Country: occupied Palestinian territory

Programme Title: Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on women's

economic participation in the State of Palestine

# Signature Page

	Signature:	
Lypp Hastings	oignatare.	
Lynn Hastings		
hastingsl@un.org	Date:	28 June 2021
UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People	<b>.</b>	
	Signature:	
Special Representative of the Administrator		
yvonne.helle@undp.org	Date:	27-Jun-2021
UN Women		
Maryse Guimond S	Signature:	
Special Representative		
maryse.guimond@unwomen.org	Date:	28-juin-2021
World Food Programme		
_	Signature:	
Representative & Country Director	oignatare.	
	Date:	
Sumeriabacijasci e wipioig	Dutc.	28-Jun-2021
Food and Agriculture Organization		
Ciro Fiorillo S	Signature:	
Head of Office		
Ciro.Fiorillo@fao.org	Date:	26-giu-2021

# **DocuSign**

#### **Certificate Of Completion**

Envelope Id: DC14A57D4F8C49AC89CDE5975F6A7995

Subject: Please DocuSign: MPTF JP Women's Econ Emp UNDP\_UNW\_FAO\_WFP Signature.docx

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 1
Certificate Pages: 6

AutoNav: Enabled

**Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled** 

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Status: Sent

Envelope Originator:

Chitose

One United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017 chitose.noguchi@undp.org IP Address: 109.67.66.63

#### Record Tracking

Status: Original

6/26/2021 8:59:18 AM

Holder: Chitose

Signatures: 4

Initials: 0

chitose.noguchi@undp.org

Location: DocuSign

#### Signer Events

Ciro Fiorillo

Ciro.Fiorillo@fao.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)

## Signature

Signature Adoption: Drawn on Device Using IP Address: 2.53.129.158

Signed using mobile

#### **Timestamp**

Sent: 6/26/2021 9:26:26 AM Viewed: 6/26/2021 9:30:11 AM Signed: 6/26/2021 9:37:07 AM

### Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 6/26/2021 9:30:11 AM

ID: d17736b1-8934-4785-b269-9e97477a7bc1

Maryse Guimond

maryse.guimond@unwomen.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)

Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image

Using IP Address: 188.225.185.136

Sent: 6/26/2021 9:26:25 AM Viewed: 6/27/2021 9:19:02 PM Signed: 6/27/2021 9:24:30 PM

#### Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 6/27/2021 9:19:02 PM

ID: d672643f-5b31-4d68-8a82-3bd8a934af7b

Samer AbdelJaber

samer.abdeljaber@wfp.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)



Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 31.154.181.38

Sent: 6/26/2021 9:26:26 AM Viewed: 6/28/2021 3:55:34 AM Signed: 6/28/2021 3:56:27 AM

#### **Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 6/28/2021 3:55:34 AM

ID: c8168e11-5951-417e-a02d-0fdfe28aa867

Yvonne Helle

yvonne.helle@undp.org

Special Representative UNDP PAPP

**UNDP Headquarters** 

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via DocuSign



Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image

Using IP Address: 80.178.190.1

Signed using mobile

Sent: 6/26/2021 9:26:25 AM Viewed: 6/27/2021 12:13:33 PM Signed: 6/27/2021 12:13:38 PM **Signer Events** Signature **Timestamp** Lynn Hastings hastingsl@un.org 28 June 2021 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) **Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** Not Offered via DocuSign In Person Signer Events **Signature Timestamp Editor Delivery Events Status** Timestamp Ruba Aladham Sent: 6/28/2021 3:56:29 AM ruba.aladham@undp.org Viewed: 6/28/2021 3:56:58 AM **UNDP** Headquarters Security Level: Email, Account Authentication **Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** Not Offered via DocuSign **Agent Delivery Events Status Timestamp Intermediary Delivery Events Status Timestamp Certified Delivery Events Status Timestamp Status Carbon Copy Events Timestamp** Azzam Saleh Sent: 6/28/2021 3:56:29 AM COPIED Azzam.saleh@fao.org Security Level: Email, Account Authentication **Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** Not Offered via DocuSign Inas SESALIM Sent: 6/28/2021 3:56:28 AM COPIED inas.sesalim@wfp.org Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** 

Not Offered via DocuSign

Laura TURNER laura.turner@wfp.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** 

Not Offered via DocuSign

Sveva Pettorino

sveva.pettorino@un.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** 

Accepted: 6/6/2021 11:14:25 PM

ID: 34476edc-a562-4671-bd56-1ced346753ab

Sveva Pettorino

sveva.pettorino@un.org

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication

(None)

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:** 

Accepted: 6/6/2021 11:14:25 PM

ID: 34476edc-a562-4671-bd56-1ced346753ab

COPIED

COPIED

Sent: 6/28/2021 3:56:29 AM

Sent: 6/28/2021 3:56:28 AM Viewed: 6/28/2021 3:58:12 AM

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp						
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp						
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps						
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	6/26/2021 9:26:26 AM						
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps						
<b>Electronic Record and Signature Disc</b>	Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure							

#### ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE

From time to time, United Nations Development Program (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

# **Getting paper copies**

At any time, you may request from us a paper copy of any record provided or made available electronically to you by us. You will have the ability to download and print documents we send to you through the DocuSign system during and immediately after the signing session and, if you elect to create a DocuSign account, you may access the documents for a limited period of time (usually 30 days) after such documents are first sent to you. After such time, if you wish for us to send you paper copies of any such documents from our office to you, you will be charged a \$0.00 per-page fee. You may request delivery of such paper copies from us by following the procedure described below.

#### Withdrawing your consent

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

#### Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

#### All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

### **How to contact United Nations Development Program:**

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: olivier.simah@undp.org

#### To advise United Nations Development Program of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at olivier.simah@undp.org and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

### To request paper copies from United Nations Development Program

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to olivier.simah@undp.org and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

### To withdraw your consent with United Nations Development Program

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;

ii. send us an email to olivier.simah@undp.org and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

## Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <a href="https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements">https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements</a>.

### Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures', you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify United Nations Development Program as described above, you
  consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures,
  authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided
  or made available to you by United Nations Development Program during the course of
  your relationship with United Nations Development Program.

# **General Information**

Fund	MPTF_00209: UN COVID-19 MPTF										
Title	Mitigating the impacts of	Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on women's economic participation in the State of Palestine									
MPTFO Project Id											
Start Date											
End Date											
Contacts	Contact Type	Name	e-mail	Position	Additional e-mail	Telephone	Skype				
		Henrik Moeberg	henrik.moeberg@un.org								
		Chitose Noguchi	chitose.noguchi@undp.org	Deputy Special Represe ntative of the Adminis trator a.i.		972-54- 8173948					
		lnas Margieh	inas.margieh@unwomen.org								
	.,	Sveva Pettorino	sveva.pettorino@un.org								
		Ruba Aladham	ruba.aladham@undp.org								
Description	Gaza, to prevent a further business continuity of wor It will reorient production adopt new business mode plans to ensure business of strengthening their competinance. Elements of social child-care services and eq	The joint programme addresses the negative impact of COVID-19 on women-led MSMEs in the West Bank at Gaza, to prevent a further decline in their economic participation and access to markets. The interventions is business continuity of women-owned businesses, and help to build their resilience to COVID-19 and future. It will reorient production towards immediate and emerging needs so they can remain in business, help their adopt new business models to reach new customers, consolidate their supply chains, and develop continger plans to ensure business continuity. Additionally, it aims to improve women's engagement in the supply chains to ensure business continuity. Additionally, it aims to improve women's engagement in the supply chains to ensure business continuity. Additionally, it aims to improve women's engagement in the supply chains. Strengthening their competitiveness, access to new markets, private and public procurement opportunities at finance. Elements of social protection are also mainstreamed into the programme, by advocating and promochild-care services and equitable sharing of unpaid care and household responsibilities to facilitate women's economic participation, protect their well-being and agency.									
Universal	Gender Equality Marker	Risk			OECD-DA	C					
Markers	<ul> <li>GEM3 - GEWE is the principal objective of the Key Activity</li> </ul>	• 1	Medium Risk								

