

Annual Report 2022



The Palestinian
Maintenance Fund

Weaving Beginnings



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Foreword by the Director General

We do not believe in circumstances; we believe that ensuring the right to maintenance for those deserving, as well as opening doors to weaving new beginnings, make people wake up every morning to search for available opportunities and possibilities that enhance their self-confidence after experiencing thorny paths in their life stages.

The Palestinian Maintenance Fund Management is pleased to present the PMF annual report for the year 2022. The report includes all the achievements realized and the challenges faced throughout this year, starting from the COVID-19 pandemic to the digital revolution that has been behind profound transformations in infrastructure, economic and social services. That is our relentless endeavor to reach our goals and fulfill our vision of achieving justice while ensuring the sustainability of our work.

Our original and sustainable orientation to building partnerships and enhancing collaboration with various stakeholders, including governmental institutions and entities, NGOs, or international partners; contributes to achieving better outcomes and expanding the scope of our impact in providing support and services to the beneficiary groups. After overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, the fund is committed to enhancing its services by making full use of the available technological and digital capabilities, based on a comprehensive electronic database that has been developed to prioritize speed and accuracy in the provision of services, particularly in the financial aspects, and to distribute the fund's resources equitably.

Weaving Beginnings is an approach that we have recently launched to embark on secondary socialization pathways with our partners from



Fatmeh Muaqqet

tribesmen, media, and beneficiaries acting as agents of change, forming a participatory ground in harmony with all governmental and non-governmental parties we have worked with and continue to work with while ensuring that each partner takes on the responsibility horizontally and vertically to root the Fund's vision and goals in achieving justice. For those seeking a deeper understanding of the scene, it's crucial to recognize that religion, customs, traditions, and laws are pivotal in regulating our social fabric. They enable us to maintain social control, manage resources efficiently and effectively, foster civil peace, and promote equilibrium and stability within Palestinian society.

In the face of the oppression and repressive practices of the occupation, it is our responsibility as individuals and institutions to provide data about fugitives from law enforcement, specifically those relating to maintenance. The data includes information about their place of residence, sources of income, and disclosure of their movable and immovable



Each time the Fund advocates for its core values in achieving justice, new flowers bloom in the faces of those whose circumstances have deprived them of progressing in their life journey despite their uniqueness.

Weaving Beginnings

properties. From the perspective of responsible partnership, our efforts must be combined by diversifying our strategies and resorting to legal and alternative solutions such as mediation. That is to ensure compliance with the law provisions, bridging the gap between all citizens and state institutions, and establishing a political system that advocates for the interests and rights of female and male citizens, including the vulnerable and marginalized groups, on multiple levels: psychological, economic, social, health, and educational. At the same time, we offer opportunities for all convicts to self-reflect and reconsider their relationships with their families in line with our shared philosophy of strengthening the fabric of the Palestinian family.

We will continue moving forward despite the obstacles we face in our work, considering those obstacles as opportunities for achievement with excellence within the secondary socialization pathways approach; which is a conscious direction to transfer knowledge and awareness about legal and social issues related to swift justice among various partners and service providers. That will be achieved by correcting inappropriate or unjust practices among partners and service providers through training, education, information exchange, sharing experiences, and creating opportunities for dialogue and interaction to build a culture of cooperation and mutual understanding, thereby contributing to the improvement of the quality of services provided and the achievement of swift justice.

Weaving Beginnings is a reflective participatory and transformative approach that aims at examining the challenges facing the Fund's work with its partners and developing creative, collaborative solutions that give Palestinian meanings to the essence of a responsible partnership and deepen it with governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as with influential local leaders such as tribesmen and media practitioners. This approach seeks to provide participatory spaces that encompass all our narratives and contribute to crafting the dream of the security and safety we aspire to achieve.

Introduction

Following a number of difficulties and challenges that emerged last year due to the COVID19 pandemic, PMF had addressed this fundamentally and comprehensively to achieve our vision and goals in reaching maintenance rights holders, empowering them, and holding those fleeing from justice accountable for their obligations. As demonstrated in this report, that was achieved through PMF's bilateral and effective partnerships with counterparts at the national and international levels.

The total number of PMF beneficiaries in 2022 had reached thirteen thousand beneficiaries with annual disbursements of approximately four million and two hundred thousand shekels transferred to them. Additionally, PMF had retrieved two and a half million of its funds (which compromise the rate of of 15% of the non-compliant court jurisdictions) through seven thousand three hundred and eleven legal procedures against convicts. This number include seizure of movable and immovable property, travel bans, in addition to 2401 detention and perseverance orders.

PMF's holistic approach in providing its services is embedded within its three main interconnected programmes. The first programme is the "Legal Assistance Programme" in personal status cases which aims to empower the groups most vulnerable to their rights, therefore strengthening the rule of law in Palestine. This is achieved through the fund's role in pleading and defense for beneficiaries to issue judicial decisions such as divorce, alimony, custody, and visitations, and their follow-up before the enforcement departments.

Secondly, within our second program the "Economic Empowerment Programme", cash vouchers and in kind assistance of two hundred thousand and forty six shekels were also provided to the most needy groups of our beneficiaries. This contributions were donated to them in partnership with the private sector, local municipal and rural bodies, as well as individuals from the local community. As for the third "Protection and Integration Program", operated within a comprehensive multidimension vision, it had contributed to protecting the women beneficiaries after they were exposed to multiple forms of violence.

50 female beneficiaries of women who head their families, were exposed to secondary socialization

pathways through capacity-building programs, knowledge development, and skills training. We are confident this would make them active individuals capable of changing the circumstances of other beneficiaries that have gone through similar experiences within the available resources and opportunities.

Furthermore, we had implemented three recreational days for women and children beneficiaries in the center, southern and the northern districts in West Bank. We believe that these activities are essential to foster their abilities in innovation and creativity, as well as nurture their imaginations. These events were sponsored by UNFPA through "Haya programme" and generous support from our partners in the private sector.

Strategic relationships were built with the media through PMF training of 40 male and female journalist and media specialist in Hebron Governorate. The purpose of such approach was to enhance their awareness about personal status issues and produce improved in-depth and analytical materials about real cases. Moreover, what had distinguished this training was the face-to-face interaction sessions between participants and PMF women beneficiaries. This had contributed in creating safe media spaces for these women and enabled them to express their experiences and concerns with their own voices and stories.

To move forward with our collective participatory approach, we have also deepened our partnerships with the government sector, the private sector, international community, as well as influencers in the local community, and specialists from media and religious institutions. Such partnerships had resulted in funding for three donor projects: UNDP, UNFPA and UNWOMEN with a total value of 1,794,305 shekels to implement relevant interventions within different portfolios.





PMF Methodology

In our work, we seek to realize accountability and protection, which are the two key aspects of justice. In working to promote accountability, we enhance the state's rule-of-law by pursuing those who evade the implementation of maintenance rulings. We do this by taking legal actions that include travel bans, imprisonment and the seizure of moveable and immovable assets. These procedures oblige convicts to pay the maintenance provisions to the beneficiaries and the money that is acquired then becomes public money. And in working to promote protection, we ensure the rights and dignity of the beneficiaries, and we do this by empowering them economically, legally, psychologically and socially.

We carry out our responsibilities as a public institution that possesses a political will by acting in accordance with the international treaties that the State of Palestine has acceded to. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); United Nations Security Council Resolution No 1325; and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Our beneficiaries who seek justice require an enabling environment, accountability and protection. We are legally mandated to cover maintenance cases that the competent courts do not address.

By law, we are considered to be a "public fund of higher privilege" that holds liable persons responsible for failing to fulfil their maintenance rights (whether possessed by wives and children, parents and/or relatives unable to work). Maintenance plays a crucial role in the personal status issues for a large part of the community, and it protects beneficiaries whose economic rights are particularly vulnerable. In acknowledging this, the legislator has bestowed preferential urgency on these cases. For example, the enforcement of the family maintenance rulings is, by law, considered to be a matter that requires immediate action; clearly, it should not wait for normal litigation procedures

that might prolong the adjudication time when cases are processed by the competent courts.

By ensuring accountability and protection, we have re-established a sense of dignity for all groups of beneficiaries, and women in particular. We have managed to exercise power and stand up against current and former husbands on behalf of women who had been oppressed for prolonged periods, and who had been at the mercy of their husbands' moods and irresponsible attitude to them and their children. We managed to retain women's dignity and help them to overcome the psychological, social, and economic hardships they face, including the stigma of being divorced or deserted in an Arab-Palestinian society that regards women as the reason behind divorce or desertion, or which even considers them as prey that can be easily manipulated because they carry the burden of supporting their children and meeting their basic needs. A number of developmental and social institutions do not include these marginalized women on their agendas, and 'justify' this oversight by citing the fact that their current or former husbands are still alive.

Since being established, we have adopted a holistic and integrated methodology of services by strengthening partnerships with governmental and non-governmental institutions (NGOs). In seeking to ensure access to justice, reinforce the rule of law, enhance responsive national institutions, provide legal, economic, social and psychological safety and protect right holders, we have cooperated with various governmental bodies.¹

Our efforts to ensure dignity and prevent the destitution of the beneficiaries require more than

¹ Including the High Judicial Council, the Sharia Courts, the Palestinian Monetary Authority, police apparatuses, Ministries of Interior, Justice, Finance, Local Government, Social Development, Transportation, Land Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Prosecution.

just building effective partnerships or attempting to contribute to legislation and policies. For instance, we have proposed that a civil registry should be developed within an integrated national system of accountability, as this will help to ensure that nobody evades court decisions in general and maintenance rulings in particular.

We are looking forward to building further partnerships with the aim of better providing legal aid and representation that protect beneficiary

rights; in particular, we are keen to extend assistance to individuals whose difficult circumstances could prevent them from seeking justice.

We will participate in providing services that enable beneficiaries to take part in public life; and we will help them to take choices that will build a better future for them and that will help them overcome the various challenges they face, including the occupation and a dominant patriarchal culture.





Strategic Partnerships with National Institutions and Bodies

We partner with various governmental bodies and also partner and consult with civil society organizations, media outlets and universities, along with other actors. The following bullet-points provide insight into strategic partnerships with national institutions and bodies, and illustrates how these working relationships help to ensure access to justice for maintenance rights holders.

High Judicial Council

After taking into account past efforts to save time and effort and all legal procedures to retrieve spent money, it was agreed that lawyers can review cases files at the enforcement departments throughout the week without being restricted by specific days or the number of files. All detention orders and orders to seize moveable and immovable assets are issued in our name, and not the name of other parties. We have been given 3 electronic accounts on the Mizan system that will enable us to follow up on the latest updates of our files.

Sharia Courts

Coordination and follow-up with the Supreme Judge Department to verify the validity of the maintenance provisions issued in favour of our beneficiaries in case modifications are needed (e.g. the validity of the maintenance provisions for the PMF beneficiaries and any changes to them); in addition, coordination and follow-up that seeks to activate Article 9 (1) of the Maintenance Law. This will be done through coordination and follow-up activities with the Supreme Judge Department.

The Palestinian Civil Police

Cooperation with the police apparatuses produced tangible results. Our detention orders were given priority in the processes of follow-up, implementation, and circulating the names of convicts against whom detention orders had been issued at all crossings. It was agreed that convicted

persons who work inside the Green Line¹ would be pursued on Saturdays and Fridays through intensive police patrols at city entrances. An electronic connection was also established between us and police systems and an information screen was used to follow up detention orders, update information about the convicted individual and state why decisions had not been implemented. We regard the police as our main partner and will always seek to build a real partnership that will serve the rule-of-law and protect human rights.

Palestinian Monetary Authority

Direct inquiries about the convict's balances at the banks that operate in Palestine were followed up by requests to bank compliance supervisors to withhold any balance. However, it was noted that none of the convicts inquired about establishing balances or bank accounts in their names, which suggests they knew about procedures that would be taken against them, including the seizure of any available balances.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In cooperating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we provided the ministry with information and data about convicted individuals who reside outside the country. This would then enable us to take the required action to pursue them in countries

¹ The 'Green Line' is the 'de facto' border that separates Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It was established by the 1949 Armistice Agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

that Palestine has judicial cooperation with; it would also enable us to network with Palestinian consulates and embassies.

Ministry of Interior

Mutual cooperation with the ministry led to the creation of an inquiry service that holds information (including demographic information and information about the issuance of their child's birth certificate) about convicts. This will then make it possible to pursue them and hold them to account.

Palestine Capital Market Authority/ Palestine exchange

We periodically inquire about any stocks or bonds that are registered at the Authority in the name of the convicted. If any exist, we will seize them.

Ministry of Transportation

in accordance with our cooperation agreement, we directly inquire about any funds that are registered at the Ministry in the name of the convicted.

Ministry of Finance

we directly inquire about any salaries and/or receivables in the name of the convicted, and will seize them when required.

Ministry of Local Government

We make direct inquiries with local councils and municipalities about any property registered in the name of the convicted.

Ministry of Justice

We are currently working to ensure the Palestinian Maintenance Fund is included in the registry.

Federation of Chambers of Commerce

We inquire about any facilities that are registered in the name/s of the convicted with the Federation.

Land Authority

We directly inquire about immovable funds that are registered in the name/s of convicts.

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

We submit a request to the AGO to file a case against those who have benefitted from our services and who were involved in fraudulent practice. The Technical Office at the ATO then files it, which initiates the preparation for submission to a competent court.

Ministry of Education

Our work with the Ministry enables us to engage school drop-outs and gives our beneficiaries the opportunity to benefit from ministry programs. It also helps to make ministry employees and school counselors aware of the fund and its services.

Military finance Department

We inquire about any salaries and/or financial receivables that belong to the convicted.

Palestinian Pension Agency

We make direct inquiries about any financial dues or receivables that belong to the convicted.

