Exploratory Study

The Conditions of Forcibly Displaced Women from Gaza Strip to the Arab Republic of Egypt due to the Genocidal War

MIFTAH - Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy

In Collaboration with the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW)

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Exploratory Study – The Conditions of Forcibly Displaced Women from Gaza Strip to the Arab Republic of Egypt due to the Genocidal War

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Introduction

The genocidal war launched by the Israeli occupation forces has led to mass killings, forced displacement, and crimes of genocide in the Gaza Strip. As part of this ongoing genocide, Israeli forces continue to destroy all aspects of civilian life; evacuating residents from northern Gaza, tightening the blockade, obstructing humanitarian efforts, and enforcing a policy of starvation. They systematically target residential buildings, hospitals, vital infrastructure, shelters, displaced communities, tents (including those of journalists), and civilian institutions delivering humanitarian aid. Forcible displacement has emerged as one of the most tragic humanitarian results in the history of the Palestinian people, from which all the society, particularly women suffer, since they shoulder the larger burden of the deterioration of the security, living and health conditions, the lack of access to services and the threats to their security and their lives.

Forced Displacement to the Arab Republic of Egypt has become a last resort for many families, particularly women seeking refuge from war and devastation. This migration starkly reflects the suffering of women in Gaza, who face escalating political, security, humanitarian, social, and psychological challenges.

These challenges encompass homelessness, internal displacement within Gaza, family separation, the loss of loved ones, restricted access to essential services, and exposure to violence and illness in unfamiliar and often harsh conditions within displacement camps. Women frequently face these hardships alone, having lost vital support networks, whether through the absence of family or employment, amid a lack of legal and social protections to ease their burden.

The issue of forcibly displaced women is a sensitive matter demanding special attention from national parties and the international community. Despite existing international laws protecting refugees and displaced persons, obstacles on the ground frequently prevent women from accessing basic rights. Women forcibly displaced from Gaza face legal status restrictions, in addition to social and cultural barriers to integration into host communities.

This study falls within the framework of the efforts of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, MIFTAH, in collaboration with the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW). It aims to highlight systematic violations against Palestinians under Israeli military occupation. It also seeks to identify the needs resulting from the violations against Palestinian women under Israeli military occupation, amid the genocidal

war launched by the occupying state against civilians in Gaza Strip, the prolonged blockade, and forced displacement of women to Egypt.

Assessing the needs of forcibly displaced women from Gaza to Egypt is not merely documenting their suffering, but rather an attempt to unravel the complex factors affecting them and present a holistic vision of their needs. This exploratory study seeks to highlight their conditions and provide actionable recommendations to improve their conditions, and ensure access to basic necessities, protection, and rights amid these dire circumstances.

Addressing the repercussions of war on women requires the effective enforcement of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and comprehensive protection for women in conflict zones. It also requires customized psychosocial and economic programs that focus on empowerment of women survivors and enhance their role in peace building and reconstruction.

Legal overview

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is the primary framework governing times of war and conflict. It consists of rules aimed at limiting the effects of armed conflicts on persons not participating in hostilities and restricting the means and methods of warfare. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols afford specific protections to women[1], recognizing them as a protected group during conflicts. These protections include safeguards against physical violence and all forms of assault, guaranteed healthcare, protection from collective punishment and forced displacement, in addition to ensuring equal treatment. Furthermore, the 1951 Refugee Convention upholds the rights of displaced persons, ensuring their access to humanitarian protection and assistance[2]. Furthermore, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 emphasizes the need to protect women in armed conflicts and ensure their participation in peace processes[3].

[1] International Red Cross Committee. "What is international humanitarian law?". Legal publication published on 5 July 2022. See the following link: https://shorturl.at/HjZ8X

[2] The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR. The 1951 Refugee Convention. See: https://shorturl.at/dNhXp

[3] UN Women. "A Global study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325". See: https://shorturl.at/gGQqw

Women as victims of genocidal wars

In times of war and conflict, women often shoulder the greatest burden due to their vulnerable circumstances. In war-affected communities, they face the compounded impacts of violence, starvation, exploitation, forced displacement, and loss of life. Displaced women suffer from loss of shelter and livelihoods, exposing them to further risks and lack of basic services, such as healthcare, food, and clean water, particularly affecting pregnant and breastfeeding women, in addition to loss and family fragmentation. Such fragmentation of families increases women's burdens, as they shoulder additional responsibilities to provide for children, the elderly, the wounded, and persons with disabilities.

This is precisely what happened to Palestinians in Gaza. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the genocidal war on Gaza has forcibly displaced approximately two million persons from Gaza and northern Gaza to central Gaza and the south. PCBS reports that the genocidal war on civilians in Gaza has killed over 50,000 people, including 11,478 women, 17,795 children, and 1,060 elderly persons, in addition to 56 starvation deaths and 11,000 missing persons trapped under rubble. More than 100,000 have been injured[4]. Data also indicates that 75% of homes have been destroyed, hospitals destroyed and rendered inoperable, in addition to the destruction of schools, universities, residences, infrastructure, desalination plants, sewage plants, communication networks and electricity grids[5].

Changes in the stereotypical roles of forcibly displaced women

In the context of war and conflict, women are often compelled to move beyond their traditional societal roles. With the loss of husbands or children, many take on the responsibility of becoming primary breadwinners for their families stepping into economic and political roles they had not previously held.

"Women do not hide behind in fear of war's flames, a fact confirmed by the experiences of all nations that have endured prolonged war. Women facing circumstances that push them toward an unknown destiny emerge as displaced persons, medics, or observers, crafting acts of peace within war zones".

Mona Al-Haytham, member of the Women's Peace Network

[4] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. "Israeli aggression against Palestine (عدوان الاحتلال الإسرائيلي على فلسطين".) See: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/

[5] Ibid.

Family Loss and fragmentation

Family fragmentation is among the most catastrophic consequences of genocidal wars and armed conflicts. Women lose family members through killing, death, captivity, and forced migration, leaving profound psychological and social impacts. They bear double responsibility for rebuilding broken family ties while suffering psychological effects like depression and anxiety from trauma of loss. Without adequate support, women face long-term challenges in reconstructing their lives and families.

Study objective

This exploratory study aims to analyze the conditions of forcibly displaced women in the context of the genocidal war on Gaza, ongoing from October 2023 to present (December 2024), with particular focus on the most vulnerable groups including female patients, students, and pregnant women. The study seeks to highlight the psychological, social, economic and legal challenges these women face, and develop actionable recommendations for humanitarian, governmental and stakeholder intervention programs that respond to their special needs and guarantee their basic rights.

The outputs may serve as guidance for shaping more effective policies and supporting programs for displaced women:

- Provide a comprehensive analysis of the conditions of forcibly displaced women.
- Identify major challenges that the forcibly displaced women face, including students, patients, wounded women.
- Present practical solutions to improve the living conditions of displaced women and enhance their resilience.

Study significance

Forced displacement is a major political and humanitarian issue resulting from the genocidal war, with direct and indirect impacts on women and girls.

Methodology

This exploratory study adopted a descriptive analytical approach to understand the challenges faced by displaced women and to unveil personal experiences through direct interviews and testimonies. The study focuses on the study community, i.e. women forcibly displaced from the Gaza Strip to Egypt during the ongoing genocide, who were displaced since 7 October until the closure of the Rafah border crossing on 6 May 2024. The aim is to understand their basic needs and the challenges they face amid forced displacement, loss of shelter, and lack of safety and legal protection.

Primarily, in-depth interviews were conducted with forcibly displaced women, including leaders, political activists, and community figures. As for the focus groups, three were organized as follows:

- Group (1) Forcibly displaced women: A sample was selected of forcibly displaced women in Egypt from different age groups and geographic areas.
- Group (2) Female patients and caregivers to patients: Patient women or women who were injured due to the genocide and were transferred for treatment in Egypt, to examine the impact of displacement on women's health, with a focus on pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses, and their access to healthcare.
- Group (3) Female students: A group of female students, aged 17 to 22, forcibly displaced to Egypt, whose education was disrupted due to the genocide and forced displacement.

This sample was selected to analyze the impact of war, conflict, and forced displacement on them, including obstacles to continuing their education, such as the absence of schools or difficulty accessing them, and the psychosocial effects on their academic performance.

Regarding secondary sources through the revision of relevant international and national documents and reports on the impact of genocide on women.

The exploratory needs assessment was conducted between October 2024 and the end of November 2024. Geographically, the study covered the Arab Republic of Egypt and its temporary displacement areas, which will be detailed later in the study.

It is of utmost importance to note that the study primarily focuses on vulnerable groups requiring special intervention, considering economic, psychological, health, educational, and rights dimensions.

Overview of the problem

The forced displacement resulting from the genocidal war on Gaza has created an escalating political and humanitarian crisis, disproportionately impacting women. The genocidal war on Gaza has displaced around 125,000 Palestinians, over 60% of whom are women, 30% children, and 10% men to Egypt between 8 October and 5 June, until the closure of the Rafah crossing. According to statistics from the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo, this number includes women, children, students, patients, and wounded individuals. As for those remaining in Egypt today, only 105,000 displaced Palestinians remain after holders of foreign nationalities and residency permits elsewhere left Egyptian areas. They are dispersed across various regions of Egypt, with the vast majority concentrated in Cairo and its suburbs. Notably, some, primarily patients and their companions, are located in hospitals and medical centers in North Sinai[6].

Women heading households constitute the largest proportion of the forcibly displaced. Families left Gaza without their husbands due to circumstances preventing their exit, whether security-related, financial hardship, or the need to maintain employment and income sources. Over 150,000 displaced persons exited Gaza through coordination channels (paying $5,000 per person to Ya Hala company), coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or medical transfers for patients and wounded individuals. Around 10,000 patients and wounded were evacuated with their companions, the majority of whom are women, distributed across 160 hospitals inside Egypt, in North Sinai and other governorates[7].