.1			Fund manage	ement platforn	n			
Fund Specific Markers	Fund Windows	Fund Windo  • Windov		e Social Ir	npact a	nd Promote	Economic Response	
	Human Rights Based Approach to COVID19 Response	HRBA integr	<ul><li>HRBA integrated</li><li>● Yes</li></ul>					
	Primary Socio-Economic Pillars	Pillars  • Pillar 3: Economic Response and Recovery						
	Concept Note Type	Type • Funding						
Geographical	Geographical Scope	Name of the	Region		Regio	n(s)	Country(ies)	
Scope	Regional				• ,	Asia	State of Palestine	
Participating Organizations	Participating Organizations	NGOs New Entitie		ities	Implemen		nting Partners	
and their Implementing Partners	<ul><li>FAO</li><li>UNDP</li><li>UNWOMEN</li><li>WFP</li></ul>							
Programme and	Budget	Agency		Amount			Comments	
Project Cost	<b>Budget Requested</b>			\$850,000				
	Total			\$850,000				
Keywords								
Programme	Anticipated Start Date	Aug 01, 2021						
Duration	Duration (In months)	8						
	Anticipated End Date	Apr 01, 2022						
Comments	been updated to reflect de	evelopments on	Apr 01, 2022 figures and statistics as well as timelines, the budget and the results framework had elopments on the ground. These changes are assessed as being reasonable and do ith the original proposal, which remains strong and well-aligned with the Fund's					

# **Narratives**

Title	Text	Comments
CN_I. What is the specific need/problem the intervention seeks to address? Summarize the problem. Apply a gender lens to the analysis and description of the problem. Be explicit on who has established the need (plans, national	On 5 March 2020, the Palestinian Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency across the State of Palestine to contain the spread of COVID-19, where more than 25,000 cased were reported by 25 August 2020. A comprehensive set of strict containment and prevention measures have been put in place by the Government of Palestine to limit the spread of the virus, including movement restrictions, closing of kindergartens, schools and universities, as well as all temporary closures of businesses and economic establishments – except for essential food and health-related establishments (e.g. grocery stores, pharmacies). While in early August the Government moved towards gradual easing of restrictions, the socio-economic impacts of closure and economic downturn are expected to continue and will need comprehensive, participatory, cross-sectoral and gender responsive mitigation, response and recovery interventions by all actors.  In addition to the dire public health and humanitarian implications, the pandemic has caused a major negative shock to socio-economic development, putting at risk inter alia public welfare, employment and livelihoods, food security and social cohesion,	17. A very well made proposal, focused on women and MSMEs. That clarity makes it promising that supporting woman-led MSMEs will have an impact larger than the small amount of \$1 million shared by 4 agencies might normally achieve.

authorities, civil society, UN own analysis, or citizens).

with a differentiated impact on women. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) estimated that a three-month lockdown due to COVID-19 crisis would lead to a 2.7% decline in public revenue, 4.5% increase in unemployment and a decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 5.1% compared to 2019. Thus, it is expected that the GDP may decline by 14% in 2020 as compared to 2019 (PMA, 2020). A recent study by the Palestinian Monetary Authority indicated that 98% of businesses are small and medium sized, of which 25% are led by women. As micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) dominate the Palestinian economy, addressing the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis must include the strengthening of the resilience of Palestinian MSMEs, especially those led by women. The World Bank's recent assessment of COVID-19 impact in the State of Palestine also indicates serious repercussions on MSMEs through (i) falling demand, (ii) reduced input supply, (iii) tightening of credit conditions and liquidity crunch, (iv) lack of resources to setup remote work and (v) rising uncertainty.

The economic impact resulting from the widespread closure of businesses and industries, especially those led by women, puts increased financial strains on communities and families, particularly on segments of the population that are already vulnerable, including women and households headed by women. The current COVID-19 crisis is also expected to exacerbate the gendered challenges and barriers faced by women-led businesses, in addition to the gender-differentiated impact on women's labour force participation and employment. For instance, Palestinian women-led MSMEs are usually situated in the invisible economy and do not enjoy equal access to market and economic opportunities compared to men-led businesses, especially with the lack of gender responsive procurement practices by government and private institutions. These challenges are coupled with the fact that women leading MSMEs, as well as those employed in small businesses, have witnessed an increased unequal sharing of unpaid care and household responsibilities, as indicated in different rapid assessments conducted by UN Women and other national actors. In addition, women-led MSMEs tend to have less diverse networks, limited access to external markets, finance and exposure to business development support, and often lack adequate capacities in management, competitiveness and commercialization. Their production is usually at a small scale and the quality of the products does not comply with national and international standards, due to lack of quality production assistance provided during the crisis. Furthermore, many women-led enterprises display lower levels of confidence in their abilities as compared to men, mainly attributed to traditional gender constructs ingrained in society (Women's Entrepreneurship-Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2015).

Focusing on the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis and particularly on womenled enterprises in the State of Palestine, a <u>survey</u> conducted by UN Women at the beginning of the outbreak already showed that that 95% of women-led MSMEs were negatively affected by the crisis; 27% had already been forced to shut down, and 53% were thinking of laying off their workers in light of the financial constraints resulting from the ongoing crisis. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, most women-led MSMEs – including cooperatives, formal and informal income generating projects – face loss of income due to forced closures or operational constraints. In addition, the UN Women survey also found that 42% of women-led MSMEs witnessed a decrease in demand, 9% of them reported challenges due to movement restrictions and 7% reported limited childcare options to be able to continue operating. As a result of these challenges, 73% of women respondents reported that they could sustain their businesses under the current situation from one to four months only. The survey also showed that the MSMEs sector most affected by the ongoing crisis relates to food products - comprising 26% of the 301 women respondents, followed by the embroidery sector, with 20% of surveyed women-led MSMEs.

While the COVID-19 crisis has generated negative impact on virtually all productive sectors of the Palestinian economy, a clear example is the Palestinian food system and agri-food sector. This sector has historically played an important role not only in enabling food and nutrition security, but also in providing employment opportunities, economic resilience and livelihoods, especially in times of crisis. A recent survey conducted by the Small Enterprise Center (SEC) revealed that agro-processing industries were the most impacted by COVID-19 due to higher production and

logistics costs, as 83.8% of respondents pointed to unavailability or high costs of raw material. In addition, weekly rapid surveys conducted by FAO collecting anecdotal evidence from women cooperatives found that, as families retreated to their homes due to the crisis, women shouldered the lion's share of the care burden for the elderly, at-risk family members and children. This has prevented many women active in agro-processing from reaching their workplace and hence lost their source of income. Women cooperatives also reported that they have lost connection to their traditional suppliers due to restrictions and thus sought alternative suppliers that came with extra logistical costs or higher prices at a time of crises. To cope, women cooperatives resorted to either putting their production activities on hold, limiting their production due to limited accessible markets (within locality), or switching to productive activities which are subject to high competition, less access to procurement opportunities by the government and private sector, and are sold with lower margins, severely reducing their profit margins.

In addition, there is a need to encourage women's investment in business development and innovation, including digitisation of production and marketing, and enhancement of packaging and marketing strategies during crisis, to increase competitiveness and productivity. For instance, a mapping by UN Women in December 2019 on non-traditional sectors and women's economic participation in the State of Palestine has shown that integrating Information Communications Technology (ICT) within the food systems is crucial to support not only the most skilled but also the most vulnerable women to improve their position in the value chains. This would improve their agricultural practices and productivity, including digitalisation and modernization of marketing and processing, including green production. This can be achieved through a holistic approach of capacity building, increased access to financial resources, networking with potential investors and mentors as well as awareness raising within the community around the significant role women can play as economic actors. When looking at mainstreaming ICT and digital innovations into the business models of women-led MSMEs and cooperatives, the key target group should include young female university graduates, as well as skilled and educated women, who either lost their jobs or are unable to find work as a result of COVID-19 crisis.