Ministry of Social Development

A partner institution whose work in the fields of protection, support and empowerment benefits our maintenance rights holders.

Ministry of Women's Affairs

A partner ministry whose support and empowerment work helps our beneficiaries.

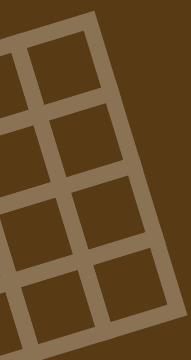
Ministry of National Economy

It collaborates with us with the aim of including our beneficiaries in its programs and services

Section One

A participatory learning approach in the Fund's institutional environment to ensure effectiveness, sustainability and institutional development

Strengthening our strategic partnerships with various governmental and non-governmental partners to enhance the rule of law value by holding fugitives accountable through a range of legal procedures that achieve justice and retrieve the PMF's funds



We are constantly working toward a positive societal change through developing our existing programs to meet the needs, priorities and rights of maintenance rights holders and ensuring them a decent life. These programs are:

1. Legal Aid programme
2. Economic empowerment and Poverty reduction programme
3. Protection and integration programme.

Legal Aid Program

The Fund undertook its role in providing legal assistance in personal status cases to defend the interests

of marginalized groups and maintenance rights holders. We assume this by issuing judicial decisions

(such as divorce, alimony, custody, supervision, and visitations), and following up on their implementation before the competent departments. This will empower these most vulnerable groups through achieving their rights and ensure the efficient application of rule of law.



First: Legal consultations

We had provided (1,019) consultations for maintenance rights holders and other beneficiaries, compared to (974) legal consultations during the year 2021, while the number reached (559) in the year 2020 . The figures table demonstrate these data:



Maintenance, in its various types and procedures (education, healthcare, house rent, nursery fees, Iddah, breastfeeding, increase in maintenance, etc.), accounted for the highest percentage (39%) among other consultations we provided, according to the Legal Department data for the year 2022. The issue of increased alimony claimed the largest share (16.5%) among consultations related to maintenance. It is followed by execution and collection procedures (28%), utilization of the Fund's services (13%), divorce in its various forms (discord, dissension, disagreement, conflict, divorce in return for a full and general release etc.) (9%), issues of visitation, custody, and hosting (6.8%), civil and criminal lawsuits (3.3%), and finally, inheritance (0.49%).



As a result of these consultations, an awareness-raising plan was developed for women beneficiaries who are newly directed on how to access their rights guaranteed by law. Additionally, legal assistance was provided to enforce the alimony rulings without resorting to the Fund. This was achieved by imprisoning and seizing the convicted persons' movable and /or immovable properties.

Secondly: Providing legal assistance in following up the implementation of court decisions before the competent authorities (alimony, custody, and/ or visitation rulings)

- Viewing and hosting rulings were implemented for two of the convicts who had considered cases before the Fund. Despite the actions taken against them, they have applied for legal assistance, and a visitation ruling was implemented at the Fund's headquarters.

One of the convicted requested visitations after the mother and her children had gone through a difficult experience with him. However, thanks to the diverse strategies employed by the Fund's lawyers to break the fear barrier, prepare the children, and consult a psychological and social specialist, the Fund was able to carry out visitation five times at its office. Later on, the children moved with their father from the visitation stage to the hosting stage. That reflects the vital role of the Fund in providing sufficient legal support for women and children who are recipients of alimony. The convicted were also supported for the purpose of mending the family fabric, considering it the best interest of the children. Appealing box design.

- Collecting 34,485 ILS after a series of legal proceedings to enforce six judicial rulings (alimony and wife's financial rights) before the competent courts that had been issued the previous year within the legal aid program.
- Within the legal aid program, PMF contributed

to reducing the financial and moral burdens of the most exposed women heads of household, which included lawyers' fees, court fees and applications, transportation, time and effort, in addition to raising awareness about their rights and empowering them.

- PMF issued a birth certificate for a beneficiary's child through coordination and communication with the Ministry of Interior, recognizing that a birth certificate is one of the basic rights guaranteed by law.

Among our success stories in the enforcement of court provisions, PMF followed up on a request from a woman lacking sufficient experience to pursue judicial proceedings. Her case was about the execution of a judgment for imprisonment and wage garnishment against a person who worked under a contract at the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) without being officially registered as a public employee. During the execution process, we faced several challenges, notably the issuance of detention orders, as well as communicating with the Ministry of Finance to find out why the garnishment amount from the convict's salary wasn't being transferred to the account of the competent department. We followed up with the Financial Director of the PBC, who provided us with a detailed statement of the monthly garnishment amount from the convict's salary and the dates of transfers to the competent department. As a result, a total amount of 14,985 ILS was disbursed to the beneficiary woman. Additionally, the lawyer took measures to secure repayment of the debt by seizing the convict's vehicle to ensure the collection of the woman's debt. Considering the actions taken by the Fund's lawyer and the significant effort put into debt recovery, it is evident that this perseverance and follow-up led to the realization of the beneficiary's rights. This accomplishment enhanced a greater level of trust in PMF, reinforcing the woman's confidence in the Fund's commitment to guarantee her rights.

- Collecting accumulated debts for six women

- beneficiaries in their executive files, after taking the necessary procedures from the negotiation stage to concluding a settlement with the convicted with a financially capable guarantor to ensure collection of relevant debts, as well as pursuing the collection of the women's accumulated debts before the Fund's involvement in their cases, to enable them to live in dignity. This is also important to hold the convicted to their responsibilities towards their abandoned children and wives.
- The following are some other interventions carried out by the PMF to assist women beneficiaries, applicants, and the convicted:
 - Installing a separated electricity subscription for a beneficiary, after her husband cut off her electricity to force her to waive her alimony.
 - Providing a job opportunity for a beneficiary upon her request.
 - Providing study seats at the Islamic Charity Society for four of the children of beneficiaries who have special study conditions.

Poverty Reduction and Economic Empowerment Program

Based on our inherent vision of the importance of empowering the PMF beneficiaries, specifically economically supporting women who are heads of households, by enhancing their participation in the labor market; the Fund seeks to work in partnership with local and international collaborators to provide support, training, guidance, and qualification to enable women to establish their projects by encouraging them to present innovative, new, and advanced ideas. That undoubtedly will create a safe environment for them as providers for their families. It will also encourage them to take advantage of available economic opportunities and enhance

their integration into society by participating in public life in its various forms. Furthermore, it will contribute to building a better future for themselves and their families.



Economic Project Management Course

In collaboration with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and UNFPA, several beneficiaries were nominated to participate in a training program aimed at enhancing their capacities in developing, managing, and implementing their entrepreneurial projects, as well as developing their life and leadership skills.

We attach special importance to this type of training, considering that the majority of women possess skills in areas such as agriculture, food production, handicrafts, and baking. However, they require further training on how to manage their finances, develop their products, and package them competitively in the local market, including utilizing social media. Additionally, many of them have hobbies that need training to be developed into skills.



Financial Grant of \$1500

One of our beneficiaries was distinguished by her performance and perseverance during her participation in the course. She submitted a proposal to enhance her innovative project within the required criteria. As a result, she was awarded a financial grant of \$1500 by the partner institutions. The grant was intended to be used for purchasing the necessary equipment and supplies for her existing project, aiming to develop it in a way that aligns with her needs and her family's needs. That endeavor was aimed at empowering her economically and providing her with the opportunities to make decisions both in the public and private spheres, thereby enhancing her engagement in public affairs.

Sanabel Purchasing Card

Coordination was established with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to respond to mobilizing financial resources within the cash vouchers project. The aim was to provide financial amounts of \$200 to more than 60 women beneficiaries who met the project's criteria. One of the key criteria was that women should have low income, to empower them to meet their urgent basic needs. To ensure that these vouchers are properly and securely disbursed by the maintenance right-holders, a specific bank card named "Sanabel" was issued, to each beneficiary and was automatically loaded with a monthly financial balance. The card was utilized for cash withdrawals or purchases through the Bank of Palestine network, ATMs, and point-of-sale devices quickly, easily, and securely.

Protection and Inclusion Program

The Protection and Inclusion Program is a comprehensive strategy that focuses on enhancing the quality of life for its beneficiaries. That cannot be achieved except through the adoption of new and radical methods and tools that contribute to providing necessary protection and integrating individuals into society in the best possible way. Considering the challenges and risks our society faces, the Protection and Inclusion Program is a fundamental initiative aimed at improving the health, psychological, and social aspects of its beneficiaries. The program operates extensively, encompassing various aspects that impact individual, familial, and societal life, to enhance their human conditions.



Health Awareness

Two awareness workshops about breast cancer were conducted as part of the “Pink October” campaign, with the participation of more than 50 beneficiaries from Ramallah and Hebron regions.

The awareness sessions covered a range of topics, including: the importance of early breast cancer detection for the participants and their surroundings; emphasizing its significance in speeding up treatment and prevention, information about the risks of breast cancer was also provided, as well as methods of self-examination, clinical examination, and breast imaging (mammography). Interactive activities were included in the sessions, such as training on self-examination techniques. Additionally, laboratory tests were conducted for all participants, and they were provided with informative publications about this disease. Those activities were supported by UNFPA through “Haya” project in collaboration with the Dunya Women’s Cancer Center and the Palestinian Medical Relief Society.



Psychological Support

Collaborating with “YES Theatre,” the PMF organized 20 sessions of “Psychological Relief” for 14 beneficiaries who have experienced violence from the northern governorates. Those sessions aimed to support beneficiaries who are the heads of their households, helping them overcome the experience of divorce and guiding them towards independence and productivity. The goal was to empower them to emerge from this experience stronger, continuing to pursue their aspirations and achieving their presence as active members in their society.



Recreational Days for Women Beneficiaries and Their Children: “The day was exceptional in the presence of our children... the leaders of our future”

We prioritize the educational and recreational aspects for children, as they significantly contribute to building and developing their personalities, reinforcing their determination and potential for success, and cultivating a positive outlook toward their lives. That also aims to integrate maintenance right-holders into society, ensuring their resilience through family crises, and challenging economic and social conditions, particularly for women and children. That is achieved by organizing recreational days for them, featuring entertaining activities and games. Those methods are considered among the best ways through which children can discover life, and explore new experiences about themselves and their surroundings. Moreover, they acquire skills, strength, and non-traditional understanding to foster their abilities in innovation and creativity, as well as nurture their imaginations.

During this year, (3) recreational days were organized for maintenance right-holders in the central, southern, and northern governorates, in partnership and with generous support from:

Haya Project / United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	
The National Bank	Palestinian Businessmen Forum
YES Theatre	Private sector donors
Nablus Governorate	Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate

Those recreational days included various activities and events, including meaningful theatrical performances, magic shows, contests, giveaways, face painting, parachute and balloon activities, giant teddy bear displays, as well as the distribution of gifts and stationery to all participants. The recreational days witnessed a positive interaction between mothers and their children, who expressed their joy for these days which provided them with moments of happiness and delight, bringing smiles to their faces.





*Look at the world with
child's eye...
It's beautiful*



”

Fatmeh Muaqqet: “The joy and happiness that the children felt on this day hold a significant moral value which will cast its shadows on the children’s psychological well-being and prosperity, nurturing their spirit with innovation and imagination”.

A child expressed her joy about the event, saying: “Today is really wonderful... It’s the first time I’m happy with all my heart”.

One of the mothers also expressed: “Today is indeed a beautiful day. We and our children have gathered beautiful memories that we cannot forget”.





Protection for Empowerment

A training program was implemented for 62 of the PMF beneficiaries in Ramallah, Nablus, and Hebron to develop their knowledge and build their self-capacity and skills. That involved equipping them with the necessary skills, information, and guidance to become empowered women beneficiaries, advocating for their rights, and transitioning from being recipients to being supporters and advocates for the Fund and their cases. That included securely collecting data to safeguard their rights, and dignity, and achieve justice. Those activities were supported within the framework of a project funded by the Norwegian government to support women maintenance right-holders in Palestine.

The training program has produced several outcomes that we aim to sustain and disseminate as a pioneering experience and a reference for other women who aspire to fulfill the PMF's mission but haven't had the chance to engage in these training sessions. These outcomes include:

- Developing data collection mechanisms for beneficiaries and motivating them to participate, contributing to achieving the Fund's mission and goals as agents of social and economic change.
- Creating a guidance manual for data collection that includes data collection methods and personal skills that help trainees achieve the training's objectives.
- Transforming the experience of the Fund's beneficiaries from recipients of services to active participants in their community as supporters and advocates for other women who have gone through similar experiences.
- Establishing a network of supportive women called "Madad" to support other women from the community and to emphasize the importance of activating networking with the local community, including individuals, institutions, religious

figures, tribesmen, experts, and influential figures in society, including media and religious institutions.

On the social level, there has been a remarkable and radical transformation in the personalities of the beneficiaries, who have become more self-confident and believe in their abilities. One of the most significant changes was giving up being the victim willingly or perhaps mandatory. They no longer seek sympathy from others; instead, they see such sympathy as demeaning, hurtful, and completely rejected. They have also moved past viewing themselves as helpless, now considering themselves different and distinct from others. They have imposed a new communication style on their surroundings, demanding respectful and fair treatment that embodies respect and appreciation. They don't allow their value and capabilities to be diminished. Moreover, the relationship among the beneficiaries has grown stronger; they support each other in crossing the line towards security, stability, and further.

The hashtag #Secondary_socialization_Pathways was launched through the PMF's official Facebook page. 21 videos were included in this initiative, in which the beneficiaries discussed the impact and importance of the training program. They highlighted how the training has shaped their personalities and prepared them as agents of change in their communities; through equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge.

The Fund supported maintenance right-holders in preparing messages and organizing campaigns targeting decision-makers and policy-makers.



