

State of Palestine 2019-2020



Gender Equality

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

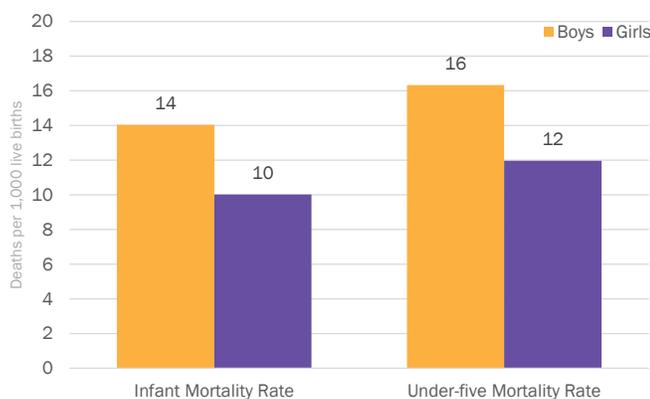


Gender equality means that females and males, women and men, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. Investments in gender equality contribute to lifelong positive outcomes for children and their communities and have considerable inter-generational payoffs because children's rights and well-being often depend on women's rights and well-being. This snapshot shows key dimensions of gender equality during the lifecycle. It is organized around: 1) the first decade of life (0-9 years of age) when gender disparities are often small, particularly in early childhood; 2) the second decade of childhood (10-19 years of age) when gender disparities become more pronounced with the onset of puberty and the consolidation of gender norms; and 3) adulthood, when gender disparities impacts both the wellbeing of women and females and males.

Every Male & Female Survives & Thrives: The First Decade of Life

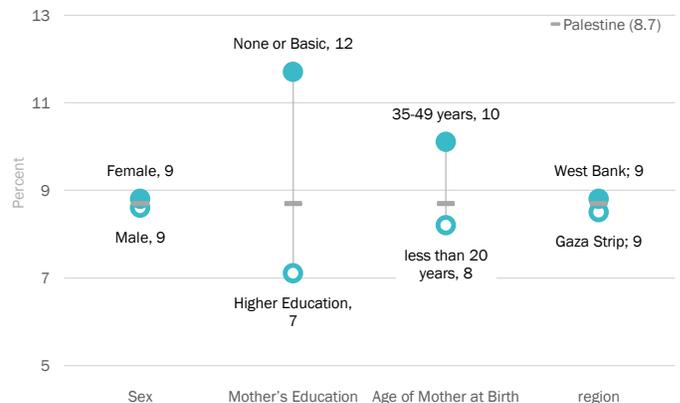
Nutrition and a supportive environment in early childhood are among the key determinants of the health and survival of children and their physical and cognitive development. Generally, females tend to have better biological endowments than males for survival to age five, and thus higher survival chances under natural circumstances. However, gender discrimination against females can affect survival, resulting in higher than expected female mortality. Similarly, stunting rates are typically lower among females than males, potentially due to the higher risk for preterm birth among males, which is inextricably linked with lower birth weight. However, children with mothers who gave birth at a young age or who have no education may be more likely to be malnourished. Children with restricted cognitive development during early life are at risk for later neuropsychological problems, poor school achievement, early school drop-out, low-skilled employment, and poor care of their own children. Stimulation and interaction with parents and caregivers can jumpstart brain development and promote well-being in early childhood. This is also the period of development when gender socialization, or the process of learning cultural roles according to one's sex, manifests. Caregivers, particularly fathers, may respond to, and interact with, sons and daughters differently.

Mortality Rates among Children Under-5, SDG 3.2.1 Sex Disaggregate



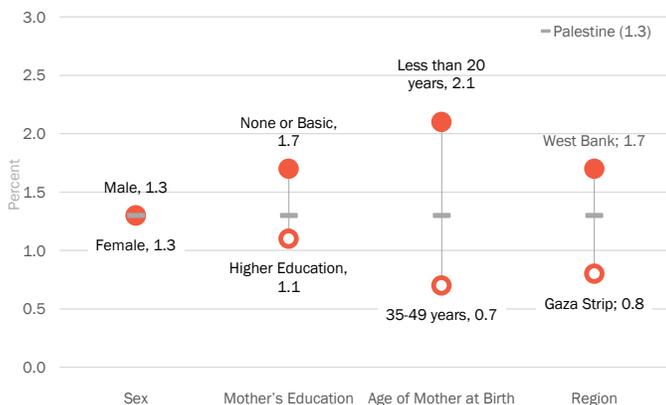
Infant mortality: probability of dying between birth and the first birthday
Under-five mortality: the probability of dying between birth and the fifth birthday

Malnutrition: Stunting (Moderate & Severe) among Children Under-5, SDG 2.2.1



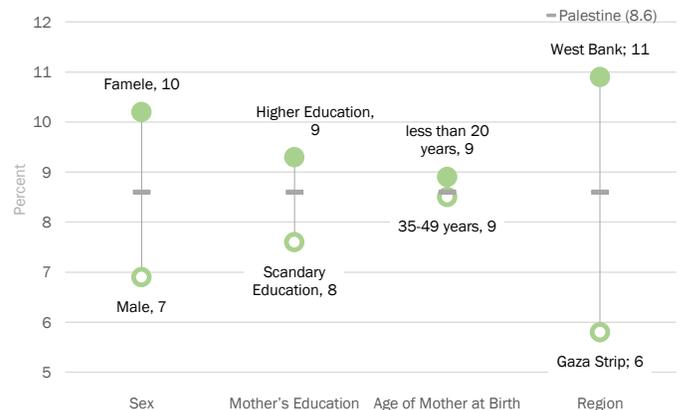
Stunting refers to a child too short for his or her age