More than 125,000 displaced individuals, including 10,000 patients, managed to leave via medical transfers with their companions, mostly women, and were distributed across 160 hospitals in Egyptian governorates, North Sinai and others[8]. Meanwhile, thousands left Gaza through coordination by the "Ya Hala" company, paying US$5,000 per adult and US$2,500 per child, or via the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, paying $12,000 per family[9]. Egypt's government has not designated official areas for the settlement of forcibly displaced individuals. By the end of November, Egypt's House of Representatives approved the final draft of a law regulating the status of foreign refugees, the first national legislation addressing

[6] Khatatbeh, Sara. "The Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt: 105,000 Palestinians entered Egypt from Gaza". (السفير الفلسطيني بمصر: 105 آلاف فلسطيني دخلوا مصر من غزة). Almamlaka tv website. Published on 21 August 2024. See: https://shorturl.at/hbFhy

[7] From an interview with Diyab Al-Louh, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Arab Republic of Egypt, conducted on 2 November 2024.

[8] Previous source

[9] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.

refugee affairs in Egypt. This law does not include refugee camps or designated shelter zones, unlike Al-Azraq and Zaatari camps dedicated for the Syrian refugees in Jordan. This allows forcibly displaced Palestinians from Gaza to reside in any Egyptian governorate.

All forcibly displaced individuals, particularly women, face significant challenges that constitute a humanitarian crisis. Those include:

- Residency;
- Shelter and homelessness;
- Education;
- Health and healthcare services;
- Food security;
- Legal needs (obtaining documentation, legal aid, legal violations);
- Economic opportunities (employment, decent work, unemployment rates among displaced women);
- Financial support (aid, opportunities for income-generating projects);
- Security and safety challenges (personal and community security);
- Relations with the local communities;
- Mobility and movement; and
- Psychological condition.

Based on the legal framework outlined in this study, several challenges arise, particularly concerning IHL, the Geneva Conventions, the 1951 Refugee Convention, and UN Security Council Resolution 1325. These challenges can be categorized as follows:

- Limited access to the forcibly displaced men and women.
- Shortage of resources for aid and protection.
- Non-compliance of some parties with international laws.
- Failure to apply the Refugee Convention on Palestinians.
- Absence of any role for UNHCR towards Palestinians, as UNRWA is the designated aid agency.
- UNRWA's limited scope, operating only in five refugee regions: Gaza camps, West Bank camps, and the camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.
- Arab and Palestinian political stances towards the issue of Palestinian refugees, opposing their resettlement.

- Failure to enforce international and humanitarian law, as some Arab actors hold the occupation responsible for violations in Palestinian territories

The border crossings must be opened to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and the safe passage of civilians and the wounded. However, the Israeli occupation continues to obstruct this access by closing, damaging, and controlling the crossings. This demand is urgent and enforceable, requiring international pressure to compel the occupying power to comply, alongside immediate intervention from global institutions and humanitarian actors:

- International organizations such as United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and UN agencies such as UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Program (WFP) and UNRWA. All these agencies must work to provide humanitarian services and urgent response to provide forcibly displaced individuals with shelter, food, education and healthcare.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both local (Egyptian and Palestinian) and international, must urgently respond by offering services such as psychosocial support and protection.

The same applies to both the Palestinian and Egyptian governments through their respective centers of responsibility. Priority actions should include providing accurate data on the displaced to facilitate transactions, issuing documentation, certificates and all the necessary documents to verify the Palestinian identity and legal procedures; education, medical referrals, financial coverage and access to aid and essential services to the displaced.

Major topics / issues identified by the study

It is worth noting that the researcher faced several challenges that made it difficult to optimally identify the needs, such as difficulty in accessing all the displaced persons in Egypt, since they are dispersed over several areas, difficulty in coordinating among the competent and implementing parties, lack of sufficient resources to meet the needs and lack of sufficient information about the displaced (place of residence, accurate official numbers, gender or age group segregated information.

First issue: Residency

Residency is considered as the main "mother" of all issues, as described by the Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt, Diyab Al-Louh. It constitutes the issue for over 100,000 displaced persons to Egypt. Since 7 October, Egypt has received more than 125,000 forcibly displaced persons. Since the arrival of the forceable displaced persons up till now, they have not obtained residency permits after the expiration of their entry permits. No residency permits for the displaced persons have been renewed. The Palestinian official side has requested the Egyptian official side to issue exceptional one-year residency permits until the end of the war on Gaza, and the return of the forcibly displaced persons, pending response to the request[10].

Although the Egyptian government granted some facilities, which initially required residency permits, such as opening bank accounts for forcibly displaced Palestinians, allowing property ownership, housing, rentals, and starting up enterprises, however those were within the framework of Egyptian policies. It is worth noting that these services and facilities are now available without requiring residency.

However, many issues related to basic services and fundamental human rights remain unresolved and linked to residency status. In interviews and focus groups, women emphasized that these issues pose significant challenges, especially for forcibly displaced women, including barriers to enrolling in public or private schools, obtaining educational certificates from the Egyptian Ministry of Education, accessing healthcare in public hospitals, traveling in and out of Egypt, and exercising their right to seek justice through the courts... These rights remain linked to residency and constitute significant challenges, especially for female-headed households and the poorest families.

Field response

The Palestinian Embassy submitted a request to the Egyptian government for issuing temporary one-year residency permits for the forcibly displaced, but a response is still pending. Some individual initiatives by forcibly displaced persons have also been launched to address issues like education and health insurance in the absence of residency permits.

[10] From the interview with Diyab Al-Louh, previous source.

Second Issue: Health and Healthcare

Access to healthcare remains one of the most urgent challenges facing forcibly displaced women, especially when it comes to treating the sick and the wounded Focus group discussions revealed major problems with medical referrals, as most cancer patients were transferred to hospitals not specialized in oncology.

A cancer patient (S.S.), was referred to Suez Hospital, a facility for chest diseases, not oncology. She needed a CT scan and completing her radiation therapy, but received no examinations or treatment for three months. She eventually left to seek treatment at her own expense. Many other patients, especially cancer patients, were forced to pay for medical services (CT scans, MRIs, and other tests) out of pocket, despite lacking the financial means. Some Egyptian civil and charitable organizations contributed to treatment and examination costs[11].

Some hospitals lacked the necessary treatments and medical services. Some hospitals in North Sinai (Al-Arish, Bir Al-Abd, Sheikh Zuweid), host hundreds of patients and their companions. Those who completed treatment or had no available treatment, were transferred to recovery centers or residences at the expense and under the supervision of the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity, which transferred those who did not wish to reside at the hospital to special centers managed by the Ministry (Assabeel housing) in north Sinai. In Cairo and other governorates, the Ministry opened special housing center for patients, such as (Al-Khayala), housing 103 patients and companions. Regarding Al-Abour housing, it is the largest gathering of patients and their companions, who receive charity-funded hospital visits for treatment and medical examinations.

Moreover, Al-Maadi Elderly home received hundreds of patients and their companions of women and children. Other hospitals in Assiut and Luxor host thousands of patients, mostly cancer cases.

Medical tests were conducted upon arrival for all patients and their companions, particularly for hepatitis, which spread widely in Gaza due to drinking un-potable water. Results showed over a third of companions and some patients were infected, leading to quarantine and treatment. Most cases were women and children accompanying patients.

[11] From the focus group of women cancer patients and wounded residing in Al-Khayala housing- interview conducted on 5 November 2024.

Many patients were transferred to Egyptian hospitals while awaiting further treatment in the UAE or Turkey. Another critical issue is amputees from the war in Gaza, who still await prosthetic limbs.

Key Health issues

The Egyptian Ministry of Health provides meals for hospitalized patients, and the Egyptian Food Bank provides most patients in North Sinai hospitals with daily hot meals and monthly food vouchers that cover the patients and their companions who stay at the hospitals and Assabeel residents in north Sinai. However, most patients, primarily cancer patients, consider the food aid unsuitable because it often contains preservatives that can be harmful to their health.

Many female patients said that they suffered from movement restrictions; Companions are only allowed to leave hospitals for extreme necessity and under strict security measures. Many patients requested the Palestinian Embassy's help to leave hospitals at their own expense, forfeiting government treatment.

Several women with whom extensive interviews were conducted, said that they had medical reports from West Bank and Gaza hospitals before the war, indicating the need for radiation, chemotherapy, or biological therapy, following examinations that confirmed their conditions. However, Egyptian hospitals repeated the examinations and found no need for treatment, a claim confirmed by dozens of women.

Many patients expressed their need for psychological support due to trauma, loss resulting from war and separation from families in Gaza. One woman said that she was wounded during the war, and was operated on at the Egyptian hospitals to remove the shrapnels, but lost her sight. She later learned that her husband in Gaza was also injured as his place of displacement was shelled, but hid it to spare her distress that might have affected the condition of her eyes. She also never told him that she had lost her sight. Some cancer patients referred from Gaza for treatment at Egyptian hospitals said that they were referred to hospitals that have no oncology treatment, such as Suez Hospital. They eventually requested moving to Al-Khayala shelter, after months of receiving no treatment, where the Ministry of Social Solidarity provides accommodation and limited living expenses. The patients received aid from Egyptian charitable associations for treatment and examinations at hospitals like Demerdash and Sohag,

requiring long trips for chemo or radiation therapy, although Cairo hospitals offer these services, but are not included in the financial coverage or referrals.[12]

Ten female cancer patients of those referred for treatment died in Egypt and were buried in PLO cemeteries. Some patient companions remained stranded in hospitals for lack of shelter or their inability to afford rent. Two young women aged, 19 and 22, faced eviction at Al-Khayala after their patients died. However, they were temporarily allowed to stay and have not been evicted so far[13].

In a focus group for cancer patients held on 5 November 2024, women reported having nowhere to go, no family or income and no money for rent.

They had no identification documents, no birth certificates and no educational certificates as those were buried under the rubble, to seek employment in the labor market. They sought help from the Palestinian Embassy but received no help or response.

Additional observations

-Some interviewed patients praised doctors and nurses but noted limited treatment and occasional poor treatment.

-Hospitals were highly restricted. It was hard to receive visitors except under strict conditions and high-level coordination, which isolated patients socially and psychologically.

-Patients struggled to follow news about Gaza's war and the whereabouts of their families, relying only on limited phones/social media.

-Local communities sometimes provided clothes, cash, SIM cards, or meals.

Children's vaccinations

Most interviewed women said their children received vaccinations at private clinics at personal expense, unaware of public vaccination centers. Egypt's vaccination system differs from Palestine's, causing confusion in follow-up of children's vaccinations[14]. The Palestinian Embassy, in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Health and UNICEF, opened vaccination centers, particularly for polio vaccines (ages 1–11) and announced the addresses[15]

[12] From a focus group for female cancer patients held on 5 November 2024.
[13] Previous source.
[14] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.
[15] From Diyab Al-Louh interview, previous source.

of the centers at the Embassy's webpage. However, most women said that they were unaware and that they do not follow the Embassy's page.