The participatory conference titled “Madad... Weaving Beginnings”

“With every new attempt to dismantle a previous idea that has been proven enough, new ideas encounter some resistance. However, gradually, and by developing new tools and effective partnerships, we have been able to experience those ideas; make them gain ground and come to light, and thus provide us with a whole new perspective of what we can accomplish.”

In parallel with the training program held and the establishment of the maintenance right-holders protection network “Madad”, the PMF organized the first participatory conference in collaboration with Hebron Governorate, civil society organizations, women’s institutions, and tribal reform leaders in the southern governorates. The conference was titled: “Madad: Weaving Beginning” and was attended by members of the Madad network. The conference

aimed to strengthen strategic partnerships with tribal reform leaders and the aforementioned institutions, while emphasizing their foundational and integrative role with the Fund as a non-ministerial sovereign body. This collaboration aimed to achieve justice and hold accountable fugitives from executing judicial rulings related to personal status matters.

Since issues related to vulnerable groups are complex and often dealt with discreetly due to their association with secrecy and confidentiality, the attendees unanimously recognized the importance of the role played by the Fund. Collaboration and integration were highlighted in distributing roles and responsibilities to ensure that maintenance right-holders are shielded from poverty and deprivation. That also aimed to protect them from exploitation and extortion, contributing to safeguarding society from corruption, promoting civil peace, and upholding the rule of law.



Organizational Development

We strive to achieve our vision, philosophy, and long-term strategic plan by diligently working to enhance the institutional framework for sustainable growth and continuous evolution. With the aim of ensuring transparency and effective communication, we adopt a participatory approach to enhance the capabilities and develop the skills of the staff. This approach helps us overcome existing obstacles and challenges, resulting in innovative solutions that guarantee the quality of services provided with professionalism and efficiency.



Capacity-building and skills development of PMF staff

Internal Audit Course

The finance staff enrolled in an Internal Audit Course to enhance their competence and professionalism in this field. This was done through a contract with Ritaj for Managerial Solutions in late 2022, supported by the Norwegian project. It is to be mentioned that Ritaj is the only entity internationally recognized for granting certification to internal auditors in Palestine.

Training on Combating Sexual Gender-Based Violence against Women

The Planning and Development Department participated, as a representative of the State of Palestine, in a training on combating sexual gender-based violence against women that was held virtually via Zoom with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), with the participation of more than 20 countries in Africa and Asia. The Fund's experience was presented as a pilot in providing accountability and protection services for combating sexual gender-based violence. At another level, the parties discussed a preliminary plan for a project proposal between the PMF and JICA with an interest in collaborating with the Fund technically to build the capacities and competencies of women maintenance right-holders, as well as several other points.

Infrastructure and Information Technology Development

Development of the Fund's database

The database has been developed and computerized to automate our work, review and audit our data according to new models, and encode it in a standardized manner (using fixed tables and formatting fields based on the nature of the data, whether numeric, dates, text, etc.). This ensures accuracy and ease of handling, aiming to ensure comprehensiveness and quality, as well as

speeding up the process. This allows for developing comprehensive reports on the data entry as required, to analyze and link it with the partners' system in the future. More software programs will be developed to serve the achievement of our vision.

Procurement of devices

Six laptop computers and their accessories were purchased to digitize and manage computer-based programs, including the developed database. This was done to facilitate work and streamline coordination among departments, ensuring the continuity of services provided to beneficiaries and those seeking assistance. This purchase was supported by the joint project "SAWASYA" funded by the United Nations.

Additionally, three professional cameras of the Canon RP model were purchased, along with tripod stands. Those cameras are used to document all our activities, including meetings, conferences, and events, through high-quality photos and videos. The PMF is planning to train several staff members in the coming year on developing high-level photography skills, laying the foundation for establishing a Media Department within the Fund.

Headquarters Renovation

We have undertaken the renovation of our headquarters in Ramallah, with support from the Norwegian project. The goal is to provide a safe, quality and efficient working environment for our staff and beneficiary groups. In the coming year, efforts will be directed towards exploring the possibility of expanding our headquarters in Nablus and Hebron, serving all groups in the South and North governorates.

Partnerships with national and international institutions

In our absolute belief that partnerships are essential to the sustainability of any institution, the Fund has actively expanded its collaborations with national



institutions in policy development, advocacy campaigns, and joint programs. Additionally, we have strengthened our communication with the private sector, municipalities, and Palestinian communities on a wide scale. We have also enhanced cooperation with various international organizations and donors, aiming for advocacy and financial support.

This year, we have established numerous collaborations with both national and international partners to translate the Fund's goals and plans into diverse projects and programs. These initiatives aim to unite and integrate maintenance right-holders, as well as to hold accountable the convicted, all within the framework of national mechanisms.

Partnerships and institutionalization of relationships at the government level

We seek to strengthen partnerships and complementarity of roles with government institutions and entities, ultimately working towards justice, strengthening the rule of law, and encouraging national bodies' responsiveness. To provide legal, economic, social, and psychological protection and safety to the right-holders, the Fund cooperates with various government bodies including: The Supreme Judicial Council, The Sharia Courts, The Palestine Monetary Authority, various police forces, as well as ministries (Interior, Justice, Finance, Local Government, Social Development, and Transport), Palestine Land Authority and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The police

As a deeper step towards our strategic partnership with the Judicial Police, the Fund organized a workshop at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society to discuss a range of issues. Among these were the execution of alimony rulings, vehicle control procedures, settling debts of debtors, as well as addressing the mechanism for executing visitation rulings at the Fund's office, which aims to strengthen the rule of law. Several proposals were agreed upon during the workshop, including some of the following key points:

- Registering the Fund's follow-up files in its name to ensure the smooth execution of detention orders related to the prosecution of those sentenced to alimony to recover the Fund's debts, considering them privileged debts as public funds.



- Organizing weekly follow-up sessions by the Fund to maintain constant communication with the police in order to overcome administrative changes within the department.
- Providing the Judicial Police with a dedicated database of those convicted to easily distinguish their names when executing detention orders.
- Exploring the possibility of linking the Fund with the electronic portal of the Judicial Police so that the Fund can follow up on the execution or non-execution of detention orders to save time and effort.
- Collaborating with both the Sharia and regular courts to register orders of detention issued under the Fund's name and to adjust the debt amount whenever a new order is issued.
- Collaborating between the Fund and the police to execute visitation rulings monitored by the Fund, enabling parents to see their children in a safe environment that considers their psychological well-being.



Sharia Courts



We held a participatory workshop with the Sharia courts at the office of the Chief Judge to strengthen the partnership between the two parties, and develop working mechanisms, and remove obstacles to achieving the path of swift justice. The workshop's main outputs include:

- Developing a participatory framework among justice sector institutions based on national, ethical, and humanitarian responsibility, serving the principle of complementarity and bridging to provide comprehensive services.
- Dealing with the legal effect of the Fund's solutions in the execution files of the convicted, including legal procedures to convert the debt into a public debt, considering the Fund as a public institution with privileged funds.
- Not restricting the requests and reviews of the execution files within the enforcement departments, aligning with the courts' human resources.
- Managing the presentation of claims and pleadings in personal status matters by female lawyers across different governorates, as part of free legal aid programs for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society.

Sharia Lawyers

The PMF held 3 awareness-raising workshops in the cities of Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, and Ramallah. The workshop targeted 60 Sharia lawyers, with the aim of discussing ways of cooperation and mechanisms of referral in personal status cases, especially for the most vulnerable groups of women and children, in addition to raising their awareness of the Fund's exceptional experience in advocacy and protection of rights.



National Referral System

The PMF participated in panel discussions and brainstorming sessions to review and develop the National Referral System's role in protecting women who are victims of violence and safeguarding the community. The National Referral System was officially adopted and approved by the government in November 2022 as part of a distinctive national effort. Although the Fund was not included as one of the national entities under the umbrella of this system, Fund lawyers provided their input during the discussion sessions regarding the Fund's role in protecting abused women. The Fund continues to work towards ensuring its representation as a sovereign institution within this system.

Partnerships and institutionalization of relationships at the Private and Charitable Sector Level



As part of the continued efforts to mobilize financial resources and ensure the sustainability of services provided to the Fund's beneficiaries, the Fund worked with its diligent efforts throughout this year in maintaining close communication to establish cooperation with individuals, the private sector, and charitable institutions working in various fields of development and humanitarian relief. That aimed at providing a dignified life for maintenance right-holders, through material and cash donations, as outlined below:

In-kind and Financial Assistance

Private sector contributions	
Statement	Amount
Cash contributions	209,039.40 USD
In-kind contributions	62,252.17 USD
Total	271,291.57 USD



Palestinian Businessmen Forum and Hebron Chamber of Commerce and Industry

In line with Islam Prophetic economic approach of 'distribute them', which means distribution of burden on society, where the wealthy support the needy, a charitable event was organized in partnership with the Palestinian Businessmen Forum and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hebron to provide all forms of support to the Fund as a leading institution in serving the abandoned, both men and women. That initiative has a profound impact on the sustainability and stability of Palestinian society. It aimed to encourage the private sector and business community to contribute innovative ideas that align with the Fund's philosophy and support its vision.



"God burdens you with what He gives you".

Mr. Mazen Zughayyar, A member of the Palestinian Businessmen Forum, speaking about the importance of supporting the Fund and its abandoned beneficiaries, those whose fathers have abandoned them.



"It is both Zakat and ongoing charity: And both will save an abandoned child".

His eminence Sheikh Ikrima Sabri



"The Fund must be supported today and tomorrow as it guarantees the rights of our children and women who are abandoned by those responsible for filling their maintenance".

Mr. Mohsen Zalloum



"It is essential to support the groups of abandoned children benefiting from the Fund, as investing in them serves the country's future and enhances domestic peace".

Mr. Khaled Bader, Board Member at the Palestinian Businessmen Forum



"The Fund deserves direct and sustainable support through innovative and productive projects, as it serves the abandoned groups who are the most in need of psychological and material support".

Dr. Hazem Shawar

Cooperation with Banks

Due to the financial challenges faced by women who head their households and are beneficiaries of the Fund as a result of joint loans they committed to during their marriages, which amounted to (54) cases, representing 8.77% of the beneficiaries, the Fund has conducted several meetings with the Monetary Authority and a number of Palestinian banks to discuss future cooperation regarding bank policies related to finances shared between spouses after separation.

Civil society organizations and grassroots women's associations

In recognition of the importance of reaching a broader segment of Palestinian society, especially in villages, refugee camps, and areas that have not been targeted in recent years, the Fund organized a series of awareness workshops in 2022 under the title: 'The role of PMF and its Comprehensive Services for maintenance right-holders to Achieve Justice in its Two Dimensions: Protection and Accountability'. Those workshops took place in the Bethlehem and Hebron governorates and were attended by approximately 40 representatives from grassroots women's associations and gender units in government institutions and entities operating in the mentioned governorates.

The participants recommended the importance of targeting groups that benefit from the services of both government and non-government institutions to hold more awareness workshops. They also emphasized the need to increase media presence through various media outlets nationwide to promote a new mindset that focuses on educating and guiding couples who are considering separation. That should promote the importance of resolving disputes in a civilized manner that guarantees the rights of both parties, while ensuring the healthy psychological and emotional upbringing of children. Additionally, fathers should bear the responsibility for the maintenance of their children both materially and emotionally without neglect or failures.

As an active member of the Child Protection Network, the Fund participated in meetings to discuss the network's annual plan and special training sessions on the rights of persons with disabilities. The training aimed to enhance the participants' capacities and improve their necessary skills to perform their roles effectively through psychodrama and plan building.

Cooperation with Palestinian Universities

As a first step towards integrating the Fund's law into the curriculum of the faculty of law and the human rights and social sciences faculties, and as

part of strengthening cooperation with legal clinics, departments, and faculties in Palestinian universities; the Fund held two awareness sessions for students of the legal clinic at An-Najah University. Those sessions focused on the jurisdiction and role of the Fund in providing legal protection for beneficiaries, especially women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, who are the most vulnerable groups in Palestinian society.

The students emphasized the importance of targeting the academic staff alongside students to bridge the gap between theory and practice. They highlighted the need for modern interactive teaching methods that transform law students from passive information receivers into active researchers equipped with the practical skills required to enhance analysis, interpretation, prediction, and deduction. That, in turn, will narrow the gap between theory and practice, boost law students' self-confidence and their ability to self-learn, and open opportunities for them to excel in their professional careers. Moreover, it will enable them to derive innovative solutions to complex legal and social cases. A series of meetings were also held with the presidents of Al-Quds University and Hebron University to explore prospects for collaboration within the same framework.

Partnerships and institutionalization of relationships at the international level

Representative Office of Norway in Palestine and the UN Women

After a series of meetings between the Fund's management, program officers at the Representative Office of Norway, and project and program experts from the UN Women to discuss the integration of the Fund's beneficiaries, specifically women heads of households into their programs and activities, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to implement the project "Economic Empowerment and social protection of women maintenance right-holders in Palestine". The project was set to run for 12 months with a budget of \$361,142. It aimed to contribute to the economic empowerment and

social protection of those women through the following outcomes:

- Enhancing the access of women maintenance right-holders to protection and accountability services.
- Developing the capacities and skills of women maintenance right-holders to achieve economic independence.
- Empowering women maintenance right-holders to enhance their recognition as agents of social and economic change.
- Increasing awareness among community members to ensure the access of maintenance right-holders to justice.
- Producing quantitative and qualitative media materials that have an impact on decision-makers, encouraging the adoption of policies and legislation that safeguard the rights of maintenance right-holders.

SAWASYA Joint Programme (UNDP/ UN Women/ UNICEF)



Concluding a number of meetings held with the Joint UNDP/ UN Women/ UNICEF SAWASYA Programme to support the rule of law in Palestine in 2021, the Fund signed a cooperation agreement with the UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, to support the 'Legal Aid Project' with an amount of \$128,000. The project aimed to enhance the Fund's role, at the national and regional levels, in protecting the rights of the Fund's



beneficiaries; support cooperation and planning between the Fund and justice sector institutions and civil society organizations; build the capacities of the Fund's administrative and legal staff; develop the infrastructure and administrative systems of all Fund branches; and support various audio, visual, and written media campaigns promoting the Fund's role and services.

