



**World Health
Organization**

occupied Palestinian territory

**2015
CALENDAR**



World Health Organization

occupied Palestinian territory

WHO works in the occupied Palestinian territory as the principal technical adviser to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, providing advice and support to strengthen health services, address public health issues and promote research for health. As the lead UN health agency, WHO works with United Nations agencies, donors, nongovernmental organizations, universities and the private sector to ensure that development and humanitarian efforts are coordinated to support health.

WHO's Right to Health advocacy project uses evidence, monitoring, reporting and advocacy to promote the protection of health and human rights for Palestinians, including regarding the impact of the Israeli occupation on health. This calendar looks at Women and Health in Palestine to highlight the fact that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition--including gender.

World Health Organization

Occupied Palestinian territory

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Photo credits: (left) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf; (right) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WOMEN

Female health indicators are usually linked to reproductive health and the traditional role of women as mothers and caregivers of children. As a result, the health of adolescent girls, women outside of childbirth and women beyond reproductive age risk being neglected.

There has been a gradual improvement in women's reproductive health in recent years. The average size of the Palestinian family has fallen gradually from 6.4 in 1997 to 5.3 in 2012, easing the reproductive and family care burden on Palestinian women, although total fertility rates remain high at 4.4, particularly in Gaza (4.0 in the West Bank and 5.2 in the Gaza).

Recent measures to improve access to reproductive health care has contributed to declining maternal mortality rates, from 38 per 100,000 live births in 2009 to 21.9 in Gaza and 26.1 in the West Bank in 2013. 94% of women received health care during pregnancy and about 99.2% gave birth under medical supervision, but post-natal services remain very limited. The Caesarian section rate for deliveries in Ministry of Health hospitals in the West Bank was 18.8% in 2013 (WHO considers rates above 15% to indicate overuse). More indicators are needed to assess the quality of care, and access to specialized care for high-risk births is still problematic in some areas of the West Bank.

01 | JANUARY

كانون الأول

2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

The foundations for psycho-social well-being are formed in early life and continue through the life-course, affected by life events and mediated by societal attitudes toward gender, disability, age, and family and community, as well as individual personality.

There are persistent differences that gender, that is, girls and women compared to boys and men, shows across cultures, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic and political circumstances related to how societies are organized, and the status of women in society.

Tight restrictions on movement within the West Bank and the isolation of Palestinians in Gaza fragments the population and reduces social solidarity as well as access to services, and particularly affects women.

02 FEBRUARY					شباط	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4 World Cancer Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	



Photo credits: (left) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani; (right) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf.

GIRLS AND CHILDHOOD

Children face particular health challenges at each stage of their physical and mental development, which can make them especially vulnerable to poor diet and infectious disease and, when reaching adolescence, to sexual, reproductive and mental health problems. 'Male preference' in families may weigh subtly on the development of girls.

Total reported live births in 2013: 116,207 (61,405 in West Bank and 54,802 in Gaza) (51% males and 49% females).

Infant mortality in 2013 was 12.9 per 1000 live births in Palestine, half of the rate in the year 2000 of 25.5 per 1000 live births.

Palestinian society is young. Children under 15 represent 39.9% of the population (37.7% in the West Bank and 43.3% in Gaza).

03 MARCH					آذار	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 March	31 March					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 World Down Syndrome Day	22 World Water Day
23	24 World Tuberculosis Day	25 World Malaria Day	26	27	28	29



Photo credits: (left) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani; (right) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf.

GIRLS AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Reproductive health knowledge and protection of rights are especially important for adolescent girls. Early marriages threaten the human rights and well-being of children. It challenges their enjoyment of the basic right to education, health, protection and development. Marriage without consent predictably deprives girls of life opportunities for education and meaningful employment and makes them more vulnerable to physical abuse. In Palestine in 2013 the percentage of married women aged 15-45 who married before the age of 18 years was 35.5%, (34.3% for West Bank and 37.6% for the Gaza Strip). 21.9% of marriages and 9.7% of divorces registered in 2012 involved females below 18 years, with higher rates in Gaza in both categories.

