced a policy paper where they explored the relationship between conflict resolution, human rights and gender equality to inform the work of the MOJ/ADR Unit. In line with this, 32 law students (63 per cent) accessed training on ADR mechanisms, including on gendered aspects of access to justice, using a gender transformative approach (GTA) (*see output 3.1*). Discussions are underway to incorporate ADR within law school curricula. Moreover, 36 experts (33 per cent women) accessed a six-day TOT training on ADR with support from Sawasya and will use acquired skills to foster capacity building in the field of mediation and arbitration, with specific emphasis placed on gender power dynamics.

⁶¹ Disaggregation unavailable. This refers to the total number of individuals who watched the content, at least partially.

Outcome 3: All Palestinians, Especially Children and Vulnerable Groups, Have Access to Justice, Security and Protection Without Discrimination

	Progress Against Outcome 3 Targets		
	Ind.	Annual target	Results
	O.3.1	Increase of 2 per cent by 2020 (met)	20.8 per cent increase in “public aware of the existence of legal aid services supported by the Government of Palestine” against the target (through the HJC-AGO court fund). Indicators relating to state-sponsored legal aid were designed in anticipation of the rollout of a state-sponsored mechanism by the Palestinian Authority.
	O.3.2	Increase of 2 per cent by 2020 (met)	91.6 per cent increase in “public satisfied of the legal aid services provided by the Government of Palestine” against the target (through the HJC-AGO court fund). Indicators relating to state-sponsored legal aid were designed in anticipation of the rollout of a state-sponsored mechanism by the Palestinian Authority.

	Progress Against Output Targets				
	Annual target	Results		Annual target	Results
	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (unmet)	o.3.1.1: 75.9 per cent decrease against the annual target. 749 vulnerable Palestinians (19 per cent of women, 39 per cent of boys, 4 per cent of girls) residing in areas served by the Government of Palestine have accessed legal aid services by CSOs.		Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.3.1.2: 223 per cent increase against the annual target. 1,541 individuals (32 per cent of women, 34 per cent of boys, 15 per cent of girls) living in areas served by the Government of Palestine have accessed legal awareness services.
	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.3.2.1: 118.5 per cent increase against the annual target. 14,816 individuals (76 per cent women; 7 per cent boys and 0.3 per cent girls) living in areas unserved by the Government of Palestine have accessed legal aid services.		Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.3.2.2: 154.3 per cent increase against the annual target. 11,643 (73 per cent women; 1 per cent boys and 1 per cent girls) living in areas unserved by the Government of Palestine have accessed legal awareness services.
	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.3.2.3: 372.8 per cent increase against the annual target. 1,018 children (96 per cent boys) living in areas unserved by the Government of Palestine have accessed legal aid services.			

Output 3.1. Vulnerable Populations Have Access to Justice, Security and Protection



Formation of legal aid mechanism in front of family (Islamic) courts initiated



Formation of legal aid mechanism in front of family (Christian) courts initiated



749 Palestinians accessed legal aid services



1,541 Palestinians accessed legal awareness services



31 law students accessed qualifying placement in legal aid CSOs



523 students enrolled in clinical education programmes

Support to the development of a sustainable legal aid system

At the policy level, major strides were made in 2021 towards the operationalization of key elements of the work of the National Legal Aid Committee (NLAC) established in 2016. **Supreme Judge Mahmoud Al-Habbash announced the formation of a working group for the development of an institutionalized legal aid mechanism under the auspices of the SJD.** Although references to family courts were removed from the adopted NLAS in December 2019 upon request from the PBA, ensuring access to legal aid services for women and children in relation to PSL matters was identified as a core concern by the NLAC. Therefore, the establishment of an institutionalized mechanism at the level of the SJD, which can be later integrated within a broader law-based framework is anticipated to be pivotal in further guaranteeing access to justice and equality of arms in a court of law, particularly for women.

This strategic shift is based on the internal review of *Sawasya's* legal aid engagement whose findings are contained in the paper entitled “*Legal Aid: Lessons Learned and a Strategy for Engagement*.”⁶² This strategic shift has been further operationalized following the development of a **pilot initiative in 2021 to establish a unified legal aid mechanism common to all Ecclesiastical courts (ECs).** Six EC members (17 per cent women) representing 11 Churches agreed to establish a non-profit entity that would ensure unified access to legal aid in front of ECs for vulnerable litigants as well as support rights’ awareness in communities. Furthermore, at least two Churches (the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and the Syriac Orthodox Church) expressed interest in pairing legal aid work with a reform of their respective PSLs to further align them with international human rights standards, including CEDAW. While the strategic review helped identify gaps relating to the needs of vulnerable Christian litigants – and particularly women, the transnational nature of Ecclesiastical Courts’ jurisdiction led Church representatives to opt for a unified mechanism separated from this of the SJD. A preliminary operational plan was developed with support from *Sawasya* and is in the process of being endorsed.

⁶² UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF Joint Sawasya Programme (2021), “Legal Aid: Lessons Learned and a Strategy for Engagement,” Internal document.

Representation in front of Palestinian criminal jurisdictions is guaranteed for vulnerable adult defendants in cases falling under the jurisdiction of First Instance Courts (and upward)⁶³ and for all children.⁶⁴ In application of the law, judges frequently appoint lawyers who subsequently receive compensation through a state-sponsored court fund.⁶⁵ Over the past three years, there has been a substantial **increase (23 per cent) in the number of citizens aware of the existence of such legal aid mechanism** (*Indicator Outcome 3.1*)⁶⁶ (increase of 20.8 per cent against the biannual target). Ramped up communication efforts on this front, including through the 2020 Outreach Committee Campaign are likely to have contributed to such results (*see output 1.2*).⁶⁷ Even more, an **increase of 95 per cent in the number of citizens satisfied with legal aid services provided by the Palestinian Authority was noted in 2021 as compared to 2018** (*Indicator Outcome 3.2*) (increase of 91.6 per cent against the biannual target).⁶⁸ However, while this represents progress, the further institutionalization of criminal legal aid continues to stall. This can be attributed to a lack of impetus on the part of the NLAC, underpinned by the PBA's resistance towards a legal aid mechanism. Cognizant of this and in order to allay concerns over revenue losses, efforts will be invested to raise awareness on legal aid among regular lawyers, through incentivizing practitioners who hold accreditation in front of both family (Islamic) and regular courts to provide services under the institutionalized SJD mechanism. In view of the above, limited technical support was provided to the NLAC during the period. Similarly, the development of a legal aid database remains on hold as it is contingent upon policy advances and priority of focus shifted away from the establishment of a legal aid information center in Hebron and from support to the PBA legal aid unit.

Support legal education through university legal aid clinics and law firm incubator

In parallel to the operationalization of key elements of NLAC's work (*see above Support to the development of a sustainable legal aid system*), work continued to be invested to promote practice-based and socially responsible legal education. As a result, **280 vulnerable Palestinians (43 per cent women) accessed legal aid services and 332 (78 per cent women) have become more aware of their rights in 2021**.⁶⁹ This is based on the work of **88 students (47 per cent women) enrolled in clinical programmes with the An-Najah National University (Nablus) and Al-Quds University (East Jerusalem)**. Furthermore, 10,422 social media users accessed legal education content.⁷⁰ This is underpinned by the innovative digital work put forward by students of the An-Najah National University in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis to enhance communities' legal awareness.⁷¹ Building on this success and on the need to further mainstream digitalized practices, the [trained students](#) introduced the concept of "*legal days*" over the course of which practitioners stood ready on Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms to respond to cross-jurisdictional legal concerns, with a specific focus put on family law, labor law and children's rights. This proved to be a critical tool to raise awareness on the representation work

⁶³ Under articles 244 and 245 of the Penal Procedure Law of 2001.

⁶⁴ Under article 10 of the JPL.

⁶⁵ For first instance courts (and upward) under article 244 and 245 of the Penal Procedure.

⁶⁶ As compared to 2018.

⁶⁷ Conducted jointly by the seven justice institutions and the PCP.

⁶⁸ It should be noted that this number also includes the provision of legal aid services by the PA in front of other jurisdictions.

⁶⁹ Delivered through the clinical programmes of the An-Najah National University and Al-Quds University.

⁷⁰ Disaggregation unavailable. This refers to the total number of individuals who watched the content, at least partially. 9,304 are from the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and for 1,118 social media users, location could not be determined.

⁷¹ In 2020, more than 17,600 social media viewers accessing high-quality content developed by the students themselves on a range of legal issues relevant to the emergency context.

performed in the clinic and was complemented by the production of [radio](#) and TV episodes that reached out to segments of Palestinian society that are less digitally proficient, including on issues relating to [child labor](#) or women's inheritance. Emphasis was also placed on promoting a culture of educational excellence among clinical students, one in which they can translate their professional achievements into contributions to the academic field. In view of this, a ceremony was organized this year to hand over prizes to the six female students who won the research competition organized by the An-Najah National University in 2020.⁷²

In line with this, apprenticeship continued to be fostered as a key element of clinical education. **Thirty-one (31) vulnerable students (52 per cent women) from the Islamic University of Gaza accessed scholarships for qualifying traineeship in legal aid CSOs.** Once completed, the traineeship qualifies them to register as practicing lawyer with the PBA. For many vulnerable law students, apprenticeship constitutes a financial constraint, whose associated costs can delay or even hinder entry into the job market. Therefore, access to apprenticeship-based scholarships contributes to removing critical obstacles and improving the employability of young law graduates in a manner that benefits the community. Such approach was first tested at the Al-Quds Community Action Center. The two trainee lawyers that accessed placement in 2019⁷³ and 2020 at the Center⁷⁴ successfully completed their [apprenticeship](#) this year, and thereby have qualified to take the Israeli Bar examination. In line with this, a new trainee lawyer was recruited in October by the Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic and will undertake its apprenticeship at the Community Action Center for a period of 18 months. In 2022, such modalities are anticipated to be expanded through a partnership with the Al-Azhar University in Gaza in line with the 435 students (52 per cent women) from the Islamic University of Gaza who took part in clinical training on arbitration and personal status law this year.

In order to further improve the employability of law graduates, work was initiated to establish Palestine's first legal incubator. Such work builds on the Community Legal Resource Network that was established in the late 1990s in response to New York's legal aid crisis at the time. The Network functioned as a launching pad for fresh law graduates who had an interest in serving vulnerable communities. Through the Network, they had access to tailored training on professional skill development and business management that enabled them to establish practices shortly after graduating.⁷⁵ This approach is particularly adapted to Gaza's context, which is faced with both massive unemployment⁷⁶ and increasing legal needs.⁷⁷ Its establishment is also key to addressing gender inequality in the legal profession, given the gross underrepresentation of women practicing law in Gaza or serving in the judiciary.⁷⁸ International expert Prof. Fred Rooney – and pioneering

⁷² Six articles were written pertaining to: Criminal mediation for juvenile justice in the Palestinian legal system; Enforcement of international treaties in the Palestinian internal system; Integration between Palestinian law schools and the Bar Association in teaching law; Criminal policy and the Palestinian media; Criminal policy in medical errors; Trading the shares of public joint-stock companies in the stock market in light of the Corona crisis.

⁷³ The first trainee completed her apprenticeship in 2020.

⁷⁴ An implementing partner to Al-Quds University.

⁷⁵ See Rooney F. & Steele J. (2014), Exporting the Legal Incubator: A Conversation with Fred Rooney, *University of Massachusetts Law Review*, Vol. 09/Issue 01, pp. 108-133 (2014).

⁷⁶ PCBS (2021), Press release on the results of the labor force survey, available [here](#)

⁷⁷ According to *Sawasya II*'s partners.

⁷⁸ *Sawasya II*'s interviews.

figure in this field⁷⁹ - developed a detailed roadmap for the establishment of the incubator that will be implemented by the University College of Applied Sciences (Gaza) in 2022.

While efforts continued to focus on developing students' technical skills in critical fields of law, emphasis was also placed in 2021 on empowering them to become agents of change and leverage their position to address the root causes of vulnerability. Efforts were invested on this front with 71 students (49 per cent women) from the An-Najah National University's Legal Clinic having improved their ability to form policy proposals that tackles human rights issues. Following a participatory approach, they also explored alternative business models and the potential for the



Photo 7: GTA session at the An-Najah National University legal clinic. Nablus. © IP.

expansion of legal incubators to the West Bank. Furthermore, a GTA methodology was piloted during training sessions. Premised on Urie Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory,⁸⁰ the pilot sessions brought participants to analyze the effects of one's environmental structures on the formation of gendered identities. Students were particularly keen on examining the impact of conforming to social norms on their lives and professional aspirations. They also explored together, including through role plays, the biases and prejudice they tend to carry in their

interactions with clients. Based on the students' request to further integrate GTA within the clinical curriculum, ToT modalities for mainstreaming GTA in the work of An-Najah National University's Legal Clinic will be further rolled out in 2022.

Clinical work is also proving crucial in assessing the scale and impact of human rights violations on vulnerable segments of Palestinian society, including students. The survey conducted in the first half of the year with 747 students (54 per cent women) about restrictions to access the Abu Dis campus of Al-Quds University⁸¹ shows that almost half of them need to cross at least one checkpoint and that more than 70 per cent experienced educational delays as a result. The 20 students (60 per cent women) who undertook this research produced a report entitled "*Freedom of Movement and Accessibility to Education: Case Study of Al-Quds University*", where they synthesized their findings as part of the clinical training on the documentation of human rights violations they accessed at the Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic. In the second half of the year, 17 undergraduate students (65 per cent women) enrolled in the course, for which a thematic report is anticipated to be produced going forward.

⁷⁹ See Rooney F. & Steele J. (2014), Exporting the Legal Incubator: A Conversation with Fred Rooney, *University of Massachusetts Law Review*, Vol. 09/Issue 01, pp. 108-133 (2014).

