



Social and Health Studies Series

# Impacts and Challenges Facing Palestinian Families Regarding Residency in the Palestinian Territory: An Exploratory Study with a Gender Perspective

Prepared by: Center for Development Studies,  
Birzeit University



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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## Palestinian Women Research and Documentation Center, UNESCO

Mecca Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Al Balo'a, Al-Bireh, West Bank

Palestinian National Authority


Telephone : +(972/970)-2-242-6468

Fax: +(972/970)-2-242-6469

Website: [www.pwrdc.ps](http://www.pwrdc.ps)

The Palestinian Women Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC) was founded in 2005 as a special project for the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and operates in accordance with UNESCO's rules and regulations. The PWRDC meets the urgent need for an institution capable of promoting women's rights and activating Palestinian women's roles in economic, political, and cultural domains.

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# Foreword of the Palestinian Women Research and Documentation Center

The Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center was established in 2005 as one of the social projects of UNESCO to be a key source for information on Palestinian women issues and improving their rights. Since 2006, the Center conducted research that shed light on women's reality in the various aspects of life, the challenges they face and suggesting recommendations to confront these challenges.

Every year the Center identifies a number of themes for conducting studies and researches. Based on this, the Center conducted a study on "Impacts and Challenges Facing Palestinian Families or one of Their Members Regarding Residency in the Palestinian Territory". This is an exploratory study with gender perspective that highlights problems facing households in general and women in particular as regards the right to citizenship and residency in their own country. The study was designed from a human rights perspective, taking gender into consideration, and building on it the right to citizenship as a fundamental right recognized by the international and human rights conventions. Breaching this right threatens the individual future in all life aspects such as residency, housing, education, work and others. But the most dangerous of breaching this right is its direct impact on household integrity and coherence because deprivation of right to citizenship and its implications may threaten marital life. Therefore, the study assesses the impact of Israeli measures related to residency and family unification and their consequences such as obtaining residency permit, birth certificates, IDs, freedom of movement and access to health and education services. In addition, the study assesses the impact of deprivation of these rights on violence against women and children, which thus will threaten human security of the Palestinian citizens.

The importance of this study comes with the continuous issuance of Israeli military orders that conditions movement of the Palestinian citizens between the West Bank and Gaza Strip with obtaining permits and pre-coordination, which in itself difficult if not impossible. As a result, the members of one family from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem are obliged to meet in Jordan or Egypt. Moreover, Palestinian citizens whether from the West Bank or the Gaza Strip are banned from entering into Jerusalem without obtaining permits while residency in the city is impossible. As a result, the Israeli occupation has withdrawn thousands of IDs from Jerusalemites who were obliged to live outside the city for reasons related to work. Israel does not deal with the occupied Palestinian Territory as one geographical unit and it ignores the Palestinian Authority and agreements signed between Israel and the PLO as well as all the international conventions on civilians under occupation.

In this context, the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center would like to extend its thanks to the Center of Development Studies of Birzeit University for conducting this study and making it possible. Special thanks go to Ayman Abdel Majeed, the project coordinator, researcher Wasim Abu Fasha and the assistant team in addition to the field research team. Thanks also go to Jamil Hilal and Suhair Azouni for their review of the study and insightful comments. Thanks also due to Shireen Assaf, the Center's Research Coordinator for her thorough follow up of the research throughout its different phases and to Nawal Khalili for translating the study to English. We would like to thank the women and community organizations and leaders who participated in the workshop to discuss the study findings and provide remarks and recommendations for the study. Finally, best appreciation and thanks go to those who participated in the focus groups and the Palestinian households who participated in the survey. Without the efforts of all these, the study would not have been possible.

**Zahira Kamal**

Director of the Palestinian Women's Center for Research and Documentation

## Work Team

### *Prepared by:*

Ayman Abdel Majeed: Project Coordinator and researcher  
Wasim Abu Fasha: Researcher

### *Assistant Team:*

Ghassan Abu Hatab: Project coordinator in Gaza Strip  
Rami Murad: Assistant Researcher  
Olfat Dar Othman: Administrative assistant

### *Field Work Team:*

#### **West Bank**

Ghada Sha'fout  
May Nazal  
Ola Al-Jolani  
Ohud Khfash  
Ferdous Abu Khamis  
Hiba Abu Rmeileh  
Raghda Gheith  
Linda Al-Whoush  
Lama Shawahneh  
Maha Nazzal

#### **Gaza Strip**

Jacqueline Abu Ta'meh  
Zubaydeh Abu Tohah  
Islam Wehbi  
Zakaria Salout  
Zarif Al-Sultan  
Jihad Rustum  
Awatif Abu Atayah  
Siham Daoud

### *Reviewers:*

Jamil Hilal  
Suhair Azouni

# Foreword of the Center for Development Studies

Since its establishment, the Center for Development Studies has been keen to address different aspects of development in the Palestinian Territory in addition to presenting policy and practical trends for decision makers within the Center's vision to highlight the marginalized social groups, study their problems and explore the challenges that prevent their full participation in developing their communities.

During the last years, the studies conducted by the Center focused on women, children, persons with special needs, youth and the poor as social marginalized groups that are affected more than others by the decision making and the development processes. In fact, these groups are the most vulnerable to the uncalculated and unbalanced patterns of development.

In this context, this study tackles a broad social segment in the Palestinian society whether living inside or outside the Palestinian Territory as a result of the Israeli occupation control over citizenship and residency issues. This fact puts constraints to obtaining their right to residency or family unification in the Palestinian Territory.

This study is titled "Impacts and Challenges Facing Palestinian Families or one of Their Members Regarding Residency in the Palestinian Territory: A Pilot Study with a Gender Perspective". It tries to highlight the challenges and constraints facing individuals and families suffering from this problem, especially the social and psychological challenges. Through data (qualitative and quantitative) obtained from people undergoing this problem, the study seeks to present an analysis from the gender perspective for the details and impacts of the problem. Moreover, the study suggests a number of institutional interventions that might assist families and individuals to solve the problem of their residency or family unification or at least contribute to reduce the challenges facing them in their daily life.

The Center for Development Studies would like to present its thanks and appreciation for the Palestinian Women's Center for Research and Documentation. Special thanks go to Jamil Hilal for his deep critical review of the study and to Zahira Kamal, Suhair Jayousi and Elias Dabeet for their review of the study and giving valuable remarks that contributed to deepening the analysis.

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## Executive Summary

Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, the Palestinians have been subjected to different types of voluntary and forced migration such as the dispersion and refuge that followed the Catastrophe (Al-Nakbah). The Palestinian refugees were distributed among the Arab countries, West Bank, Gaza Strip and even inside Israel. This situation created diversity in the Palestinians' citizenship depending on the state/political region where they lived. This exceptional situation caused residency problems to Palestinians even inside the Palestinian Territory and dispersed the one family between more than one country or within the borders of historical Palestine (West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and Israel). This is due to one or more family members not having obtained Palestinian citizenship (national number/family unification) due to the fact that Israel, as an occupation power, controls the issue of granting citizenship and residency to Palestinians.

8 The Palestinian households in which a member or more suffer from the problem of residency face huge challenges such as dispersion or living under illegal circumstances. This problem affects the daily details of every member's life of these families including deprivation of rights granted by citizenship for individuals in their societies in addition to the tension resulting from restrictions on movement, non-clarity of family and residency status and feelings of insecurity.

The study methodology used qualitative and quantitative research tools to have a diversity of data and allow developing general social and psychological indicators to explore the residency and family unification problem in the Palestinian Territory. The methodology included 25 in-depth interviews with cases from Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, five focus groups, and a survey questionnaire for 302 Palestinian households suffering from residency and family unification problems. Field work was very particular due to the lack of a database for families suffering from family unification, diversity of cases, elements causing the problem, regional distribution of cases, carefulness and fear (security dimension) by some cases especially in Jerusalem, and finally difficult access to some cases especially those living behind the Separation Wall and certain neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

The field work reflected the diversification of individuals suffering from family unification related problems. In Jerusalem, the children of some cases did not hold any personal documents or hold temporary documents and some others were registered in the name of their grandfathers from their mother's side. In other families, some individuals held Palestinian documents and others Jerusalem IDs and such families were dispersed in their place of residence. It was also found that some families communicated by permits issued by the Israeli authorities meanwhile the documents of some other families were confiscated. In the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, some families did not have official documents; others were divided between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Territory and abroad or Jerusalem and abroad.

There were many challenges faced by Palestinian families where one of its members suffers from a residency problem. Some of these challenges were mainly related to relations among family members. The studied cases showed that the existing relations have been affected by economic, social, cultural, political and environmental





factors related to reproductive, productive and societal roles carried out by men and women and also the responsibilities, status and vision held by each of them. The most important challenges facing the family members were those related to freedom of movement, whether inside or outside the Palestinian Territory. In the case of women, their movement, which is originally limited, was further limited to their internal circles. In certain compulsory cases, women obtaining health services for themselves or one of their family members were obliged to use alternative documents or expired passports. As a result of the movement restrictions, other challenges emerged such as social and communication problems within the family or with relatives and friends.

The focus groups and interviews revealed that interference and social oppression were very notable in the surveyed families, particularly on women, because living away from their families, married women faced difficulties and challenges that increased interference in their affairs. Often, not having an identity card/ citizenship might assist in depriving such individuals of their economic, social and political rights including job opportunities and right to participate in elections.

As a result of the social pressures and instability in which the individuals of these families live, many domestic and psychological problems emerged within these families such as anxiety, tension, despair and frustration in addition to domestic violence. On the other hand, the forced family dispersion played a main role in redistributing gender roles. Despite the social and even the domestic pressures to which women are subjected, women in many cases played broader role in managing family's affairs and resources and in decision making.

The field survey revealed several findings including the following:

- The survey included 62% women and 38% men, of them 90% were married.
- Regarding the educational level, the highest percentage of participants were holding a Bachelors degree or higher (26%) compared to 38% for those with secondary and intermediate level education.
- 51% of the participants were in the labor force (32% of them are full-time employees, 13% part-time and 6% are unemployed and seeking work).
- 23% of the participants described their economic situation as bad or very bad, 44% as average and 33% as good or very good.
- Findings revealed that the surveyed households mainly rely on the work of one (or more) of its members: 70% of husbands and 25% of wives work, 20% of the households have one or more of its sons/daughter work, 19% receive assistance from relatives, 7% receive assistance from the Palestinian government and 23% receive assistance from the Israeli government (for those holding Israeli ID within the household).
- The majority of husbands (58%) hold a Palestinian ID compared to 40% wives, and 23% of the wives hold the Israeli ID compared to 14% of husbands.
- In case of difference in the spouses ID, the most significant difficulties confronted marriage registration was the Israeli procrastination (30%) and the Israeli rejection to register marriage in the Israeli civil registers. In many cases (26%), the marriage was registered with the Palestinian Authority departments without obtaining the Israeli recognition.

- 62% of the participants did not hold any permits to reside in or enter Jerusalem or inside the Green Line areas or to move between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while 22% sometimes obtain permits and 17% hold periodically renewable permits.
- 88% of participants reported that they applied to obtain family unification and they were proceeding with the required procedures.
- 55% of the studied cases revealed that the husband, wife and children did not live in one house.
- One third of the families (32%) were obliged to change their place of residence, 39% of them rented houses in other places, 14% bought new houses and 23% had to live temporarily with their relatives in a place where communication among family members is easy.
- 68% of the Palestinian families have one of its members living outside their family place of residence reported that they communicated with each other by telephone and 30% reported that they had to travel to a place where the two parties can meet for several days.
- 50% of the participants reported that they or one of the family members lost one or more of their sources of living; 19% revealed that at least one of their family members lost their jobs, 13% had to close their shops or enterprises and 15% said that one or more of their children changed their schools and 14% lost their health and social insurance.
- 52% of the participants reported that women face difficulties in following up their children's affairs, 39% were subjected to interference by their families, 29% to their husbands' families interference and 38% of women were subjected to harassments while they were visiting different institutions to solve their family dispersion problems.
- 44% of the spouses clarified that there is weak participation in solving problems between spouses, 37% reported that there is a kind of lack of emotion in marital relations and 31% said that there are conflicts related to all life issues.
- 44% of the sample reported that they confronted difficulties in registering their children.
- As for changes in the gender roles, 68% of women became more self-dependent, 54% became more capable to make family decisions, 46% carried out all family procedures and transactions on their own and 44% of the women became more capable to control family expenditures and manage family property. Meanwhile 31% of the women were subjected to harassment from the public surroundings and 34% were subjected to interference from the family surroundings.
- The majority of the surveyed (71%) consider family unification as their main priority.
- 30% of the participants said that they received moral support from their social surroundings, 46% said they received support for a certain extent while 24% did not receive any support.
- Findings revealed that 10% - 13% of the surveyed had to take a risk so as to overcome the Israeli constraints regarding residence and movement; some of them illegally lived inside the Green Line or Jerusalem, others had to illegally cross barriers, use ambulances or the ID of one of the relatives.
- Alternatives that were considered realistic if family unification fails included: 31% of the participants thought of immigration, 37% thought of changing their place of residence and 8% considered divorce.

The study concluded a number of policy and programmatic interventions at different levels:

- Update the database of persons seeking family unification and conduct relevant surveys and studies.
- Activate lobbying and coordination among Palestinian and international organizations to present the family unification issue from the international law, international humanitarian law and human rights perspective.
- Carry out legal awareness campaigns for Palestinian citizens on their civil rights and family unification procedures.
- Set up intervention policies and programs by public and civil society organizations to assist families and individuals suffering from family unification problems on their basic rights (education, health, work, elections).



# Part One: Theoretical and Methodological Framework

## 1.1 Overview: The Palestinian Context, Residency Problem and Family Unification: Examples of Forced Dispersion

Many studies focus on the impact of migration and its economic consequences on the family and on the original family in addition to focusing on the family core, such as father or mother, change of residence and the impact of that new reality on the social roles played by the family members in accordance with the new situation. Migration or change of residence of any member of the nucleus family has its impacts on the social roles. For example, father's migration or voluntary or forced movement away from family usually led to redistribution of power and decision making within the family. Father's absence from home, allows for the extended family's interference in the father's nucleus family.

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It is worth reviewing the literature on migration and its impacts before discussing the residency and family unification related problem, taking into consideration the many differences in the Palestinian context with voluntary migration. Nevertheless, there are some common denominators that are briefly presented in this part.

According to Poon (1996), migration has three types of impacts: cultural, health and family impacts. Migration creates transition impacts on individuals through the cultural factor such as habits and cultural differences. Immigrants usually take time to cope with the new culture with which the degree of coping diversifies according to several factors. Some of the immigrants enter into temporary or long social isolation as a result of losing the old social networks in the new environment; others cope with the new culture taking into consideration the basic determinants of their culture while some others fully cope with the new culture. Dispersion of families creates psychological changes for family members while migration puts pressure on immigrants and their families (Poon 1996, Silver 2006). This is due to the fact that new challenges confront the immigrants, the most important of which is coping with the different family structure. A number of studies indicate a direct correlation between tension, depression and separation from a person who in most cases is a family member (Aguilera-Guzman et al. 2004, Paykel 1970, Rodriguez et al. 2000, Suarez-Orozco et al. 2002). According to Poon, the most significant family impact includes changes in family structure and gender roles. Despite the negative impacts, the extended family of immigrants builds stronger links that facilitate the transition process and provide social support. Hence, families seek to protect their members who suffer from tense circumstances (Silver 2006).

At the Palestinian level, many studies addressed the economic impacts of migration in the Palestinian Territory, where men migrate leaving their houses to be managed by their wives (Women Studies Center 1999, Giacamen and Johnson 2000, Taralal 2006, Hilal 2007). Hilal clarifies that the main motivation of Palestinian women's migration is marriage while men's migration is for work. Prevalent culture in case of men's migration requires that women have to live with their husbands' families or at

least they should live nearby their in-laws. This situation exposes women to social and psychological pressures due to the increasing role of the husband's family to compensate his absence. Nevertheless, studies on the family unification problem, which represents a tremendous challenge for tens of thousands of Palestinians are almost absent (Abu Mukh 2007).

In general, literature addressed the impacts of migration on families and individuals in the global context, the most important of which was presented above to benefit from their analytical trends. The Palestinian context in this study is related to families and individuals facing the problem of residency in the Palestinian Territory (because they did not obtain family unification) as the source of the problem and its legal, political, cultural and social frameworks. In the Palestinian context the issue is that many Palestinian citizens face the problem of residency in their own country, others are dispersed between the Palestinian Territory and abroad (one individual or more does not have family unification) and still some others are dispersed in the Palestinian Territory (between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, between those inside Jerusalem and outside Jerusalem, or between those in the Palestinian Territory and those in the areas inside the Green Line).

Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation, the Palestinians have been subjected to several types of migration, voluntary and forced, such as the dispersion and refuge that followed the Nakbah, when Palestinians were dispersed in the Arab countries, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and inside the borders of Israel. This reality diversified the type of Palestinians' citizenship of every community according to the state/political region in which they live.

After 1948, Palestinians were scattered among several entities (without forming their own entity, which delayed the idea of citizenship for decades). The West Bank with its citizens and refugees and the refugees in Jordan were governed by Jordan and held the Jordanian nationality. The Gaza Strip with its citizens and refugees was governed by Egypt, which gave Gaza's citizens Egyptian travel documents. As for the Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon, they held special documents issued by both countries. With the exception of the Jordanian nationality, which was granted to the citizens of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees in Jordan, none of the documents granted to the Palestinians is considered a nationality and does not imply citizenship rights in the above-mentioned countries of exile. In Israel, Palestinians who remained were forced to hold the Israeli nationality.

The Nakbah, which resulted in the dispersion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, was followed with several migrations of different economic and social motives (which took place individually). In 1967, Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip became under the Israeli occupation and Israel conducted a census of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and issued IDs (national numbers) for them. As for Jerusalem, Israel granted the Palestinian citizens special IDs, which gave them the right to residency in the city.

After 1994, the Palestinian Authority issued "Authority" IDs and Palestinian passports for the Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with the exception of those holding Jerusalem IDs. This is because obtaining the Palestinian IDs will



deprive those with Jerusalem ID their rights in their city, foremost of which right to residency. Meanwhile, some Palestinians are still holding the Jordanian nationality in addition to the Palestinian ID.

It is worth noting that the IDs issued by the Palestinian Authority include a national number, which can only be obtained with the Israeli authorities' approval. Consequently, the Palestinian Authority does not have jurisdiction on its citizens or Palestinians living abroad concerning nationality rights despite the transfer of most of the civil powers to the Palestinian Authority after the Oslo Accords. The registration of birth, death, obtaining residency and visit visa are still under the Israeli jurisdiction. Abu Mukh points out that Israel considers that anyone not having an ID issued by the Israeli authorities is a foreigner (Abu Mukh 2007). Hence, Palestinians born outside Palestine, the refugees and Palestinians who were outside Palestine before 1967 are considered foreigners.