Premature babies

The whole world witnessed the attacks on Gaza's hospitals, particularly Al-Shifa Hospital and Al-Nasr Children's Hospital that were shelled and destroyed, requesting the evacuation of the patients, including 35 premature infants who were evacuated from the infirmary to Egypt with major efforts exerted by WHO. Some died, while 28 remain at an Egyptian childcare institution. The parentage of some infants is unknown. The premature babies were evacuated without the mothers or companions. There is on-going effort to find their relatives, since they lack identification or civil records. They were evacuated with one or two names only. There are no problems with identifying the infants with two names, but there are problems in identifying families of infants with one name only[16].

Reproductive Health Services

Most displaced women who participated in focus groups indicated that they have no access to reproductive health services and were unaware of NGOs or government centers offering such care, as in Gaza, where UNRWA clinics and health and women organizations operated. Participants said that pregnant women lacked prenatal care, and are not aware of centers that provide reproductive healthcare services to receive examinations, ultrasounds, follow-up, family planning, or contraception, forcing them to seek expensive private clinics, unaffordable for many. Hence, they do not seek such services[17].

Al-Haq Foundation of Turkey

Operating in Egypt, it assists Arab refugees, including forcibly displaced Gazan women, with cash and food aid. It also provided health services during pink October, the Breast Cancer Awareness Month as it has signed an agreement with the Egyptian Baheya Foundation for breast cancerIt screened 23 displaced women and identified 7 (31%) with breast cancer, an alarmingly high rate[18].

[16] Previous source
[17] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.

[18] From a telephone interview held with Lina Abu Amer, coordinator of relief projects at the Al-Haq Turkish Foundation

The elderly and persons with chronic diseases

Elderly displaced women and men face significant difficulties in accessing treatment for chronic diseases (such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and osteoporosis). Previously, they received these services for free from UNRWA in Gaza, but now they are forced to purchase them at exorbitant costs, sometimes with great difficulty, as all elderly individuals are financially vulnerable and have no sources of income, having exhausted their savings on rent and travel coordination.

The Right to health under International Law

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) includes numerous provisions aimed at protecting the health of civilians during wars and conflicts. It guarantees the right to health and medical treatment. The IHL rules on health fall into several categories, including those requiring medical assistance, protecting medical facilities and personnel, safeguarding medical supplies, and regulating relief operations.

The right to health is enshrined in several human rights instruments. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognizes that "everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health," obligating states to take measures to realize this right.

National response

- The Embassy of Palestine confirmed that any displaced person from Gaza currently in Egypt who requires hospitalization or surgery must submit a request to the Embassy to obtain a medical referral and financial coverage for treatment in Egyptian hospitals. This referral also includes Palestinian refugees from Syria and Jordan.
- The Embassy addressed health insurance for military personnel who arrived in Egypt, ensuring their treatment under the health insurance coverage at Palestine Hospital.
- The Embassy of Palestine is coordinating with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and the Egyptian Red Crescent to facilitate access to Egyptian hospitals and Palestine Hospital for displaced persons seeking medical treatment. However, this coordination is still ongoing and under discussion. Moreover, the Embassy, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior in Ramallah, is issuing free passports for patients and their companions, exempting them from any fees.

- As of 18 August 2024, patients and companions currently in hospitals were exempted from passport fees (excluding those who had already left the hospitals).
- The Embassy, in coordination with the Refugee Affairs Committee, also provided financial support of $200 per female patient and $100 per companion.
- The Office of the President also extended assistance to patients and their companions, providing $200 per patient and $100 per companion.

WHO interventions

- WHO Provided medications and treatments to Egyptian hospitals as support for patients arriving from Gaza, contributing to their treatment through an agreement with the Egyptian Ministry of Health.
- Some charitable hospitals offered free services, including surgeries, tests, and radiology, for patients who were able to access them.
- A health committee was formed by the Egyptian Ministry of Health (UNICEF), WHO, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to follow up patients' conditions and assess their needs, particularly those outside the health referral system, and discuss facilitating displaced individuals' access to healthcare services.
- WHO is working to sign an agreement with the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Ramallah and seeking funding sources.
- UNRWA does not intervene or provide services due to its political status and the situation of forcibly displaced persons, as its services are limited to the five refugee regions, not including Egypt.
- WHO held three meetings with the Palestinian Ministry of Health to prepare a survey on supporting primary healthcare services (vaccination, pharmacy, primary care), most of which are women-focused health services that affect their right to healthcare.
- The Palestinian Ministry of Health requested WHO to assume responsibility for healthcare services for Palestinian women displaced from Gaza to Egypt, with discussions still ongoing.

Recommendations on health

1. Provide health insurance for displaced individuals, especially government employees whose salaries include insurance deductions, as well as all displaced persons.

2. Network with Egyptian charities and NGOs to offer free healthcare services for women and the elderly.
3. International organizations should fund Egyptian associations to facilitate their work and interventions for displaced patients.
4. Exempt women, children, and the elderly from treatment and healthcare fees in Palestine Hospital or Egyptian government hospitals.
5. Enhance coordination between the Palestinian Embassy and international organizations to support patients.
6. Establish emergency health units in Palestinian gathering areas to provide primary healthcare.
7. Waive health insurance fees for families with no income, the elderly, and female-headed households if insurance becomes available.

Third issue: Education

Education is one of the primary concerns raised by forcibly displaced women from Gaza to Egypt. Displaced women, particularly male and female students in basic education, suffer from a serious problem. The students of Gaza were deprived from 2023/2024 academic year after the war began in October, as schools turned into shelters for displaced families fleeing from northern to southern Gaza and later to central areas.

After forced displacement to Egypt, most families found their children unable to enroll in public schools due to lack of residency permits. Private and international schools admitted students but without granting certificates and at very high fees ranging from 20,000 to 60,000 Egyptian Pounds per student[19], i.e., the cost of education for more than one student in the family by far exceeds their resources. Around 20,000 school-aged children and 10,000 preschool children under six have arrived in Egypt[20].

The Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt said that, "Education is being systematically destroyed by the occupation, disrupting Gaza's academic year 2023-2024". The Embassy, coordinating with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, swiftly addressed the issue by launching distance learning via Microsoft Teams, with 19,936 students enrolling in West Bank schools remotely. The registration process was split into several levels:

- In the first stage 9,052students were enrolled, completed the 2023/2024 year and received certificates. 10,884students arrived in Egypt late, by end of April 2024, and joined the second stage of 2024/2025 academic year (Grades 1–12). Following coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Education to arrange for the two sessions of the High School exams, 1,107 students attended the exams, with a third session in December for those who missed earlier exams[21].
- Over 60% of exam takers in Egypt were female students forcibly displaced from Gaza.
- Al-Azhar institutions offered free enrolment for 6,000 displaced students (Grades 1–12)[22].
- However, Al-Azhar institutions teach the Egyptian curriculum, which heavily emphasizes religious studies, raising concerns about reintegration into Gaza's system post-war. Azhar institutions offered free education to displaced students from Gaza;

[19] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.
[20] From the interview with Diyab Al-Louh. previous source.
[21] Previous source.
[22] Previous source.

however, they deduct one or two years of education for enrolled students, which raise the concerns of many parents[23].

- Around 13,000 Palestinian students' study in Egyptian universities, 70% from Gaza, including 5,000 forcibly displaced after the war, who arrived in Egypt to enroll in Egyptian universities[24].

The Challenges women face in education

The majority of women said that they bear the primary responsibility for their children's remote learning, as they daily attend and follow up their children's remote learning.

They identified the following problems:

- Overcrowded virtual classes of 200 student.
- Lack of laptops, tablets or smart phones, particularly for low-income families for use with remote learning
- Managing lessons, homework, family affairs and administrative tasks of registration at the Embassy paperwork, certificates constitute major responsibilities for mothers, while displaced persons are dispersed in different regions in Egypt.
- Lack of textbooks, forcing families to photocopy materials.
- Despite the stress, mothers prefer online education over informal or Al-Azhar schooling, since the students shall receive Palestinian-certified diplomas from Ramallah and study the Palestinian curriculum.
- Al-Azhar institutions teach the Egyptian, not the Palestinian curriculum, which may be problematic upon return to Gaza after the end of the war[25].

Challenges in university education (from focus group conducted on 19 November 2024)

- Forcibly displaced female students reported that exorbitant university fees prevent them from pursuing higher education. For example, a student must pay US$ 6,000 tuition fees, US$ 2,000registration fees, US$ 125 seat reservation fees, and US$ 300 medical exam fee for foreign or expat student.
- These amounts are unaffordable for displaced families, particularly those with several university students. When limited funds are available, priority is given to male students or those studying medicine.

[23] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.
[24] From the interview with Diyab Al-Louh. previous source.
[25] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.

- High accommodation costs force students to rent housing in university admission areas or sometimes outside Cairo.
    - Samar, a participant in the focus group, said that she had completed two years of study in Gaza before the war. She and her brother, who graduated from high school with excellent academic results, both tried to enroll in an Egyptian university but were unable to do so because of the high expenses. Students who completed academic years in Gaza fail to continue their studies in Egyptian universities, since they are required to begin again from the first year and face high tuition fees. Consequently, over 2,000 students have suspended their education.
    - Gaza universities have opened online learning programs for students in Gaza, Egypt, and elsewhere, with over 2,000 students enrolling remotely with Gaza universities, as well as some West Bank that provided the distance/ online learning option.
    - Palestinian students receive a 50% tuition discount through coordination between the Palestinian Embassy and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education. However, the remaining fees are still unaffordable for most families from Gaza.
    - Forcibly displaced students struggle to obtain identification documents, certificates, and academic transcripts from Gaza universities because most academic institutions have been destroyed. Gaza universities require students to pay tuition fees to continue online education, creating difficulties for students both inside and outside Gaza who cannot afford the costs. This means that female students will not complete their university education.
    - Students in specializations that require practical training such as medicine, engineering, nursing and education lack practical training opportunities, as Egyptian universities and labs do not permit their participation in practical training without formal agreements between Palestinian and Egyptian universities. This issue particularly affects students from the Islamic University that has no signed protocols.
    - Egyptian universities do not recognize completed academic years or credit hours for admitted students, forcing students to repeat years and start from scratch.
    - Students who receive university admission must obtain residency permits, requiring an additional fee of US$180.

