

# Annual Report 2021



The Palestinian  
Maintenance Fund

## CULTIVATING GOVERNANCE OF HOPE



**Annual Report 2021**

# **Cultivating Governance of Hope**



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**Fatmeh Muaqet**  
**The Director General**

We are proud to present our achievements in the year 2021, which were crowned when we received the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Excellence Award, in recognition of our exceptional achievements in protecting and defending maintenance rights holders who have been abandoned by those charged with paying alimony.

In cultivating a governance based on hope, and in struggling against a pandemic that continues to claim lives, we have mobilized our capabilities to fulfill our humanitarian, moral and national obligations to society and the groups who benefit from alimony.

In doing so, we pursued different opportunities, persevered along a thorny path, departed from some perceptions and sought common values among PMF staff that would enable us to engage beneficiaries in governorates across the occupied West Bank. Our team places particular emphasis on belonging, giving and responsibility, and values them as a ways of raising individual and collective morale. These values help us build confidence in our ability to overcome challenges through giving, and keep our doors open as one of the pillars of the justice sector. We are committed to promoting accountability and protection and operating as a protective shield that promotes civil peace.

In seeking to ensure the sustainability of our services, we have sought to develop and harmonize the

## Cultivating Governance of Hope

administrative and organizational rules that govern our work, and we have done this with the intention of meeting our goals and striving towards our vision and mission. In working towards an orderly consistency between strategic and operational responsibilities, we operate on the basis of integration and partnership and work closely with our partners and beneficiaries.

We have taken a set of legal measures to hold the convicted to account and to ensure society is not subjected to further shocks and conflicts that further exacerbate its lack of stability and weak rule- of law. These measures have sought to combat regionalism, clannism and individualism that operate at the expense of citizenship. They respect and uphold the social contract between state institutions, civil society, the private sector and citizens, who are all essential actors in good governance and state building initiatives. These measures are rooted in our awareness of our national and forward-looking responsibility and our own role in helping to achieve justice that upholds protection and accountability.

With the aim of achieving protection that, in human rights terms, respects beneficiaries' dignity and humanity we have developed comprehensive, enabling and long-term programs, of which legal aid is our most notable and foremost achievement. Another set of programs focuses on poverty reduction and economic empowerment; they reflect our belief that protection





and inclusion, as embodiments of the goal maintenance of rights holders, will produce active individuals who are capable of changing the conditions of their lives and their surroundings. This will enhance the security and safety of our society, and give us hope for a better future.

With the aim of ensuring justice is served and overcoming any emergency, including a limited decline in our resources and revenues, we have adopted a disbursement policy that does not exceed 80 percent of the total value of our available resources. This policy has been introduced after a total 18 percent increase in the number of beneficiary groups over the past three years (2018-2020). In the period from 2010 onwards, annual

increase rates had not previously exceeded 2 percent. We were forced to introduce the new policy because we had insufficient resources to cover the total value of unimplemented alimony provisions. Quite clearly, our financial resources were incommensurate to this substantial increase in beneficiaries.

We will try to keep pace with new technical developments by introducing digital transformations to our service provision. We anticipate this will enable us to effectively respond to beneficiary needs, invest human resources with fewer wasted capabilities and ultimately move towards a more efficient and optimal use of resources.



# Introduction

COVID-19 affected all aspects of Palestinian life. The economic repercussions were particularly pronounced as prices rose in the market, the quality of life declined and poverty and destitution soared.

The pandemic also affected our financial resources and we lost 1,900,049 ILS from our 2021 budget for a number of reasons, the most important of which was the flotation of the Jordanian dinar exchange. Our total annual revenues were 7,333,371 ILS, which fell short of the expected 10,272,000 ILS. The 28 percent decrease reiterated the impact of COVID-19.

Despite these challenges, we continued to fulfill our mission by paying alimony to 17,622 beneficiaries, including children, the elderly, women and people with disabilities. The value of our received provisions amounted to 5,600,000 ILS, of which we spent 92 percent (5,150,000 ILS). Procedures that verify the conditions of benefit prevented us from spending the full amount.

The total value of alimony collection amounted to 1,060,263 ILS. This was a qualitative leap in collections, and the growth rate of 34 percent was more than double the 2019 rate (16 percent). We achieved this by introducing an effective settlement system that responds to the different circumstances of the convicted. In seeking to strengthen the rule-of-law principle, we also initiated legal measures against the convicted.

This report shows how our short-term activities and projects have been transformed into long-term programs that meet the needs, priorities and rights of the maintenance rights holders. It demonstrates how this has been achieved through legal aid, the Poverty Reduction and Economic Empowerment Program and the Protection and Integration Program.





# PMF Methodology

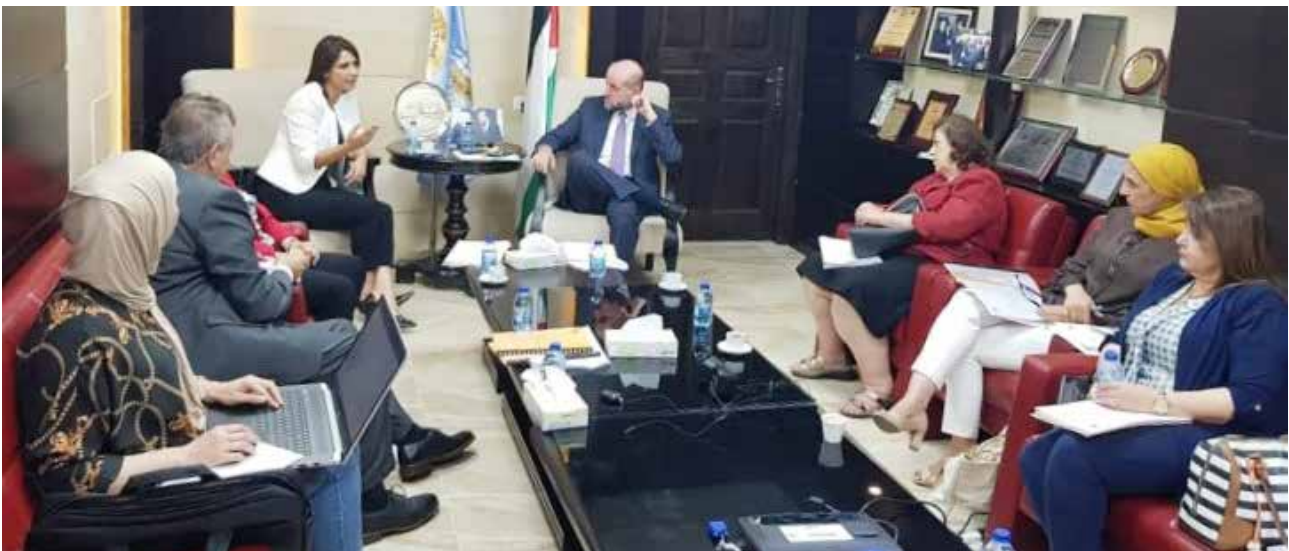
In our work, we seek to realize accountability and protection, which are the two key aspects of justice. In working to promote accountability, we enhance the state's rule-of-law by pursuing those who evade the implementation of maintenance rulings. We do this by taking legal actions that include travel 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.

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



# Part One

A participatory learning approach within PMF's institutional environment to ensure effectiveness, sustainability and institutional development.









Strengthening our strategic partnership with various governmental and non-governmental partners will reinforce the values of rule-of-law by holding the convicted to account through a wide range of legal procedures that will help to achieve justice and retrieve our funds.

In working within a participatory learning approach in our institutional environment and taking steps to ensure effectiveness, sustainability and institutional development, our Planning and Development Department coordinated with our Legal Department to accomplish various tasks related to the development of institutional services. These included updating maintenance rights holders' data on the PMF system by applying relevant quality assurance measures; referring to the competent authorities to follow up with maintenance rights holders; providing quality services; and making inquiries about the convicted. The Planning Department helped the Legal Department network to engage with partners for active follow-up inquiries about maintenance rights holders. These

activities were coordinated with the media department, and information about our work was then disseminated through newspapers, social networks and websites.

The Planning Department identified that our staff and maintenance rights holders (especially women and children) would benefit from development and capacity-building work. It also observed our infrastructure (operational equipment and systems) needed to be upgraded and improved. We referred to these observations when we submitted project proposals to donors.

With the aim of achieving quality service provision, accountability,

empowerment and protection objectives for maintenance rights holders, we worked to implement a (2021-26) strategic plan that was developed through consultations and meetings with relevant national institutions and strategic partners. This process followed a clear methodology and sought to put in place strategic and operational institutional planning concepts that are aligned with the Palestinian national policy agenda and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This enabled us to identify and develop long-term programs that are aligned with our priorities. This shifted our focus away from short-term activities to interventions that will meet the needs, priorities and rights of maintenance groups, provide a decent life and transform beneficiaries into social 'change agents'.

These programs are:



**The Poverty Reduction and Economic Empowerment Program**



**The Protection and Integration Program**



**The Legal Aid Program**







# Legal Aid

## First: Legal consultation

In seeking to enhance the defense of maintenance rights holders we have, over the past year, provided 441 consultations for beneficiaries, along with 269 legal consultations related to personal status matters. Legal Department data from 2021 confirms that alimony cases (including breastfeeding, education, housing rent fees, Iddah , medical treatment and nursing fees) accounted for the highest percentage (52.15 percent) of our consultations, while other issues accounted for 31.47 percent. Meanwhile, applications for a new maintenance provision accounted for 9.29 percent, and divorce (separation, irrevocable divorce with the waiving of matrimonial rights) for 6.8 percent.

Consultations were also given on the impact of divorce on maintenance; the impact of the mother's marriage on the right to custody; the impact of the mother's work on our benefit services; the impact of the settlement on the convict; cases where maintenance is interrupted and impacts beneficiaries; Other consultations addressed the mandate in the marriage contract; the method of issuing birth certificates; claims for gold jewelry; the filing of defamation proceedings; and enforcement procedures for a ruling and/or cheques; the notification, imprisonment, detention, withdrawal and payment of fees on a case file; the possibility of referring an executive file from one court to another; the execution of custody sentence abroad; guardianship sentences; inheritance; collecting benefits; social benefit for children; method of appeal; and retrial and general custody judgments.

We provided legal advice to 533 beneficiaries in 2021, almost double the number (290) of the

previous year. A variety of cases accounted for 29.49 percent of legal consultations with maintenance right holders. Access to maintenance accounted for 15.38 percent of advice/consultation meetings; general nursery and housing fare provision and equal access to our financial services for 11.25 percent; enforcement procedures for 11.06 percent; increased maintenance for 10.88 percent; and the implementation of maintenance provisions, the notification, imprisonment and reservation of money (liens) and the payment of case file fees for 10.69 percent.

Through these consultations, we developed a plan that would make women more aware of how to access their legally guaranteed rights, and which provided legal aid that could be used to collect maintenance. This would enable women to issue detention orders and seize the convict's transferred and immovable funds (see the following section).

## Second: legal aid and the implementation of maintenance, custody and/or visitation provisions

- Eleven maintenance sentences were carried out in 2021 in all areas of the West Bank, seven less than in the previous year. This reflected the urgent need to assist alimony beneficiary groups. They asked for our help in implementing maintenance provisions because of the (economic, health, legal and social) difficulties they encountered when engaging with enforcement departments.
- Issuing a birth certificate for a daughter of a beneficiary after the father abuses his authority by pressurizing his ex-wife, with the aim of preventing the authority from issuing a birth certificate to his



children. We coordinated and communicated with the Ministry of Interior to ensure the certificate was issued. In doing so, we upheld the principle that this is a basic right guaranteed by law.

- We helped a beneficiary to change her divorce proceedings in exchange for a general acquittal of the deferred dowry. We subsequently found the divorce agreement involved the public acquittal of all her rights, which had not been agreed and signed before the judge. We asked the court to review the agreement again in order to correct the divorce proceedings.
- A woman applied to our financial services. However, when we checked her file we found that the maintenance sentences had not been paid by the convict – the sentence was therefore still valid and the convicted was subject to a “seizure to pay maintenance” verdict. After we contacted the convict’s father and asked him to pay, the convict paid the accumulated amount.
- After we, in coordination with the Family Protection Police, submitted a complaint of violation of the custody of a minor, the competent court decided

to return the children to their mother’s custody.

- We assisted in the collection of a debt (7,768 ILS) that one woman had accumulated in her executive files. By negotiating with the convict and guaranteeing collection through a solidarity sponsor, we were able to ensure the payment of the first installment.
- We helped to recover a beneficiary’s detention order after legal aid was provided. We helped to achieve a settlement with the enforcement department in which the convict would make his payment, which was clearly in the best interest of all parties.

We took appropriate legal and social measures, which directly assisted those with an interest in the well-being and conduct of the convicted person. Although this commitment imposes a substantial burden on our under-staffed and under-resourced legal department, we are determined to uphold it, not least because we are the only national body that provides this support.

# The Poverty Reduction & Economic Empowerment Programme

In stressing the economic empowerment of beneficiaries, and especially women, as a fundamental human right, we commit to engage with national and international institutions with the aim of providing entrepreneurship opportunities. The expansion of economic opportunities is a central part of our vision and philosophy and we continually strive to empower beneficiaries to make decisions in a public and private space, and to enhance their participation in public affairs.

