

Roles for Social Change Association -ADWAR



**Report on the Social and Economic Needs Assessment
for Women and Young Women in Bedouin Communities**

**As part of the project “Improving the Social and Economic
Situation of Bedouin Women in East Jerusalem”**



Report on the Social and Economic Needs Assessment for Women and Young Women in Bedouin Communities

Project “Improving the Social and Economic Situation of Bedouin Women in East Jerusalem”

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Introduction to the Report

Bedouin women and young women in East Jerusalem live in an environment characterized by geographical, political, and social challenges. This group faces social and economic marginalization due to Israeli policies, complicating their opportunities in education, employment, and healthcare. Political and social factors significantly impact their lives, with intersections between occupation and cultural traditions. This study aimed to identify the needs of Bedouin women in five Bedouin communities in East Jerusalem (Khan al-Ahmar, Jaba, Al-Muntar, Abu Hindi, and Abu Nawar) and analyze the challenges they face, providing recommendations to support and empower this group.

Methodology of Data Collection

Data was collected using various research methods, including individual interviews, focus groups, and surveys to provide accurate data on social and economic needs.

Study Results

The results revealed that the Bedouin communities in East Jerusalem suffer significant marginalization due to the occupation, with a lack of basic services such as education and healthcare. There are major challenges in education (such as difficulties in paying tuition fees and accessing schools), healthcare (lack of health awareness and the prevalence of chronic diseases), and infrastructure (absence of lighting and paved roads). Women also face challenges in establishing economic projects.

Report Objectives

1. Identify the social needs of Bedouin women (education, healthcare, social participation).
2. Study the economic needs (job opportunities, small businesses).
3. Analyze the social and cultural factors that affect them.
4. Provide recommendations to strengthen the role of protection committees and the unified Bedouin council.

Role of ADWAR Association

ADWAR Association seeks to enhance the rights of women in Bedouin communities, including the formation of women's protection committees and the dissemination of the unified Bedouin council model. These committees have contributed to creating a safe environment for women, and alliances with men have been formed to promote the concept of "positive masculinity" in the Hebron and Bethlehem areas. Despite successes in other areas like Bethlehem and Hebron, work in East Jerusalem requires further efforts to provide full support to women and enhance their role in society.

The Reality of Bedouin Communities in East Jerusalem

Bedouin communities in East Jerusalem face multiple and complex challenges due to the political, social, and economic conditions that affect their daily lives. These communities include Khan Al-Ahmar, Al-Muntar, Jaba, Abu Nawar, and Abu Hindi, each differing in their specifics and circumstances, but they share many common issues.

1. Communities and the Number of Residents

- **Khan AlAhmar:** Approximately 45 extended families.
- **AlMantar:** Approximately 8 extended families.
- **Jaba:** Approximately 50 extended families.
- **Abu Nawar:** Approximately 130 extended families.
- **Abu Hindi:** Approximately 88 extended families.

2. Common Challenges

- **Severe Poverty:** Women and young women suffer from high levels of poverty due to the lack of basic services.
- **Basic Needs:** There is a severe shortage of water and electricity, with limited reliance on solar energy, which does not fully meet their needs.
- **Deteriorating Infrastructure:** Roads are rough and poorly maintained, making it difficult to access basic services such as healthcare and education.
- **Home Demolitions and Displacement:** All communities face continuous threats of home demolitions and displacement from Israeli authorities, as well as systematic assaults by the Israeli military and settlers, affecting the psychological and social stability of families.
- **Lack of Healthcare:** Most communities lack healthcare clinics, forcing families to resort to traditional medicine or wait for mobile clinics.

The Reality of Women and Young Women in Bedouin Communities East of Jerusalem

First: Economic Challenges

- **Poverty and Unemployment:** Bedouin women in East Jerusalem suffer from high levels of poverty, due to the economic constraints imposed by the political environment. The lack of job opportunities, especially in areas near settlements, exacerbates this problem.
- **Lack of Suitable Job Opportunities:** The absence of supportive infrastructure and vocational training makes it difficult for Bedouin women to enter the job market. Most available jobs are in the informal sector. A few women work as kindergarten teachers within their communities, earning less than the minimum wage, which means job insecurity and low income.
- **Limited Access to Financing:** Bedouin women suffer from a lack of financial and banking support, as they lack the necessary economic tools to start small businesses or develop their work.
- **Access to the Public Market:** Poorly paved roads, long distances, and the lack of transportation hinder women from selling their products in the public market. Women often need to seek assistance from male family members to sell their goods, such as dairy products, wool, and others.