The gender-differentiated impact of COVID-19 crisis on unpaid care and household responsibilities compounds the differentiated challenges that women face. In the State of Palestine, women are disproportionately burdened with unpaid care and household work and spend more time than men on these activities; almost 8 to 1 relative to men on unpaid care work (Palestine time use survey by PCBS, 2013). Thus, during the ongoing crisis, women are likely bearing the extra burden of caring for children and their temporarily home-based education, due to the ongoing closure of kindergartens and schools. They are also likely to be responsible for caring for the elderly and sick relatives that the health system cannot absorb (Global gender analysis for COVID-19, Care and IRC Global RGA for COVID-19), thus, reducing the time available for women to sustain, establish or re-build their economic participation in productive sectors and participation in labour. A recent survey conducted by the Arab World Research and Development (AWRAD) in April 2020 on coping with COVID-19 pandemic, 68% of women respondents reported a significant increase in household duties, compared to 44% of men. Increased childcare and household duties can further limit women's access to employment, entrepreneurship and income-generating opportunities. This would also have compound impacts on single-parent families, female-headed households, low-income families, the selfemployed, the precariously employed, or those without employment health rights or benefits – who may not be able to access childcare or afford to take time off of work.

Against this backdrop, the proposed joint programme aims at mitigating the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 crisis on women-led MSMEs including cooperatives, and contributes to integrating and introducing measures and innovative solutions that enhances women's access to equal economic opportunities and can mitigate and reduce the disproportionate burden of unpaid care on women during crisis. This will support and contribute to enabling enhanced and sustainable economic participation of and women-led businesses across key productive sectors of the Palestinian economy.

P\_I. Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID19 and its impact The attached UNCT COVID-19 Development System Response Plan is informed by several other ongoing initiatives and analyses, including by the line ministries, UN agencies working in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Office of the Quartet, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and others. For environmental priorities, the UNCT has drawn on the expertise of the United Nations Environment Programme and their State of Environment and Outlook Report for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, published in 2020.

In 2021, the United Nations Country Team in Palestine commenced its next planning cycle in partnership with the Government of Palestine. Reflecting the global reforms of the UN development system, the planning cycle in Palestine will produce a new strategic document called a <u>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</u>. The new Cooperation Framework will include both regular programming and COVID-19-related programming. The Cooperation Framework will be launched around the same time that the UNCT COVID-19 Development System Response Plan ends. Through the response plan, the UNCT intends to implement US\$140.6 million in COVID-19 development response programming in 12 to 18 months, of which 66% is funded through existing or reprogrammed resources. In addition to the US\$140.6 million in direct programming, UNCT has also identified an additional US\$45 million in scalable support programmes for affected households and SMEs, comprising a portfolio of Cash for Work programmes, Cash Transfer Programmes, microfinance and revolving loan support, and direct support to smallholder agricultural producers. Detailed costed response plan is attached.

The UNCT developed a framework for organizing the UN development response in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Activities are grouped into five thematic areas including health, education, social protection, governance and basic services and livelihoods and economic recovery. These five areas are fully aligned with the guidance received from the Secretary-General, the UNSDG, and DCO; and they are complementary to the HCT response effort. The UNCT identified these priorities in consultation with the relevant line ministries and with the Prime Minister's Office.

Activities under livelihoods and economic recovery aims to strengthen the capacities of relevant government authorities to monitor performance of producers, consumers, and markets to adopt policies, especially those targeting informal and export sectors. UNCT will deliver technical assistance and support aimed at protecting and sustaining small and medium enterprises through supporting revenues, preserving, and protecting the employment relationship, and ensuring acceptable levels of business continuity.

UNCT is delivering cash-for-work and income support schemes to the most vulnerable—including refugees, informal producers, and informal workers—and vulnerable households recovering from the pandemic. Among affected sectors include the informal sector, women-led enterprises, and agriculture. UNCT is targeting fragile private businesses and sectors, such as hospitality, transportation, and agri-food sectors, through cash and non-cash incentives support, the development of alternative work modalities, risk management plans, and workplace preparedness and compliance with safety and health measures. At an individual level, activities target furthest-left-behind groups of women in the labour force including the working poor, informal workers, women association and cooperatives, workers in settlements, women with disabilities, and similar. UNCT will also contribute to monitoring and advocacy around equal access to support programmes for women, youth, small business owners, and other potentially disadvantaged or marginalized recipients. Critically, the UNCT is supporting the functioning and continuity of food production and supply chains, reactivating investment and restoring operating capital. Environmental sustainability and climate-resilient practices will be incorporated into programming.

CN\_II. Results expected to be achieved and a

Programme Approach

Reviewer 1: 21

clear explanation of tangible results or changes that will be achieved through this collaborative programme Describe the results expected to be achieved and how it contributes to the Covid-19 response and the SDGs. Describe programme approaches, methods, and theory of change, and explain why they are the appropriate response to the problem. Please highlight a) how the solution(s) is data driven (especially on population being targeted) b) if and how it employs any innovative approaches; c) if and how it applies a human rights-based approach and how is it based on the principle of "recover better together" d) if and how the theory of change reflects the Gender **Equality Marker** score selected in this solution

UNDP/PAPP, UN Women, FAO and WFP are proposing a joint programme in response to the negative economic repercussions resulting from COVID-19 on women-led MSMEs –including those in rural communities and most disadvantaged communities in the State of Palestine. Interventions aim to avoid a further decline in their participation in the labour force, and ensure equitable access to markets and livelihoods, by introducing a holistic approach encompassing the workplace, marketplace and communities. The programme aims to protect and improve women's economic participation across productive sectors impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. food and agro-food products) by strengthening competitiveness, access to markets, finance and agency. This will include safeguarding the achievements made in the last few years in women entrepreneurship and ensuring their business continuity and resilience to shocks, while integrating innovative ICT solutions into women's enterprises and improving access to decent job opportunities.

The programme will also support and advocate for the integration of women products to public and private procurement and support the institutional capabilities of the government and private sector to diversify supply sources especially during the crisis, by increasing their access to women-led MSMEs and easing procurement conditions for women-made products. Certain principles of the Market System Development (MSD) approach will be applied to facilitate linkages between women-led MSMEs and other market actors. This involves identifying and addressing underlying causes of underperformance and disempowerment in two to three selected systems and value chains, and ultimately promoting long-term development of these systems in ways that empower women. While the joint programme is an immediate response to the negative impacts of COVID-19 and especially the emerging needs of women, careful consideration is made to ensure the interventions have a long-term and sustainable effect beyond the crisis.

Alignment with UN framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

The UN socio-economic response framework acknowledges the gender differentiated impact of the crisis, and the exacerbation of pre-existing gender-based inequalities and exclusion and discrimination practices and measures. Women are listed at the top of at-risk populations experiencing the highest degree of socio-economic marginalisation and requiring special attention. In line with SDGs 5 and 8, gender equality principals and inclusion of women are central to the response, to prevent backsliding on limited rights gained and jeopardising the attainment of the SDGs as a whole.

The joint programme is mainly focused on the livelihoods and economic recovery pillar of the UN socio-economic response framework in the State of Palestine. The programme will be implementing resilience-based response and recovery measures to protect and support women-led MSMEs who are amongst the most disadvantaged communities impacted by the pandemic. This in turn will contribute to safeguarding and strengthening various supply chains for the vulnerable groups in rural and urban communities including food, in an effort to support food security and women's economic empowerment prioritised by UN Country Team (UNCT), while advocating for the share of unpaid care and household responsibilities to facilitate women's economic participation and protect their well-being and agency.

The joint programme is aligned with the Palestinian Authority National Policy Agenda 2017-2022, most notably with national aspirations of sustainable development through economic independence and building resilient communities. It is also aligned with the National COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan that is currently being developed, particularly the pillar on 'vulnerable producers and SMEs'. Moreover, the joint programme is in line with and intends to contribute to the National Sectoral Strategies (2017-2022) of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of National Economy and Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Leaving No One Behind, Gender Equality and Human Rights.