Within the framework of the project, efforts will be made to integrate protection and accountability concepts into the curricula of law, human rights, and social sciences departments by collaborating with Palestinian universities to raise awareness about the rights of various maintenance right-holders, including children (sons and daughters), mothers, fathers, wives, or those unable to earn a living among their relatives.

The Special Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ms. Yvonne Helle, says:

"We are here today to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in the partnership between the SAWASYA Programme and the Palestinian Maintenance Fund, which will primarily focus on empowering the legislative and policy environment for maintenance rights-holders in line with the frameworks and standards of national laws and international human rights. That partnership will also aim to enhance the role of the Fund at both the national and regional levels, ultimately leading to an improved quality and efficiency of the Fund's services for beneficiaries and stakeholders".



United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA



Continuing the ongoing collaboration and communication with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and following the achievements made by the Fund as a result of implementing all the activities related to the 'Hayat' project during the previous year, a joint memorandum of understanding was signed for the second consecutive year in 2022 between the two parties in partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, with a budget of \$95,000. That fell under the joint 'Hayat' project to end violence against women, aiming to achieve a range of objectives, including employing legal personnel in the central, northern, and southern governorates to provide legal services (consultations, follow-ups, and issuing detention orders for those convicted; in coordination with national institutions) to beneficiaries, especially women.

The project also sought to build the capacities of women who are heads of their households to raise their awareness of their legal rights, and alleviate their economic burdens in light of the political and social conditions that have contributed to an increase in gender-based violence cases. Additionally, the project supported the organization of joint meetings and workshops with government institutions and entities, civil society organizations, and media institutions operating in the West Bank to develop policies and legislation aimed at improving the lives of beneficiaries by providing comprehensive services for a dignified life. Finally, the project involved the production of audiovisual materials to raise community awareness about the Fund's role in protecting maintenance rights-holders, including women and children.



Section Two

**Maintenance Rights-holders and
Community Members Are Active Agents
in Changing Their Social, Legal, and
Economic Lives**



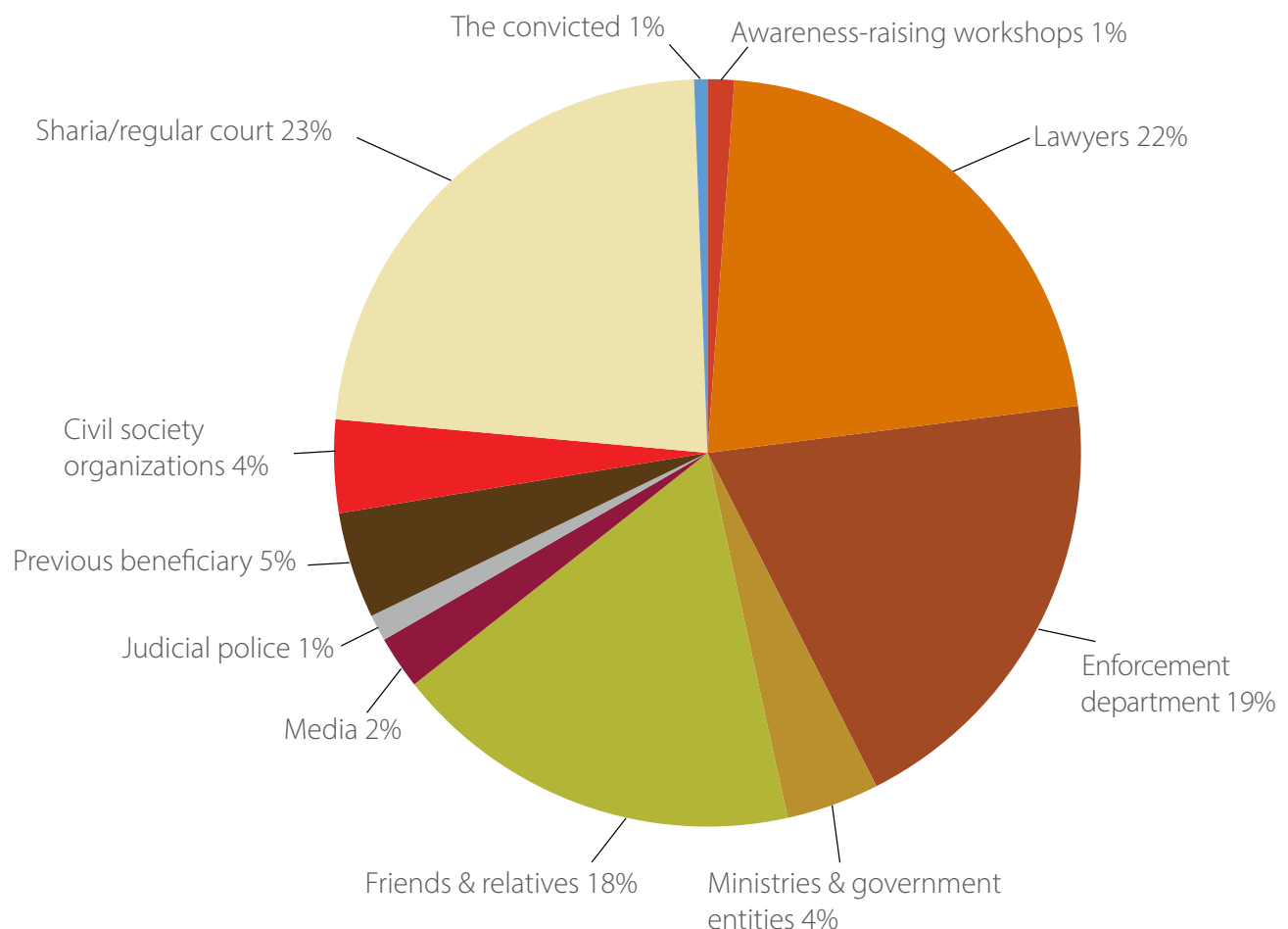
We attach great importance to raising community awareness of PMF goals and services through various audio, visual and written media to spread knowledge about our essential role in improving the quality of life for our beneficiaries. We are committed to building official and unofficial cross-sector partnerships to ensure that maintenance rights-holders have comprehensive services that contribute to changing their social, legal, and economic lives. One form of our partnerships is complementary roles with other counterparts and the referral of maintenance rights-holders to benefit from our legal, social, and political services.

Sharia and Regular courts were the most common entities whom had referred maintenance rights

holders to PMF, accounting for 22.9%, followed by lawyers and enforcement departments at 21.8% and 19.5%, respectively. Compared to 2021 and 2020, friends and relatives were the most common referral sources, accounting for 28.42% and 26.7%, respectively. The chart below illustrates this:

The total number of female and male beneficiaries reached 12,880, compared to 17,622 and 16,454 beneficiaries in the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. Therefore, the overall decrease in the number of the Fund's beneficiaries in 2022 was 27% compared to 2021, while it was 21% compared to 2020. The data shows that children made up the largest percentage beneficiaries, accounting for 65% of the total beneficiaries, with a total of 8,340 children.

Referral Sources

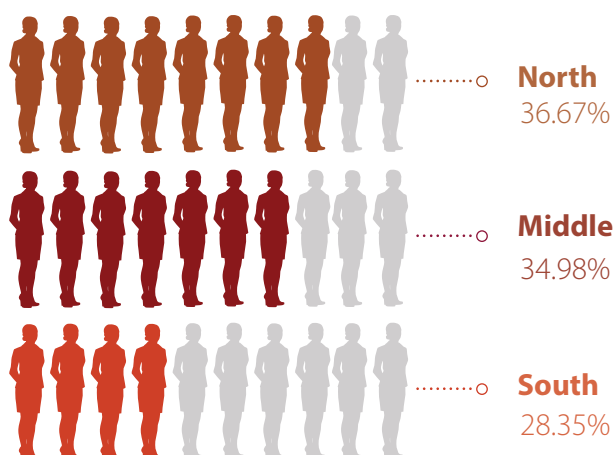




Women maintenance fund beneficiaries who are heads of households

The total number of women who head their households and benefit from financial services was 589 in 2022, compared to 599 in 2021. Those women were distributed across all the Fund's working areas (Central, Northern, Southern). In 2022, the Northern governorates (Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Tubas) in the West Bank took the lead with the highest number of women benefiting from the PMF, accounting for 36.67%, compared to 34.8% and 36.3% in 2021 and 2020, respectively. The Central governorates (Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Jerusalem, Salfit, and Jericho) in the West Bank followed with a percentage of 34.98%, after ranking first in terms of the number of women beneficiaries over the past three years with percentages of 39.07%, 38.7%, and 47.9% for the years 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively. Finally, the Southern governorates (Hebron and Bethlehem) accounted for 28.35%, compared to 26.04% and 25.00% for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. The chart below illustrates this data:

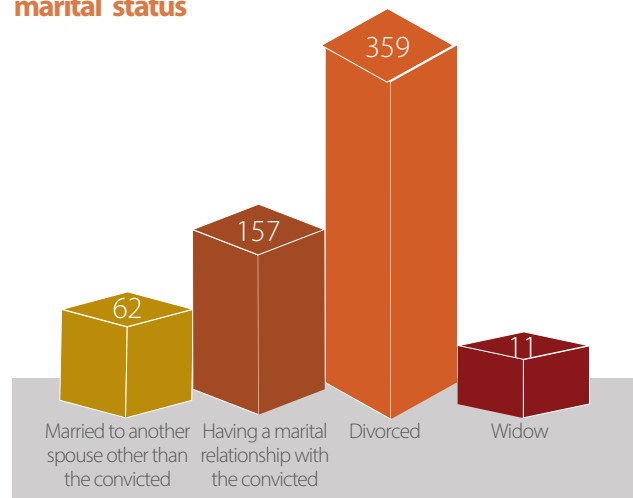
The Geographic Distribution of Beneficiaries



Percentage distribution of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households by their marital status

Regarding the marital status of women beneficiaries who head their households: (60.95%) of them are divorced, (26.66%) are still in a marital relationship with their convicted partners, and (10.53%) are married to another spouse other than the convicted partner. Widows constituted (1.87%) of the beneficiaries, and they are either custodians of minors or maternal maintenance rights-holders. Please refer to the chart below:

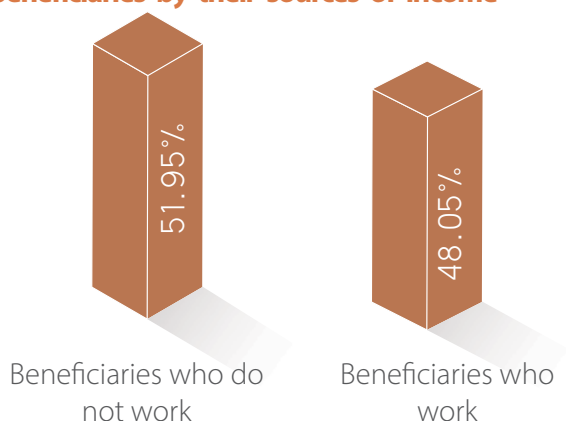
Percentage distribution of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households by their marital status



Sources of Income

The percentage of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of their households and fully dependent on the Fund was 51.9% in 2022, compared to 49% and 50.3% for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. As for the percentage of those who depend on other sources of income (stable or Unstable) in addition to their income from the Fund, it was 48% in 2022, compared to 51% and 49.7% for the years 2021 and 2022, respectively.

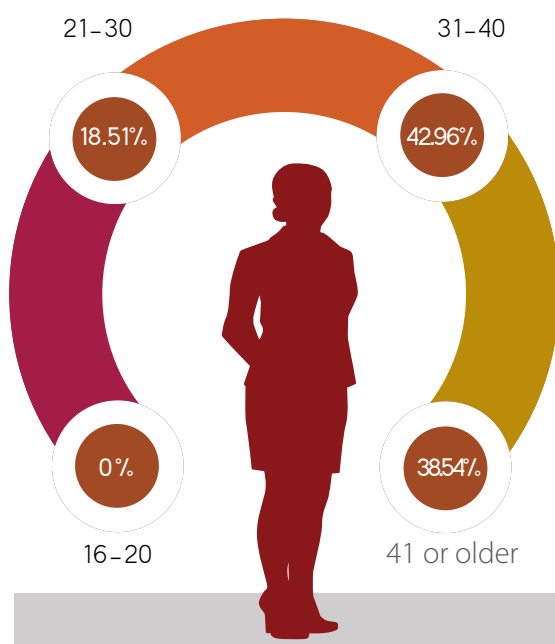
Percentage distribution of women maintenance beneficiaries by their sources of income



Age groups of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households

Women aged between 31 – 40 accounted for the highest percentage among the various age groups benefiting from maintenance fund, at 42.96%. They were followed by women aged 41 or older, with a percentage of 38.54%, and then the age group 21 – 30, with a percentage of 18.51%.