Second: Social Challenges:

- **Customs and Traditions:** There are traditional social restrictions on women and young women in Bedouin society, making it difficult for them to participate in public life or pursue their educational and professional aspirations. Some communities impose restrictions on women's freedom to work or engage in commercial activities, limiting their economic opportunities.
- **Education:** The education rates of Bedouin women, young women, and girls are lower compared

to women in urban areas, reducing their chances of obtaining jobs or improving their economic conditions. Additionally, schools and kindergartens in Bedouin areas are often poorly equipped, and all are housed in caravans.

- **Health and Social Care:** Access to quality healthcare is a major challenge for Bedouin women in East Jerusalem due to the distance from health centers and the lack of government support. Women suffer from inadequate reproductive health and maternal care. Addressing these challenges requires joint efforts from governments, NGOs, and local communities to support and empower Bedouin women and young women economically.

Third: Challenges Related to Infrastructure and Climate

- **Deteriorating Infrastructure:** The absence of basic facilities, such as roads and services, makes it difficult to meet the minimum requirements for development and a dignified life.
- **Climate Change:** Many Bedouin women rely on agriculture and livestock farming, and climate change negatively impacts productivity and their sources of livelihood.

Fourth: Occupation-Related Challenges

- **Movement Restrictions:** Military checkpoints and restrictions on movement affect the ability of Bedouin women to access markets and resources, hindering their economic activities.
- **Loss of Land:** Land confiscation policies lead to the loss of traditional sources of livelihood, such as grazing and farming, limiting the economic options available to women.
- **Home Demolitions and Women's Economic Projects:** The occupation forces continue to demolish homes and women's economic projects, which constitutes a major obstacle to the transformation toward social and economic development.

Economic and Social Needs of Bedouin Women in East Jerusalem

Bedouin women in East Jerusalem need support that includes:

1- Economic Needs:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Support for small businesses and vocational training to increase employment opportunities.
- **Education and Training:** Intensive educational programs to enable women to enter the labor market.

2- Social Needs:

- **Healthcare:** Improving access to healthcare services, with a focus on reproductive health.
- **Social Empowerment for Women:** Awareness programs that support women's rights and enhance their participation in public and political life.

The Economic Role and Work Areas of Bedouin Women

Bedouin women in East Jerusalem contribute to the local economy through several areas, including:

Agriculture and Livestock Farming: A significant role in providing food for the family.

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Trade: Selling products in local markets.

Cooking and Traditional Foods: Selling traditional foods at events.

These activities are influenced by social and economic conditions and government policies, making support for Bedouin women essential for improving their economic and social situations.

Display of the study results analysis

Section One: General Information and Distribution of Sample Members

1. Distribution of the Sample Members by Age		
20-16 years	34	27.6%
25-21 years	30	24.4%
30-26 years	31	25.2%
35-31 years	11	8.9%
36 years and above	17	13.8%

Section Two: Distribution of Sample Members by Population Group

The sample included five Bedouin communities in East Jerusalem, with the distribution as follows:

2. Distribution of the sample participants by population group		
AlKhan AlAhmar	22	15.1%
Abu Nawar	54	37.0%
Jabal AlMantar	21	14.4%
Abu Hindi	22	15.1%
Jaba	27	18.5%

Analysis of Study Results

Section 1: The Economic Reality of Bedouin Families in East Jerusalem

1. Economic Challenges:

- 57% of Bedouin women face a shortage in monthly income, which is insufficient to meet their basic needs, reflecting economic instability. This indicates constant pressure on women to provide food and drink, which affects their physical and mental health.

2. Social and Economic Roles:

- Bedouin women are responsible for managing household resources, and with insufficient income, the pressure on them to provide basic needs increases, impacting their mental health.
- Employment opportunities for women are limited, further increasing economic challenges.

3. Job Opportunities, Education, and Health:

- Limited job opportunities may force women to seek informal work, further deteriorating economic conditions.
- **70%** of women reported that their income is insufficient to meet their clothing needs, reflecting the impact of economic pressures on social culture.
- **79%** of women reported the absence of a stable family income, which increases anxiety and stress.