Consequently, residency and family unification related problem originally resulted from this diversity of legal situations of the Palestinians' residency in the Palestinian Territory and their legal situation in the countries of exile. The ID or nationality held by the Palestinian does not grant them the right to residency in the Palestinian Territory (under the Israeli laws) unless they hold the Palestinian ID/National Number obtained with Israel's approval. With regards to Jerusalem, none of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can enter Jerusalem unless they obtain a temporary visit permit from the Israeli authorities.

The Israeli procedures not only prevented Palestinians from entering Jerusalem and having control over citizenship (national number/family unification) but also had control over the daily life of Palestinians under occupation including control of free movement, residence, deportation, geographic fragmentation of the Palestinian Territory, isolation of the West Bank from the Gaza Strip and recently the Gaza Strip complete siege and isolation from the world. Israel controls all roads among the Palestinian localities in addition to all crossing points between the Palestinian Territory and neighboring countries.

As regards the Palestinian movement, it is important to clarify the following:

- The Palestinian Territory is under semi-complete Israeli control, consequently, Israel controls movement on Palestinian Territory borders and on crossing points of the West Bank with abroad and with Gaza Strip and vice versa.
- Movement of transportation in the Palestinian Territory is hindered by the immovable or temporary Israeli barriers that reached to 630 barriers by the end of 2008.
- The Separation Wall affected many areas in the West Bank, most of them in North West Bank.
- No Palestinian citizen or foreigner can visit the Palestinian Territory without obtaining an Israeli visa if they does not hold the Palestinian ID.
- The Israeli authorities deny the entry of Arab citizens to the Palestinian Territory, with the exception of few cases from Egypt and Jordan because there is mutual diplomatic relations between Israel and these two countries.

- As a result of the policies practiced by Israel in the West Bank including closures, barriers, construction of the Separation Wall and the isolation of the Gaza Strip, new restrictions were imposed on movement and transportation. According to the Office for Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA), the military occupation barriers scattered all over the West Bank reached 630 barriers by 2008 while the Israeli authorities continue construction of the Separation Wall and the settlements in the West Bank. According to the World Bank Economic Monitor Report 2008 on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities continue to impose strict economic restrictions on the Palestinian economy so as to prevent or impede private investment. In addition to restrictions on movement and transportation, Israel controls all the land and sea crossing borders and Palestinians' free travel.
- Related to that, it is difficult for the Palestinian citizens of the West Bank to reach Jerusalem or communicate with their relatives in that city. Hence, Palestinian men married to Jerusalemite women cannot reach to or live in Jerusalem.

The arrows indicate different cases of marriage all of which may have family unification problems





Back to the family unification (subject of this study), Israel has created many administrative and legal constraints that prevent family unification (B'Tselem 2006). In addition to the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law of 2003, in 2007, Israel asked the Palestinians who are registered in the Gaza Strip to apply for a temporary permit to stay in the West Bank regardless of the period they spent in the West Bank (B'Tselem 2006). The family unification applications are submitted through the Israeli military authorities. The Israeli Supreme Court announced (decision 91/449) that the family unification in the Palestinian Territory is not a right for citizens but it is a charitable action granted by the Israeli authorities.

Since 2000 and with the outbreak of the Second Intifada, the family unification applications were frozen despite Israel's approval on 32,000 applications in 2008 and 90,000 applications are still pending approval (B'Tselem 2008). This means separation of women, whose applications were not approved, from their husbands or living illegally with their husbands. B'Tselem (2008) affirms that the majority of the affected persons by these Israeli policies are women as there are 10,000 women holding foreign nationalities married to Palestinians. Moreover, most of those persons who are denied entry to the Palestinian Territory are Jordanian women of Palestinian origins (Amnesty International, 2007).

Since the Oslo Accords, the Israeli measures have complicated the internal movement of the Palestinians. For security reasons, the Palestinian Territory was divided into dozens of unconnected enclaves, which together with the movable and immovable barriers, bypass settlement roads, settlement expansion, and establishment of dozens of settlement outposts, construction of the Separation Wall and isolation of the Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem from their surroundings added new complications to the Palestinian family unification. These complications forced Palestinian families to create their own family unification, i.e. some women move with their families to a certain area within the Palestinian Territory and remain there deprived of any freedom of movement out of fear of expulsion (Loewenstein 2006, p. 27).

The Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law also denies the Palestinians the right of access to East Jerusalem, thus makes it difficult for women to live with their husbands in case they live in Jerusalem. On the other hand, if the woman holds the Jerusalemite ID and moved to live in the West Bank, she will be threatened with the withdrawal of her ID and will be deprived of most of her rights and social and health insurances associated with this type of ID. In 1974, Israel set up procedures linking the citizens' status with their place of residence, through them the residency of a person may be withdrawn if they live seven years away from their place of residence or if they obtain a nationality or residency in another place (Shiblak 2006, p.8). In many cases, this procedure is also applied to Palestinians of the West Bank living outside the Palestinian Territory and for that reason they are obliged to frequently visit the Palestinian Territory in fear of their IDs withdrawal. These procedures were also applied on children holding Jerusalem IDs although the law prevents withdrawal of children's IDs being under the custody of their parents.

Women coming to the Palestinian Territory face tremendous challenges due to the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law. These challenges might disperse the family through expulsion or living together in illegal circumstances. Due to women's social



and reproductive role, the transitional state of which women suffer when trying to obtain family unification has great impact on their families. Tension, anxiety and absence of husband or wife from the family create an unnatural situation that affects the daily details of every member's life of the family.

Consequently, this study will try to assess the social and psychological impacts of family dispersion and the related factors such as alienation that results from woman's abandon of her social networks and tension resulting from loss of freedom of movement and ambiguity of family and residency status.

## 1.2 Study Methodology

The study methodology included qualitative and quantitative research tools to ensure diversification of data and draw a broader picture of the situation in Palestine in order to set up general social and psychological indicators regarding the problem of residency and family unification in the Palestinian Territory. While the study tried to be comprehensive in handling different issues related to the problem, it was also exploratory by using field methodology. The research sample was a purposeful sample in the different stages because the sample community was not known and data and figures on these families are not available. The only available data was the number of applications submitted for family unification or cases that come to relevant institutions for assistance. Through this sample, the study tried to survey the difficulties and challenges these families are subjected to in the different life contexts.

### To explore this phenomenon, the study underwent several phases including:

**First. Preparatory phase:** This phase aimed to survey and analyze the most important issues and determinants of the family unification and residency problem and its impacts on the Palestinian households and individuals, to set up specific criteria of the study sample and explore the nature of cases in the Palestinian society, it included:

- Literature review
- Search for and exploration of cases: the field team of the Center for Development Studies in the various governorates made field visits to villages, cities and camps to search for cases. The team contacted families and obtained primary information clarifying the type of the problem faced by the family so as to revisit these families during the field research.
- Contact with Palestinian official and legal institutions: the research team held more than 10 meetings with the law organizations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and other meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. These meetings were held in order to understand the type of cases these organizations encounter and the challenges confronted in their work in addition to the type of issues and families they are aware of.
- Experimental in-depth interviews: the research team held five experimental in-depth interviews to identify the most important indicators related to the experiences of families suffering from the problem.

- Focus groups: The research team held a discussion session for the cases through focus groups to develop the indicators, prepare research questions for the questionnaire and identify the most important criteria of the sample.

**Second. Development of the research tools and sample phase:** Based on the preparatory and exploratory phase, the research team had information and indicators related to these cases. Accordingly, the research team developed a research questionnaire for the field work:

- Questionnaire testing: The field research team tested the questionnaire indicators on Palestinian households according to research objectives.
- Questionnaire development and testing indicators in the field: The research team conducted a field survey of 302 Palestinian households in the different governorates of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip suffering (or one of its members) from the residency problem. These households were intentionally surveyed during the field research process as the sample is not representative but it represented different patterns of households suffering from the problem and which were explored during the field research.

**Third. Analysis phase:** Included three phases

- **Phase One:** Primary analysis was conducted for the results of the field survey. This analysis aimed to discuss the primary findings to reach deeper analysis and understanding for the quantitative findings through the families suffering from the residency problem.
- **Phase Two:** Deep analysis of findings through case studies; 25 case studies and five focus groups distributed on the various governorates of the West Bank including Jerusalem and Gaza Strip were conducted.
- **Phase Three:** Presentation of the findings to relevant Palestinian organizations. A workshop attended by many law and women organizations was conducted in which findings were presented. The participants applauded the importance of the study as it addresses a vital issue related to an important segment of the Palestinian citizens in addition to stressing the importance of setting up recommendations related to awareness on citizenship rights.

**Fourth: Final analysis and report writing:** A draft was prepared and presented to specialists for review. The study was reviewed by Sociologist Jamil Hilal, Gender Expert Suhair Azouni, and Statistical Expert Dr. Elias Dabeet whereby they suggested significant remarks, which were included in the final version of the study.

## Field work:

**In-depth interviews** (25 interviews): These interviews included cases from Jerusalem, West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Five interviews were conducted with every group due to the particularity of each case. Interviews provide opportunity for better understanding of the impact of the residency problem on households especially on women. The Center was assisted by a number of women field researchers who were trained by the Center to conduct the interviews which handled sensitive issues.

**Focus groups** (5 focus groups): Focus groups provide an opportunity to discuss findings and interviews conducted with larger groups. This contributed to put private experiences before public experiences and by that the focus groups provided opportunities for women, men and children to discuss their issues with other families' members having similar circumstances.

**Survey questionnaire** (302 questionnaires): A field survey was conducted on 302 Palestinian households. Through daily contact and follow up with the field team throughout the research phases, a special emphasis was attached on the importance of integrity and validity of participants' information, due to the sensitivity of themes addressed, especially that many participants might have been living illegally in the Palestinian Territory and therefore, preserving the confidentiality of participants' information and IDs were of great importance.

The field survey process confronted huge difficulties for a number of reasons including:

- Lack of database on families suffering from residency and family unification problems. Usually, organizations have data only on cases that resorted to them.
- Diversification of cases and factors causing the problem made it difficult to find common background for the questions of the field survey. Survey in such cases provides general indicators and draws borders for the general data of these cases.
- Distribution of cases in regions, the fact which required a long period of time to reach every case.
- Fear and carefulness (security dimension) by certain cases especially in Jerusalem area.
- Difficulties to reach certain cases especially those living behind the Separation Wall and certain quarters of Jerusalem.



# Part Two: Families' Environment (General Background of the Surveyed Families)

## 2.1 People with Residency Problem, Who are they?

During the preparatory phase of the study, certain main criteria were identified for those categorized as case studies. The case studies were expanded through the experimental in-depth cases and also through search for cases in the field. Consequently, the following cases, which were categorized according to the particularities of each of them, were reached:

**First. Jerusalem:** Field work revealed that there are seven types of Jerusalemite families suffering from residency problem including:

- Sons/Daughters without personal documents (birthday certificate, ID, passport)
- Children registered in the name of their grandfather on the mother's side
- Families scattered between holding Palestinian documents and Jerusalemite ID and between residing between the West Bank and Jerusalem or one of its neighborhoods.
- Sons/Daughters of families holding temporary documents (continuously exposed to lose them)
- Families relying on permits to communicate
- Families whose documents confiscated
- One of the spouses hold foreign nationality

### **Jerusalemite citizens: Additional challenges imposed by the Israeli occupation**

The Palestinian citizens' status in East Jerusalem after 1967 is one of the most complicated situations regarding residency and family unification. This is due to relation between the Palestinian existence in Jerusalem with the Israeli occupation project that aims to judaize Jerusalem and evacuate it of its Palestinian citizens through settlement expansion, strangulation of Arab quarters, withdrawal of Palestinians' IDs and other measures summarized in the following (Tafakji, 2008):

**Land confiscation:** The Israeli authorities used the confiscation laws for public interest to build settlements. Israel confiscated 24 km (35% of the total area of East Jerusalem) to construct 15 settlements.

**Planning and Construction Laws:** In addition to settlement support and land confiscation for this purpose, a number of laws regulating construction in Jerusalem to limit construction growth of Palestinians in the city were approved. As a result, huge areas around the old city were closed and were announced green areas, making 40% of the city area as green areas on which Palestinians are not allowed to build while these areas formed a reserve for settlement expansion. Moreover, the procedures and costs of building is extremely high for Palestinians, which made Palestinian citizens buy lands in Jerusalem surroundings to build on instead.



**Absentees Law:** In 1950, Israel used the Absentees Law which states that any person who was outside the State of Israel during the population census of 1967 would have their property transformed to the custodian of absentees' property. The custodian is entitled to sell or rent these properties and that actually took place by the settlement societies in the old town.

**Israelization:** Israel seeks to Israelize the remaining minority of Palestinians in Jerusalem (22% of the total population) by linking the health, educational and services sectors of this minority with its counterpart sectors so as to annex the population together with the land to Israel. For example, Israel increased the level the Israeli public schools' absorption to Arab students so as to replace public and private Arab schools. Currently, around 39 thousand Palestinian students study in Israeli public schools in Jerusalem compared to 30 thousand students in private and public Arab schools.

**IDs confiscation:** Israel considers the Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem as Jordanian citizens living in Israel in accordance with the laws it has imposed on Jerusalem since its occupation in 1967, when a census took place due to which residency IDs were granted to Palestinians of Jerusalem. Considering that all Palestinians living in Jerusalem have illegally entered Israel on 5 June and they were allowed to live in Jerusalem for humanitarian reasons. Consequently, they are not citizens but foreigners having permanent residency inside Israel. This legal status made Jerusalemite citizens who lived for a certain period of time in a place other than Jerusalem threatened of losing their permanent residency.

**Second. Gaza Strip:** Field work revealed six types of families in the Gaza Strip including:

- Families without official documents (hold Palestinian IDs not registered by Israel)
- Families divided between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
- Families distributed between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, Gaza Strip and Jordan or among Gaza Strip, Egypt and Jordan.
- Wives holding Israeli or Jerusalemites IDs and living in Gaza Strip
- Husband or wife holds foreign nationality

**Third. The West Bank:** Field work revealed seven types of families in the West Bank including:

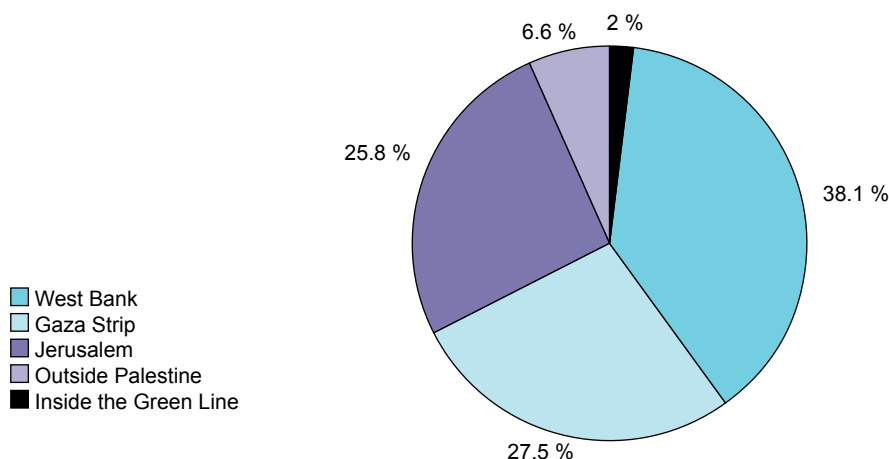
- Previously mentioned cases (those mentioned in Jerusalem and Gaza Strip situations above)
- Wives and children without any official Palestinian documents
- Families divided between West Bank and Jordan
- Families divided between the West Bank and areas inside the Green Line
- Husbands deported to Gaza Strip and abroad
- One of the spouses holds foreign nationality
- Families without any documents

## 2.2 Characteristics of the Surveyed Sample (General Indicators)

The subsequent findings reflect characteristics of households included in the survey. It is worth mentioning that the research sample was purposeful and not representative due to the lack of database on the population being studied. The subsequent findings provide general quantitative on the households' characteristics that suffer from the residency problem without the possibility to publicize the findings. Accordingly, the problem was deeply studied through the participants' narrative of their problems in the case studies and focus groups.

### 2.2.1 Geographical Distribution

The sample shows that 38% of those included in the survey normally lived in the West Bank, 27.5% in the Gaza Strip and 26% in Jerusalem.



As for the distribution of the sample by locality, 53% of the sample lived in cities, 26% in villages and 21% in camps.

The findings of the survey showed that the majority of participants (59%) lived in owned houses, 29% in rented houses while 7% lived in houses owned by relatives.

### 2.2.2 Sex, Age and Marital Status

Women included in the survey formed 62% of the sample compared to 38% men. About 90% of the participants were married and the majority of them and their spouses were of the age group between 26-40 years. The following table shows the percentage distribution of the heads of households' ages (men and women) participating in the survey:



Table 1: Percentage distribution of participating household heads by age

Age group	Participants' percentage	Participants' partners
18-25	5%	6%
26-40	47%	47%
41-55	30%	31%
Above 55 years	17%	16%

With regards to number of participants' years of marriage (males and females), one third (32.5%) of the participants indicated that they have been married for 20 years, 27.5% for 11-20 years and 23.7% for 6-10 years while 16% have been married for 1-5 years.

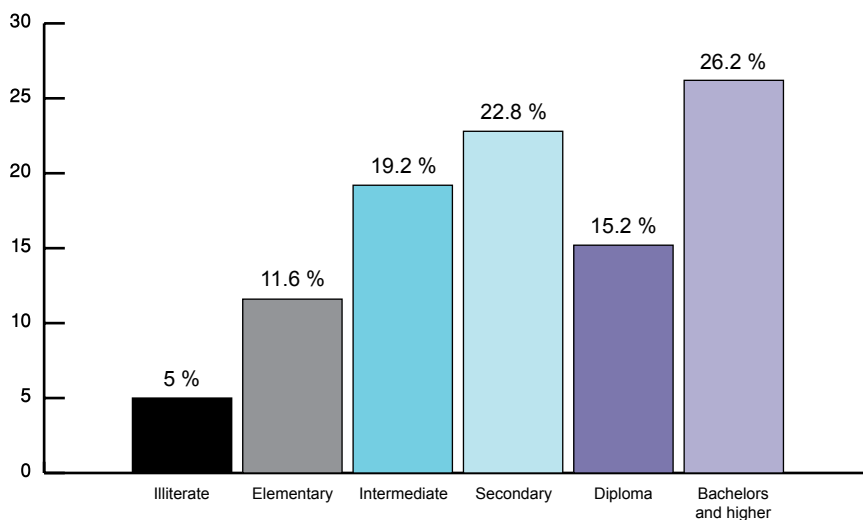
### 2.2.3 Education, Employment and Economic Situations

#### *First: Education*

Regarding the educational level, the highest percentage of participants were holding a bachelors degree and higher (26%) and the same applies to their partners (28%).