A case

Amira is a senior nursing student at the Islamic University. She is required to complete practical training hours at university hospitals in Egypt, or at private or governmental hospitals. She applied to train at universities and the Egyptian Ministry of Health, but was not approved because the Islamic University does not have any agreements with the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

The right to education and International Law

The right to education is a recognized right under ICESCR and all regional instruments. Although the purpose of these provisions is to ensure children's right to access education, evidently this right is guaranteed for everyone without discrimination on any basis, including gender[26].

Moreover, Article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) stipulates that:

- Parties must take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure them equal rights with men in the field of education.
- Under the 1951 Refugee Convention, host countries are required to grant refugees the same treatment as their own citizens regarding primary education, and refugees must be granted the most favorable possible treatment[27].

Education and field response

- The response of the Palestinian Ministry of Education is considered swift with an urgent intervention to help students access education and protect their rights.
- International institutions such as Save the Children and UNICEF support the Ministry of Education and students by providing financial support to the Ministry for the remote learning program.

[26] International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
[27] From the website of UNHCR

- Save the Children covered the transportation costs for high school students who took the 2023–2024 exams at the "Tahya Misr" school, donated by the Egyptian Ministry of Education to facilitate the High school exams.
- The *United for Gaza* organization funded the "Pyramids of Hope" school, which is an informal education initiative launched by Palestinian activists including activist Marwa Abu Daqa under the "Well-being and Education" program. It also received funding through *Humanity Without Borders* organization.
- The Pakistani Services organization for funding informal education funded the "Pyramids of Hope" initiative.
- The Norwegian organization *Imdad* donated 200,000 Egyptian Pounds to support the "Pyramids of the Future" schools, covering the cost of books and school supplies for students.

A glimpse of light

*The "**Pyramids of Hope**" initiative was launched to support forcibly displaced students in Egypt to continue their education. With the support of **Badr University**, which provided the use of its school facilities, six branches of Pyramids of Hope Schools were opened, serving **3,500 students** from early primary grades up to grade eleven. These schools are staffed by **225 volunteer teachers and psychosocial specialists**, all of whom are forcibly displaced individuals. They provide **psychological and social support** to children, and a voluntary team teaches the **Palestinian curriculum**.*

Recommendations on education

- The Ministry of Education must coordinate with initiatives, officially recognize them, and documents the students' certificates after proper assessment.
- The Ministry of Education should prioritize opening schools affiliated with it in areas where displaced persons are concentrated.
- Provide Palestinian curriculum textbooks.

- Support students and families headed by women with several school-age children with laptops, tablets, and smart devices.
- Sign protocols quickly with Egyptian universities in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education.
- Provide university scholarships.
- Establish a student fund.
- Enable the displaced university students to continue their studies without losing academic years.

Fourth issue: Housing

Around 120,000 displaced persons have arrived in Egypt, and had to seek housing. They have spread across various Egyptian Governorates, including North Sinai:

- Only about **1%** of the displaced enjoy home ownership.
- **14%** are hosted by relatives or friends.
- **85%** are renting houses.

The majority of women who participated in focus groups and in-depth interviews indicated that the main problem is the **sharp rise in rental prices.**

- Some displaced families were forced to rent in new cities, but due to high rents and the high cost of living, they had to search for cheaper or popular neighborhoods such as **Faisal, Giza, Shubra, Gesr El Suez**, or move outside Cairo to rural or other governorates.
- Forcibly displaced women heads of household's face challenges in some areas, where property owners refuse to rent to women without a male provider[28].
- Forcibly displaced women also face issues with short-term rental agreements, which often require renewal every three months with significantly increased rent[29].
- They also complain about the burden of paying two months' rent as a deposit and additional broker commissions, amounts beyond the means of women who have become financially exposed and vulnerable[30].
- Many are forced to choose housing in unsafe, overcrowded neighborhoods due to the difficulty circumstances of the displaced women.
- Housing is often inadequate and does not suit the size of the family, as apartments are small and their utilities are inadequate.

Nabila, an interviewee, said, *"I used to live in a villa in Rafah with my husband. Our children are married and live in their own apartments. Now, 18 of us, myself, my children, their wives, and my grandchildren, live in a small apartment with one small kitchen and one bathroom. We*

[28] From an interview with activist Huda Elayyan on 8 November 2024.
[29] Previous source
[30] From the focus group held on 10 November 2024.

cannot afford to rent more than one place. I left my husband in the tent in Gaza. My children are with me; they lost their jobs, and we have no income for our families".

- Some displaced women reported **being exploited by property owners** and losing their rental deposits. Without residency permits or legal documents, they are unable to take legal action.
- Residences are often far from basic services for those who rented in remote areas such as *Minya*. **Lina Abu Amer** said she chose to live in *Minya* because the rent is affordable, but she must travel to Cairo for medical follow-ups. Her daughter is a university student who also travels to Cairo. She is now searching for a location closer to health and education services, and the Embassy.
- Very few rent or housing assistance programs are available to women[31].

The right to housing and International Law

International humanitarian law prohibits targeting buildings and civilian objects and forbids the forced displacement of civilians. According to the Fourth Geneva Convention, any destruction inflicted on buildings and civilian objects constitutes a war crime. International Human Rights Law instruments focus on the issue of shelter from three perspectives:

1. **The first perspective**: The right to ownership and the right to adequate housing, as stated in CEDAW.
2. **The second perspective**: The prohibition of arbitrary interference in the homes of displaced persons.
3. **The third perspective**: The right to a decent standard of living, including shelter.

(The 1951 Refugee Convention obliges host states to grant refugees lawfully staying in their territory the most favorable treatment possible, which should not be less than that granted to other foreigners in the same circumstances).

Field response

- The Egyptian government has allowed Palestinians the right to own property, including residential apartments and land.

[31] From an interview with activist Huda Elayyan on 8 November 2024

- Some Arab, Islamic, and Egyptian charitable organizations have contributed to paying rent for certain vulnerable displaced families, particularly families of patients, the wounded, martyrs, and households headed by women.
- The Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity has rented housing and apartment buildings for patients and their companions in several locations, including North Sinai governorate (Al-Sabeel housing), Al-Khayal housing in Old Cairo, Al-Abour apartment buildings, Dar Al-Salaam housing, and others.

Recommendations on housing

- There is an urgent need to provide rental subsidies for forcibly displaced families who have no sources of income and in particular headed by women.
- Ensure housing, through Palestinian entities, for patient companions who have been left stranded.Support housing for displaced Palestinian female students, in coordination with GUPW and the Palestinian National Fund.
- International organizations bear responsibility for supporting housing for families headed by women, especially those operating under the Protection Cluster.

Fifth issue: Food Security

All legal instruments recognize the human right to adequate food, emphasizing the need for the sufficiency and sustainability of food and access to it. Food security is one of the most pressing challenges for forcibly displaced families, especially those headed by women. Many displaced women have stated that the ability to provide a complete and balanced diet for their families has become a luxury.

The majority of displaced women interviewed admitted that their daily meals do not include meat or chicken due to high prices. Displaced families mainly rely on vegetables and legumes as main meals, with meat consumed only once. The entire family eats the same type of food, pregnant women, as well as the elderly and children, do not receive increased, improved, or balanced nutrition, due to the difficult economic conditions they face.

Focus group discussions revealed several challenges and problems related to this issue:

- Food insecurity.
- Difficulty ensuring sustainable access to food.
- Inequitable distribution: Women often do not receive their fair share of food aid.
- **Food quality**: The food provided to forcibly displaced women is often of poor quality, consisting mainly of canned food and legumes, with no vegetables, meat, or milk.
- Displaced women reported that most of the aid they received consisted of a one-time food voucher containing only canned food and legumes, without any milk for children.
- During religious holidays, some patients, women and companions received one-time meat donations (sacrificial meat) from charitable organizations[32].
- **The Egyptian Food Bank** is the largest provider of food assistance to displaced persons, covering the entire North Sinai region and offering hot meals daily to patients and their companions. These meals include meat, vegetables, and rice.
- The Food Bank also ensures balanced meals for pregnant women, the elderly, and children, after conducting research and assessments in partnership with the **J-PAL Center at the American University in Cairo**.

[32] From the focus group of cancer patients held on 5 November 2024.

- The Food Bank also conducted an evaluation of the food vouchers it distributes to forcibly displaced families from Gaza in Cairo and other governorates[33].

Findings from the assessment (conducted by J-PAL at the American University in Cairo) include:

- Buying meat, poultry, oil, and rice.
- A second major spending area was on household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene, which differs from the spending patterns of refugees from other nationalities.

Meanwhile, female patients reported that most food assistance consisted of a box of canned foods, which they are not allowed to eat because they contain preservatives.

In the early stages of forced displacement, most families reported not receiving any food parcels or assistance. However, after the entry of aid into Gaza became impossible due to the tightening of the siege and the starvation policies, some international organizations were compelled to distribute aid to forcibly displaced women rather than destroy it.

Some organizations mentioned that they are not allowed to carry out relief operations inside Egypt directly and are therefore compelled to distribute aid via the **Embassy of Palestine** or the **Egyptian Red Crescent**.

The **World Food Program (WFP)** has no direct activities targeting forcibly displaced persons in Egypt.

Some **Egyptian and Turkish charitable organizations** distributed one-time food vouchers to certain displaced families, specifically to families of the wounded, martyrs, and widows. The **Embassy of Palestine** receives aid from some international organizations and distributes it to the displaced according to registration on the Embassy's webpage. Beneficiaries are allowed to receive assistance only once.

The right to food and International Law

[33] From an interview held with Dr. Abdul Rahman Nour Eddin, Director for Refugee Relief Program at the Egyptian Food Bank, held on 20 November 2024.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Article 11, recognizes the right to adequate food as part of a decent standard of living[34].

International Humanitarian Law

Obliges conflicting parties to ensure access to food aid for affected populations.

United Nations resolutions

Emphasize the importance of providing food as part of humanitarian assistance in conflicts.