⁸⁰ See N. Darling (2007), "Ecological systems theory: The person in the center of the circles", *Research in human development*, 4 (3-4), pp. 203-217

⁸¹ In addition to Abu Dis campus, the Al-Quds University is comprised of the campuses of Sheikh Jarrah, Beit Hanina, Ramallah, and Gaza.

Support CSOs in providing legal aid and awareness services in conformity with the NLAS

During the reporting period, **749 Palestinians (19 per cent women, 39 per cent boys and 4 per cent girls) accessed legal consultation and representation in conformity with the NLAS (Indicator output 3.1.1)**. While this represents a decrease against the annual target (75.9 percent), it is a considerable increase in the number of boys who accessed legal aid services as compared to 2020 (increase of 57 per cent in absolute value).⁸² This was paralleled with an important decrease in children's custodial sentencing in favor of mediation and alternative to detention measures (*see output 2.1*). It demonstrates the juvenile justice system's improved ability to systematically apply the principles of detention at last resort and for the shortest possible period. It builds on *Sawasya's* work over the past years (*see Outcome 2*) to take forward a comprehensive approach to justice that focuses on restorative rather than retributive outcomes. Work in 2021 focused on institutionalizing legal aid at the level of family (Islamic and Ecclesiastical) courts (*see above Support to the development of a sustainable legal aid system*). However, in view of the increasing legal needs for women observed across the oPt and in the West Bank by partners, efforts were invested to respond to a growing demand including for women victims of violence in the priority governorates of Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Tulkarem with support from the Programme. Consultations focused primarily on PSL and labor law. Such consultations are critical for women survivors of violence and victims of discrimination as it is key to helping them reclaim their financial agency and resulted in 28 women bringing claims into the family (Islamic) court system to obtain divorce, child custody or alimony.

In line with this, **1,541 individuals accessed legal awareness (32 per cent women, 34 per cent boys, 15 per cent girls) (Indicator output 3.1.2)**. This represents a 223 per cent increase as compared to the 2021 target. A strong focus was put on legal awareness for children, particularly in view of the substantial increase in the number of boys who accessed legal aid during the period. As a result, 727 children (31 per cent of girls) at risk of delinquency accessed sensitization on their rights under the JPL and the CRC over the course of 26 sessions organized jointly by the National Juvenile Justice Committee and the MOEHE with support from *Sawasya*. Building on a comprehensive approach to wellbeing, 130 parents (67 per cent women) also accessed awareness on children's rights. However, planned interventions in Gaza's schools⁸³ were redirected towards 85 outreach sessions in view of school closures following May's eleven-day conflict in Gaza and the protracted COVID-19 situation. As a result, 1,315 parents (85 per cent women) from vulnerable communities took part in sessions, with a focus on access to justice and legal aid (*see below Outcome 2*).⁸⁴ This was also supported by four radio spots on children's rights developed by the PBA with support from *Sawasya*. This proved pivotal as 104 parents (20 per cent women) approached the Programme following this to access personalized legal advice. Another priority of focus was to guarantee access to legal information on family rights for women in the West Bank in view of the growing number of PSL-related cases across the oPt (*see above*). Emphasis was also placed on the decision to prohibit child marriages promulgated in 2020 by the SJD following strong advocacy by invested stakeholders and the Programme.

⁸² Total increase of 11 per cent as compared to 2020.

⁸³ Schools managed by UNRWA.

⁸⁴ This is reported under Indicators output 3.2.2 and 3.2.3.

Output 3.2. Vulnerable Populations in Areas Unserved by the Palestinian Government Have Access to Justice, Security and Protection



14,816 Palestinians accessed legal aid services



11,643 Palestinians accessed legal awareness services

Support the Government of Palestine in providing and coordinating legal aid⁸⁵

In 2021, priority of focus was put on coordinating legal aid for Palestinians most affected by the COVID-19 crisis. However, progress at the policy level remained limited as resources were mobilized to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Therefore, the operationalization of the platform for the coordination of legal aid in unserved areas continued to bear the brunt of shifting policy priorities, internal restructuring and a degraded political environment in East Jerusalem against the backdrop of the May conflict (*see Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned*). In view of this, an incremental approach was adopted, which puts focus on prioritizing areas of cooperation related to COVID-19, such as securing access to health care for prisoners; this will be continued in 2022. In the meantime, work continued to be invested to support addressing priority needs, particularly those of workers most affected by the crisis. Focus was put on access to the sick leave fund⁸⁶ benefits in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and with emphasis placed on impact litigation.

Provision of legal and psychosocial services to unserved vulnerable population in East Jerusalem/Area C⁸⁷

Two thousand four hundred and seventeen (2,409) Palestinians (56 per cent women, 25 per cent boys, 1 per cent girls) accessed legal aid services in East Jerusalem and Area C (*Indicators output 3.2.1/3.2.3*). In view of the degradation of the operational environment during the period, focus was put on meeting the demands of the most affected groups. While children in East Jerusalem are at a high risk of being detained due to frequent contact with Israeli forces, soaring cases of child arrests⁸⁸ during the period resulted in a 100 per cent increase in legal aid services in East Jerusalem. Among the 620 children who accessed legal aid (98 per cent boys), 140 were represented by a lawyer (94 per cent boys). It occurred against the background of the violent escalation that culminated in an eleven-day infighting between Hamas and Israel. In such context, early counseling and representation proved key to protecting children against self-incrimination and resulted in their prompt release in most instances.⁸⁹

Freedom of movement remained a core concern during the period. In this regard, legal aid proved crucial for 168 Palestinians (46 per cent women) who saw their travel restrictions lifted following

⁸⁵ Support to specialized CSOs in providing legal aid for Palestinians in East Jerusalem is reported under “*Provision of legal and psychosocial services to unserved vulnerable population in East Jerusalem/Area C*”.

⁸⁶ The sick leave fund is managed by the Population and Immigration Authority.

⁸⁷ This includes Hebron H2

⁸⁸ UNICEF (2 June 2021), « Escalation in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Israel », Situation Report No. 4

⁸⁹ Most child arrests occurred in the Al-Issawieh, the Old City of Jerusalem, and Silwan hotspot neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.

Sawasya's partner's intervention. More Palestinians also accessed their social, residency and family rights. To illustrate, 59 women obtained custody of their children and alimony rulings through partners' interventions. In addition, 18 family lawyers (78 per cent women) accessed capacity building in East Jerusalem with the



Photo 8: First meeting of family lawyers as part of the 'Feminist Legal Hub'. East Jerusalem. © IC.

aim of further instilling social responsibility in the practice of young law professionals for the benefit of their community. A strong focus was put on [feminist litigation](#) with the establishment of a 'Feminist Legal Hub', which mobilizes 12 family lawyers (92 per cent women) invested on this front.

Seven hundred and thirty-nine (739) Palestinians (50 per cent women, 8 per cent girls and 11 per cent boys) also accessed in-person information on their rights in East Jerusalem and Area C (*Indicator output 3.2.2*). Emphasis was placed on 'hot spot' areas of East Jerusalem, including Al-Issawieh and Silwan, where Palestinian children and their families are frequently in contact with Israeli law. Political, economic, and social factors induced by the current situation constitute considerable stressors for communities. Cognizant of this, a strong focus continued to be put on access to structured psychological support for 431 ex-detainee children (11 per cent girls). This was undertaken jointly with legal awareness sessions for 150 parents (53 per cent women) with support from *Sawasya*. A priority of focus was also put on communities that have most borne the brunt of COVID-19 and its economic fallout, with specific sessions dedicated to workers' rights. This was in addition to awareness on violence against women as the "shadow pandemic"⁹⁰ of gender-based violence continues to unfold across the world. In view of the enduring COVID-19 situation, five radio sessions were broadcasted on Yaboos FM that addressed ways to access services for survivors of violence in the first half of the year.⁹¹ Face-to-face awareness interactions were fully resumed during the second semester and continued to focus on women's rights, economic and social rights as well as freedom of movement and the documentation of violations.

⁹⁰ See UN Women (May 2020), "Justice for women amidst COVID-19."

⁹¹ Data on listeners is not available.

Legal aid provision to unserved vulnerable population and access to protection for children in conflict with the law in the Gaza Strip

Twelve thousand four hundred and seven (12,407) Palestinians (80 per cent women, 0.2 per cent girls, 3 per cent boys) accessed legal aid in the Gaza Strip (*Indicators output 3.2.1/3.2.3*). A strong focus continued to be put on criminal representation in front of Palestinian jurisdictions.⁹² As a result, 229 adult inmates (8 percent women) were released.⁹³ Furthermore, 89 boys⁹⁴ detained at the Al-Rabea RRC were released following interventions by the PBA legal aid clinics. In line with this, a strong focus of action was also put on lessening the impact of contact with the criminal justice system and fostering reintegration through tailored and individualized psychosocial support for all released boys. Emphasis was also placed on improving children's capacity to reach out to justice professionals with the rollout of a toll-free helpline through which 15 children (7 per cent girls) were directly able to engage with a lawyer during the period (*see output 2.1*). This is in step with progress made by the PBA to further operationalize the MOUs on early representation for individuals charged with criminal offences - particularly children.⁹⁵ This included two coordination workshops organized during the period with 70 representatives of the AGO, the HJC and PBA (100 per cent men).⁹⁶

The impact of the May 2021 conflict on access to justice in Gaza

Gaza witnessed the worst escalation of violence since 2014 during an eleven-day infighting that broke out between Israel and Hamas. This led to the immediate suspension of regular and family court activities throughout the period and until the end of May. Considerable infrastructural damage was reported. Three hundred and fifty (350) lawyers (16 per cent women) were directly affected, as 59 regular law practices were destroyed. In addition, 281 law offices sustained major to minor damage. Consequently, many deeds and other documents were destroyed prompting the HJC to join forces with the PBA to recover case files whenever possible. Other CSO partners that provide services in front of family courts sustained damage. In addition, 75 institutional facilities were immediately affected - including the MOSD - as well as the Palace of Justice in Gaza City. The latter houses the HJC as well as a First Instance and Conciliation Court, a Court of Appeal, and the Court of Cassation. Furthermore, the Palestine Production Bank and the Islamic National Bank headquarters were destroyed along with various branch offices. This jeopardized the completion of financial transactions during the period - including alimony payments. The eleven-day infighting also resulted in the suspension of enforcement work, which affected custody and visitation orders throughout and immediately after the infighting.

However, most cases supported by the Programme were related to PSL matters, including separation, divorce, custody, alimony as well as visitation rights for which women tend to disproportionately seek legal aid support (women represented 90 per cent of family legal aid cases during the period). In view of this, strong emphasis continued to be placed on access to family law information for women but also on women's rights under criminal and civil law. During the period, **they represented 74 per cent of the total number of community members who accessed legal awareness in the costal enclave (8,119 out of 10,904)** (*Indicator output 3.2.2*). Following the sessions, several of them approached legal aid providers to seek additional advice, thereby demonstrating the relevance of such approach in promoting access to justice avenues. In view of

⁹² One hundred and forty-five (145) Palestinians also accessed legal aid for cases relating to movement, detention or crossing into Israel.

⁹³ In 2022, the detained population was estimated at 1,600 inmates in Gaza, including around 45 women.

⁹⁴ They are among the 399 boys who received legal representation. 12 among the 399 boys who received legal representation are still awaiting ruling on their case. 613 boys were detained in total in 2021.

⁹⁵ See Sawasya (2019), « Annual Narrative Progress Report – 1 January to 31 December 2019». The MOUs were signed in 2019 between the PBA and the AGO, HJC, police and RRCs for the referral of The PBA provided consultation services to 451 persons (71 per cent women) and representation services to 365 persons (99 per cent women) in front of Gaza's regular courts.





⁹⁶ Steps were also taken by the PBA to improve access to services for female inmates through a coordination meeting that brought together the PBA and judicial and social actors.







this, work continued to focus on fostering legal awareness on social media, with 380,072 social media users⁹⁷ having had access to online content.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ Disaggregation unavailable. This refers to the total number of individuals who watched the content, at least partially.

⁹⁸ Radio episodes were also broadcasted but audience could not be precisely determined.

Outcome 4: Women's Access to Justice and Security Improved through Gender-Responsive Service Delivery and Empowerment of Women

	Progress Against Outcome 4 Targets		
	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>
	O.4.1	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (N/A)	N/A number of cases on violence against women filed with Family & Juvenile Protection against the annual target.
	O.4.2	Increase of 1 per cent yearly Ongoing (met)	46.5 per cent increase in the number of violence against women cases transferred by the public prosecution to the courts against the annual target (3,451)
	O.4.3	Increase of 1 per cent yearly Ongoing (met)	57.3 per cent increase in the number of perpetrators of violence against women convicted against the annual target (1,044)

	Progress Against Output Targets				
	<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>		<i>Annual target</i>	<i>Results</i>
	1 yearly (met)	o.4.1.1: 2: Instructive guidelines for VAW prosecutors were finalized with a view to help them form legal arguments that contribute to improving immediate services to VAW survivors. In addition, the VAW SOPs were finalized by the HJC with a view to unify standards and procedures for case management and adjudication.		Increase of 5 per cent yearly (met)	o.4.2.1: 45.3 per cent increase against the annual target. 37 new gender champions (62 per cent women) were identified in the police (9) and among regular judges (2), lawyers (21), staff at the MOSD (5).
	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (met)	o.4.3.1: 84.9 per cent increase against the annual target. 11,422 women and girls benefited from legal aid services supported by the project.		Increase of 1 per cent yearly (N/A)	o. 4.3.2: 3 girls (0 women) benefited from legal aid services supported by the Government of Palestine. (N/A data against the annual target). Indicators relating to state-sponsored legal aid were designed in anticipation of rollout of a dedicated mechanism by the Palestinian Authority.
	Increase of 1 per cent yearly (unmet)	o.4.3.3: 64.1 per cent decrease against the annual target. 13,184 individuals (68 per cent women; 5 per cent boys and 2 per cent girls) were targeted with in-person awareness and sensitization interventions on women's rights.			