As part of our commitment to strengthen women's long-term capacity to develop and manage economic projects we, in partnership with JICA Palestine and the Ministry of National Economy, organized a workshop for 15 beneficiaries in the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce. The workshop was attended by our general director and staff, Toshya Abe (representative of the JICA Palestine office), Khader Daraghma (Director General of Industry and Natural Resources at the Ministry of

National Economy) and Akram Hijazi (Chamber of Commerce). Participants were introduced to the concept of entrepreneurship, and also identified the strengths and weaknesses of their projects and developed marketing strategies that would enable them to overcome future obstacles. In conclusion, they applied their insights and identified lessons for future leaders.

We attach particular importance to this type of training, as we are fully aware that the majority of our women maintenance rights holders have skills in a wide number of areas (including agriculture, food production (including the production of baked goods) and handicrafts). They will clearly benefit from training that will help them to manage their finances, develop and package their products for the local market and market their goods through social media. This training will help them convert their distinctive hobbies into skills and gain clear economic benefits.





### Accounting course that will help women enter the labour market

In order to help women beneficiaries develop skills that will enable them to enter the labour market, we organized the Jerusalem Accounting Programme course, which was held at the Injaz Educational Academy. The participants were 10 maintenance rights holders who live in Hebron governorate – they live in destitution, and are barely able to secure basic food, clothing and housing for themselves and their children. The course acquainted them with basic accounting principles and also helped them learn how to read and understand financial statements and final accounts.



### Empowering maintenance rights holders by providing easy access to technology and communication platforms

“Now, eligible maintenance rights holders can connect to the Internet from Paltel at premium discount prices” - Paltel

In acknowledging the increased use of social media and the Internet for e-learning, we coordinated with Paltel and the Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology (MTIT) to obtain a special and distinctive package for Internet service that would enable

maintenance rights holders to register in Paltel’s “Tamkeen” campaign.

Paltel publicized the three-month offer (October-December 2021) in promotional materials published on our social media pages. It also used text messages and telephone calls to communicate with maintenance rights holders. The aim was to encourage maintenance rights holders to participate in the campaign; in return, they would benefit from a one-year renewable offer based on our joint consensus with Paltel and the MTIT.





# Protection and Integration Program

We have committed a lot of attention to this program because we believe it impacts maintenance rights holders in a number (economic, legal, psychological and social) of ways. In meeting these holders' practical and strategic needs, we can positively impact the community's civil peace.

## Protection

In contributing to the Haya project implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), we conducted awareness-raising sessions that engaged 50 female maintenance rights holders from Hebron's central, northern and southern provinces. This introduced them to concepts of equality, and discrimination, helped them to grasp protection principles, and gave them insight into the family protection bill and some personal status cases. A participatory training methodology enabled participants to explore and activate their capabilities and energies, and also contributed to broader social change that will promote equal opportunities for all social groups.



The distinctive cooperation between PMF and the Chamber of Commerce developed through a series of introductory and cooperative meetings between the two parties that were held over several years. The training sessions were held at the chamber premises and were attended by the deputy head of the Chamber of Commerce and the head of the vocational training unit. The team listened to participant needs, which included job opportunities that would particularly benefit Bachelor degree holders, vocational training courses and adequate housing. This was a positive interaction that:

- 1) Provided the Chamber of Commerce with a list of participants who would be willing to join gold jewelry crafting, sewing and/or design courses (700 training hours each).
- 2) Established a list of female job-seekers who were seeking jobs and who had already communicated with the relevant entities by applying to them. We then communicated with the Chamber Deputy who had personally met with them and helped to establish an employment quota for these female maintenance rights holders.
- 3) Establishing a list of women who lead their families and whose homes needed to be renovated.

“

Participant statements:

“The training was fun and wonderful and had positive effects on my personality as I started to talk and discuss with other participants, and the issues we discussed opened up my future prospects.”

“The topics we learned were distinctive and empowered me to make decisions in my daily life.”

“If I knew previously about PMF along with being aware of my rights, I recall how I was lost in my life passed and how people were blaming me ”

”



“

We received positive participant feedback:

“This course helped me correct some information on how to deal with some different incidents.”

“I’ve acquired skills in the field of self-control and intuitive speed in cases of emergency ”

”

We did not simply stop at the general traditional concept of protection, but went beyond it to enhance the life situation, skills and well-being of women who head their families, and did this with the aim of helping them to deal with emergency incidents with a greater degree of competence. We therefore worked with the Injaz Foundation to jointly coordinate a first aid training workshop in Hebron governorate with the aim of helping participants to deal with respiratory emergencies (such as anaphylaxis and asphyxiation); heart attacks; strokes; fractures; toxins; spinal injuries; and environmental emergencies (including snake bites). They were also shown how to use medicines to protect themselves and their children.

### Integration

In addition to developing relevant policies and measures, we worked to integrate maintenance rights holders into wider society through training and awareness-raising sessions. In this portfolio, trainings were carried out that engaged three groups of maintenance rights holders in the Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron districts of the West



Bank. Participation would empower, develop knowledge and build capacities and skills. The trainings provided theoretical and practical insights that would help participants defend their rights and deal with potential crises.

These trainings were funded by the United Nations Joint Project “Haya”, and 36 training hours were spread across six days. This enhanced maintenance rights holders’ knowledge of communication methods and produced a number of other benefits. They were also able to develop their decision-making capabilities, which is particularly important in an environment where proper support is lacking.

The maintenance rights holders who participated in these workshops emphasized their desire to learn about the violence and protection mechanisms (especially those related to psychological and physical exploitation and cybercrime); in addition, they also emphasized the urgent need for psychological and social support sessions and individual, family and group counselling. They also stressed the need to intensify community work through additional workshops that would raise awareness about the importance of providing support and guidance. They specifically emphasized the need to focus on women maintenance rights holders and ensure they would be provided with the knowledge, skills and education that would promote their economic empowerment and inclusion in wider society and its institutions.





### Entertainment days for women maintenance rights holders and their children

Women beneficiaries who head their families. are exposed to difficult family situations and conditions that can produce economic, psychological and social harms. In acknowledging this, we sought to promote their integration into society by organizing entertainment days. These days, which are held every year, are organized for children and women who are entitled to maintenance and are held in various districts of the West Bank. They provide pleasure and joy as participants interact with new ideas, activities and experiences





and develop their own sense of identity and belonging. Their psychological health and well-being benefit, and they become more ambitious, innovative and imaginative.

In working in partnership with the Businessmen Forum, we organized an entertainment day for 250 participants in the Hebron Governorate. They engaged with performances, joyful activities by the Nabbat Youth Group, a theatrical performance of Nagham Theater, juggling games, competitions, gifts, face painting, henna painting and acrobatics. Mothers and their children expressed their happiness and appreciation to us for the entertainment days.



”  
One child said: “We had a lot of fun on this day and the atmosphere was very nice and joyful “

“  
One mother said: “This beautiful event had given a positive energy to our children, which had made us as mothers, to be happy and delighted.”

### **Partnerships with national and international institutions; promoting the protection and accountability dimensions of justice**

Since being established, we have set out a comprehensive and integrated methodology for service provision, which is based on strong partnerships with governments and non-governmental institutions. This approach will strengthen the rule-of-law by helping maintenance rights holders to access justice; and it will also provide them with economic, legal, psychological and social safety.

# Partnerships & the Institutionalization of Government-Level Relations

## 1. The Council of Ministers

The Palestinian Maintenance Fund was established as a non-ministerial sovereign body and it is required to directly submit administrative reports to the Council of Ministers. We have consistently and continuously coordinated with the Council of Ministers to ensure our active participation in the meetings of national committees and non-governmental coalitions, and this has helped to integrate our maintenance rights holders into relevant national policies and legislation. As a result, we are currently a member of five sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies for the period 2021-2023. We are a member of two national planning mechanisms (the Social Protection Sector Working Group, and the Child Protection Group in Ramallah/Al-Bireh Governorate) and participate in their periodic meetings. We have also formally informed the Palestinian Council of Ministers of our desire to

be included in two sectoral groups, specifically the Justice Sector Working Group (JSWG) and the 1325 Committee.

## 2. Palestinian High Judicial Council

For the purposes of saving time and effort, and ensuring all legal actions are facilitated to help collect disbursed funds in case files, we held a series of meetings with the High Judicial Council in which we discussed work procedures in the enforcement departments.

A meeting between our delegation (headed by our director general Fatmeh Muaqqet) and His Excellency Counselor Issa Abu Sharar discussed procedures for the enforcement departments' workflows, and the alimony files in particular.



### 3. Palestinian Monetary Authority

We sustained our communication and cooperation with the Authority, and inquired about convicted persons' assets in Palestinian banks with the intention of seizing them to repay financial debts owed to us. A 101 seizure decision was applied to 101 sentenced convicts, and charges of between 40 and 10,000 ILS were received from seven convicts.

### 4. Palestinian Retirement Authority

During the course of a follow-up with the Authority, when we inquired about the salaries and/or benefits of those sentenced for the purposes of detention, we discovered that 25 convicts received a salary from the Authority. In accordance with the law and due process, legal proceedings were duly initiated.

### 5. Ministry of Interior

In seeking to recover our assets from convicts who are inside and outside the country, we held several meetings with the Ministry of Interior, in which we discussed the drafting memorandum of understanding (that would activate partnership and increase joint cooperation) and the prosecution of those fleeing justice who had been charged with paying to protect rights holders. The Ministry of Interior is obliged to provide us with any convict-related data or information (including full name, identity number, place of residence, living conditions and other data) that we formally request. In 2021, PMF was provided with identification numbers for six convicts and a life check statement (12) for the convicted. Full support was provided through civil status departments in all governorates, which made it possible to obtain a divorce or marriage certificate that reveals convict data. This reflected the Ministry of Interior's coordination and follow-up with the Ministry of Justice, where it asserted the importance of not giving PMF-indebted convicts a certificate of good conduct.

### 6. Police

In working to uphold the rule-of-law, protect citizens' rights/provisions for maintenance, promote a decent life, sustain fugitive accountability and retrieve our funds, we continued to develop our strategic and ongoing partnership with the Palestinian civil police. In acknowledging the role of the police (in attaining rights, implementing sentences, working on family issues, dealing with cases with absolute



professionalism and simultaneously working as a law enforcement agency and implementing relevant judicial memorandums), we arranged several joint meetings. On 13 December 2021, our staff and provincial police chiefs participated in a workshop that was held at the headquarters of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, where we discussed the challenges (including implementing maintenance provisions, identifying underlying causes, and finding creative solutions) when seeking to hold those who flee justice to account.

Of the challenges to strategic cooperation between the two parties, the administrative division of the West Bank (into Areas A, B and C), and the difficulties involved in accessing Area C in particular, are the most prominent. These challenges are exacerbated by the fact there is no e-linkage between us and the judicial police. Court decisions and detention orders also cannot be implemented because the convicts are Israeli nationals or reside within the Green Line – some do not have a Palestinian identity and actually reside outside the country. In most decisions issued by the courts, we not the main party and are not stipulated in the notes received by the beneficiary. The courts then





fail to inform us of the prison orders that have been carried out and/or the termination of sentences against those fleeing justice. These challenges are further exacerbated by ongoing administrative changes in the police that hinder effective communication between the parties.

One of the solutions put forward was to work on establishing mobile barriers/checkpoints that would apply detention orders to those fleeing justice. It is also important to proceed with the establishment of an electronic network (that conjoins us with the judicial police), as this will make it possible for us to follow up on detention orders that the High Judicial Council issues in our favour – this will mean we have priority implementation when these decisions reach the police. We will also arrange regular visits to maintain constant communication with police offices, as this will help to overcome administrative changes in the system. In return, we need the police to continuously communicate with us so that we are informed about prison orders that have been carried out and/or the end of the sentences of those fleeing justice.

#### **7. Ministry of Women's Affairs**

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Ministry in an effort to create a joint framework that will achieve harmony and integration between

the two parties, and further promote the principles of justice and the rule-of-law. This memorandum established a basis for cooperation in a number of areas, including the development of the system of legislation. It also establishes a basis for the exchange of data and information and follow-up in our respective fields. The implementation of a series of information programs will highlight our complementary roles. This will establish cooperation and partnership, which will be further embodied in joint awareness workshops that we jointly organize (the target groups will be identified later) and joint participation in the planning and implementation of national events. The Memorandum of understanding is an essential part of the establishment and dissemination women's empowerment and gender equality in various sectors. It is one of the most important mechanisms that will facilitate the implementation of the National Policy Agenda and cross-sectoral strategic plans (for 2020-2022,) promote human rights principles and enable access to justice on the terms established by international conventions (acceded to by the State of Palestine) and the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

#### **8. Ministry of Public Works and Housing**

In order to ensure maintenance rights holders (and especially those in our housing services) received





the best service, we held a series of meetings with the Ministry in which we discussed cooperation mechanisms that would provide technical and engineering support. A memorandum of understanding is currently being drafted, which will involve the Ministry committing to provide technical support to those who we identify as being most in need of adequate housing.

### **9. Ministry of Communications and Information Technology**

The continued and rapid development of the IT sector has forced us to keep pace with frameworks and policies that will help achieve sustainability. By doing this, we hope to make our services transparent and easy-to-use.

We therefore continued to discuss mechanisms of joint cooperation with the Ministry, which the official body responsible for building a society that is capable of communicating through the latest communication and information technologies. This can be achieved by creating a strong and advanced infrastructure that enhances cooperation and integration between state institutions. This infrastructure should be supported by an e-government system that is implemented through the national data carrier system (X-road) – this

will help to provide quality services with the minimum expenditure of time and effort.