Malnutrition: Wasting (Moderate & Severe) among Children Under-5, SDG 2.2.2



Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height

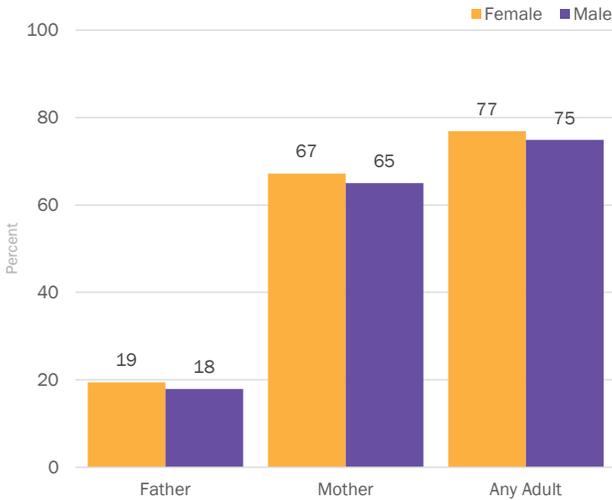
Malnutrition: Overweight (Moderate & Severe) among Children Under-5, SDG 2.2.2



Overweight refers to a child who is too heavy for his or her height

Every Male & Female Survives & Thrives: The First Decade of Life

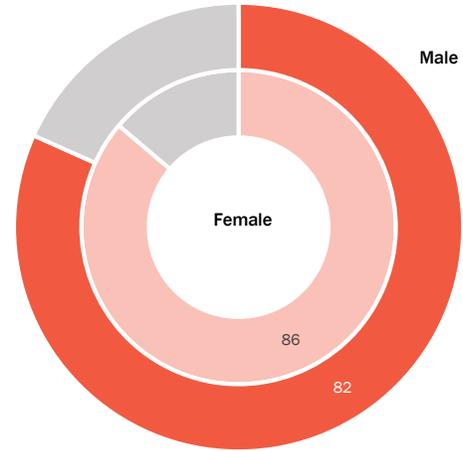
Early Stimulation & Responsive Care by Adults



Percentage of children age 2-4 years with whom adult household members engaged in activities that promote learning and school readiness during the last three days, by person interacting with child and sex of child.

Note: Activities include: reading books to the child; telling stories to the child; singing songs to the child; taking the child outside the home; playing with the child; and naming, counting or drawing things with the child

Early Childhood Development Index, SDG 4.2.1



Percentage of children age 3-4 years who are developmentally on track in at least 3 of the following 4 domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning domains, by sex

Every Male & Female Is Protected From Violence & Exploitation: The First Decade of Life

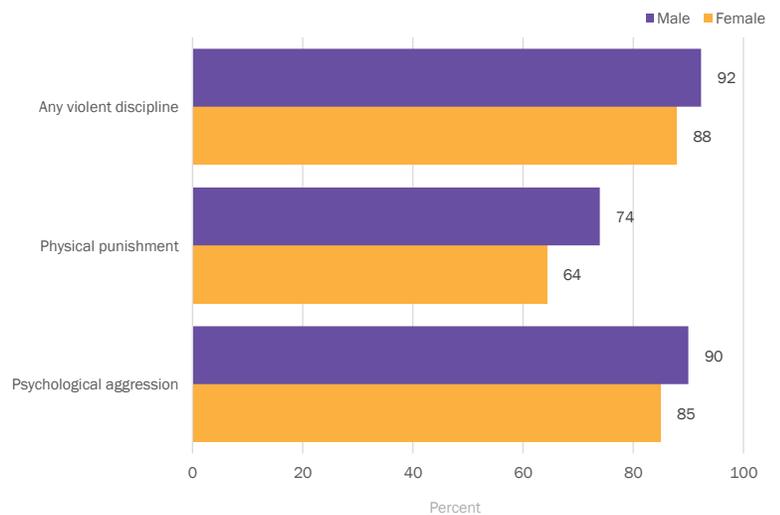
Registering children at birth is the first step in securing their recognition before the law, safeguarding their rights, and ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed. While vitally important for both females and males, the implications of low birth registration rates for females are significant, rendering them more vulnerable to certain forms of exploitation they are at greater risk of, including child marriage and international trafficking. Although average birth registration rates are similar for females and males, children with mothers who have no education may be less likely to have their births registered. While females and males face similar risks of experiencing violent discipline -which includes physical punishment and psychological aggression- by caregivers in the home, gender inequality and domestic violence are among the factors associated with an elevated risk of violence against both females and males.

Birth Registration, By Region, Mother's Education, and Child Sex. SDG 16.9.1



Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by region, mother's education, and child sex.

Violent Discipline, SDG 16.2.1 Sex Disaggregate



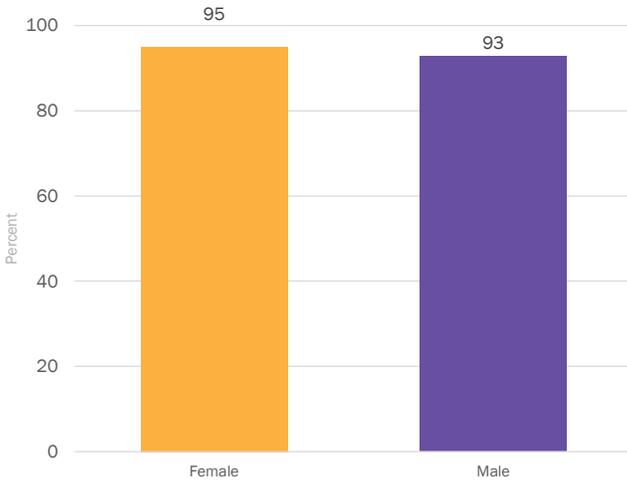
Percentage of children age 1-14 years who experienced violent discipline in the past month, by sex
Note: The age group 1-14 spans the first and second decades of life.

Every Male & Female Learns: The First Decade of Life

Investment in good quality early childhood education services prior to entering school improves learning outcomes for children. It also enhances the efficiency of the school system by reducing repetition and drop-out and improving achievement, especially among females and marginalized groups. Basic education provides the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Considerable progress has been made in achieving universal education and closing the gender gap but gender disparities to the disadvantage of females still exist in some countries. Further, females still comprise the majority of the world's out-of-school population.

