



بذور للإِنماء الصِّحي والائتماعي  
Juzoor for Health & Social Development



# Research Paper

Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak and  
Lockdown on Family Dynamics and  
Domestic Violence in Palestine - June 2020



This study was conducted by Juzoor for Health and Social Development, in partnership with United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), HAYA Programme, and the GBV Cluster. The data for this research was collected in April 2020 to examine the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown on family dynamics and domestic violence. This study also provides policy options and conclusions.

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## BACKGROUND

As the Covid-19 global pandemic continues, countries are adopting dedicated measures to slow the spread of the virus<sup>1</sup>. Actions such as physical distancing, closures of schools and businesses, and the imposition of travel restrictions help reduce the transmission of the virus. However, these measures may also result in the breakdown of societal infrastructure, as health, transport, food, sanitation, legal, security, and other governance structures temporarily contract or stop functioning<sup>2</sup>.

The quarantine and physical distancing put many at risk of the negative consequences of loneliness, isolation, or domestic violence<sup>3</sup>. The disruption of social and protective networks, as well as decreased access to services can exacerbate the risk of violence for women<sup>4</sup>. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of gender based violence (GBV) and the threat of violence and other harmful practices have been on the rise at both the regional and national level<sup>5</sup>. Many victims of family violence (i.e. domestic violence and child abuse) are currently trapped in the home with a violent perpetrator during a time of severely limited contact with the outside world<sup>6</sup>. Violence against women and children (VAW/C) can have severe adverse psychological, economic, and physical effects for women and children throughout their lifetimes<sup>7</sup>.

In the context of Palestine, the prevalence of domestic violence is already exacerbated due to the ongoing humanitarian and political situation<sup>8</sup>. According to a survey conducted in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in 2019 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 29% of women reported experiencing violence by their husbands in the preceding 12 months (Statistics, 2019)<sup>9</sup>.

Following the identification of the first four COVID -19 cases in the West Bank on March 5, 2020, the Palestinian Authority (PA) declared a state of emergency across the country. Lockdown, movement restrictions, and the re-prioritization of resources and health services toward COVID-19 response have significantly impeded women and girls' ability to access already limited GBV support, including safe spaces, shelters, and medical, psychosocial, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services<sup>10</sup>.

- 1 Campbell, A.M., An Increasing Risk of Family Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Strengthening Community Collaborations to Save Lives. Forensic Science International: Reports, 2020: p. 100089.
- 2 Peterman, A., et al., Pandemics and violence against women and children. Center for Global Development Working Paper (in press), 2020.
- 3 Farkas, K.J. and J.R. Romaniuk, Social Work, Ethics and Vulnerable Groups in the Time of Coronavirus and COVID-19. Society Register, 2020. 4(2): p. 67-82
- 4 World Health Organization., COVID-19 and violence against women: what the health sector/system can do, 7 April 2020. 2020, World Health Organization.
- 5 CARE Palestine West Bank / Gaza. Gender-Based Violence in COVID-19 in Policy Brief. 2020, CARE Palestine West Bank /Gaza: Palestine.
- 6 Campbell, A.M., An Increasing Risk of Family Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Strengthening Community Collaborations to Save Lives. Forensic Science International: Reports, 2020: p. 100089.
- 7 Peterman, A., et al., Pandemics and violence against women and children. Center for Global Development Working Paper (in press), 2020.
- 8 United Nation's Population Fund, Evaluation of UNFPA support to the prevention, response to and elimination of gender-based violence, and harmful practices. 2018, United Nation's Population Fund.
- 9 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2019. Preliminary Results of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society. Ramallah-Palestine: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic. CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza, Gender-Based Violence in COVID-19 in Policy Brief. 2020, CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza: Palestine.
- 10 CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza, Gender-Based Violence in COVID-19 in Policy Brief. 2020, CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza: Palestine.

According to the NGO SAWA, calls regarding abuse and violence, and specifically domestic violence from husbands, increased by **38%** for females since the beginning of the lockdown. Similarly, the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development indicated that most reports were centered around GBV-related consultations and counseling. In Gaza, the Women's Affairs Center has reported an increase of violence against women, including verbal, physical, psychological, and sexual violence, resulting in increased fear, tension, grievance, and psychological stress. In Nazareth and other Arab towns in the 1948 territory, there has also been a marked increase of 20% in GBV-related incidents, compared to the same period last year<sup>11</sup>.

The nature of pandemics and the associated fear and uncertainty provide an enabling environment that may exacerbate or spark diverse forms of VAW/C<sup>12</sup>. There is a significant risk that all forms of GBV will increase even further, generating more demand and greater need for services. Therefore, it is crucial to recognize the extent to which COVID-19 affects different groups of people in order to create effective, responsive, and equitable policies and preparedness plans<sup>13</sup>. Shedding a light on these gaps in knowledge is a first step to obtaining better information and evidence on the general population. Previous studies were based on reported cases or among a convenient sample using online surveys, and primarily looked at domestic violence and GBV against women.

## STUDY OBJECTIVES

### This study aims to examine:

1. Gender differences in the main stresses and fears during the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown
2. Well-being during the lockdown
3. Perceived changes in community violence and domestic violence due to the lockdown
4. Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown on relationships with neighbors
5. Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown on family dynamics and gender roles, from the perspective of both men and women
6. Whether or not the lockdown is perceived to be causing increased violence against children, wives, husbands, and other family members
7. Gender differences in perceived sources of help for victims of violence

<sup>11</sup> CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza, Gender-Based Violence in COVID-19 in Policy Brief. 2020, CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza: Palestine.

<sup>12</sup> Peterman, A., et al., Pandemics and violence against women and children. Center for Global Development Working Paper (in press), 2020.

<sup>13</sup> CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza, Gender-Based Violence in COVID-19 in Policy Brief. 2020, CARE Palestine West Bank/Gaza: Palestine.

## STUDY METHODOLOGY

**Study Design:** Juzoor for Health and Social Development conducted a household phone survey on a random sample of adults residing in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, who lived with their families.

**Data Collection:** Due to the sensitivity of the research topic, and in order to respect traditional values (it is not common for women to talk to men they do not know on the phone), all interviewers were female. To further protect confidentiality of interviewees and increase response rate, once interviewers explained the study objective to the randomly-selected respondent, including examining changes in domestic violence after the lockdown, the respondent was asked if they want to proceed with the interview or schedule it for another time. Data was collected based on the preference of respondent, on the day of the week and at the time of day that was convenient and safe for them.

**Study Sample:** The sample size of **800** was estimated based on confidence level (**95%**), confidence interval (**5**), population size (**1,714,620** Palestinian adults living in the West Bank), and dissemination of study findings by gender. Multistage random sampling was used to select **800** Palestinians aged **18** years and older for the survey. Phone numbers were randomly generated for each district to select households. Using the Kish table, the program randomly selected one person from each household to be interviewed. The study sample was half men half women: **269** married women, **231** single women, **297** married men, and **103** single men. Data was collected in April 2020 by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, and the response rate was **79%**.