### **10. Ministry of Social Development**

We have continued to communicate and work with the Ministry in Ramallah Governorate with the aim of enabling eligible maintenance rights holders to access our services. As a result, five women were able to receive health insurance and ministerial services. We have also continued to investigate a number of cases in which maintenance rights holders with outstanding claims have applied to access several of the Ministry's services. Some have not received any response, and we reassured them they would, in accordance with due process, have the right to access the service in accordance with due process. We have also referred 50 maintenance rights holders to health insurance and other Ministry-provided services.

### **11. Health Sector**

During 2021, we continued to communicate with maintenance rights holders with the aim of referring them to doctors and other forms of health-related support. Six maintenance rights holders were transferred to partner doctors who believe it is their responsibility to give back to society.



# Partnership Activities



وزارة الحكم المحلي - دولة فلسطين

January 3, 2021

البيرة ٢٠٢١-٢٠٢٣: التقى وزير الحكم المحلي م. مجدي الصالح في مكتبه اليوم الأحد، مع مدير عام صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني فاطمة المؤقت، حيث اطلع على آلية عمل الصندوق وتدخلاته خلال العام الماضي والفئات التي يستهدفها بفعالياته في مختلف المصافيات، بدوره، أشاد الصالح بالجهود التي تبذلها طواقم الصندوق والأدوار التي يقوم بها في حماية حقوق الفئات المستفيدة من الصندوق، مؤكداً جاهزية الوزارة واستعدادها للتعاون الكامل، من أجل مساعدة الصندوق في تحسين نوعية الخدمات التي يقدمها وتحقيق الصيانة الكريمة



وزارة الاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات - Ministry of Telecom & IT Palestine

January 10, 2021

وزير الاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات د.م. إسحق سدر يجتمع بمدير عام النفقة الفلسطينية أ.فاطمة مؤقت للتعرف على طبيعة عمل الصندوق والدور الذي يقوم به لتحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية .



وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان - دولة فلسطين

April 28, 2021

صندوق النفقة يكرم زيارة ويبعثان استمرار التعاون المشترك  
رام الله - بحث وزير الأشغال العامة والإسكان د.محمد زيارة، اليوم، مع رئيس صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني فاطمة المؤقت، والوفد المرافق لها سبل استمرار التعاون والدعم الفني والمهندسي من الوزارة لصندوق النفقة الفلسطيني، وما تحتاجه الحالات الإنسانية من عمليات ترفيم للبيوت وإعادة تأهيل.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني

June 6, 2021

توقيع مذكرة تفاهم بين الصندوق ووزارة شؤون المرأة  
اعلن صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني ممثلاً بالاستاذة المحامية فاطمة المؤقت مدير عام الصندوق ووزارة شؤون المرأة ممثلة بالدكتورة أمل حمد وزيرة المرأة اليوم عن توقيع مذكرة تفاهم للتعاون بين الطرفين للقضايا ذات الاهتمام المشترك، وذلك لخلق إطار عمل مشترك بما يحقق التناغم والتكامل بينهما من أجل الوصول إلى توحيد مبادئ العدالة وسيادة القانون.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)





**صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني**  
July 13, 2021

انطلاقاً من فلسفة الصندوق في الدفاع عن حقوق الأطفال في اللعب والمشاركة في أنشطة ثقافية وإبداعية، نظم صندوق النفقة مهرجاناً ترفيهياً اليوم وبالشراكة مع ملتقى رجال الأعمال للأطفال المستحقين للنفقة في محافظة الخليل. وشارك في اللقاء ٢٥ طفل وأمهاتهم.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



**صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني**  
October 7, 2021

شركاء في المسؤولية  
الصندوق يعقد مؤتمراً تشاركياً للخروج بسياسات لضمان تحقيق غاياته

عقد صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني اليوم ورشة عمل تشاركية بعنوان "المساءلة والحماية" في مقر جمعية الهلال الفلسطيني مع عدد من شركائه من القطاع العام والخاص ومؤسسات المجتمع المدني، لتسليط الضوء على أبرز إنجازات الصندوق والمعوقات التي يواجهها في استرداد أمواله من المكلفين بدفع النفقة لكل من: الأطفال، كبار السن، النساء وذوي الإعاقة لغايات تحقيق سيادة للقانون.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



**صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني**  
August 19, 2021

عقد ورشة تدريبية في مجال قيادة الأعمال للنساء المعيلات لأسرهن والمستحقات للنفقة من الصندوق

إيماناً من صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني بأهمية التمكين الاقتصادي للنساء المستحقات للنفقة باعتباره حق إنساني أساسي، نظم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني بالشراكة مع مكتب جايسا فلسطين ووزارة الاقتصاد الوطني ورشة عمل لـ ١٥ مشاركة مستحقة للنفقة، اليوم في الغرفة التجارية رام الله.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



**صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني**  
October 7, 2021

حصاد التميز...

الصندوق يعلن في مؤتمره الإعلامي عن فوزه بجائزة منظمة التعاون الإسلامي

عقد صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني مؤتمراً إعلامياً للإعلان عن حصوله على جائزة التميز المقدمة من منظمة التعاون الإسلامي تقديراً لإنجازاته الاستثنائية في الحماية والدفاع عن حقوق الفئات المستحقة ممن تحلى عنهم المكلفين بدفع النفقة لهم.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)





صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني  
December 13, 2021

ورشة عمل تشاركية... تجسيدا لجسور الشراكة بين صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني والشرطة القضائية عقد صندوق النفقة اليوم ورشة عمل مشتركة بمقر جمعية الهلال الأحمر الفلسطيني، لبحث التحديات التي تواجه الطرفين في تنفيذ أحكام النفقة، وتشخيص أسبابها وإيجاد حلول إبداعية لغايات مساءلة الفارين من وجه العدالة.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني  
October 31, 2021

المؤقت تهني اللواء يوسف الحلو بمناسبة توليه منصب مدير عام الشرطة قدمت الأستاذة فاطمة المؤقت مدير عام صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني اليوم اللواء يوسف الحلو التهنية والتبريكات على الثقة العالية التي أولاهها إياه فطامة السيد الرئيس لتوليته منصب مدير عام الشرطة متمنية له النجاح. وقد أكدت المؤقت في مكتب اللواء على أهمية تعزيز الشراكة الحقيقية وتطوير آليات العمل المشترك. وقد شددت المؤقت على الدور المعظم الذي تلعبه الشرطة في إحقاق الحق وتنفيذ الأحكام وملاحقة قضايا الأسرة والتعامل معها بمهنية مطلقة باعتبارها جهة إنفاذ للقانون وتعمل على تنفيذ المذكرات القضائية ذات العلاقة.



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني  
November 9, 2021

ملحم مشيدا بالقيم الإنسانية والحقوقية التي تحكم عمل صندوق النفقة زار المتحدث الرسمي باسم الحكومة الفلسطينية الأستاذ إبراهيم ملحم اليوم صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني بمقره في رام الله، وأثنى على الدور الذي يلعبه الصندوق في تحقيق العدالة، باعتباره هيئة سيادية غير وزارية يفخر بها كل فلسطيني، كونه شكل تجربة رائدة عربيا. مشيرا إلى دوره الوطني الهام، في رسم السياسات والتشريعات لتجربته الرائدة في معالجة القضايا الحيوية التي تمس حياة المواطنين والمواطنات.

[اقرأ المزيد...](#)



صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني  
December 15, 2021

توقيع مذكرة تفاهم بين الصندوق والبنك الوطني أعلن صندوق النفقة الفلسطيني ممثلا بالأستاذة المحامية فاطمة المؤقت مدير عام الصندوق، والممثل عن البنك الوطني الأستاذ سلامة خليل الرئيس التنفيذي للبنك الوطني عن توقيع مذكرة تفاهم للتعاون بين الطرفين للقضايا ذات الاهتمام المشترك، وذلك لخلق إطار عمل مشترك بما يحقق التناسق والتناغم والتكامل بينهما من أجل الوصول إلى توطيد مبادئ العدالة وسيادة القانون.





### **Policies and legislation development at the national level: Accountability and Protection Conference - Ramallah**

On 6th October 2021, the Palestinian Maintenance Fund held a participatory conference (“Accountability and Protection”) at the headquarters of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. This conference was attended by a number of Fund partners from the public and private sectors and civil society institutions, and it was intended to provide insight into our most prominent achievements and the challenge we continue to face. We placed specific emphasis on collecting maintenance on behalf of children, adults, women and people with disabilities and continued to reiterate and underline the importance of respecting and upholding the rule-of-law.

“

“Our conference today is participatory, planning space for reflection, dialogue and perhaps for conflict. It is in essence a transformative process that aims to examine the challenges facing the work of PMF and to develop participatory creative solutions that give meanings with a Palestinian flavor to what partnership is, deepening it, and leading to its institutionalization.”

**Fatmeh Muaqqet, Director General**

”

The conference concluded with a set of recommendations that included drafting policies that will sustain our efforts to prosecute those fleeing from justice and ensure payment of alimony to those who deserve it. In doing so, we emphasized that our funds are public funds and therefore have a privileged status. Other recommendations included institutionalizing the relationship with partners by signing memoranda of understanding; establishing e-linkage between us and various partners; and prioritizing our requests and speeding up responses so that the money of convicts is not smuggled.



### **A participatory workshop... an embodiment of our partnership with the Judicial Police**

We held a joint workshop at the headquarters of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, with the aim of discussing the challenges that our partners and us encounter when we implement alimony provisions. It was hoped this would identify causes of existing problems and contribute to creative solutions that will make fugitives accountable.

Fatmeh Muaqqet, our director general, welcomed the attendees and stressed the importance of our strategic partnership with the judicial police, and reiterated its importance in holding fugitives fleeing justice to account. We proposed to develop this partnership by working on a set of fund recovery procedures, acknowledged the importance of regular meetings and committed to develop creative solutions that operate in a rule-of-law framework.

Brigadier Muhannad Sawan, director of the judicial police department, praised our exceptional role in protecting the rights of maintenance holders and holding fugitives to account. He also reiterated the importance of holding continuous meetings with the Judicial Police and again stressed the need to discuss legal procedures with the aim of developing optimal

solutions that will promote the rule-of-law. Hadeel Al-Rubai, our legal department's director-general, stressed the importance of building a balanced citizen-state relationship that upholds the rule-of-law. She said this could be achieved by implementing judicial rulings, prosecuting fugitives who flee justice and ensuring individuals meet their responsibilities.

### **The Maintenance Fund honors Dr. Zeyara and discusses joint cooperation**

Dr. Muhammad Zeyara, the minister of public works and housing, met with Fatmeh Muaqet, our director-general, to discuss ways of establishing continued cooperation, providing technical support and repairing and rehabilitating homes in response to extreme cases of humanitarian need. Dr Zeyara stressed the importance of continuing to work with us and reiterated the ministry's readiness to continue cooperation by providing the best service to those in need of humanitarian support and marginalized groups. In doing so, he again underlined his ministry's social responsibility to these groups. Al- Muaqet thanked the minister and his staff for the assistance and previous cooperation, and said we would assist with key aspects of future cooperation . The two parties agreed a memorandum of understanding, which established the ministry would provide technical support to the our humanitarian cases. At the end of the meeting, we honored the minister by providing a certificate of appreciation, in acknowledgement of his kind cooperation and technical support.

### **On February 2021 ,14, we held an awareness-raising meeting with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (entitled: "Partners in Securing the Right to Alimony")**

This meeting sought to introduce participants to the mechanisms of our work and the services we provide, which include enhancing access to alimony rights by paying the value of judgments that cannot be implemented for deserving groups (including children, the elderly, women and those unable to earn). We also prosecute those fleeing the implementation of alimony provisions by cooperating with various partners (including police, the Monetary and Land Authority, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Finance) to ensure appropriate legal measures are taken.

### **Our participation in partner workshops**

- As a member of the Child Protection Network, we participated in two network workshops (the "Report on Palestinian Children's Rights"; and Child Sexual Abuse). These workshops, which were held in March and June, addressed the types of abuse and violence that persons with disabilities experience and also identified mechanisms that could be used to detect mental disabilities at an early stage, enhance their mental health, explore their potential and integrate them back into society after they experience trauma. Similar themes were explored in two-day workshops that were arranged with the Jabal Al Najma Rehabilitation Centre, which were held in July and November.
- We participated in several workshops held by the Ministry of Women this year. They updated and developed the Violence Combatting Strategy 2020-2030, and the 2021 survey of Palestinian women's cases.
- In operating within a framework that seeks to strengthen and institutionalize our relationship with the various ministries, improve our service provision and respond to a specific request from the Planning Department, we drafted six memorandums of understanding with various entities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Development and the Dar al-Ataa Association.



# Partnership & Institutionalization of the Relationship with the Private & Charitable Sector

This year, we have spared no effort in seeking to communicate with private sector companies and philanthropists (in Palestine and abroad) with the aim of gaining in-kind and financial contributions, and ensuring continued service provision to the most vulnerable in Palestinian society.

In order to ensure there are sufficient financial resources to achieve the sustainability of our services, we have obtained basic and long-term funding from national and international actors. In 2021, we prepared a list of donors that include institutions and individuals from the private sector in Palestine and abroad. We then held meetings to identify potential

areas for joint action and the accessing of in-kind and cash contributions.