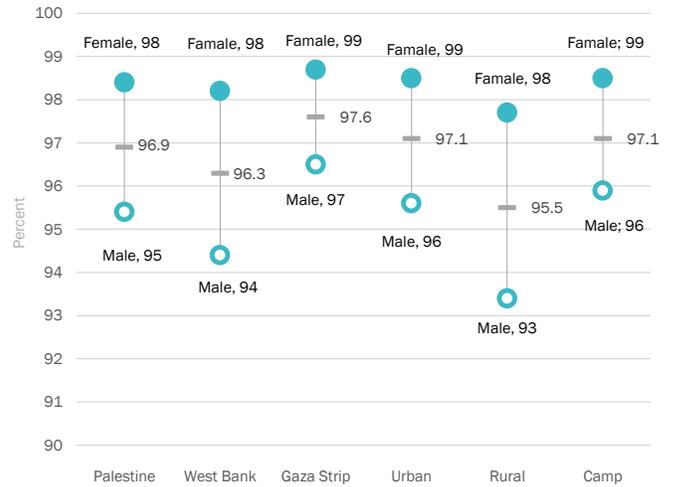
Note: Because children of basic school age range from 6-15 years, these indicators include some children in their second decade of life.

Participation Rate in Organized Learning, SDG 4.2.2



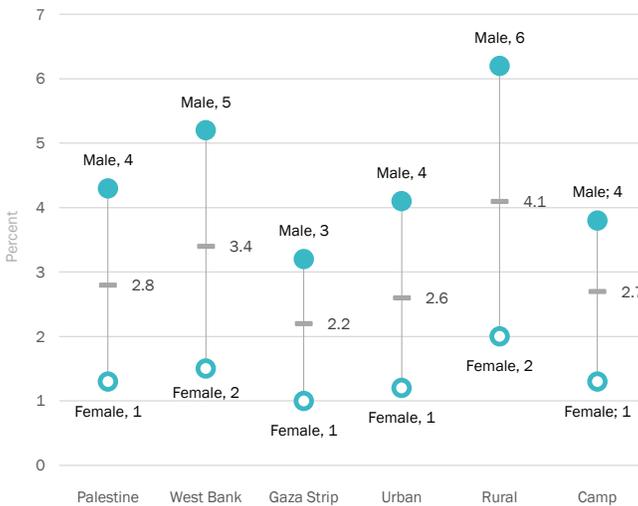
Percent distribution of children age one year younger than the official basic school entry age at the beginning of the school year, by attendance to education, and attendance to an early childhood education programme or basic education (adjusted net attendance ratio), by sex

Basic School Attendance



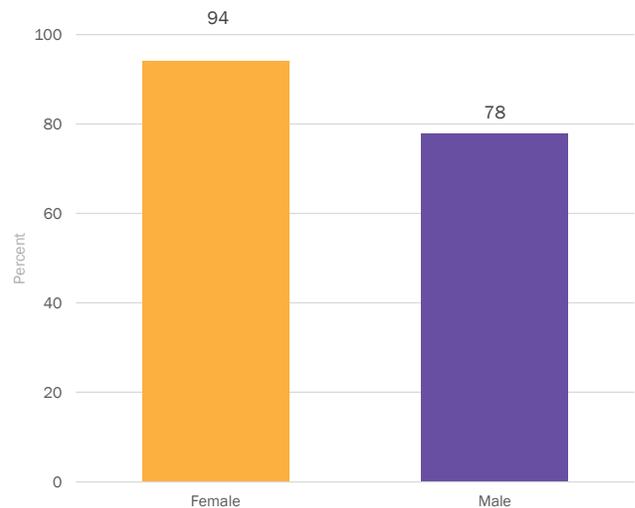
Percentage of children of basic school age attending basic or secondary school (adjusted net attendance ratio), by region and locality type.

Children of Basic School Age Out of School



Percentage of children of basic school age not attending either basic or secondary school, by region and locality type.

Basic Completion



Percentage of children age 3 to 5 years above the intended age for the last grade of basic school who have completed basic education, by sex

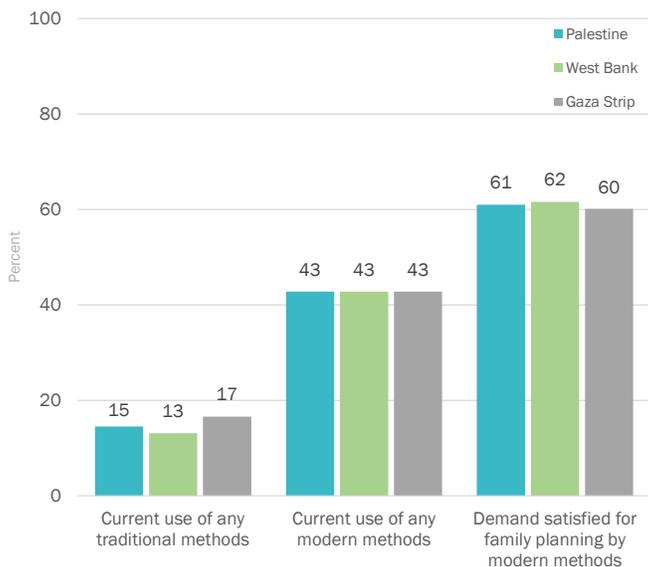
Key Messages

- Children under five years of age whose mothers are less educated suffer from malnutrition at a higher rate than children of mothers with higher education.
- Males under five suffer from obesity than females.
- Females at age 3-4 years are on the correct path of development in three of the four domains : literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning domains at a higher rate than male children in the same age.
- Male children in the age group 1-14 years are subjected to violent discipline at a higher rate than females.
- Enrollment rates at the elementary stage are the highest among females compared to males of the basic stage age.
- The completion rates for the basic stage witness a large gap between males and females, reaching respectively; 78% and 94%.