### Study Limitations:

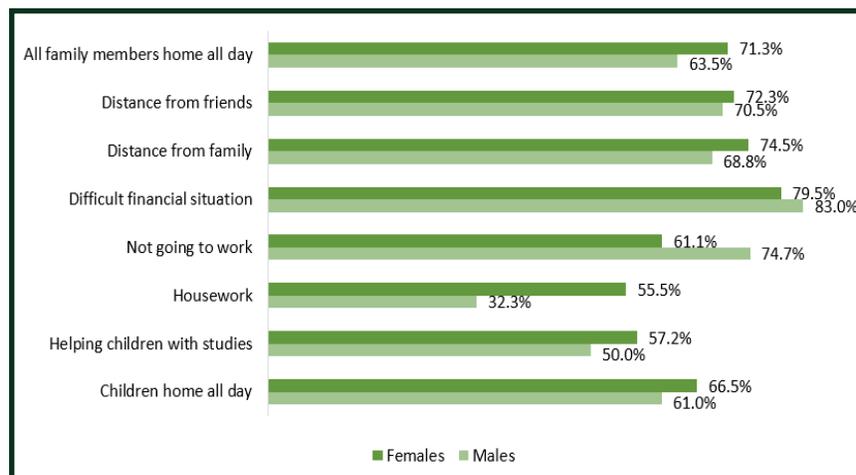
- The Gaza Strip was not included in the study as no lockdown was imposed following the outbreak of COVID-19.
- While it would have been better to conduct face-to-face interviews with participants, due to the lockdown, only phone interviews could be conducted.
- A quantitative study design was selected to keep answers brief and without details. The only responses given by participants over the phone in answering questions about violence were more than before, no change, less than before, and was never an issue. Even if they were overheard by a family member while talking on the phone, it would not have been possible to determine the topic of conversation. While this helped to protect study participants and maintain their confidentiality, only limited information could be gathered as the interview did not include open-ended questions.

## MAIN FINDINGS

### Main Stressors and Fears during the Lockdown, reported sources of stress at home, by gender:

- ▶ Difficult financial situation and distance from friends were the most reported stressors by all study participants (Figure 1).
- ▶ Differences in gender roles were obvious in reported stresses, including housework, not going to work, helping children with studies, and all family members being home all day. Mothers were obviously distressed by the added burden of having to homeschool their children.

**Figure 1: Reported main sources of stress at home during the lockdown by gender.**



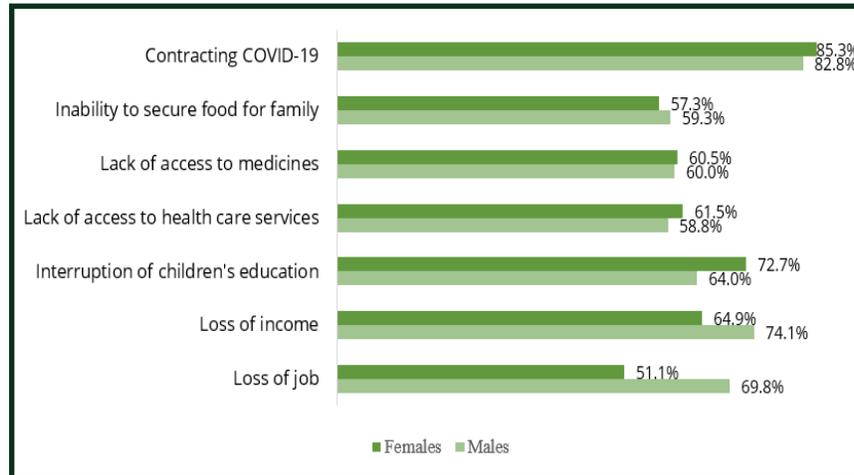
### Reported fears during lockdown, by gender

Similar to reported stressors, there was general agreement regarding most reported fears during the lockdown, including contracting COVID-19, interruption of children's education, and loss of income (Figure 2).

There were no gender differences in reported fear of lack of access to health care services and medicines. It is important to note that half of the sample was above **40** years of age, **19%** had non-communicable diseases, and **18%** had at least one elderly person (**aged 65 and above**) living at home.

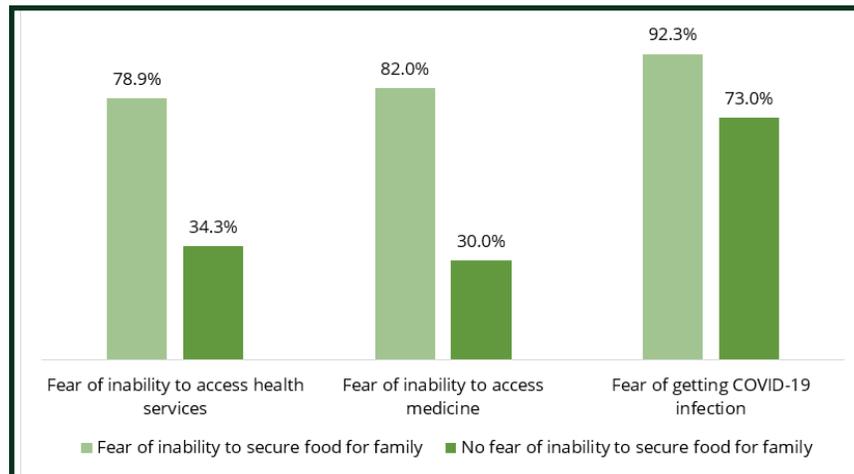
As in reported stress of not going to work, there were also gender differences in reported fears regarding the loss of a job and interruption of children's education.

**Figure 2: Reported fears during COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown by gender.**

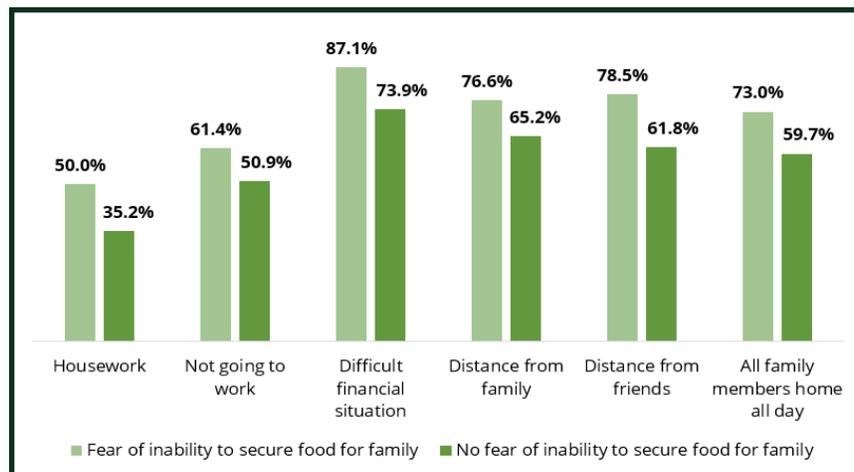


As shown in the figures below, many participants who reported food insecurity (a fear of not being able to secure food for their families), also reported fear related to accessing health care and medicine (Figure 3), and stresses from being away from family and friends, being home all day, and not going to work (Figure 4).