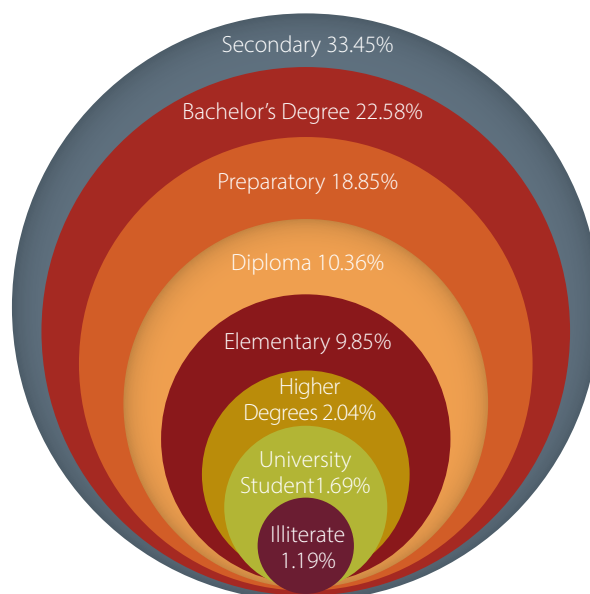
Percentage distribution of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households by their age group



Educational level of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households

Regarding the educational level of women who are heads of households, the chart below illustrates that for the year 2022 secondary education constituted the highest proportion among educational levels at 33.45%. It was followed by those with a bachelor's degree at 22.58%, preparatory education at 18.85%, a diploma at 10.36%, elementary education at 9.85%, a higher degree at 2.04%, and those still in school at 1.69%. Illiteracy had the lowest percentage (1.19%) compared to other educational levels. Details in the chart below:

Percentage distribution of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households by their educational level

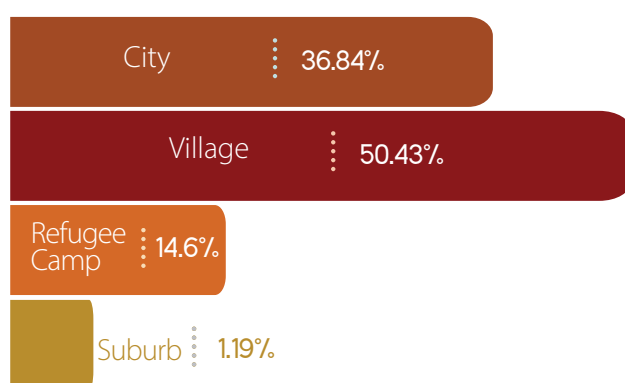


Residential communities of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households

In terms of the distribution of women who are heads of households and maintenance beneficiaries by residential communities (refugee camps, villages, cities), villages took the lead with a percentage of

50.43%, compared to 36.84% from cities and 14.6% from refugee camps.

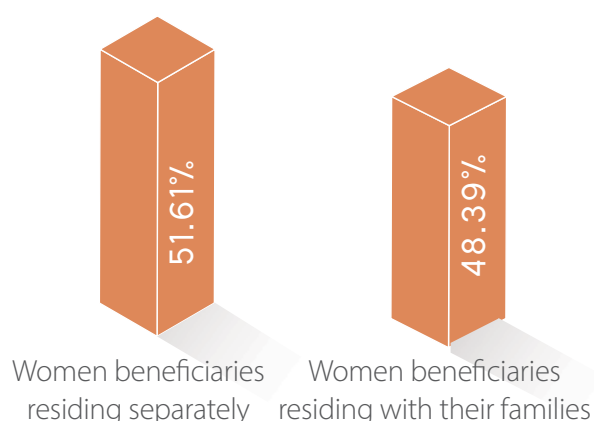
Percentage distribution of women maintenance beneficiaries who are heads of households according to residential communities (village, refugee camp, city)



Residing with family or separately from family

In terms of residing type of households headed by women maintenance beneficiaries, the percentage of households living in independent houses was 51.61% compared to 48.5% and 50.3% for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. Meanwhile, the percentage of households headed by women living with their families was 48.39% compared to 51.4% and 49.7% for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. See the chart below:

Beneficiaries and their residential type

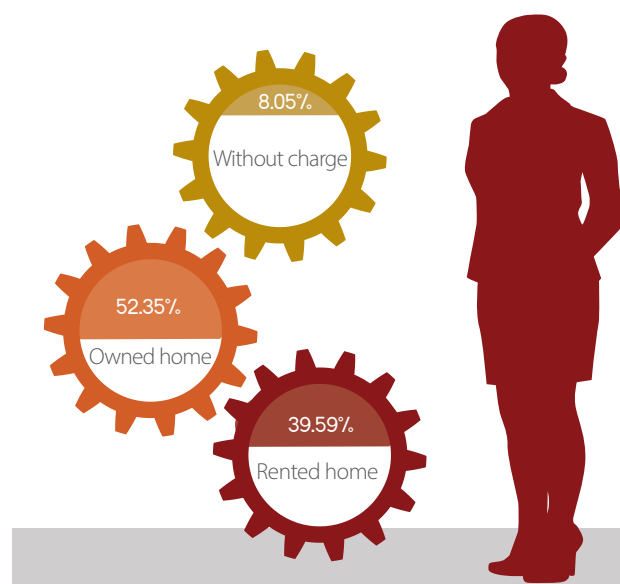


The percentages of women residing separately during the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 essentially indicate that receiving maintenance enabled them to make life-changing decisions regarding housing independently from their families, ensuring a stable and safe independent life for themselves and their children. That allows for privacy and relief from family pressures, which might otherwise burden them in raising and securing a future for their children, after achieving the minimum requirements and providing a decent life for their children. That has been a motivating factor in their housing choices.

Ownership of homes by women maintenance beneficiaries who live separately from their families

The percentage of households residing in rented homes is 39.59% compared to 52.2% and 45.8% for 2021 and 2020 respectively. In contrast, the percentage of households residing in spousal or parental homes is 52.35% compared with 39.1% and 39.7% for 2021 and 2020 respectively. The percentage of families who reside separately free of charge (homes belonging to beneficiary women's parents) is 8.05% compared to 8.5% and 14.4% for 2021 and 2020 respectively.

Beneficiaries and ownership of their homes



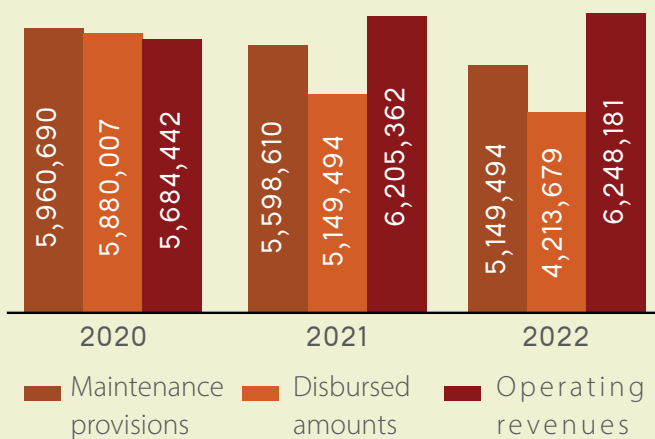
Disbursements to the PMF beneficiaries

On a regular basis, the Fund executed 12 transfers for 14 months' dues to achieve relative stability for women-led households. The total provisions received by the Fund amounted to 5,149,494.09 ILS, of which 4,213,678.56 ILS were disbursed in 2022, accounting for 81.83%. In 2021, the total provisions were 5,598,610 ILS, with 5,149,494 ILS disbursed, representing 92%. In 2020, the total provisions reached 5,960,690 ILS and 5,880,007 ILS were disbursed, amounting to 98%. The chart below illustrates the comparison between the total maintenance provisions, the disbursed amounts, and the cash operating revenues over three years

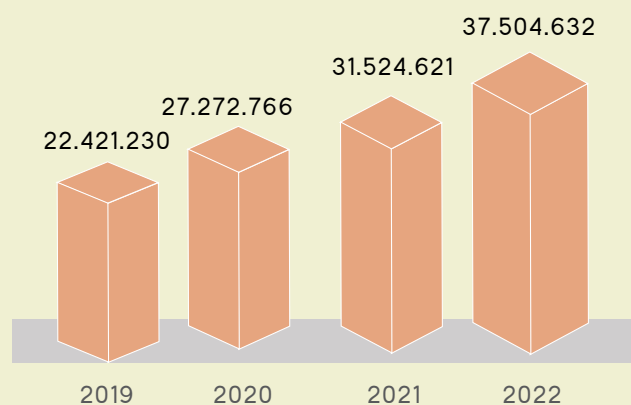
When comparing the proportion of the funds disbursed to the beneficiaries with the Fund's revenues from marriage contracts, divorce judgments, and birth certificates, it is evident that the percentage in 2022 was 67%, compared to 82.9% and 103% for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Regarding the receivables balance for the Fund's beneficiaries, it amounted to 37,504,631.81 ILS during this year. The chart below illustrates the comparison of receivables' balances for the beneficiaries in terms of value during the years 2019 - 2022.

Comparison between provisions, disbursed amounts, and operating revenues over 2020 - 2022



Receivables' balances for the beneficiaries





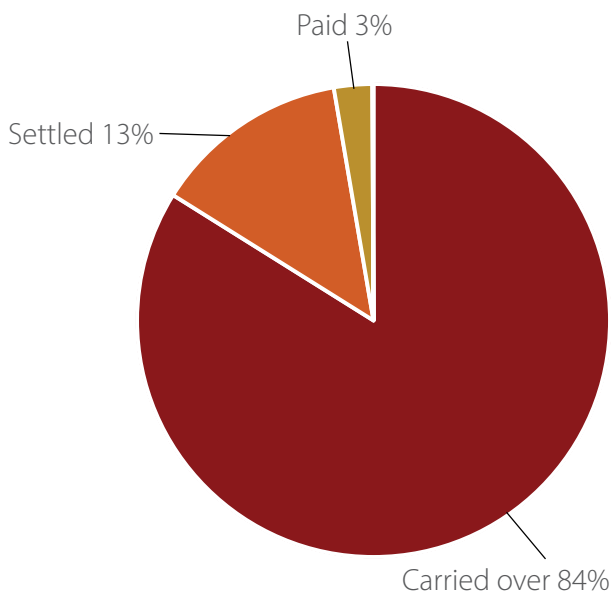
The procedures taken to recover the funds include:

1. Mediation is one of our most important approaches for recovering our funds and settling cases that have been impossible to execute for many years/ decades due to political, social, or economic circumstances. However, we have innovatively engaged tribal leaders to take on their responsibilities in preserving civil peace and defending the rights of the abandoned families of maintenance right-holders of women and children, as well as protecting the convicted (as fathers) by holding them accountable both financially and morally.

2. Legal Procedures

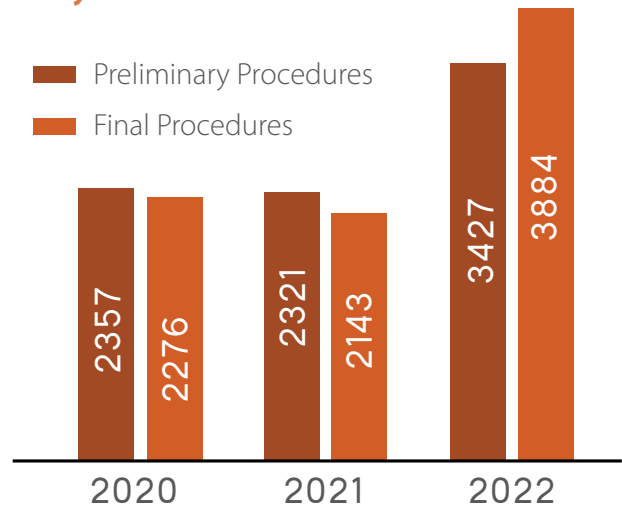
In 2022, we followed up on 1,416 execution files, including 1,189 ongoing cases and 190 cases in which the Fund legally represented the applicants. Additionally, 37 cases were successfully settled and closed during the year. The chart below illustrates the classification of execution files in 2022.

Execution files



The Fund has taken a series of legal actions against the convicted in various areas of the West Bank. That included issuing detention orders against the convicted; totaling 609 orders, of which 169 orders were executed after rigorous follow-up on enforcement cases that were difficult to implement. Those cases were divided into preliminary legal procedures leading to the indirect collection and final legal procedures leading to the direct collection. During this year, there were a total of 7,311 legal procedures (preliminary and final), compared to 4,464 and 4,633 for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. The chart below illustrates this.