Every Adolescent Male & Female Survives & Thrives: The Second Decade of Life

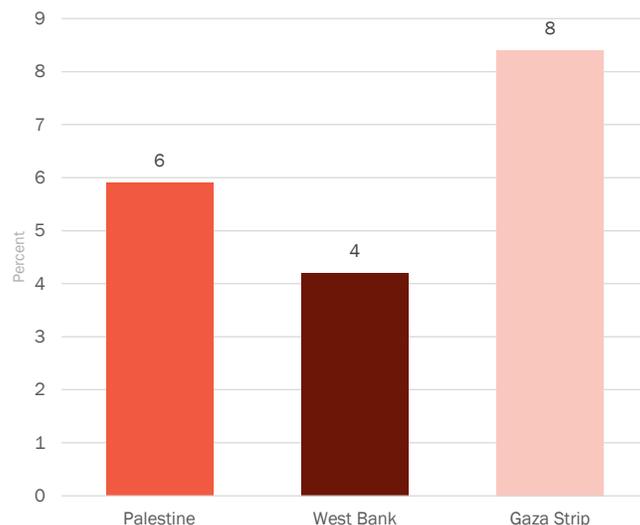
While adolescence carries new health risks for both females and males, females often face gender-specific vulnerabilities, with lifelong consequences. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of death worldwide for adolescent females age 15 to 19. Preventing adolescent pregnancy not only improves the health of adolescent females, but also provides them with opportunities to continue their education, preparing them for jobs and livelihoods, increasing their self-esteem and giving them more say in decisions that affect their lives. Yet, too often, adolescent females lack access to appropriate sexual and reproductive health services, including modern methods of contraception. Additionally, despite having a higher risk of contracting HIV due to both greater physiological vulnerabilities and gender inequalities, adolescent females are lack adequate knowledge about how HIV is transmitted.

Contraceptive Use & Demand Satisfied on Modern Methods



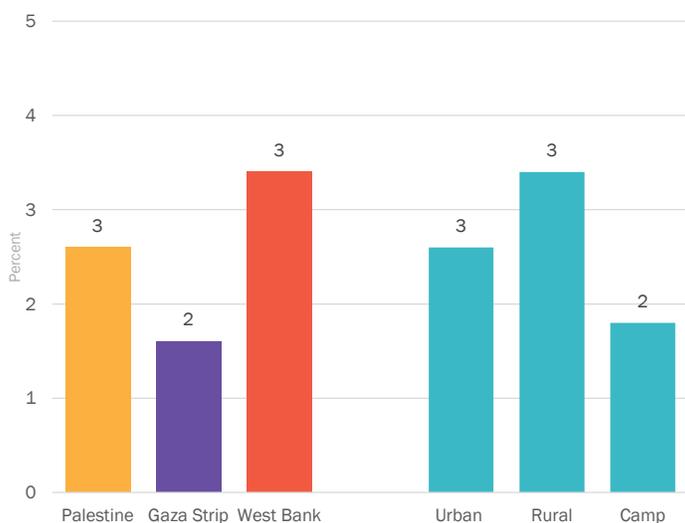
Contraceptive use and demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods among adolescent females age 15-49, by region

Early Childbearing - before Age 18



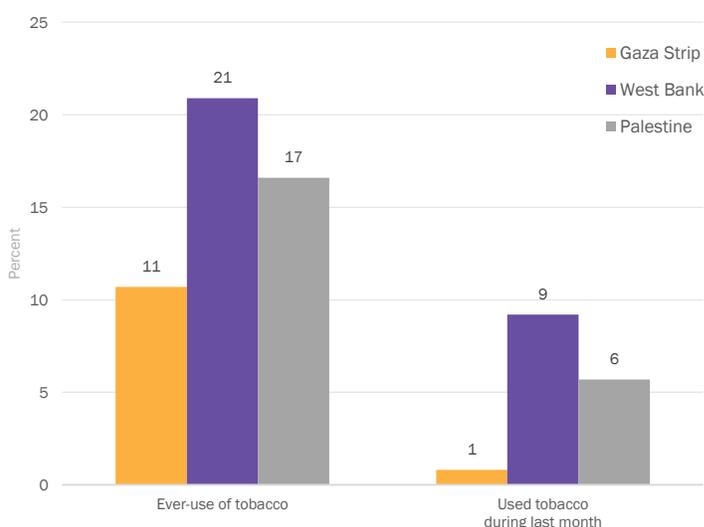
Percentage of women age 20-24 years who had a live birth by age 18, by region

Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV



Percent of female age 15-19 who know of the two ways of HIV prevention (having only one faithful uninfected partner and using a condom every time), who know that a healthy looking person can be HIV-positive, and who reject the two most common misconceptions, and any other local misconception.

Tobacco* Use

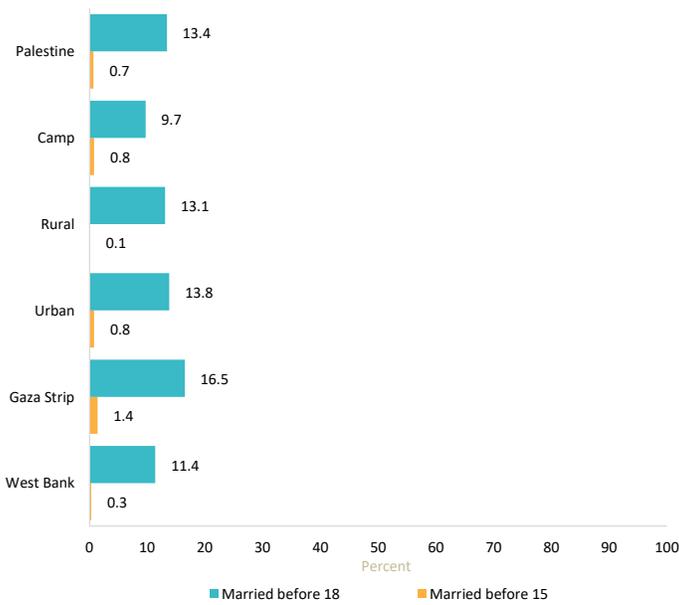


Tobacco and alcohol use among Female adolescents age 15-19, by region.
*Includes an age disaggregate of SDG 3.a.1: use of tobacco

Every Adolescent Male & Female is Protected from Violence & Exploitation: The Second Decade of Life