**Figure 3: Reported fears of inability to access health care and getting infected, by reported food insecurity**



**Figure 4: Reported main sources of stress during lockdown, by reported food insecurity**



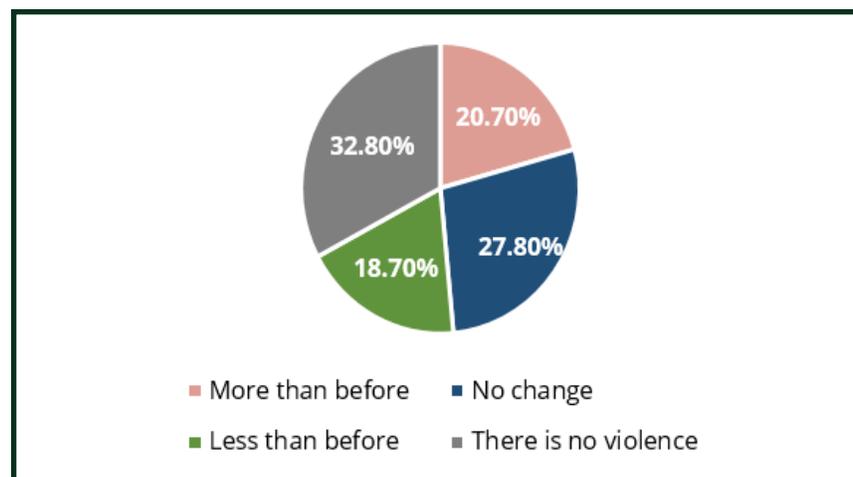
## Well-being

- ▶ Using the WHO 5 Well-being Index, about 85% of study participants had poor well-being (poor quality of life) based on their reported feelings in the two weeks prior to the study. Given the large number of reported fears and stresses during the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown, in addition to Israel's ongoing violations of basic human rights, chronic and acute exposure to violence, and high prevalence of poverty and unemployment, this low level of well-being is not surprising<sup>14</sup>.
- ▶ Factors associated with low level of well-being included: fear of not being able to secure food for their family, financial stress, distance from friends, family members home all day, and housework.
- ▶ There was no difference in well-being by age, gender, or marital status.

## Community Violence

About **21%** of participants reported that they believe there is an increase in community violence, while **19%** reported that they believe there is a decrease in community violence in their neighborhood during the lockdown.

**Figure 5: Reported changes in community violence during the COVID-19 lockdown**

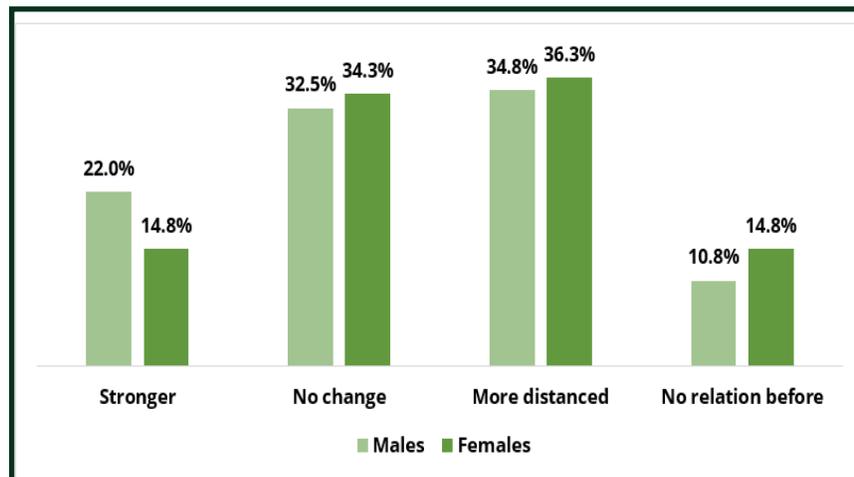


<sup>14</sup> Manenti C, Reinicke C, MacDonald J, Donald J. Report of a field assessment of health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory. World Health Organization Reports. 2016 Feb.

### Relationship with Neighbors

- ▶ There was no gender difference in reporting a more distanced relationship with neighbors. A more distanced relationship with neighbors was reported by almost one in three respondents. This could be attributed to fear of COVID-19 infection, which was reported by most study participants.
- ▶ There was a gender difference in reporting a stronger relationship with neighbors during the lockdown, however, reflecting traditional gender roles. While women were most likely more occupied with housework and responding to the different needs of family members, men likely had more free time to socialize.

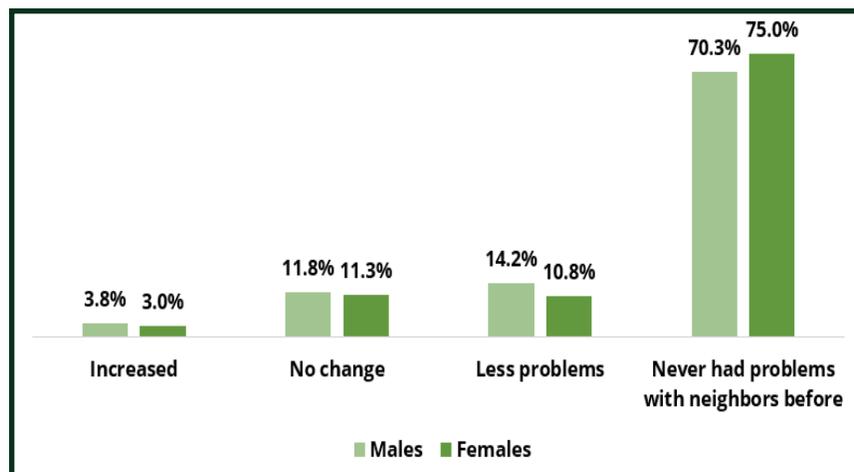
**Figure 6: Reported changes in relationships with neighbors during the COVID-19 lockdown**



### Problems with neighbors

Most men and women reported never having had problems with their neighbors. This reflects connectivity, which is vital to the psychosocial dynamics of Palestinian families and is part of the informal support system. Only **3-4%** of participants reported increased problems with neighbors.

**Figure 7: Reported changes in problems with neighbors during the COVID-19 lockdown**

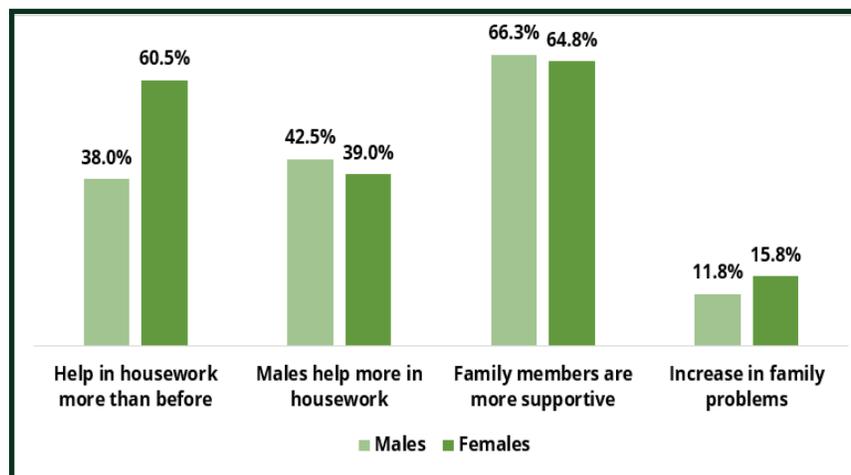


## Family Dynamics and Gender Roles

### Change in family dynamics before and after the COVID-19 lockdown, by gender:

- ▶ Both Palestinian men and women indicated that during the lockdown, family members have been more supportive. In fact, smaller proportions of participants indicated an increase in family problems during the lockdown (Figure 8).
  - This is in line with reporting that family is considered the main source of support for victims of violence.
  - This reporting could be explained by the importance of maintaining the family as a survival strategy against ongoing occupation policies, which make all elements of family life very difficult.
- ▶ Changes in gender roles in Palestinian society before and during the COVID-19 crisis were obvious based on this study; both men and women reported that males helped more with housework. Only a few male participants (**less than 6%**) reported that they never helped with housework.