Field response

- International institutions did not provide food to forcibly displaced persons. For example, the WFP has no role in supplying food to the forcibly displaced, and its interventions are limited inside Gaza.
- There are efforts by international NGOs, such as Al-Haq Turkish Foundation, which provide limited food aid and parcels to displaced families headed by women[35].
- The Egyptian Food Bank plays a major role in meeting the needs of displaced families, particularly patients, their companions, and their families in North Sinai. Anera and Save the Children also contribute some food aid. The Food Bank provides 500 hot meals daily in North Sinai hospitals and the recovery center. It also offers vouchers in Cairo and other governorates through a partnership with "Khair Zaman." Furthermore, it has established three kitchens to prepare hot meals for the displaced in North Sinai. The Food Bank provides special food vouchers for the elderly and those with wheat allergies, which is crucial as these groups struggle to meet their needs. Furthermore, it delivers food aid directly to the homes of the elderly and people with disabilities and provides high-nutrition food assistance to 59 pregnant women[36].

Recommendations

- Ensure equitable distribution of food aid.
- Improve the quality of food provided to displaced women.
- Empower women to access food sources through economic empowerment programs.

[34] Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
[35] Telephone interview with Lina Abu Amer, coordinator for relief projects, held on 10 November 2024.

[36] From an interview held with Dr. Abdul Rahman Nour Eddin, previous source.

- Consider the needs of pregnant women, the elderly, and the sick in ensuring their right to balanced nutrition.

Sixth Issue: Legal Affairs and Rights

There is a major crisis regarding personal official documents, such as IDs, passports, birth certificates, property deeds, academic certificates, and work experience certificates. These are all essential for ensuring access to basic rights and services.

In cases of forced displacement, women face significant challenges regarding their personal documents, including loss of documents due to forced displacement during the war of genocide in Gaza and their sudden displacement from the north to the south, or the destruction and bombing of their homes. Most families lost their official documents, making it difficult for women to rent homes or obtain their children's educational certificates.

Lack of issuing documents

With the disruption of official institutions, the siege on Gaza during the genocide war, the absence of civil records, and the difficulty of issuing new documents, most forcibly displaced women struggle to access many services.

Exploitation

Some forcibly displaced women are forced to pay bribes or large sums to offices to obtain new documents. Some have been exploited by property owners who refuse to return rent deposits.

Dependence

Displaced women face social or legal restrictions that limit their independence in obtaining personal documents, particularly those related to child custody, which requires a power of attorney or guardian approval. This remains one of the biggest challenges, as the issue of guardianship or custody is a major obstacle preventing women from obtaining official documents for themselves and their children.

The story of Batool

Batool is a young woman who was separated just three months after marriage and gave birth to a child, now 10 months old. The father never contacted the child or provided any financial support, no milk, diapers, or care, even in the three months before the genocide war. He never saw the child after 7 October.

Forced to flee with her family to Rafah, Batool lived in displacement camps, yet the father never checked on the child. When her family arranged to travel to Egypt for huge amounts of money, Batool was among them. However, upon arrival at the Palestinian hall in Rafah

crossing, there was a travel ban on the child, and the authorities forcibly separated him and prevented him from leaving with his mother. The child was handed over to a returning traveler and sent back to Rafah, although the father had never cared for the child during the 10 months of war and genocide in Gaza.

Batool suffered severe psychological and emotional trauma from this injustice. What happened was a crime: a child was deprived of his right to survive a genocide and remain in his mother's custody during such dire circumstances, all due to oppressive laws against women that deny women guardianship over their children, even in times of genocide. To this day, Batool remains deprived of contact with her child, who has also been denied the right to see or know his mother.

Marriage certificates

Forcibly displaced families who lack birth certificates and marriage documents face significant difficulties in obtaining new ones. This requires intervention from the Embassy, the Office of the Chief Justice in Ramallah, and the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, a process that takes a long time.

Newborns

Forcibly displaced women have reported at a meeting that newborn infants born in Egypt after forced displacement are not receiving birth certificates because Israel refuses to give them Palestinian ID numbers or register them in the Palestinian civil registry. This serious problem has left around 2,000 children in legal limbo, unable to obtain passports or leave Egypt with their families.

International Law and legal identity

Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law[37]. Moreover, the 1951 Refugee Convention obliges states to provide refugees with travel and identity documents to facilitate daily life. It also mandates the protection of civil records during conflicts and calls on parties of conflicts to facilitate issuing document.

[37] From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Field response

Palestinian authorities must provide comprehensive data on displaced individuals, categorized by gender, age, and location. Usually, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) issues temporary documents for refugees. However, the Palestinian case has a political context related to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and UNRWA, that has the mandate over refugees, does not operate in Egypt.

The Embassy of Palestine, the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Office of the Chief Justice are the official parties that must assist displaced Palestinians in Egypt by facilitating document replacement, possibly through a dedicated committee, similar to the way that the Chief Justice is handling marriage affairs in Egypt.

The Embassy should also deploy mobile offices to register displaced individuals and issue documents. Alternatively, the Embassy could officially announce procedures to process the paperwork of displaced persons.

Focus areas

- Providing documentation.
- Ensuring alternative documents for forcibly displaced families and women.
- Simplifying procedures.
- Streamlining administrative processes to obtain documents.
- Legal protection.
- Preventing discrimination or exploitation during the process of obtaining documents.

Expected outcomes

- Analysis of the current situation.
- Identification of rate of women who lost documents and their challenges in obtaining replacements.
- The impact of the loss of documents on women's access to services, education, healthcare and social services.

Recommendations

- Establish local and international programs for document issuance.
- Develop policies to facilitate document recovery for forcibly displaced persons.

- Strengthen the role of local and international organizations in protecting civil records during wars.
- Emphasize the legal mandate of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in safeguarding civil rights for citizens, particularly for women.

Seventh Issue: Economic Conditions and the Right to Work

The majority of forcibly displaced women suffer from difficult economic conditions because of the lack of livelihood opportunities, the absence of sustainable income for their families, and their inability to find employment in Egypt. They are divided into the following categories:

First category

Some women from forcibly displaced families are employees of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and receive around 60-70% of their monthly salary. This is insufficient due to new financial obligations resulting from forced displacement, such as rent, school fees, university tuition, and healthcare expenses.

Second category

These are employees of international organizations who were evacuated from Gaza during the ongoing genocidal war. Upon arriving in Egypt, their contracts were terminated and were left unemployed. Some are financially vulnerable and ineligible to work because they have no residency permits.

Third category

This group consists of patients and their companions, most of whom have no source of income and are among the poorest.

Employees of non-governmental organizations

Most of them have had their contracts terminated and were suspended from work, except for a few cases where remote work was permitted based on job type and requirements. They have also suffered from dire economic conditions because of the genocidal war, losing their businesses and enterprises, and have been without any source of income for over a year.

Women suffer the most from privation and need, as the unemployment rate among women before the genocidal war exceeded 50%, and women's participation in the workforce did not exceed 19%. Consequently, most have no sustainable or stable income, particularly female-headed households.

Employment opportunities

- Unavailable because of lack of the basic requirement for employment, residency permits.
- Finding work in Egypt is extremely difficult because the country suffers from dire economic conditions and high unemployment rates among Egyptians.
- Many doctors, engineers, experts, teachers, and other professionals are unemployed and unable to secure jobs because they have no residency permits. Some are subcontracted in private clinics or companies, receiving very low wages.
- Displaced women could not secure any formal or informal employment.
- A small number of displaced young women from Gaza work remotely for some international and Arab companies but face difficulties receiving their wages because of banking policies and transfer restrictions.

Small enterprises

Groups of forcibly displaced women have initiated small enterprises, mostly focused on food production, embroidery, or sewing. They rely entirely on digital marketing and social media platforms for sales. Most of these projects target the Palestinian community in Cairo and cannot expand to Egyptian or foreign markets.

GUPW, Egypt Branch, organized three bazars to help forcibly displaced women market their products. This was a notable effort, providing displaced female entrepreneurs with an opportunity to reach a wider audience. Media coverage was also positive.

Even forcibly displaced women who hold Egyptian citizenship face significant difficulties in finding employment because of lack of opportunities, limited access to jobs, and their lack of experience and knowledge of the local community.

Examples of some enterprises for women entrepreneurs

Mona Ghalayini: a Palestinian businesswoman who opened Juzoor restaurant at El-Tagammo El-Khames.

Salwa: has an embroidery enterprise who seeks marketing abroad.

Rania Zemmo: a pastries production enterprise that markets products online.

The 1951 Refugee Convention addresses the issue of work, stipulating that the Contracting party shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory the most favorable treatment

accorded to nationals of a foreign country in the same circumstances, as regards the right to engage in wage earning employment[38].

CEDAW obligates states to take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in employment, ensuring their equal rights, including:

The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings, and the right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment.[39]

Human Rights Law

The right to work is recognized in several international and regional human rights instruments, including ICESCR and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Field Response

- There are no interventions by relevant stakeholders to enable forcibly displaced women to access employment opportunities.
- The Embassy of Palestine provided one-time financial assistance of 2,000 to 3,000 EGP to forcibly displaced families.
- Some international institutions and charities offered limited one-time financial aid to displaced families, including those of the wounded, sick, martyrs, and orphans.
- The Egyptian government allowed forcibly displaced persons to establish commercial enterprises without requiring residency permits, creating limited job opportunities.
- However, most workers in these enterprises are men, with few opportunities for displaced women from Gaza.
- GUPW organized a small enterprise management training for 20 displaced women entrepreneurs to build their capacities.

[38] 1951 convention, Chapter Three: Article 17
[39] CEDAW- Article 11.

Recommendations on economic conditions and the right to work

- Ensure regular salary payments to forcibly displaced persons in Egypt.
- The Palestinian Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) should include forcibly displaced female-headed households in Egypt in its social protection programs, particularly welfare and sponsorship funds.
- The Palestinian ministries of National Economy and Women's Affairs should provide funds to support small enterprises for forcibly displaced women in Egypt.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) should fund and support small and large enterprises for forcibly displaced women and explore mechanisms to assist them through its Egypt office.

Eighth Issue: Psychosocial Support

Since the beginning of the genocidal war in October 2023, forcibly displaced women have endured severe psychological distress. Their responsibilities, particularly caregiving duties, have multiplied because of the loss of housing, their source of safety, and the increasing numbers of the wounded, shortages of resources, and lack of food, water, and healthcare. These conditions have placed immense psychological burdens on women. The forcibly displaced women expressed feelings of confusion and isolation from the world, and suffered from depression, distress, and difficulty adapting to their increased responsibilities after displacement[40].