Actions taken by execution departments for the years 2020-2022



The execution files were classified according to the legal procedures taken during this year

Detention order

# of execution files	# of detention orders /perseverance procedures issued	# of convicts	Executed # of the detention orders
960	2401	609	169

Seized vehicles

Number of execution files	Number of vehicles	Number of convicts
45	30	22

Withheld salaries – Military finance

Number of execution files	Number of convicts
11	6

Withheld salaries – Pension funds

Number of execution files	Number of convicts
7	4

Financial Assets

Number of execution files	Number of convicts
11	8

Lands

Number of execution files	Number of lands	Number of convicts
2	2	2

Amounts of money in banks

Amount	Number of execution files	Number of convicts
The amount of 2271.34 JoD (was transferred to the Fund's account)	4	1

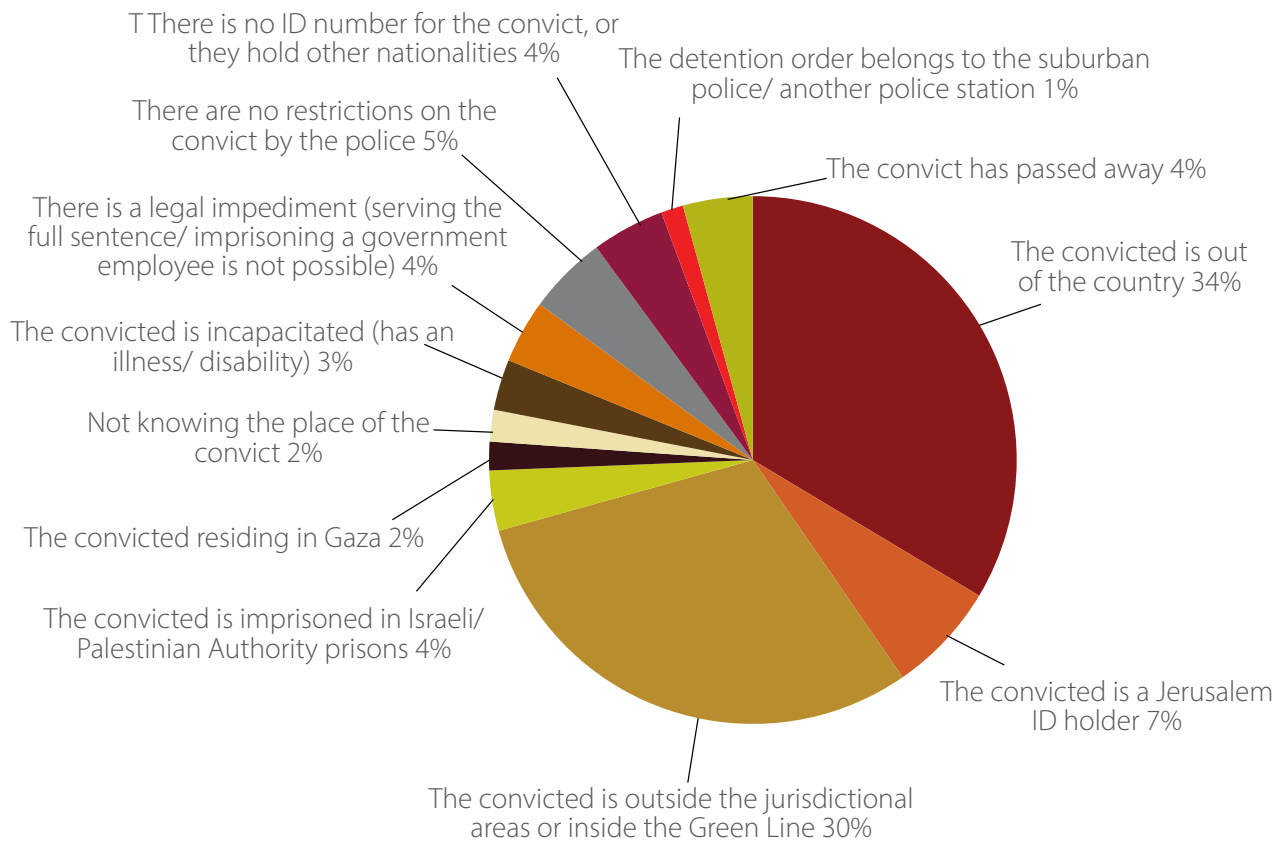
The orders of detention (61.82%) rank first among the procedures undertaken by the Fund to recover its funds, followed by seizure and investigation of the assets of the convicted (20.67%), and then the procedure for collecting/receiving checks (8.57%). That indicates the effective role of the Fund in following up on execution files and the legal procedures taken. See the adjacent chart:

In our analysis of the effectiveness of detention orders against the (609) convicted, we find that (27.8%) were executed, while (72.2%) were not executed. To address the reasons for failure to execute detention orders in the future, a review and analysis of the cases were conducted, revealing that the most prominent reasons for failing to execute detention orders included: 1) The presence of the convicted outside the country (33.59%), 2) The presence of the convicted outside the jurisdictional areas or inside the Green Line (30.29%), 3) Convicts holding Israeli identity (6.79%), 4) Other reasons accounting for (28%), including unknown place of residence, the death of the convicted, and others.

Statement	Amount	% to the total
Detention orders/ perseverance	2401	61.82%
Extension of detention order	60	1.54%
Seizure (one-quarter of the convict's salary/ balances/ vehicles/ investigation and inquiry/ lands)	803	20.67%
Settlements	75	1.93%
Collection/ receipt of checks	333	8.57%
Withdrawal from the execution file	34	0.87%
Lifting of seizure	4	0.10%
Vehicle seizure	8	0.20%
Recall an arrest warrant / release order	140	3.60%
Transfer of seizure to another case's account	1	0.03%
Acknowledgment of receipt of payments	15	0.38%
Transfer of seized amounts/ receipt of transfer letters/ notifications of seizure issuance /payment of seized amount	10	0.25%
Total	3884	100%



Reasons of failing to execute detention orders



Within controls and conditions based on practical experience in concluding settlements with the convicted, we have established, as every year, our commitment to the system of settlements for the convicts, in response to their different circumstances, as well as limiting exceptions so as to ensure the effectiveness of settlements to recover the money disbursed to the applicants.

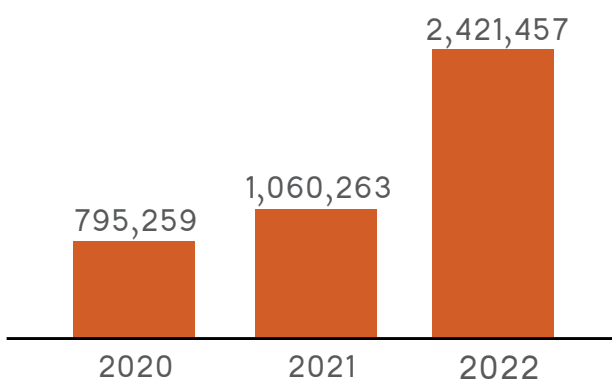
It is worth mentioning that the settlements monitored by the Legal Department reached a total of 75 settlements concluded during the year 2022, compared to 38 and 20 settlements for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. The increase in the number of settlements, which reached 97.36%, can be attributed to the legal measures taken over the previous years. Additionally, we have developed a strategy for tracking convicts by collecting information that goes beyond phone

numbers and includes ongoing cooperation with the police and inquiries directed to partner institutions of the state, we have gone further by searching for their social media accounts to reach them in any possible way. This year, the Fund has made efforts to reach influential individuals connected to the convicts, including their family members, friends, and tribal leaders who have authority within the community. We have applied pressure on them and held them accountable. These efforts resulted from several meetings between the Fund and the tribes, concluded within a success conference held in Hebron called "Weaving Beginnings". The conference was attended by 120 tribal leaders and aimed to discuss possible cooperation to ensure the recovery of the Fund's funds.

A total amount of 2,421,456.52 ILS was recovered in 2022 compared to 1,060,263 ILS and 795,259 ILS for the years 2021 and 2020, respectively. Financial management data shows a significant jump in collections with a growth rate of 129% compared to 2021 and 165% compared to 2020.

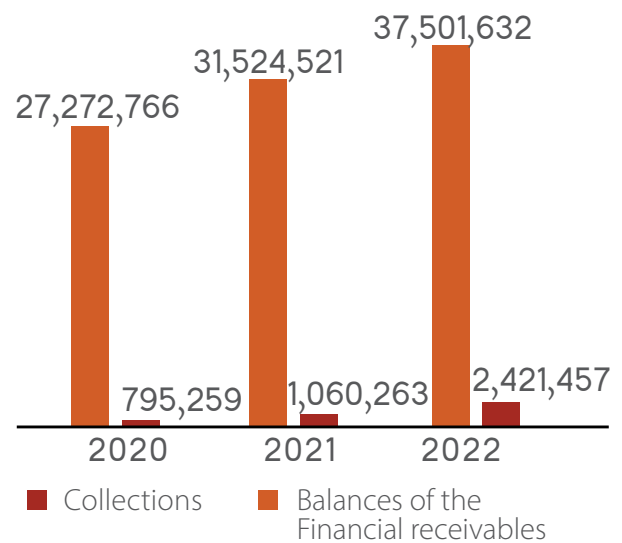
The central area received the largest share of collections at 47%, totaling 1,142,172.92 ILS, followed by the southern area at 28% with a total of 689,713.03 ILS, and then the northern area at 24% with a total of 589,570.57 ILS. Therefore, the percentage of collections to net disbursement reached 58% this year. The chart below illustrates the general direction of total collections from 2020 to 2022.

Total financial collection



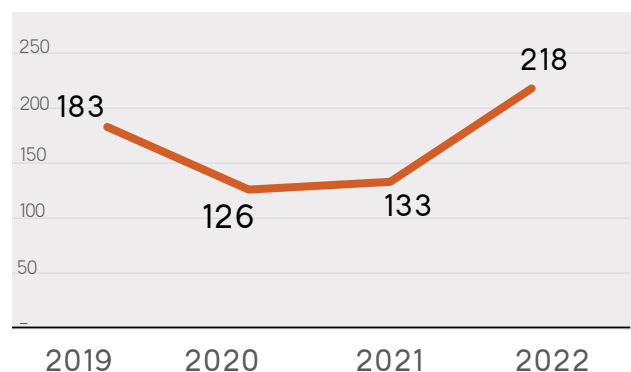
The chart below shows a comparison of the collections with the balances of the financial receivables of the beneficiaries for the years 2020 – 2022.

Comparison of the collections with the balances of the financial receivables of the beneficiaries



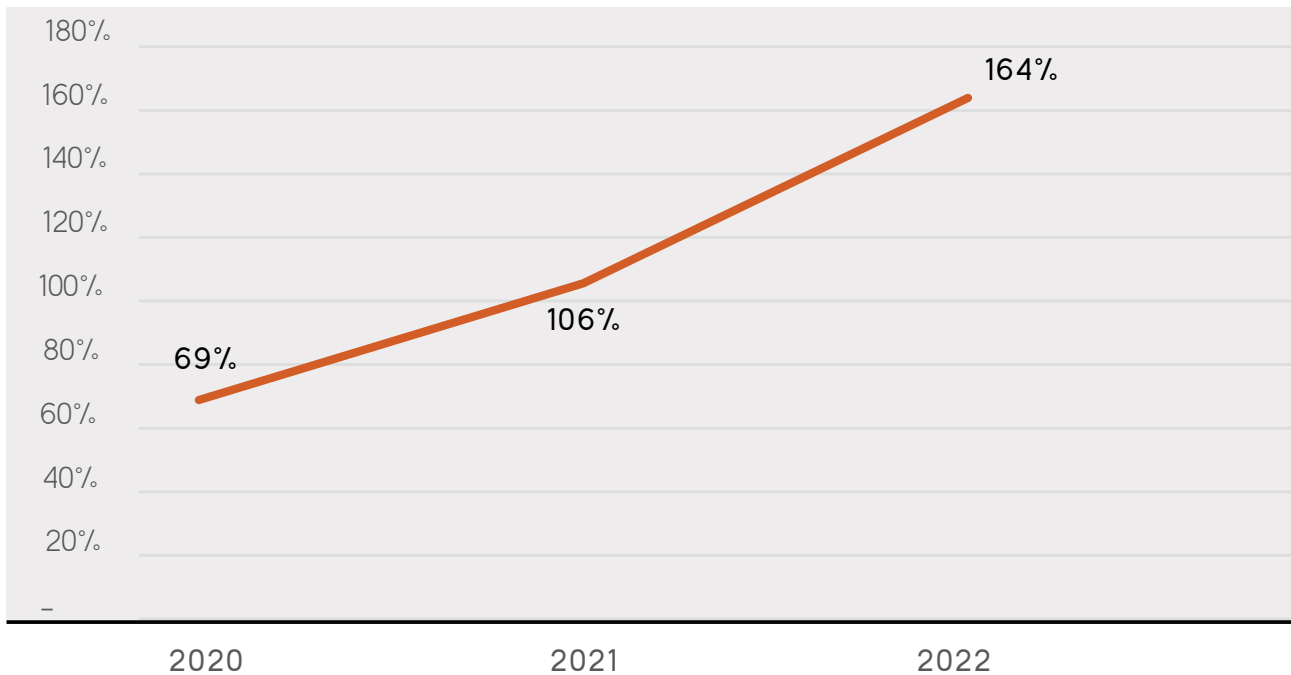
The collection rate from a total of 1416 files that were considered by the courts was 16%. The central area had the highest percentage of files collected (39%), followed by the southern area (36%), while the northern area accounted for 25%. A total of 218 files were collected this year, compared to 133 files in 2021 and 126 files in 2020, representing a growth rate of 164% and 173%, respectively.