4. Impacts on Education and Health:

- **66%** of women confirmed that their family's income is insufficient to cover medical expenses, increasing health risks and possibly delaying treatment.
- Insufficient income negatively impacts educational and employment opportunities, contributing to the continuation of the poverty cycle.

5. Dependence on Borrowing:

- **40%** of women reported that their families borrow money from neighbors in emergency situations, reflecting the lack of sustainable financial support.

6. Women's Contribution to Household Income:

- **51%** of women contribute to securing household income through agricultural, handicraft, or off-site work activities, but face significant challenges due to limited opportunities.

7. Difficulty in Accessing Grazing Land:

- **78.3%** of Bedouin families face difficulties in accessing grazing land due to occupation-related restrictions, impacting food security and income.

Conclusions:

- The difficult economic conditions significantly affect Bedouin women, requiring interventions to improve their economic situation.
- It is crucial to enhance education and vocational training opportunities for women and provide sustainable economic support to empower them to face economic challenges.

Suggested Interventions:

- 1. Awareness and Education:** Workshops to raise awareness about women's rights.
- 2. Economic Empowerment:** Support for small businesses and self-financing for women.
- 3. Participation in Decision-Making:** Support for women's involvement in chambers of commerce and unions.
- 4. Government Support:** Adoption of laws that support Bedouin women and young women.
- 5. Community Participation:** Encouraging women to engage in decision-making.

6. Collaboration with Community Leaders: Working with local leaders to change traditional norms.

7. Psychological Support: Providing psychological and social support services for women and young women.

Social Security:

63.2% of women confirm that their families feel secure, while 36.8% report feeling insecure, reflecting aspects of social and psychological stability in Bedouin families, as well as challenges that some families face due to economic factors or domestic violence.

Suggested Interventions:

1. Family Support Programs: Raising awareness among families about how to enhance psychological and social security.

2. Economic Empowerment: Economic assistance and professional training opportunities for women.

3. Protection Services: Strengthening the role of legal and social institutions in protecting women.

4. Community Support Networks: Building local support networks to enhance collective security.

5. Community Awareness: Awareness campaigns on the importance of psychological security.

Women's Participation in Family Decisions:

63.2% of women reported being consulted on family decisions, indicating a level of empowerment within the family. However, 36.8% reported not being involved, reflecting social challenges in fully engaging women.

Suggested Interventions:

1. Training Workshops: Training women in communication and decision-making skills.

2. Awareness Campaigns: Raising awareness about the importance of consulting women.

3. Family Support: Programs that enhance women's participation in family decision-making.

4. Positive Role Models: Showcasing success stories of women in decision-making.

Girls' Education:

42.8% of women reported that their families prevent girls from completing their education in favor of marrying them, while 57.2% confirmed that this does not happen. This indicates challenges in girls' education due to social customs or economic pressure.

Suggested Interventions:

1. Community Awareness: Awareness campaigns on the importance of girls' education.

2. Support for Educated Girls: Offering scholarships and tutoring to support girls' education.

3. Collaboration with Communities: Promoting a culture of supporting girls' education.

4. Transport Solutions: Finding solutions to provide safe transportation.

Inheritance Rights:

52.1% of women confirmed that they do not receive their inheritance rights, reflecting a significant gap in economic equality.

Suggested Interventions:

- 1. Legal Awareness:** Workshops to raise awareness about women's inheritance rights.
- 2. Legal Support:** Establishing legal advisory services for women.
- 3. Encouraging Social Change:** Campaigns to change traditional views on inheritance.

Participation in Public Life:

51.7% of women reported that their families encourage them to participate in public life, while 48.3% disagreed, reflecting a disparity in support for women's community participation.

Suggested Interventions:

- 1. Women's Empowerment:** Organizing training sessions to enhance leadership and participation skills.
- 2. Community Awareness:** Campaigns to encourage women's participation in public activities.
- 3. Creating Participation Opportunities:** Supporting the organization of community events that encourage women's participation.
- 4. Positive Role Models:** Highlighting success stories of women in public participation.

Conclusion:

Bedouin women in East Jerusalem require comprehensive support in their social and economic rights, including education, community participation, and empowering them to obtain their rights. Efforts must be combined from both governmental institutions and civil society to address traditional challenges and customs that hinder the progress of women in these communities.

Women's Participation in Community Development:

- **Participation in Community Development:** 59.0% of women reported participating in community development, reflecting positive involvement from some women in community work.
- **Non-Participation:** 41.0% of women reported not participating, indicating that some women face difficulties that prevent them from engaging in developmental efforts.