## Business Forum

In order to meet our Fund obligations to maintenance rights holders and assume all responsibilities, we held a number of meetings with the Palestinian Business Forum, where we discussed joint projects and opportunities for cooperation that would enable the most vulnerable to experience joy to the greatest extent possible. This will in turn lead to social justice and economic and social support for women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities





## Cooperation with banks

On the basis of the moral and national responsibility of nation-building, and in acknowledgement of the fact that maintenance rights holders are authentic pillars of the nation, we signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Bank. This acknowledged and again reiterated the extent to which our mission and objectives overlap. The National Bank's mission is to economically enable the services we provide to maintenance rights holders, including Palestinian women and children abandoned by their parents. The Bank has also acknowledged the importance of Palestinian women in the economic process, and their potential to contribute to increased GDP and, by extension, the national economy.

The exemption from the commission of account management, which is a kind of economic support for women and their children, is one of the most prominent items in the agreement to serve beneficiary groups (especially women). The Bank also provides a unique special comprehensive banking program to empower Palestinian women – it provides accounts and loans of all kinds (and different cards) on special and flexible terms. As part of the Bank's social responsibility activities, it provided US\$ 5,000 to cover the costs of our activities that support entitled maintenance rights holders.

## International Charity Organization - UAE

In acknowledgement of the intersection of our mission with the functions of the International Charitable Organization - UAE, we contacted them this year and put forward a proposal for the project "Sponsor an abandoned child". We have already held a number of meetings, and expect a cooperation mechanism to be developed over the next year.

## Relief Society 48

In the third quarter of this year, we reached out to Igatha 48, an international humanitarian relief organization based inside historic Palestine (1948), which has an enabling, development-based, collaborative and realistic vision. It works in the charitable field with all social group, which very closely aligns with our vision of social engagement. We participated in a number of meetings at the Association's headquarters in Ramallah and Bethlehem, and agreed to provide guarantees to the children of a number of women beneficiaries: this would help to improve their living conditions and provide us with additional financial resources.



# Bilateral Partnerships & the Institutionalization of the Relationship with International Institutions

## Office of the Representative of Norway in Palestine and UNWOMEN

We completed our correspondence with the Office of the Representative of Norway in 2020. After our management held a series of meetings, we met Office and UNWOMEN representatives at the Norwegian Representative's Office in Palestine to discuss ways to cooperate and support our services (particularly those focused on women) and integrate future support into our programmes and activities. In late 2021, an initial consensus emerged that proposed to support maintenance rights holders through a joint project with UN Women that would be supported by the Government of Norway. This project, which would aim to contribute to economic empowerment and community protection in 2022, would:

- Promote women's access to protection and accountability services.
- Establish women beneficiaries of our services as key partners who will work to promote the realization of their social and economic rights in a supportive community environment.
- Increase the capacity of maintenance rights holders to enhance their recognition as agents of social and economic change.

## Government of Sweden

In 2020, the Swedish government confirmed that our work aligns with the priorities outlined in its strategy. We accordingly submitted a concept paper for a

project proposal that requested funding for activities. This paper was based on the Swedish Government's assessment of the possibility of developing a potential long-term partnership through a competitive partner selection process. But the funding support was ultimately given to another institution that incorporated climate-related development goals into its proposal – this was disappointing because, in our view, our proposal could have benefitted beneficiary groups.

## Sawasya II Programme - United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

As part of the renewal of cooperation with the Joint Rule of Law Programme (Sawasya II) that is implemented through UNDP, the programme's action plan was reviewed, and a number of preliminary meetings were held between the respective managements. These meetings sought to identify ways of cooperating that would support access to justice for maintenance rights holders. We put forward a proposal to provide immediate access to legal aid services that would, in accordance with the program's 2022-23 plan, formally initiate cooperation in the first quarter of 2022. This program would:

- Establish an enabling legislative and political environment for groups who benefit from our services. This environment would operate in accordance with national laws and frameworks and international human rights standards.
- Improve the quality and efficiency of our services for both maintenance rights holders and relevant parties.
- Strengthen our role at the national and regional levels.



### United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)

In accordance with the aforementioned efforts to communicate diligently with UNFPA and establish continuous contact with the aim of discussing bilateral cooperation, we jointly signed a memorandum of understanding with Palestinian Working Women Society for Development (PWWSD). This agreement contributed US\$90,000 in funding and was part of the Joint “Haya” project that sought to end violence against women. Legal staff in the central, northern and southern regions were hired to provide legal services (provide consultations and follow-ups and, in coordination with national institutions, issue detention orders against convicts) to beneficiary groups, and women in particular. This would, in addition to vocational training, help women find employment and be more aware of their rights. This would help to alleviate the economic burdens that have, in combination with political and social conditions, produced an increase in gender-based violence.



Joint networking meetings and workshops with government institutions were also funded by ministries and official bodies and civil society and media institutions who operate in the West Bank. This was intended to contribute to policies and legislation that would improve the lives of maintenance rights holders by providing a comprehensive service basket.





The production of audio-visual information knowledge material and radio campaigns were also funded. These episodes and campaigns hosted a number of experts and academics who work in the fields of law and social and psychological support, along with representatives from the public and private sectors who stressed the importance of strategic partnership with us in helping to protect, support and empower maintenance rights holders. This cooperation is expected to continue into the year 2022, and there will henceforth be a strong focus on supporting women through various activities.

### **Japan Agency for International Cooperation (JICA)**

After we 'reached out' to the Agency, we received a commitment to provide technical cooperation that would build the capacities of Fund staff to draft a feasibility study; the Agency also said it would build the capacities of our maintenance rights holders by providing training programs through local and Japanese experts that would help the Palestinian people to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development. A training course that engaged 15 maintenance rights holders from all provinces was held in the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce, and was intended to develop the ability of maintenance rights holders to manage their projects through coordination with our Planning Department.

### **Italian cooperation (on behalf of the EU Gender Technical Working Group):**

In October 2021, we accepted an invitation to attend the regular meeting of the EU Gender Equality Technical Group and discussed coordination with the European Union and the Italian Agency for International Cooperation. As a co-member of this group, we issued a statement about how gender equality and social justice for women can best be achieved. We also spoke about how gender-based violence can be overcome by raising community awareness and focusing primarily on males as part of the solution rather than part of a problem (a lesson we learned from real-life stories in our's beneficiary groups). We expect cooperation to continue into 2022, and for 'best practice' justice and equality gender interventions to emerge and develop.





## Part Two

Maintenance rights holders are active  
in changing their social, legal and  
economic lives



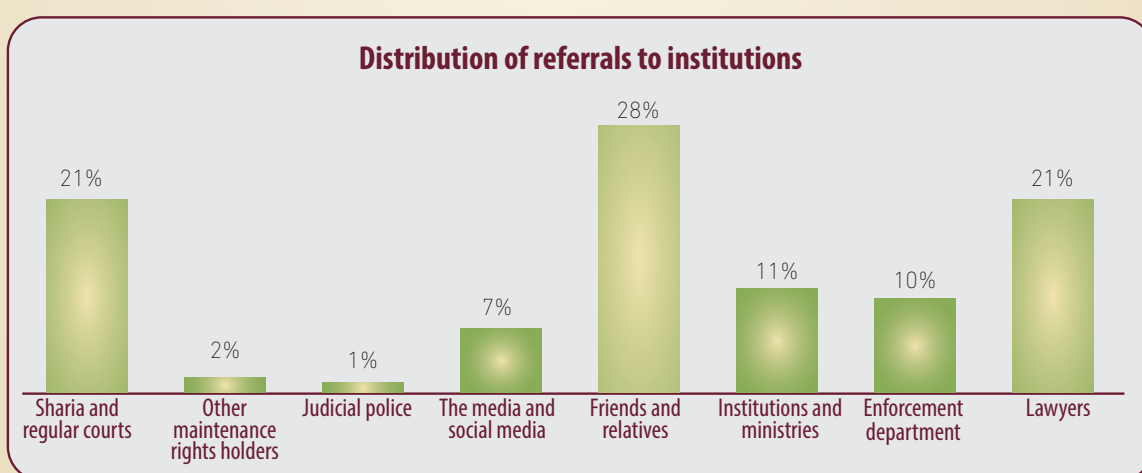




We have invested all means available (visual, audio and written media) to disseminate knowledge of us and our work. We have produced introductory and special videos of beneficiary groups (women and children) with the aim of demonstrating how the right to maintenance impacts their lives. A campaign (“The maintenance fund makes us relatives”) detailed the special moments our staff experienced during their work to improve maintenance rights holders’ lives. We also carried out several activities that included face-to-face meetings with a number of government and non-governmental institutions and communicating with enforcement departments, lawyers and others. A weekly radio episode was prepared by the Media Department and, in cooperation with Bethlehem Radio 2000, presented with the intention of developing a quality feminist discourse that would strengthen the protection and accountability elements of justice, along with its overall values.

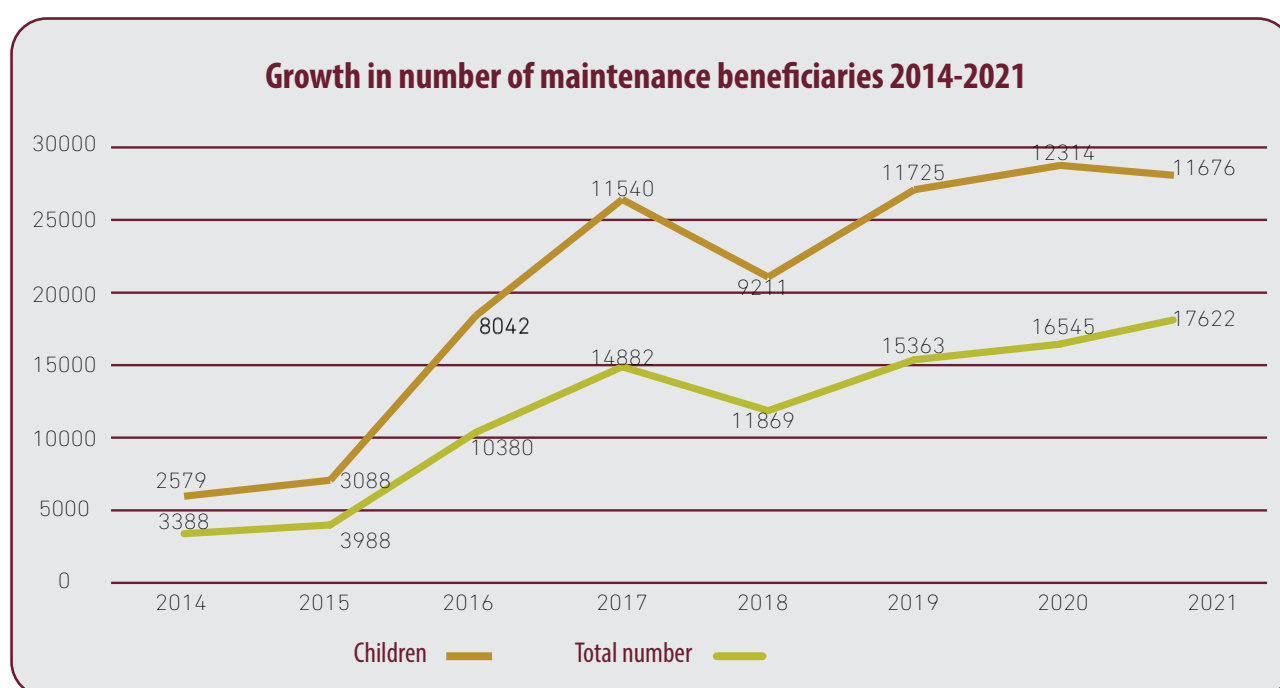
An open radio wave was also organized in collaboration with UNFPA with the aim of helping public opinion better understand the challenges that face our work. We felt this would make a helpful contribution to deepening partnerships with relevant parties from the public and private sectors, and would help to ensure the rights of those entitled to maintenance are met, resulting in a better and more dignified life for maintenance rights holders.

Legal department data provided insight into the referral authorities by showing that friends and relatives formed the largest referral group (28.42 percent). This indicates that good knowledge of us and our work and an understanding and awareness of the rights we guarantee will, in combination with the efforts of individuals, play an important role in public outreach and engagement. This also lends support to our efforts to generate additional work by intensifying our engagement through the media and social media. Lawyers and Sharia and regular courts were the second largest referral group (20.52 percent), followed by institutions and ministries (11.05 percent). ‘Distribution of Referrals to Institutions’ shows the relative distribution of maintenance rights holders:



The total number of beneficiaries totaled 17,622, a small increase on the totals for 2019 (15,363) and 2020 (16,454). However, this gap was actually substantially larger, as the final total of maintenance rights holders actually came to 21,218, as a result of non-payment of benefits to maintenance rights holders for two consecutive months. Accordingly, when compared against the 2020 data, the number of maintenance rights holders increased by 29 percent; when compared against the 2019 data, this number increased by 39 percent.

The data show that children accounted for the largest proportion of maintenance rights holders, with a total number of 11,676. In 2019, the total was 11,725 whereas in the following year it was (12,314). This confirmed a decrease rate of 99 percent (2019) and 95 percent (2020). 'Growth in number of maintenance beneficiaries 2014-2021' shows the increase in the number of child maintenance rights holders.