The following figure reflects the educational level of participants and their partners:

Figure 1: Percent Distribution of participants in the survey according to education level



#### *Second: Employment*

As for the relation between the participants and the labor market, the findings revealed that 51% of the participants were in the labor force (32% have full-time jobs, 13% have part-time jobs, 6% were currently unemployed and seeking work) while the remaining of participants were outside the labor force. The following table shows the participants' relation with the labor market:

Table 2: Percentage distribution of surveyed participants by their relation with the labor market

In labor force	Participants
Currently works full-time	32%
Currently works part-time	13%
Currently unemployed, seeking work	6%
Outside labor force	
Full-time home making	39%
Retired	4%
Unable to work	3%
Others (student, does not work and does not seek work)	3%

### Third: Economic Situation

24 Findings indicated that 23% of participants described their economic situation as bad or very bad, 44% as average while 33% described it as good or very good. Comparing these findings with the national rates, it seems that the differences are minimal as revealed by a public poll previously conducted by the Center of Development Studies on a national sample consisting of 6400 citizens in the first quarter of 2009. This poll revealed that 28% of the respondents described their economic situation as bad or very bad, 42% as average and 30% as good or very good.

Asking participants whether their income fulfils their needs or not, only 3% reported that their income can completely fulfill their needs, 16% consider that their income often fulfils their needs, 44% fulfills their needs to a certain extent while 23% and 15% reported that their income is low and does not fulfill their needs at all respectively.

One of the women interviewed reported:

*“Our situation is very bad; my husband was working with the Palestinian Authority before he was deported to Jordan where he currently works with a low salary and his salary from the Palestinian Authority was stopped. Moreover, my husband spends and pays the university fees for my son who studies at a university in Jordan. For this reason my husband does not send us any money as his salary can hardly fulfill our son’s educational fees.”*

Another woman, who recently has obtained family unification after 15 years of marriage spent in the West Bank in a manner illegal to the occupation laws, says:

*“Our social situation, thank God, is not so good and our economic situation is worse. Nobody in our family works except my husband who works in farming our neighbor’s land. I can only ensure the pocket money of my children who study at the university by asking for a hundred favors and sometimes I go to the neighbors to ask for some money so they can pay for transportation to the university because transportation is expensive. I am ill with high blood pressure and diabetes and cannot come and go.”*





On the other hand, some families do not face the same economic difficulties and can fulfill their needs from the husband's work or assistance from sons. A woman says:

*"My husband sends for us \$500 per month and my eldest daughter works as a math teacher and from time to time she sends us an amount of money. Thank God is enough for us but sometimes one may pass through a financial crises. I don't pressure my husband; God be with him in his expatriation."*

It is clear that some families can fulfill their needs especially when the family members assist each other in spending and the head of the family earns an average salary or more. Nevertheless, when the family faces temporary financial pressures, the wife prefers (as shown in the above quote) not to inform the husband in appreciation for his absence from his home and his expatriation.

A Ukrainian woman married to a Palestinian in Gaza confirms that the economic situation for many families suffering from the residency problem depends on the nature of the spouses' work and their income level (this also applies to all Palestinian families regardless of their state of residency in the Palestinian Territory). She works as a nurse and her husband is a specialist doctor and they cooperate in fulfilling their family needs.

*"Our situation Thanks to God is good and everything is OK, my husband's salary and mine is more than enough. But we took a loan so we can buy land and we pay half the amount of the loan from his and my salary. We bought the land and built a very beautiful retreat on the end of Absan" (an agricultural village in Khan Younis governorate)*

It is worth noting that this woman indicated in her story that her husband rejects to help her family although their financial situation is very good.

As for how families manage their living, the survey findings pointed out that families mainly rely on the work of one (or more) members. It was found that 70% of the husbands in the participating families worked, compared to 25% of the wives, 20% of these families have one son/daughter or more who work, 19% received assistance from relatives, 7% received governmental allowances and 23% receive allowances from the Israeli government (for a member or members holding Israeli IDs in the family).

Management of families living affairs, especially when the head of family is unemployed or when the family income is less than its needs, differ. Some of these families rely on the husband's or wife's family assistance while others rely on social assistance from organizations. One of the women interviewed (Palestinian holding Israeli ID and married to a Palestinian in Gaza) reported:

*"My husband is a taxi driver and his salary does not fulfill our basic needs; once we obtained assistance from a charitable society, and sometimes we obtain assistance from UNRWA (not often because his family is not refugee) and we also used to receive money transfers from*

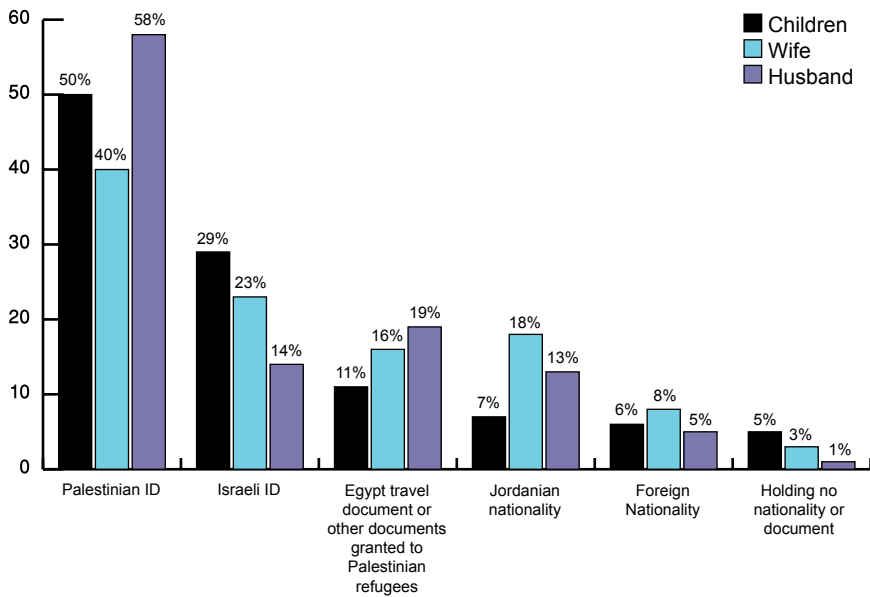
*my family, which lives in Israel but when transfers stopped before four years, they have been unable to do so.”*

Again, the economic situation of the families suffering from residency problem is similar to thousands of poor Palestinian families (regardless of the residency status) as means of obtaining income are different, i.e. through work, family and relatives' assistance, social organizations assistance, etc.

### 2.3 Type of ID/Nationality held by the Surveyed Families

The figure below indicates that the majority of husbands (58%) and 40% of wives hold Palestinian IDs. This difference is due to the fact that some Palestinian men are married to women holding Israeli or Jerusalem IDs or from outside the Palestinian Territory. The percentage of husbands holding Israeli IDs (14%) is less that of women holding Israeli IDs (23%), which is due to the fact that some men who hold Palestinian IDs marry women who hold an Israeli or Jerusalem ID in order to obtain the same ID through marriage so as to be allowed to enter and live in Jerusalem or Israel.

Figure 2: Percentage distribution of participants and their family members by type of ID/nationality they hold



It is necessary to note that many cases (10%) hold more than one nationality, thus the total of percentages is over 100%. One of the striking figures is the percentage of women holding Israeli IDs which is higher than men and the complete reverse is shown regarding the Palestinian IDs.



# Part Three: Residency and Family Unification Problems (Statistics and Narratives)

## 3.1 Beginning of Sufferings: Family Unification, Procedures and Constraints

Findings revealed that difference in the ID and place of residence raised family reservations of 28% of cases prior to marriage (during proposing to marriage). Reservations due to place of residence formed 83% and social status 30%. In most cases (81%), family objections or reservations were settled by dialogue and persuasion whereas 40% of the cases required family and relatives' mediation and 10% of the cases married without the family consent.

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Due to problems created by the problem of family unification and residency and difference in IDs, many Jerusalemite families refuse to marry their daughters, and sons to a certain extent, to those not holding the same IDs in an attempt to avoid the subsequent difficulties. In this context, a Jerusalemite woman currently suffering from marital problems after marrying from a man from the West Bank says:

*“When he proposed, my family refused because he is from the West Bank but I did not care as to me there is no difference between the West Bank and Jerusalem. My family said that he is marrying me for my ID but I did not believe them and I agreed only because my younger sister married and I did not. My family used to say that this man is from the West bank and when he obtains the ID he will divorce me but I did not believe that and I accepted marrying him.”* (Woman, 32 years, Dora/Hebron)

Complications increase when a Palestinian man marries a non-Palestinian woman. Many families have reservations toward this type of marriage because they consider it a risk for their daughters due to the difficulties of entry and exit from the Palestinian Territory in case they did not obtain the Palestinian ID. In an interview with a husband in Gaza Strip whose wife and children currently live in Aleppo in Syria, the man said:

*“I studied in a Syrian University. I loved Syria and decided to settle in it, I met my wife in the university and I asked her for marriage. Her family, especially her mother, refused because I am Palestinian and she is Syrian fearing that she will lose her daughter but under pressures and after meeting many problems her family agreed. I got married in Syria and was 19 years old at that time; I issued documents for my wife to visit Gaza and she visited my family in the Gaza Strip after two years of marriage. We returned to Syria where I worked for a long period but when I returned to Gaza to arrange for our settlement there, the borders closed and I couldn't return to Syria.”*

Due to difficulties experienced, families refuse that their sons/daughters undergo the same experience, as a Jerusalemite woman married to a man from the West Bank said:

*“Due to my bitter experience, I would not agree to the marriage of any of my daughter to a man from the West Bank.”*

The most significant difficulties facing marriage registration were the Israeli procrastination (30%) and the Israeli rejection to register the marriage in its civil registers (27%). In 26% of the cases, marriage was registered with the Palestinian Authority without obtaining the Israeli recognition. Financial difficulties come second in registering marriages of 9% of the cases because the Israeli government departments require financial quittance to register the marriage. Almost 5% could not register their marriages due to the lack of an address in Jerusalem or inside the Green Line. Finally, it is worth noting that the Israeli laws condition that men should be at least 35 years old before their family unification application submitted by his Jerusalemite wife is considered. For a mother to give her son residency or a Jerusalem ID, the same laws condition that the son should be unmarried.

From the cases in the study, 62% did not hold any residency or entry permits to Jerusalem or Green Line areas or for the movement between West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and 22% reported that they sometimes obtained permits while 17% held permits that were periodically renewed.

The findings indicated that 88% of participants in the survey have applied for family unification and proceeded in the procedures. As for those who did not apply, some of them reported that obtaining Jerusalem ID requires from applicants to be 35 years and over. Cases from the Gaza Strip reported that they could not apply. Findings also revealed that 8% of the participants applied during the period between 1983-1993, i.e. before the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and 37% applied during the period 1994-2000. The remaining applied in the years after with a little increase in the number of applicants for family unification in the years that followed 2005 in comparison with the years that came before and with the exception of 1999, which registered 13% of the cases (the highest following Palestinian Authority establishment).

Palestinian families resort to lawyers, especially Israeli lawyers, to assist them in family unification procedures or to take their case to competent Israeli courts. Families' experiences that asked for assistance from Israeli lawyers reported that such cases are not guaranteed and they often are exposed to financial exploitation by these lawyers who require large amounts reaching to more than 30 thousand shekels. A Jerusalemite wife who applied to family unification for her husband says:

*“I hired a female lawyer to obtain family unification for my husband and paid her 50 thousand shekels but after two years the only thing my husband obtained is a residency permit.”*

The Israeli occupation authorities practice a series of complicated measures regarding family unification including procrastination and imposition of new conditions whenever



applicants visited the Israeli offices in charge to check up their transactions. In cases of family unification related to Jerusalem, dozens of documents and procedures are required every time. A Jerusalemite woman describes that saying:

*“After two years of marriage, I applied to the Israeli Interior Ministry for my husband’s family unification. The Ministry asked me to change my place of residence. I rented a house in Jerusalem. Then the Ministry demanded the lease contract, marriage contract, educational certificates, tax, electricity and phone bills and birth certificates of my children. Every time I check up, the Interior Ministry asks for further or new documents. I have been applying for seven years and situation is still the same.”*

As family unification and required measures is an Israeli matter and not subjected to clear criteria, the process may take years. Although the last two years witnessed tens of thousands of family unification in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, nobody obtained family unification in Jerusalem and all cases are still frozen. Nevertheless, the suspended cases that have been suffering for many years, especially those related to nucleus families dispersed in two areas, save no efforts to expedite their family unification problems. A woman from Gaza says:

*“I married when I was 17 years from a Palestinian young man who was working in Saudi Arabia as a teacher. After two years of joining my husband, I visited my family in Gaza. As I have a Palestinian ID, everyone advised me to to apply for family unification for my husband so that if he wanted to return back with me, we can. I told his family and they agreed. I called my husband and he also agreed and asked me to proceed with the transactions. I applied for him, hoping that he will obtain an ID after six months, a year, two, three. I returned back to Saudi Arabia and started to follow up. All my children obtained the Palestinian ID in my name because I have an ID while my husband has not obtained it until now. We decided to come back because my husband’s salary was low and not enough for our spending and I was afraid that my daughters grow up outside their country In 2000, I returned to Gaza with my children hoping that my husband will follow us when he obtains family unification but so far all my efforts are fruitless. I didn’t leave one door I didn’t knock, the the ministries, I sent a letter to late Abu Ammar, I wrote all the administrations and all people everywhere but unfortunately nobody responded and all said that I have to wait my turn, because many have more difficult cases than me, and here we are till today we are waiting.”*

## 3.2 Dispersion Patterns

Findings showed that in 55% of the cases, husband, wife and children do not live in one home. As for the most important family dispersion patterns (distribution of family members between Palestinian Territory and abroad), 22% of the cases reported that one of the sons/daughter lives outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold Palestinian ID or visit permit, 20% reported that the husband lives

outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold Palestinian ID or visit permit and 17% reported that the wife lives outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold Palestinian ID or visit permit.

Regarding siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the Israeli measures isolating Jerusalem, 18% of the survey participants reported that the dispersion state they undergo is resulting from denying access of a family member to Jerusalem because he/she does not hold the Jerusalem ID. On the other hand, 14% of the families live the same situation because one family member lives outside the Gaza Strip and cannot return due to the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. Cases interviewed in the Gaza Strip included a Gazan man who visited Gaza five years ago and could not return to his wife and children who live in Syria. Another case is for a wife and children who live in Gaza while the husband is living in Saudi Arabia and does not hold Palestinian ID.



# Part Four: Social and Psychological Impacts

## 4.1 Consequences of Family Dispersion

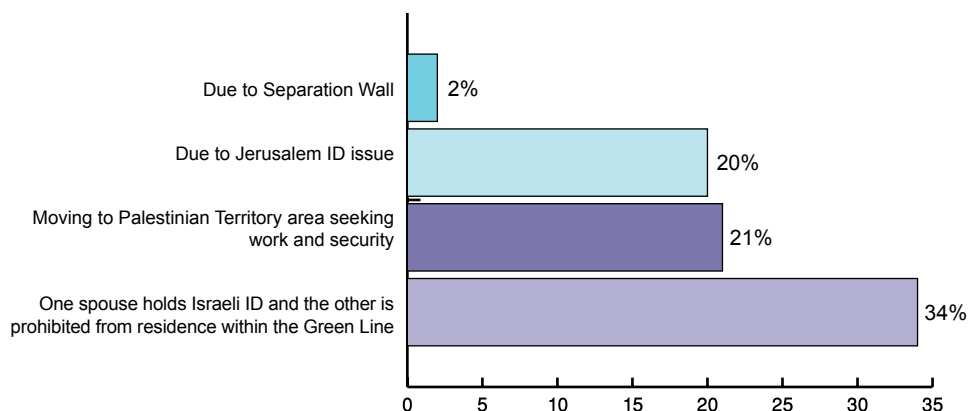
### 4.1.1 Change of Place of Residence

Due to the state of dispersion and to ensure family communication or avoid Israeli barriers, one third of the surveyed families had to change their place of residence. Among them, 39% rented houses in other places, 14% bought houses and 23% temporarily lived with their relatives in places that facilitate communication among family members. In case of Jerusalem, most of the cases in which some members hold the Jerusalem ID while others do not have Jerusalem ID or visit permits to enter Jerusalem, were obliged to rent two houses: one in the West Bank where family members have access to their work and other services and the another in Jerusalem to provide evidence that they live in Jerusalem. This increases the economic burdens on these families.

Normally, changing residence is related to the dispersion of households living in the Palestinian Territory, Jerusalem or inside the Green Line and not related to those households living abroad.

*“Some of my children and I live in a house in Beit Hanina so as not to lose the Jerusalem ID while my husband and my remaining children live in a village nearby Ramallah”*

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of participants by the main reason for changing place of residence



### 4.1.2 Family Communication

The most important challenge for household communication is normally among the members of the one household without ignoring importance of communication between spouses and their families. Dispersion of the one household takes different forms between the Palestinian Territory and abroad. Some narratives indicate that





the members of the one household in their dispersion even inside the Palestinian Territory have encountered many difficulties in communicating among each other continuously due to the security factor and their fears from the Israeli occupation. In this context, some households were divided in their place of residence between the Palestinian Territory, Israel and Jerusalem according to the ID they hold. This exceptional situation imposed diversified strategies on these families including having three houses in certain cases.

To communicate with a member living outside the family house, Palestinian families use different means most important of which are telephone calls (68% of the surveyed families use this means for communication) while 30% reported that they have to travel to a place where both parties can easily meet, 28% use the Internet and 12% use regular mail. It was also revealed that 12% of the participants have two houses, one in the West Bank and the other inside the Green Line or in Jerusalem to ensure family communication when adequate.