Many expressed an urgent need for in-person psychological support, as they face overwhelming psychological and social pressures, particularly due to family separation. They live in a constant state of anxiety constantly monitoring the news and updates from Gaza, unable to move away from television screens. Most forcibly displaced women left behind family members, husbands, young sons, or members of the extended families in Gaza, leading to persistent fear and tension, especially in light of recent events and the starvation policy, with a lack of psychological support services from NGOs in Egypt[41].

Field response

- GUPW in Egypt organized two initial psychosocial activities for forcibly displaced women and children consisting of entertaining trips for children and psychological venting sessions.
- Limited official Palestinian interventions: The PLO's Refugee Affairs Department provided cash assistance of US$200 per patient and US$100 per companion.
- President Mahmoud Abbas's grant consisting of US$ 200 per patient and US$100 per companion.
- Some international organizations, such as Save the Children- Egypt, conducted psychological support sessions for forcibly displaced women and female workers in women's organizations.
- Ahramat Al-Amal (Pyramids of Hope) Initiative provided psychological support to 150 children who participate in its educational programs.

[40] From the focus group held with female cancer patients on 5 November 2024.

[41] From the focus group held with women on 10 November 2024.

- Injaz Palestine offered psychosocial support programs for women and the youth.
- Al-Haq Turkish Foundation also provided women and children with psychological support, medical check-ups, treatments, and medications, along with vouchers for food, clothing, and winter blankets
- Shoryan Foundation temporarily contributed to rent payments for some vulnerable families and provided some families with one-time cash assistance.

Recommendations for psychological support

- Provide psychosocial support services for forcibly displaced women.
- Coordinate with Egyptian women's organizations to provide psychological support.
- Provide tailored psychological support through initiatives led by Palestinian forcibly displaced women.
- Establish psychological support groups to provide counselling for the forcibly displaced women.
- Provide awareness programs on coping with trauma, loss, and grief.

Ninth Issue: Integration in the Local Community, Security and Safety

The forcibly displaced women are very reluctant to integrate into the local community or build social relationships and partnerships with local parties. According to their statements, the Egyptian local community has not made any initiatives for their integration or to address their needs, with the exception of a very limited number of organizations. This has led to several psychological and social consequences:

- Feelings of alienation, particularly since the vast majority of displaced women are outside Gaza for the first time, exacerbating their sense of separation.
- Limited understanding of Egyptian society, as the displaced women said that the Egyptian society is preoccupied with its own economic struggles and hard living conditions.
- Most displaced families have chosen to reside in areas with high Palestinian concentrations, reinforcing social isolation and restriction to relations with Palestinians.

Security and Safety

The majority of forcibly displaced women feel a constant sense of threat and a lack of security and safety due to their illegal status without residency permits. This leads to persistent threat of deportation or uncertainty about the future, creating anxiety and concern over the possibility of another displacement or expulsion. There is no information or reassurance about what lies ahead.

Safety and security in movement and transportation

- Forcibly displaced women said that they feel personal security and safety in transportation, markets, and while moving.
- None of them raised any issues regarding security and safety.
- Some women emphasized during focused interviews that the laws of the host country must be respected and taken into consideration.

Security, safety, and International Law

Personal safety is defined as safety from dangers, acts of violence, or threats. Violations of IHL concerning personal security occur in the society or in places of refuge, displacement, and

forced migration. International law protects women's right to personal security, including the principle of non-refoulement, articulated in the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits states from sending individuals to places where they face persecution, a principle that directly ensures personal safety[42].While the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide does not specifically mention women, however it stipulates that genocide, whether committed in times of peace or war, constitutes a crime under international law that states must prevent and punish[43].

Field response

- Neither international bodies nor official Palestinian entities have taken any steps to protect women and ensure their personal security, and no specific measures have been in this regard.
- There are no entities/ parties that raise awareness or offer information about Egyptian laws regarding individual and public freedoms, freedom of opinion, and peaceful assembly. The respondents expressed their lack of knowledge in this regard, which could cause some complications.

Recommendations regarding security and safety

1. Coordinate with NGOs to raise awareness among forcibly displaced women about Egyptian law and emergency laws.
2. Provide protection or coordinate with security service centers to protect forcibly displaced women from risks.
3. Establish a complaints office at the Embassy of Palestine to provide women with legal assistance and receive complaints.

[42] Articles 16 and 17 of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.
[43] Article 1 of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted and proposed for signature and ratification or accession in UNGA Res. 260 A (III) dated 9 December 1948.

Tenth Issue: Freedom of movement and mobility

Given that almost 90% of the forcibly displaced persons do not have residency permits, travel and movement is not possible because they cannot leave or obtain travel visas. However, freedom of movement within the governorates of the Egypt is accessible, with no restrictions imposed on forcibly displaced women, except in North Sinai, as it is a prohibited security zone. Most of the surveyed forcibly displaced women said that public and private transportation is easy and accessible. Young displaced women mentioned preferring private transportation for better safety, but transportation is generally available in all areas without difficulty and aligns with their socioeconomic levels.

Freedom of movement in International Law

The freedom of movement for forcibly displaced persons is one of the most critical issues in cases of displacement and has been addressed in international law:

- The right of everyone to leave any country, including their own[44].
- The right of everyone legally residing in a country to move freely within its territory and choose their place of residence. Restrictions on freedom of movement must not deprive individuals of the practical exercise of other rights guaranteed by human rights law[45].

Field response

The Palestinian government and the Embassy have submitted a request to the Egyptian government to grant temporary exceptional residency permits to forcibly displaced individuals from Gaza to Egypt, facilitating their movement, travel, and mobility. However, the request is still under consideration.

Recommendations on freedom of movement

- The Palestinian government and Embassy must follow-up the issue of residency permits.
- Assist forcibly displaced women in renewing their passports from Ramallah without delays or obstructions, particularly students and refugees with residency permits.

[44] Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
[45] Article 26 of the 1951 Refugee Convention; Articles 27 and 28 related to identity and travel documents are also relevant.

- Ensure the availability of identification documents and passports for forcibly displaced women to guarantee their freedom of movement and security.
- Ensure a safe environment for the movement of displaced women so that they can provide for their livelihoods and carry out their daily activities.

Main Findings

The exploratory needs assessment study for women forcibly displaced from Gaza to Egypt revealed several challenges they face:

1- Residency status: A major challenge affecting the rights of forcibly displaced women.
2- Health and healthcare Services: A critical challenge impacting the lives of forcibly displaced women.
3- Education: A challenge preventing forcibly displaced women from continuing their education and supporting their children's basic education.
4- Housing: A substantial challenge for forcibly displaced women, as housing represents their safe space for caregiving functions.
5- Economic conditions and employment: A significant challenge indicating the difficulty for women to achieve self-sufficiency, avoid poverty, and have safe access to livelihoods.
6- Food and food security: Another challenge threatening their ability to have decent living and maintain human dignity.
7- Movement and mobility: A challenge for forcibly displaced women to exit the prolonged blockade on Gaza, which has persisted for over 17 years and continues to restrict their freedom of movement.
8- Security, safety, and community integration: A challenge in overcoming isolation and integrating into the local community, requiring guarantees of personal security and safety.
9- Rights: A crucial challenge facing forcibly displaced women that requires urgent intervention.
10- Psychosocial condition: A challenge affecting displaced women's resilience and ability to fulfil their responsibilities and roles.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In wars and armed conflicts, women are often viewed as victims. Here, we emphasize that the genocidal war targeting Palestinians made no distinction based on sex, men and women were equally targeted, even wombs and fetuses. This is a war of genocide unparalleled in human history, one that has violated and disregarded International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Human Rights Law. The exploratory study addressed needs rather than rights across all its themes. However, the two terms are often interchangeable. It is necessary to transform acquired needs into rights for forcibly displaced women, who are consistently labelled as victims in international reports. It is imperative to stress that Palestinian women victims have always prioritized steadfastness and affirmed our full, just national rights.

Recommendations from the Exploratory Study at several levels

Recommendations for the Palestinian government and the Embassy of Palestine

.1 Compile comprehensive and accurate data on forcibly displaced persons since 7 October until December in Egypt to serve as a primary reference for service providers, categorized by gender, age, marital status, and location,

.2 Establish a committee through the Embassy of Palestine to follow up on issues of forcibly displaced persons.

.3 Facilitate the issuance of official documents and transactions, as well as proof of eligibility for the forcibly displaced, since they lost their identification documents during the genocidal war..

.4 Provide urgent health insurance for all forcibly displaced persons at Palestine Hospital, similar to the health insurance for the military.

.5 Expand distance/ online learning programs for basic education levels by increasing access and reducing classroom overcrowding.

.6 collaborate and coordinate with informal education initiatives and organize them to ensure recognition.

.7 Create a student fund for university and school students, including scholarships and aid to reduce tuition fees; sign protocols on Gaza universities with Egyptian universities; provide

free Palestinian curriculum textbooks, and laptops, tablets and smartphones for female-headed households to facilitate enrolment of their children in education.

.8 Expedite issuing passports, academic certificates, marriage contracts, and other legal documents.

.9 Monitor the conditions of patients in Egyptian hospitals through a health committee reporting to the Embassy.

.10 Protect patients' rights and ensure access unavailable treatments and tests through the Palestinian Ministry of Health, especially for female cancer patients.

.11 Deliver regular cash assistance to forcibly displaced families, particularly female-headed households, families of martyrs, patients, and the wounded.

.12 Conduct a comprehensive mapping gathering sites for the forcibly displaced Palestinians.

.13 Establish a complaints office or box for forcibly displaced persons in Egypt with legal follow-up.

.14 Coordinate with international organizations such as WFP, WHO, UNICEF and UN Women to channel support through the Embassy, as they cannot legally operate directly with the forcibly displaced.

.15 The Embassy should establish a committee dedicated to addressing the affairs of forcibly displaced persons. Although the Embassy serves all Palestinian citizens, it must prioritize monitoring and supporting women's issues.

.16 Promote the Embassy’s webpage as a primary source of verified information for the forcibly displaced.

Recommendations for international organizations

.1 Expedite issuing working permits to facilitate their work targeting the forcibly displaced Gazans in Egypt.

.2 Adjust their legal status to enable providing services to forcibly displaced persons.

.3 Produce reports on the forcibly displaced persons in Egypt.

.4 Provide aid and support through International Organizations’ offices in Cairo that are permitted to operate.