**Figure 8: Change in family dynamics before and after the COVID-19 lockdown, by gender**

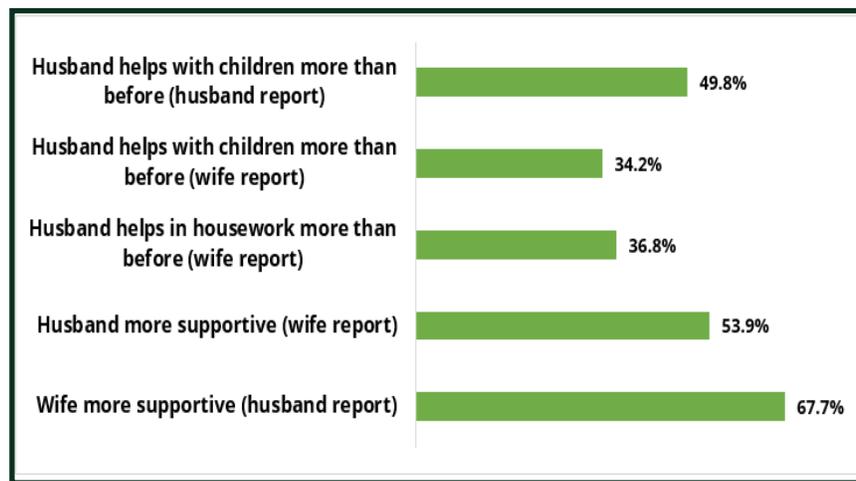


## Marital Relationships

### Change in marital relationships before and after the COVID-19 lockdown:

- ▶ More than **53%** of Palestinian couples reported an increase in spousal support during the lockdown.
- ▶ Based on interviews with married men and women, husbands helped more with children during the lockdown. Almost half of married men reported helping more with children compared to before the COVID-19 lockdown. This also reflects changes in gender roles during the lockdown, and provides evidence that patriarchal structures are changing along with Palestinian society.
- ▶ Around **15.6%** of interviewed married men reported that they never helped with children, while **22.7%** of interviewed married women reported that their husbands never helped with children.
- ▶ **33.0%** of interviewed married women said that their husbands never helped with housework.

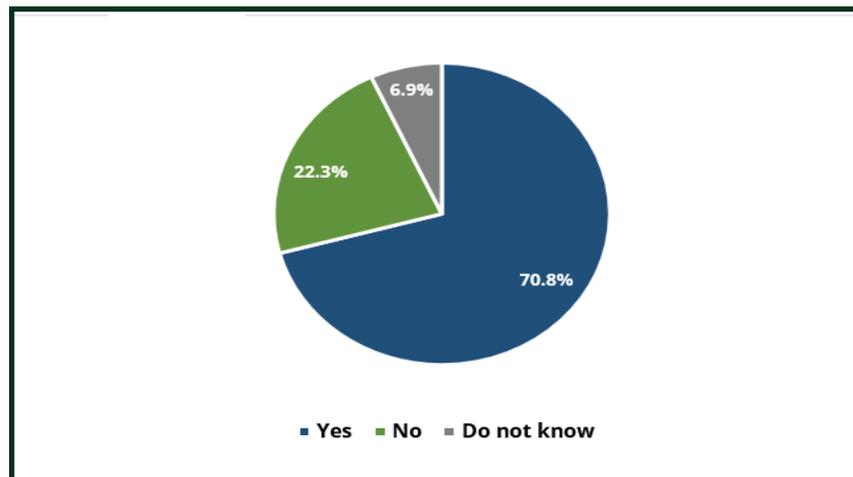
**Figure 9: Change in marital relationships before and after the COVID-19 lockdown, by gender**



## Domestic Violence

- ▶ Among study participants, **19.5%** indicated that domestic violence increased in their neighborhood during the lockdown.
- ▶ **70.8%** believe that domestic violence will continue to increase with the extension of the lockdown.

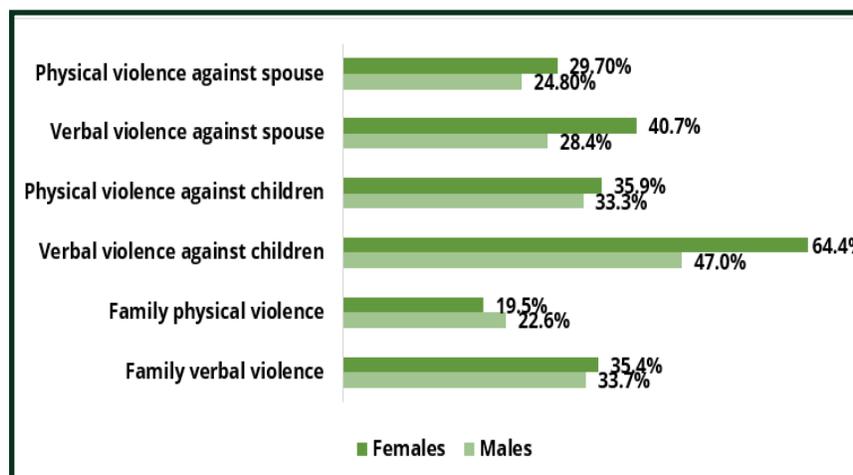
**Figure 10: Participant beliefs on whether or not domestic violence will continue to increase with the extension of the lockdown**



**Reported family violence, spousal violence, and violence against children, by gender:**

- ▶ In general, there were not many gender differences in reporting family violence and physical violence against children.
- ▶ Both men and women reported exposure to family violence. There were no differences by age or marital status.
- ▶ Family verbal and physical violence was reported more by participants from the Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarem districts, and those with up to secondary education, compared to those with at least a Bachelor's degree.
- ▶ Wives reported more exposure to verbal and physical violence by their spouse, as well as more verbal violence against children.