Figure 4: Percentage distribution of participants by means of family communication

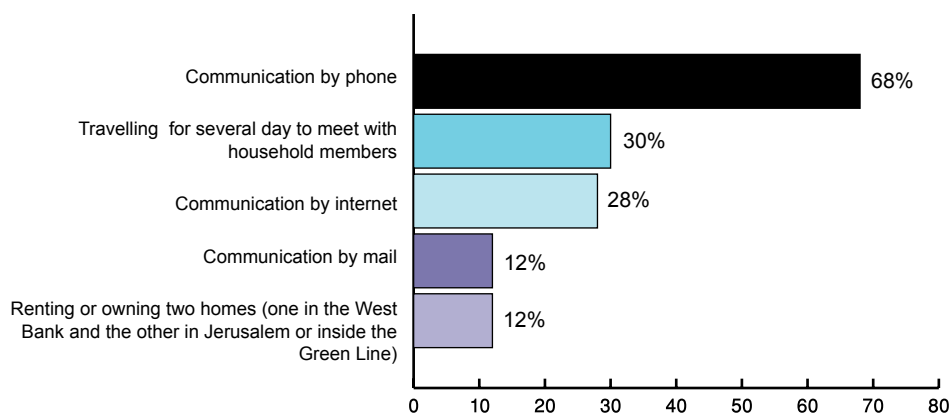
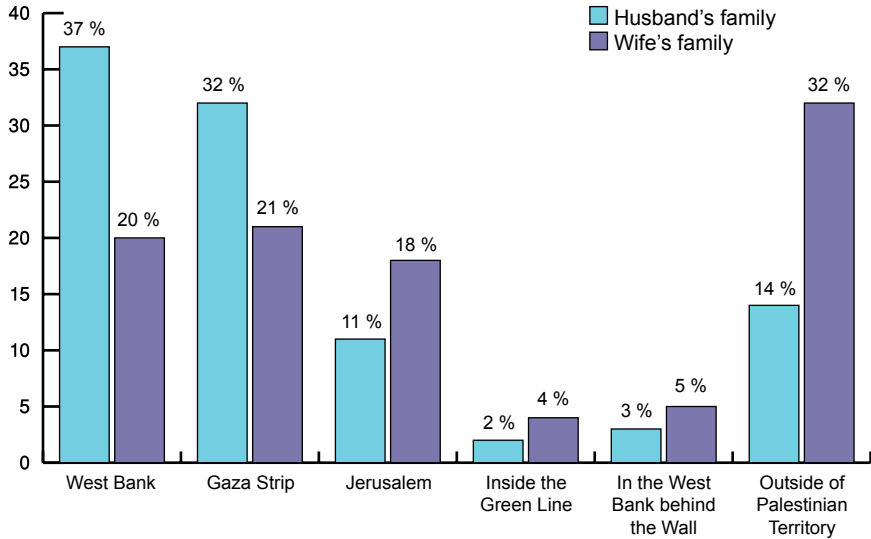


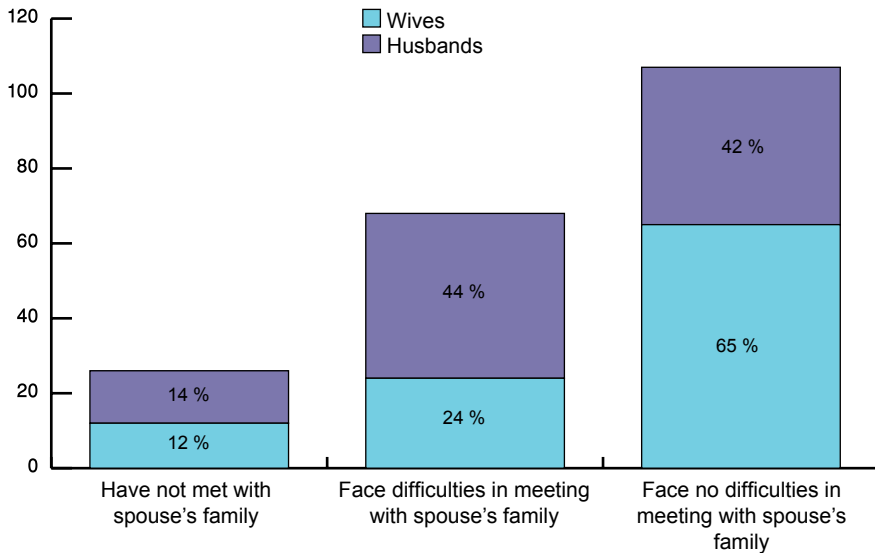
Figure 4 indicates that the majority of the husband's families, 37% and 32% live in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively. As for the wife's families, living in these two regions dropped to 20% in the West Bank and 21% in the Gaza Strip and the majority were found (32%) were found to be living outside the Palestinian Territory. It was also shown that 18% of the wife's families live in Jerusalem compared to 11% of the husband's families. These percentages often reflect that Palestinian men living in the Palestinian Territory marry from Palestinian women who previously lived or their families live abroad, or marry from Jerusalemite women more so than women who live in the West Bank or Gaza Strip from men living abroad or in Jerusalem.

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of participants by place of residence of husband's and wife's families



Due to the diversity in place of residence of spouses, a large number of spouses face difficulties in communicating with their families or their spouses' families as shown in figure 6:

Figure 6: Percentage distribution of participants (husbands and wives) by difficulties faced in meeting with their spouses' families





The residency problem deprived thousands of cases from seeing their families, especially women who married Palestinian men, entered the Palestinian Territory with visit permits and violated the visit duration for several years without being able to visit their families. One of these cases, who obtained family unification after 15 years, narrates how much she was longing to visit her parents who died without being able to see them:

*“I wish I could visit my family, my life was a tragedy as my father and mother died without being able to see them and till this day I wish I could see them. My mother died five years ago and my father one year ago. I became crazy when I knew about their death and I could not travel because my economic situation is difficult and the permit and travel costs are high. I obtained family unification two years ago. I would like to see my brothers and sisters who grew up in my absence. I miss them very very much; I was deprived of seeing them. The most difficult situation I went through was when I cross barriers (before having family unification), I was deadly afraid that the Israeli soldiers would arrest me and deport me to Jordan and by that I will be deprived of my children and won’t be able to be with them. Seriously, we were really humiliated in our lives.”*

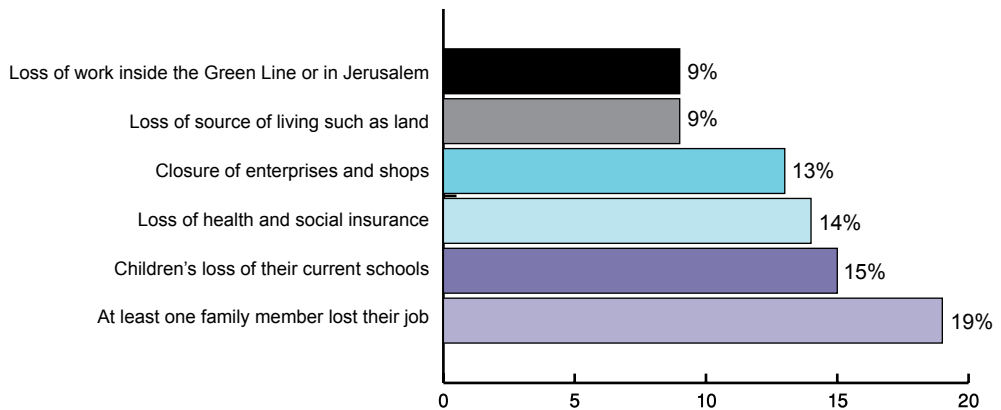
The same thing applies to children. The residency problem prevents them from meeting their father’s or mother’s relatives. The findings indicated that 11% of the children did not meet their relatives from their mother’s side and 16% did not meet their relatives from their father’s side. A Palestinian woman from Jordan married and living in the Palestinian Territory has not obtained family unification nor has her children, and thus they are not able to travel abroad. This woman reported:

*“My children do not know their uncles and aunts and they often ask about them and wish they could see them like others. Moreover, my father died three years ago and I did not see him.”* (A Palestinian woman from Jordan who is married and living in the Palestinian Territory and has not so far obtained a family unification nor her children and so they cannot travel to Jordan)

#### 4.1.3 Families’ Direct and Indirect Losses

Direct losses that affected Palestinian households due to occupation and its measures related to residency, family unification and dispersion of its members are diversified. These losses are added to other losses created by the political, security and economic situation in the Palestinian Territory. The following findings show losses related to dispersion:

Figure 7: Percentage distribution of participants by direct losses they are subjected to



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Figure 7 shows that 50% of those participating in the survey or one of their family members lost one source of living or more, 19% reported that at least one member lost his/her job, 13% were obligated to close enterprises or shops, 9% lost other source of living such as land and 9% lost their jobs inside the Green Line or Jerusalem. In addition to these material losses, which included most of the sources of living, 15% of the participants reported that one or more of their children lost his/her school and 14% lost their health and social insurance.

Back to all the material challenges discussed in the analysis of these households' situation (aside from percentages of participants in the survey), we find the following:

- One family member or more is outside the Palestinian Territory, i.e. more family expenses especially if that member cannot work where he/she lives.
- Many cases had to change their place of residence (some moved from owned houses to rented houses).
- Several cases have two houses (one in the West Bank and the other inside the Green Line, Jerusalem or the Gaza Strip).
- Half (50%) of the cases lost their source of living income (jobs, work, enterprises, shops, lands, etc).
- Family is obliged to travel abroad once or more every year to communicate with members living outside the Palestinian Territory.
- Tremendous cost (financial exploitation) of lawyers who follow up cases of families suffering from residency problem (particularly in Jerusalem).
- High taxes imposed on Jerusalem citizens (licenses, Arnona (Israeli tax), etc).

#### 4.1.4 Social Problems in the family, household and social surroundings

Although family problems occur for different reasons, nevertheless, there are certain factors that increase occurrence of domestic problems, especially between spouses. When family situations as a whole are under external pressure factors, as the family unification problem, these pressures will inevitably affect the individuals' behavior. Tension and anxiety lead to or increase domestic problems.

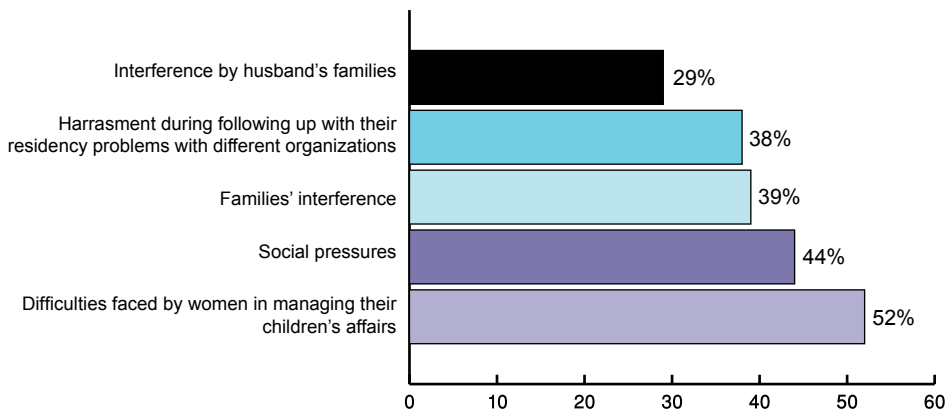
One of the interviewed women said”

*“My husband is stubborn and his head is hard. When he gets mad he does not see anything else. Five years ago, my husband married another wife and rented a house for her and then moved her to live in a store near our home. There is no understanding between my husband and me. He can get mad from one word and makes problems from little things. His second wife is better than him, she’s a poor thing and listens to me in everything I tell her and she respects me. I feel very sorry for her because my husband sometimes oppresses her and me. He doesn’t care about anyone. He wants my children to quit the university to work with him but I objected. I could not wait for them to pass and enter the university ...”* (A 41- year old woman, West Bank).

Despite the fact that the husband’s nervousness and predominance, in the above quote, happens in many households without being linked with the residency problem, the existence of a permanent problem (such as the residency problem in our context) aggravates the occurrence of such domestic problems. Men suffering from this problem often become more predominant to emphasize their masculinity vis-à-vis their failure in solving the main problem.

In a masculine authoritarian society, the life of women away from their husbands, although that is compulsory (due to lack of husband’s residency), carries many challenges and pressures practiced on women from the social surroundings. The Palestinian society generally has a negative attitude towards women living without husbands as mentioned by 44% of those surveyed. Challenges are doubled when wives are fully responsible for following up the health, educational and upbringing of children as reported by 52% of mothers who take care of their children. There is also the problem of the interference of women’s or husband’s families, 39% of the women surveyed reported that they were subjected to their families’ interference, 29% to their husbands’ families interference and 38% were subjected to several harassments while they were visiting different institutions to solve their family dispersion problems.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of female participants by pressures and interferences they are subjected to



In traditional societies, women are subjected to interference from the surroundings of the husband's family due to several cultural and social factors. Most importantly, lack of boundaries exists between what is considered a household affair (within the nucleus household) and what is a family affair (extended family). Married women within the paternal hierarchy become the weakest party in the power relations practiced by the extended family. The husband's family ability to interfere in the wife's affairs increases the less independence the wives have and the more their families are away from them. As if they become owned not only by husband but also by husband's family. In this context, a woman said:

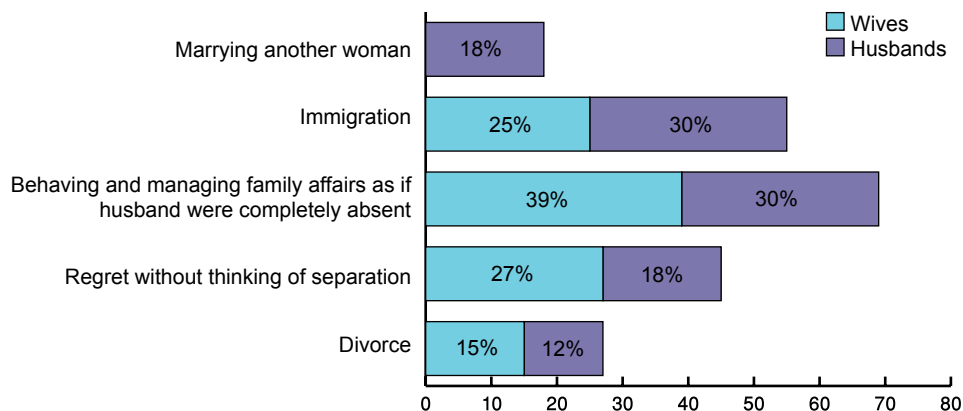
*"My relation with my husband's family was not so good because they were dominating me ... I was suffering from family problems ... Absence of family has a great role and has a great impact."* (A woman from the West Bank)

Social disparity between the wife's and husband's families and each family's style of life plays an important role in enhancing the gap and increasing pressure on married women. A woman married in the West Bank while her family lives in Jordan says:

*"For my part, I was not used to living a rural life style although I originally belong to a rural family. I lived in a good neighborhood in Amman (Dahiyat Al-Rashid) ... My family didn't know what is it is to make dough or break or use wood to cook or anything. . Here instead of treating me as their daughter and compensating my family's absence, they would make us feel that we should be thankful to them, and I myself had to make bread for a big family and also cooking and cleaning. I couldn't bear the situation and after four months, we moved to a rented house and until today we are living in it. But problems are not any less. I had to serve the old and the young and not to say no and especially this is because my family lives away from the West Bank."* (A woman from the West Bank).

Due to the social and psychological pressures to which families are subjected, especially wives and husbands, some ideas were proposed and participants were asked if they ever thought of these ideas as a solution for the difficulties of family unification. Figure 9 shows a comparison between wives and husbands' reactions to these options:

Figure 9: Percentage distribution of participants (husbands and wives) by ideas they thought of as a result of the pressures they are subjected to



It is obvious that in three of the proposed options women’s percentages were higher than men’s namely: divorce, regret for marriage and home management as if the husband were completely absent. This reflects pressures women are subjected to due to the state of dispersion. Meanwhile, thinking of migration is higher among men being more capable to take this decision in addition 18% of the surveyed men reported that marrying another woman was something they thought of as a solution. Moreover, the spatial distance made the two parties cause a feeling of a psychological separation in their marital life, this is apparent as 44% of the participants reported that there is weak participation in solving problems among them while 37% reported a state of lack of emotions and 31% said that there are permanent differences in all matters related to life issues.

The state of lack of emotions indicated by the participants (men and women) due to the spatial distance with their partners is not exclusive to spatial distance. In previous quotes, it was obvious that even spouses living in the same home; suffer from the same state due to several factors including problems resulting from family unification and residency.

#### 4.1.5 Samples of Challenges Facing Children

The findings showed that 44% of the participants declared that they encountered difficulties in registering their children. Difficulties are represented in the following:

- 54% due to Israeli rejection of registering sons/daughters in its civil register
- 66% due to Israeli procrastination in registration procedures
- 22% due to financial difficulties related to Israeli taxes
- 9% due to inability to register children because of lack of address in Jerusalem or inside the Green Line
- As a result, 22% had to register their children with the Palestinian Authority without obtaining the Israeli recognition.

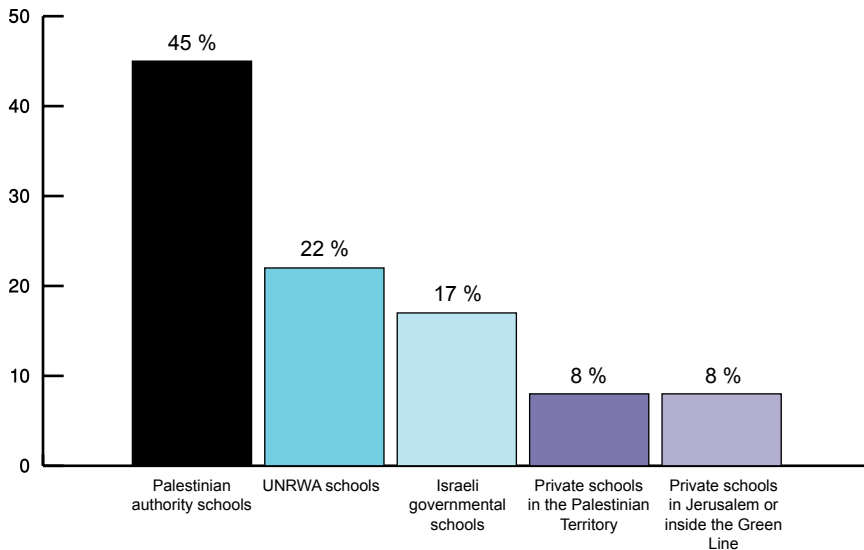
Here, it is worth mentioning that the Israeli procedures appears to be punishing women holding Israeli or Jerusalemite ID for marrying Palestinian citizens. These women are also deprived of all services and health insurances in addition to being

deprived of giving birth in Israeli hospitals or providing their children with medical treatment since their children are Palestinians. This reflects the extent of Israeli racial discrimination against Palestinians, especially against the Jerusalemites. A Jerusalemite woman whose husband holds Palestinian ID said:

*“When I gave birth to my baby girl Bayan, I was very happy but soon after hours I became disappointed because the hospital asked me to officially register her. At that moment my thinking stopped as her father is from the West Bank and does not have family unification. I asked what happens if the father is from the West Bank and I was told that I have to pay a fine of 17 thousand shekels and the baby and I will be withheld. I asked my mother what to do and she told me to tell them that she doesn’t have a father, My mother told them that she does not have a father. Thus, I registered my daughter in my name and in my father’s name and did not pay one shekel.” (A Jerusalemite woman, 32 years)*

40 The following figure shows the distribution of the Palestinian households’ children suffering from residency problem on schools:

Figure 10: Percentage distribution of participants’ children by schools of enrolment



Distribution of children in schools relies on their legal status (type of ID and place of residence) particularly regarding households living in Jerusalem and inside the Green Line. This is due to the fact that Palestinian public schools and UNRWA schools accept enrolment of students regardless of the IDs they hold, whereas Israeli schools only accept students holding Israeli IDs.

With regards to the health care provided for children of the surveyed households, most of it is provided in Palestinian governmental hospitals (48%) followed by private hospitals (26%). There are 30% that receive health care services from Israeli governmental hospitals and 6% from Israeli private hospitals.