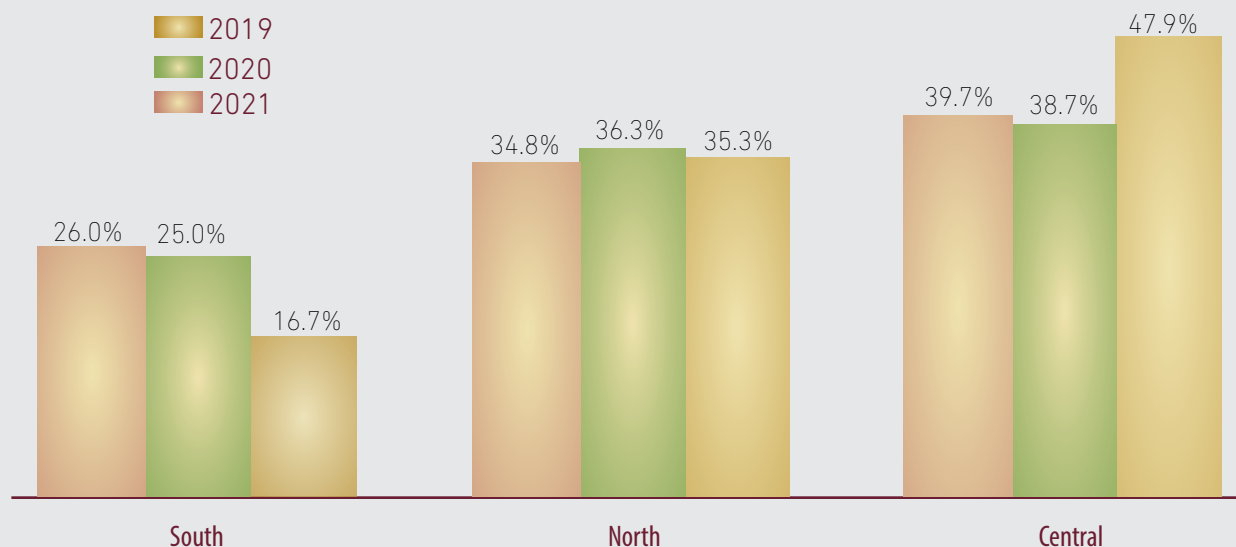


### Maintenance rights holders who head families

The total number of women maintenance rights holders who head families and receive Fund financial services came to 599 in 2021, meaning they account for 8 percent of total maintenance rights holders. When compared against the 2020 figure (551), this showed a small increase that occurred across all geographical areas (central, north and south) where we operate. Legal Department data shows that the central region (Ramallah-Al-Bireh governorates, Jerusalem, Salfit and Jericho) of the West Bank continued to

account for the highest number of women who benefitted from maintenance in the three year period: 47.9 percent in 2019; 38.7 percent in 2020; and 39.07 percent in 2021; the northern regions (Nablus, Tubas, Qalqilya, Jenin and Tulkarem) follow, with 34.8 percent in 2021, 36.3 percent in 2020 and 35.3 percent in 2019. The southern region (Hebron and Bethlehem governorates) accounted for 26.04 percent in 2021, 25 percent in 2020 and 16.7 percent in 2019.

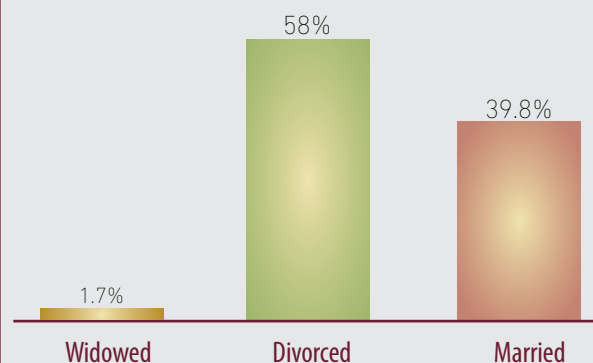
### Percentage rate for women maintenance rights holders divided by area: 2019-2021



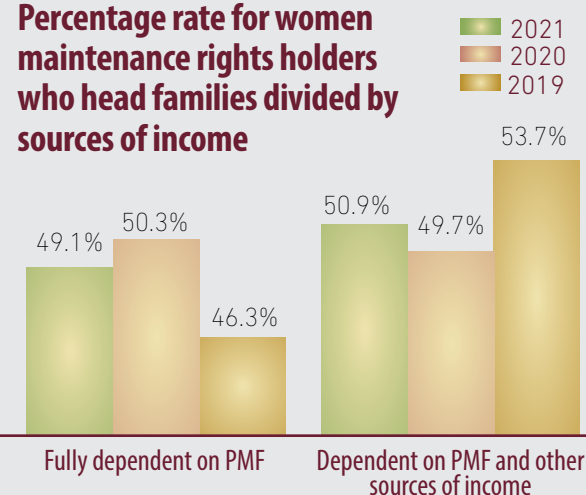
### Distribution of married and head-of-family women among maintenance rights holders

With regard to the social/marital status of women who benefit from our work and head families, the chart shows over half (58 percent) are divorced, 30 percent are still in a marital relationship with the convicted and 9.8 percent are married to a non-convict spouse. Widows account for 1.6 percent – these women are either legal guardians or maintenance rights holders who deserve a mother's alimony.

### Percentage rate for women maintenance rights holders divided by marital status



### Percentage rate for women maintenance rights holders who head families divided by sources of income



### Income Sources

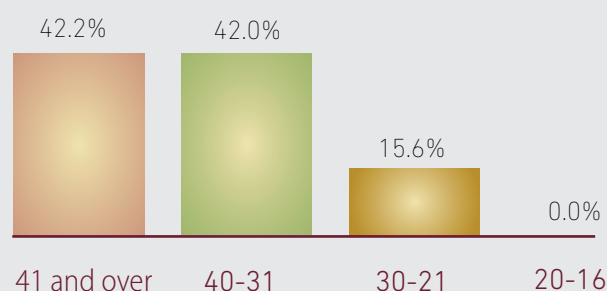
In 2021, the percentage of women and families who benefit from maintenance (and are fully dependent on PMF) was 49 percent in 2021, compared with 50.3 percent in 2020 and 46.3 percent in 2019. The percentage of women who rely on other sources of income (fixed and non-fixed) and their PMF income was 51 percent in 2021, compared to 49.7 percent in 2020 and 53.7 percent in 2019.



### Age distribution of women who head families and benefit from maintenance

Women in the age group 41- accounted for the highest percentage (42.2 percent) of women when compared to other age groups who benefit from PMF's work. They were closely followed by women aged 31-40 (42 percent) and women aged 21-30 (15.6 percent).

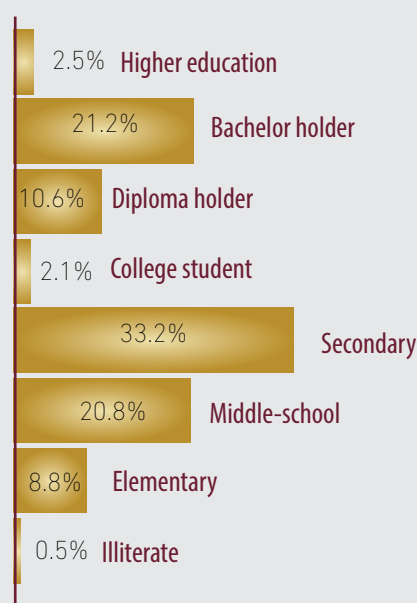
### Percentage rate for women maintenance rights holders by age



### Educational level of women maintenance rights holders who head families

'Educational level of women maintenance rights holders who head families' confirmed that the highest percentage of beneficiaries were educated to secondary level (33.2 percent) and the lowest percentage were illiterate (0.5 percent).

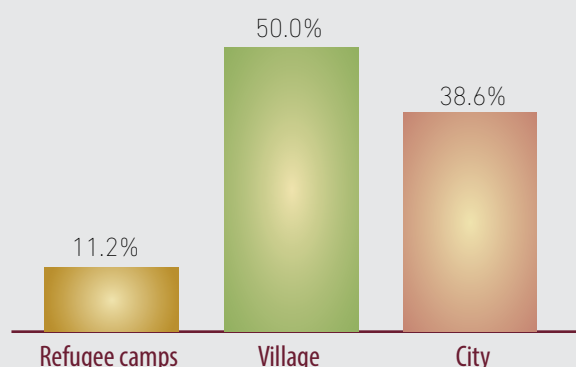
### Percentage rate for women maintenance rights holders who head families by level of education



### Housing communities for women maintenance rights holders of maintenance who head families

Women who head their families and receive our maintenance were mostly based in villages (49.7 percent), cities (38.3 percent) and refugee camps (11.1 percent).

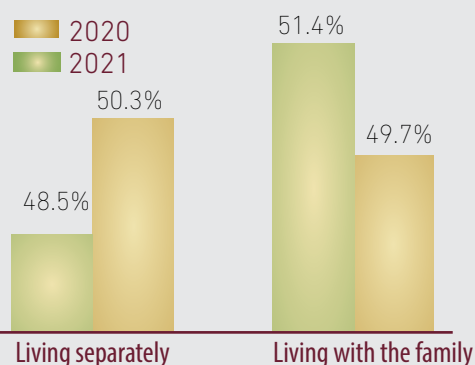
### Percentage rate of women maintenance rights holders who head families housing community



### Living with parents or separately from parents

Most women maintenance rights holders who receive alimony live independently (48.5 percent), a slight fall from the previous year (50.3 percent). More lived with parents (51.4 percent), a slight increase on 2020 (49.7 percent). The high number of women who live independently confirms our contribution to helping them live independently.

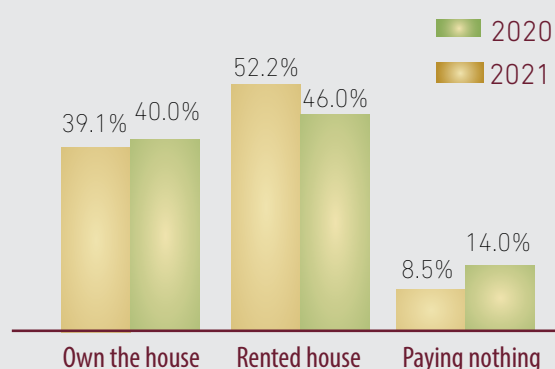
### Distribution of women- headed households in term of living (with the family or separately)



### Type of residence ownership for Women-Headed households beneficiaries living separately from their parents

Of women-headed families who benefit from alimony and live separately from their families, the same data indicates 52.2 percent of families lived in rented homes in 2021, compared to 45.8 percent in the previous year. But 39.1 percent of beneficiaries live in homes owned by their husband or parents, compared to 39.7 percent for the previous year. The percentage of families who reside separately for free (in houses owned by the women's beneficiary families) was 8.5 percent for 2021, compared to 14.4 percent for 2020.

### Women- Headed households beneficiaries living separately in terms of residence ownership



### Disbursement for maintenance rights holders

The value of received final provisions received was 5,598,610 ILS, of which 5,149,494 shekels were disbursed, meaning 92 percent of received final provisions were dispersed. These amounts only cover a 10-month period, and this is because of new disbursement criteria and greater quality control for maintenance rights holders that was achieved through personal information updates. The total value of the provisions in 2020 was 5,960,690 ILS. In 2019, the total amount of provisions was 5,022,030 shekels, of which 5,290,588 ILS were disbursed, producing a disbursement rate of 106 percent. 'Type of housing (rented, owned, with no fees) for women maintenance rights holders who head their families' compares total alimony disbursement and operational revenue over a three-year period.

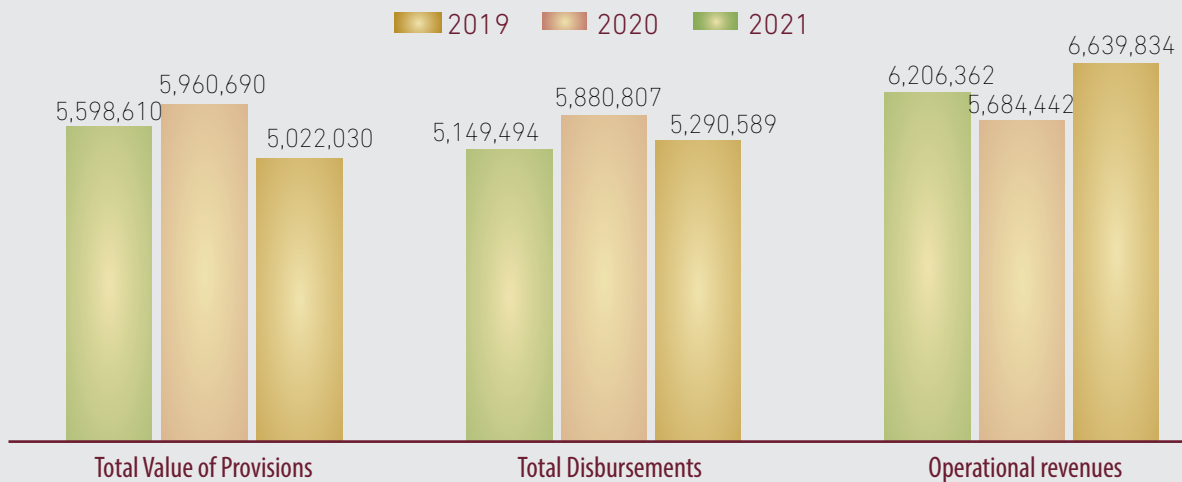
5,149,494 ILS was disbursed to maintenance rights holders in the form of marriage contracts, divorce papers and birth certificates; operational revenues amounted to 6,206,362 ILS, producing a percentage rate of 82.9 percent. In 2020, the disbursement rate was 103 percent and in 2019 it was 80 percent. In 2021, we disbursed alimony throughout the year to a total of 5946 families; in 2020, the figure was 6,290 families (see case files); and in 2019 it was 6,045 families. A comparison of 2021 and 2020 showed a decrease of 5 percent and a comparison of 2021 and 2019 showed a decrease of one percent.