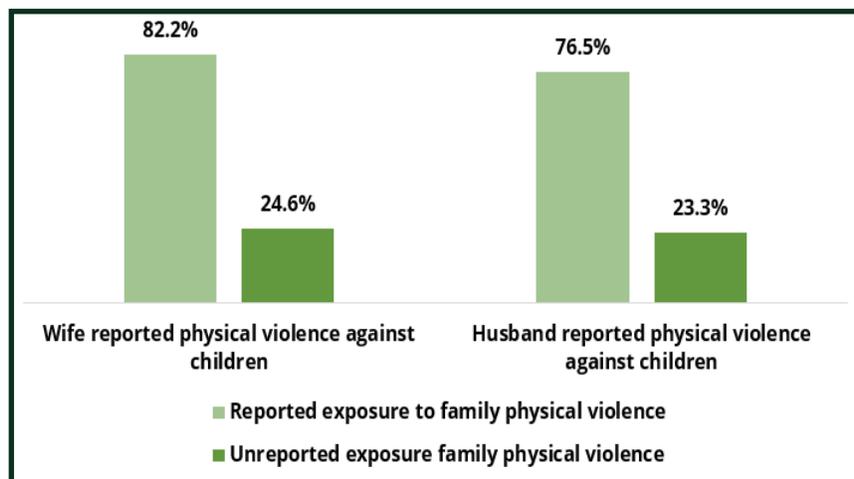
**Figure 11: Reported physical and verbal family violence, spousal violence, and violence against children, by gender**



Based on the findings of this study, and in line with the literature, domestic violence follows a repeating, intergenerational cycle of violence.<sup>15</sup> Survey responses showed that a strong relationship existed between coming from an abusive family and being violent against a spouse and children.

- ▶ Husbands and wives that reported being exposed to family physical violence reported more physical violence against their children, compared to those that did not report exposure to family physical violence. Among wives that were exposed to family physical violence, **82.2%** reported physical abuse against their children, compared to **24.6%** of those who were not exposed to family physical violence.

**Figure 12: Reported physical violence against children by men and women, by their exposure to family physical violence**



**Factors Associated with Domestic Violence based on Logistic Regression Analysis**

**Family Violence**

**Family Verbal Violence**

The likelihood of exposure to family verbal violence increased with:

- ▶ Larger household size
- ▶ Living in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarem
- ▶ Living in cities and camps, as opposed to villages
- ▶ Living with extended family compared to nuclear family members
- ▶ Education up to secondary level, compared to up to preparatory level and having obtained at least a Bachelor's degree

There were no differences in exposure by age, sex, employment, or marital status.

**Family Physical Violence**

In general, the likelihood of exposure to family physical violence increased with:

- ▶ Living in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarem
- ▶ Living with extended family compared to nuclear family members
- ▶ Education up to secondary level, compared to up to preparatory level and having obtained at least a Bachelor's degree

15 Paolillo N. Factors that interrupt the intergenerational cycle of violence in men who have witnessed domestic violence as children. Alliant International University, San Francisco Bay; 2006.

There were no differences in exposure to family physical violence by age, sex, residency, employment, or marital status.

### Violence against Children and Spouses

As shown in Annex 2, in general, the likelihood of verbal and physical abuse against children and spouses increases among those living in Hebron, Tulkarem, and Ramallah; those living with extended family; those with a large number of children; and those with low education levels.

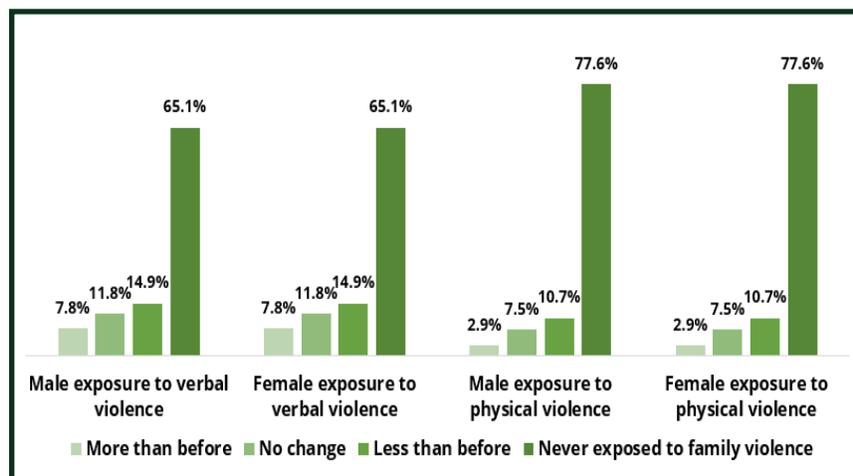
### Exposure to Family Verbal and Physical Violence Before and After the COVID-19 Outbreak and Lockdown

#### Reported changes in exposure to family violence before and after the COVID-19 lockdown

There was general agreement regarding reported family violence among both men and women.

- ▶ Between **18-26%** of participants reported no change or less exposure to family violence compared to before the lockdown.
- ▶ Between **3-8%** of participants reported an increase in family violence, providing evidence that the COVID-19 outbreak worsened the existing domestic violence problem in Palestinian society to some degree.

**Figure 13: Changes in exposure to family violence before and after the COVID-19 lockdown, by gender**

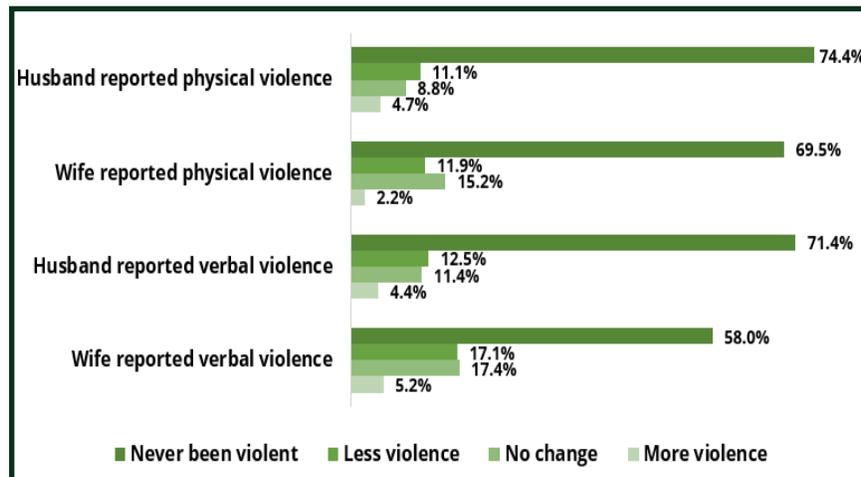


#### Reported changes in exposure to spousal violence before and after the COVID-19 lockdown:

- ▶ A larger proportion of husbands reported never having been exposed to verbal (cursing, screaming, name calling) or physical (beating, slapping, pushing, throwing objects at, pulling hair, strangling, injuring with a sharp object) violence from their spouse compared to wives. This reflects the patriarchal masculinity that still exists in Palestinian society.
- ▶ An increase in physical violence by a spouse was reported by husbands more than wives, which was the opposite of reporting for verbal violence.
- ▶ Husband verbal violence was reported more by younger wives.

Following the lockdown, most married men and women reported less exposure to spousal violence or no change in violence. This was different than other countries, where a marked increase in domestic violence was reported. This could be attributed to the fact that the lockdown measures are not an entirely novel phenomenon for Palestinians, as they have been subjected to Israeli occupation measures since the beginning of First Intifada, including curfews, incursions, school closures, the apartheid wall, and checkpoints.