Output 4.1: Technical and Institutional Capacities of Rule of Law Institutions to Respond to the Needs of Women Improved



904 individuals reached out to the PCP helpline operators to seek support against violence



Cybercrime guidelines adopted by Chief of Police following its joint development with the AGO in 2019



Work to refurbish two new One Stop Centers initiated to improve access to services across the West Bank



MOU for the coordination of VAW case management developed between the MOSD, PCP and AGO



Work to equip the VAW specialized court in Nablus finalized to improve access to responsive services for survivors of violence



Draft bylaw and SOPs for the SJD Inspection Department updated and reporting templates developed



Family law training further standardized at the level of the PJI



VAW SOPs by the HJC finalized that unify standards and procedures for case management and adjudication.

Support effective, operational, multi-sectoral services for women and girls

Key progress was witnessed in 2021 on the capacity of the justice sector to process violence against women (VAW) claims. As judicial work resumed, **registered levels of prosecution and adjudication of VAW cases substantially increased**, even exceeding by 46.5 per cent and 57.3 per cent this of the targets. This translated into a **41 per cent and 39 per cent increase in the number of cases transferred to the courts** (*Indicator Outcome 4.2*) and **perpetrators convicted** as compared to 2020 (*Indicator Outcome 4.3*). Despite these important strides, efforts need to be maintained to address systematic obstacles to women survivors of violence accessing services. **Data on the number of VAW cases filed with the police was not available during the period** (*Indicator Outcome 4.1*), however, the PCBS has estimated that only about 1 per cent of survivors seek assistance from providers (source: 2019 National Violence Survey - *see output 1.1*). In view of this, **work to establish two new One Stop Centers (OSCs) in Nablus and Hebron was initiated**. It follows steps taken earlier this year by the PCP to give priority of focus to the underserved parts of the West Bank, including over the expansion of Ramallah's OSC. The OSC model provides a responsive space to access psychosocial, forensic, and judicial services all in one place and offers strengthened guarantees of confidentiality and privacy. It also constitutes a valuable platform for service providers to coordinate actions as well as the referral of cases to shelters or courts. The expansion of the OSC model builds on organizational development efforts pursued with support from *Sawasya*. It led to the adoption of the OSC protocol in 2020, which improved the division of work among staff and clarified their role and responsibilities. It also builds on efforts to further integrate services for women survivors of violence, with the development, during the period, of **an MOU for the coordination of case management between the MOSD, PCP and AGO**. As the COVID-19 crisis continued to unfold, work was also invested to reflect on ways to enhance VAW case management during emergencies based on the experience of specialized prosecutors, who emphasized the necessity to improve referral mechanisms and

access to court hearings. Such processes informed the development of **emergency plans endorsed this year by the Chief of Police, Chief Justice, and Minister of Social Development** (*Indicator Outcome 1.2*).

To underpin consistent progress, emphasis continued to be placed on capacity building. All seventeen women protection counselors (100 per cent women) are now better equipped to provide efficient and responsive support to women victims of violence during judicial proceedings, particularly to women victims of sexual violence who tend to be more prone to community stigma. The eight-day training they took part in focused on better understanding the socio-legal journey women engage in, with special emphasis placed on counseling techniques for women victims of violence. In step with such approach, all five women prison counselors (100 per cent women) based in the West Bank accessed on-the-job capacity building on responsive services for female inmates (nine group supervision sessions/39 individual supervision sessions). The six-month programme placed emphasis on adherence to international standards – particularly to Nelson Mandela⁹⁹ and Bangkok Rules¹⁰⁰ - but also on the singular experience of Palestinian women who enter in contact with the criminal justice system. Focus was put on the comparative justice responses to most serious common crimes (including the killing of an abusive spouse) as well as on furthering active listening techniques. The prison counselors also increased their capacity in coping with the challenges they tend to face in their work, including on how to set professional boundaries and prevent burnouts. They were also able to exchange and build on one another's experience, particularly through the use of case studies. The exchange was critical to address gaps relating to case management, institutional knowledge, and counseling skills. It also revealed institutional challenges that hinder their work including a lack of technical support at the level of the MOSD as well as unclarity regarding counselors' roles and responsibilities. This led **four of them to directly engage with their management and successfully lead the review of their role and responsibilities. Identified as gender champions** (*Indicator output 4.2.1*), they contributed with introducing new collaborative approaches to work that promote access to legal aid, shelter referral and the processing of financial support for inmates through formalizing cooperation with and among the PBA, AGO and RRCs. This builds on support from the Programme to facilitate dialogue between the various institutions and identify opportunities for joint interventions.¹⁰¹

In total, **37 gender champions (62 per cent women) were identified in 2021** from different institutions across the justice and security sectors, including the PCP, MOSD, HJC and PBA. This is 45 per cent higher than the annual target for 2021 (*Indicator output 4.2.1*). Among them, there were two male police officers, who upon graduation expressed their willingness to contribute to the work of the Gender Unit and initiated awareness raising activities on violence against women at the community level. Additionally, seven new police officers (43 per cent women) took forward work on cybercrime violence within the FJPD through promoting enhanced coordination with the PCP cybercrime unit for women survivors of online violence. The Head of the Women's Protection Unit at the MOSD was also identified for her work in promoting and mainstreaming a gender justice agenda within the institution. Furthermore, 21 newly graduated lawyers (71 per cent women) who accessed placement at the PBA Gender Unit¹⁰² led on the development of initiatives

⁹⁹ For more details on the Mandela rules see output 2.1.

¹⁰⁰ For more details on the Bangkok rules see output 2.1.

¹⁰¹ The supervision programme was extended for another year to further support women prison counselors' capacity building.

¹⁰² Both in Gaza and the West Bank.

that promote and mainstream women's rights within and outside the institution, including during the "16 days of activism" campaign (*see output 4.3*). Furthermore, two VAW judges (50 per cent women) were identified for their advocacy work within the judiciary to push for penal code reform and for a more responsive use of current legislative and regulatory frameworks.

How do the Risk Assessment Templates improve safety for women victims of violence?

Police officers are usually the first responders in situations involving VAW. Therefore, their assessment of the situation tends to determine whether a VAW victim will access protection services or not. In the past, such assessment has been subject to variable personnel interpretations and has therefore resulted, in some instances, in dramatic errors of appreciation. The introduction of the Risk Assessment Templates in 2020 is bringing about transformational change on this front. Police officers' first assessments are now conducted according to well-defined and consistent criteria applicable in all served areas. This is the case whenever a potential victim approaches the police or when a risk is identified. To illustrate, police officers now conduct systematic risk assessments when a woman or girl attempts suicide or runs away from her home. A risk score is then attributed and transmitted to the VAW Specialized Prosecution, which orders protection measures when necessary. Such a victim-centered approach is critical to robustly assess risks but also enhance coordination between first responders (the police) and prosecutorial/social services.

In parallel, Risk Assessment Templates continued to be operationalized this year and the evaluation of the rollout phase was initiated and will be completed in 2022. Evidence based implementation of the Risk Assessment Templates is key to strengthening the work of specialized prosecutors for the securing of more efficient protection measures. In line with such work, 15 representatives of the justice and security sectors (80 per cent of women) and CSOs led the review process of the 2017 report on essential services to women victims of violence – conducted by the UN HAYA Joint Programme,¹⁰³ with support from *Sawasya*. The new update highlighted the need to enhance protection for service providers, strengthen accountability frameworks, improve shelter admission procedures as well as longer term economic prospects for survivors. It is a critical first step forward towards the State of Palestine joining the [Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition](#), which convened in Paris from 30 June to 2 July. This work led to the development of a one-year action plan by involved actors with clear commitments and milestones to ensure the provision of VAW services as essential services.

¹⁰³ The HAYA Joint Programme is funded by the Government of Canada and is jointly implemented by a consortium of UN agencies consisting of the UN Women, UNFPA, the UN-Habitat, and the UNODC. HAYA brings together the Palestinian Authority, UN agencies, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, and other partners to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to all forms of violence and from the threat of such violence. MOWA and MOSD are key partners of the HAYA Joint Programme, along with other ministries including the MOEHE, the Ministry of Health, the MOJ, and the Ministry of Local Government, and various municipalities, civil society and community-based organizations. HAYA seeks to end violence against women and girls through various outreach and awareness-raising activities to change harmful practices and attitudes perpetuating and validating violence, increase access to necessary services for survivors of violence, as well as strengthen the institutional capacity of government officials to develop and implement legal and policy frameworks promoting and protecting women's and girls' rights to live free from violence. The HAYA Joint Programme also focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, achieving gender equality, and empowering all women and girls, and making cities inclusive safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Improved capacity of security institutions to respond to the needs of women

In 2021, key strides were made towards improved capacity of security institutions to respond to the needs of women. This included the **adoption of the cybercrime guidelines by the Chief of Police** that were developed jointly with the AGO in 2019 (*Indicator Outcome 1.2*).¹⁰⁴ To further ensure coordination of action between the FJPD (first responder) and the Cybercrime Department, eight police officers (75 per cent women) accessed training on the guidelines and the governorates of Nablus and Ramallah were designated as pilot locations by the PCP. A focal point was also assigned among the six IT-trained FJPD officers (33 per cent women) appointed last year to monitor the guidelines' rollout and who accessed specialized IT equipment during the period¹⁰⁵ for the investigation of cybercrimes, in line with the PCP emergency plan.¹⁰⁶ Furthermore, the newly appointed Head of the Cybercrime Specialized Prosecution took part in a dialogue with VAW and Cybercrime Chief Prosecutors with a view to further coordinate implementation and the piloting of the two initiatives. Knowledge transfer on improved security services was also supported through the participation of three senior police officers (66 per cent women) in the virtual regional launch of the handbook on Gender Responsive Policing developed by UN Women and UNODC at the global level. This is in addition to the continuous rollout of the gender curriculum, which is mainstreamed into basic as well as in-service training programmes. Knowledge transfer and the development of efficient instruments are critical, not only in the area of cyber violence,¹⁰⁷ but in all aspects relating to violence against women and gender-based violence.

Therefore, and as part of the emergency plan adopted this year by the PCP, the helpline for victims of violence was further operationalized, with **904 individuals (89 per cent women) having reached out to operators in 2021. Guidelines to operate the helpline were endorsed this year by the Chief of Police** (*Indicator output 4.1.1*) and have served as basis for the development of a capacity building programme and the training of 11 specialized officers (9 per cent women).¹⁰⁸ In line with this, six new laptops were accessed by the FJPD with support from the Programme, thereby allowing heads of FJPUs to ensure timely follow up of the Units' work, including through online meetings and workshops. In parallel, efforts continued to be invested to further mainstream gender justice principles in the work of the broader security sector, including for women in detention (*see Enhanced security and justice services for women in the Gaza Strip*) and with a focus on resource mobilization. As a result, additional funding for the implementation of the 2021 annual work plan of the Gender Mainstreaming Administrative Programme of the Security Sector Strategic Plan (AP9) was secured by the MOI for gender equality initiatives and technical and logistical improvements within the Gender Units. Work was also invested to support the development of the 2022 AP9 annual work plan, including through the submission of six project proposals to develop gender programming within security institutions, with a focus on gender mainstreaming, auditing, curriculum development, community outreach as well as capacity building. Furthermore, steps were taken towards the introduction of accountability measures at the level of the OSCs. Fifteen police officers (7 per cent women), including heads of district offices,

¹⁰⁴ It sets out a protective framework that defines the roles and responsibilities of each service provider, including the PCP's FJPD (first responder) and the Specialized Prosecution (i.e., family protection prosecutor and electronic crime prosecutor).

¹⁰⁵ Six laptops were delivered with support from the *Sawasya II* Programme.

¹⁰⁶ Under 4.1.1 in the annual work plan.

¹⁰⁷ O. Cuthbert (15 April 2021), "'I blamed myself': How stigma stops Arab women reporting online abuse", *The Guardian*.

¹⁰⁸ It is around 60 FJPU officers that are anticipated to be trained on the helpline's guidelines going forward.

organized a workshop on the operationalization of the unified OSC protocol adopted in 2020 (*see above Support effective, operational, multi-sectoral services for women and girls*) and re-emphasized the need to ensure the optimum use of existing tools, including the automated case management system to improve accountability towards justice clients. Moving forward, work will focus on the development and implementation of monitoring tools on this front. In line with this, work was initiated for the undertaking of an assessment on the appropriateness of FJPU premises that will be completed in 2022.¹⁰⁹

Improved capacity of prosecution services to respond to the needs of women

Key prosecutorial improvements were made this year, with the **finalization of instructive prosecutorial guidelines**. The instructive guidelines help VAW prosecutors form legal arguments that contribute to improving immediate services to survivors, while preventing instances of re-victimization. It also seeks to enhance the litigation environment through more responsive jurisprudence, particularly in three critical areas: femicide, rape and incest. The guidelines were developed in close collaboration with 12 prosecutors (33 per cent women), which endorsed the finalized version during a four-day workshop with inputs from lawyers and judges. Involving a broad range of actors is key to developing judicial services that better identify patterns of violence and leverage human rights principles enshrined in the Palestinian Basic Law and human rights treaties.