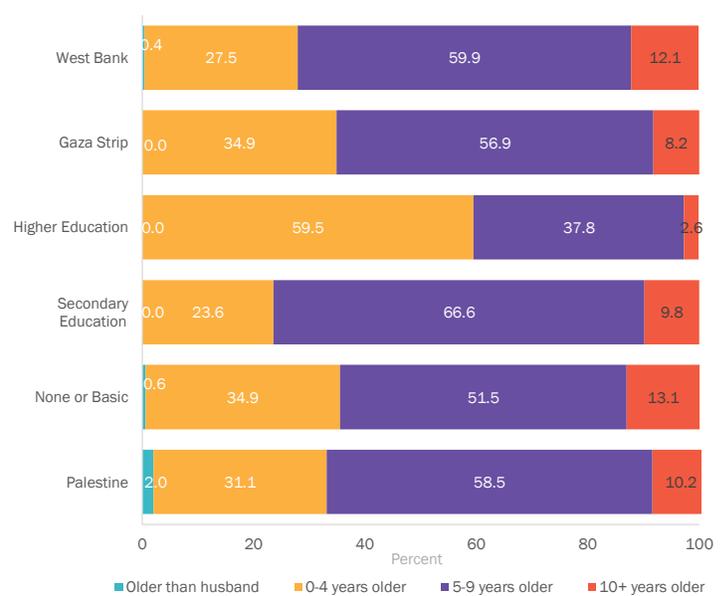
Adolescence presents unique vulnerabilities to violence and exploitation for females. In many countries, marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for females due to the interaction of several factors that place a female at risk, including poverty, social norms, customary or religious laws that condone the practice, an inadequate legislative framework and the state of a country's civil registration system. Child marriage often compromises a female's development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, and limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement. It also often involves a substantial age difference between the female and her husband, thus further disempowering her and putting her at greater risk of husband violence. Attitudes about wife beating serve as a marker for the social acceptability of husband violence. Acceptance of wife beating among adolescent females and males suggests that it can be difficult for married females who experience violence to seek assistance and for unmarried females to identify and negotiate healthy and equitable relationships. Gender-based discrimination may be one of the most ubiquitous forms of discrimination adolescent females face, and it has long-lasting and far-reaching effects on their personal trajectories as well as on all aspects of social and economic development. While in most regions, females and males are equally likely to be involved in child labour, gender is a determinant of the types of activities males and females engage in, with females more likely to be involved in domestic work.

Child Marriage, SDG 5.3.1



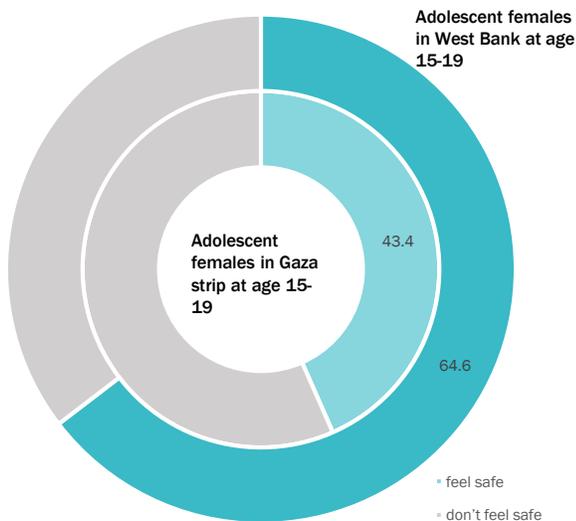
Percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were first married before age 15 and before age 18*, by region and locality type.

Spousal Age Difference



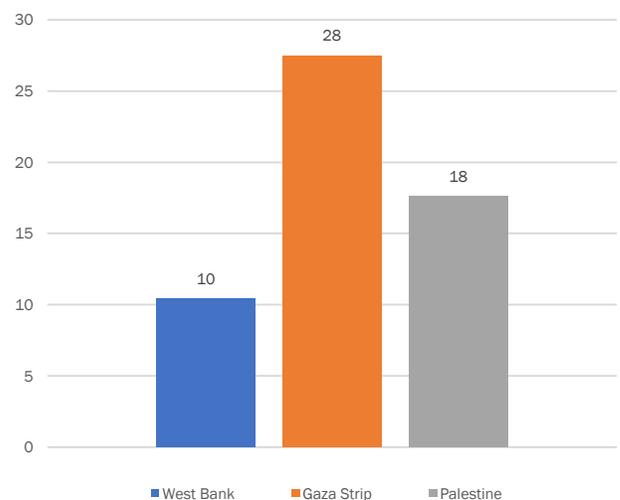
Percent distribution of adolescent females age 15-19 currently married by age of their husband, by education level and region.

Feelings of Safety, SDG 16.1.4 Age & Sex Disaggregate



Percentage of female adolescents age 15-19 who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, by region.

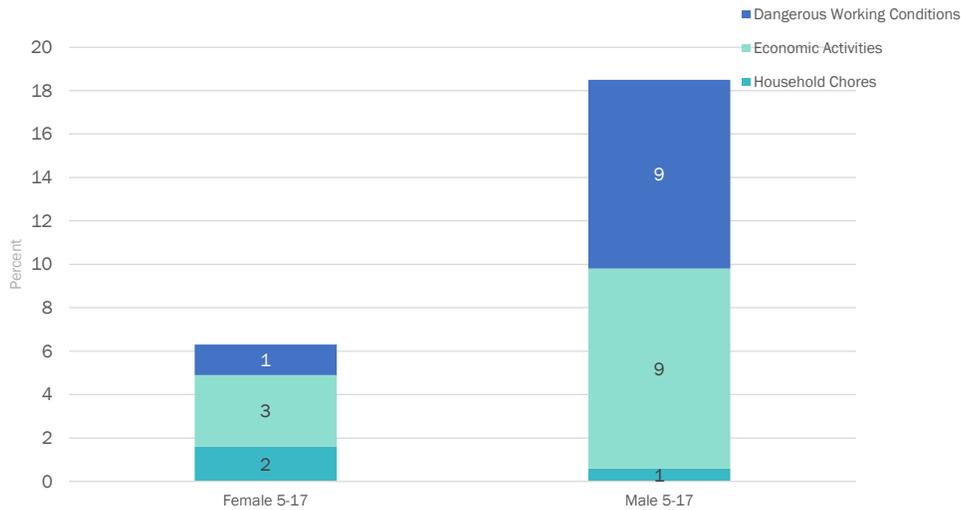
Attitudes toward Domestic Violence



Percentage of female adolescents age 15-19 years who justify wife beating for any of the following reasons: she goes out without telling him; she neglects the children; she argues with him; she refuses sex with him; she burns the food, by region.