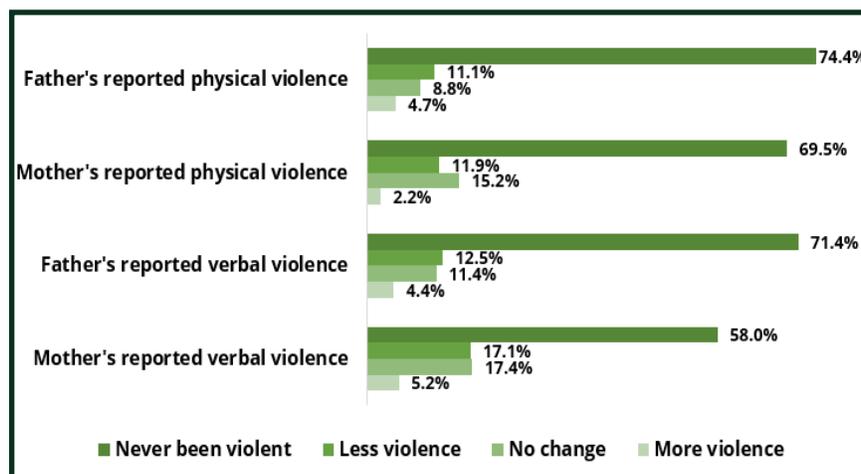
**Figure 14: Changes in exposure to spousal violence before and after the COVID-19 lockdown, by gender**



**Parents' reported changes in verbal and physical violence against their children before and after the COVID-19 lockdown:**

- ▶ Reporting among fathers and mothers regarding changes in physical violence against their children was generally similar (half of the study participants had more than two children).
- ▶ Mothers reported more verbal violence against children compared to fathers. Younger mothers reported more verbal violence against their children compared to older mothers.
- ▶ In line with the findings regarding family violence, the lockdown has had a modest impact on violence against children. Between **20-28%** of parents reported no change or a decrease in physical violence against children.

**Figure 15: Reported changes in violence against children before and after the COVID-19 lockdown, by parent**

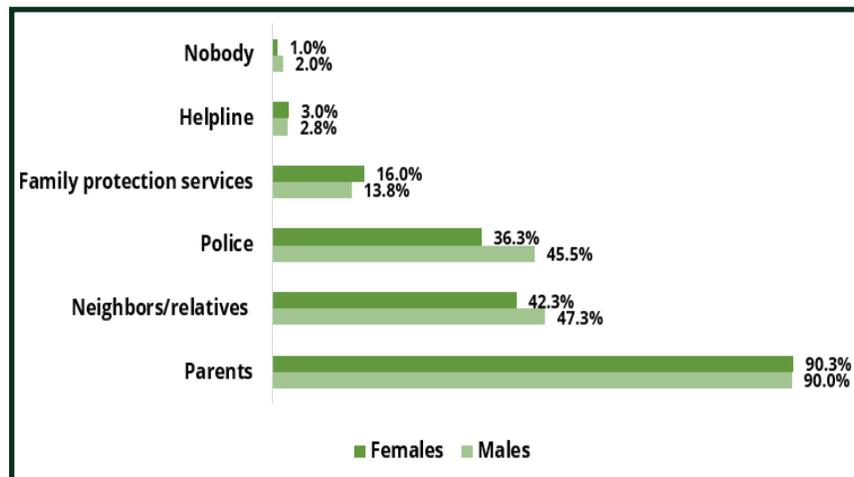


**Reported sources of help for victims of domestic violence, by gender:**

Most Palestinians believe that parents are the main source of help for victims of violence (94% of study participants lived with members of their nuclear families).

- ▶ Despite the availability of family protection services and different helplines provided by a number of organizations, these two sources of help were mentioned least by study participants.
- ▶ Additionally, none of the **23** participants that mentioned the helpline as a source of support were able to give the correct helpline number.

**Figure 16: Sources of help for victims of domestic violence, by gender by parent**



## CONCLUSION

- ▶ Palestinians have significant stresses and fears related to the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown, primarily the fear of getting infected. This was evident in the reported distancing from neighbors during the lockdown, and stress from being away from family and friends. Most Palestinians are experiencing a poor quality of life due to the added burden of the outbreak.
- ▶ Differences in gender roles were obvious in reported stresses from housework and not going to work, helping children with studies, and all family members being home all day.
- ▶ In general, the lockdown strengthened family relationships; **65%** reported that the family became more supportive during the lockdown, while only **14%** reported increase in family problems during the lockdown.
- ▶ COVID-19 and the lockdown increased family violence and domestic violence against children and spouses, and **71%** of Palestinians believe that domestic violence will continue to increase with the extension of the lockdown. More than **90%** of participants reported parents as the source of help for victims of violence.
- ▶ Exposure to violence was reported among different age groups, by both men and women, and by both married and single participants. Exposure to violence was more prevalent among wives compared to husbands, among people with lower levels of education, and among those living in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarem.
- ▶ The COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown slightly increased the existing problem of domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV) in Palestine. The observed increase in cases of GBV during the lockdown reported by SAWA and other family protection organizations may be due in part to increased reporting of GBV in general.
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic exposed underlying inequalities in the socio-economic and health systems in Palestine, such as the decrease in availability of GBV services.

## STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

With increased vulnerability as a result of the spread of COVID-19, state and non-state actors are urged to institute and follow protective measures pertaining to increased or potentially increased violence of all forms, and GBV in particular. Therefore, the following actions are required:

### Palestinian Government

- ▶ Changes in gender roles in the Palestinian society were evident in this study. Only **31%** of interviewed men and women said that men never helped in housework. Among interviewed married men, **15.6%** reported that they never helped with children, while **22.7%** of interviewed married women reported that their husbands never helped with children. To preserve this achievement and promote it further, gender stereotypes must be combatted in and through education.
- ▶ Despite government efforts to reduce GBV in Palestine, it still exists. This highlights the need to strengthen available services and assess the impact and effectiveness of the referral system for victims of violence.
- ▶ GBV prevention and response must be included as part of Palestine's COVID-19 response. GBV trends under COVID-19 need to be constantly monitored with support from non-state actors. Between **25-30%** reported physical violence by their spouse, and around **70%** of Palestinians believe that domestic violence will increase with the extension of the lockdown.
- ▶ Despite overwhelming need and budget limitations, the government must continue to seek inclusion of budgetary needs for GBV and women's health services in ministry budgets.
- ▶ Crises cannot be used as an excuse to disrupt/divert essential services and increase the vulnerabilities of those already hard hit by the situation. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has explicitly recognized the need to better integrate gender perspectives into emergency preparedness. These services should be prioritized at the earliest stage of the crisis to minimize risk to women and children.[7]. Following the declaration of the state of emergency, most primary healthcare services were stopped, including antenatal care, postnatal care, and management and treatment of non-communicable diseases (except for emergency cases). Based on the study findings, most Palestinians have concerns about access to health care and access to medicines.
- ▶ The operation of legal and protection services to address GBV, especially in vulnerable areas, must be ensured.
- ▶ In line with Security Council resolution 1325, ensure female representation in national committees for decision making on protecting the rights of vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 outbreak, including women and children.
- ▶ Special attention should be given to disadvantaged communities. Those that reported a fear of not being able to secure food for their family made up the majority of respondents that reported a fear of not being able to access health care and medicines.