Collections based on the number of files





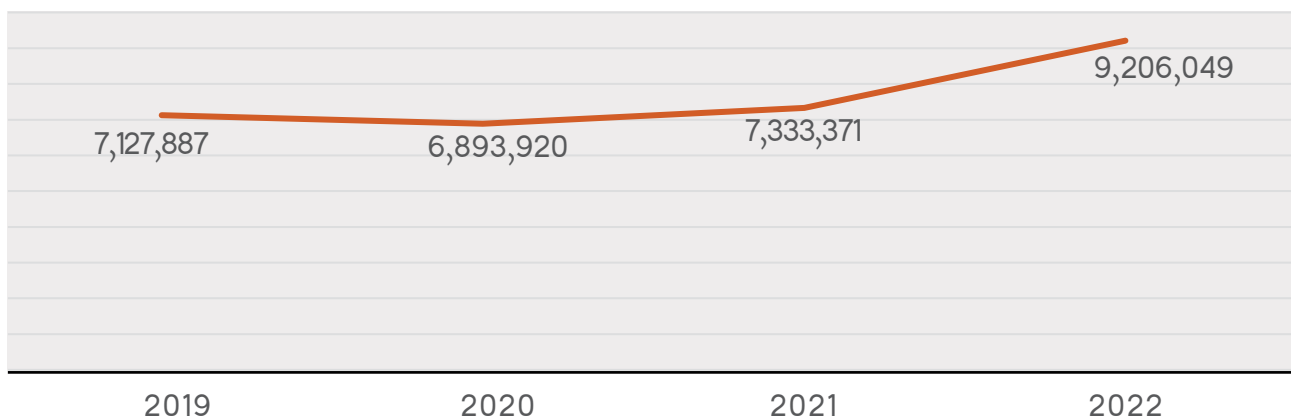
Growth in collection



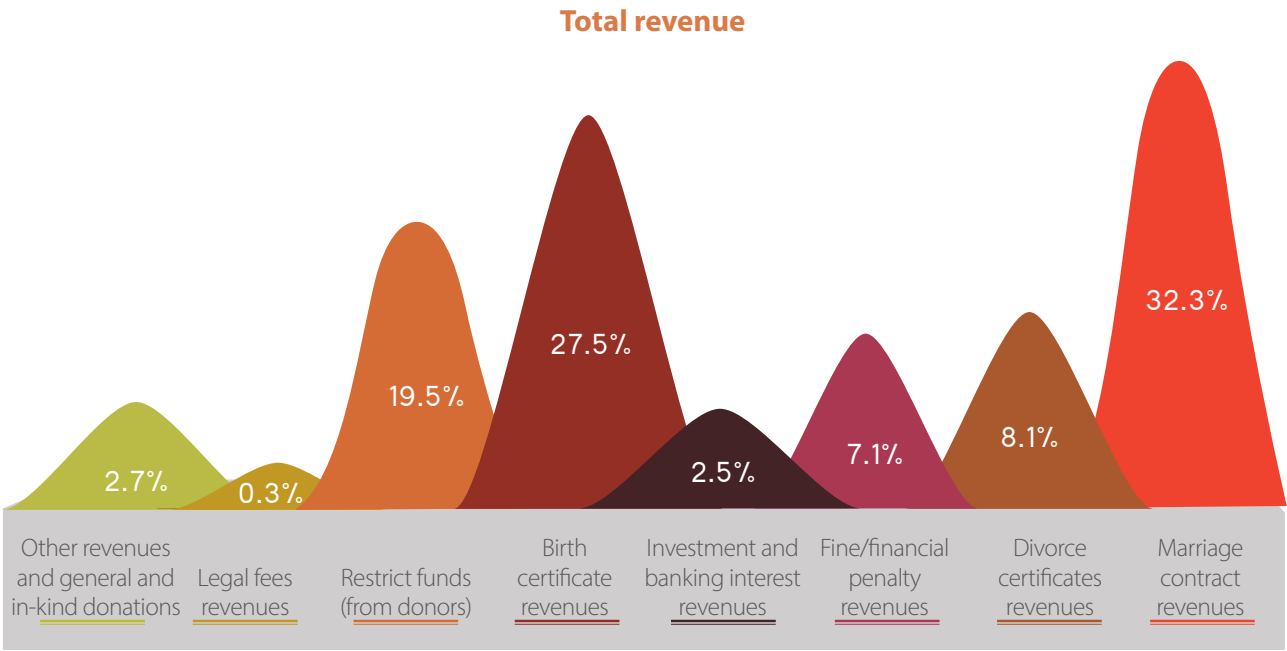
In comparison to the total beneficiary balances, the collection rate reached 7%, as opposed to 4% and 3% in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Collections exceeded expectations this year with a positive deviation (actual collection higher than expected) totaling 1,221,456.52 ILS, representing a 102% deviation from the expected collection of 1,200,000 ILS. The data also indicates a deviation of 139,737 ILS, which is 11% less than what was expected in 2021.

According to the founding law and the amended law, the Fund primarily relies on its main financial resources, which come from marriage contract fees, divorce certificates, and birth certificates, in addition to revenues from general and restricted donations, legal fees, investment income, and bank interest, among other revenue sources. In total, these revenues amounted to 9,206,049.30 ILS, compared to 7,333,371.35 ILS, 6,893,920.29 ILS, and 7,127,886.66 ILS for the years 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

Total revenue



The chart below shows the percentage contribution of each revenue source to the Fund compared to others during the year 2022.





Section Three

PMF and Media Institutions: A Strategic Partnership





We have sought to build sustainable strategic relationships with media institutions to preserve the fundamental vision behind written, spoken, and visual content. Our goal is to reach a qualitative legal discourse on issues related to personal status cases within the private sphere, given their close connection to public domain cases. To enrich the awareness of rights and responsibilities horizontally and vertically across all segments of society, our strategies and media materials have diversified, making them easily accessible to a wide audience of the public...

1. We targeted several male and female journalists from various audio-visual and written media outlets in the Hebron governorate to enhance their awareness of the Fund's vision, philosophy, and goals. We also aimed to instill the principles of protection and accountability across all our initiatives. This was accomplished by promoting the humanitarian values and positive social ideals that underpin the Fund's mission. We strived to safeguard the rights of vulnerable individuals, including children, the elderly, women, and those who face economic challenges in Palestinian society. Our goal was to address the challenges faced by these groups and offer solutions deeply rooted in societal values and unity, ultimately serving the well-being of Palestinian individuals and families, who represent the human capital driving the Palestinian state. The success of this endeavor hinges on fostering a deeper understanding within media outlets and reinforcing their commitment to prioritizing issues of social and legal significance, which are inherently intertwined with political and national aspects.

2. We have created, in partnership with targeted female and male journalists, safe media spaces for women who head their households. Through the establishment of the Madad Network, their voices have become a genuine source of information and experience, given their social, economic, and legal experiences. The guarantee of their rights under the law regarding maintenance has empowered them economically and socially. They have been exposed to secondary socialization pathways through capacity-building programs, knowledge development, and skills training, making them active individuals capable of changing the circumstances of groups that have gone through similar experiences, given the available resources and opportunities.





صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
November 25, 2022

الإعلام ومسار الحماية الشمولي عنوان ورشة عمل توعوية...
 والهدف بناء شراكات استراتيجية بين الصندوق وإعلام الخليل
 اختتم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني اليوم ورشة عمل توعوية بعنوان: "الإعلام ومسار
 الحماية الشمولي للفئات المستفيدة". استهدفت مجموعة من الإعلاميين والإعلاميات،
 وذلك لتعريف بالصندوق وغاياته وأهدافه بغية تمكين العاملين في الإعلام من إنتاج
 مواد إعلامية مراعية لحقوق الفئات المتروكة بشكل أكثر شمولي من خلال رسائل ذات
 مضامين عميقة والتقارير تبني اتجاهات الرأي العام إيجابيا بالم...
[اقرأ المزيد...](#)








"Transferring Experience and Raising Voices" - This workshop is a first-of-its-kind unique awareness-raising initiative, bringing together journalists and women beneficiaries of the PMF in a face-to-face meeting.



*Coming together... is a beginning,
keeping together... is progress,
working together... is success.*

Social Media Platforms

Awareness Posts and Publications





Secondary Socialization Pathways

The exposure of beneficiaries of the Fund's services to secondary socialization pathways and opportunities for knowledge and skills will undoubtedly support their capabilities to become agents of change in their broader community environment. With a series of diverse training sessions covering various topics, women who are heads of households and beneficiaries of the Fund have been able to develop determination and capabilities to drive positive change within their communities. The training pathways have effectively equipped and empowered those women to fulfill their role. You can view the tangible impact of those training sessions through the testimonials of the beneficiaries themselves.



Secondary Socialization Pathways 1



Secondary Socialization Pathways 2



Secondary Socialization Pathways 3



Secondary Socialization Pathways 4



Secondary Socialization Pathways 5



Secondary Socialization Pathways 6



Secondary Socialization Pathways 7



Secondary Socialization Pathways 8



Secondary Socialization Pathways 9



Secondary Socialization Pathways 10



Secondary Socialization Pathways 11



Secondary Socialization Pathways 12



Secondary Socialization Pathways 13



Secondary Socialization Pathways 14



Secondary Socialization Pathways 15



Secondary Socialization Pathways 16



Secondary Socialization Pathways 17



Secondary Socialization Pathways 18



Secondary Socialization Pathways 19



Secondary Socialization Pathways 20



Secondary Socialization Pathways 21



Secondary Socialization Pathways 22

News and Reports

صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
March 23, 2022

سماحة الشيخ عكرمة... إخراج الزكاة للصندوق واجب... باعتبار واقع فئاته أشد إيلاها وقسوة من اليتام

تحت رعاية وحضور سماحة الشيخ عكرمة صبري خطيب المسجد الأقصى ورئيس الهيئة الإسلامية العليا ورئيس هيئة العلماء والدعاة، أقام ملتقى رجال الأعمال وغرفة وتجارة وصناعة الخليل، وبالشراكة مع صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني...

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
August 30, 2022

امجلس إدارة الصندوق يصادق على تقرير مدقق الحسابات والتقرير المالي والإداري

اجتمع مجلس إدارة صندوق النفقة اليوم في تمام الساعة الثانية ظهرا بمقر ديوان قاضي القضاة، لمناقشة آخر التطورات المستجدة والإنجازات كما خطة عمل الصندوق لعام ٢٠٢١. وترأس الاجتماع سماحة الدكتور محمود الهباش رئيس مجلس إدارة الصندوق وحضور كل من أعضاء مجلس...

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
November 12, 2022

لكم في اللعب حق.. يا أولي الأطفال

نظم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني وبتبعية سخي من شركة رويال، شركة الجبريني وشركة أبو عصب للتلعب مهرجانا ترفيهيا في المركز الكوري الفلسطيني في محافظة الخليل، وبمشاركة ٣٠٠ طفل من الأطفال المتروكين والمستحقين للنفقة من الصندوق كما أمهاتهم، وقد حضر الفعالية

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
September 26, 2022

صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني يعقد مؤتمرا تشاركيا بعنوان: "مدد، نسج البدايات" تحت رعاية محافظ الخليل ورجال العشائر والشركاء

نظم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني اليوم مؤتمره الختامي بمحافظة الخليل بعنوان: "مدد: نسج البدايات"، تحت رعاية محافظة الخليل وبمشاركة رجال العشائر، ضمن مشروع "مشروع تمكين وصماية النساء المستحقات للنفقة من الصندوق..."

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)





صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
August 23, 2022

اليوم كان استثنائيا في حضرة أطفالنا. قادة مستقبلنا نظم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني مهرجانا ترفيهيا في منتزه إسعاد الطفولة في محافظة نابلس، وبدعم سخي من وجوه الخير في المحافظة، بمشاركة ٤٨٠ طفل من الأطفال المتروكين والمستحقين للنفقة من الصندوق كما أهداهم. وقد حضر الفعالية مدير عام صندوق النفقة الأستاذة المحامية فاطمة المؤقتة...
[اقرأ المزيد...](#)

صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
August 15, 2022

الصندوق والمحاكم الشرعية في ورشة عمل تشاركية المؤقتة: أهمية تجسيد مبدأ العدالة الناجزة بما يخدم الأكثر انكشافا الجعيري: علاقتنا تشاركية بما يخدم مصالح الفئات الأكثر تهميشا عقد صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني اليوم ورشة عمل تشاركية مع المحاكم الشرعية...
[اقرأ المزيد...](#)

صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
August 22, 2022

وقّع اتفاقا بين صندوق النفقة و برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي لتعزيز مبادئ العدالة وسيادة القانون في فلسطين وقع صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني وبرنامج سواسية ٢ المشترك لتعزيز سيادة القانون في دولة فلسطين من خلال برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي - برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني (UNDP/PAPP) اتفاقية تهدف إلى...
[اقرأ المزيد...](#)

صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني
December 3, 2022

ولكم في اللعب حق... صندوق النفقة ينظم يوما ترفيهيا للأطفال المستفيدين من صندوق النفقة بمرام الله نظم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني اليوم في قاعة ماجد أسعد في محافظة البيرة، وتبرع سخي من صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان، البنك الوطني، شركة القصور و شركة رويال فعالية ترفيهية في قاعة ماجد أسعد في محافظة البيرة...
[اقرأ المزيد...](#)

Radio and TV. Interviews



“With an Official” Program – Wattan News Agency, Ma’an News Agency

36 Weekly interviews on Radio Bethlehem 2000

Radio Bethlehem 2000 interviews focused on personal status cases, particularly those concerning the abandoned women who were responsible for raising their children due to the absence of fathers. The interviews addressed the challenges those women faced, such as feelings of injustice and the burden of financial and moral responsibilities. The discussions explored ways to overcome those

challenges and ensure the Fund’s continued success in building future generations who contribute to the nation’s development. Those interviews provided a platform for the women beneficiaries to speak up and express their concerns and worries, which had a significant impact on boosting their self-confidence and the confidence of those around them in their abilities.

12 Radio interviews on Karama Radio

The interviews on Karama Radio in Yatta (Hebron governorate) were one the results of targeting journalists in Hebron in the organized PMF's awareness workshop titled "Transferring Experience and Raising Voices". Among the important topics covered in those interviews were:

1. The comprehensive economic, legal, social, and psychological services provided by the Fund to its maintenance beneficiaries for alimony.
2. The impact of ensuring the right to maintenance and holding the convicted accountable in changing the circumstances of women who head their households.
3. The self, social, economic, and legal empowerment of the maintenance rights-holders.
4. Strategic partnerships between the Fund and various partners; both official and non-official institutions, to promote accountability values for fugitives from justice through a series of measures to recover the Fund's money and through monitoring

and diagnosing the problems and their causes from broader perspectives to come up with creative solutions that enhance the rule of law.

5. Personal status cases, and raising the awareness of citizens about their rights, enabling them to demand them and make a real change in their living conditions

Among these meetings:

Meeting with Fatmeh Muaqqet, Director General of the Palestinian Maintenance Fund, on Al Karama Radio, on 12/6/2022..



From these meetings:



Dr. Iman Abu Al-Khairan
A Mental Health
Specialist



Trainer Mr. Louay
Fawadleh, Trainer of
Psychology at Birzeit
University



Lawyer Dr. Khaled Al-
Haroub



Ms. Nour Eida, the
psychologist, and Ms.
Reham, a beneficiary of
the fund

Production of theatre performance, an animation documentary, and success stories

Media materials play a fundamental role in the transformation towards radical changes in social norms and behaviors. They also have a significant role in informing partners, donors, and decision-makers about the importance of the services provided by the Fund. During this year, the following audiovisual materials were produced:

Theatre performance titled "From You, and To You" by YES Theatre

As part of raising awareness in society about personal status and the maintenance rights-holders' cases, the Fund worked on producing and disseminating various audiovisual and written materials. The Fund collaborated with YES Theater to produce a forty-minute theatre play titled "From You, and To You", which was supported by the Haya project to end violence against women. The play highlighted the social path that women go through and the various forms of violence they experience, starting from depriving them of their right to education and self-determination, forcing them into early marriage according to prevailing customs in the male-dominated society, and addressing the problems they face after marriage that may lead to separation. That interactive play involved the audience, allowing them to be part of the theatrical experience by proposing creative solutions to address the forms of violence they observed during the play through, after engaging them in reenacting a scene. The performance targeted the educational institutions in the southern districts, with approximately 430 students participating in the first show. More shows are planned for 2023 in universities and cultural centers across Palestine.