To further operationalize the guidelines, 18 out of 25 specialized prosecutors (39 per cent women) took part capacity building on the guidelines' application and on how they intersect with other instruments, including the AGO VAW SOPs and emergency plan as well as the cybercrime guidelines. This also represented an opportunity for specialized prosecutors to exchange with the Attorney General on the challenges they face in their work and ways to overcome them. In line with this, 11 out of 13 VAW prosecution administrative staff (54 per cent women) accessed capacity building on case management, with a focus on maintaining high levels of confidentiality and advancing gender justice. Accountability-oriented measures were also introduced through the operationalization of monitoring tools by the specialized prosecutors, including the formalization of quarterly review meetings. Work was also initiated to ensure access to capacity building for chief prosecutors, prosecutors and the AGO inspection department on responsive services for women survivors of violence and will be further implemented in 2022. At the level of the AGO Gender Unit, gaps in the MIZAN II case management system (AGO) were identified in relation to gender disaggregation and work on this front will be taken forward in 2022. Moving forward, focus will also be put on ensuring the Gender Unit's access to dedicated expertise for the implementation of its annual work plan and on capacity building for VAW specialized prosecutors during emergencies.

Improved capacity of the judiciary to meet the needs of women

Efforts continued to be invested to operationalize the VAW specialized judiciary. **Work to equip the VAW specialized court in Nablus was finalized**. The court is scheduled to open on 9 March 2022 against the background of International Women's Day. It will catalyze expertise on the management of cases of violence against women and offer a safer and more responsive environment for survivors of GBV that better protect them against secondary victimization in their

¹⁰⁹ In view of COVID-19 restrictions and the degraded humanitarian environment, support to CSO in the area of RRC capacity did not take place in 2021.

interactions with the criminal justice system. Coordination between the Head of the Planning Unit and the VAW judiciary focal point at the HJC was critical in taking the project forward. It also builds on the **finalization of VAW SOPs by the HJC that unify standards and procedures for case management and adjudication**. The SOPs are currently under review by a committee of four selected judges (75 per cent women). Cognizant that a participatory approach is key to a successful implementation, broader consultations with judicial actors will be organized, in the upcoming months, before the SOPs' final adoption. Following a victim-centered approach, the SOPs specifically address challenges faced by women when seeking justice within the framework of domestic and international laws and policies.

Furthermore, the **HJC emergency plan for VAW case management was adopted this year by the Chief Justice (Indicator Outcome 1.2)** and the SJD emergency plan was finalized. Both accessed IT equipment support (12 computers)¹¹⁰ with a view to facilitate the provision of coordinated virtual services. The emergency plans establish a framework for uninterrupted service provision and for the strengthening of pathways for cases of violence against women between criminal justice and family courts in line with the spirit of the National Referral System. They were designed with robust support from six HJC and SJD judges (33 per cent women).¹¹¹ Building on this, work will be invested in 2022 for further enhancing the SJD's capacity to improve women's knowledge on their family law rights. Efforts were also invested to strengthen emergency coordination between the HJC and the AGO. More specifically, the development of a guiding document for the implementation of emergency measures in cross-cutting areas was initiated by the two institutions during a virtual workshop facilitated by *Sawasya* and will be implemented going forward. Work was also initiated for the development of a helpline at the level of family courts by the Programme,¹¹² along with support to civil society to improve services at the level of family courts' Counseling Units in Gaza; both activities will be further implemented in 2022. Going forward, support will also focus on the piloting of the VAW judiciary and improved judicial knowledge relating to cyber-criminality affecting women and girls.

Human rights based organizational development at the level of family courts

Efforts continued to be invested for the **standardization of judicial knowledge at the level of the PJI**, with the development of an online course on the enforcement of family court decisions. This builds on the operationalization of the e-Learning PJI portal, which through centralization promotes valuable linkages between the regular and family judiciaries. Knowledge standardization is also contributing with the further professionalization of court staff and is a key vehicle for human rights mainstreaming. However, human rights mainstreaming work continues to be compounded by structural deficiencies, including a stalled harmonization process of laws against international instruments. Cognizant of this, steps were taken this year for the operationalization of the Human Rights Unit at the level of the SJD, with the development of an action plan with support from *Sawasya*. This follows the undertaking of a need assessment in family courts this year, which reveals¹¹³ that human rights progress is hindered by conflicting Palestinian legislation, a lack of

¹¹⁰ Support to knowledge transfer to junior VAW judges and capacity building for family prosecutors was reallocated to the procurement of computers. Support to SJD arbitration was canceled upon the SJD's request. Similarly, infrastructural support to Ramallah's family court was not taken forward during the period.

¹¹¹ The assessment on family courts' counselling units is reported below under *Human-rights based organizational development at the level of family courts*.

¹¹² Through the UN Women and UNICEF components.

¹¹³ The need assessment will be adjusted for dissemination in the upcoming months.

awareness on human rights - both among justice clients and court staff - as well as insufficient guarantees in terms of confidentiality and fair judicial proceedings.

In line with this, work continued to be invested to improve SJD's inspection processes. **The draft bylaw and SOPs for the SJD Inspection Department were updated** in line with Decree Law No. 8 of 2021 modifying Decree Law No. 3 of 2021 that foresees well-defined criteria and allocates more human resources and expertise to the Inspection Department. **Reporting templates for inspection visits were also developed** and will be followed by capacity building activities for inspectors and the upgrading of the *Adalah* case management system¹¹⁴ for the digitalization of inspection procedures (e-Inspection programme) in 2022. The initial draft bylaw and SOPs for the SJD Inspection Department were developed in 2020 but were modified in light of the unexpected adoption of Decree Law No. 8 of 2021,¹¹⁵ which, however, brought about substantial procedural improvements.

In line with this, a draft assessment on Counselling Units within family courts was produced jointly by *Sawasya*'s UN Women and UNICEF components within the Programme. It shows important gaps in terms of human resources, infrastructures as well as coordination with other SJD's units and departments. The draft assessment investigates and analyzes the level of adherence of the applicable policies, practices, and procedures with gender justice and children rights standards. It also looked at infrastructural and human resources gaps as well as needed amendments in the mandate of the Counselling Units, and services provided to targeted families, including women and children. This assessment was conducted based on the findings of the 2020 Rapid Appraisal of the Sharia Court effectiveness in Realizing Women's and Children's Rights produced by *Sawasya*, which recommends developing detailed guidance on the mediation of family disputes and counselling for services more responsive to children's needs. The assessment, which builds on *Sawasya*'s specialized expertise, will inform programmatic engagement for efficient, effective, and responsive services for women and children.

Enhanced security and justice services for women in the Gaza Strip

Forty-five (45) key mediation and arbitration actors of family justice (31 per cent women) are now better equipped to enhance security and justice for women in the Gaza Strip (*see also output 2.2*). Mediation, through Counselling Units, constitutes, in the vast majority of cases, the first point of contact of women with family courts. However, as highlighted by preliminary findings of the draft assessment on Counselling Units (*see Human rights based organizational development at the level of family courts*) practices, translated into policies and procedures, tend to not offer the necessary guarantees in terms of women's and children's rights. And while the recent introduction of arbitration mechanisms¹¹⁶ seems to have strengthened women's access to formal judicial avenues,¹¹⁷ it is also likely reproducing detrimental patterns observed in the family justice system. Taking this into consideration, important strides were made during the period through CSO advocacy work with commitments secured from Gaza's Supreme Judge to establish a complaint mechanism linked to the Inspection Department, promote remote hearing, support women's representation in the judiciary and better monitor lawyers' performance. Emphasis then continued

¹¹⁴ The current cases management for family courts, to the exception of enforcement departments, which utilizes Mizan II.

¹¹⁵ It modifies Decree Law No. 3 of 2021 on the Family Judiciary and Law No. 19 of 1972 on the Formation of Family Courts.

¹¹⁶ Outside of the framework established by Arbitration Law No. 3 of 2000.

¹¹⁷ *Sawasya* interview with Palestinian human rights organization director.

to be placed on reinforcing the nexus between family and criminal law, through focus on legal protection from gender-based violence and referral to sheltering services provided by the Hayat Center.¹¹⁸ Work was also invested to further mainstream women's rights through strengthened technical capacity on arbitration agreement drafting.

However, work to ensure access to psychosocial support and hygiene kits for female inmates was hindered in view of the COVID-19 restrictions placed on the Al-Ansar RRC. Instead, the PBA undertook a comprehensive review of policies at the level of the police, the AGO, the HJC and RRCs, which show that the shortage of female police officers and judges in the Gaza Strip affects the treatment of women arrested for criminal offences, particularly in terms of privacy and confidentiality. Access to services is limited and frequently inadequate, with, for instance, no distinction made between inmates in terms of the types of offences. The lack of allocated resources also translates into jeopardized reintegration prospect, as institutions remain to offer viable rehabilitation support. Based on such findings, the PBA recommends in a position paper entitled "*The Justice Sector's Response to Gender Principles and Improved Access to Justice for Women*" to place greater emphasis on cooperation between prosecutorial and police services to improve referral mechanisms with social services and promote a more gender balanced work environment. In complementarity of this, 52 female inmates accessed psycho-social support, including therapy sessions with a focus on anger and stress management as well as personalized services. Ten among them accessed specialized support on treating addiction through peer-sharing sessions organized with other Reform and Rehabilitation Centers in the region; this is in addition to the 36 inmates who accessed dignity kits.¹¹⁹ Moving forward, a strong focus will be put on strengthening the policy environment impacting female inmates, while guaranteeing their access to integrated services in line with the coordination work initiated this year between the PBA and specialized CSOs.

Output 4.2: New Practices of Justice and Security Service Providers are Supported to Transform their Attitudes and Behaviors Towards Women and Girls



Increased women's representation in security institutions



37 additional gender champions identified

Thirty-seven (37) gender champions (62 per cent women) were identified in 2021. This is 45.3 per cent higher than the annual target for 2021 (*Indicator output 4.2.1*) (*see Support effective, operational, multi-sectoral services for women and girls*). In addition, **women's representation increased by 83 per cent (from 3 per cent to 5.5 per cent) over the past five years as well as institutional buy-in on the need to promote equality.** This was highlighted in the mid-term review of the PCP Gender Strategy (2017-2023)¹²⁰ adopted in 2021.¹²¹ For the review, inputs from

¹¹⁸ The Hayat Project Center for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Families is the only center providing sheltering services in the Gaza Strip.

¹¹⁹ On average, 50 women are present in RRCs. However, fluctuations in numbers during the year explain discrepancies between the number of female inmates accessed psychosocial support and dignity kits.

¹²⁰ The PCP Gender Strategy was extended for one year in view of the impact of COVID-19 on the work of justice and security institutions.

¹²¹ It was finalized last year.

PCP senior and district officers were collected and a focus group discussion was organized. It underscored the need to shift strategic focus towards strengthening middle management's commitment to gender equality. Taking this forward this year, an action plan for the years 2021-2023 was developed with support from *Sawasya* (*Indicator output 1.2*) and resources were mobilized on this front. Inputs from 12 police officers (66 percent women) were integrated following joint capacity building by *Sawasya* and EUPOL COPPS on annual work planning.

Furthermore, and cognizant of the criticality of advancing female career development to change judicial attitudes towards women and girls, steps were taken towards the establishment of a Palestinian Network of Women Judges. As international expertise could not be brought on-board in view of international travel restrictions, 25 female judges and prosecutors took part in a refresher workshop, during which they identified practical steps to develop mentoring, capacity building and career development programmes as well as TORs and an action plan for establishing the Network. Work on this front will be operationalized in 2022.

Output 4.3: Women and Children Have Access to Justice, Security and Protection (partly reported under Outcome 3)



11,422 women and girls accessed legal aid services



13,184 Palestinians accessed legal awareness



8,000 Palestinians reached out by youth' groups raising awareness on Family Protection Bill



60,000 Palestinians had access to content on the FPB

Support to legal representation services for women

Eleven thousand four hundred and twenty-three (11,422) women and girls accessed legal aid services by CSOs during the period (*Indicator output 4.3.1*). In addition, three girls (no woman) accessed these services through the state-sponsored court fund in the West Bank for criminal cases (*Indicator output 4.3.2*) (also reported under *Outcome 3*). Although this represents a decrease as compared to 2020 results, it exceeds by 84.9 per cent the target value for 2021 (*see Outcome 3*). During the period, emphasis continued to be placed on women in detention who are among the most at risk of marginalization and denial of justice: 38 female inmates from the four West Bank's RRCs¹²² continued to access comprehensive support based on a threefold approach that combines therapy, income-generating activities and sports. This methodology was adopted last year at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis and has [proved critical](#) in improving the well-being of inmates. Building on this, the women accessed over 200 therapy sessions in 2021,¹²³ and continued producing and marketing handicraft goods based on the training they undertook last year.¹²⁴ The success of the initiative led to the importing of material such as needles, scissors, and embroidery stings into detention premises, thereby attesting to the improved relationship between RRCs'

¹²² They are allocated in Nablus, Jenin, Jericho and Ramallah. On average, there are 40 female inmates in the West Bank. However, the total number of female inmates in 2021 is not available.

¹²³ They accessed various therapy modalities, including psychological first aid (PFA), cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy and narrative therapy.

¹²⁴ In 2020, they acceded training on the craft of mosaic, embroidery, weaving and beading.

management and the inmates. Sports was also pivotal in empowering women to play a positive role in the lives of fellow inmates. Coach-free workout sessions initiated during COVID-19 were formalized this year and the capacity of in-house trainers was further built; additional fitness classes for inmates in Jericho, Ramallah and Jenin RRCs¹²⁵ were also organized by an external coach with support from *Sawasya*. Furthermore, 45 female inmates and detainees accessed hygiene kits¹²⁶ and awareness on COVID-19 safety and vaccination protocols. Efforts were also invested to assess ways to promote better linkages between social services and the PCP for women detained in police centers, which will inform programmatic engagement going forward.

Support family court lawyers in Gaza on human rights standards of litigation

Complementary legal education is key to enhancing human rights standards of litigation, particularly in front of family courts. In the context of Gaza, such complementary support is also critical to accompany fresh graduates' entry into the job market, particularly for the most economically disadvantaged among female lawyers. In 2021, out of 66 qualified family court lawyers (100 per cent women) meeting vulnerability criteria¹²⁷ and having had access to targeted complementary capacity building on human rights standards of litigation, ten integrated the traineeship placement programme in the partner CSO. Such initiatives are pivotal to enlarge the professional offer for young lawyers and help them gain significant experience that can empower them within the fields of law and business going forward (*see Outcome 3.2*).