.5 Coordinate efforts among the international organizations to provide services to the forcibly displaced, in a manner similar to the cluster sectors used in OCHA.

.6 Provide support to projects via the Palestinian Embassy, Egyptian institutions, or relevant ministries to serve and meet the needs of the forcibly displaced persons.

.7 Develop an emergency response plan with input from displaced women to develop plans, set priorities and challenges and set budgets to meet the needs.

.8 Launch psychosocial support programs for "genocide survivors" , partnering with Palestinian/Egyptian NGOs.

Recommendations for Palestinian civil society, particularly women organizations

1. Activate the role of GUPW in Egypt to better support the forcibly displaced women.
2. Empower ICHR that has the mandate on the Palestinian people, including women, to fully advocate for the rights of forcibly displaced women in Egypt.
3. Mobilize all the local, regional and international women coalitions to include the issues of the forcibly displaced women in Egypt in their plans and activities, and give a role to the institutions and leaders who currently reside in Egypt because of forcible displacement.
4. coordinate and partner with Egyptian women organizations to implement projects on psychosocial support, income-generating small enterprises, reproductive health and capacity-building for the forcibly displaced young women and students within projects targeting young leaders.
5. Launch regional and international lobbying and advocacy campaigns exposing occupation crimes and the resulting forced displacement.
6. Form specialized committees from women institutions to address urgent challenges and priorities identified in the study, include them in the plans and budgets of the institutions and develop emergency interventions.
7. Strengthen coordination, partnership and complementarity with Palestinian women organizations in Egypt.
8. Integrate the issues of the forcibly displaced persons into media plans and advocacy campaigns.
9. Include the issues of forcibly displaced women in the agenda of Women, Peace, and Security Coalition (UNSCR 1325), as a strategic goal, with policy interventions and activities.

10. Activate UNSCR 1325 Coalition and the international platforms on the participation of women role in international security and peace.
11. Activate protection programs for the forcibly displaced women under IHL.
12. Provide financial support and assistance to small income-generating enterprises.
13. Lobby for improved legal conditions for the forcibly displaced women.
14. Develop psychosocial support plans for the forcibly displaced women and families.

Recommendations for Egyptian women organizations

.1 Express concern for and provide support to forcibly displaced women affected by the genocidal war.

.2 Strengthen partnerships with Palestinian women organizations.

.3 Provide psychosocial support to forcibly displaced women.

.4 Affirm solidarity with Palestinian rights and causes of the forcibly displaced women.

.5 Integrate forcibly displaced women into the local Egyptian community through joint activities between the displaced and Egyptian women.

List of Interviewees

.1 His Excellency the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Egypt (Diyab Al-Louh)

.2 In-Depth Interviews

Interviews with four women leaders:

- Dr. Mariam Abu Daqqa, senior member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

- Huda Elayyan, Member of the Central Committee of FIDA Party, PNC member, Head of the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees, GUPW Administrative Council Board.

- Buthaina Suboh, Executive Director of the Wefaq Society for Women and Child Care.

- Ibtisam Zaqout, Researcher.

.3 Three Focus groups:

- First Focus Group: 12 forcibly displaced women of varying ages from different regions in Egypt.

- Second Focus Group: 12 forcibly displaced female patients, including war-wounded and chronically ill women.

- Third Focus Group: 8 forcibly displaced female university and high school student.

.4 Meetings with Representatives of International Organizations:

- Meeting with Fikr Shaltout, Director of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).

- Telephone interview with Lina Abu Amer, Al-Haq Turkish Foundation.

Detailed plan on recommendations and interventions (Matrix)

Exploratory study on the conditions of forcibly displaced women from Gaza Strip to the Arab Republic of Egypt because of the Genocidal War

Recommendations	Implementation Mechanisms	Responsible parties and Partners	Verification Mechanisms for Implementation
-Provide health insurance for forcibly displaced persons: -Female employees of the PNA -Forcibly displaced women	-Contract "Palestine Hospital" in Cairo to provide health insurance for displaced women, as it is a Palestinian hospital. -Female employees of the PNA who are forcibly displaced in Egypt have their health insurance deductions cut off and cannot benefit from them because they are outside the homeland. Proposal to redirect insurance deductions to the Palestine Hospital in Cairo, which operates under the Palestine Liberation Organization(PLO) -Provide health insurance for forcibly displaced women with a limited contribution from them.	-Palestinian Ministry of Health -Palestinian Personnel Council -Palestinian Embassy in Egypt -Management of Palestine Hospital	-The number of displaced women who applied for health insurance. - The number of displaced women who obtained health insurance - Signed agreements with Palestine Hospital - Signed agreements with health associations and health insurance companies

-Provide health insurance coverage for displaced women not employed at the PNA	-Meetings with health sector institutions. -Coordination with Egyptian charitable health associations to provide free or partially covered healthcare.	-WHO -MAP -Local Egyptian institutions -Egyptian Shoryan Foundation -Palestinian Medical Relief Society	-List of institutions committed to contribution. -Number of displaced women insured with those institutions. -Number of medical centers included in insurance.
-Create accurate database of wounded and ill women	Coordinate to collect data from: - WHO, as the key authority for evacuating wounded persons from Gaza. - Palestinian Ministry of Health - Embassy of Palestine in Cairo to create database at the Embassy on ill and wounded women.	-WHO -Embassy of Palestine -Palestinian Ministry of Health	- Database segregated by age and medical condition.
	-	-	
-Provide data on hospitals and rehabilitation centers	Coordinate with the: -Ministry of Health -Embassy of Palestine -Egyptian Red Crescent - Egyptian Ministry of Health - WHO -Create full database of hospitals and numbers of patients and accompanying women	-Palestinian Ministry of Health -Embassy of Palestine -Egyptian Ministry of Health -WHO	-Database of hospitals and centers hosting patients and companions

-Provide women, maternity, child, and reproductive health centers	-Partnership agreements with Egyptian women health organizations -Agreements with WHO - Agreements with MAP	-WHO -UNICEF -Egyptian women health organizations -MAP	-Monthly beneficiary reports -Awareness brochures -Digital advertisements on the organizations' websites for outreach and guidance on access to the services
	.		
-Provide vaccination centers for children	-Designate centers in North Sinai and other Egyptian governorates. -Announce on the website of the Embassy of Palestine's . - Announce on the website of the Palestinian community in Egypt. -Coordinate with UNICEF.	-UNICEF -Embassy of Palestine -Palestinian Ministry of Health	-Periodic reports -Advertisements on social platforms. - Advertisements on Embassy's website. -Report on the number of vaccinated children.
-Secure specialized hospitals for female cancer patients with comprehensive services (from screening and CT scans to chemotherapy and radiotherapy). -Note: Most cancer patients were referred to unspecialized centers and hospitals and left without treatment.	Monitor referrals of cancer patients to cancer-specialized hospitals. -Ensure treatment completion. -Build female patients and female cancer patients database. -Coordinate with the Palestinian and Egyptian Ministries of Health and WHO to ensure that patients access specialized centers and receive treatment.	-Palestinian Ministry of Health. -Egyptian Ministry of Health. -WHO. -Partners: 1-Baheya Hospital 2- Rowad Al-Teb 3- Shoryan Foundation 4- Al-Haq Foundation,Turkey	- Database of cancer patient - Database of hospitals providing service. - Database of supporting partner institutions

-Care for elderly and chronically ill women (diabetes, hypertension)	-Partnerships with Egyptian elderly care centers -Home visits by volunteers to provide treatment services, -Provide the elderly with mobility assistive devices through international, Egyptian and Palestinian charities	-Rowad Al-Teb (Egypt) -Shoryan A-Hayat Foundation, Egypt -Al-Haq Foundation,Turkey	-Regular reports -Number of beneficiaries -Number of support visits -number of institutions committed to providing support and assistance,
-Provide assistive devices and assistance for amputees	-Make lists of names of the wounded -Map relevant hospitals -Agreements with international and Egyptian humanitarian organizations	-Palestinian Ministry of Health -Embassy of Palestine -WHO -Partners: 1- Rowad Al-Teb, Egypt 2- Al-Haq, Turkey	-Regular reports -Commitment agreements with responsible parties -Lists of names of beneficiaries -Lists of the names of wounded persons and their addresses.
-Support patients and companions after hospital discharge, provide housing. -10,000 sick and wounded persons arrived in the first months after 7 October. -After the first phase of the temporary ceasefire agreement, 38 groups of patients and their	-Identify the hospitals that host patients, wounded and companions. -Identify the numbers of patients and wounded segregated as women, children, men etc… - Identify the numbers of companions, most of whom are women.	-Palestinian Ministry of Health -Embassy of Palestine -Egyptian Ministry of Health -WHO -Egyptian Red Crescent -Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity Partners: -Rowad Al-Teb, Egypt	-Data on patients, number, age, gender, type of injury and type of disease. -Number of housing contracts -Number of beneficiaries from housing - Number of beneficiaries from medical referrals. -Number of partners of health and psychological service providers

companions left Gaza, each group comprising 23 to 25 patients and their companions.	-Secure housing for the patients and companions outside hospitals. -Provide allowances for personal expenses. -Provide medications for the out-patient patients and wounded. -Provide psychological support	-Resala -Al-Haq, Turkey	
-Issue temporary residency permits for displaced persons in Egypt; since this is a purely political issue, the required residency must be temporary and exceptional.	-Request the Embassy to follow up residency issue: the Embassy must apply for and follow up the residency issue, with PLO submitting request to Egyptian Interior Ministry the issue with the Embassy	-Embassy of Palestine -PLO -Egyptian Ministry of Interior	-Official correspondence -Meetings
-Facilitate residency permits in Egypt for female students.	-Survey forcibly displaced female students in universities. -Assist with continuously rising residency fees, from US$25 to US$300.	-Embassy of Palestine -General Union of Palestinian Students	-Updated lists with names and numbers of forcibly displaced female students. -Commitments from responsible parties.
-Provide housing for female university students.	-Support GUPW student house in Egypt	-GUPW -Miftah	-The existence of supporting/funding parties -Number of residents