Moreover, these households faced numerous other social impacts. They are citizens without citizenship rights: difficulties in residency, lack of medical treatment, no possibility for health insurance for their children, no social assistance received by needy families and others. Moreover, many households could not participate in the municipal, legislative or presidential elections.

A woman who has lived in the West Bank with her husband for several years without holding Palestinian IDs, which they recently obtained, says:

*“We faced many difficulties and we were deprived of many things even of medical treatment because we did not have IDs. We wished to participate in a health awareness courses but we couldn’t. We couldn’t get humanitarian assistance because that requires having an ID. Our situation was very bad and we even were deprived of our right to vote.”*  
(A woman from the West Bank)

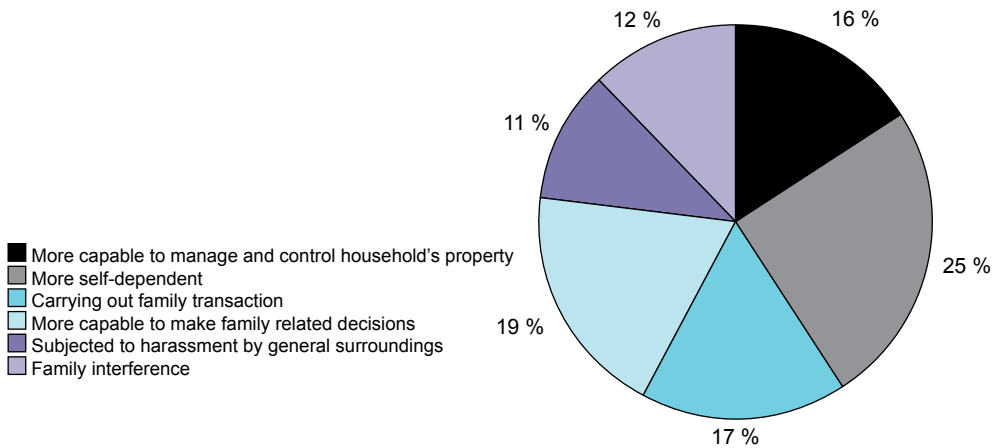
## 4.2 New Social Roles: Changes in Gender Roles

As a result of the special situation which the surveyed households go through, changes occurred in the gender roles within the household. Some of these were positive and resulted from the new roles of women within their households, however others are challenges imposed by the reality in which these women live. The findings showed the following:

- 68% of the surveyed women became more self-dependent,
- 54% became more capable to make family decisions,
- 46% carried out all family affairs and transactions on their own, and
- 44% of the women became more capable to control family expenditures and manage family property
- On the other hand, 31% of the women were subjected to harassment from the public surroundings and 34% were subjected to interference from the family surroundings.

It is obvious that the total of percentages is more than 100% as surveyed women were allowed to choose more than one option to identify the changes that occurred on their roles and capabilities within their households and in the public arena. The first four points above reflect the positive changes in women roles related to the state of dispersion women undergo. The compulsory residency of women away from their husbands reduced the masculine power practiced by husbands on their wives. This in turn increased the capability of women to take family related decisions and manage the family property, on one hand. On the other hand, absence of husbands, encouraged women to become self-dependent and go out to follow up family affairs in the public arena.

Figure 11: Percentage distribution of female participants by changes in gender roles



### 4.3 Psychological Reflections on Family Members

To examine the most important challenges that encounter the surveyed households' members, seven main psychological problems were listed and family members (husband, wife, sons and daughters) were asked to respond to these problems. One should pay attention that the participants may be confused in some of the listed psychological challenges. Nevertheless, this question attempts to identify the negative feelings of households' members suffering from family unification and dispersion related problems and differences among household's members.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of the surveyed participants and their households' members by psychological challenges

	Anxiety	Insecurity	Sadness	Frustration	Tendency to violence	Loneliness	Alienation
Husband	71	52	57	48	28	46	47
Wife	78	69	66	56	31	57	51
Sons	53	49	44	37	34	32	35
Daughters	56	57	50	41	27	41	37

Generally, the negative psychological impacts have stronger effect on wives than husbands. Also the psychological effect on households' daughters was more than on sons in all the points except for tendency to violence. It is clear that impacts were more severe on females (wives and daughters), which reflects the state of pressure they undergo. Moreover, males (husbands and sons) have more living and life options than females as males have broader options in work, movement, travel, hanging out with friends and engagement in social and political activities. This decreases the social and psychological pressures resulting from the residency problem on males.



Psychological pressures of the one family suffering from dispersion are diversified and tangled. The over caution of mothers towards their children might lead them to scold them out of fear. Also each of the spouses tries to hide the state of anxiety and tension from the other when they are far away from each other so as not to hurt the feelings of the spouses. A woman living in the West Bank with her children while her husband lives in Jordan because he does not have Palestinian ID says:

*“Any family having a member without an ID and far from the dearest people to them whether a husband, parents or family member that is close to them, will have sadness and pain. Sometimes, I become very mad and feel that my head will explode because I press myself so much. And when I sometimes beat my children I don’t realize that I am hitting them and I regret it after that and sometimes I start crying because I did it and feel sad for them. I say what is their fault to beat them, maybe because I am under pressure and cannot bear anymore. Everything is requested from me and I am in charge of everything regarding my children, I get worried something will happen to them. I often want to tell my husband about what happens to me but I don’t do that because I don’t want to increase his problems and worries. If I tell him his pains will increase and I tell myself that I won’t tell him anything because his worries are enough for him.”* (A 39 years old woman, West Bank)

Anxiety and tension increase due to the occupation measures including home assaults, violence, detention of the young persons and house search, especially when the mother is alone with her children. A Jerusalemite mother living with her children in Jerusalem while her husband lives in Hebron, for not having the Jerusalem ID or visit permit, says that she feels alienated and lonely and that makes her violent with her children. Meanwhile, the husband has the same feelings of loneliness, frustration and insecurity towards his wife and children, which makes him often talk on phone with them:

*“My children are in a state of fear. The Israeli army is always going and coming to the area and I also don’t feel that I have full control over them. I feel that they tend to be violent with each other.”* (A 36 year old woman, Jerusalem)

Despite all these social and psychological challenges facing families suffering from residency and dispersion problem, 32% of the surveyed participants expressed that they are optimistic of the future, 41% relatively optimistic and 28% are pessimistic. A number of participants indicated that due to the fact that thousands of citizens have obtained family unification over the last two years, they are optimist toward solving their problems while others expressed their pessimism saying that as long as the solution is in the hand of Israel, they expect everything.

## Part Five: Coping Strategies

This part presents the conflicts of Palestinian families suffering from residency problem in the Palestinian Territory because they or one of their members does not have family unification. Such families undergo bitter conflict to change the oppressive reality imposed by occupation or at least to reach for a certain state of coping with the circumstances they live. These families – as other Palestinian families and individuals – struggle to overcome obstacles and earn their living to survive. Nevertheless, the particularity of each case imposed on families to change their priorities in a manner compatible with each family's circumstances and create means and strategies to overcome the bitterness of their realities.

### 5.1 Households' Priorities

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With the residency problem, Palestinian households' priorities differ from one household to another. The surveyed participants identify their priorities as in the following figure:

Figure 12: Percentage distribution of participants by their families' current priorities

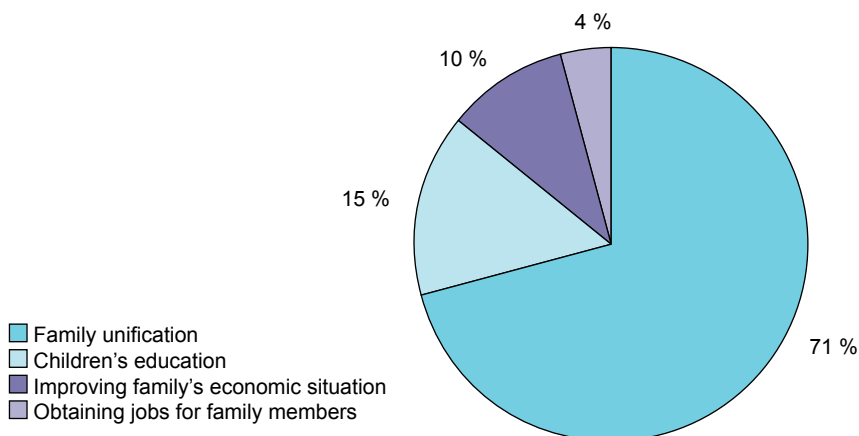


Figure 12 reveals that 71 % of the households consider family unification as their main priority. This is natural for households facing difficulties and challenges, which would not exist in case of family unification or at least its impacts can be mitigated and confronted as a household.

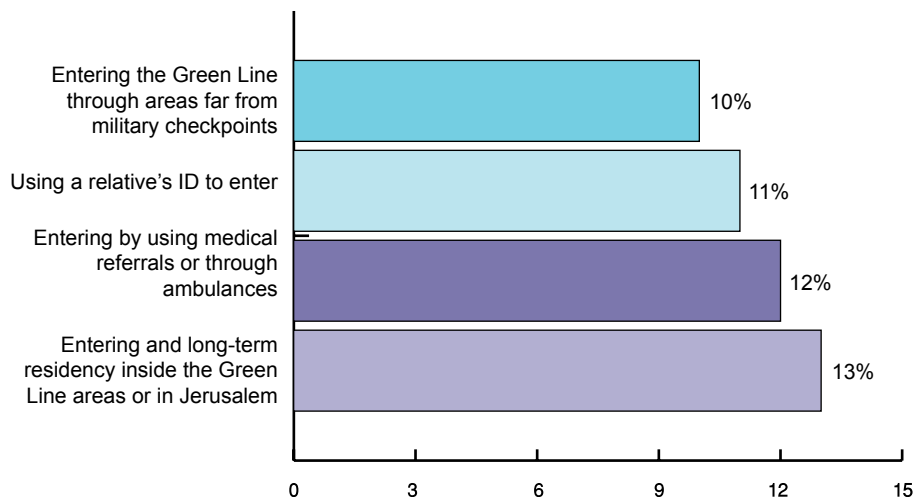
### 5.2 Coping Strategies

Generally, 30% of the surveyed households received moral support from their social surroundings, 46% received support to a certain extent while 24% did not receive any support.

In many urgent cases, those suffering from residency problems resort to using risky means to enter Jerusalem or inside the Green Line area such as entering and

staying for long periods, using medical referrals or ambulances, using the IDs of their relatives or crossing the Green Line border from places away from military barriers. The following figure shows percentages of using each of the above mentioned means:

Figure 13: Percentage distribution of participants by coping strategies used to overcome problems of residency and movement



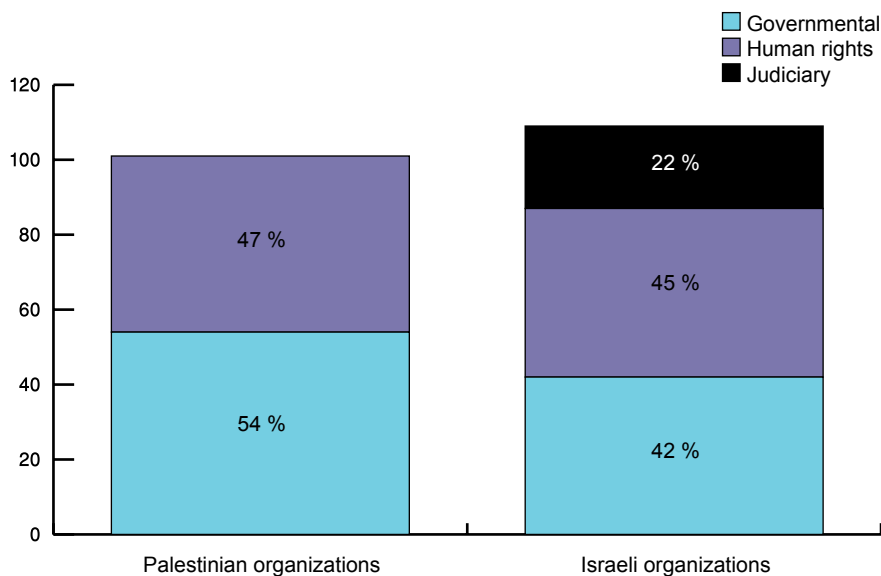
Within the alternatives considered realistic by the participants if they do not obtain family unification, the findings showed that 31% think of migration, 37% of changing place of residence and 8% of divorce.

*“I only got acquainted with my wife after I had known that she has the French nationality. For that reason, I am not very concerned in family unification. As I told you, I am thinking of leaving for good.” (Man in a focus group, West Bank)*

To solve the residency problem and family unification, 70% of the surveyed participants reported that they resorted to different organizations, Palestinian and Israeli organizations as well as law, governmental and judicial organizations. The following table shows percentages of those resorted to organizations and type of organizations:



Figure 14: Percentage distribution of participants by organizations they resort to for assistance



The findings indicate that 27% believe that their problem is going to be solved, 20% believe that their problem will remain and therefore they will cope and co-exist with the problem while 53% believe that the situation is not clear.

Among those suffering from residency in Jerusalem, 44% declared that they were compelled to violate the permit period because they were not sure whether they are going to obtain another permit. As regards cases suffering from separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 20% were compelled to stay in one of the two regions longer than the period permitted.

The violated residency period ranged between days and years. The findings showed that 12% violated the permits for a period of approximately one month, 34% for a period between one month and six months while 30% for periods exceeding one year.



## Part Six: Analysis of Case Studies within the Context of Gender Relations Contents

Palestinian households, which or one of its members, suffer from the residency problem encountered several different challenges partially related to relations among the household's members. The case studies showed that existing relations were affected by economic, social, cultural, political and environmental factors in relation with the reproductive, productive and societal roles played by men or women and with place and vision of each of them. At the beginning of analyzing this part of the study, we will address the challenges faced by the households within the gender relations and the changes associated with the life of these households' members within the same context.

### 6.1 Challenges Related to Freedom of Movement

#### First: Challenges in access to services

Challenges related to movement and transportation, whether within or outside the Palestinian Territory, are considered the most important challenges facing household's members. The movement of women was increasingly limited to the internal circles or compulsory movement outside the town of residence within the strategy of using alternative documents or expired passport. Women's movement outside their houses is usually linked with obtaining health services for herself or one of the household's members. In this context a woman who does not have an ID says:

*"I rarely go out of home I don't even visit the houses near us even though they are our relatives. I only go out on occasions or to the doctor during my pregnancy and in such cases I use my cousin's ID because she looks like me or my sister's in law. God protects us from the soldiers"*

Another woman shares her the same problem (does not have ID) through narrating the story of one of her daughter's illness and the associated difficulties"

*"I don't have ID and I don't like to go out of home. I started to leave the village more after a year and a half of giving birth to my eldest daughter, we discovered that she cannot walk and we took her to many doctors. Mostly her grandmother from her father side took her to the doctor as I can't leave the village too much. After a long time the doctors at the beginning thought that she has allergy or other things and then . finally they discovered that she has hip dislocation. They put her in cast for a while and she had to sleep in hospital a lot and I couldn't sleep with her. Her grandmother slept with her and that annoyed me very much. Treatment with the cast was not successful and my daughter needed a surgery in Al-Maqased Hospital in Jerusalem. But before the surgery, her grandmother fell down and couldn't go with her. The family suggested that her uncle's wife go with her as I cannot go with her because I don't have an ID but then my cousin came and I decided to use her ID to sleep with my daughter in the hospital and I really took a risk"*





## Second: Challenges in obtaining services

Access to services was not the only challenge confronting the households' members. Obtaining the service in itself was a huge obstacle for them due to the lack of residency documents (IDs) through which they obtain other services. In this regard, a woman says:

*“Personally, I underwent a big problem, I was very sick and doctors in Gaza could not discover what was wrong with me. Doctors said I have disease in the spinal column and a fracture in the vertebrae and I needed surgery abroad any surgery to relieve the pain. But I couldn't because I don't have an ID to travel, and I stayed two years being treated but with no results.”*

In the same context, a man tells the story of his father”

*“We were living in the Egyptian Canada area in Sinai. We all left except for my father who suffers from a difficult psychological disease. So, we were obliged to bring him through a tunnel to Rafah to live with us. The problem is that he does not have any official documents and his residency in Egypt expired. He has to follow up with a doctor in Egypt and he takes medicine which has to be changed from time to time. Currently, we follow up with the doctor on the mobile and bring his medicine through tunnels.”*

Moreover, to obtain health services, women endure a journey of burdens, tortures, psychological sufferings, risks in addition to deprivation in case these households seek to obtain services whether they were governmental, international or provided by UNRWA. Um Mohammad says in this context:

*“I tried to obtain health insurance for myself and my son Mohammad but I was rejected because my husband is alive and does not have an ID and insurance should be in the name of the household's head. Both my son and I are sick and need continuous treatment. I was referred to UNRWA but they refused to open a file for us saying that the UNRWA card we have is issued from Jordan and to transform it to West Bank needs the presence of my husband who is in Jordan and does not have residency in the West Bank. Please bring the head of the household so we can do something. Even my daughter's insurance who is a nurse cannot include me because I am below 60 years.”*

In the same regard, another woman speaks about the difficulties she confronted with the governmental health services:

*“I tasted bitterness when I wanted to visit the governmental clinics or hospitals for treatment. I did not dare to go because governmental procedures need an ID and I do not have an ID or health insurance. At the same time I cannot obtain such services at private doctors because I don't have money and our economic situation is deteriorated.”*

In other cases, health services were obtained by crooked ways, which embarrassed households and sometimes subjected them to legal liabilities with organizations providing medical services. A Gazan woman says:

*"I feel that I am coming to a foreign place because I didn't live here and I don't have a passport or an ID; as if I am coming to a place that is not mine. The simplest thing happened with me when I needed medical treatment, I had to beg for my neighbor's health card and this made me in a constant nervous state from the time I entered the hospital until the time I left it because I was falsifying in what I had to say. And I have to ask the neighbors for these favors and its embarrassing and I feel many bad things."*

### Third: Challenges in social and spatial communication

The surveyed households' members confronted other challenges related to communication with families or other relatives. Some family members were compelled to live away from their families to avoid movement while studying in universities not farther than few kilometers from their homes. Regarding movement limitedness and its impact on communication with family members, a female participant says:

*"I am alone without an ID. The Intifada broke out and I couldn't visit my family in Jenin or my sister in Qabatia. I was deprived of visiting my family. My mother became sick with cancer and died without me being able to see her."*

One of the participating young females spoke about her experience of not being able to move around and which forced her to live in a city near her village:

*"I studied Computer Diploma in a college in Nablus. Maybe in the two years I was studying I didn't visit my family except once or twice. I was afraid of moving around."*

Limited movement and transportation formed a psychological barrier added to the Israeli barriers and the Separation Wall. In this context, one of the women describes the reality of one of her granddaughters:

*"She doesn't have feelings of security and always worried and anxious. She doesn't go out of home if there is an occasion or a wedding. She is afraid of passing through barriers and sometimes she uses the birth certificate of her uncles' daughter who is her same age to cross barriers. We often keep her at home and we go out. It is out of our hands."*

Another woman expressed her anger toward the unacceptable reality and oppression she goes through:

*"For 14 years, I haven't traveled to anyplace in the world and I haven't seen my family and they haven't seen me or even my children. I stayed 14 years without traveling outside the Gaza Strip at all. Even my family I haven't seen them for 14 years, what law in the world deprives me of*

*seeing my family for 14 years? This is a great injustice and oppression. I need an ID."*

Under the imposed restrictions on movement, main wishes for the surveyed families focused on how to communicate with their families. A Gazan woman says:

*"My only wish is to visit my parents and my family and visit Egypt but the ID and passport are my problem and obstacle."*

As regards deprivation of wishes, another woman says:

*"For example I was living my life all fear in fear. I like to visit Jordan. My greatest wish is to visit Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque but my movement is restricted because I don't have an ID. I was always nervous and scared that the Israeli army catches me, because if they catch me they will deport me to Jordan because I am violating my residency duration. I was deprived of attending many occasions like my brothers' and sisters' weddings."*

## 6.2 Life and Living Challenges (Societal Structure)

### First: Societal interference and oppression

Women in such type of households undergo several challenges but societal challenges have special and different impacts on life and future of women. In a certain aspect, the husband's family interferes in wife's life due to the absence of the husband. Such pressures reach putting pressure on the husband so as to marry another woman. In this aspect, a woman says:

*"There is pressure from the society because I live alone with my children. My husband's family is always tense because my husband does not live with us as he does not have a Palestinian ID and his family urges him to marry another woman that can live with him and fulfill his needs."*

Affirming on the socially prevailing patriarchal relation and its impact on these women, other women confirm that their parents were a part of their crises through their intervention in the details of their lives. Often, parents justify their intervention as a kind of concern toward their married daughters who live away from their husbands due to the residency problem. This situation increases women's insecure feelings from their surroundings. In this regard, a woman says:

*"I have feelings of insecurity toward myself and my children because my husband does not live with us and the surrounding environment does not give me feelings of security."*

Another woman shares the same opinion:

*"Sometimes my parents interfere in my life because my husband is not living with us and their increased fears make problems for me. Even people around me often like to criticize or give advices and sometimes their advices annoy me very much."*



Oppression inflicted by husbands' families on women who do not have official documents, especially if the wives are foreigners, increases and negatively affects their relations with their husbands. A foreign wife married to a Palestinian in the Palestinian Territory says:

*"The word 'bad' is not enough to say about my husband's family or their treatment to me. I do everything expected to be done from any person to the extent that I bake bread in a clay oven although I am not Arab. I know many Arab women who do not do what I do but they is no approval, my relationship with them is bad. They don't love me, they hate me although I am good with them. The problem is that they are liars. They say things which are not true to my husband and he believes them and makes problems for me. I am continuing to live here for the sake of my sons and my daughters otherwise I will escape and never come back to humiliation in Gaza."*

52

## Second: Deprivation of rights

Most often lack of official documents deprives women of their economic and social rights although deprivation of the official documents is caused by the Israeli occupation measures. A woman describes this deprivation saying:

*"We were even deprived of assistance because to obtain any assistance you have first of all to submit your ID. Our situation was very bad."*

This reality also contributed to depriving some young persons of economic participation. A young person of the surveyed households says:

*"I am 25 years old. I suffered the most because I do not have ID. I made the impossible to work with the Palestinian Authority, but each time my application was rejected of course because I don't have an ID. Finally, with a miracle I got a job with the Palestinian Authority but through connections."*

Another woman adds that this reality formed an obstacle to their political participation:

*"We were deprived of our right to vote, why? Are we different from others? Only, that because we don't have IDs?"*

## 6.3 Challenges Related to Family Internal and Societal Relations

### First: Lack of trust, conflict and relations forewarning of family collapse

Conflicts within the surveyed families took many forms, which caused many problems and difficulties in women's lives and in many cases forewarned family collapse.

A woman interviewee spoke about different pressures befallen and creating conflict within the family:



*"I always say to my husband God help you how are you enduring to live with me as I became nervous and sensitive from any situation. My relation with my husband has become almost impossible; continuous fights and problems."*

Another wife adds:

*"Our marital life is in continuous tension and indifference because my husband doesn't live with us). It was good in his presence but it's now in a state tension because my husband is not with us to solve the children's problems and we cannot have discussions because he is not here with me continuously"*

Wives bear a large part of their husbands' tragedies, which is sometimes due to husband's carelessness or non-seriousness on working on his wife's residency problem or lack of husbands' solidarity with their wives, who suffer from alienation away from their families. In this context, a woman says:

*"I hold my husband responsibility for not obtaining family unification; this makes our relation in continuous tension."*

Another woman describes her husband's feelings toward her as indifferent and lacking emotions:

*"There are continuous problems between my husband and me because I have the right to see my family but he doesn't feel with me because he lives with his family and he doesn't care much."*

### **Second: Alienation is a daily phenomenon experienced by wives**

Many studies indicate a diversity of challenges associated with social integration in case of migration or moving to another place. Isolation is considered one of the most important challenges related to migration and moving to another place. This is what happened with women, whether Palestinians or foreigners who married in the Palestinian Territory. An Ukrainian woman married to a Palestinian and living in the Gaza Strip says that she has feelings of alienation, which enhanced her feelings towards connecting with her Ukrainian parents and society:

*"When I first decided to transfer money to my parents, my husband refused and that caused problems between us, and it was a big and strong argument. Later I convinced him that my parents are poor and living is expensive in Ukraine, my salary is good and I have to help them. My husband is a doctor and earns good money but he is sensitive and he likes money more than he likes people..... and I feel I am a stranger here."*

Regarding feelings of alienation, lack of family support and fear toward the future of children, a woman describes that saying:

*"Until now I feel that I am stranger, without a family a person feels as"*

*if they are not wearing clothes . My relations are at minimum and I don't know anybody. Even my relatives who live here forgot me and forgot that I am one of them. What makes me feel better is that my husband and I live the same circumstances and don't have except each other. But I am afraid and upset for my daughters when they grow up in the future they won't have a family or any relatives or anybody to be with them if something happens to us. Meaning they will live another tragedy."*

Another woman shares these women their painful reality as she is deprived of her family"

*"There is nothing more important or that makes you feel horrible or makes you feel alienated than being deprived of your family just because you don't have an ID. I was deprived of my parents and I never imagined that my life would turn out this way."*

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Some of the surveyed women consider that their being away from their families was a source of inferiority and weakness in their relations with their husbands. They live in a community without any support:

*"I had problems with my husband. No home is without problems. I thought of leaving our home but alas where to go. My husband was assured from this side because I have nowhere to go."*

In the same context, another woman says:

*"Currently, I am alone in Gaza, and this makes me very weak without my family who lives in Egypt because I am unable to face my husband's family who always try to create problems for me."*

It was not easy for women to cope with the new environment despite the safe social environment surrounding them:

*"I don't feel that I am getting along with people around me even with my husband's family although they are very good with me and try their best to make me satisfied."*

The feelings of this same woman with alienation surpassed her feelings of security and confidence, which her husband's family tries to give to her. She adds:

*"I know why my husband's family treats me so good so I don't to return to my country and take their son with me."*

### **Third: Parents draw the future of their children from their life's perspective**

The state of alienation experienced by women makes women draw the picture of their children's future. Based on their reality, these women provide advices to their daughters and sons. Not only that but they also affirm that they will never allow them



to follow the same track as a result of their sufferings. Accordingly, a woman gives this advice:

*“I advise every father and mother not to allow their daughter marry someone from a different country unless they make sure that she can obtain ID or passport so as not to live the tragedy lived by households every day.”*

Another woman affirms that in no way she will let her daughter marry outside their spatial circle:

*“As for me, it is impossible to let my daughter marry from outside the country because it is torture and bitter. The torture we saw in the West Bank, I wish we never came. I never thought coming here and I didn’t like coming here but in the end destiny decides.”*

## 6.4 Diverse Psychological Reflections on All Family Members of which the Victims are the Weakest

Lack of communication among household’s members resulted in a number of reflections and psychological pressures burst out when these members went through certain social attitudes in which they feel pain due to their living conditions. A woman says

*“I feel heartbroken, frustrated and very sad during feasts days because no one from my family is with me”*

Alienation, isolation, frustration, nervousness and tension have their own implications in the form of violence within the household. The victims of this violence are the children “weakest loop” in the household. This was clear in this woman’s quote:

*“I feel isolated and alienated and sometimes I resort to violence with my children as a result of frustration.”*

Another wife reported that her little son is the victim of her nervousness:

*“I am very nervous and I pour all my nervousness on my little son I get mad at him a lot.”*

And she adds that her painful reality created unconscious violence within her:

*“Reality has a great impact; many times I became mad and beat my children without feeling of what I am doing.”*

As regards the prevailing violence among the household’s members, a young woman says that the situation reaches the extent of driving out the sons outside home and that violence has become a part of their life:

*“It’s true, anxiety and tension have invaded our household and my father and brother became violent. My father drove out my brother from the*



house and I became nervous, tense and very worried for the situation we have reached.”

## 6.5 Changes in Gender Roles between Holding Responsibility and Authority Absence

The reality lived by these households had numerous reflections; some of them were represented in increasing women's independence, bearing of different family responsibilities as well as taking family decisions due to husband's absence or due to limited communications. Although many evidences emphasize on changes in gender roles, but these changes did not weaken the patriarchal relation in the society. On the contrary, the surrounding society (husband's or wife's family or society itself) put restrictions on women movement and freedom whether through direct interference by husband's or wife's family or through interference in certain details of the wife's life by the surrounding society.

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Consequently, the social and cultural structure of the society increased burdens and responsibilities of women while little changes occurred in strengthening women in the society. In this regard, a woman narrates how she was obliged to confront different life challenges whether during her daughters' marriages or solving problems facing her sons:

*“This has impacted me to a great extent because I endured a lot of burdens due to my husband's absence. Especially that all my daughters married without their father's attending the wedding of any of them. My son Mohammad is very affected by his father's absence and he is in dire need to his presence beside him especially after the incident he subjected to from one of his classmates who classmate threw at him a broken glass bottle while they were fighting on his way home. . The incident left a mark on his face and he stayed 10 days in hospital. After several months he underwent a plastic surgery but it did not succeed because he was in the growth stage. Now he needs laser surgery and this is all a burden on me and exhausts me financially.”*

This reality is emphasized by another woman whose responsibilities made her life very difficult due to her husband's absence:

*“I am suffering very much due to my husband's absence. My family has a big role in life. I cannot continue living in a country and my husband in another. All my children's responsibilities are shouldered by me and I cannot bear that anymore.”*

Women also mentioned another dimension in shouldering responsibilities through their relations with sons/daughter and bringing them up, considering that the husband is a main pillar, according to the culture of some women:

*“Certainly my husband's absence psychologically affected us. I mean my son is making problems for me and he is in a critical age and needs his father beside him. Also imagine that all my daughters got married*



*in the absence of their father. This affected us very much and made us sad and we used to cry on every occasion.”*

### 6.5.1 Future of Women under Men and Family Authority ‘Patriarchal’

Within the current situation, society constraints limit women’s independence whereas men maintain broader power margins in deciding their household’s destiny. Although there are women who could have broader capacities in participation, family decisions in most cases remained in hands of men who are often the household’s source of income (economic power) and they have the capability to divorce or marry from another woman. A man says:

*“I don’t feel stable with my wife because her thinking is concentrated on how to get out of the country to see her family. I got a number of job opportunities but I refused them all because I don’t know whether I am staying or leaving the country. Moreover, I regret for having a daughter. What is her fault to live in such problems? If I couldn’t find a job abroad, I’ll come back and my wife won’t return with me and then we will separate and our daughter’s life will be scattered between her mother and me.”*

Threatening to marry another woman points out the extent of vulnerability of which women suffer. A woman says:

*“I have a West Bank ID and my husband has Jerusalem ID. Once, my husband thought of taking me and my children to Al-Aqsa Mosque. On the check point, the Israeli army refused to let me cross the barrier; my husband fought with the soldiers and hit one of them. As a result the Israeli soldiers arrested him. This incident created problems between my husband’s family and me because they held me responsible for his arrest. Since then, they have been pressing him to marry a woman with Jerusalem ID. For that, I am always scared and worried for the future of my children.”*

Moreover, husbands’ options are easy reachable as marriage from another woman is the easiest solution especially if the wife lives in another place:

*“We were living in Lebanon and my mother is Lebanese. When we came here, my father tried to bring my mother by issuing a permit for her and applied for obtaining her family unification. But the Intifada broke out and up till now we are unable to see her. My father married another woman and since then our family became dispersed.”*

In another aspect, some young females added that the absence of the father strengthened the authority of the extended family on their movement:

*“We are girls living with our mother in Khan Younis and we don’t hold IDs while my father lives in Canada. In Canada we had our freedom in the way we dress but when we came to Gaza and because we are girls living alone, our cousins started to interfere in our life, the way we dress*



*and wanted us to wear Jilbab (long gown). We were obliged to do that without being convinced.”*

Young males were not isolated from this authority. A young male described his father's family restriction, he says:

*“A father's treatment to his son is different from the grandfather's. I lived with my grandfather's family while my family was living in the Arab Emirates. When you feel that thousand persons are in charge of you even though you can protect yourself and you are able with your personality to live freely but the pressures and restrictions strangulate you and you feel uncomfortable and want to untie the restrictions but you cannot. The first word they say to you is that you are in our custody and we have to take care of you.”*



## Part Seven: Closing Remarks and Recommendations

Under incomplete sovereignty of the Palestinian Authority on land and citizens, the family unification and residency issue remains dependent on Israeli measures. Nevertheless, the study clarified several aspects (humanitarian, social and legal) on which the governmental and non-governmental organizations can work to facilitate the life of the households suffering from residency problems or help them in the special procedures required for family unification.

Among the most cases that require coordinated efforts and mobilization of governmental and non-governmental resources are cases of Jerusalemites, especially that their situation creates numerous problems on both Palestinian and Israeli sides. On the Palestinian side, the Palestinian Authority cannot treat them as citizens in many aspects because Jerusalem and its citizens are not within the Palestinian Authority political and legal jurisdiction according to the signed agreements (pending the decision of final status issues). On the Israeli side, Jerusalem is subjected to annexation, Judaization and settlement measures while its citizens are subjected to the severest programmed pressures that compel them to evacuate Jerusalem. It is worth noting that they are legally, according Israel, not citizens but Jordanians with permanent residency in the city. This situation allows for political and legal interpretations. In this thorny context, the Jerusalemite men and women married to non-Jerusalemites have double difficulties and will be vulnerable to different Israeli measures.

The field study cases, whether through the field survey, in-depth cases or focus groups revealed numerous issues related to households suffering from the family unification, dispersion and residency problems, which are completely within the Israeli powers. The studied cases revealed numerous social, psychological, health, educational and civil problems and that these cases are victims of deprivation of all their citizenship rights if not of their human rights.

The problems suffered by households, or a member of them due to the lack of a Palestinian ID or Jerusalem ID, imposes on the Palestinian governmental and civil society organizations responsibilities to tackle these problems. They are like other Palestinian victims of the Israeli occupation. Therefore, the Palestinian organizations should not ignore their issues or consider them outside the Palestinian citizenship framework (which grants them the Palestinian IDs, which are originally issued by the Israeli authorities).

The institutional interventions, which will be presented later in this part at both the governmental and non-governmental levels basically deal with those suffering from residency and family unification problems from a procedural institutional perspective, which tackles the rights and legal aspects of the problem as well as the impacts and challenges resulting from the problem.

The social and cultural structure that holds many challenges and problems facing these persons especially women, requires long-term programmatic interventions

that include achievement of significant accumulations in both upper and lower structures of society. In other words, the study findings showed that the Palestinian social structure with its cultural and values supply includes numerous aggravation factors for individuals –the study subject- especially for women.

Direct discussions with the studied cases provided us with numerous evidences of family interventions (by husband's or wife's family) in women's affairs and to a certain extent in sons/daughters affairs. In addition, there was evidence of violence practiced against women and children, least of which is when the husband marries another woman as a solution for the problem. Discussions also provided various evidences on harassments to which women are exposed in their social surroundings and the organizations they are referred to. Moreover, it is necessary not to ignore deprivation of rights or difficult access to basic services such as education, health and social assistance. Along with all these issues is a culture that looks at married women who live without their husbands (even though she is forced to) with a certain suspicion, the fact which justifies interference in their affairs based on the excuse of paternal care at its best, or exploitation.

Power relations in a traditional society, in its productive and cultural structure, are based on a hierarchy (with paternal/masculine contents) carrying opposite dualities in which the stronger side excludes the weaker side. This includes exclusion from access to resources, participation in decision making and individual freedoms. This is because women are considered not fully competent and they are in need of others to take care of them, watch over them or make decisions for them. In our case, possession of an ID is an added power factor for men who hold IDs while their wives do not. The power gap increases between the two parties and consequently the weakness of women who do not have IDs increases and they will be treated as if they were of less rank and position. Moreover, men feel that they need another wife to provide for them in the absence of their first wife, the fact which imposes additional social and psychological pressures on women.

In these dualities we see: those who own the political decision or wealth versus those who do not, men versus women, elderly versus youth, etc. The power of a party increases at the expense of the other in the composition of the duality, which means marginalization of the other party. Accordingly, the richest and closest men to decision making centers are the strongest versus weakness of a woman from a poor environment, unemployed and politically ineffective.

Making changes in such a social-cultural structure that puts pressure on women in particular (residency problem and others), require making deliberate and balanced changes in the legal and legislative structure. This should be done in a manner that ensures elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and preparation of a legislative package that gives women equal opportunities in managing their lives and taking decisions regarding their children. This also requires empowering women to have access to all social resources and services (education, employment, health, decision making and relation with organizations).

In addition to the legislation and laws, there is a need for women empowerment through the strengthening of their economic independence, decreasing their



dependence on their husbands/families and building their capacities in coping with circumstances, even those resulting from residency and family unification, all of which will broaden their options and increase their capacities to make their own decision and participate in their families' decision making.

## Required interventions - on several levels:

### First: Information level

1. Update database of persons without family unification.
2. Conduct social survey of individuals without family unification and their households to identify their problems and seek to solve them.
3. Conduct further studies and researches on persons without family unification, particularly women.

### Second: Rights and legal level

1. Continue coordination with competent parties in Israel to obtain family unification for individuals and families suffering from the problem.
2. Put pressure on Israel (address the issue through any negotiations) to recognize the right of Palestinians, men and women, to family unification of husband, wife or children).

### Third: Awareness level

1. Implement legal awareness campaigns targeting Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem on their civil rights and family unification procedures.
2. Raise awareness of Palestinian citizens having problems related to residency and family unification on the adopted legal mechanisms and how to deal with lawyers, especially Israeli lawyers.