04 APRIL					نيسان	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5
6	7 World Health Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 World Hemophilia Day	18	19
20	21	22	23	24*	25*	26*
27*	28* World Day for Safety and Health at Work	29*	30*			

* World Immunization Week: Last week of April



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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Discrimination against women can occur within the family, as when girls and women are frequently made caregivers for infants, elderly and disabled family members, denied access to education, jobs and opportunities as a result, or prevented from sharing in economic decisions that affect the family. Women may also be denied inheritances, and denied their right to make decisions affecting their health status.

Violence against girls and women is a widespread cause of physical and psychological harm and suffering, and is a serious violation of their human rights, including right to health.

A survey on violence in Palestinian society by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (December 2011) indicated high levels of domestic violence against women: 37% of married women had been exposed to some form of violence from their husbands (29.9% in the West Bank and 51.1% in the Gaza Strip).

An excuse of “family honor” has been made to justify killings within families. According to the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling, 27 females were murdered in Palestine in 2013 (15 in the West Bank and 12 in Gaza), compared to 13 in 2012.

05 MAY					ايار	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 International Midwives Day	6	7	8 World Thalassemia Day	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 World Hypertension Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 World No- Tobacco Day



Photo credits: (left) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf; (right) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani.

TRADITIONAL AND NEW OCCUPATIONS FOR WOMEN

Participation by Palestinian women in the economy, particularly in the labor force, is low --- 17.3% in 2013 --- compared to regional and international rates, and among young females is relatively low compared to the long periods spent in education. The high unemployment rate affects young people, especially young women, and thwarts opportunities. In 2013, the participation rate of young women aged 15-24 years was 17% compared to 69% for young males.

However, women's participation is very high in the informal sector and in the unpaid family and care economy, and higher than for Palestinian men. Palestinian women contribute widely to the cultural sector, specifically in the field of popular culture and heritage conservation, although their contribution is not always acknowledged. The few available statistics indicate that up to 84.0% of workers in this sector are female, the highest female participation of any other sector.

At the same time, only 26.2% of journalists are female, although estimates indicate that about 55.0 % of journalism students in Palestine are women.

06 JUNE					حزيران	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 International Children's Day	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 World Blood Donor Day
15	16	17	18	19	20 World Refugee Day	21
22	23	24	25	26 United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	27	28
29	30					



Photo credits: (left) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani; (right) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf.

WOMEN IN HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Women are visible in health and science, although they are not well represented in higher management positions. Of registered physicians, 13.6 % were females and 86.4 % males, higher in the West Bank than in Gaza Strip (16.6% and 10.8%) in 2012.

Among registered dentists, 27.3% were females compared with 72.7% males, higher in the West Bank than in Gaza Strip (32.5% and 20.5%) in 2012.

Of registered nurses, over half (52.0 %) were females and 48.0 % are males in 2011. The proportion of female nurses was higher in the West Bank (62.0 %) than in Gaza Strip (44.2 %).

07 JULY					تموز	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 World Population Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 World Hepatitis Day	29	30	31		



Photo credits: (left) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani; (right) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf.

WOMEN AND AGEING

The proportion of the population aged 65 or older is 2.9% in Palestine, with a sex ratio of 82.5 males per 100 females. As in the rest of the world, women live longer; female life expectancy in 2013 was 74.4 years, almost 3 years more than males at 71.5 years. Older women are often more socially and economically vulnerable, however. Older women themselves are often called upon to be caregivers.

The pattern and impact of major diseases varies between men and women. Data from 2010 showed that 70.7% of the elderly aged 60 years and over in Palestine (75.4% of older females compared to 64.7% of older males) suffered from at least one chronic disease.

Health for the elderly is not only about the presence or absence of a disease. It is also about availability and quality of elderly care. Older people, even those generally in good health, eventually need more care than they did earlier in their life, and are more likely to be living with a disability, and living in poverty, especially in Gaza.

08 AUGUST					آب	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31 August					1*	2*
3*	4*	5*	6*	7*	8	9
10	11	12 World Hepatitis Day	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

* World Breastfeeding week: first week of August



Photo credits: (left) Gaza, Ministry of Health; (right) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf.