The joint programme is marked as GEM3 since gender equality and women empowerment is the principal objective of the programme, where key activities contribute to increasing inclusiveness and women and girls' economic empowerment. The programme is also in-line with human rights principles related to indivisibility,

equality and non-discrimination and participation and inclusion. The programme will adopt a multi-dimensional lens to vulnerability to COVID-19 crisis, and acknowledges the critical importance of agency. It will also place women-owned business as the unit of analysis to select programme beneficiaries. The final selection of the targeted sectors and beneficiaries will be based on a rapid socio-economic, trade and gender assessment to be conducted by the joint programme and build on the results of the previous assessments conducted by local and international partners on the impacts of COVID-19 crisis on MSMEs including those led by women. The programme is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to fulfil its central promise to 'leave no one behind'. It will target disadvantaged women-led MSMEs in the West Bank and Gaza, including those in the informal sector and those led by female heads of households, and are already facing structural barriers to market economy and whose economic participation and pre-existing gender inequalities are further deepened, and vulnerability induced due to the negative impacts of COVID-19 crisis. Moreover, a large segment of women-led MSMEs are situated in the informal sector, usually falling outside government support and having no work or labour protection mechanisms.

## Theory of Change

The joint programme is based on the premise that: 1) if disadvantaged women-led MSMEs, including cooperatives, impacted by the COVID-19 crisis in target communities in the West Bank and Gaza have improved and equitable access to business support opportunities; and 2) women impacted by COVID-19 have equal opportunities for economic participation through promotion of decent work and value of women's care work inside and outside the household, then women's economic resilience to COVID-19 impact and future shocks will be strengthened and their equal economic participation will be safeguarded and sustained.

The joint programme will focus on key areas of interventions at the workplace, marketplace and the community. This includes women's equal access to markets, enhanced competitiveness and market linkages, gender responsive procurement, and promoting shared household responsibilities especially during the crisis. Creating an enabling environment for women's active and equal participation in productive sectors will positively contribute to the Palestinian economic recovery efforts and poverty alleviation. Women's work contributes to preventing their families from falling into deeper poverty, and positively influences the levels of financial independence, education, health, and children's welfare, and lead to changes in intrahousehold dynamics and social norms in general. For cooperatives, in addition to skills enhancements, mainstreaming digital solutions into women-owned businesses will contribute to improved business models, adaptiveness and sustainability of women-led MSMEs especially during crisis, when innovative approaches would support business continuity. This will also provide an opportunity for young female and male entrepreneurs to establish new market linkages with women-owned businesses, which will in turn support their business continuity as well.

# Results.

Outcome 1- Improved and equitable access of women-led MSMEs impacted by COVID-19 to business opportunities.

Output 1.1 Women-led MSME's capabilities, skills and business models improved to withstand current and future shocks

# Indicative activities:

- Provide technical support to 100 women-led MSMEs to capacitate them with skills on business process re-engineering and innovation mainstreaming to respond to emerging market needs and COVID-19 crisis. Under this activity, women-led MSMEs will benefit from business support services including a revamped business models, new supply chains, innovative marketing strategies, alternative logistics and operations, as well as financial literacy, facilitation of epayment options and access to banking services to ensure business continuity.
- Strengthen quality and green production capacities of 100 women-led MSMEs through provision of technical assistance and training on processing, packaging

- and registration. In addition, targeted women-led MSMEs will be supported to comply with relevant quality standards and good practices. This activity will be implemented in close cooperation with relevant authorities.
- Develop technical skills of 100 women-led MSMEs on ICT integration in business including digital marketing, especially during crisis, while engaging female and male youth to provide creative technological solutions to secure women's business access to resources, production and services. This will also improve the competitiveness of women's products and create new business opportunities for marketing and ICT companies. While UNDP through the Accelerator Lab has already initiated an experiment on connecting food processing cooperatives with existing platforms for food delivery, the programme will build on this experiment and related lessons learned and explore other digital solutions to improve the marketability of women products, in collaboration with official national actors, such as the Palestinian Monetary Authority. The existing marketing platform will also establish linkages between women producers and the Palestinian diaspora by selling readily-made "taste of Palestine" kits, gifts for their families in Palestine or donations to poor families.
- Provide technical support to 100 women-led MSMEs to create new market linkages. This activity aims at stimulating system-level change within the targeted value chains for the benefit of women-led MSMEs. This will be done by facilitating the establishment market linkages between women MSMEs and key market actors including wholesalers, private sector entities and export companies. These linkages will build on the value proposition of women's products and services improved as a result of the support provided under the joint programme to enhance the competitiveness of women, based on lessons learned during the crisis by the participating agencies.

Output 1.2 - Improved access of women -led MSMEs impacted by COVID-19 to emergency funding and resilience-based support.

# Indicative activities

- Develop a training and coaching package targeting 100 women-led MSMEs to
  enhance their business planning and management skills during crisis to respond
  to emerging market needs. Through this activity, women will be engaged in in
  co-designing a package that will address their emergency and business
  management skill development needs, including compliance with safety and
  health measures, and will reinforce peer to peer learning and coaching, in
  addition to conducting business based needs assessments (pre and post).
- Provide in-kind grants for a total of 100 women-led MSMEs, who are most impacted by the pandemic and identified at high-risk of closure as per the selection criteria of up to \$5,000. The in-kind grants will include an integrated package of services and subsidies for rent and wages, covering logistics, raw materials, equipment surcharges, etc.

Output 1.3 Gender-responsive procurement adopted by national government and private sector institutions to enhance women-led MSME's participation and competitiveness in the market

# Indicative activities

- Build the capacity of at least 50 procurement teams and buyers in the
  government and private sector and encouraging adopting UN
  Women's <u>Women Empowerment Principals (WEPs)</u> and associated tools to
  diversify supply sources through increasing access to women-led businesses
  and easing procurement processes for women-made products.
- Conduct outreach, awareness and capacity development support to the targeted women-led MSMEs in accessing procurement opportunities, in cooperation with the trained procurement teams in the first activity.
- Document and share lessons learned and good practices in relation to increasing women-led MSMEs' access to the existing distribution sources and value chains.

Outcome 2 – Improved access of women impacted by COVID-19 to decent work opportunities

Output 2.1 Community awareness improved on sharing of household responsibilities for both women and men particularly during crisis, and greater recognition of women's care work inside and outside the household.

## Indicative activities

 Conduct at least 15 awareness raising and community mobilization campaigns, to challenge the stereotypical community and family attitudes and behaviours towards the value of women's care work inside and outside the household to address the increased impact of COVID-19, especially during the crisis, while utilizing innovative tools to promote the value of sharing household responsibilities and women's equal access to decent economic opportunities and the labour market.

## Output 2.2

Government and private sector entities provide services that support women's access to decent work opportunities, particularly during crisis

- Provide paid child-care services to 50 women-led MSMEs by creating jobs for at least 80 women care providers including those who lost their jobs in the kindergartens sector and other sectors due to the pandemic, to reduce unpaid childcare responsibilities for working women.
- Enhance private-public partnerships and joint actions to enhance creating inclusive working environment for women in response to the crisis including supporting women and men's access to child and dependent care through services, resources and information.

CN\_III. Catalytic impact and nexus Describe how the intervention is catalytic by mobilizing or augmenting other financial or non-financial resources including from IFIs, foundations, the private sector. Describe how the proposed intervention supports medium to long-term recovery for example by enabling other actors to engage, generates an enabling environment for longer-term

development.

New and sustainable partnerships.

The participating UN agencies, through the proposed joint programme, will rely on and invest in the various types of existing partnerships and those to be established under the programme, including with government institutions, international and national civil society organizations (CSOs) and community based organisations (CBOs), and the private sector. These actors will be supported to adopt a genderresponsive approach and new ways of working, including the Women Empowerment Principals (WEPs), and to promote changes in their attitudes, policies and behaviours towards partnering with women and engaging them in planning and service provision processes. The private sector is an essential partner, where private-public partnerships will be enhanced as a main tool at the marketplace level to enhance women's engagement in economic recovery and resilience. The programme will ensure that businesses are showcased to capture the impact across the diverse business and finance sectors, while partnering with women-led MSMEs. Sustainable and genderresponsive supply chains will also create decent work opportunities for women as a result of increased demand on women-led MSMEs products. Business coaching, peer to peer learning and other support services including financial inclusion and literacy will equip women with the needed skills and tools to support the operation and growth of their businesses. It will also allow them to become aware of the business alternatives and funding opportunities they could adopt during crisis, leading them to make sound and confident business decisions. The programme will promote linkages between women businesses and financial institutions that can provide tailored and competitive services for women. The joint technical support provided by the participating UN agencies to implementing partners and counterparts including government, private sector, CSOs and CBOs would further reinforce their capabilities and knowledge of women's needs to translate into developing and reforming current response and recovery initiatives and plans. Also, the lessons learned from provision of business support services and inclusion of women-led MSMEs will inform the design of the National MSMEs Helpdesk Scheme that UNDP/PAPP will establish in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and in collaboration with relevant national and sub-national entities. The initiative aims to coordinate, harmonise and institutionalise financial and non-financial services to MSMEs, including tailored business development support services to women and young entrepreneurs and

18: This proposal is well targeted, GEN 3, and it could have climate links as it seeks to green businesses. It has an innovative edge. It appears to be written into the SERP activities as a new initiative. CN does not describe catalytic opportunity in any depth., though it does seek to leverage private sector involvement.

start-ups. Such holistic, bottom up, sustained and extended support is most needed when it comes to promoting procurement of women's products and social protection including collective share of unpaid work.