### Fourth: International laws protection level

Coordinate with the international, official and civil organizations to pose the residency and family unification related problems from the international law, international humanitarian law and human rights perspective and work with international organizations to solve the problem.

### Fifth: Programmatic policy level

1. Grant citizens, who do not enjoy family unification status, necessary documents required to practice their political and elections rights.
2. Ensure inclusion of social assistance and health insurance for any Palestinian citizen or foreigner married to a Palestinian resident in Palestinian Territory, within the same adopted criteria and regulating laws.
3. Set up intervention policies and programs (health, educational, social, psychological, etc) and implement them through organizations working in Jerusalem to assist Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem to consolidate their steadfastness in the city and to solve problems resulting from residency and family unification problems.
4. Facilitate granting households suffering from residency problems loans to start small enterprises in their places of residence to avoid risks of movement.

### Sixth: Institutional/coordination level

1. Form an official Palestinian unit to provide free legal assistance for households suffering from residency problems and follow up their issues.
2. Coordinate efforts among organizations working in the field of human rights to form a unit/units providing legal assistance for citizens without family unification especially in Jerusalem.
3. Coordinate efforts between civil society organizations and Palestinian Authority organizations to reach all cases suffering from residency problems.



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# Annex 1: Field Research Questionnaire



**Birzeit University**

Center for Development Studies

telephone: 972 2 2982021 , fax: 972 2 2982160

<http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/>

[cds@birzeit.edu](mailto:cds@birzeit.edu)

## Residency related challenges facing households

Part One: Background questions	
	Sex
1	1. Male                      2. Female
2	Age: .....
3	Spouse's Age: .....
4	(For married persons), how long have you been married? .....
	<b>Governorate</b>
5	1. Jerusalem   2. Ramallah   3. Bethlehem   4. Hebron   5. Nablus   6. Tulkarem   7. Jenin 8. Qalqilia   9. Tobas   10. Jericho & Aghwar   11. Salfit   12. North Gaza   13. Gaza 14. Central Gaza   15. Khan Younis
	<b>Marital Status</b>
6	1. Married   2. Single   3. Widow   4. Separated   5. engaged
	<b>Educational Level</b>
7	1. Illiterate   2. Intermediate   3. Secondary   4. Diploma   5. B.A. and above
	<b>Spouse's Educational Level</b>
8	1. Illiterate   2. Intermediate   3. Secondary   4. Diploma   5. Bachelors and above
	<b>Employment Status</b>
9	1. Full-time employee   2. Part-time employee   3. Student   4. Currently unemployed, seeking work 4. Unemployed and not seeking work   6. Home making   7. Retired 8. Old/ ill   9. Other (specify)
	<b>Spouse's Employment Status</b>
9a	1. Full-time employee   2. Part-time employee   3. Student   4. Currently unemployed, seeking work 4. Unemployed and not seeking work   6. Home making   7. Retired 8. Old/ ill   9. Other (specify)
	<b>Place of Permanent Residence</b>
10	1. Jerusalem   2. Inside the Green Line   3. West Bank   4. Gaza Strip 5. Outside Palestine (Specify .....) )
11	Where do you currently live? Specify accurately
	1. City .....   2. Village .....   3. Camp .....
12	Do you live in a ---- house? 1. Rented   2. Owned   3. For relatives   4. Others
13	How do you evaluate your current economic situation
	1. Very good   2. Good   3. Average   4. Bad   5. Very bad



14	To what extent you consider that your current income fulfills your needs and requirements? 1. Fully 2. Often 3. Average 4. little 5. Not at all						
15	How does the family manage its living? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Doesn't apply Husband works Wife works Assistance from relatives Allowances from Palestinian government Allowances from Israeli government to part of family holding Israeli documents One son/daughter or more works Others, specify .....						
16	Please specify type of identity/nationality held by each of the household's members						
		Palestinian Authority ID	Israeli ID	Travel doc.	Jordanian Passport	Foreign Nationality	Not holding docs.
	Husband						
	Wife						
	Children						
	No. of children for each option						
<b>Part Two: Marital and Family Relations</b>							
17	When proposing for marriage, Did type of ID or place of residence rise problems?						
18	What are the types of family objections on this marriage? 1. Yes 2. No Because family knows about problems resulting from lack of residency Objections related to social class or level Others, specify .....						
19	How were these problems overcome? 1. Yes 2. No Through dialogue and persuasion Mediation from relatives or friends Marriage without family approval Others, specify .....						
20	What difficulties have you faced in marriage registration? 1. Yes 2. No Israeli rejection to register it in its civil register? Procrastination from the Israeli side Registration with PA departments without Israeli recognition Financial difficulties related to Israeli taxes such as Arnona and national insurance No registration of marriage due to lack of address inside Green Line and Jerusalem						
21	Do wife, husband and children live in the same house? 1. Yes 2. No						
22	In case of not living in one house, please specify where does each of the household members live? Husband: ..... Wife: ..... Sons/daughters						
<b>Part Three: Family unification procedures</b>							
23	Do you hold residency or visit permits to Jerusalem, inside the Green Line or permits to move between West Bank and Gaza Strip? 1. Yes, regularly renewed permit 2. We hold no permits 3. Sometimes, we obtain permits						

24	[To those suffering due to Jerusalem status] in case you obtain a permit to Jerusalem, do you violate the period of stay granted to you? 1. Yes                      2. No
25	[To those suffering due to West Bank and Gaza Strip status] in case you obtain a permit to move between West Bank and Gaza Strip, do you violate the period of stay granted to you? 1. Yes                      2. No
26	If yes, how long you stayed longer than the period granted to you (Please specify in months)
27	What is the impact of that on you? Mention briefly? .....
28	Have you started in family unification procedures? 1. Yes                      2. No
29	If no, please specify the main reason: .....
30	If yes, please specify when in years, .....
<b>Part Four: Implications of family unification</b>	
31	In case one of the family components is inside the place of residence due to Israeli denial for movement and residence freedom, how does family communication take place? 1. Yes                      2. No By phone By Internet By mail Traveling and meeting for a few days in a place accessible for both Existence of two houses: one in Jerusalem or inside the Green Line and the other in the West Bank
32	In case circumstances dispersed the household's members, since when its members have not met in the same place (in years)? .....
33	What is the main reason preventing your family from meeting? 1. Yes                      2. No Husband lives outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold ID or permit. Wife lives outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold ID or permit. Sons/daughter or one of them live outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold ID or permit. Due to Gaza Strip siege or one family member lives outside Gaza Strip and cannot return. Due to Israeli measures around Jerusalem and impossibility to enter Jerusalem Others, specify: .....
34	Has the household been obliged to change place of residence due to family dispersion? 1. Yes                      2. No
35	<b>If yes, where to have you moved?</b> 1. Rented a house in a neighboring city                      3. Permanently resided with relatives 2. Bought a new house in another place                      4. Other, specify
36	If yes, why have you changed your residence? 1. Wall                      2. Jerusalemite identity                      3. One spouse holds Israeli ID and the other denied access to Israel 4. Seeking work and security in the Palestinian Territory
37	Which of the following losses resulted from the household's dispersion? 1. Yes                      2. No Source of living such as land behind the Wall or land confiscated Job inside Green Line or Jerusalem Compulsory closure of a shop or enterprise or other source of work Children's loss of their schools Job Health insurance or other social services Other, specify .....



38	<p>Gender roles, to what extent the following situations apply on the wife within your household.</p> <p>1. Yes                      2. No</p> <p>More capable to manage family expenditures and property          More capable to make family decisions          More self-dependent          Subjection to harassments from surroundings          Carrying out all family procedures and transactions in the public arena          Family interference in the household</p>
39	<p>Where does the husband's family live?</p> <p>1. West Bank              2. Gaza Strip              3. Jerusalem              4. Inside the Green Line          5. West Bank behind the Wall              6. Abroad</p>
40	<p>Where does the wife's family live?</p> <p>1. West Bank              2. Gaza Strip              3. Jerusalem              4. Inside the Green Line          5. West Bank behind the Wall              6. Abroad</p>
41	<p>Since when haven't you met with the wife's family?</p> <p>1. Continuously, no constraints              2. No meetings since the residency problem,          3. Difficulty in meeting them due to residency problem (last time you met with them .....          .....)</p>
42	<p>Since when haven't you met with the husband's family?</p> <p>1. Continuously, no constraints              2. No meetings since the residency problem,          3. Difficulty in meeting them due to residency problem (last time you met with them .....          .....)</p>
43	<p>Due to residency problem you are suffering from, have your children met with the wife's family?</p> <p>1. Yes, Please specify in years .....              2. No</p>
44	<p>Due to residency problem you are suffering from, have your children met with the husband's family?</p> <p>1. Yes, Please specify in years .....              2. No</p>
<b>Part Five: Challenges facing children</b>	
45	<p>Have you faced problems in registering your children?</p> <p>1. Yes                      2. No</p>
46	<p>If yes, what type of difficulties?              1. Yes                      2. No</p> <p>Israeli rejection to register them in civil register          Israeli procrastination          Registration with Palestinian Authority departments without Israeli recognition          Financial difficulties related to Israeli taxes such as Arnona and national insurance          No registration for children due to lack of address inside Green Line or Jerusalem</p>
47	<p>If children are registered, where?</p> <p>With Israel          With the Palestinian Authority</p>
48	<p>Where do your children study?</p> <p>1. Yes                      2. No</p> <p>Palestinian Authority schools          Israeli Education schools          Private schools in Palestinian Territory          UNRWA schools          Private schools in Jerusalem or inside the Green Line</p>
49	<p>Where do your children receive health care?</p> <p>1. Yes                      2. No</p> <p>Israeli public hospitals          Palestinian public hospitals          Israeli private hospitals          Palestinian private hospitals</p>

50	How was the mother's or father's absence reflected on children? Lack of emotions in relation Longing to mother or father Compensating absence of one by more dependence on the present one							
51	How do you classify relation of each father or mother with children?							
		Trust and cooperation		Tension		Lack of emotions		
	Mother							
	Father							
52	From your experience regarding family unification/ residency problems, do you accept marriage of one of your sons/daughters to a person with residency problem? 1. Yes    2. No							
53	If yes, how do you justify that? .....							
54	If no, how do you justify that? .....							
<b>Part Six: Social and psychological problems facing dispersed households</b>								
55	Regarding wives who were not able to live with their husbands or vice versa, What are the social pressures subjected to due to husband's absence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressures and interference by husband's family</li> <li>• Negative look of society toward women living without their husbands</li> <li>• Difficulties in managing children's different affairs (health, physical, education, etc)</li> <li>• Subjected to harassments during following up residency issue with relevant institutions</li> </ul>							
56	For wives, have you ever thought of the following as a result of the difficulties you underwent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Regret without thinking of separation</li> <li>• Managing life affairs as if husband were completely absent</li> <li>• Migration to abroad</li> </ul>							
57	For husbands, have you ever thought of the following as a result of difficulties you underwent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Regret without thinking of separation</li> <li>• Managing life affairs as if husband were completely absent</li> <li>• Migration abroad</li> </ul>							
58	Due to the distance between spouses, have you felt with the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indifference or lack of emotions in marital relation</li> <li>• Continuous conflicts regarding life issues</li> <li>• Lack of participation in solving problems</li> </ul>							
59	Psychological challenges facing household's members							
		Anxiety	Insecurity	Sadness	Frustration	Violence	Isolation	Alienation
	Husband							
	Wife							
	Sons							
	Daughters							
60	How do you evaluate your satisfaction of the type of life you lead? 1. Very satisfied    2. Satisfied    3. Satisfied to a certain extent    4. Unsatisfied    5. Not at all							
61	Do you feel secure in your marital life? 1. Yes    2. To a certain extent    3. No							
62.	To what extent are you satisfied with your personal relations? 1. Very satisfied    2. Satisfied    3. Satisfied to a certain extent    4. Unsatisfied    5. Not at all							

63	Have you received suitable moral support from your social surroundings? 1. Yes                      2. To a certain extent                      3. No
64	Are optimistic toward your household future? 1. Yes                      2. To a certain extent                      3. No
<b>Part Seven: Household's strategies in coping with or exiting from the problem?</b>	
65	In emergencies (giving birth or death of a first degree relative), how do you enter Israel or areas behind the Wall? (one option) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using ID of a relative</li> <li>• Taking risk and entering away from barriers</li> <li>• Using an ambulance or medical referral</li> <li>• Entering and staying for a long time</li> <li>• Others, specify .....</li> </ul>
66	In the event you are convinced that you cannot obtain family unification, what are your alternatives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration abroad</li> <li>• Change place if residence for good</li> <li>• Separation/Divorce</li> </ul>
67	Have you resorted to organizations to solve the residency and family unification problem? 1. Yes                      2. No
68	If yes, What type of organizations? 1. Yes                      2. No <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palestinian human rights organizations</li> <li>• Israeli human rights organizations</li> <li>• Palestinian governmental organizations</li> <li>• Israeli governmental organizations</li> <li>• Israeli judiciary</li> </ul>
69	Do you believe that the problem: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is going to be solved</li> <li>• No change, will find coping and co-existence means</li> <li>• Situation not clear</li> </ul>
70	What is the priority of your household (one priority) 1. Family unification                      2. Obtaining a job for family members 3. Children's education                      4. Improvement of the economic situation



## Annex 2: Survey Findings, Detailed Data

	Total %
<b>Part One: Background questions</b>	
<b>Sex</b>	
1. Male	38.4
2. Female	61.6
<b>Governorate</b>	
1. Jerusalem	28.8
2. Ramallah	3.6
3. Bethlehem	5.0
4. Hebron	7.6
5. Nablus	2.6
6. Tulkarem	3.3
7. Jenin	6.0
8. Qalqilia	3.3
9. Tobas	0.7
10. Jericho and the Jordan Valley	6.0
11. Salfit	5.3
12. North Gaza	7.9
13. Central Gaza	5.0
14. Khan Younis	9.9
15. Rafah	5.0
<b>Marital Status</b>	
1. Married	90.4
2. Single	0.7
3. Widowed	4.6
4. Divorced	2.0
5. Separated	1.3
6. Engaged	1.0
<b>Educational Level</b>	
1. Illiterate	5.0
2. Elementary	11.6
3. Intermediate	19.2
4. secondary	22.8
5. Diploma	15.2
6. Bachelors and above	26.2





<b>Educational Level of spouse</b>	
1. Illiterate	4.0
2. Elementary	10.4
3. Intermediate	20.1
4. secondary	26.1
5. Diploma	11.0
6. B.A. and above	28.4
<b>Employment status</b>	
1. Currently full time employee	32.1
2. Currently part-time employee	13.2
3. Student	1.0
4. Unemployed seeking work	6.0
5. Unemployed not seeking work	1.3
6. Housewife	38.7
7. Retired	3.6
8. Ill/Old	3.0
9. Others, specify .....	1.0
<b>Employment status of spouse</b>	
1. Currently full time employee	39.9
2. Currently part-time employee	10.0
3. Student	1.3
4. Unemployed seeking work	5.6
5. Unemployed not seeking work	2.0
6. Housewife	25.9
7. Retired	4.3
8. Ill/Old	4.0
9. Others, specify .....	7.0
<b>Place of permanent residence</b>	
1. Jerusalem	25.8
2. Inside the Green Line	2.0
3. West Bank	38.1
4. Gaza Strip	27.5
5. Outside Palestine, specify .....	6.6
<b>Place of current residence</b>	
1. City	52.6
2. Village	26.5
3. Camp	20.9
<b>Do you live in a house:</b>	
1. Rented	29.2
2. Owned	58.5
3. For a relative	7.3
4. Others	5.0

<b>How do you evaluate your current economic situation</b>	
1. Very good	4.7
2. Good	28.3
3. Average	43.7
4. Bad	16.3
5. Very bad	7.0
<b>To what extent you consider that your current income fulfils your needs?</b>	
1. Fully	2.7
2. Often	15.9
3. Average	43.9
4. Little	22.9
5. Not at all	14.6
<b>How does the household currently manage its living affairs</b>	
<b>Husband works</b>	
1. Yes	69.9
2. No	24.5
3. Not applies	5.6
<b>Wife works</b>	
1. Yes	24.5
2. No	74.5
3. Not applies	1.0
<b>Assistance from relatives</b>	
1. Yes	18.5
2. No	81.1
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Palestinian governmental allowances</b>	
1. Yes	7.3
2. No	92.1
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Israeli governmental allowances for those holding Israeli documents</b>	
1. Yes	23.2
2. No	63.9
3. Not applies	12.9
<b>One of the sons/daughter works</b>	
1. Yes	19.5
2. No	74.2
3. Not applies	6.3

<b>Please specify type of ID/nationality held by every household member</b>	
<b>Husband holds Palestinian ID</b>	
1. Yes	58.1
2. No	41.6
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Husband holds Israeli ID</b>	
1. Yes	13.5
2. No	86.1
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Husband holds Egyptian or other document granted for Palestinian refugees</b>	
1. Yes	18.9
2. No	80.7
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Husband holds Jordanian nationality</b>	
1. Yes	12.8
2. No	86.8
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Husband holds foreign nationality</b>	
1. Yes	4.7
2. No	94.9
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Husband does not hold any nationality or document</b>	
1. Yes	1.0
2. No	98.9
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Wife holds Palestinian ID</b>	
1. Yes	16.3
2. No	83.7
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Wife holds Israeli ID</b>	
1. Yes	22.6
2. No	77.4
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Wife holds Egyptian or other document granted for Palestinian refugees</b>	
1. Yes	16.3
2. No	83.7
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Wife holds Jordanian nationality</b>	
1. Yes	18.3
2. No	81.7
3. Not applies	0.0



<b>Wife holds foreign nationality</b>	
1. Yes	7.6
2. No	92.4
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Wife does not hold any nationality or document</b>	
1. Yes	3.0
2. No	79.0
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Sons/daughter hold Palestinian ID</b>	
1. Yes	49.2
2. No	41.1
3. Not applies	9.7
<b>Sons/daughter hold Israeli ID</b>	
1. Yes	28.8
2. No	61.2
3. Not applies	10.0
<b>Sons/daughter hold Egyptian or other document granted for Palestinian refugees</b>	
1. Yes	10.7
2. No	79.3
3. Not applies	10.0
<b>Sons/daughters hold Jordanian nationality</b>	
1. Yes	6.7
2. No	83.3
3. Not applies	10.0
<b>Sons/daughter hold foreign nationality</b>	
1. Yes	5.7
2. No	84.3
3. Not applies	10.0
<b>Sons/daughters do not hold any nationality or document</b>	
1. Yes	4.7
2. No	85.3
3. Not applies	10.0