The overall disbursement rate decrease was 22 percent. This was obtained by comparing the 2021 average family disbursement (case file) amount (763.62 ILS) to the 2020 (934.82 ILS) and 2019 (874.91 ILS) figures.

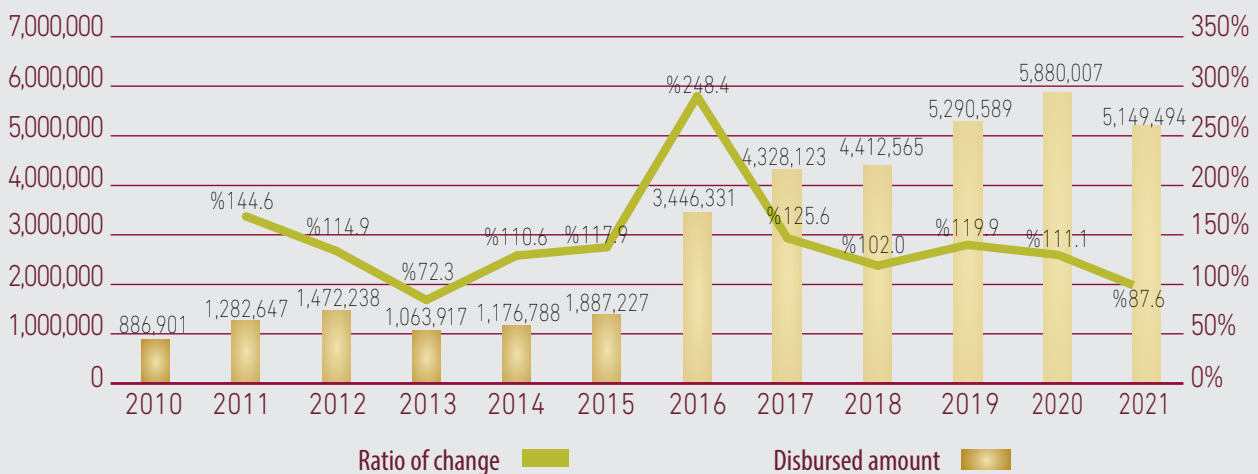
'PMF Disbursements to beneficiaries 2010-2021' indicates the disbursement of funds to alimony beneficiaries in the relevant period.

The total financial receivables for PMF's maintenance rights holders amounted to 31,524,620,50 ILS in 2021. 'Comparison between collections and receivable balances' provides a value-based comparison of the collections

### Distribution of maintenance court provisions, disbursements, operating expenses 2019-2021



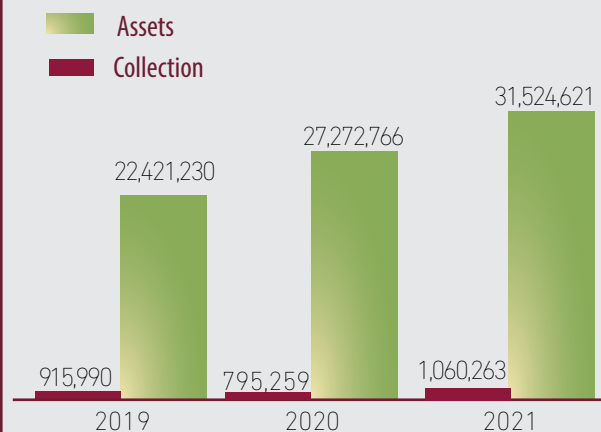
### PMF Disbursements to beneficiaries 2010-2021



and receivable balances for maintenance rights holders in the period 2019-21.

In every year, the system of settlements for convicts is developed, and is based on their condition and controls and conditions that have emerged from the previous practical experience of concluding settlements. This is an acknowledgement both of differences in convict circumstances and the limitation of exceptions that can be effectively used to recover money that has been disbursed to convicts.

### Comparison of collections against assets



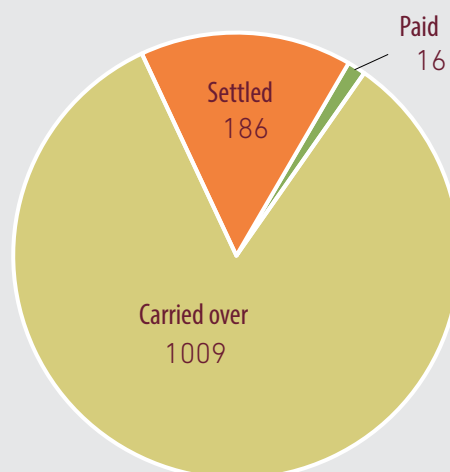


## Actions taken to recover money

121 executive files were followed up on in 2021, including 1009 carried-over files, 186 files in which we legally replaced the convicted, and 16 paid/settled files. 'Distribution of executive cases (settled, carried over, paid)' shows the classification of the executive files in 2021.

We also initiated a series of legal measures against convicts from various West Bank regions. This included issuing imprisonment orders against 593 convicts, of which 113 were enforced after diligent follow-up to executive files that could not be implemented. 4,464 legal (preliminary and final) measures were taken. 2992 follow-ups to executive files were presented to the courts, including 1392 imprisonment orders that were implemented. 'Final Legal Procedures taken by PMF' details the most notable and final legal measures (which, in addition to other actions, totaled 2143) that we took to retrieve money in 2021.

### Executive files breakdown



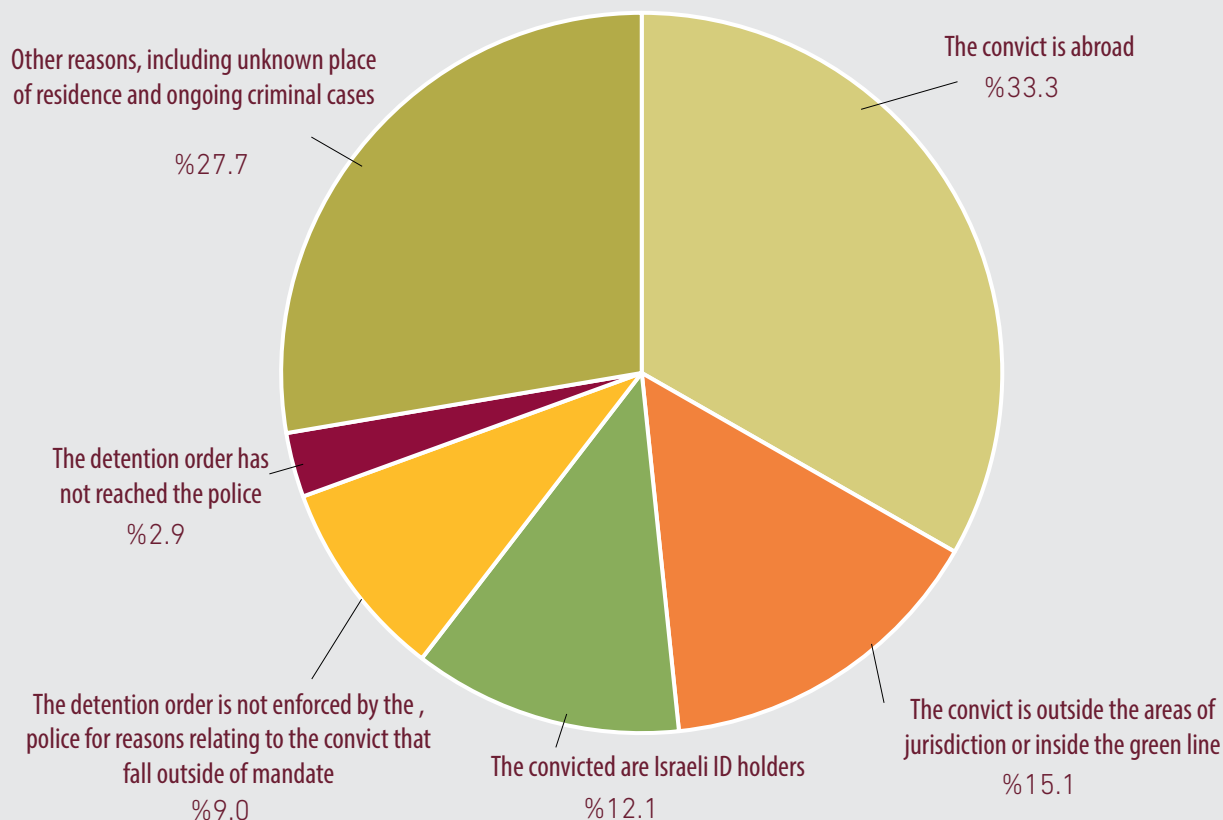
Item	# of cases	% of total
Imprisonment orders	1392	64.9
Seizure of money	30	1.39
Settlements	38	1.77
Collection/receipt of a check	225	10.49
Search and investigation of convicts' money and/or seizure	338	15.77
Withdrawal from the executive file; in 2 cases, the judge approved withdrawal	19	0.88
Release of liens	2	0.09
Retrieve a detention order and/or issue a release order	73	3.4
An executive appeal and/or receipt of an executive decision	8	0.37
Transfer of reserved amounts and/or receipt of transfer letters/notification of reservation/disbursement of reserved amount	15	0.69
Acknowledgment of receipt of funds	3	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>2143</b>	<b>100</b>

'Final legal procedures taken by PMF' shows that imprisonment orders ranked first (64.9 percent) among the procedures that we used to recover our money; it was followed by the search and investigation of convict money (15.77 percent), and then collecting/receiving a check (10.49 percent). This confirms the efficiency of our work in following up on executive files and taking related legal measures.

Analysis of the effectiveness of the 593 detention orders shows that 19 percent were executed against the convicted, and 81 percent could not be implemented. In order to ensure there are fewer obstacles to the enforcement of prison orders in the future, tried to identify the main reasons for not implementing the prison orders, which follow:

1. The convicts were outside the country (48.36 percent), in Areas C (33.26 percent) or areas that fall beyond our jurisdiction, including within the Green Line (15.1 percent).

### Reasons for not enforcing detention orders



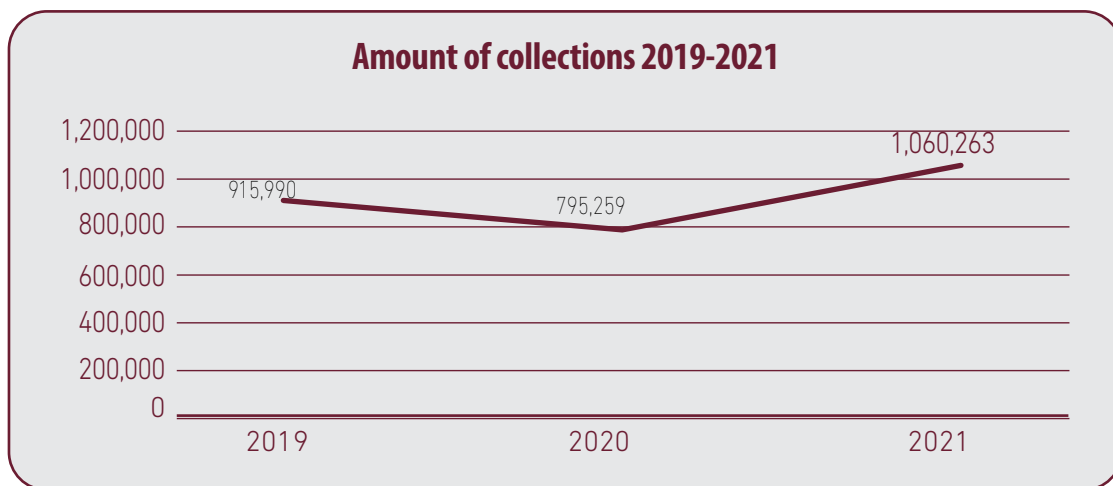
2. The convict had an Israeli ID (12.11 percent).
3. Existing detention orders and police follow-up are not implemented because of reasons related to convict conditions, including convict work inside the Green Line (9 percent )
4. The detention order did not reach the police (2.88 percent).
5. Other reasons, including unknown place of residence and ongoing criminal cases (27.65 percent).