Collaborative business and community-based and women-led support network.

The joint programme has been designed with the recognition of the value of community-based approaches in engaging women as leaders, breadwinners and service providers, to support the sustainability of women-led MSMEs and their contribution to economic growth. Thus, it will contribute to mitigating the risks related to women adopting new business models through provision of necessary social and collective support (women for women). Accordingly, the programme will ensure that effective women-led networks are created and tested in different communities to mainstream business support agencies and peer to peer guidance and collective actions. Promoting shared household responsibilities, reducing unpaid care responsibilities for women and enhancing women's access to child-care services by other women from their communities or other communities will have a greater impact on their ability to access economic opportunities and the labour market. At the same time, this will create jobs for women who will provide these services, especially the ones who lost their jobs in the kindergarten sector and other sectors due to the pandemic. The programme will document the different experiences of women in the targeted communities depending on the context and needs of women, for further scale-up and future replication.

Women's strengthened voice and agency.

The joint programme, through its various economic support and mentoring interventions, seeks to support women's engagement, voice and agency so they can speak up about their rights, opinions and preferences, as well as influence their communities. For example, women will have increased negotiation skills and feel more confident in engaging in equal decision making to exercise their right to work and manage income while having shared household responsibilities at home, increasing their chances for equal participation in the labour market. This will gradually and positively influence the intra-household dynamics and social norms in general, as family members better value women's contribution to household income and assets. Positive change in social norms is the most challenging aspect of women's economic empowerment, and the joint programme must be sensitive to the beneficiaries' social background. Hence, it will be adaptive in its approaches to avoid any unintentional harm to women including increased domestic Gender Based Violence (GBV) as a result of improved voice and decision-making capabilities among women.

CN\_IV. Who will deliver this solution List what Recipient UN Organizations (no less than 2 per concept note) and partners will implement this project and describe their capacities to do so. Include expertise, staff deployed, as well as oversight mechanisms that determine the monitoring

In line with the United Nations Development Framework for the State of Palestine, underpinned by the 2030 Agenda premise of 'Leave No One Behind', as well as with the UN approaches of "Delivering as One" and "New Way of Working", this joint programme will allow for the UN partner agencies to implement an integrated and holistic response to protect and enhance women's economic participation in productive sectors in the State of Palestine and contribute to inclusive socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Each UN agency's comparative advantage and expertise will be mobilized towards ensuring complementarity, strengthening coherence and maximizing development outcomes.

FAO's expertise in agriculture and food systems will be key inter alia for technical assistance and support to women-led MSMEs, including cooperatives and women entrepreneurs, within the food systems sector. In addition, FAO has a number of ongoing initiatives including continuous monitoring of COVID 19 impact on the food chain dynamics to inform interventions of public and private actors and enhancing market access for Palestinian agri-food products. This includes through a multifaceted approach to developing marketing and distribution systems and stimulating private sector investment in the agri-food value chain. It will complement UNDP/PAPP's comparative advantage on business development and re-engineering support to enhance the competitiveness and access to markets for the targeted MSMEs across the various productive sectors and leveraging the services offered by

...

and evaluation (M&E) arrangements and responsibilities. Use hyperlinks to relevant sites and the current portfolios of RUNOs so the text is short and to the point.

its Accelerator Lab, providing new approaches to address development problems using the power of local innovations, collective intelligence and experimentation. UNDP/PAPP has been also working side-by-side with the PMO and relevant line ministries, and in coordination with the UNCT, on supporting the government's leading role in ensuring inclusive and integrated crisis management, as well as assessment and planning for the medium- to long-term COVID-19 socio-economic recovery (more details are provided here

https://www.ps.undp.org/content/papp/en/home/crisis-response/coronavirusdisease-covid-19.html). This includes the activation of a dedicated Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Unit (SERR) under the PMO's leadership, as well as demanddriven technical support provided to line ministries in developing comprehensive emergency response plans and sectoral interventions needed to support socioeconomic recovery (e.g. Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Local Government). UN Women's mandate and expertise on gender equality and women's empowerment, in addition to its strong relations and coordination mechanisms with civil society, private and governmental actors, longstanding experience in supporting women-led MSME's business management, market linkages, provision of grants etc. through the One Stop Shop Approach, including during crisis, and providing technical assistance to partners for mainstreaming gender in the workplace, marketplace and communities through different tools, including the WEPs, unpaid care initiatives and gender based analyses, will contribute to the joint programme efforts. This is especially relevant for activities related to genderresponsive procurement and policy making, mainstreaming gender in the private sector, and promoting equitable sharing of unpaid household responsibilities. Moreover, WFP's participation will enable relevant and strategic linkages with existing relief interventions – including linking women-led MSMEs with WFP's Cash-Based Transfers programme. Overall, the four agencies have extensive experience working with civil society, private sector and government partners to reach out to women-led MSMEs in different sectors across the State of Palestine, through market-based business development services, market linkages, product development, and provision of grants.

The joint programme's activities will be implemented in collaboration with relevant national institutions, CSOs and CBOs and the private sector. Potential partners include Ministry of National Economy (MoNE), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI), Non-governmental organizations supporting agriculture including Palestinian Agricultural Union of Cooperatives (PACU), Agricultural Development Association (PARC), associations supporting women MSMEs and youth including Business Women Forum (BWF), Palestinian Business Women's Association (ASALA), among others, private sector represented by PalTrade and their member companies and financial institutions including banks and micro-finance institutes.

Programme governance, management and coordination.

A Joint Programme Management Team (JPMT) will be established and led by a Joint Programme Manager that will be tasked with the overall management of the joint programme, ensuring that the expected results set out in the programme document and workplan are achieved. The Joint Programme Manager will also be responsible for ensuring timely compliance with reporting requirements (e.g. issuing joint narrative and financial reports). The Joint Programme Manager will be supported by the JPMT, comprised of JP focal points from the four UN partner agencies who will be responsible for day-to-day management and oversight of agency-specific components and activities. The JPMT shall also include a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer/Specialist, to assist the team in monitoring and keeping track of progress and results achieved.

Joint Programme Support Committee.

A Joint Programme Support Committee (JPSC) comprised of technical representatives/advisors of implementing partners and other relevant key stakeholders at the local level will be formed by the JPMT and approved by the JPSC. The technical advisors will ensure continued feedback loops for reflection, learning

and adaptation and highlight the decision points needed to make changes to interventions in light of implementation progress as well as needs and concerns voiced by the beneficiaries to enhance the effectiveness of programme interventions.

High Level Interagency Coordination.

The Heads of Agencies/designates of the four UN partner agencies will meet with the Joint Programme Manager for a monthly interagency coordination meeting and as needed. In addition, the Heads of Agency/designates will meet with the JPMT on quarterly basis. These meetings aim to ensure effective interagency cooperation, efficient programme implementation and collectively act upon the recommendations voiced by the technical advisors of the support committee.

Monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting.

The joint programme results framework is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the State of Palestine (UNDAF) results matrix and will be used for the purposes of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Also, efforts have been made to align the joint programme results framework to UN immediate response framework. Special efforts will be made to disaggregate relevant indicators by age, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant to programme's intervention context.