### Number of children for each household

# children	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Palestinian ID	16.1	22.4	23.6	9.9	12.4	8.7	3.1	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.6
Israeli ID	7.5	20.4	33.3	17.2	11.8	3.2	3.2	1.1	2.2		
Egyptian travel doc	14.6	14.6	29.3	2.4	17.1	4.9	9.8	4.9			2.4
Jordanian Nationality	7.1	28.6	35.7	7.1	7.1	3.6	10.7				
Foreign nationality	12.5	20.8	45.8	12.5	8.3						
N/A	24.0	16.0	44.0	4.0	12.0						

<b>Part Two: Marital and family relations</b>	
<b>When proposing for marriage, did difference in type of ID or place of residence raise problems?</b>	
1. Yes	27.8
2. No	71.9
3. Not applies	0.3
<b>Family knows problems resulting from lack of residency</b>	
1. Yes	83.3
2. No	16.7
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Objection related to class and social level</b>	
1. Yes	29.8
2. No	70.2
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>How were such problems been overcome?</b>	
1. Yes	80.7
2. No	19.3
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Mediation from relatives or friends</b>	
1. Yes	39.8
2. No	60.2
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Marriage without family approval</b>	
1. Yes	9.6
2. No	90.4
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>What are the difficulties you faced in marriage registration?</b>	
<b>Israeli rejection to register marriage in its civil register</b>	
1. Yes	26.6
2. No	66.4
3. Not applies	7.0
<b>Israeli procrastination</b>	
1. Yes	29.7
2. No	63.7
3. Not applies	6.7
<b>Registration with PA departments without Israeli recognition</b>	
1. Yes	26.3
2. No	67.0
3. Not applies	6.7



<b>Financial difficulties related to Israeli taxes like Arnona and national insurance</b>	
1. Yes	8.7
2. No	28.0
3. Not applies	9.3
<b>Inability to register marriage due to lack of address inside Green Line or Jerusalem</b>	
1. Yes	5.3
2. No	85.3
3. Not applies	9.3
<b>Do wife, husband and children live in the same house?</b>	
1. Yes	45.2
2. No	54.8

<b>Part Three: Family unification procedures</b>	
<b>Do you hold residency or visit permits to Jerusalem, Green Line areas or permits to move between the West Bank and Gaza Strip</b>	
1. Yes, we hold periodically renewed permits	15.6
2. We do not hold permits	62.4
3. Sometimes	22.0
<b>[To those suffering due to Jerusalem status] in case you obtain a permit to Jerusalem, do you violate the period of stay granted to you?</b>	
1. Yes	24.4
2. No	29.5
3. Not applies	45.6
<b>[To those suffering due to West Bank and Gaza Strip status] in case you obtain a permit to move between West Bank and Gaza Strip, do you violate the period of stay granted to you?</b>	
1. Yes	14.8
2. No	70.3
3. Not applies	14.8
<b>If yes, how long you stayed longer than the permit period granted you (Please specify with months)</b>	
1. 1	11.5
2. 2	3.8
3. 3	3.8
4. 4	7.7
5. 5	7.7
6. 6	3.8
7. 7	11.5
8. 8	7.7
9. 13	7.7
10. 24	3.8
11. 36	7.7
12. 48	3.8
13. 60	3.8
14. 144	7.7
15. 168	3.8



<b>Have you started family unification procedures?</b>		
1. Yes		87.7
2. No		12.3
<b>If yes, since when?</b>		
1.	1984	0.4
2.	1985	0.8
3.	1989	2.8
4.	1990	0.4
5.	1991	1.6
6.	1992	1.2
7.	1993	1.2
8.	1994	3.2
9.	1995	3.6
10.	1996	2.4
11.	1997	4.4
12.	1998	4.8
13.	1999	13.3
14.	2000	7.2
15.	2001	4.0
16.	2002	7.2
17.	2003	4.4
18.	2004	6.4
19.	2005	8.8
20.	2006	7.6
21.	2007	6.8
22.	2008	5.6
23.	2009	1.6

<b>Part Four: Implications of family dispersion</b>		
<b>In case one of the family components is inside the place of residence due to Israeli denial for movement and residence freedom, how does family communication take place?</b>		
<b>On phone</b>		
1. Yes		68.4
2. No		9.6
3. Not applies		21.9
<b>By Internet</b>		
1. Yes		28.2
2. No		49.8
3. Not applies		21.9
<b>My mail</b>		
1. Yes		12.0
2. No		66.1
3. Not applies		21.9

<b>Traveling and meeting for several days in a place accessible for both parties</b>	
1. Yes	29.6
2. No	48.5
3. Not applies	21.9
<b>Having a house in the West Bank and another in Israel or Jerusalem</b>	
1. Yes	12.3
2. No	65.4
3. Not applies	22.3
<b>What is the main reason preventing your family from meeting?</b>	
<b>Husband lives outside the Palestinian Territory and does not hold ID or visit permit</b>	
1. Yes	20.4
2. No	53.6
3. Not applies	26.1
<b>Wife lives outside Palestinian Territory and does not hold ID or visit permit</b>	
1. Yes	17.1
2. No	56.8
3. Not applies	26.1
<b>Sons/daughter or one of them do not hold IDs or visit permits</b>	
1. Yes	21.8
2. No	52.1
3. Not applies	26.1
<b>Due to Gaza siege, one of the sons/daughter is outside Gaza Strip and cannot return</b>	
1. Yes	13.9
2. No	60.0
3. Not applies	26.1
<b>Due to Israeli measures on Jerusalem, one of the household's members not holding Jerusalem ID cannot enter</b>	
1. Yes	17.9
2. No	55.7
3. Not applies	26.4
<b>Was the household obliged to change its place of residence due to dispersion of its members?</b>	
1. Yes	32.3
2. No	57.6
3. Not applies	10.1
<b>If yes, where did you go?</b>	
1. Rented a house in a neighboring city	38.9
2. Bought a new house in another place	13.7
3. Lived permanently with relatives	23.2
4. Others, specify .....	24.2





<b>If yes, why you changed residence?</b>	
1. Because of the wall	2.1
2. Because of Jerusalem ID	20.2
3. One spouse holds Israeli ID and the other is prohibited from entering Israel	34.0
4. Moving to the Palestinian Territory seeking work or security	21.3
5. Others	22.3
<b>Which of the following losses resulted from the household's dispersion?</b>	
<b>Loss of income resources such as lands behind the wall or confiscating it</b>	
1. Yes	9.4
2. No	73.5
3. Not applies	17.1
<b>Loss of job inside the Green Line or Jerusalem</b>	
1. Yes	8.5
2. No	74.4
3. Not applies	17.1
<b>Obligated to close an enterprise, a shop or other source of living</b>	
1. Yes	14.5
2. No	70.1
3. Not applies	17.1
<b>Children's loss of their schools</b>	
1. Yes	14.5
2. No	67.9
3. Not applies	17.5
<b>Loss of job</b>	
1. Yes	19.2
2. No	63.7
3. Not applies	17.1
<b>Loss of health insurance</b>	
1. Yes	13.7
2. No	69.1
3. Not applies	17.2
<b>Gender roles, to what extent the following situations apply on the wife within your household.</b>	
<b>More capable to manage family expenditures and property</b>	
1. Yes	44.4
2. No	46.5
3. Not applies	9.1
<b>More capable to make family decisions</b>	
1. Yes	53.8
2. No	37.1
3. Not applies	9.1

<b>More self-dependent</b>	
1. Yes	67.8
2. No	23.1
3. Not applies	9.1
<b>Subjugated to harassments from surroundings</b>	
1. Yes	30.8
2. No	60.1
3. Not applies	9.1
<b>Carrying out all procedures and transaction in the public arena</b>	
1. Yes	45.5
2. No	45.5
3. Not applies	9.1
<b>Family interferes in household's affairs</b>	
1. Yes	33.6
2. No	57.3
3. Not applies	9.1
<b>Where is husband's place of residence?</b>	
1. West Bank	37.3
2. Gaza Strip	32.0
3. Jerusalem	11.0
4. Inside the Green Line	2.0
5. West Bank beyond the Wall	3.3
6. Abroad	14.3
<b>Where is wife's family place of residence?</b>	
1. West Bank	19.6
2. Gaza Strip	20.9
3. Jerusalem	18.3
4. Inside the Green Line	4.3
5. West Bank beyond the Wall	5.3
6. Abroad	31.6
<b>Since when you haven't met with your wife's family?</b>	
1. Continuously, no constraints	41.9
2. No meetings since the residency problem,	14.4
3. Difficulty in meeting them due to residency problem	43.6
<b>Since when you haven't met with husband's family?</b>	
1. Continuously, no constraints	64.8
2. No meetings since the residency problem,	11.5
3. Difficulty in meeting them due to residency problem	23.7



<b>Due to residency problem you are suffering from, have your children met with the wife's family?</b>	
1. Yes	70.2
2. No	10.5
3. Not applies	5.8
4. Continuously meet	13.6
<b>Due to residency problem you are suffering from, have your children met with the husband's family?</b>	
1. Yes	58.7
2. No	15.9
3. Not applies	6.1
4. Continuously meet	19.3

<b>Part Five: Challenges facing children</b>	
1. Yes	44.4
2. No	46.2
3. Not applies	9.4
<b>Israeli rejection for their registration in the civil register</b>	
1. Yes	53.8
2. No	37.8
3. Not applies	8.3
<b>Israeli procrastination</b>	
1. Yes	65.4
2. No	26.3
3. Not applies	8.3
<b>Registered with Palestinian Authority Departments without Israeli recognition</b>	
1. Yes	28.8
2. No	62.8
3. Not applies	8.3
<b>Financial difficulties related to Israeli taxes such as Arona and national insurance</b>	
1. Yes	22.4
2. No	66.7
3. Not applies	10.9
<b>No registration due to lack of address in Jerusalem and inside the Green line</b>	
1. Yes	9.0
2. No	80.8
3. Not applies	10.3
<b>If children are registered, where?</b>	
1. With Israel	43.4
2. With the Palestinian Authority	45.3
3. Not applies	10.2

<b>Where do children study?</b>	
<b>Palestinian Authority public schools</b>	
1. Yes	44.5
2. No	45.3
3. Not applies	10.2
<b>Israeli public schools</b>	
1. Yes	19.0
2. No	70.8
3. Not applies	10.2
<b>Private schools in Palestinian Territory</b>	
1. Yes	8.4
2. No	81.4
3. Not applies	10.2
<b>UNRWA schools</b>	
1. Yes	21.9
2. No	67.9
3. Not applies	10.2
<b>Private schools in Jerusalem and inside Green Line</b>	
1. Yes	7.7
2. No	82.1
3. Not applies	10.2
<b>Where do your children receive health care</b>	
<b>Israeli governmental hospitals</b>	
1. Yes	29.8
2. No	64.9
3. Not applies	5.3
<b>Palestinian governmental hospitals</b>	
1. Yes	47.7
2. No	47.0
3. Not applies	5.3
<b>Israeli private hospitals</b>	
1. Yes	6.4
2. No	88.3
3. Not applies	5.3
<b>Palestinian private hospitals</b>	
1. Yes	26.1
2. No	86.2
3. Not applies	5.7

<b>How was the absence of father or mother reflected in children?</b>	
1. Lack of emotions in relation	15.4
2. Longing for father or mother	33.8
3. More dependence on the present parent to compensate the absent one	30.7
4. Not applies	20.2
<b>How do you classify the relation of each of father and mother with sons</b>	
<b>Trust and cooperation</b>	
1. Yes	91.2
2. No	2.6
3. Not applies	6.2
<b>Tension</b>	
1. Yes	9.5
2. No	81.6
3. Not applies	8.9
<b>Lack of emotions</b>	
1. Yes	4.3
2. No	86.6
3. Not applies	9.1
<b>How do you classify the relation of each of father and mother with daughters</b>	
<b>Trust and cooperation</b>	
1. Yes	72.0
2. No	18.1
3. Not applies	9.8
<b>Tension</b>	
1. Yes	19.7
2. No	68.0
3. Not applies	12.3
<b>Lack of emotions</b>	
1. Yes	22.8
2. No	64.5
3. Not applies	12.7
<b>Pressures and interference by husband's family</b>	
1. Yes	29.1
2. No	45.3
3. Not applies	16.6
<b>Society's negative look to women living without their husbands</b>	
1. Yes	43.7
2. No	39.7
3. Not applies	16.6



<b>Difficulties faced in following up sons/daughters affairs (health, education, etc)</b>	
1. Yes	51.6
2. No	31.1
3. Not applies	17.2
<b>Subjection to harassment as following up residency issues with relevant organizations</b>	
1. Yes	37.7
2. No	45.7
3. Not applies	16.6
<b>Interference by wife's family</b>	
1. Yes	39.9
2. No	44.1
3. Not applies	16.6
<b>For wives, have you ever thought of the following as a result of the difficulties you underwent?</b>	
<b>Divorce</b>	
1. Yes	14.7
2. No	84.6
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Regret without thinking of separation</b>	
1. Yes	27.4
2. No	71.9
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Managing life affairs as if husband were completely absent</b>	
1. Yes	38.9
2. No	60.4
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Migration abroad</b>	
1. Yes	25.3
2. No	74.0
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>For husbands, have you ever thought of the following as a result of the difficulties you underwent?</b>	
<b>Divorce</b>	
1. Yes	12.0
2. No	87.2
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Regret without thinking of separation</b>	
1. Yes	17.5
2. No	81.8
3. Not applies	0.7

<b>Managing life affairs as if husband were completely absent</b>	
1. Yes	29.9
2. No	69.3
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Migration abroad</b>	
1. Yes	30.3
2. No	69.0
3. Not applies	0.7
<b>Marry another woman</b>	
1. Yes	17.7
2. No	82.3
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Due to the distance between spouses, have you felt with the following?</b>	
<b>Indifference or lack of emotions in marital relation</b>	
1. Yes	36.9
2. No	50.0
3. Not applies	13.1
<b>Continuous conflicts regarding life issues</b>	
1. Yes	31.0
2. No	56.0
3. Not applies	13.1
<b>Lack of participation in solving problems</b>	
1. Yes	43.7
2. No	43.3
3. Not applies	13.1
<b>Psychological challenges facing household's members</b>	
<b>Anxiety (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	78.2
2. No	26.0
3. Not applies	2.7
<b>Insecurity (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	51.7
2. No	45.5
3. Not applies	2.7
<b>Sadness (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	56.5
2. No	40.8
3. Not applies	2.7
<b>Frustration and despair (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	47.9
2. No	49.3
3. Not applies	2.7



<b>Tendency to violence (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	28.4
2. No	68.8
3. Not applies	2.7
<b>Isolation (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	46.2
2. No	51.0
3. Not applies	2.7
<b>Alienation (husband)</b>	
1. Yes	46.6
2. No	50.7
3. Not applies	2.7
<b>Anxiety (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	27.2
2. No	21.8
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Insecurity (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	68.9
2. No	31.1
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Sadness (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	65.5
2. No	34.5
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Frustration and despair (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	56.3
2. No	43.7
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Tendency to violence (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	31.1
2. No	68.9
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Isolation (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	56.7
2. No	43.3
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Alienation (wife)</b>	
1. Yes	50.5
2. No	49.5
3. Not applies	0.0



<b>Anxiety (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	53.3
2. No	34.1
3. Not applies	12.7
<b>Insecurity (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	49.4
2. No	37.6
3. Not applies	12.9
<b>Sadness (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	44.1
2. No	43.0
3. Not applies	13.0
<b>Frustration and despair (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	37.0
2. No	50.0
3. Not applies	13.0
<b>Tendency to violence (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	43.1
2. No	53.0
3. Not applies	13.0
<b>Isolation (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	32.2
2. No	54.8
3. Not applies	13.0
<b>Alienation (sons)</b>	
1. Yes	35.2
2. No	51.9
3. Not applies	13.0
<b>Anxiety (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	55.6
2. No	28.6
3. Not applies	15.7
<b>Insecurity (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	56.7
2. No	26.7
3. Not applies	16.7
<b>Sadness (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	50.4
2. No	33.7
3. Not applies	15.9



<b>Frustration and despair (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	40.9
2. No	42.6
3. Not applies	16.6
<b>Tendency to violence (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	26.8
2. No	56.1
3. Not applies	17.1
<b>Isolation (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	40.5
2. No	42.7
3. Not applies	16.8
<b>Alienation (daughters)</b>	
1. Yes	37.0
2. No	46.0
3. Not applies	17.0
<b>How do you evaluate your satisfaction of your daily life?</b>	
1. Very satisfied	1.3
2. Satisfied	21.6
3. Satisfied to a certain extent	33.9
4. Unsatisfied	29.6
5. Unsatisfied at all	13.6
<b>Do you have feelings of security in your daily life?</b>	
1. Yes	13.2
2. To a certain extent	50.0
3. No	36.8
<b>To what extent you are satisfied with your personal relations?</b>	
1. Very satisfied	15.9
2. Satisfied	36.1
3. Satisfied to a certain extent	27.8
4. Unsatisfied	17.2
5. Unsatisfied at all	3.0
<b>Have you received moral support from your social surroundings</b>	
1. Yes	30.1
2. To a certain extent	45.4
3. No	24.5
<b>Are you optimistic toward the future of your household?</b>	
1. Yes	31.5
2. To a certain extent	45.4
3. No	24.5



<b>In emergencies (giving birth or death of a first degree relative), how do you enter Israel or areas behind the Wall? (one option)</b>	
1. Using ID of a relative	11.0
2. Taking risk and entering away from barriers	9.6
3. Using an ambulance or medical referral	12.1
4. Entering and staying for a long time	13.2
5. Others, specify .....	41.9
6. Prohibited from entering Israel	21.1
<b>In the event you are convinced that family unification is impossible, what are the realistic alternatives you tend to implement</b>	
1. Migration abroad	31.1
2. Change of place of residence for good	36.9
3. Separation/divorce	8.2
4. Others	23.9
<b>Have you resorted to organizations to solve family unification problem</b>	
1. Yes	69.7
2. No	30.3
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>If yes, What type of organizations?</b>	
<b>Palestinian human rights organizations</b>	
1. Yes	47.1
2. No	52.9
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Israeli human rights organizations</b>	
1. Yes	45.2
2. No	54.8
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Palestinian governmental organizations</b>	
1. Yes	53.8
2. No	46.2
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Israeli governmental organizations</b>	
1. Yes	42.4
2. No	57.6
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Israeli judiciary</b>	
1. Yes	21.9
2. No	78.1
3. Not applies	0.0
<b>Do you believe that the problem:</b>	
1. Is going to be solved	26.8
2. No change, will find coping and co-existence means	20.5
3. Situation not clear	52.6

<b>What is the priority of your household (one priority)</b>		
1. Family unification		70.5
2. Obtaining a job for family members		3.6
3. Children's education		14.6
4. Improvement of the economic situation		9.6
5. Others		1.7
<b>Age group</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Spouses</b>
18-25	3.5	5.5
26-40	47.4	47.1
41-55	30.1	31.5
Above 55 years	15.89	
<b>Marriage duration</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
1-5 years		16.3
6-10 years		23.7
11-20 years		27.5
20 years and above		32.5