Address legal needs of Palestinian women in unserved areas¹²⁸

Ninety-eight (98) per cent of women and girls who accessed legal aid services were in unserved areas (*reported under output 3.2*). In Gaza, a strong focus continued to be put on most marginalized women with 52 female inmates from the Gaza Strip having accessed legal consultations and representation in criminal and civil cases over the course 18 visits to RRCs that were conducted in the second half of the year.¹²⁹ Such work is critical as female inmates often experience difficulties bringing claims into the court systems in relation to civil and family law cases. The impact of criminal sentencing is not limited to the perpetrator of an infraction: it often alters family dynamics and damages pivotal relationships. Cognizant of this, 60 family members (58 per cent women) also accessed legal and psychological awareness on the rights and needs of relative female inmates. Emphasis was placed on discrimination and on the longer-term effect of gender-based violence and violence against women, particularly in light of criminal offences perpetrated by the participants' family members.

Human rights standards of litigation in criminal and civil cases were also promoted with lawyers having enhanced skills in gender responsive case management; this is in furtherance of the support accessed by family court lawyers in the costal enclave (*see Support family court lawyers in Gaza on human rights standards of litigation*). Nineteen (19) lawyers (68 per cent women) and members

¹²⁵ In view of the limited number of inmates, activities were not expanded to the Nablus RRC.

¹²⁶ From the four West Bank-based RRCs as well as from the police detention station in Bethlehem. The kits include face masks, sterilizing containers, shampoo, soap, antiperspirant, a toothbrush, tooth paste, laundry detergent powder and baby diapers (for one inmate).

¹²⁷ Established by the partner CSO in close collaboration with the Programme.

¹²⁸ The activity "support women with disability's access to services" is covered "support to legal representation for women".

¹²⁹ However, work was slowed on this front at the beginning of the year as access to the Ansar Reform and Rehabilitation Center was hampered by COVID-19 restrictions. While the lawyer maintained regular contact with the inmates mainly via phone calls, she was able to resume visits from April onwards as restrictions were gradually lifted. On average, there are 45 women inmates in Gaza. The total number of women inmates for 2021 is not available.

of the PBA's Women's Unit took part in a post-graduate clinical education programme that focused on the documentation of cases using a gender responsive approach and the identification of gender vulnerabilities in the work of legal clinics.¹³⁰ Participants also made use of this opportunity to advocate with law schools at the Al-Azhar University and the University of Palestine to promote gender equality in curricula and raise awareness on gender-based violence. Such activities took place online due to the enduring COVID-19 situation. In addition, five members (40 per cent women) of the Women's Unit¹³¹ accessed internship opportunities, with a focus on enhancing their legal skills and increasing their gender mainstreaming capability. The three-month programme will be completed in 2022 and rolled out for the other five members of the Unit. Moving forward, focus will also be put on improving access to services for women with disability and empowering women's survivors of violence across the judicial chain. Furthermore, to ensure that human rights organizations across the oPt are equipped with substantive knowledge on fostering responsive interpretation of Islamic law and jurisprudence, 22 representatives (9 per cent women) accessed training on *Fiqh*,¹³² trends in the field of Islamic law reform and PSL with the view of informing their advocacy strategies going forward.

Support to legal awareness on women's rights across the State of Palestine

In parallel, **13,184 Palestinians (68 per cent women, 5 per cent boys, 2 per cent girls)**¹³³ have accessed legal awareness on the rights of women, family related matters and cyberviolence (*Indicator output 4.3.3*). This includes an initiative designed by three legal aid clinic volunteers at the An-Najah National University who accessed capacity building along with 87 fellow law students (72 per cent women) on advocating for women's and girls' victims of violence online. Although the number of women and girls who accessed legal awareness during the period represents a 64 per cent decrease against the annual target (*Indicator output 4.3.3*),¹³⁴ **more than 498,318 Palestinians**¹³⁵ **had access to online sensitization on women's rights** and the availability of services, particularly during COVID-19 and in the aftermath of the eleven-day escalation of violence (*reported under output 3.2*). Furthermore, **two pilot youth volunteers' groups were established in the governorates of Hebron and Qalqilya** for increasing community's awareness on the FPB, and the need to improve instruments for protecting women's rights. About **8,000 Palestinians (60 per cent women) were reached out by volunteers** through two main outdoor events; including one bazar and a mural exhibition.¹³⁶ The two groups are composed of 38 volunteers (84 per cent women) and have accessed capacity building, with a focus on human rights, women's rights, gender-based violence, FPB and the penal code as well as law-based discrimination against women. This is in complementarity to the **60,000 Palestinians (58 per cent women) who accessed content on the FPB** on TV and radio on the occasion of the 16 days of activism through the work of a coalition of women's rights' organizations supported through *Sawasya*.

¹³⁰ Following self-assessment.

¹³¹ The total number of members of the PBA's Women's Unit is 10.

¹³² The word "*fiqh*" refers to Islamic jurisprudence. See output 1.1.

¹³³ This number refers to the number of individuals that were directly targeted by interventions relating to women's rights and family-related matters.

¹³⁴ The baseline was based on year 2017 where an substantially higher number of Palestinians accessed legal awareness when compared to 2018 and subsequent years.

¹³⁵ Disaggregation unavailable. This refers to the total number of individuals who watched the content, at least partially.

¹³⁶ This is not accounted for under indicator output 3.1.2.

Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned

A compounded humanitarian situation: The 10-21 May 2021 period witnessed the worst escalation of violence of these past seven years. Two hundred and sixty-one (261) Palestinians (including 41 women, 23 girls and 44 boys)¹³⁷ were killed in the Gaza Strip (among whom about 50 per cent were reportedly civilians).¹³⁸ In Israel, thirteen were killed (including six women and two children).¹³⁹ In addition, 2,211 Palestinians were physically injured (including 480 women, 272 girls and 413 boys)¹⁴⁰ - with some of them requiring long-term rehabilitation. With losses estimated at USD 570 million,¹⁴¹ the eleven-day infighting exacerbated existing vulnerabilities.¹⁴² One thousand six hundred and sixty-three (1,663) housing units were destroyed, 959 severely damaged, and 58 partially damaged,¹⁴³ thereby worsening an already chronic housing shortage in the coastal enclave.¹⁴⁴ This is in addition to 331 educational facilities and kindergarten damaged and¹⁴⁵ 17 healthcare centers completely destroyed.¹⁴⁶ One million and two hundred thousand (1.2) million Palestinians had compounded access to safe water following damage to over 290 WASH facilities.¹⁴⁷ Despite Israeli authorities having eased some of the restrictions imposed on Gaza, including the expansion of the fishing zone to 15 nautical miles (southern part of the Gaza Strip) and the granting of 10,000 permits to exit Gaza, the humanitarian situation remains critical.

- **Impact on the rule of law in the Gaza Strip:** The escalation of violence and its aftermath had a substantial impact on access to justice (*see Outcome 3*). Regular and family courts activities were discontinued throughout the escalation period and immediately after and the work of some 350 lawyers was greatly affected. This prompted scaled up collaboration between the High Justice Council and the PBA (Gaza branch) for recovering deeds, files, and other lost documents to limit impact on access to justice. Other specialized organizations, which provide services in front of family courts or work to improve access to justice for Palestinians in Gaza were also affected, albeit to a lesser extent.¹⁴⁸ However, in view of the destruction of the Palestine Production Bank and the Islamic National Bank headquarters along with various branch offices,¹⁴⁹ the completion of financial transactions, including of alimony payments, was disrupted during the period. Gaps in enforcement of custody and visitation decisions were also reported throughout the escalation period¹⁵⁰ the majority of services for survivors of gender-based violence were suspended during the hostilities and protection shelters were shut down.¹⁵¹ Finally, the academic year, already strained by COVID-19 restrictions, was shortened as a consequence of the conflict, thereby

¹³⁷ OCHA (2022), « Data on casualties », available at <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties> [consulted on 14 April 2022].

¹³⁸ Humanitarian Country Team (2021), “Humanitarian Needs Overview : OPT”

¹³⁹ OCHA (4 June 2021), “Protection of civilians report | 24-31 May 2021”

¹⁴⁰ OCHA (2022), op. cit. footnote 137. 2,367 individuals in total were injured in 2021.

¹⁴¹ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁴² Particularly among female-headed households, women with cancer and chronic diseases, widows, children, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, the severely ill and injured and people living in Access Restricted Areas. European Union, World Bank and United Nations (June 2021), “Gaza rapid damage and needs assessment”

¹⁴³ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁴⁴ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁴⁵ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁴⁶ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁴⁷ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁴⁸ Source: *Sawasya*. The *de facto* Ministry of Justice is currently conducting an assessment to further evaluate the damage with a focus on regular and family courts, prosecution, Reform and Rehabilitation centers as well as police stations.

¹⁴⁹ Al Haq (22 May 2021), “Attacks on business properties by Israel’s offensive in Gaza: sweeping and indiscriminate destructions designed to have an enduring economic effect”, available at <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/18393.html>.

¹⁵⁰ Source: *Sawasya*

¹⁵¹ European Union, World Bank Group and United Nations (June 2021), “Gaza rapid damage and need assessment”

affecting the implementation of clinical education activities that will be resumed in 2022 (see Outcome 3.1).

- **Key lesson learned:** While armed conflicts continue to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, coordination among institutions and justice actors is key to limiting their impact. The eleven-day hostilities demonstrated the role enhanced coordination can play on limiting the impact of conflicts on rule of law and access to justice, as the High Justice Council provided support to the PBA in recovering essential documents lost to the conflict. This builds on progress made over the past few years and during COVID-19 to formalize cooperation pathways.

A deteriorated human rights environment: During the period, tensions heightened around the institution of a 10-thousand person limit on vaccinated Palestinians allowed to visit the Al-Aqsa Mosque for Ramadan¹⁵² and threats of eviction in East Jerusalem.¹⁵³ This was followed by extremist groups assaults on Palestinians around Damascus Gate, particularly after the posting of a video on social media showing Palestinian youth slapping two Israeli teens on the light rail.¹⁵⁴ What ensued was a violent escalation¹⁵⁵ that culminated in the 10-21 May conflict between Hamas and Israel. Scores of Palestinians were arrested against this backdrop, including dozens of children,¹⁵⁶ resulting in an increase in the latter accessing legal aid services (see Outcome 3). In total in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), 84 Palestinians were killed during the year (5 women and 17 boys)¹⁵⁷ including as a result of settler violence.¹⁵⁸ Another 16,815 were injured (including at least 1,360 boys and 38 girls)¹⁵⁹ representing an increase of 567 per cent as compared to 2020. Settler violence continues to be of major concern, with an increasing number of attacks reported.¹⁶⁰

- Impact on the rule of law in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem): Against the background of a deteriorated human rights environment, violence was on the rise during the period, with a peak observed between May and April. As a result, contact with Israeli law increased in frequency, particularly for children. This translated into a sharp increase in the number of children who accessed legal aid during the reporting period (100 per cent in East Jerusalem) as compared to 2020 (see Outcome 3).
 - **Key lesson learned:** A deteriorated human rights environment tends to drive legal aid demand for children and other vulnerable segments of the population. A deteriorated human rights environment tends to breed violence that affect populations primarily residing in disproportionately affected parts of the oPt. It also affects children as increase in the frequency with which they enter into contact with Israeli forces is generally observed and accompanied by growing legal aid needs.

A protracted COVID-19 crisis: School closures were announced on 8 April in view of the high number of COVID-19 cases reported in the coastal enclave.¹⁶¹ During the violent escalation,

¹⁵² “Ramadan prayers held at Jerusalem’s Al Aqsa, with Israeli restrictions” (16 April 2021), *Reuters*

¹⁵³ It is currently estimated at 970 East Jerusalemites. Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁵⁴ “East Jerusalem clashes leave over 100 injured” (23 April 2021), *BBC News*

¹⁵⁵ Diakonia (May 2021), “Timeline: From Displacement and dispossession in Sheikh Jarrah to Hostilities”

¹⁵⁶ OCHA, “oPt: Flash Update #7: Escalation in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Israel as of 12:00, 17 May 2021”.

¹⁵⁷ OCHA (2022), op. cit. footnote 137. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (01 July 2021), “Protection of civilians report | 15-28 June 2021”

¹⁵⁸ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁵⁹ OCHA (2022), op. cit. footnote 137. Disaggregation is not fully available.

¹⁶⁰ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138

¹⁶¹ UNICEF (2 July 2021), “UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6 (Gaza escalation) – 28 June 2021”

educational facilities, hospitals, and healthcare centers sustained damage (*see above* “*A compounded humanitarian situation*”), in addition to the Ministry of Health Central Laboratory – the main facility for COVID-19 testing. With 103 injured following an airstrike on 17 May,¹⁶² COVID-19 testing operations were suspended for three consecutive days.¹⁶³ Such situation only exacerbated virus transmission, particularly as 113,000 Palestinians found shelter across UNRWA schools and communities at the height of the escalation.¹⁶⁴ It contributed to driving up COVID-19 cases in the Gaza Strip.¹⁶⁵ Access to vaccination was also limited during the period, with only 43 per cent of Palestinians being fully vaccinated as of December 2021.¹⁶⁶ In addition, a deal with Israel to provide the Palestinian Authority with 90,000 Pfizer jabs was cancelled on 19 June. Revelations that the vaccines were due to expire shortly after reception raised concerns among the Palestinian general public,¹⁶⁷ which may have further contributed to delegitimizing the institutional environment.

