



**Ministry of Women's Affairs**

## **Health Conditions of Palestinian Women (2025-2026)**

**on the eve of 8<sup>th</sup> of March**

**March 8, 2026**



## Introduction

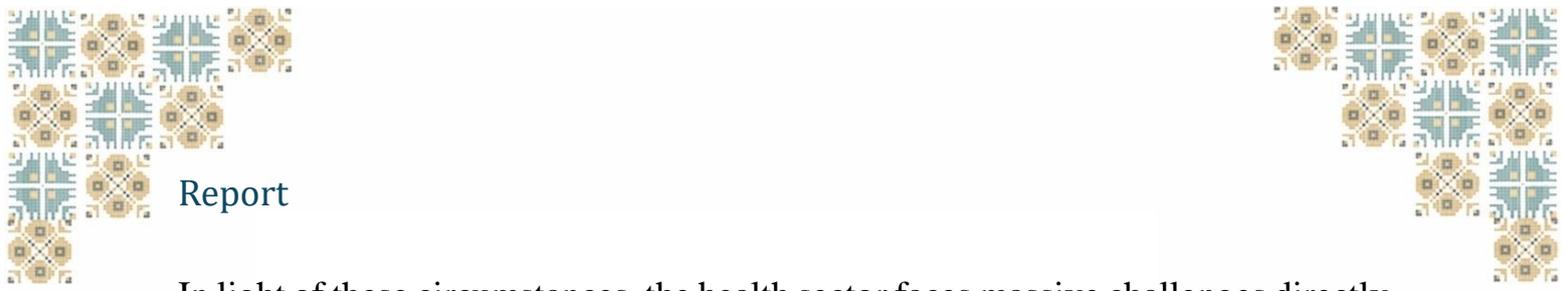
As March 8<sup>th</sup> arrives this year, Palestinian women are living for the second consecutive year under the weight of an unprecedented humanitarian and health crisis caused by the consequences of the genocidal war, and the systematic targeting of the health system in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, in flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law and the human rights system.

The destruction of health facilities, the exhaustion of medical staff, and the acute shortage of medicines and medical supplies have deprived women of their basic right to health care, particularly reproductive health services and safe motherhood. This is acutely evident in the Gaza Strip, where women face an extremely harsh reality amid the near-total collapse of the health system and the inability of hospitals to meet basic treatment needs, including care for pregnant women and those with chronic and serious diseases.

Furthermore, the extended health effects—including high rates of disability, limb amputations, and risks threatening the health of fetuses and pregnant women—exacerbate the challenges facing Palestinian women's health. In the West Bank and Jerusalem, restrictions on movement, military checkpoints, and the targeting of health infrastructure, alongside the financial crisis resulting from the piracy of clearance funds, have deepened the difficulty of women's safe and regular access to health services.

**H.E. Mona Al-Khalili**

**Minister of Women's Affairs**



## Report

In light of these circumstances, the health sector faces massive challenges directly affected by the following:

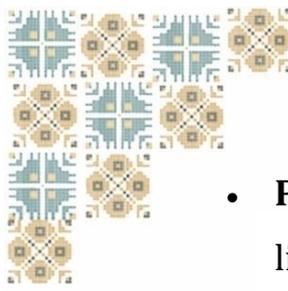
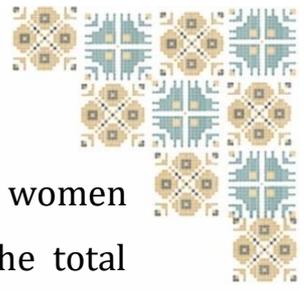
### I. Impact on the Health Sector Infrastructure

- **Destruction of Facilities:** 283 hospitals and health centers have been destroyed or put out of service, and 197 ambulances have been targeted.
- **Targeting Medical Personnel:** 1,670 health workers have been martyred, and 362 others have been detained.
- **Acute Resource Shortages:** A severe lack of fuel, medicine, and medical supplies due to the closure of the Rafah crossing and the continued blockade.

### II. Maternal and Reproductive Health Indicators

The report documents catastrophic indicators regarding women's health:

- **Pregnant Women:** There are approximately 60,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with 180 births occurring daily. One-third of these pregnancies are classified as high-risk.
- **Miscarriages:** Over 12,000 recorded cases of miscarriage due to malnutrition and the total lack of prenatal care.
- **Newborn Health:** 20% of newborns are either premature, underweight, or suffering from complications requiring specialized care.
- **Acute Malnutrition:** An estimated 55,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women in Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition.