The JPMT with the support of the MEL Officer/Specialist will be responsible for managing and facilitating MEL approach and activities. They will ensure that other programme team members within each partner agency report against qualitative and quantitative indicators related to outputs they manage as per the programme results framework. In collaboration with the implementing partners, the JPMT will spend time to reflect and learn, critically examine their practices and discuss what is working and what is not during regular programme reviews and reflect on that during the steering committee meetings. They will also incorporate required adjustments to the log frame and MEL plan based on technical adaptation and supporting the feedback loop for adaptive management, and ensuring this information is fed through to the Steering Committee, for discussion and approval. A MEL plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance on the different monitoring, evaluation and learning activities and joint programme team's MEL responsibilities.

# Reporting.

The Joint Programme will have one consolidated reporting (including programmatic and financial reports), to be endorsed by the JPSC prior to sharing with all relevant stakeholders. UNDP/PAPP will be responsible and accountable for timely fulfilment of both narrative and financial reporting requirements, in collaboration and coordination with the UN Partner agencies. Quarterly and semi-annual field progress updates will be prepared by UNDP/PAPP based on inputs from all UN Partner agencies and will be shared with the JPSC. This will allow for regular sharing of relevant information and updates on programme implementation progress (including achievements and/or potential emerging challenges), enabling timely adjustment of implementation strategies where needed, and contributing to a culture of continuous collective learning to ensure and enhance the effectiveness of the joint programmatic interventions.

# P\_V. Target population

The UNCT remains amenable to the guiding reference of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its central promise to 'leave no one behind'. The joint programme will target disadvantaged women and female youth already facing structural barriers to equal market economy and decent work and whose economic participation and pre-existing gender inequalities are further deepened, and vulnerability induced due to the negative impacts of COVID-19 crisis. The targeted segments include:

The joint programme will directly benefit:

 80 women led MSMEs, including cooperatives and entrepreneurs that need support to protect, sustain and further develop their capacities to cope and

- adapt with COVID-19 repercussions and future shocks. This includes women businesses in the informal sector, usually falling outside government support and having no work or labor protection.
- At least 200,000 female and male community members outreached through community awareness interventions on the value of women's employment and care work inside and outside the household to address the impact of COVID-19.
- At least 30 female and male youth are capacitated, engaged in and implementing advocacy and awareness interventions to promote women's access to decent work opportunities and the value of women's work inside and outside the household.
- At least 20 representatives of private and public institutions benefitting from capacity development and awareness interventions on care, to promote women's access to decent work opportunities.

The joint programme will indirectly benefit:

- Almost 100 female and male workers in the targeted women-led MSMEs, including cooperatives.
- Almost 650 female and male family members of the direct beneficiaries.

## **Geographic focus**

The joint programme will be targeting disadvantaged women business owners, including women with disabilities, across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and area C, and Gaza Strip, specifically in the most affected communities. Since 20 March 2020, all Palestinian governorates in the West Bank have been under lockdown, and the freedom of movement between cities and villages within the same governorate are curtailed as well. The socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses and workers across Palestinian governorates are not even due to preexisting differences in economic performance. In Gaza, the crisis exacerbated the underlying humanitarian crisis that has gripped Gaza for years- including the recent Israeli's attacks on Gaza in May 2021- accelerating its socio-economic collapse, where women and youth are most affected. In the West Bank, vulnerable rural communities are identified as one of the main segments impacted by the crisis as per the Economic Monitor of the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS).

Through 2020, access to vulnerable communities was curtailed, with a number of service providers being denied or delayed in providing essential health services. This is particularly detrimental when partners including civil society and community - based organizations are the only service provider for the vulnerable communities16. Informal businesses in rural communities in the West Bank are also less likely to have access to direct financial support by the government. The selection criteria for specific communities will be further developed jointly by the participating UN agencies and national partners, and with reference to the results of other socio-economic assessment conducted at the community and business level including PCBS's household and establishment survey results and MAS's report on providing safety nets and social protection for the most-affected and marginalized groups as part of a series of six reports on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic prepared through PMO's Socio-economic Response and Recovery Unit supported by UNDP.

# **SDG Targets**

Target	Description
Main Goals	
Goal 1. End poverty	y in all its forms everywhere
TARGET_1.5	1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Target	Description					
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls						
TARGET_5.4 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate						
TARGET_5.c	5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels					
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all						
TARGET_8.2	8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors					

# **SDG Indicators**

Indicator Code	Description
C010502	1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)
C050401	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location
C050c01	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment
C080201	8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

# **Contribution to SDGs**

Participating Organization	% TARGET_5.c	% TARGET_8.2	% TARGET_5.4	% TARGET_1.5	% Total
UNDP	0	60	0	40	100
WFP	0	100	0	0	100
UNWOMEN	20	50	20	10	100
FAO	0	60	0	40	100
Total contribution by target	20	270	20	90	
Project contribution to SDG by target	5	67.5	5	22.5	100

# **List of documents**

Document	Document Type	Document Source	Document Abstract	Modified By	Modified On
Economic- Monitoring- Report-to- the-Ad-Hoc- Liaison- Committee.p	Technical Report	Project	Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 23, 2021

			- · ·		
MAS_Providin g Safety nets and social protection for the most- affected and margenalized groups.pdf	Technical Report	Project	Providing safety nets and social protection for the most-affected and marginalized groups in the State of Palestine	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 22, 2021
MAS-The Economic Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Most- Vulnerable MSMEs.pdf	Technical Report	Project Narrative	Economic impact of COVID-19 crisis on MSMEs in the State of Palestine	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 22, 2021
Palestine - UNCT COVID- 19 Development System Response Plan - final 2020.docx	Other Docs	Project Narrative	Palestine UNCT- Development System Response Plan	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 22, 2021
PCBS COVID- 19 impact on business_eco nomic establishment s in Palestine.pdf	Technical Report	Project Narrative	COVID-19 impact on economic activities in the State of Palestine	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 22, 2021
PCBS-Socio- economic impact of COVID-19 on Palestinian households.p	Technical Report	Project Narrative	Socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on households in the State of Palestine	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 22, 2021
Reveiwer1_Pal estine_Mitigat ing the impacts.xlsx	Other Docs	Concept Narrative		krishnapalan@unfpa.org	Sep 08, 2020
Reviewer#2St ateofPalestine womensecon omicparticipa tion.xlsx	Other Docs	Concept Narrative	17. A very well made proposal, focused on women and MSMEs. That clarity makes it promising that supporting woman-led MSMEs will have an impact larger than the small amount of \$1 million shared by 4 agencies might normally achieve.	grogan@un.org	Sep 03, 2020
Secr_Palestini an Territories.xlsx	Other Docs	Concept Narrative		olga.aleshina@undp.org	Sep 11, 2020

21			Fund management platform		
State of Palestine_Disa bility Inclusion Assessment.d ocx	Other Docs	Concept	Feedback on disability and gender	kalie.marsicano@undp.org	Sep 16, 2020
UN Women_Care economy in Palestine.pdf	Technical Report	Project	The care economy in Palestine: Towards recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 23, 2021
UPDATED Narrative_ COVID-19 _UN JP proposal_wo men's economic empo.docx	Pro-Doc	Project	Updated Narrative_ UN JP proposal_ Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on women's economic participation in the State of Palestine	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 23, 2021
UPDATED Narrative_ COVID-19 _UN JP proposal_wo men's economic empo.docx	Pro-Doc	Project Narrative	Updated Narrative_ UN JP Proposal_ Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on women economic participation in the State of Palestine	ruba.aladham@undp.org	Jun 23, 2021