Every Adolescent Male & Female is Protected from Violence & Exploitation: The Second Decade of Life

Child Labour, SDG 8.7.1



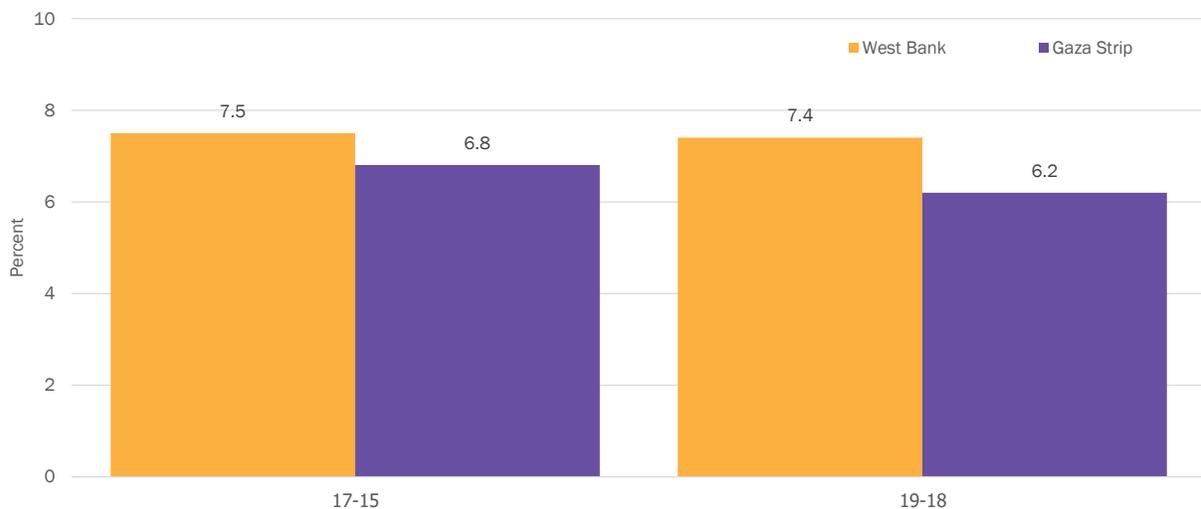
Percentage of children age 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex, type of activity

- Note: Indicator includes children in the first & second decade of life
- The estimates taken from the child labor model in the Palestinian MICS 2019-2020 differ from the estimates provided in the SDG indicator database for Goal 8.7.1, as this database excludes the dangerous work component and applies a 21-hour limit on housework for children in age group 5-14 years, and there is no limit on the number of hours of housework for children in the age group 15-17 years.

Every Adolescent Male & Female has an Equitable Chance in Life: The Second Decade of Life

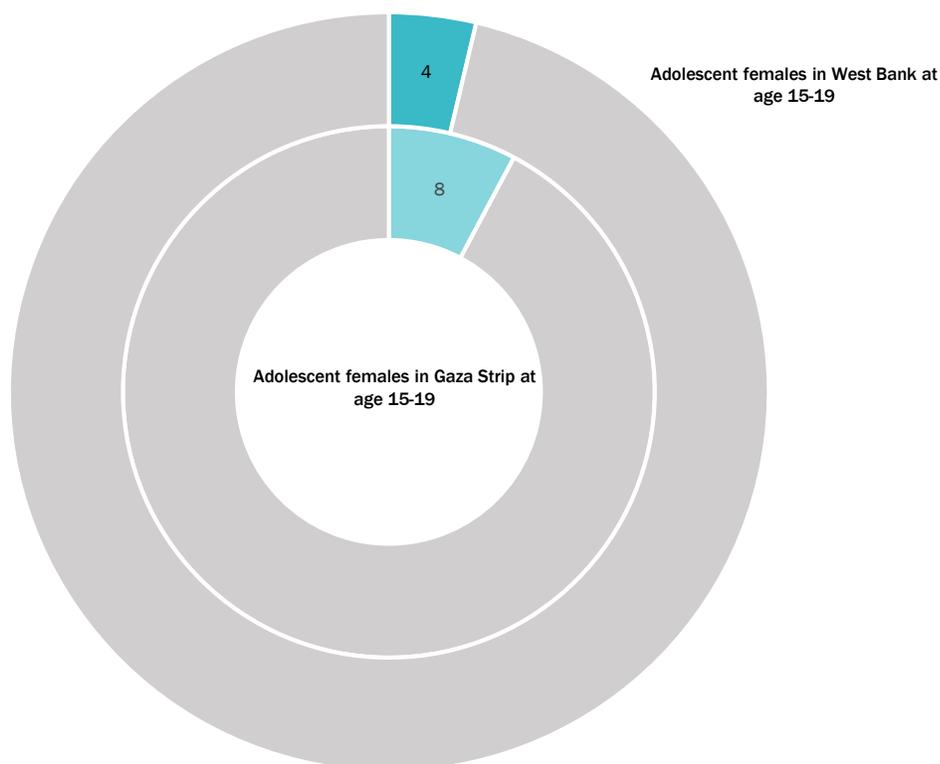
To become empowered, adolescent females and males need to be engaged as civic participants in the decisions affecting their lives and communities. People's sense of security and freedom from the fear of crime influences how they move about those communities, access services and economic opportunities and participate in public life. Adolescent females and males are likely to have different perceptions of personal safety due to different gender-based vulnerabilities to sexual violence and other crimes. Life satisfaction measures an individual's perceived level of well-being or how an individual feels about their life as a whole. Measuring adolescent females' and male's satisfaction with their lives can provide important insights into their mental health during a stage of life when gender norms consolidate and females and males experience different risk factors for mental health disorders.