- **Impact on rule of law:** This grim epidemiological situation continued to impact implementation during the period, particularly clinical, rehabilitation and awareness activities (*see Outcome 2 and 3*). Furthermore, the conditions surrounding the cancellation of the vaccine swap deal also contributed to furthering an atmosphere of growing defiance vis-à-vis the Palestinian Authority and its leadership, including in its ability to uphold the rule of law (*see below Growing public defiance*).
 - **Key lesson learned:** Conflicts have a direct impact on epidemiological situations, which in turn jeopardizes rule of law service provision. The eleven-day hostilities were immediately followed by heightened virus transmission in the Gaza Strip as the provision of health services, access to basic hygiene and social distancing were seriously jeopardized.

Dire economic circumstances: The deteriorated humanitarian and human rights situation coupled with a protracted COVID-19 crisis has only compounded an economy already highly constrained by import dependency and a degrading fiscal situation.¹⁶⁸ Although, economic growth stood at about 6 per cent in 2021,¹⁶⁹ a contraction of 3-4 per cent is projected for 2022,¹⁷⁰ against the backdrop of soaring inflation driven by elevated energy and food commodity prices.¹⁷¹ This environment has translated into heightened poverty, reaching 59.3 per cent in Gaza this year, 2.3 points higher than at the peak of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020,¹⁷² despite slight improvements witnessed this year across the oPt.¹⁷³ Economic and fiscal conditions have also been stymied by high public spending¹⁷⁴ that merely cover the operating costs of the Palestinian Authority. As a result, deficit is widening (projected at USD 1.69 billion at the end of 2021) and significantly

¹⁶² Source: Ministry of Justice – Gaza.

¹⁶³ Disaggregation is unavailable. K. Mayberry, V. Pietromarchi & M. Gadzo (18 May 2021), “Israel continues Gaza aid raids as calls for ceasefire grow”, *Al Jazeera*

¹⁶⁴ As of 27 May 2021. Sources: OCHA, “oPt: Response to the escalation in the oPt: Situation report No. 1:21-27 May 2021.”

¹⁶⁵ The Palestinian National Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (6 June 2021), “COVID-19 cases in the Gaza Strip: Weekly epidemiological bulletin from 10/05 to 23/05 2021 and 24/05 to 06/06/2021”

¹⁶⁶ Humanitarian Country team (2021), op. cit. footnote 138.

¹⁶⁷ “COVID-19: Palestinians cancel vaccine swap deal with Israel” (19 June 2021), *BBC News*

¹⁶⁸ UNSCO (17 November 2021), “Report to the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee”

¹⁶⁹ Palestinian Monetary Authority (21 March 2022), “The governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority praises the strength and solvency of the banking system”, *Press release*

¹⁷⁰ Palestinian Monetary Authority, op. cit. footnote 169.

¹⁷¹ The Economist Intelligence Unit (28 January 2022), “Middle East chart of the week: inflation trends in 2022”

¹⁷² World Bank Group (17 November 2021), “Economic monitoring report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee”

¹⁷³ UNSCO, op. cit., footnote 168; PCBS (2021) “Unemployment Rate Among labour Force Participants of Persons Aged 15 Years and Above in Palestine by Sex and Governorate, 2015-2020”

¹⁷⁴ UNSCO, op. cit., footnote 168.

contrasts with the estimated 38 per cent decrease in donor financing as compared to 2020 (USD 184 million). Therefore, the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to deliver services, make critical investments and maintain staff levels continued to decrease during the period and jeopardize its capacity to provide services,¹⁷⁵ including for vulnerable households.¹⁷⁶

Growing public defiance: The economic situation alongside¹⁷⁷ a perceived absence of political response to the violent escalation coupled with the cancellation of long overdue general elections¹⁷⁸ seem to have contributed to furthering public defiance *vis-à-vis* the Palestinian Authority. The announcement of the holding of such elections in January had raised high hopes for the resumption of democratic processes after fourteen years of deadlock. This is in this context of growing criticism that the death of Hebron-based activist Nizar Banat occurred after he was taken away, in the middle of the night, by a joint unit of Preventive Security and General Intelligence Services officers.¹⁷⁹ Demonstrations broke out across the West Bank. In response, instances of violent repression by police officers and other undetermined actors were reported.¹⁸⁰ Allegedly, plain-clothed security officers and Fatah-affiliated individuals cracked down on demonstrators with wooden sticks and batons, seized mobile phones and proceeded with the arrest of preeminent activists.¹⁸¹ While fourteen Preventive Security officers were arrested in relation to the death of Nizar Banat,¹⁸² attempts at resolving the matter through “*sulh*” – the informal process of conciliation - between the Palestinian Authority and the family of the deceased activist were reported with the intervention of tribal leaders,¹⁸³ thereby potentially indicating a further instrumentalization of informal and political networks by authorities. The first round of local elections took place on 11 December, political parties and civil society groups criticized the phasing of the electoral process, with Hamas refusing to take part in the contest.¹⁸⁴ While the prospect for a functioning PLC faded into the background during the period with the cancellation of elections in April, steps continued to be taken by the leadership to revisit foundational pieces of legislation. Decree-Laws No. 39, 40 and 41 that amend the JAL of 2002 and institute a two-tier administrative system, which concluded the work of the Interim HJC whose mandate expired this year. Steps were also taken to amend Law No. 1 of 2000 Concerning Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations (Decree-Law No. 7 of 2021) with a view to grant ministries power over CSOs’ budgetary and agenda setting processes. If implemented, it would tend to reduce the role CSOs to this of implementers of policies that are developed, negotiated, and operationalized by the executive. This is also further deteriorating an ever-shrinking civic space with the designation of six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations by Israeli authorities. Decree-Law No. 10 of 2018 (“Cybercrime law”) was also amended (Decree-Law No. 38 of 2021), without, however, addressing core human rights concerns. While the impact of such changes is difficult to precisely determine, they are likely to further reduce the role of civil society and thereby entrench legal uncertainty on the short term and affect Palestine’s rule of law edifice on the longer term.

¹⁷⁵ UNSCO, op. cit., footnote 168.

¹⁷⁶ UNSCO, op. cit., footnote 168.

¹⁷⁷ UNSCO, op. cit., footnote 168.

¹⁷⁸ I. Tharoor (7 July 2021), “The Palestinians’ problem with the Authority”, *The Washington Post*.

¹⁷⁹ Amnesty International (24 June 2021), “Palestine: Investigation into death in custody of Palestinian activist must be transparent, effective”, Press release

¹⁸⁰ Amnesty International (7 July 2021), “Palestinian security forces escalate brutal campaign of repression,” Press release.

¹⁸¹ *Id.*

¹⁸² A. Hass (27 August 2021), “30 activists were arrested last week. What made the Palestinian Authority change its tune”, *Haaretz*. They are being prosecuted by military authorities. Sawasya interview no 8, Palestinian civil servant.

¹⁸³ *Id.*

¹⁸⁴ J. Berakat (11 December 2021), “Divisions as Palestinians in occupied West Bank cast local votes”, *Al Jazeera*

- *Impact on rule of law:* Changes made to the rule of law edifice have contributed to deepening the judicial and legal divide between the West Bank and Gaza Strip fueled by years of national division. The situation is likely to compound jurisdictional and judicial inconsistencies and may affect public confidence in rule of law institutions.
 - **Key lesson learned:** In stalled contexts, further analysis and monitoring are key to maintaining rule of law gains. The absence of a functioning PLC continues to erode the legitimacy of rule of law institutions. In this context, continuous monitoring of judicial activities, the justice sector and broader context, particularly by civil society, is crucial for safeguarding rule of law gains and human rights.

Lack of operationalization of the NLAS by the NLAC: During the period, the NLAC did not make progress towards the adoption of a legal aid law that would operationalize a state-sponsored mechanism for legal aid. This is due to the PBA's resistance to operationalize the NLAS over potential concerns of revenue losses for lawyers.

- *Impact on the rule of law:* The lack of a comprehensive and well-resourced mechanism for the systematic provision of legal aid continues to hamper access to justice for vulnerable litigants. This is particularly the case in relation to PSL cases, for which inadequate representation tends to disproportionately affect women and children.
 - **Key lesson learned:** The *sui generis* nature of the Palestinian legal landscape offers opportunities to incrementally operationalize key elements of a state-sponsored legal aid mechanism even in the absence of a legal aid law. The rollout of a legal aid mechanism pilot at the level of Ecclesiastical courts can provide opportunities to not only address key legal aid concerns, likely to affect most vulnerable Palestinians but also allay concerns over revenue losses among lawyers who practice both in front of Ecclesiastical and regular courts.

II. Monitoring¹⁸⁵ & Evaluation

Following a robust participatory methodology, the fourth Programme Board Meeting was organized in January. On this occasion, the 2020 main achievements were reviewed. As a result, the 2021 annual work plan was approved as well as the Mid-Term Evaluation conducted on the Programme in 2020. In view of this, a **Management Response** was adopted in February 2021, thereby setting out key actions for the implementation of the Mid-Term Evaluation's recommendations, against which progress is periodically reported. In addition, 10,449 households (6,897 households in West Bank and 3,552 households in Gaza Strip) took part in the 'Rule of Law and Access to Justice' survey conducted bi-annually by PCBS (*see output 1.2*) with support from Sawasya, and which informs progress against key programmatic targets (*see below Result and Resource Framework*).

¹⁸⁵ The monitoring of risks is assessed separately and regularly.

III. Research and Communication Products

Outcome I

	Timeline				Status
Action	Q 1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Knowledge products					
Report on the prospects for justice sector reintegration	X	X	X		The update was completed (<i>see output 1.3</i>)
Report on transitional justice	X	X	X	X	The development of a transitional justice strategy is initiated and is due to be completed in 2022 (<i>see output 1.3</i>).
Campaigns					
Awareness raising campaign on accountability frameworks	X	X	X	X	The process of development of the awareness raising campaign was initiated. However, turnover in media departments and the need for unifying approaches within the Outreach Campaign Committee hindered the process of development during the year. The campaign is due to be completed in 2022 (<i>see output 1.2</i>)
Advocacy campaign on justice sector reform by CSOs	X	X	X	X	The advocacy strategy was completed in 2021 and will serve as basis for the advocacy campaign in 2022 (<i>see output 1.4</i>).

Outcome II

	Timeline				Progress
Action	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	
Knowledge products					
Reports and regulations on the work of the High Judicial Council	X	X	X	X	The HJC published its first annual report this year (<i>see output 2.1</i>).
SOPs related to the investigation of torture cases	X	X	X		The SOPs were developed during the period and will be published following their adoption in 2022 (<i>see output 2.1</i>)
Updated standard operating procedures for the Human Rights Unit at the Attorney General's Office	X	X			The SOPs were developed during the period and are anticipated to be launched in 2022 (<i>see output 2.1</i>)
Legal aid standards for children	X	X	X		The legal aid standards are currently at the final stages of review by the PBA (including through piloting) and are anticipated to be adopted in 2022 (<i>see output 2.1</i>)
Code of Conduct for specialized juvenile judges and prosecutors	X	X	X	X	The code of conduct is under development by the AGO and the HJC and is anticipated to be adopted in 2022 (<i>see output 2.1</i>)
Campaigns					
Awareness raising on community policing		X	X	X	The process of development of the awareness raising campaign was initiated. However, turnover in media departments and the need for unifying approaches within the Outreach Campaign Committee hindered the process of development of the campaign (<i>see output 1.2</i>)
Promote police accountability	X	X	X		One interview was conducted on police accountability in March. In addition, the process of development of the awareness raising campaign was initiated. However, turnover in media departments and the need for unifying approaches within the Outreach Campaign Committee hindered the process of development of the campaign (<i>see output 1.2</i>)
Promote e-Justice services	X	X	X	X	The process of development of the awareness raising campaign was initiated. However, turnover in media departments and the need for unifying approaches within the Outreach Campaign Committee hindered the process of development of the campaign (<i>see output 1.2</i>)
Promote alternative dispute resolution	X	X	X	X	71,200 citizens had access to online and face-to-face content on alternative methods of resolving disputes (<i>see output 2.2</i>).

Outcome III

	Timeline				Progress
Action	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Campaigns					
At least one awareness raising campaign in partnership with CSO clinics on the availability of legal aid services (consultations, awareness, and representation), before family courts, with a specific focus on women and vulnerable communities	X	X	X	X	6,497 persons (92 percent women) accessed 338 legal information sessions (in person) organized by four family law specialized CSOs. In addition, 16 radio episodes and 56 livestreams were organized in addition to the publication of videos with a focus on domestic violence , alimony and divorce (see output 3.2).
At least one awareness raising campaign in partnership with the PBA clinic on the availability of legal aid services (consultations and representation), before regular courts, and rehabilitation centers to women, children and men in need	X	X	X	X	1,768 persons (78 percent women) accessed 115 legal information sessions in the Gaza Strip. The legal information sessions focused on issues related to women's rights in the Palestinian civil and criminal laws, and access to legal aid (see output 3.2).

Outcome IV

	Timeline				Progress
Action	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Knowledge products					
SOPs for the Inspection Department in the Supreme Judge Department	X	X	X		The draft bylaw and SOPs for the SJD Inspection Department were updated in line with Decree Law No. 8 of 2021 modifying Decree Law No. 3 of 2021. There are anticipated to be adopted and disseminated in 2022 (see output 4.1)
Needs assessment on human rights mainstreaming in family court litigation	X	X	X	X	The need assessment was developed during the period. It is anticipated to be adjusted for dissemination in 2022 (see output 4.1).
Campaign					
Advocacy and awareness raising on responsive legislations to ensure women's access to justice	X	X	X	X	60,000 accessed content on the FPB on TV and the radio on the occasion of the 16 days of activism (see output 4.3).