The legal department followed up on a total of 130 settlements; 38 were concluded in 2021 (the age of the debt in the latter ranged from one year or less to 11 years or more). Most of the debt seizure was made possibly by implementing convicts' detention orders; conducting

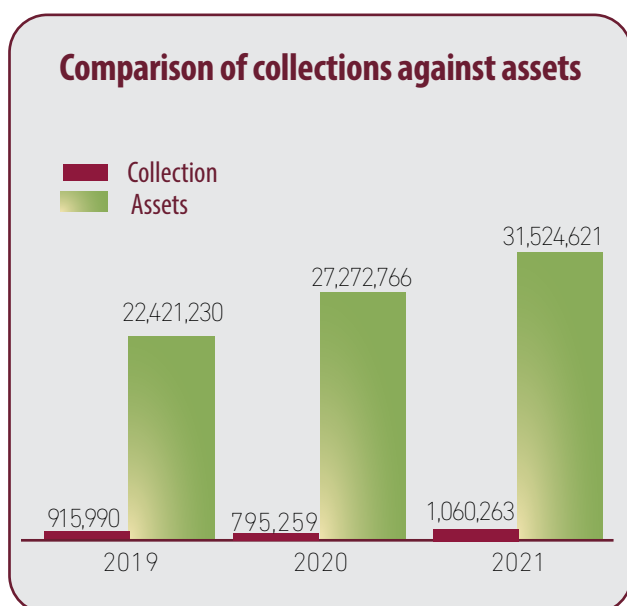
negotiations with convicts or seizing money; and communicating with influential people from the convict community. We managed to retrieve a total of 1,060,263 ILS in 2021, compared to 795,259 ILS in 2020 and 915,990 ILS in 2019. The financial management data shows a leap in collections, and the 2021 growth rate (34 percent) is more than double its 2019 counterpart (16 percent)

The largest amount was collected in the South (47 percent and a total of 494,004 ILS) followed by the North (30 percent and total of 313,228.45 ILS) and central regions (24 percent and total of 253,030.50 shekels ILS). The growth rate of the north's (51 percent) and south's (97 percent) collection rate was very high, especially when compared to the central region (24 percent).

'Amount of collections 2019-201' shows the general trend of total collections.



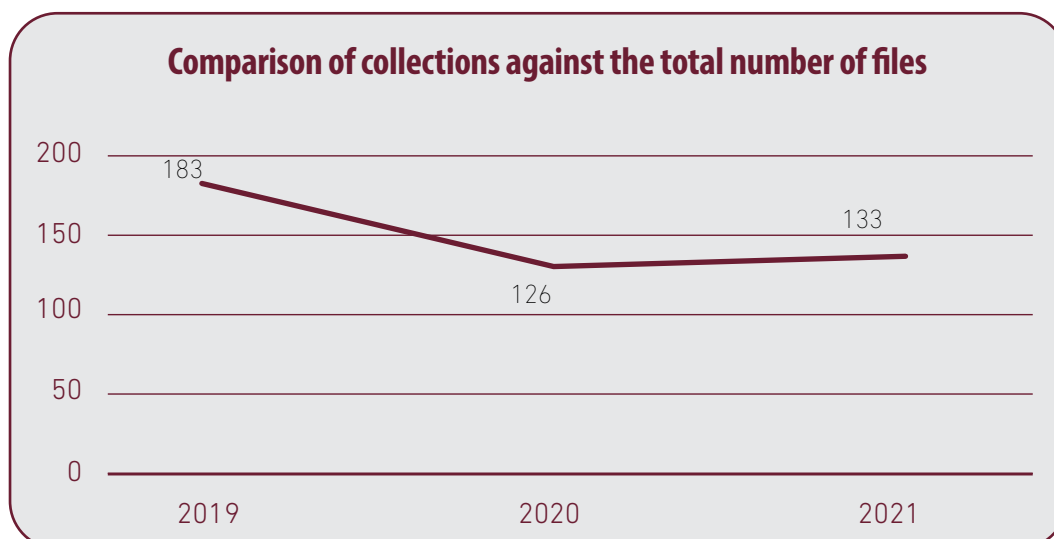
The diagram compares collections against the financial assets of the sentenced:



A total number of 929 files were collected, of which files collected in the north accounted for 14 percent. Twenty-three percent were collected in the south and 10 percent in the central region. After being divided by area, 15 percent of the total number of files were brought before a court. In 2021, collections were made from 133 files, seven more than in the previous year, a growth rate of 6 percent.

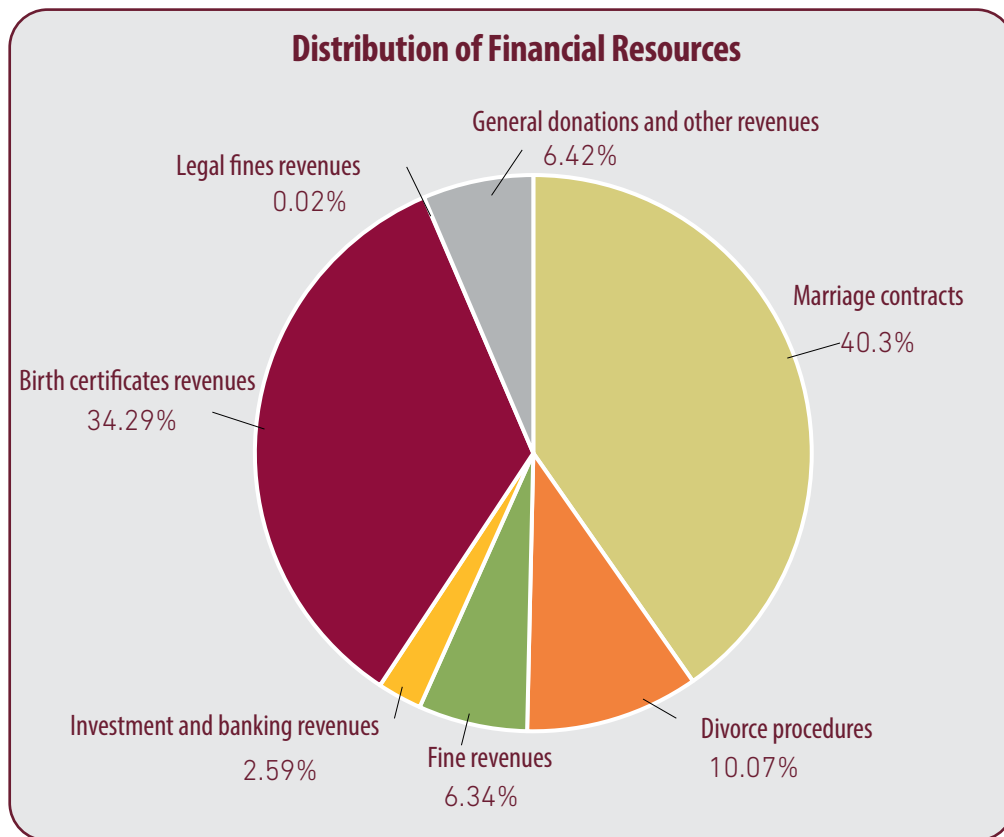
When collections were compared with total beneficiary balances, the rate was 4 percent when compared to 2020 (3 percent) and 2019 (4.09 percent). In 2021, collections fell below the forecast by a total of 139,737 ILS. The 11 percent rate, was lower than might have been expected, especially given that it was almost three times lower than the 30 percent rate recorded in 2020.

Under our founding law and its amendments, we mainly rely on resources from marriage and divorce





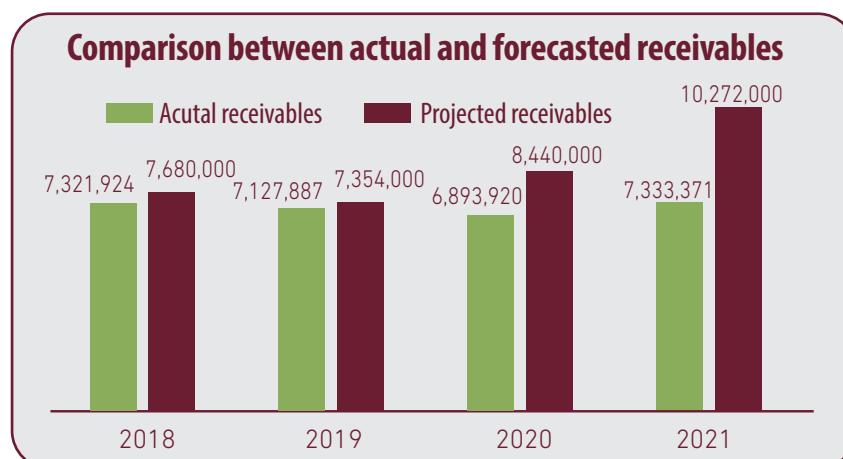
contract fees and birth certificates fees. However, they are also supplemented by other sources of income, as 'Distribution of Financial Resources 2021' demonstrates.



Our budget showed a negative deviation (of 1,900,049 ILS) in 2021 for a number of reasons, of which the negative deviation in revenues (2,938,049,629 ILS) was the most important. Others included:

1. A decrease in the income from marriage and divorce contracts (1,348,508 ILS)
2. A decrease in Palestinian Authority (PA) donations (100,000 ILS).
3. A decrease in fine revenues (314,873 ILS)
4. A decrease in stamp revenue (5,130 ILS)

Conversely, investment income and bank interest increased by 9,846 ILS. 'Comparison between actual and forecasted receivables 2018-2019' shows the difference between actual and projected revenues in the period 2018-21.





# Part Three

## PMF, the Media and Strategic Partnerships







We believe the media has a crucial role to play in educating members of our community about personal status issues; media outlets also have a vital role to play in changing attitudes towards and perceptions of maintenance right holders, and even have the potential to be defenders and advocates of maintenance groups. We intensified our communication with various media in 2021. This mainly consisted of activities at both the governorate and country level that sought to capitalize on descriptions, diagnoses, analyses and interpretations of the industry that could change public opinion trends. In seeking to raise awareness of personal status issues and other issues that affect the building of a stable society, we encouraged active participation in the development of legislation that takes the interests of different groups into account.

## 39 Radio Interviews

Regular weekly radio interviews that addressed several issues and titles were held. The most important ones addressed:

- 1) The comprehensive economic, legal, social and psychological services we provide to maintenance beneficiary groups.
- 2) The impact of ensuring the convicted person's responsibility to provide maintenance and accountability, and seeing it change the circumstances of women who head their families.
- 3) The economic, psychosocial, and legal empowerment of women maintenance rights holders
- 4) The strategic partnership between PMF and various partners (including formal and informal institutions) that helps to ensure the accountability of those who flee justice. Together, we apply a range of procedures to recover funds, and follow up on challenges and causes of problem to develop creative solutions that will promote rule-of-law.
- 5) Engaging personal status issues, with the intention of raising citizens' awareness of their ability to bring about real change in citizen's living conditions.

## 11 Radio Interviews with the Maintenance Fund Director



# 14 Visual Publications written entitled: The Maintenance Fund Makes Us

Women maintenance rights holders recount their experience of enjoying maintenance rights. In this section they recount the sense of empowerment they felt after we defended their financial rights and expanded our qualitative services to children by coordinating and networking with official and informal institutions. The value of our work has been reaffirmed by community and society recognition of the importance of defending these rights. We can take great pride in the fact that beneficiaries are no longer seen as guilty but rather as abandoned individuals who have agency and the ability to change their existing circumstances. Our commitment has strengthened their sense of security and enhanced their ability to make choices, negotiate and take decisions.



# PMF makes us relatives 2

When PMF provided me with my monthly payment of alimony , my family are having a different opinion now that i should have confidence in the law and the competent court to take my rights. I feel know that I'm empowered to take my own decisions Women beneficiary.

# PMF makes us relatives 3

Life is different now , especially with the fact that I'm currently making the foundation for my future as a young woman with the support of PMF. My morale now are raised as I'm free now to choose my own lifestyle, and to fulfill my needs.

# PMF makes us relatives 4

After getting PMF legal and financial support , many things had improved in our life, and I had a great relationship with my daughters and the society. My daughters can have the same livelihood level as their peers at school, neighborhood and family.

# PMF makes us relatives 5



# PMF makes us relatives 6

My parents were impressed to know that mine and my children's' rights are protected without paying financial obligations. This had decreased the economic burdens they've shouldered to pay for me and my children.

# PMF makes us relatives 7

Honestly , PMF had transformed me into an ambitious human being that seeks to build a decent residence for his children especially with the fact that I've inherited a piece of land from my father.

# PMF makes us relatives 8

I'm relieved to know now that there is a public institution guarantees my daughter's rights , and I had strongly recommended to the judge to refer similar women cases to PMF.

# PMF makes us relatives 9

PMF financial support had given me the opportunity to cover my daily expenses for food and other livelihood costs , in addition to renting a separate home for me and my children away from my parents house , whom were refusing to look for a rented place because of the fees.

# PMF makes us relatives 10

I don't have to borrow from anyone , as PMF's monthly payments currently covers most of my children's' needs.

# PMF makes us relatives 11

Before getting my monthly maintenance payments , I was living in a nightmare of how to cover my own needs.

# PMF makes us relatives 12



# PMF makes us relatives 13

When PMF guaranteed my rights to alimony , my ex-husband feels now he has a responsibility to pay his financial obligations toward his children , as it's considered to be public debt that have to be paid by him sooner or later .

# PMF makes us relatives 14



# PMF makes us relatives 15



# 22

## Touching Moments



There is nothing more beautiful than feelings of joy when PMF breaks the isolation of our abandoned children  
**Firas Alawneh**



"Mama, what does Shawarma mean?"  
 Intelligence is to read in a child's question a volume of pain... see in her eyes the deprivation and give her a moment of joy  
**Walaa Al-Ahmad**



"I am tired"  
 Fatigue pulls on my eyelashes, as if it forces them to sleep, but PMF capitalizes on my dreams as it plays a role in protecting rights, rehabilitating lives that are burdened with anxiety, rupture and loss.  
**Mervat Abu Qwaider**



Without this love we would not be  
 We proudly navigate most touching moments while PMF works to develop various possible means to create a better life for children building their worlds instead of destroying them.  
**Arwa Al-Qasraway**



**Touching Moments (25)**

Rights do not come by claiming, but by duty  
This is the meaning of PMF carrying out its duties, for the flower to grow again. For a child who was forbidden by circumstances to move forward in his education for instance despite his distinction and dedication.