منكم وإليكم ، مسرحية مجتمعية هادفة بقالب كوميدي ، تدور أحداث المسرحية في إحدى البيوت الفلسطينية طارحة عدد من القضايا الحقوقية التي تمس المرأة كالتعليم والميراث والعمل ونظرة المجتمع للمرأة المنفصلة عن زوجها والحقوق المترتبة على الانفصال وحقوق النفقة.

هذه المسرحية من تنفيذ مسرح نعم ومن كتابة وإخراج إيهاب زاهدة

ضمن فعالية "بلاغ المسرح" تدعوكم عمادة شؤون الطلبة وبمبادرة وتنظيم ودعم من صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني لحضور عرض المسرحية الكوميدية

منكم وإليكم

وذلك يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٢٠٢٣-٦-١٤ الساعة ١٠:٠٠ ظهرا في قاعة الشهيد كمال ناصر

مسرح نعم YES Theatre

صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني

جامعة بيرزيت BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY



An animation documentary

Funded by Haya project and within the same context, a two-minute animated documentary was produced to reflect the positive impact that the Fund has on the lives of its beneficiaries. The documentary aimed to deepen awareness among a diverse audience and decision-makers about the maintenance rights-holders and the role of the Fund in protecting and supporting them, as well as providing a decent standard of living. This was done through contracting a professional production and design company along with produce high-quality animation graphics and innovative techniques. Those videos have a significant impact on the audience as engaging educational tools. The Fund can use them to disseminate knowledge and narrate the stories of maintenance rights-holders to raise awareness about their rights using three different methods: visual, auditory, and animated.



Scan the code
to watch



Success Stories

Story 1: Hope

She used to live with her family and accept whatever was imposed on her and her children. Although she worked as a wedding photographer, her family refused to let her live in a separate house. After receiving training, she became more self-confident and felt capable of making decisions that suited her life and her children. She also had the opportunity to support other women and provide them with advice based on her own experience.

The beginning was when her married sister faced a marital problem with her husband, who intentionally abused and humiliated her in front of their seven children. Her family's opinion was for her sister to return to her husband's house so that she wouldn't end up divorced like her sister, Nida. However, Nida became a source of support for her sister and told her: "You are facing a crucial decision, either take a step and leave your husband's house for a while so he can realize your worth and stop abusing and humiliating you, or remain silent and go back to him, remaining trapped in a miserable life". Indeed, Nida's sister was convinced.

At that point, the family's anger intensified, prompting Nida to take the step of renting a separate house for herself, her sister, and her sister's children. Her family believed that Nida was leading her sister toward separation, which they considered catastrophic, as it would increase the burden on them with two divorced daughters and a total of ten children. Nida informed them that she had previously compromised multiple times for the same reasons and concerns mentioned, and the end was inevitable. Therefore, she insisted on supporting her sister in taking a different approach to prove her strength, her refusal to accept humiliation, and her rejection of all forms of violence.

Within a week, her sister's husband was struggling to balance work and quickly returning home to take care of their seven children and fulfill household duties. He realized the enormous responsibility he would have to bear alone if he separated from his wife and hurried to her family's house to apologize and bring her back home. Her family was surprised by his stance because they were

accustomed to being the ones to bring their daughter back, fearing her husband's threats of divorce. Here, their anger toward Nida diminished, and they informed her of the developments and asked for her opinion.

Nida told them that the next step was to negotiate with her husband on the conditions for her return home. Regarding her independence in her own house, the family began to accept Nida's decision. As for her independence in her own house, her family began to accept Nida's decision, and they now saw her as an independent individual with a strong personality, capable of confronting life under various circumstances.

Nida recalled the painful incident when her sister faced the problem, saying: "I remembered that scene, which carried all the pain and humiliation when my ex-husband kicked me out of the house while I was pregnant with my little daughter. I called my father, and he told me not to go to their house so that it wouldn't be said that I left my husband's house and put the blame on my parents. My ex-husband was shouting from the window of his house, driving me away, and my father kept repeating over the phone, 'Don't leave your husband's house!' I stayed on the street that night until 3 AM, with my daughter sleeping in my arms. I couldn't bear the thought of my sister going through a similar humiliation, so I had to intervene".

About the new beginning in her separate home, she says: "I've never felt this level of comfort before. I sleep deeply in my new house, feeling an unprecedented sense of freedom and strength. I move between the rooms, walking proudly as if I am a queen inspecting the palace's corners. I decide the day's menu and allow my children to play and watch TV comfortably. I never imagined that this step, despite its difficulty, would bring me such immense happiness".

She sent us various photos: she hosted a barbecue party for her children, and in another photo, she prepared a family gathering with her young brothers visiting her house for the first time. On another occasion, she invited her married sisters, and they attended with their children to spend a special family day without worrying about raising their voices or creating chaos during playtime.



Story 2: Willpower

"Before the training, my personality was fragile, and I lacked self-confidence, especially since I had experienced violence before the separation. I used to be subjected to beatings and humiliation when I tried to express my opinion, which created a thick psychological barrier. I was able to overcome it through this training. I overcame the feelings of fear and tension to the extent that I decided to allow my ex-husband's family to visit my daughter at my parents' house so they could get to know her. I sat confidently in front of them without getting angry, trembling, or crying. They were surprised by my new personality and told me that I wasn't the same Dalal they knew before. Initially, they tried to force my daughter to sit with them and accept them, but I confronted them and told them that I wouldn't allow anyone to force my daughter to do anything. They had to wait for her to accept them and overlook their past shortcomings and neglect".

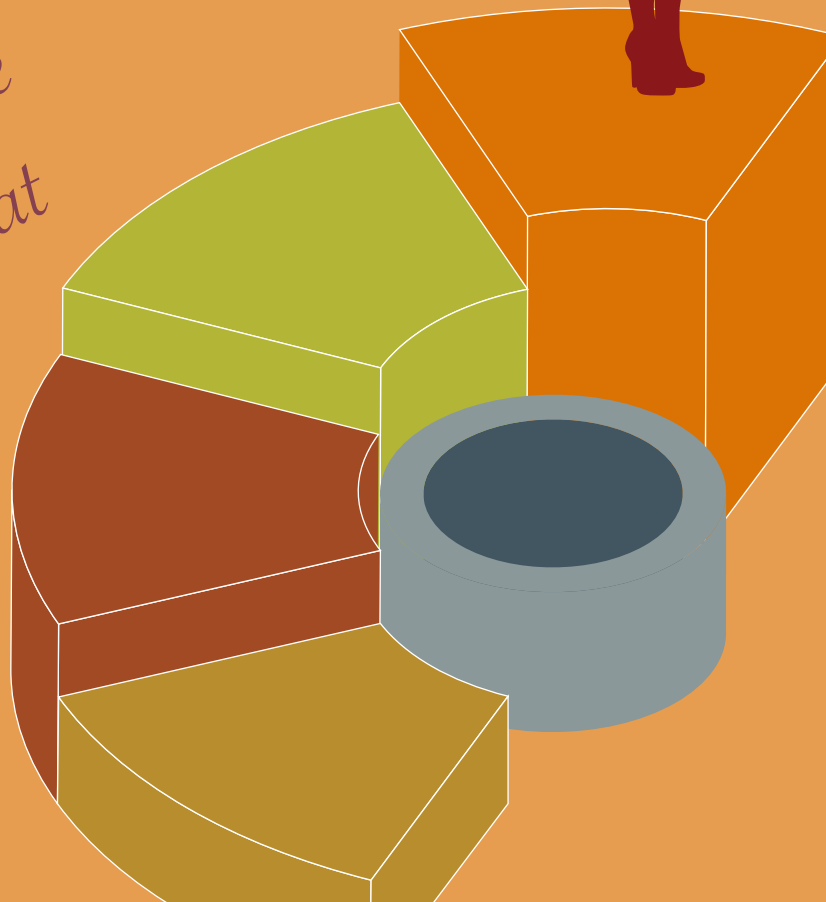
Dalal used to be afraid to pass by her ex-husband's city because it brought back painful memories and made her feel constantly threatened and afraid. Now, she has become more confident and determined to face any challenges.

Dalal says: "I don't want to hide anymore due to fear of my ex-husband's threats. I was like a broken-winged bird, weak and helpless, existing in my body but prohibited from speaking or expressing my opinion. It was as if I were invisible".

She adds: "I have changed. Thanks to the Fund, I got my daughter back after being deprived of her. The Fund's presence was like the sun that illuminated the dark shadow surrounding me. I used to tremble in fear of my ex-husband, his father, and all his family, and I couldn't dare to say a word. Now, I don't fear facing them and speaking the truth. I defend my daughter's rights and provide her with the security I was deprived of. The training was my first experience, and it taught me a lot to pass on to my daughter. Today, I've started to learn cosmetic art, and I will soar high".



*In order to success, we
must first believe that
We Can.*



Success Stories

Story 3: Aspirations

"I made the decision to separate because I couldn't bear my ex-husband's irresponsibility. Do you know what it feels like to carry all the burdens on your shoulders, to be weighed down by all these responsibilities without any financial or moral compensation? Does he even know that a smile with a word of thanks or appreciation for all the sacrifices and compromises I made was enough?!

It seems that the terms "thanks" or "gratitude" are not defined in the dictionary of stubborn masculinity. So, it was easier for him to turn me into a prisoner of his mood swings. Just because he holds the title of husband or head of the family, a title that allows him to give orders for execution or to stop doing whatever he deems appropriate, without caring about the duties that he should have done instead of throwing them onto my shoulders.

The summary of the emotional war I was going through inside me was a mixture of feeling weak, disappointed, and incapable of changing the situation. The feeling of helplessness is a miserable feeling, and the feeling that you possess that inner voice that screams and pleads for help but was ignored by those around you, only multiplies your frustration and the humiliation of your dignity.

The inner conflict I was going through transformed into scattered waves of anger after the separation. I attacked others and passed judgments without giving them a chance to explain. I lost confidence in myself and those

around me, assumed ill intentions in most situations, and felt like I was the only one suffering on this planet. Those pathways I experienced during the training helped me see the other side of the coin. I wasn't the only one, and my suffering wasn't the worst.

At some point, I broke my silence and offered advice to one of the beneficiaries, and I was glad that she expressed her gratitude to me. Once again, I found myself comforting another colleague and boosting her morale in a moment of weakness. I was able to contribute to erasing that bleak look on the faces of many of them, just by sharing my experience, so they would know that they weren't alone.

I often got lost in this transformation of my personality, which became more apparent over time and with the renewal of these meetings and training sessions. The waves of anger gradually turned into positive energy. I became calmer, listened to others, thought and analyzed, and then discussed. I no longer acted rashly out of anger; instead, I became the calm spirit that listens to the suffering of others and embraces them with open arms to help them cross over to the safety I have reached.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: It's an indescribable feeling to offer assistance to others after waiting for it so desperately".



Story 4: Challenge

Riham is the calm soul who lived in a family characterized by love and respect, but after marriage, she entered a completely different environment. She was surprised by the family's disposition, which made violence a fundamental principle in their way of life. Her husband's father was aware that his son was suffering from a neurological and psychological disorder and needed treatment, but he didn't acknowledge it. Instead, he believed that the wife should be the sponge that absorbs everything coming from her husband.

She describes those years as an absolute nightmare, during which she experienced all forms of psychological, verbal, and physical violence. She used to disapprove the idea of a woman being subjected to physical abuse, finding it unimaginable that this could exist in their reality. She wouldn't have believed it happened to any woman if she hadn't experienced all this violence herself.

Riham remained silent for a long time and endured everything for the sake of her daughters, even while she was pregnant with her son, Karim. On one of the days during the month of Ramadan, she recalls that her husband objected to the food and was displeased, leading to a brutal beating to the point where she couldn't recognize herself in the mirror. Her daughter, Rafif, screamed in horror: "Don't kill my mom, and don't deprive us of her!"

When her husband's father arrived, instead of reprimanding his son, he took her phone to prevent her from contacting her family and telling them what had happened. After ten days, Riham managed to stand in front of the mirror with difficulty. She looked at herself

for a long time and asked herself: "What am I doing here? What did I do to deserve all this suffering, and what pushes me to endure more?"

She says: "I searched for one reason to continue, but I couldn't find it. That's when I decided to leave, to save my soul from sinking deeper into that complete darkness. I left for my children and myself".

"The training sessions helped me recover from those scars. They reignited the flame that had once dimmed. I consider myself strong ever since I made the decision to leave, but the training sessions helped me discover hidden strengths within my personality. They had a positive impact on getting rid of all negative emotions like anger and sadness. Now, I am proud of myself because I no longer fear anything, and the pessimistic view that had clouded my eyes for so long has faded away. I now believe that I carry many messages and pieces of advice that I can offer and share with other women".

Riham was a guest in a media episode where she talked about her experience as a mother heading a family of four children, doing her utmost to help them recover from the effects of the violence they witnessed repeatedly. She also fights to keep her children in touch with their father so that they don't miss out on the word "daddy". Unfortunately, their father responds to all her efforts with cruel attempts to exploit their children as a bargaining chip against their mother. He instills polluted ideas in them to portray their mother as the one who destroyed the family and hindered their happiness.