Completion of communication objectives

Tool Proposed	Indicators of Achievement	Targets	Progress
Local media	Number of articles/press releases published on <i>Sawasya</i> .	1 article every three months	At least, 5 articles/press releases were issued pertaining to the justice reform conference (output 1.4) , on the PNSA standardized programme (output 1.2) , judicial proceedings in Palestine under COVID-19 , judicial training (output 2.1) , arbitration (output 2.2) ¹⁸⁶ as well as on the programme board meeting. ¹⁸⁷
Web-based online tools - social media	Number of social media posts Number of additional likes on Sawasya's Facebook page Number of views on social media content	1 social media post every two days 20 additional likes per month 200 views per month	98 instances of social media content were posted during the period (target is about 182). ¹⁸⁸ An additional 736 likes were registered during the period (around 61 likes/month) as well as 3,180 views (around 265/month on average)
Meetings / workshops / Conferences / public events	Number of persons involved in meetings (disaggregated by gender) Numbers of meetings / conferences / visits / public events etc.	5-8 persons per training (in line with COVID-19 restrictions)/3 per month	During the period, an average of 40/month training sessions were organized by the Programme or partners, with an average of 6 participants.
Radio	Number of radio spots / episodes produced Number of radio channels that host discussions related to the Joint Programme	One episode every two months/1 radio channel per quarter	25 radio episodes were produced during the period that related to the Programme (on average over 2/month)

¹⁸⁶ Samanews

¹⁸⁷ Public prosecution website

¹⁸⁸ A dedicated communications coordinator will be recruited in 2022.

Publications and promotional materials	<p>Number of copies disseminated (from different publications and promotional materials)</p> <p>Banners</p> <p>Rollups</p> <p>Notebooks</p> <p>Leaflets</p> <p>Masks</p>	<p>Most of the project products will be published online for environmentally friendly dissemination and value-for-money</p> <p>2 banners (the number identified refers to the banners that will be produced by the Joint Programme only)</p> <p>5 roll ups (the number identified refers to the rollups that will be produced by the Joint Programme only)</p> <p>1000 Notebooks</p> <p>1000 Leaflets</p> <p>500 Masks</p>	<p>1 banner</p> <p>6 rollups</p> <p>270 notebooks</p> <p>500 leaflets</p> <p>0 mask were produced during the period</p>
Videos	Number of videos produced related to the Joint Programme	One video every quarter	<p><i>Sawasya</i> directly produced two videos on legal aid and on the occasion of the International Women's Day. In addition, videos were produced on videos with a focus on domestic violence, alimony and divorce</p>

IV. Result & Resource Framework

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
SAWASYA II OVERALL GOAL: A FUNCTIONING AND INCLUSIVE RULE OF LAW SYSTEM THAT RESPECTS, PROTECTS AND FULFILLS HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY, AND PROMOTES PEACE AND SECURITY			
Indicator G-1: Percentage of public who have trust in the Palestinian Civil Police. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 64.1% (Men: 65.3%, Women: 62.9%). Public perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned target:</u> Increase of 1% by 2020	Total: 70.3% Men: 70.6% Women: 69.9% 8.6% increase against the bi-annual target.		PCBS
Indicator G-2: Percentage of public who have trust in the judiciary. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 57.7% (Men: 60.2%, Women: 55.1%). Public perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned target:</u> Increase of 1% by 2020	Total: 65.0% Men: 65.3% Women: 64.8% 11.5% increase against the bi-annual target		PCBS
Indicator G-3: % of Palestinian public who are satisfied with the performance of the police. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age.</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 56.9% (Men: 57.1%; Women: 56.7%). Public perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned target:</u> Increase of 2% by 2020	Total: 63.1% Men: 63.1% Women: 63.2% 8.7% increase against the bi-annual target		PCBS
Indicator G-4: % of Palestinian public who are satisfied with the performance of judges. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 44.9% (Men: 47.1%, Women: 42.6%). Public perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned target:</u> Increase of 2% by 2020	Total: 53.9% Men: 54.6% Women: 53.2% 17.7% increase against the bi-annual target		PCBS
OUTCOME 1: RULE OF LAW INSTITUTIONS ARE STRENGTHENED AND REUNIFIED BY LEGAL, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS			

<p>Indicator 1.1: Number of existing/new laws amended/adopted in line with international standards <u>Baseline:</u> 1 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 2 (yearly)</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 that introduces provisions to the Juvenile Protection Law that reinforces guarantees of confidentiality - Adoption of Decree-Law No. 01 of 2021 that introduces quotas for women's representation in electoral lists (amending Decree-Law No. 1 of 2007 on general elections) - Adoption of Decree-Law No. 25 of 2021 for the publication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Palestinian Official Gazette (issue No. 181 in July 2021) <p>50% increase against the annual target.</p>		<p>Palestinian Official Gazette</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2: Number of policies/regulatory framework/plans adopted in line with international standards <u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 2 (yearly)</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>FJPU helpline procedural guidelines were adopted by the Chief of Police.</i> - <i>Cybercrime guidelines developed in 2019, were adopted by the Chief of Police</i> - <i>Three emergency plans on the management of VAW cases (HJC/PCP/MOSD) were endorsed by the Chief of Police, the Chief Justice and the Minister of Justice.</i> <p>0% increase against the annual target</p>	<p><i>The emergency plans at the level of the PCP and MOSD were already reported against the target in 2020. Therefore, the HJC emergency plan is reported against the target this year.</i></p>	<p>Institutional partners</p>

Indicator 1.3: Number of policies/harmonized laws/plans linked to the Gaza/WB reunification process adopted. <u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 2 (yearly)	0 <i>Unmet annual target.</i>	<i>Given the lack of political impetus on this front, efforts were geared towards the development of evidence-based knowledge products that will inform the position of civil society moving forward.</i>	Institutional partners
Output 1.1: Key legislations are revised to strengthen the independence of the Rule of Law institutions and ensure their consistency with international standards			
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of laws reviewed/revised to align with HR standards <u>Baseline:</u> 2 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 2 (yearly)	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Juvenile Protection Law was revised through Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 that introduces provisions that reinforce guarantees of confidentiality - The decree-Law No. 1 of 2007 on general elections was revised through the adoption of Decree-Law No. 01 of 2021 that introduces quotas for women's representation in electoral lists Annual target met.		Palestinian Official Gazette Institutional partners
Output 1.2: Evidence-based planning and policy development in the justice and security sector is strengthened through enhanced data collection, monitoring and evaluation (in alignment with SDG/HR indicators)			
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of annual integrated work plan adopted in the framework of the justice and security sector strategies <u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 1 (yearly)	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2021 annual work plan of the High Judicial Council - PCP strategy bi-annual action plan for the years 2021-2023 100% increase against the annual target.		Institutional partners
Output 1.3: West Bank and Gaza Rule of Law institutions are reunified			
Indicator 1.3.1: Number of policies, harmonized laws, plans linked to the Gaza/WB reunification process developed <u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 2 (yearly)	0 100% decrease against the annual target.	<i>Work during the period focused on the production of knowledge that can inform CSO strategy on this front, including through the update of the "Prospects for Justice Sector Reintegration in the State of Palestine" report.</i>	Institutional partners

Output 1.4: Advocacy on strengthening rule of law institutions and promoting HR is reinforced			
Indicator 1.4.1: Number of monitoring reports on the justice and security sectors published and supported by the project <u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> 2 (yearly)	1 The “Rule of Law and Justice Survey” was produced by PCBS. Annual target unmet.	<i>The court monitoring report will be produced in 2022, following delays due to the COVID-19 epidemiological situation.</i>	PCBS/CSOs
OUTCOME 2: SERVICE PROVISION BY RULE OF LAW INSTITUTIONS IS EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND INCLUSIVE			
Indicator 2.1: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 52.3% (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> Decrease of 1% (yearly)	Data unavailable.	<i>Not available during the period due to delays in producing and verifying data.</i>	PCBS
Indicator 2.2: Number of children in conflict with the Palestinian law detained at the Family and Juvenile Protection units. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 386 (385 boys and 1 girl) (2017) <u>Planned Target:</u> Decrease of 3% (yearly)	Data unavailable.	<i>Not available during the period due to delays in producing and verifying data.</i>	FJPU
Indicator 2.3: Public perception of a free trial: "Level of confidence that you will receive a fair trial if you were charged with committing a criminal act/delinquency". <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 39.8% (Men: 41.2%; Women: 38.5%). Public perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 10% by 2020	Total: 44.6% Men: 44.6% Women: 44.4% 1.9% increase against the annual target.		PCBS
Output 2.1: Quality and efficiency of security and justice services provided to the Palestinians are improved			
Indicator 2.1.1: Percentage of public aware of the PCP community policing strategy <u>Baseline:</u> Jericho pilot district:15.9% (Men: 21.4%; Women: 9.0%). [General: 10.9% (Men: 13.6%; Women:8.2%)]. Public perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 10% in pilot areas by 2020	Total: 26.2% Men: 27.3% Women: 25.1% 49.8% increase against the annual target.		PCBS

<p>Indicator 2.1.2.: % of judgements enforced. <i>Disaggregated by criminal and civil, including family courts and pilot/non pilot areas</i></p> <p>Baseline: For Family Courts: N.A (2018) For Conciliation Courts: 62.7% (2018) For First Instance Courts: 69.2% (2018)</p> <p>Hebron pilot area baseline: For Family Courts: N.A (2018) For Conciliation Courts: 60.6% (2018) For First Instance Courts: 66.1% (2018)</p> <p>Planned Target: Increase of 1% in the pilot areas (yearly)</p>	<p>Non-Pilot Areas: For Family Courts: N/A% For Conciliation Courts: 84.7% (31.11% increase against annual target) For First Instance Courts: 80.8% (13.3% increase against annual target)</p> <p>Hebron pilot area: For Family Courts: N/A% For Conciliation Courts: 67.3% (7.8% increase against annual target) For First Instance Courts: 120.7% (77.2% increase against annual target)</p>		Mizan II
<p>Indicator 2.1.3: % of justice sector users who are satisfied with the performance of HJC Mizan IT system. <i>Disaggregated by sex and age</i></p> <p>Baseline: 88.9% (Practicing lawyers: 84.4%; Prosecutors: 91.6%; Regular Judges: 90.7%). Direct users' perception survey (2018) ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) Planned Target: Increase of 2% by 2020</p>	<p>Total: 90.1% (0.6% decrease against the annual target) Practicing Lawyers: 85.2% (1% per cent decrease against the annual target) Prosecutors: 90.3% (3.4% decrease against the annual target) Regular Judges: 94.7% (2.4% increase against the annual target)</p>		PCBS
<p>Indicator 2.1.4.: % of children sentenced receiving a custodial sentence</p> <p>Baseline: 26.6 (2017) Planned Target: Decrease of 1% (yearly)</p>	<p>21.4%</p> <p>16.2% decrease against the annual target</p>		Mizan II
<p>Indicator 2.1.5.: % of children who benefit from alternatives to detention</p> <p>Baseline: 58.1% (2017) Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)</p>	<p>64.6%</p> <p>6.8% increase against the annual target</p>		Mizan II
<p>Indicator 2.1.6.: % of children who benefit from mediation in the investigation process as alternative to detention</p> <p>Baseline: 31%¹⁸⁹ (2017). Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)</p>	<p>57.2%</p> <p>77.3% increase against the annual target</p>		Mizan II

¹⁸⁹ An error in the baseline reflecting year 2017 was identified; previously 60.6%

Output 2.2: Quality and efficiency of security and justice services provided to areas unserved by the Palestinian government are improved			
Indicator 2.2.1.: % of judgements enforced in area unserved by the PA. <i>Disaggregated by pilot/non pilot areas</i> <u>Baseline:</u> (2018) Palestine: 61.3% Hebron pilot district: 72.5% (69.2% Area C) (data from criminal/family cases N/A) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 1% in the pilot areas (yearly)	Non-Pilot Areas: Area C: 65.0% (2.9% increase against annual target) Hebron pilot area: Area C: 66.7% (6.4% decrease against annual target)		Mizan II
Indicator 2.2.2.: Number of security and justice related community services provided with the support of the project in the pilot areas <u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2018) <u>Planned Target:</u> 5 (yearly)	0	<i>Services remain to be rolled out, as implementation was hindered by COVID-19 and critical turnover at the level of the PCP.</i>	Institutional partners
OUTCOME 3: ALL PALESTINIANS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS, HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE, SECURITY AND PROTECTION WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION			
Indicator 3.1: Percentage of public aware of the existence of legal aid services supported by the PG. <i>Disaggregated by sex, age and Palestinian/Israeli jurisdictions</i> <u>Baseline:</u> Percentage of public aware of legal aid services provided by the following PG's institutions: <i>The Prosecutors and Courts:</i> 15.5 <i>The Prisoners Affairs Committee:</i> 39.8% <i>Colonization and Wall Resistance Committee:</i> 21.5% <i>The Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs:</i> 17.9% <i>Prisoner Club:</i> 39.4%. Public perception survey (2018). ('Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey'/PCBS) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 2% by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court-fund: 19.1% Result against target: 20.8% increase • The Prisoners Affairs Committee: 44.8% Result against target: 10.4% increase • Colonization and Wall Resistance Committee: 22.7% Result against target: 3.5% increase • The Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs: 19.4% Result against target: 6.3% increase • Prisoner Club: 46.0% Result against target: 14.5% increase 		PCBS
3.2 Indicator: Percentage of public satisfied of the legal aid services provided by the PG. <i>Disaggregated by sex, age and Palestinian/Israeli jurisdictions</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 41.3%. Public perception survey (2018).	80.7% 91.6% increase compared to the annual		PCBS