Life Satisfaction



Among adolescents age 15-19, average life satisfaction score on a scale of 0 to 10, by region and age group

Discrimination & Harassment



Percentage of adolescent female at age 15-19 years who have ever felt discriminated or harassed based on their gender

Key Messages

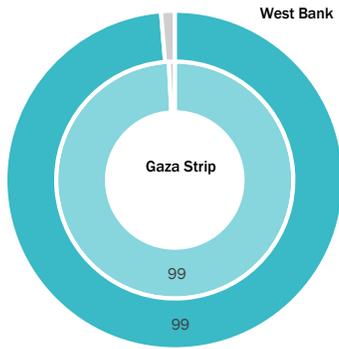
- Only 3% of females at age 15-19 years have comprehensive knowledge of HIV.
- 17% of females aged 15-19 years in The State of Palestine had previously used tobacco, and this percentage was almost double in the West Bank compared to the Gaza Strip.
- Females in the Gaza Strip at age 15-19 years feel discrimination or harassment based on their gender in a higher percentage than Females in the West Bank.
- Women in the Gaza Strip justify beating their wives more than twice as often as women in the West Bank.
- 77% of females aged 15-19 years were able to manage their menstrual cycle safely while preserving their privacy at home, and 14% did not participate in social activities due to the last menstrual period.

Gender Equality in Adulthood

To survive and thrive, all children require care and support from women and men. Care and support can be substantively improved by fostering gender equality, an important goal in its own right, and by reducing the gender-related barriers. Gender-related barriers include women's and females' disproportionate lack of information, knowledge and technology, resources, and safety and mobility, as well as the gender division of labour and gender norms. For example, a mother's lack of mobility, due to prohibitive norms or lack of transportation, may impede birth registration, nutrition, and other child outcomes. The internalization of gender norms around masculine and feminine expectations and behaviours may influence women's and men's attitudes toward partner violence and physical punishment of children as well as self-perceptions of well-being, including life satisfaction and expectations for the future.

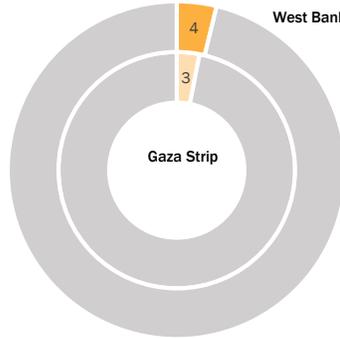
Access to Knowledge, Information & Technology

Literacy



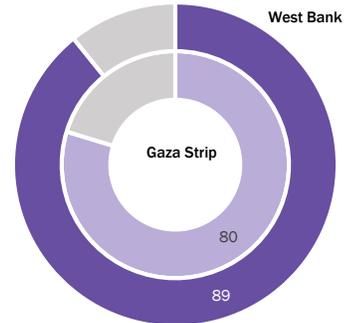
Percentage of females age 15-49 who are literate, by region

Media Access



Percentage of females age 15-49 who read a newspaper, listen to the radio, or watch television at least once a week, by region

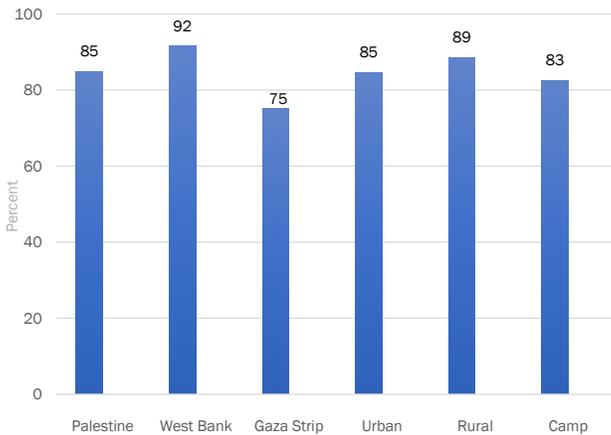
Internet Use: SDG17.8.1



Percentage of females age 15-49 using the internet at least once in the past 3 months, by region

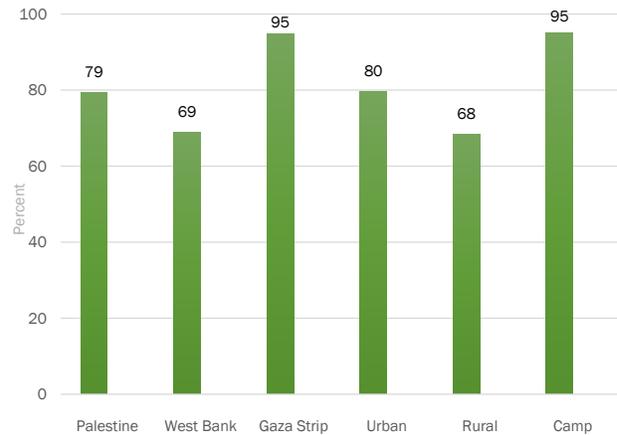
Access to Resources

Mobile Phone Ownership, SDG 5.b.1



Percentage of women age 15-49 who own a mobile phone, by region and locality type.

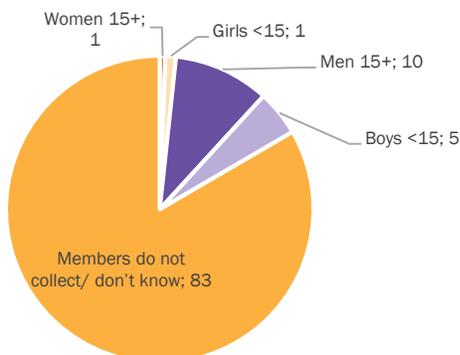
Health Insurance Coverage



Percentage of women age 15-49 with health insurance, by region and locality type.