- ▶ Special attention needs to be given to Palestinians living in Hebron, Tulkarem, and Ramallah, where there was higher reporting of family violence, including physical violence against wives, husbands, and children.
- ▶ Based on our study and reports from SAWA, calls from victims of GBV and reporting of GBV were from both men and women. The government may want to consider adding male-sensitive services to its family protection programs to encourage men to seek support.

## Non-State Actors: Civil Society and NGOs

- ▶ Most Palestinians consider parents to be the main source of help for victims of violence. This implies that the number of reported GBV cases are only a fraction of the actual number of incidents, and that published numbers from service providers are underreported. Therefore, all efforts to prevent GBV in Palestine must be strengthened. As important as it is to work with GBV cases that seek help, it is also vital to work with the community to prevent GBV and empower women.
- ▶ As only **2.9%** of the population mentioned the helpline as a source for help for victims of violence, and none knew the helpline number(s), stakeholders need to raise awareness about the availability of services for victims of violence, while ensuring their safety and confidentiality.
- ▶ The study appeared to confirm what is already known about the cyclical nature of violence. Services that address GBV should also examine child abuse. Intervention needs to be holistic, working with the entire family.
- ▶ Human rights organizations should ensure rights are not compromised in the course of implementing measures associated with the state of emergency, with particular focus on accessibility, availability, and responsiveness of GBV services.
- ▶ Informative data on GBV at the population level should be regularly provided to influence policy and services<sup>16</sup>.
- ▶ Fundraising for GBV services must continue, with specific focus on maintaining the availability of services both under the state of emergency and in the course of returning to normal.
- ▶ Media outlets should prioritize the inclusion of communication materials and messaging on COVID-19 that include GBV.

## International/Funding Community

- ▶ GBV-related funding and support must be included as part of a long-term strategy beyond the COVID-19 outbreak.
- ▶ Maintain close coordination with the government of Palestine, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ministry of Women regarding needs related to humanitarian aid and services now and after the Covid-19 crisis<sup>17</sup>.
- ▶ Increase mobilization and advocacy through public campaigns against gender-based violence to change policy and practice at the local, national, and regional levels.

<sup>16</sup> For example, data provided by WCLAC and SAWA, among others

<sup>17</sup> The expected increase in the Palestinian budget deficit due to the crisis/lockdown will limit the ability to cover operating expenses of various government functions including those of the MoH. It will jeopardize the social safety network and adequate fulfillment of the COVID-19 response plan requirements, as well as the ability of the government to manage the pandemic. With the economic impact of COVID-19 and increasing unemployment, a higher number of Palestinians are expected to need government support during the immediate COVID-19 period and afterwards until the economic situation improves.

## Annex 1: Study Survey

### Impact of lockdown on domestic and community violence

**D1: Sex:** 1. Male\_\_\_\_ 2. Female\_\_\_\_

**D2: Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**D3: Governorate** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **D4: Place of residence**

- a. City
- b. Village
- c. Camp

#### **D5: Education level**

1. Does not read or write (illiterate)
2. Elementary
3. Primary school
4. Secondary school
5. In college/university
6. Bachelor and higher
7. No answer

#### **D6: Occupation**

1. Public sector employee
2. Private sector employee
3. Private business
4. Worker
5. Student
6. Housewife
7. Retired
8. Unemployed

#### **D7: Social status**

1. Single. If single, skip to D9
2. Married
3. Widowed
4. Divorced

**D8: Number of children** \_\_\_\_\_

**D9: Do you live....**

1. Alone (if lives alone end the interview)
2. With your immediate family
3. With your extended family

**D10: Number of family members living in your household? (including you)\_\_\_\_\_**

**D11: Number of elderly (65 and above) living at home?\_\_\_\_\_**

**Questions related to COVID-19**

1. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, would you say COMMUNITY violence in your neighborhood has increased or decreased?

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Do not know/no answer (do not read)

**2. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, would you say DOMESTIC violence in your neighborhood has increased or decreased?**

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Do not know/no answer (do not read)

**3. For each of the following, please state whether you believe those exposed to domestic violence are turning to them for help? (can select more than one)**

- a. Parents (1. Resort to them; 2. Do not resort to them; 3. Don't know (do not read))
- b. Relatives or neighbors (1. Resort to them; 2. Do not resort to them; 3. Don't know (do not read))
- c. Police ((1. Resort to them; 2. Do not resort to them; 3. Don't know (do not read))
- d. Family protection services and centers (((1. Resort to them; 2. Do not resort to them; 3. Don't know (do not read))
- e. Hotlines ((1. Resort to them; 2. Do not resort to them; 3. Don't know (do not read))

If yes, What is the hotline number?\_\_\_\_\_

- f. Other, specify\_\_\_\_\_
- g. Don't know (do not read)

**4. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, do you believe that domestic violence in the community will get worse as the lockdown is extended?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Do not know (do not read)

**5. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, , do you now stay home more or less?**

- a. More than before
- b. Like before (do not read)
- c. Less than before

**6. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, would you consider your relationship with your neighbors stronger or more distance than before?**

- a. Stronger than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. More distance then before
- d. No relationship with neighbors before

**7. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, Would you consider your problems with your neighbors have gotten less or increased?**

- a. Increased, more problems than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less problems than before
- d. I never had problems with my neighbors

**8. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, do you have more or less family support than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. less than before
- d. Never had any family support (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**9. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, Do you feel like your problems at home with your family have increased or decreased?**

- a. Increased, more problems than before
- b. no change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less problems than before
- d. I never had problems with my family (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**10. In general, compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, do you feel there is more or less verbal violence from your family against you now? (e.g. screaming, yelling, swearing)**

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. There was no verbal violence before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**11. In general, compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, do you feel there is more or less physical violence from your family against you now? (e.g. beating, slapping, pushing, hand , throwing objects, pulling hair, strangling)**

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. There was no physical violence at all before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)
- f. Not applicable

**12. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, do you believe that domestic violence inside your home may happen or will increase with the extension of the lockdown?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know (do not read)
- d. No answer (do not read)

**13. State whether each of the following are currently a cause of stress for you at home?**

- a. Children at home all day 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- b. Helping children with their study 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- c. Housework 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- d. Not going to work 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- e. Difficult financial situation 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- f. Distance from the family 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- g. Distance from friends 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- h. All family members at home all day 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- i. Other, specify\_\_\_\_\_

**14. Please state whether each of the following are causing you fear as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?**

- a. Loss of job 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- b. Loss of income 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- c. Interruption of children's education 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- d. Access to healthcare services 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- e. Inability to access medications 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- f. Inability to secure food for family 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable
- g. You or someone in your family getting COVID infection 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable

## 15. Mental Health and Well-being

The next questions ask about your mental health and wellbeing. Please indicate which is the closest to how you have been feeling over the last two weeks. WHO-5 wellbeing index.