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

An estimated 113,000 persons in Palestine (75,000 in the West Bank, and 38,000 in Gaza) have a physical, mental or intellectual disability. More than one third of persons with disabilities in Palestine have never been to school and the majority of disabled have no work opportunities. Women with disabilities are, in particular, neglected and marginalized, often house-bound, and the majority of girls with disabilities remain illiterate. When women with disabilities are engaged in paid work, they tend to earn less than women without a disability.

More women with disabilities are taking important and visible roles in the disability rights movement in Palestine, where they often find they need to fight discrimination on the basis of both gender and disability.

09 SEPTEMBER					أيلول	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 World First Aid Day	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 World Heart Day	30				



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HEALTH ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND MEN

The Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) refers patients in the West Bank and Gaza for specialized care if unavailable in local MoH hospitals, and financially supports their treatment. Most referrals are to private/NGO health facilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, while more than one in five are to neighboring countries: Egypt, Israel or Jordan. The most frequent reason for medical referral is for cancer treatment. In 2013, more males than females were referred in every age group in the West Bank and Gaza with the exception of the 18-40 age group in the West Bank where 53.65% of referrals were for women of reproductive age.

Access to health care facilities for more than half of all patients is subject to delays incurred by the need to seek permits from Israeli authorities or approval from Egyptian border authorities. Patients aged 18-40 are most vulnerable to access restriction. For permits to leave Gaza through Erez in 2013, 11.31% of patients were denied or delayed permits (13.5% males; 8.9% females). Female patients are more likely to be approved, and less likely to be denied permits, delayed, or called for a security interview than male patients.

In the West Bank, of the almost one-quarter million applications for health access permits to hospitals in Jerusalem or in Israel that were submitted to Israeli military authorities through West Bank district offices from patients, patient-companions and hospital visitors, 20.6% were denied or delayed permits. Data is not gender disaggregated.

10 OCTOBER					تشرين الأول	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 International Day of Older Persons	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 World Obesity Day	27	28	29	30	31	



Photo credits: (left) Gaza, WHO/Samar Abu Elouf; (right) West Bank, WHO/Rula Halawani.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH WOMEN AND MEN

The social determinants of health are the conditions of daily life in which people are born, grown, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These conditions in which people live and die are, in turn, shaped by political and historical forces.

The social determinants of health in Palestine have been largely determined by occupation. By restricting the right to development, occupation policies deprive Palestinians of achieving their full social potential and of enjoying the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and well-being.

Basic rights such as education, adequate housing, access to food, medicines, jobs, land and water, religious freedom, political freedom, employment opportunity and cultural expression are all restricted under occupation and can negatively effect health and well being.

11 NOVEMBER					تشرين الثاني	2015
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 November						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 International Day of Older Persons	11	12	13	14 International Day of Older Persons	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	26	27	28	29



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POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip have remained under Israeli occupation since 1967. More than 4 in 10 of the 4.4 million Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory is a refugee from 1948 Palestine, 40% of whom still live in refugee camps. The daily and cumulative effects of the ongoing occupation impedes development and negatively shapes almost all aspects of life for Palestinians, both women and men, including health: occupation deprives them of self-determination and exposes them to further human rights violations, including arbitrary violence and detention. Movement is tightly restricted by physical barriers and a permit regime for people and goods. In Gaza, the siege imposed in 2007 further blocks access.

Occupation authorities continue to carry out punitive collective policies, such as demolishing unlicensed homes, uprooting orchards, and confiscating land, especially in 'Area C' of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, areas under direct Israeli control. Women caring for children are particularly affected by house demolitions. Israel continues to expand settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing Palestinians. More than 720,000 Israeli settlers live in illegal settlements.

In summer 2014, the Israeli army launched a 51-day military operation in the Gaza Strip, the third sustained military operation in five years. It resulted in the largest scale of destruction, devastation and displacement in Gaza since 1967. 30% of the 13,370 deaths and injuries were girls and women. In addition to the physical consequences, the conflict also had serious negative effects on the mental wellbeing of the population.

12 | DECEMBER

كانون الثاني

2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 World AIDS Day	2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 International Human Rights Day	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			