# **Project Results**

Improved and equitable access of women-led MSMEs impacted by COVID-19 to business support opportunities  Output 1.1 Women-led MSME's capabilities, skills and business models improved to withstand current and future shocks  Activities  Title Description Lead Participating Participating Other	Outcome	Output				Description
Activities  Title Description Lead Participating Participating Other	Outcome 1- Improved and equitable access of women-led MSMEs impacted by COVID-19 to business support opportunities	1		oilities, skills and business mod	els improved to withstand	
Title Description Lead Participating Participating Other			d future shocks			
			Description			Other Organization
				Organization	Organization	Organizatio

			and management platform							
outcome	Output				Description					
	Business development support to women-led MSMEs	Provide technical support to 80 women-led MSMEs to capacitate them with skills on business process reengineering and innovation mainstreaming to respond to emerging market needs and COVID-19 crisis. Under this activity, women-led MSMEs will be targeted with business support services, including revamped business models, new supply chains, innovative marketing strategies, alternative logistics and operations, as well as financial literacy, facilitation of epayment options and access to banking services to ensure business continuity.	UNDP - UNDP(MDTF/PUNO only).	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organizat	-Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture -Business Women Forum (BWF) - Palestinian Business Women's Association (ASALA) -Palestinian Monetary Authority and Banking Institute					
	Improve quality and green women-led MSMEs	Strengthen quality and green production capacities of 80 women-led MSMEs through provision of technical assistance and training on processing, packaging and branding. In addition, targeted women-led MSMEs will be supported to comply with relevant quality and safety standards and good practices.	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organizat	UNDP - UNDP(MDTF/PUNO only).	-Palestinian Standards Institute (PSI) -Palestine Trade Center (PalTrade) -Ministry of National Economy (MoNE) -Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) -Federation of Chambers of Commercem Industries and Agriculture					

Outcome	Output										
	ICT integration in business for women- led MSMEs	Develop technical skills of 80 women-led MSMEs on ICT integration in business including digital marketing, especially during crisis, while engaging female and male youth to provide creative technological solutions to secure women's business access to resources, production and services. This will also improve the competitiveness of women's products and create new business opportunities for marketing and ICT companies. The programme will build on UNDP Accelerator Lab experiment and lessons learned from connecting women-led MSMEs with online marketing platforms and explore other digital solutions, in collaboration with the relevant actors to enhance women's access to new markets and customers.	UNDP - UNDP(MDTF/PUNO only).	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organizat	Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industries an Agriculture Palestinian Business Women's Association (ASALA) -Palestinian Information Technology Association (PITA)						
	Facilitate new market linkages for women-led MSMEs	Provide technical support to women-led MSMEs and cooperatives to create new market linkages. This activity aims at stimulating system-level change within the targeted value chains for the benefit of women-led MSMEs. This will be done by facilitating the establishment market linkages between women MSMEs and key market actors including WFP's Cash Based Transfer shops through creating the enabling environment, sensitizing CBT shops on selling women's products and supporting their marketing campaigns. These linkages will build on the value proposition of women's products and services improved as a result of the support provided under the joint programme to enhance the competitiveness of women, based on lessons learned during the crisis by the participating agencies	WFP - World Food Programme	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organizat	-Palestinian Agricultural Union of Cooperatives (PACU) -Agricultural Development Association (PARC) - Palestinian Business Women's Association (ASALA)						

Enhance women-led women-led training and coaching package targeting 80 women-led MSMEs to planning and management skills during crisis or respond to emerging market needs. Through this activity, women will be engaged in designing a package that will address their emergency and business management skill development eeds, including compliance with safety and health measures and business formality and will reinforce peer to peer learning and coaching. These efforts will be coordinated with the MSME National Helpdesk established by PMO with support from UNDP.  Support women-led MSMEs to access public and private procurement opportunities in accessing procurement opportunities. In comperation with the private and public institutions.  Enhance their business women only).  UNDP - UNDP/MDTF/PUNO only).  Individue of the Univolent only).  UNDP - UNDP - UNDP - UNDP - UNDP - UNDP (MOTF/PUNO only).  Federation Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture - Palestinian Business Women's Association (ASALA) and private procurement opportunities, in comperation with the private and public institutions.	Outcome		Description			
Enhance women led MSMEs to planning and management skills during or crisis respond to emerging market needs. Through this activity, women will be engaged in designing a package tat will address their emergency and business formality and will reinforce peer to peer learning and coaching. These efforts will be coordinated with the MSME National Helpdesk established by PMO with support from UNDP.  Support women-led MSMEs to development support to the targeted women-led MSMEs to neaccess public and private procurement opportunities in cooperation with the private and public institutions.  Pederation  UNNDP/MDTF/PUNO only)  UNDP/MDTF/PUNO only)  UNWOMEN UNWOMEN UNWOMEN UNWOMEN Only)  UNWOMEN UNWOMEN UNWOMEN Only)  Palestinian Monetary National Economy  - Palestinian Business  Support Women-led MSMEs to development support to the targeted women-led MSMEs in access public and private procurement opportunities in cooperation with the private and public institutions.		Activities				·
women-led MSMEs business planning and coaching package targeting 80 women-led MSMEs to enhance their business planning and management skill during crisis to respond to emerging market needs. Through this activity, women will be engaged in designing a package that will address their emergency and business management skill development needs, including compliance with safety and health measures and business formality and will reinforce peer to peer learning and coaching. These efforts will be coordinated with the MSME National Helpdesk established by PMO with support from UNDP.  Support women-led MSMEs to access public and private procurement opportunities of poportunities of poportunities on poportunities and public institutions.  Women-led MSMEs to access public and private and public institutions.  Support women-led MSMEs in accessing procurement opportunities in cooperation with the private and public institutions.  Women-led MSMEs to access public and private and public institutions.		Title	Description			Other Organizations
women-led MSMEs to access public and private procurement opportunities and public institutions.  Women-led MSMEs to access public and private procurement opportunities and public institutions.  Women-led MSMEs to development support to the targeted women-led MSMEs in accessing procurement opportunities, in cooperation with the private and public institutions.  WINDP(MDTF/PUNO only).  Commerce, Industry and Agriculture -Palestinian Monetary Authority and Banking Institute -Ministry of National Economy -Ministry of Finance/Palestinien Public Finance Institute -Palestinian Business		women-led MSMEs business planning and management skills during	training and coaching package targeting 80 women-led MSMEs to enhance their business planning and management skills during crisis to respond to emerging market needs. Through this activity, women will be engaged in designing a package that will address their emergency and business management skill development needs, including compliance with safety and health measures and business formality and will reinforce peer to peer learning and coaching. These efforts will be coordinated with the MSME National Helpdesk established by PMO with	UNDP(MDTF/PUNO		Industry and Agriculture -Palestinian Monetary Authority and Banking Institute -Ministry of National Economy -Palestinian Business Women's Association
Association (ASALA)		women-led MSMEs to access public and private procurement	awareness and capacity development support to the targeted women-led MSMEs in accessing procurement opportunities, in cooperation with the private		UNDP(MDTF/PUNO	Industry and Agriculture -Palestinian Monetary Authority and Banking Institute -Ministry of National Economy -Ministry of Finance/ Palestine Public Finance Institute -Palestinian Business Women's Association

1		Fund	management platform		
Outcome	Output				Description
	Institutionalize and provide in-kind grants to women-led MSMEs	In collaboration with national partners, develop a sustainable mechanism to provide in-kind grants to 50 women business owners and entrepreneurs, mainly the most marginalized from Gaza, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Women with disabilities that are most-impacted by the pandemic and identified at high-risk of closure. This mechanism will be developed based on the establishment of a multistakeholder board to guide the development of the grants' mechanism and the administration/provisioning of grants, with the primary objective to ensure equitable access of women most at need to grants. The in-kind grants will include an integrated package of services and subsidies for the MSMEs to restore their productivity. Subsidies can be used to cover for logistics, raw materials, new equipment and product development, etc.	UNDP - UNDP(MDTF/PUNO only).	• UNWOMEN - UNWOMEN	-Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture -Palestinian Monetary Authority and Banking Institute -Ministry of National Economy -Ministry of Finance/ Palestine Public Finance Institute
Outcome 2 – Improved access of women impacted by COVID-19 to decent work opportunities					
		nmunity awareness strengthene t work opportunities and the r s enhanced			