|  |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| <p><b>In the past two weeks, how often have you felt cheerful and in good spirits?</b></p>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All of the time</li> <li>2. Most of the time</li> <li>3. Some of the time</li> <li>4. At no time</li> <li>5. Don't know 77</li> <li>6. Refuse 88</li> </ol>  | <p>M1</p> |
| <p><b>In the past two weeks, how often have you felt calm and relaxed?</b></p>                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All of the time</li> <li>2. Most of the time</li> <li>3. Some of the time</li> <li>4. At no time</li> <li>5. Don't know 77</li> <li>6. Refused 88</li> </ol> | <p>M2</p> |
| <p><b>In the past two weeks, how often have you felt active and vigorous?</b></p>                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All of the time</li> <li>2. Most of the time</li> <li>3. Some of the time</li> <li>4. At no time</li> <li>5. Don't know 77</li> <li>6. Refused 88</li> </ol> | <p>M3</p> |
| <p><b>In the past two weeks, how often have you woken up feeling fresh and rested?</b></p>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All of the time</li> <li>2. Most of the time</li> <li>3. Some of the time</li> <li>4. At no time</li> <li>5. Don't know 77</li> <li>6. Refused 88</li> </ol> | <p>M4</p> |
| <p><b>In the past two weeks, how often has your daily life been filled with things that interest me?</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All of the time</li> <li>2. Most of the time</li> <li>3. Some of the time</li> <li>4. At no time</li> <li>5. Don't know 77</li> <li>6. Refused 88</li> </ol> | <p>M5</p> |

**16. Do you have chronic disease? (diabetes, hypertension, CVD)**

- a. Yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_
- b. No
- c. No answer (do not read)

**17. Do you have disability?**

- a. Yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_
- b. No
- c. No answer (do not read)

**18. In general, compared to the time before the COVID outbreak, would you say you are doing more or less of housework now?**

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Not doing housework (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**19. In general, compared to the time before the COVID outbreak, would you say that your husband/men in the house are helping out around the house more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. No change, same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never helped before with housework (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)
- f. Not applicable (do not read)

**Questions for currently married women****20. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and home quarantine, is your husband helping out with housework more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never helped with housework before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**21. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and home quarantine, is your husband now helping take care of the children more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never helped with children before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)
- f. Not applicable (do not read)

**22. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and home quarantine, is your husband now more or less passionate and supportive than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. My husband has never been passionate or supportive (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**23. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and home quarantine, is your husband now careless/passive about things concerning the family more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. No answer (do not read)

**24. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and home quarantine, in general, are you and/or your husband now yelling, cursing or calling your children names more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. We never yelled at them or cursed them before
- e. No answer (do not read)

**25. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and home quarantine, in general, are you and/or your husband now physically abusing your children more or less than before (hit them, slap their faces, strain their hands, pushed you, throw things at them, pull their hair, injured them with a sharp object, strangled them)**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. We never physically abused them before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**26. In general, how aggressive and insulting is your husband now with you (yelling at you/cursing you/calling you names)?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never been aggressive or insulting (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**27. In general, is your husband now physically aggressive against you more or less than before? (hit you, slap your face, strain your hand, pushed you, throw things at you, pull your hair, injure you with a sharp object, strangle you)**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never been physically aggressive before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**28. Your husband employment status**

- a. Public sector employee
- b. Private sector employee
- c. Private business
- d. Worker
- e. Student
- f. Retired
- g. Unemployed

**29. Does your husband have a chronic disease? (diabetes, hypertension, CVD)**

- a. Yes, list \_\_\_\_\_
- b. No

**30. Does he have disability?**

- a. If yes, please list \_\_\_\_\_
- b. No

**31. Are you pregnant?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**Questions for currently married men**

**20. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, in general, would you say you are helping with the children more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never helped with children before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**21. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, in general are you and/or your wife now yelling, cursing or calling your children names more or less than before?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. We never yelled at them before
- e. No answer (do not read)

**22. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, in general, are you and/or your wife now physically abusing your children more or less than before (hit them, slap their faces, strain their hands, pushed you, throw things at them, pull their hair, injured them with a sharp object, strangled them)**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. We never physically abused them before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**23. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, in general, Is your wife passionate and supportive more or less with you?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. My wife has never been passionate or supportive (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**24. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, in general, how aggressive and insulting is your wife now with you (yelling at you/cursing you/calling you names)?**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never been aggressive or insulting (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**25. Compared to the situation before COVID-19 and the home quarantine, in general, is your wife now physically aggressive against you more or less than before? (hit you, slap your face, strain your hand, pushed you, throw things at you, injure you with a sharp object, strangle you)**

- a. More than before
- b. Same as before (do not read)
- c. Less than before
- d. Never been physically aggressive against me before (do not read)
- e. No answer (do not read)

**26. Your wife employment status**

- a. Public sector employee
- b. Private sector employee
- c. Private business
- d. Worker
- e. Student
- f. Housewife
- g. Retired
- h. Unemployed

**27. Does your wife have a chronic disease? (diabetes, hypertension, CVD)**

- a. Yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_
- b. No
- c. No answer ( do not read)

**28. Does she have disability?**

- a. Yes, specify -----
- b. No
- c. No answer (do not read)

**Please ask all participants who reported that they were subjected to verbal or physical violence the following questions and give them the following numbers in case they need help:**

**Thank you for giving us the time to answer these questions. Can we call you in the future to get your opinion and see your thoughts?**

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. Do not know (do not read)
- d. No answer (do not read)

**If you agree, what phone number would you like us to call you in the future? Please give us the full number:**

- a. Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Do not have phone
- c. Do not know
- d. No answer

## **Annex 2: Factors associated with violence against children and spouse, based on logistic regression**

### **Violence Against Children**

#### **Verbal violence - Father report**

Based on interviewed fathers, the likelihood of verbally abusing their children increased among those:

- Living in Hebron and Tulkarem
- Living with extended family compared to nuclear family members
- With lower education levels

There were no differences in exposure by age, sex, residency, or employment.

#### **Verbal violence - Mother report**

Based on interviewed mothers, the likelihood of verbally abusing their children increased with:

- Larger numbers of children
- Living in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarem
- Younger mothers

#### **Physical violence - Father report**

Based on interviewed fathers, the likelihood of physically abusing their children increased among those living in Hebron and Tulkarem, and with larger numbers of children.

#### **Physical violence - Mother report**

Based on interviewed mothers, the likelihood of physically abusing their children increased among those living in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarem, and with larger numbers of children.

### **Spouse Violence**

#### **Against husband - Verbal**

Based on interviewed husbands, the likelihood of husbands being exposed to verbal violence from their wife increased among those living in Hebron and Tulkarem.

#### **Against husband - Physical**

Based on interviewed husbands, the likelihood of husbands being exposed to physical violence by their wife increased among those living in Hebron and Tulkarem, and among those with lower education levels.

#### **Against wife - Verbal**

Based on interviewed wives, the likelihood of being exposed to verbal violence by their husband increased among those living in Hebron and Tulkarem, and among those with lower education levels.

#### **Against wife - Physical**

Based on interviewed wives, the likelihood of being exposed to physical violence by their husband increased among those living in Hebron and Tulkarem.

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