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- **Privacy and Hygiene:** Over 107,000 pregnant and lactating women live in overcrowded shelters lacking privacy and safety. The total absence of hygiene supplies has forced women to use unsafe alternatives or take contraceptive pills to stop menstrual cycles in the absence of proper care.

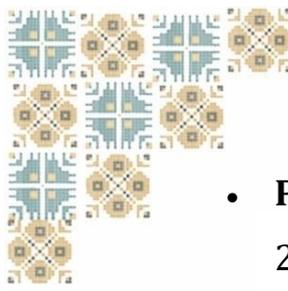
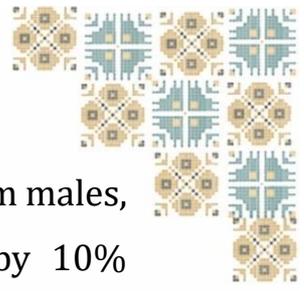
### III. Mental Health and Disabilities

- **Psychological Distress:** 75% of women suffer from depression, 62% from insomnia, and 65% from constant anxiety and nightmares.
- **Disabilities and Injuries:** Between October 2023 and September 2025, approximately 42,000 individuals sustained life-altering injuries, including at least 6,000 cases of amputation.
- **Women's Casualties:** Out of the 171,651 people injured by October 2025, approximately 23,769 were women. These women face compounded risks due to the loss of assistive devices and restricted access to rehabilitation.

### IV. Regional Challenges: West Bank, Jerusalem, and UNRWA

- **Access Barriers:** Military checkpoints and movement restrictions hinder access for 856,600 women of reproductive age in the West Bank.
- **UNRWA Ban:** The January 2025 decision to ban UNRWA has cut off vital services for over 30,000 refugees, directly impacting maternal care, family planning, and mental health services in East Jerusalem and camps like Shu'afat and Qalandiya.

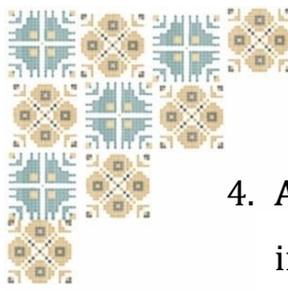
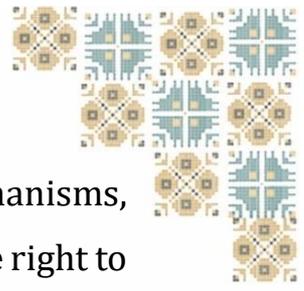
### V. Demographic Overview (Mid-2025 Estimates)

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- **Population Status:** The total population is 5.51 million (2.79m males, 2.72m females). The population of Gaza has decreased by 10% compared to previous mid-2025 estimates due to the aggression.
  - **Casualties:** In Gaza, over 12,500 women have been martyred, and more than 9,000 mothers killed. Women and children constitute over 55% of the total martyrs.

## VI. Final Demands and International Action

The Ministry of Women's Affairs considers the systematic deprivation of health care for Palestinian women a grave violation of International Humanitarian Law and human rights law, and calls on the international community to take immediate and concrete actions:

1. **Ensure Access:** Guarantee unhindered access for women and girls, including pregnant, breastfeeding, and those with disabilities, to essential health and reproductive services and safe motherhood without obstacles. Obstruction of this access must be considered a form of prohibited collective punishment under the Geneva Conventions.
2. **Protect Facilities:** Take urgent international action to secure medical and food supplies for women, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women, and ensure the protection of health facilities and medical teams from targeting, considering any attack on them a flagrant violation of International Humanitarian Law.
3. **Lift Restrictions:** Obligate the occupying power to lift restrictions on the movement of women, medical teams, and ambulances, and ensure safe medical evacuation, as the deliberate prevention or delay of treatment is an act that may amount to inhuman treatment.

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4. **Accountability:** Activate international investigation mechanisms, including fact-finding missions and Special Rapporteurs on the right to health and violence against women, to investigate health violations committed against Palestinian women, publish the results, and ensure accountability.
  5. **Legal Obligations:** Call on the State Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their legal obligations by taking practical measures to ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law, holding those responsible for violations accountable, and stopping all policies that lead to this.