Outcome	Output					Description
	Activities					
	Title	Description		Lead Participating Organization	Participating Organization	Other Organizations
	Nation- wide awareness raising and advocacy campaigns	advocacy campaig female and male of on reaching young the stereotypical of and behaviours to employment and the household to 19. This includes communications a human impact sto dialogue spaces a	a-wide awareness raising and gn targeting for at least 200,000 community members, focusing g women and men, to challenge community and family attitudes owards the value of women's care work inside and outside address the impact of COVID-developing and disseminating and advocacy materials, such as pries, testimonials, creating and the production of fact dio spots, videos, social media,	UNWOMEN - UNWOMEN		TBD
	Engage youth on reform actions to recognize the value of women's decent work and care work	recognize the value care work including labour rights , util	leading reform actions to ue of women's decent work and ng protecting their fundamental izing innovative tools, policy cision makers, etc.	UNWOMEN - UNWOMEN		TBD
			es of government and private sec access to decent work opportun			
	Activities					
	Title		Description	Lead Participating Organization	Participating Organization	Other Organizations
	mobilization makers from civil society actors to inc work opport women and creation of c	and private sector crease decent tunities for promote the care services and the transformation	Capacitate and support the mobilization of decision makers from government, civil society and private sector actors to increase decent work opportunities for women and promote the creation of care services and promoting the transformation of gender roles	UNWOMEN - UNWOMEN		TBD

# **Signature Indicators**

					i dila man	agement platform					
Indicato r Title	Com pone nt Title	Description	Categor y	Cycle	Scope	Value Type	Bas elin e Val ue	Base line Year	Ta rg et V al u e	Targ et Year	Linked Outcome / Output
Outcome Indicator 1		Percentage of funding allocated to proposals making a significant contribution to gender equality	Policy	Yearly	Country	Percentage	N/A	2020	90	2022	Outcome: Outcome
	GEM Score	GEM Score: 2 and higher	Policy	Yearly	Country	Percentage		0		0	
Outcome 2.1		Percentage of countries supported by the fund to implement their National Plans for Combating Covid-19	Capacity	Yearly	Country	Percentage	N/A	2020	80	2022	Outcome: Outcome
Outcome 2.2		Percentage of proposals enabling digitization in traditional industries and education services	Capacity	Yearly	Country	Percentage	N/A	2020	50	2022	

# **Imported Fund Outcome / Output Indicators**

Indicator	Componen	Descrip	Categ	Cy	Sco	Value	Baseline	Baseline	Target	Target	Linked Outcome /
Title	t Title	tion	ory	cle	pe	Type	Value	Year	Value	Year	Output
No fun	d indicato	rs avai	lable.								1

# **Project Indicators**

	C										
	0										
	m										
	р	D									
	0	e									
	n	S									
	е	C									
	n	r									
	t	į									
	T	р					Bas				
	i	t					elin		Tar		
	t	i					е	Base	get	Targ	
	1	0				Value	Val	line	Val	et	Linked Outcome /
Indicator Title	e	n	Category	Cycle	Scope	Type	ue	Year	ue	Year	Output

21					Fund manage	ement platform					
Indicator Title	C o m p o n e n t T i t l e	D e s c r i p t i o n	Category	Cycle	Scope	Value Type	Bas elin e Val ue	Base line Year	Tar get Val ue	Targ et Year	Linked Outcome / Output
# of targeted women- led MSME receiving technical and business development support			Beneficiaries	Yearly	Country	Number ra	TBD	2021	80	0	
	N	0	compone	nts av	ailable.						
% of targeted women adopting digital tools and solutions to their business operations			Beneficiaries	Yearly	Country	Percentage	TBD	2021	60%	0	Outcome: Outcome 1- Improved and equitable access of women-led MSMEs impacted by COVID- 19 to business support opportunities Output: Output 1.1 Women-led MSME's capabilities, skills and business models improved to withstand current and future shocks
	N	0	compone	nts av	ailable.						
# of market actors including CBT shops sensitized on promoting and selling the products of women-led MSMEs			Capacity	Yearly	Country	Number ra	TBD	2021	200	2021	
	No components available.										

Indicator Title	C o m p o n e n t T i t l e	D e s c r i p t i o n	Category	Cycle	Scope	Value Type	Bas elin e Val ue	Base line Year	Tar get Val ue	Targ et Year	Linked Outcome / Output
% of targeted women-led MSMEs reporting improved skills in business planning and management during and beyond crisis			Beneficiaries	Yearly	Country	Percentage	TBD	2021	70%	2021	Outcome: Outcome 1- Improved and equitable access of women-led MSMEs impacted by COVID- 19 to business support opportunities Output: Output 1.2- Improved access of women - led MSMEs impacted by COVID- 19 to emergency funding and resilience-based support
	N	0	componei	nts av	ailable.						
# of women-led MSMEs benefiting from in-kind grants delivered to restore their productivity			Beneficiaries	Yearly	Country	Number	TBD	2021	50	2021	Outcome: Outcome 1- Improved and equitable access of women-led MSMEs impacted by COVID- 19 to business support opportunities Output: Output 1.2- Improved access of women - led MSMEs impacted by COVID- 19 to emergency funding and resilience-based support
	N	o	componei	nts av	ailable.						
% of targeted women -led MSMEs reporting improved capabilities to pursue public and private procurement opportunities?			Beneficiaries	Yearly	Country	Percentage ra	TBD	2021	60%	2021	

21					Fund manage	ement platform					
Indicator Title	C o m p o n e n t T i t I e	D e s c r i p t i o n	Category COmpone	Cycle nts av	Scope ailable.	Value Type	Bas elin e Val ue	Base line Year	Tar get Val ue	Targ et Year	Linked Outcome / Output
# of awareness raising and advocacy campaigns/events conducted to promote decent work opportunities and care services			Policy	Yearly	Country	Number ra	TBD	2021	10	2021	
	No components available.										
# of government, private and civil society organizations promoting care services that support women's access to decent work opportunities			Policy	Yearly	Country	Number ra	TBD	2021	10	2021	
	N	0	compone	nts av	ailable.						

# **Risks**

Event	Category	Level	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Measures	Risk Owner
# of government, private and civil society organizations promoting care services that support women's access to decent work opportunities."	Operational	High	Very Likely	Major	- Close monitoring of all activities, and follow-up with partner focal points, using telecommuting and using communication technology - Coordinate with the local authorities to maintain essential movement of critical staff	ruba.aladham@undp.org

021			, and manage	ment platform		
Social and family pressure prevents women from engaging in programme activities	Social and Environmental	High	Likely	Major	- Engagement of men and boys, family and communities to ensure support to women and youth - Participating UN Agencies will build on pre-existing and new partnerships with organizations that work directly with women-led MSMEs to facilitate and help women-led MSMEs overcome social barriers for their participation in the programme activities.	inas.margieh@unwomen.org
Inability?of implementing partners to?deliver?expected results?	Operational	Medium	Possible	Major	Use of HACT and Mutual Recognition Close monitoring and active communication with partners Adopt tranche funding.	ruba.aladham@undp.org
Escalation of hostilities in targeted areas or armed conflict in Gaza delaying implementation of programme activities	• Political	High	Very Likely	Major	Temporal suspension of programme activities followed by negotiation by RCO with MPTF team and donor on necessary changes to programme activities	henrik.moeberg@un.org

21			Fund manage	ment platform		
Lack of coordinated approaches? between programme and other interventions?led by the government	• Political	Medium	Possible	Moderate	To avoid parallel and competing efforts by national and sub-national actors, the joint programme will utilize existing platforms developed by the government to support MSMEs recovery including the newly established MSME National Helpdesk Scheme under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office with support from UNDP/PAPP	ruba.aladham@undp.org

# **Budget by UNSDG Categories**

Budget Lines	Description	FAO (7%)	UNWOMEN (7%)	WFP (6.5%)	UNDP (7%)	Total
1. Staff and other personnel		40,579	22,000	0	8,000	70,579
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials		1,044	1,390	0	0	2,434
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture, incl. Depreciation		0	2,000	0	0	2,000
4. Contractual services		84,546	75,021	30,000	44,593	234,160
5. Travel		0	0	0	0	0
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts		0	100,000	0	331,000	431,000
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs		32,710	8,000	0	13,650	54,360
Sub Total Project Costs		158,879	208,411	30,000	397,243	794,533
8. Indirect Support Costs		11,122	14,589	1,950	27,807	55,467
Total		170,001	223,000	31,950	425,050	850,000

© 2021 - UNDP: 1.0.0.0