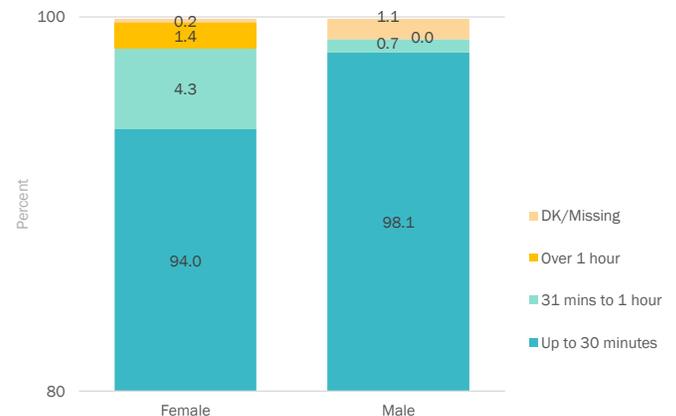
Time on Household Chores: Water Collection

Who collects water?



Percent distribution of household members without drinking water on premises by person usually collecting drinking water used in the household

Time spent on water collection

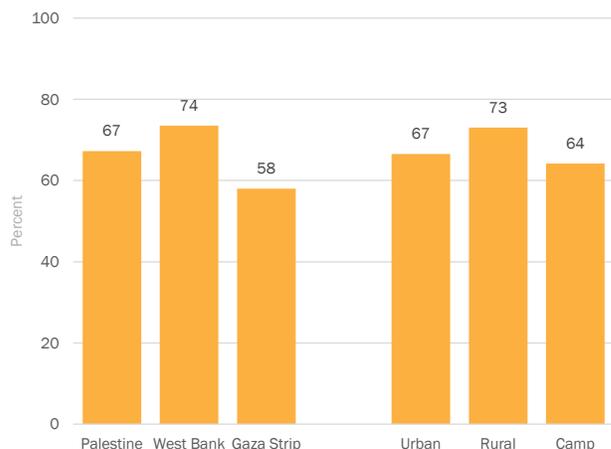


Percent distribution of average amount of time spent collecting water per day by sex of person primarily responsible for water collection in households without drinking water on premises

Gender Equality in Adulthood

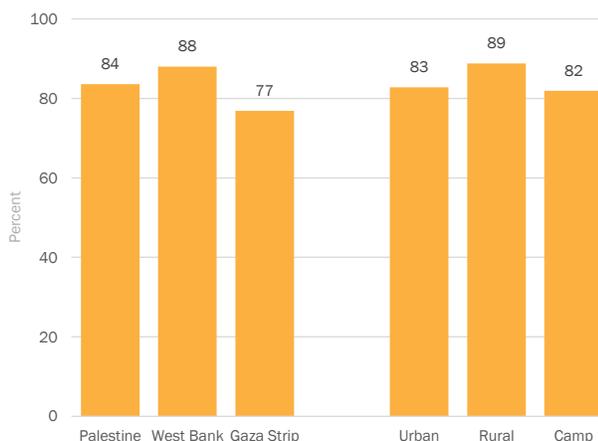
Safety & Security

Feeling safe while walking alone, SDG 16.1.4



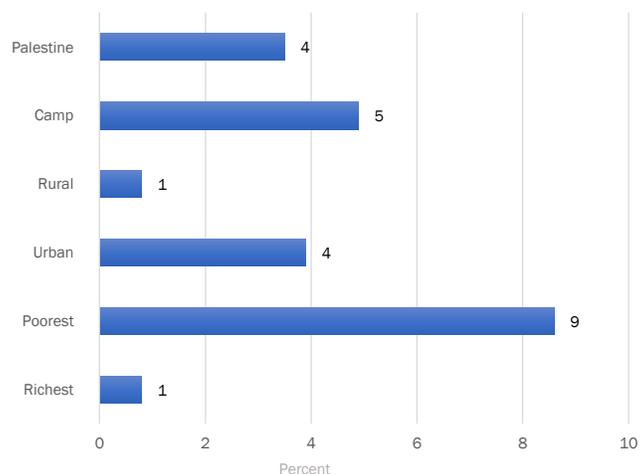
Percentage of females (age 15-49) who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, by region and locality type.

Feeling safety while being at home alone



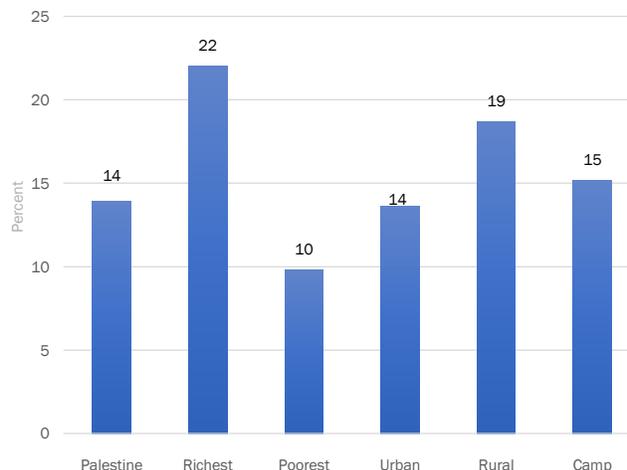
Percentage of females (age 15-49) who feel safe being home alone after dark, by region and locality type.

Victimisation



Percentage of women age 15-49 who experienced physical violence of robbery or assault in the last year, by wealth index and locality type.

Reporting of victimisation to police, SDG 16.3.1



Percentage of women age 15-49 for whom the last incident of physical violence of robbery and/or assault in the last year was reported to the police, by wealth index and locality type.

The Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2019-2020 by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics as part of the global MICS programme. Technical and financial support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Palestinian MICS 2019-2020 related to Gender Equality. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables CS.3, TC.8.1, TC.10.1, TC.11.1, PR.1.1, PR.2.1, LN.1.2, LN.2.3, LN.2.4, LN.2.7, TM.3.1, TM.3.2, TM.3.3, TM.3.4, TM.2.3W, TM.11.1W, TM.11.1M, SR.10.1W, SR.4.1W, SR.4.3, SR.6.1W, PR.8.1W, PR.2.2, PR.5.1, PR.5.3,

EQ.3.1W, PR.7.1W, EQ.5.1W, SR.9.3.W, EQ.2.1W, WS.4.1, WS.4.2, WS.1.3 and WS.1.4 in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Summary Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.