**Wafaa Masarweh**



**Touching Moments (26)**

I do not believe in circumstances, but I do believe that ensuring the right to alimony for those who deserve it makes them wake up every morning to look for opportunities and possibilities.

**Firas Alawneh**



**Touching Moments (27)**

Each time PMF defends its values such as protecting the rights of maintenance rights holders, it inevitably enable them to see the dawn when it is night.

**Kholoud Smouh**



**Touching Moments (28)**

PMF does not plan and then tries in vain to change the circumstances, but rather weaves its plans to harmonize with the conditions and needs of the maintenance rights holders.

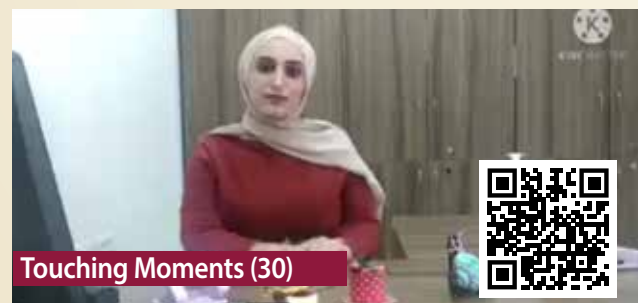
**Walaa Amouri**



**Touching Moments (29)**

All misfortunes, no matter how great, will be misfortunes no more. The lawyer, Mervat Abu Qwaider, talks about a dark moment in the life of a woman deserving alimony by help of the PMF, after a difficult journey that lived through the different details of her and her two daughters' lives. This woman was forced to marry at an early age to better her economic situation after her mother's death.

**Mervat Abu Qwaider**



**Touching Moments (30)**

Human dignity is an untouchable principle that had to be protected and respected by individuals and the state.. Roaa Qassem, and administrative Assistant at the planning and development department emphasized on this within PMF's vision for all maintenance rights holders.

**Roaa Qassem**



**Touching Moments (31)**

Despite the poor economic conditions of some beneficiaries, some of them are just waiting for any type of morale support like kind words or just discussing their concerns, dreams and prospects with other women.. This was clearly observed between MRHs when they regularly meet at PMF offices.

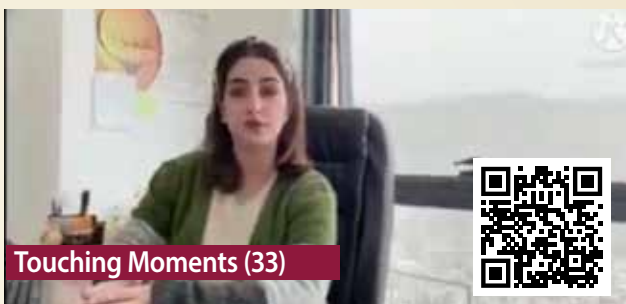
**Arwa Qassrawi**



**Touching Moments (32)**

Her dream in living a stable and decent life to fulfill her daily needs of food and residence was achieved when she started getting her Alimony rights by PMF.

**Kholoud Smouh**



**Touching Moments (33)**

When PMF achieves happiness for abandoned lives in a society that doesn't recognize their rights.

Lawyer Atta Sheikha, reveals how one women beneficiary obliged a husband to pay his obligations toward his ex wife and children.

**Atta Sheikha**



**Touching Moments (34)**

Finally, peace settled in her heart, after her soul was torn by the community noise.

Lawyer Zina Khilfa tells how PMF restored life to a women beneficiary whom suffered from a husband that kept her soul dead.

**Zina Khilfa**



**Touching Moments (35)**

To free a child from prison in the vaults of time and the places to enable him to have his right to a dignified life, PMF seeks to achieve.

Shahd Abu Sharbak describes how PMF restored the life of an abandoned child.

**Shahd Abu Sharbak**



**Touching Moments (36)**

It's completely nonsense to make any job without a clear vision. The Lawyers Mervat and Kholoud talk about PMF's perseverance cooperating with the judicial police, to ensure the right of children to return to their mother's custody for their psychological welfare.

**Kholoud Smouh and Mervat Abu Qwaider**





**Touching Moments (37)**

The right to have a sufficient food meets the needs of the soul and body together as it establishes for a decent life, and shedding energies and abilities of maintenance right holders (children ,women , elderly and people with disabilities) Walaa Al-Ahmad recalls her touching moment with a woman beneficiary that received financial aid of food an livelihood needs after her husband left her and her children

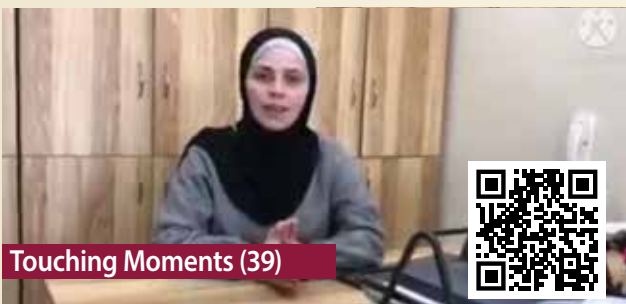
**Walaa Al-Ahmad**



**Touching Moments (38)**

PMF duty is to transform a needy life into an life with beautiful life with orchard, branches, leaves and fruits. Firas Alawneh speaks about the effect of PMF support on a woman whom was stumbling with accumulated debts on her behalf.

**Firas Alawneh**



**Touching Moments (39)**

She woke up to abandonment and an orphan shekel swayed in the arms five children without any mean of support.Lawyer Kholoud, tells a story about women beneficiary whom didn't look back after her husband's desertion for her and her children , after PMF opened the doors of relief to her.

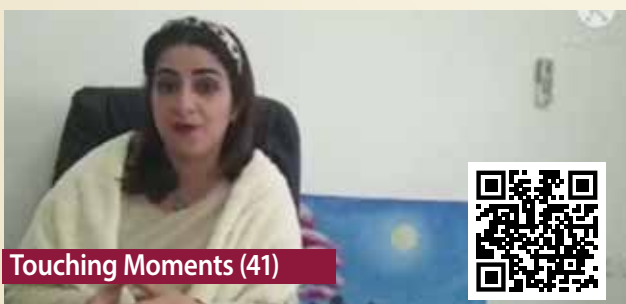
**Kholoud Smouh**



**Touching Moments (40)**

Every time our children abandon us as elderly, it's real hurts , but now it's less painful with PMF's support and financial aid .Lawyer Mervat talks about how PMF restored the life of an old sick father after being abandoned by his children.

**Mervat Abu Qwaider**



**Touching Moments (41)**

Perseverance does also has a voice, but it needs a soul that understands it. Lawyer Ataa Abu Sheikha talks about PMF capacities and the participatory approach it adopts to monitor and meet the actual needs of target groups to change their reality and circumstances of their lives.

**Ataa Abu Sheikha**



**Touching Moments (42)**

Peace be upon those who bloom hearts when they descend upon them ,as if they are rivers in Earth. This is how the heart of a beneficiary mother bloomed when PMF fulfilled her daughter's needs who suffers from cerebral palsy . PMF supported rehabilitation the health facility in her home to accommodate her disability.

**Diana Abu Shalbak**

# Raising the Awareness of Male & Female Media Professionals

We have worked to raise media professionals' awareness of personal status matters and alimony right holders. This program seeks to enable journalists to prepare and write in-depth reports about human rights issues, including the rights of those who benefit from our financial, social, legal and psychological interventions. This program will extend beyond news coverage, and will seek to change the views and attitudes of media professionals, specialists and advocates.

In order to raise media professional awareness, a workshop was held in Jericho that engaged a group of Palestinian media professionals from various Palestinian media agencies who work in all governorates. The workshop worked to introduce our vision, philosophy and objectives, and also clarified principles of equality (its three methodologies), non-discrimination and state commitment.

The participants unanimously agreed the Maintenance Fund deserves media support. They said publicizing PMF's work among maintenance rights holders would help to spread awareness, and suggested this could be done through the media.

The workshop concluded with a number of recommendations that acknowledged and focused on the need to hold more meetings for media staff and journalists. It was suggested that documentaries and digital stories about maintenance rights holders' success stories should be produced, and that awareness-raising campaigns should be broadcast and spread through radio and television channels.



“

### **In the words of journalists**

“Very important and wonderful gathering of media professionals to try to spread ideas about PMF to the Palestinian community and highlight it”

“It was the first time I knew the details of PMF’s work and its mission with such accuracy.”

“The session answered a lot of questions.”

“Although I knew about the maintenance fund before and I know of its laws and how it deals with the target groups, today I have more knowledge. I still aspire to know more about everything because PMF helps a big group in society.”

“A beautiful day, full of information, some new and some more familiar with PMF’s work and its stages of intervention”

“The Maintenance Fund deserves all the support of the media and, most importantly, to publicize knowledge on PMF’s work among the maintenance rights holders to spread awareness”

“Smart presentation about the maintenance Fund! if I’m going to choose to present my idea, I’ll choose the presenters.”

“I liked the way information was shared using unusual different methods such as games.”

“A clever way to make journalists soldiers for PMF ”

“A very beautiful and valuable workshop with new information, adding a lot of new information. The training sequence and discussion about videos and recorded stories were better than normal, classic styles of giving workshops.”

”



# Organization for Islamic Cooperation Award

## Harvesting excellence...

The Palestinian Maintenance Fund held a media conference where it proudly announced it had received the Excellence Award from the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC). This award acknowledged our exceptional achievements in protecting and defending the rights of maintenance rights holders who have been abandoned by those charged with paying maintenance.

The media conference celebrated a distinctively Palestinian organization that stands apart in both the Arab and Islamic worlds, whose work upholds the rights of beneficiaries and gives them a voice. Through our work, they will no longer experience alienation but will return to the home of justice, truth and the rule-of-law. Our work helps to strengthen the citizen's confidence in the state and builds an impregnable fortress

that will maintain civil peace. Our past and future work is rooted within the moral and national state building responsibility.



# WHY ?

## Islamic Cooperation Award

Because we maintain the rights of those who have voices but do not use words. One of the key things we do is to find out their aspirations so that they can overcome their feelings of alienation and seize and return to the homeland...through us, they will return home to justice, rights and the rule of law...

A lot of institutions can explain what they are doing, and some can explain how they do it, but very few can explain why they do it. This sets us apart and enables us to win moral and material awards, including the Integrity and Transparency Award in 2019. And today it has helped us win the Islamic Cooperation Award, which we are proud to announce at this media conference.

PMF is a sponsor of rights holders who have voices that do not use words. We seek to find a sense of purpose that maintenance rights holders can aspire to. Through us, they will not experience alienation but will return home to justice, right, and rule of law. As a Fund, we are moving at a steady pace to enable those who are in pain, and by extending our influence to their lives, we will help them find joy. We are like the moon for all its maintenance rights holders: like the moon, we do not deny or avoid the night, but instead light it, guiding the way to the homeland we want and love.

### Why?

Because we protect and defend the rights of the unable who have been abandoned by their relatives.


### Why?

Because we can convincingly answer why we seek justice through both protection and accountability.

### Why?

Because we protect and defend the right of parents abandoned by their sons and daughters.





### Why?

Because we protect and defend civil peace based on our creative and national responsibility to build the state we believe in. Our actions extend from our belief that maintenance rights holders are authentic pillars of the nation – if their peace is disrupted, then the peace of society as a whole is disrupted.

### Why?

Because we protect and defend the right of children abandoned by their parents.

### Why?

Because we protect and defend rights by creating an enabling environment that harvests the energies and possibilities of the oppressor and oppressed. This will help to build the nation we want by expanding future choice

### Why?

Because we protect and defend the right of women-headed families who have been abandoned by their spouses

### Why?

Because we reinstate rights by holding those who flee justice to account. This will ensure rule-of-law reigns and will enhance citizens' confidence in the state.

### Why?

Because by taking all legal action to imprison, restrict the movement of and retrieving money from those fleeing justice, we rebalance the power relations between the victims and those charged with paying maintenance, who have given up their responsibilities.



# Letters from Women Lawyers

The days pass quickly... Year after year... With each morning, challenges and difficulties lead us to creativity and achievement that come only with will, perseverance and teamwork.

We always strive for excellence and continue to dig the trail with our colleagues and management to extend our help to every child, woman, and man we may meet on our path.

"The year of half a million", a name we have drawn for this year. The year has passed with a lot of communication and legal action to work with the police to have those who disavow their responsibilities behind the bars of prisons, a place where they refuse to bear for a day, had they not left their children and wives for years- helpless. The year when all contacts and visits are done to reach solutions to help better the women and children's lives ensuring their justice is well served.....

Through our work at PMF , we have been challenged us to take positions that have an impact on the lives of the maintenance rights holders, reflecting our personal values as well as those of PMF , and over time theses have come to meet in the middle of our work.

We hope that the light will remain stronger, so that that Fund's effect will deepen.

The secret to success is that your values are translated into everyday situations....

We're marching on... We're going to go on... assisted or unassisted, we'll go on. Our actions, our sacrifices and our achievements are immortalized, we will rise...

The healing stages have not yet finished but we see at the end of the tunnel a light.... and in the darkness ...in challenge, we are determined to complete and develop what we have begun to do, our mission: constant giving for a stock that won't run out.

We will rise after tripping, move forward with our best to always write about women that we have lit for the way, to discover themselves, and we have been helping to support them in overcoming the difficulties of life and the disabling customs and traditions rooted in society.