(‘Rule of Law and Access to Justice Survey’/PCBS) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 2% by 2020	target.																										
Output 3.1: Vulnerable populations have access to justice, security and protection																											
<u>Indicator 3.1.1.:</u> Number of individuals living in area served by the PG who benefited from legal aid services supported by the project. <i>Disaggregated by age, gender, geographical area, type of jurisdiction (Palestinian/Israeli) and type of legal aid providers (CSO or PG)</i> <u>Baseline:</u> Provision of legal aid services by CSOs (area A/B) Total (2018): 3622 (1931 male, 1691 female) Provision of legal aid by PG: 608 Provision of legal aid by CSOs: 3014 <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 1% (yearly)	<u>Total:</u> 749 (286 men, 143 women, 289 boys, and 31 girls) 75.9% decrease compared to the annual Target. PG: 80 (12 Men, 65 Boys, and 3 Girls) 87.2% decrease compared to annual target of 2020. <table><tr><th>Type of services provided</th><th>Gender</th><th>No. of Beneficiaries</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">Legal Consultation</td><td>Male</td><td>141</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>121</td></tr><tr><td>Boys</td><td>51</td></tr><tr><td>Girls</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">Legal Representation</td><td>Male</td><td>145</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>Boys</td><td>238</td></tr><tr><td>Girls</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td>749</td></tr></table> <i>Cases in the Israeli judiciary = 244 (90 consultations, 154 representations)</i> <i>Cases in the Palestinian judiciary= 505 (243 consultations, 262 representations)</i>		Type of services provided	Gender	No. of Beneficiaries	Legal Consultation	Male	141	Female	121	Boys	51	Girls	20	Legal Representation	Male	145	Female	22	Boys	238	Girls	11	Total		749	CSOs
Type of services provided	Gender	No. of Beneficiaries																									
Legal Consultation	Male	141																									
	Female	121																									
	Boys	51																									
	Girls	20																									
Legal Representation	Male	145																									
	Female	22																									
	Boys	238																									
	Girls	11																									
Total		749																									

Indicator 3.1.2.: Number of individuals living in area served by the PG who benefited from legal awareness services supported by the project. <i>Disaggregated by gender, geographical area</i> Baseline (2018): 463 (328 male, 135 female) Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)	Total: 1,541 (285 men, 499 women, 525 boys, and 232 girls) 223.0% increase compared to the annual target 118,246 viewers in the West Bank had access to legal awareness online content. However, viewers could not be disaggregated between the various areas of the West Bank and they include East Jerusalem.		CSOs																																																		
Output 3.2: Vulnerable populations in areas unserved by the Palestinian government have access to justice, security and protection																																																					
Indicator 3.2.1: Number of individuals living in areas unserved by the PG who benefited from legal aid services supported by the project. <i>Disaggregated by age, gender, geographical area (area C, H2, EJ, Gaza), type of jurisdiction (Palestinian/Israeli/Gaza de facto) and type legal aid providers (CSO or PG)</i> Baseline (2018): 6583 (3272 male, 3311 female) Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)	Total: 14,816 individuals (2,593 men; 11,205 women; 975 boys and 43 girls) 81.8% of cases were related to Palestinian Jurisdiction. 118.5% increase against annual target <table><tr><th>Type</th><th colspan="2">Female</th><th colspan="2">Male</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Adults</td><td>Girls</td><td>Adults</td><td>Boys</td></tr><tr><td>Cons.</td><td>7,947</td><td>7</td><td>1,697</td><td>515</td></tr><tr><td>Rep.</td><td>3,258</td><td>36</td><td>896</td><td>460</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>11,205</td><td>43</td><td>2593</td><td>975</td></tr></table> GS: Total: 12,407 individuals (2,145 men, 9,864 women, 368 boys, and 30 girls) 96.3% of cases were related to Palestinian Jurisdiction. <table><tr><th>Type</th><th colspan="2">Female</th><th colspan="2">Male</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Adults</td><td>Girls</td><td>Adults</td><td>Boys</td></tr><tr><td>Cons.</td><td>7,055</td><td>3</td><td>1,457</td><td>39</td></tr><tr><td>Rep.</td><td>2,809</td><td>27</td><td>688</td><td>329</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9,864</td><td>30</td><td>2,145</td><td>368</td></tr></table> EJ:	Type	Female		Male			Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys	Cons.	7,947	7	1,697	515	Rep.	3,258	36	896	460	Total	11,205	43	2593	975	Type	Female		Male			Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys	Cons.	7,055	3	1,457	39	Rep.	2,809	27	688	329	Total	9,864	30	2,145	368	<i>All legal aid services were provided by CSOs.</i>	CSOs
Type	Female		Male																																																		
	Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys																																																	
Cons.	7,947	7	1,697	515																																																	
Rep.	3,258	36	896	460																																																	
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Rep.	2,809	27	688	329																																																	
Total	9,864	30	2,145	368																																																	

	<p>Total: 2,212 individuals (372 men, 1,220 women, 607 boys, and 13 girls) 2.4% of cases were related to Palestinian Jurisdiction.</p> <table><tr><th>Type</th><th colspan="2">Female</th><th colspan="2">Male</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Adults</td><td>Girls</td><td>Adults</td><td>Boys</td></tr><tr><td>Cons.</td><td>796</td><td>4</td><td>208</td><td>476</td></tr><tr><td>Rep.</td><td>424</td><td>9</td><td>164</td><td>131</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>1220</td><td>13</td><td>372</td><td>607</td></tr></table> <p>Area C: Total: 156 individuals (55men, 101 women, 0 boys, and 0 girls) 66.7% of cases were related to Palestinian Jurisdiction.</p> <table><tr><th>Type</th><th colspan="2">Female</th><th colspan="2">Male</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Adults</td><td>Girls</td><td>Adults</td><td>Boys</td></tr><tr><td>Cons.</td><td>76</td><td>0</td><td>25</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Rep.</td><td>25</td><td>0</td><td>30</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>101</td><td>0</td><td>55</td><td>0</td></tr></table> <p>Hebron H2: Total: 41 individuals (21 men, 20 women, 0 boys, and 0 girls) 48.8% of cases were related to Palestinian Jurisdiction.</p>	Type	Female		Male			Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys	Cons.	796	4	208	476	Rep.	424	9	164	131	Total	1220	13	372	607	Type	Female		Male			Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys	Cons.	76	0	25	0	Rep.	25	0	30	0	Total	101	0	55	0	
Type	Female		Male																																																	
	Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys																																																
Cons.	796	4	208	476																																																
Rep.	424	9	164	131																																																
Total	1220	13	372	607																																																
Type	Female		Male																																																	
	Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys																																																
Cons.	76	0	25	0																																																
Rep.	25	0	30	0																																																
Total	101	0	55	0																																																
<p>Indicator 3.2.2.: Number of individuals living in areas unserved by the PG who benefited from legal awareness services supported by the project. <i>Disaggregated by gender, geographical area (area C, H2, EJ, Gaza)</i> <u>Baseline (2018):</u> 4444 (1401 male, 3043 female) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 1% (yearly)</p>	<p>Total: 11,643 (3,011 men, 8469 women, 83 boys, and 80 girls)</p> <p><i>154.3% increase against the annual target of 2021.</i></p> <p>Social media users who were sensitized online: 380,072 (Disaggregation N/A).</p> <p>GS: Total: 10,904_(2,785 men, 8,101 women, 0 boys, and 18 girls)</p>	CSOs																																																		

	<p>Social media users who were sensitized online: 380,072 (Disaggregation N/A).</p> <p>EJ: Total: 432 (33 men, 254 women, 83 boys, and 62 girls) Social media users who were sensitized online: 0 (Disaggregation N/A).</p> <p>Area C:</p> <p>Total: 215 (167men, 48 women, 0 boys, and 0 girls) Social media users who were sensitized online: 0 (Disaggregation N/A).</p> <p>H2:</p> <p>Total: 92 (26 men, 66 women, 0 boys, and 0 girls) Social media users who were sensitized online: 0 (Disaggregation N/A).</p> <table><tr><th>Type</th><th colspan="2">Female</th><th colspan="2">Male</th></tr><tr><td></td><th>Adults</th><th>Girls</th><th>Adults</th><th>Boys</th></tr><tr><td>GS</td><td>8101</td><td>18</td><td>2785</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>EJ</td><td>254</td><td>62</td><td>33</td><td>83</td></tr><tr><td>Area C</td><td>48</td><td>0</td><td>167</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>H2</td><td>66</td><td>0</td><td>26</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>8469</td><td>80</td><td>3011</td><td>83</td></tr></table>	Type	Female		Male			Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys	GS	8101	18	2785	0	EJ	254	62	33	83	Area C	48	0	167	0	H2	66	0	26	0	Total	8469	80	3011	83	
Type	Female		Male																																		
	Adults	Girls	Adults	Boys																																	
GS	8101	18	2785	0																																	
EJ	254	62	33	83																																	
Area C	48	0	167	0																																	
H2	66	0	26	0																																	
Total	8469	80	3011	83																																	
<p>Indicator 3.2.3.: Number of children living in areas unserved by the PG who benefited from legal aid services supported by the project. <i>Disaggregated by age, gender, geographical area and Palestinian/Israeli/Gaza de facto jurisdictions</i> <u>Baseline:</u> 209 (2018) (Boys: 183; Girls: 26) Gaza: 72 (26 female)</p>	<p>Total: 1018 (975 boys, 43 girls). 372.8% increase against annual target.</p> <p>33.4% of cases were related to Palestinian Jurisdiction.</p> <table><tr><th>Type</th><th>Gender</th></tr></table>	Type	Gender	CSOs																																	
Type	Gender																																				

EJ: 137 (0 female)		Boys	Girls			
Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)	EJ	607	13			
	GS	368	30			
	Total	975	43			
OUTCOME 4: WOMEN’S ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SECURITY IMPROVED THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN						
Indicator 4.1: Number of cases on violence against women filed with FJPU annually Baseline: 3,346 (2017) Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)	Data unavailable.			Not available during the period due to delays in producing and verifying data.		PCP
Indicator 4.2: Number of cases on VAW that were transferred by public prosecution to courts. Disaggregated by type of case and age. Baseline: 2,263 (2017) Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)	46.5% increase compared to the annual target of 2021.					Mizan II
	Age Groups	Type of Crime	N. of Cases			
	18 and less	Felonies	9			
		Misdemeanours	131			
	19-29	Felonies	11			
		Misdemeanours	866			
	30-44	Felonies	26			
		Misdemeanours	1,334			
	45 and above	Felonies	14			
		Misdemeanours	1,060			
	Sub Total	Felonies	60			
		Misdemeanours	3,391			
	Total		3,451			
Indicator 4.3: Number of VAW cases that are convicted (including types of cases, types of sentences) Baseline: 638 (2017) Planned Target: Increase of 1% (yearly)	57.3% increase compared to the annual target of 2021.					Mizan II
	Age Groups	Type of Crime	N. of Cases			
	18 and less	Felonies	2			
		Misdemeanours	44			
	19-29	Felonies	6			
		Misdemeanours	303			

	<table><tr><td rowspan="2">30-44</td><td>Felonies</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Misdemeanours</td><td>373</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">45 and above</td><td>Felonies</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Misdemeanours</td><td>303</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Sub Total</td><td>Felonies</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Misdemeanours</td><td>1,023</td></tr></table>	30-44	Felonies	8	Misdemeanours	373	45 and above	Felonies	5	Misdemeanours	303	Sub Total	Felonies	21	Misdemeanours	1,023		
30-44	Felonies		8															
	Misdemeanours	373																
45 and above	Felonies	5																
	Misdemeanours	303																
Sub Total	Felonies	21																
	Misdemeanours	1,023																
Output 4.1: Capacity of Rule of Law institutions to respond to needs of women are improved																		
Indicator 4.1.1: Number of tools (policies, strategies, SOPS, etc) developed to deal with VAW cases in line with international standards Baseline: 0 (2017) Planned Target: 2 (yearly)	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The instructive guidelines for VAW prosecutors were finalized with a view to help them form legal arguments that contribute to improving immediate services to VAW survivors.- The VAW SOPs were finalized by the HJC with a view to unify standards and procedures for case management and adjudication. The annual target met.		Institutional partners															
Output 4.2: New practices of justice and security service providers are supported to transform their attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls																		
Indicator 4.2.1: Number of gender champions (e.g., focal points, agents of change, leaders, etc) and role models identified and promoted within justice and security institutions Baseline: 22 (2018) Planned Target: Increase of 5% (yearly)	37 gender champions: 45.3% increase against annual target.		N/A															
Output 4.3: Women have access to justice, security and protection																		
Indicator 4.3.1: Number of women who benefited from legal aid services supported by the project. Disaggregated by age, geographical area and Palestinian/Israeli/Gaza de facto jurisdictions Baseline: 5,938 (adults: 5401, juveniles:537) (2017). Consultations: 3,408 (adults: 3,197, juveniles: 211) (2017). Representations: 2,530 (adults: 2,204, juveniles: 326) (2017) Planned Tar	Total: 11,422 (11,348 Women, 74 girls). 84.9% increase compared to the annual target <table><tr><th rowspan="2">Type</th><th colspan="2">Gender</th></tr><tr><th>Women</th><th>Girls</th></tr><tr><td>A&B</td><td>143</td><td>31</td></tr></table>	Type	Gender		Women	Girls	A&B	143	31		CSOs							
Type	Gender																	
	Women	Girls																
A&B	143	31																

get: Increase of 1% (yearly)	Area C	101	0			
	EJ	1220	13			
	GS	9,864	30			
	H2	20	0			
	Total	11,348	74			
Indicator 4.3.2.: Number of women who benefited from legal aid services supported by the PG. <i>Disaggregated by age geographical area and Palestinian/Israeli jurisdictions</i> <u>Baseline:</u> N/A <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 1% (yearly)	Total: 3 (all girls)					N/A
Indicator 4.3.3: Number of people (disaggregated by sex) targeted with awareness and sensitization interventions on women's rights <u>Baseline (2017):</u> 35,334 (men: 5,432 women: 9,574, children: 20,484) <u>Planned Target:</u> Increase of 1% (yearly)	Total: 13,184 individuals (3,296 Men; 8968 Women; 608 boys and 312 girls). (Reported under 3.2) 64.1 decrease against the annual target					CSOs