-Online education for primary students. **Recommendation of a woman:** -Reduce classroom overcrowding -Distribute Palestinian textbooks for free -Recognize Egypt-based initiatives as supplementary learning for online education of the Ministry of Education to alleviate the burden off mothers and students.	- Pressure the Ministry of Education to increase the number of virtual classrooms to reduce overcrowding. - Provide Palestinian curricula and textbooks from the West Bank to Egypt. - Print the textbooks in Egypt. - Distribute textbooks for free. - Monitor existing initiatives in Egypt (education initiatives), such as the Pyramids of Hope and NEGSA Initiatives. - Sign agreements and memoranda of understanding with the initiatives.	-Palestinian Ministry of Education -Embassy of Palestine (Education Section)	-More virtual classes -Advertisements on the Embassy's webpage. -Advertisements on the Palestinian Ministry of Education's webpage. -Number of students enrolled in online education -Number of books distributed -Identify lists of beneficiaries. -MoUs signed between the initiatives, the Ministry and the Embassy. -Coordination meetings
-Support students with laptops or tablets -Facilitate obtaining transcripts, certificates and official documents. -Help students of specializations that require practical training, such as medicine, Pharmacy and Engineering, to get training opportunities at universities.	-Gather information about needy students -Communicate with parties that may support and fund students such as: 1- Mashwar 2- Thaman 3- Sunna' Al-Hayat 4- Injaz -Coordinate with Ministry of Education and Higher Education.	-Palestinian Ministry of Education -MIFTAH Partner institutions: 1. Mashwar. 2. Thaman 3. Sunna' Al-Hayat 4. Injaz -Embassy of Palestine	-Lists of needy students -Number of partner institutions -Number of transactions -speed of implementing transactions. -MoUs with Egyptian hospitals, universities and unions for training -Identify the number of student beneficiaries

	-Coordinate with the Education Department at the Embassy of Palestine. -Work with the Ministry of Higher Education to sign MoUs with Egyptian universities. -Identify the number of students. -Identify the number of specializations.		
-Enable access to nurseries and preschools	-Identify largest communities of forcibly displaced women. -Coordinate with Egyptian NGOs operating with childhood and preschool education. -Call upon Egyptian NGOs to open registration at their nursery schools for the forcibly displaced children free or with reduced fees, according to the financial ability of parents.	-MIFTAH -GUPW-Egypt -Sunna' Al-Hayat Foundation -Noor Ala Noor Foundation -Childhood-focused Egyptian NGOs -Save the Children Egypt	-MIFTAH -GUPW-Egypt -Sunna' Al-Hayat Foundation -Noor Ala Noor Foundation -Childhood-focused Egyptian NGOs -Save the Children Egypt
-Provide food vouchers for forcibly displaced families - Distribute hot meals in hospitals.	- Identify the number of forcibly displaced families in need financially	-Palestinian Ministry of Social Development Partners:	-Partnership agreements -MoUs -Beneficiary family lists -Number of families served

-Provide food vouchers. -Ensure sustainability of support.	-Identify locations and gatherings of forcibly displaced persons. - Identify nutritional needs. - Baby food. - Baby milk. - Food for people with chronic diseases and the elderly. - Nutritional supplements for pregnant women and cancer patients. - Coordinate with the Egyptian Food Bank. - Coordinate with Resala Foundation. - Coordinate with Shoryan Al-Hayat Foundation.	1- Egyptian Food Bank 2- Resala 3- Shoryan Al-Hayat Foundation 4- It'am Wa Salam, American-Egyptian 5- WFP, responsible party	
-Provide meals in hospitals, especially those in North Sinai in which visits are prohibited.	-Identify patients and companions' data. -Identify addresses of patients and their companions, most of whom are women. -Coordinate with Egyptian Food Bank to provide hot meals to patients and their companions. - The Egyptian Food Bank to provide food vouchers to patients and their companions. - Coordinate with Resala, It'am Wa Salam foundations	-Embassy of Palestine -WFP -Egyptian Food Bank -Resala Foundation -It'am Wa Salam Foundation	-Beneficiary database -Number of supporting and donor institutions -Number of permits for visits to North Sinai hospitals

-Provide rental support for forcibly displaced families, particularly female-headed families that have no source of income.	-Identify number of female-headed families forcibly displaced to Egypt. -Map gathering locations of forcibly displaced families. -Search for sources of support for housing rental. -Coordinate with international agencies operating in Egypt such as NRC. - Coordinate with local institutions that support housing rentals to forcibly displaced families.	-NRC -MIFTAH, responsible for social survey -Embassy of Palestine, responsible for creating links to register and identify gatherings of the target group -Partners in support and funding: -NRC -Shoryan Al-Hayat -Al-Haq, Turkey -Muslim in Need, Pakistan -Al-Azhar -Basmat Khair Foundation	-Registration links -Social survey -Databases -Number of housing rental beneficiaries who have secured housing
-Support GUPW student house, hosting tens of female students. -Societies from Gaza.	-Help GUPW find new premises for the student house. -Rent a space for the student house. -Create registration links for female students and obtain accommodation services. -Fully coordinate with GUPW regarding the sustainability of	-GUPW, Egypt -Palestinian National Fund -Partners: 1- National Fund for Socio-Economic Development 2- Shoryan Al-Hayat Foundation	- Coordination meetings. -Rental contract of the student house premises. -Links for student registration.

	the student house. -Create registration process.		
-Secure housing for companions after the patients or the wounded pass away.	-Coordinate with Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide housing for companions after the patients or the wounded pass away.	-Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity -Embassy of Palestine -Partners: 1-Basmat Khair, Turkey. 2-Egyptian Association. 3- Al-Azhar. 4-Egyptian Red Crescent. to pay cost of housing for patients.	- Number of coordination meetings. - Number of beneficiaries. - Number of supporting institutions.
-Ensure regular salaries for displaced public employees. - Include the female headed families in MOSD program's beneficiaries list	-Meet with Palestinian government, Ministry of Finance to lobby to pay the salaries of the forcibly displaced public employees regularly and without deductions. - Meet with MOSD and household support program -Include displaced female headed families in Egypt in assistance programs.	-Palestinian Government (Council of Ministers) -Ministry of Finance -Palestinian National Fund -MOSD	-Number of displaced public employee and salary data -Number of displaced female-headed families who benefit from MOSD assistance program
-Fund women's small businesses and remote work.	-Track projects. -Create registration link. -Offer training.	-ILO -GUPW Partners: Enara,	-Project data -Training sessions

	-Form entrepreneur network. -Provide workspaces.	Basmat Khair, Injaz, Egyptian women's organizations.	-Exhibitions -Workspaces provided
-Fund women's small businesses and remote work. -Develop online work and build capacities of forcibly displaced female graduates in Egypt.	-Track small enterprises for forcibly displaced women in Egypt. -Create registration links for small enterprise owners. -Offer training for small enterprise management. -Form network for women entrepreneurs and small enterprise owners. -Fund income--generating enterprises. -Hold monthly bazars to sell women products. -Train graduates and young displaced women on working online. -Rent and provide for free workspaces for young women to work online.	-ILO -GUPW -Partners: -Egyptian organizations. supporting women enterprises. -Enara, Turkey -Basmat Khair, Turkey -Injaz, Palestine	
-Provide consistent financial aid for forcibly displaced women without income -provide regular financial aid to female headed families	-Identify female headed families without income - Establish a fund for supporting forcibly displaced women in Egypt -Conduct a social survey of the forcibly displaced women in Egypt	-Palestinian Government, MOSD -Embassy of Palestine - Palestinian National Fund. -Partners:	-Number of beneficiary families of -financial aid -Number of financial grants. -Number of support funds to help forcibly displaced women.

	-Lobby with the government to include them in as beneficiaries of MOSD program	- Basmat Khair, Turkey -Palestinian Ministry of Women Affairs	
-Facilitate replacing legal document of the forcibly displaced women.	-Create a special unit at the Embassy for notification of lost documents. -Coordinate with Sharia courts, Ministry of Interior and Civil Affairs to facilitate issuing replacements. -Coordinate with Bar Association to expedite issuing Powers of Attorney	-Embassy of Palestine -Chief Justice of Sharia courts -ICHR -Ministry of Civil Affairs -Ministry of Women Affairs	-Developed online request links -Number of transactions and beneficiaries - Number of submitted complaints -Number of ICHR follow-ups
-Provide legal aid for cases of divorce, custody, inheritance. -Issue passports for women and children.	-Coordinate with ICHR, which has the legal mandate. -Follow up legal affairs of the forcibly displaced women in Egypt. -Coordinate with Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) to follow up personal status cases. - Coordinate with the Chief Justice in Ramallah. -Identify legal cases.	-Embassy of Palestine -ICHR -Chief Justice, Ramallah -Egyptian HR organizations -Egyptian women organizations	-Number of followed up legal cases - Number of complaints - Number of Legal aid institutions
-Monitor legal and human rights violations	-Coordinate with Egyptian HR organizations.	-ICHR -Egyptian HR organizations	-Number of cases -Commitments of partners. - Number of files followed up

such as deportation and detention.	- Coordinate with ICHR. -Monitor and document violations against the forcibly displaced in Egypt.	-Arab Network for Human Rights	
-Provide psychological and social support to forcibly displaced women.	-Hold support groups and individual and group sessions. -Offer online counseling from Arab, Egyptian or Palestinian institutions. -Recruit volunteer psychologists to provide psychological support to the forcibly displaced women genocide survivors. -Coordinate with UN Women. - Coordinate with Egyptian women organizations to provide individual and group psychosocial support.	-UN Women -GUPW -Egyptian women orgs -Ikhtilaf Fada’	-Number of beneficiaries -Number of signed partnerships -Number of delivered programs
-Facilitate travel and movement of forcibly displaced women through lifting travel restrictions from and back into Egypt.	-Meet with Embassy of Palestine and Egyptian authorities to follow up on their travel outside Egypt for residency, visits, medical treatment or attending conferences. -Hold meetings with official Egyptian parties.	-Embassy of Palestine -Egyptian Ministry of Interior -Palestinian Government	-Monitor mobility data -Number of complaints -Decisions from Egyptian authorities

-Promote relations and integration between the forcibly displaced women and the Egyptian society	-Organize joint activities and events in Palestinian gatherings between Palestinian and Egyptian women. -Organize cultural and social activities and events through Egyptian women institutions, such as exhibitions, open days, showing documentaries and heritage days. -Implement joint programs between GUPW and Egyptian women organizations.	-GUPW -Egyptian women organizations -Palestinian community in Egypt -Arab Women's Network -Injaz	-Number of events -Number of coordination meetings -Number of beneficiaries -Number of institutions that contributed to providing services.