Conclusions:

- **Opportunities and Capabilities:** There are good opportunities for women to participate in community development.
- **Barriers to Participation:** Social factors, lack of resources, and weak support may be among the barriers.

Suggested Interventions:

- 1. Enhancing Development Programs:** Supporting initiatives that encourage women's participation in development.
- 2. Educational Workshops:** Teaching women how to contribute to community development.
- 3. Building Support Networks:** Creating platforms or local networks to enhance collaboration among women.
- 4. Providing Resources:** Working to provide the necessary support for effective participation.
- 5. Encouraging Success Stories:** Showcasing successful experiences of women in developmental initiatives to inspire others.

Section 3: The Reality of Bedouin Women under Occupation Policies

1. Home Demolition and Property Confiscation:

Bedouin women live in difficult and complex conditions due to the policies of the occupation, significantly affecting their daily lives and access to education, healthcare, and basic services. One of the most prominent challenges they face is assaults by soldiers and settlers, as well as property confiscation and home demolitions.

1.1 Assaults by the Army and Settlers:

- The results showed that **50.3%** of women in Bedouin areas reported being subjected to violence and assaults by soldiers and settlers, while **49.7%** did not face such assaults.

Conclusions:

- The similar percentages between the two groups reflect an unstable reality, where women face constant fear and threats, regardless of whether they have been assaulted.
- These percentages indicate the psychological and social challenges affecting women's lives, including feelings of insecurity.

Suggested Interventions:

- Documentation and Research: Conduct field studies to document cases of violence.
- Awareness and Legal Support: Hold workshops to teach women their rights and how to report assaults.
- Psychological Support Programs: Develop programs to assist women who have been victims of violence.

1.2 Property Confiscation:

- The data showed that **73.8%** of women reported that their families had their property confiscated by the occupation, while **26.2%** did not face this issue.

Conclusions:

- Property confiscation leads to the loss of economic resources, which increases poverty levels and limits development opportunities in Bedouin communities.
- This policy directly affects family stability and the ability to live with dignity.

Suggested Interventions:

- Documentation and Advocacy: Document cases of confiscation to pressure the international community.
- Economic Support: Provide financial aid to affected families to help rebuild their economic situation.

1.3 Home Demolition:

- The results showed that **88.2%** of women reported their homes were demolished or received demolition notices, while **11.8%** did not experience this.

Conclusions:

- Home demolitions lead to family disintegration and a loss of identity and connection to place.
- This increases the psychological and social pressures on women and families in general.

Suggested Interventions:

- **Legal Support:** Provide legal consultations for women on how to challenge demolition notices.
- **Social and Psychological Support:** Create programs to support women affected by home demolitions.

1.4 Forced Displacement:

- 69.2% of women reported that their families had been forcibly displaced due to harassment by the occupation, while 30.8% did not experience this.

Conclusions:

- Forced displacement leads to a loss of identity and connection to place, exacerbating the suffering of women and families due to psychological and social pressures.

Suggested Interventions:

- **Legal Awareness:** Organize workshops on family rights and how to resist forced displacement.
- **Psychological Support:** Establish mental health programs to support families that have been forcibly displaced.

2. Challenges Posed by the Occupation to the Education Sector:

- **Transportation Difficulties:** The data indicates that 66.7% of children face difficulties in accessing schools, as they are forced to travel long distances to reach them, affecting the quality of education and learning opportunities.

3. Infrastructure Challenges:

3.1 Electricity Shortage:

- 72.2% of women reported that their families suffer from electricity shortages due to occupation restrictions, while 27.8% did not experience this issue.

Conclusions:

- The electricity shortage negatively affects daily life in Bedouin communities, including education and healthcare.
- This shortage increases the household cost of living.

Suggested Interventions:

- **Provide Alternative Electricity Sources:** Support solar energy projects for affected families.
- **Cooperation with Humanitarian Organizations:** Work with international organizations to provide electricity to homes.

3.2 Difficulty Accessing Water:

- 76.4% of Bedouin families face difficulty obtaining water, which directly impacts their health and daily activities.

Conclusions:

- Water shortages cause serious health problems and can affect agriculture and animal husbandry.
- Difficulty obtaining water contributes to increased poverty levels in these areas.

Suggested Interventions:

- Improve Water Infrastructure: Support projects aimed at providing water to Bedouin families.
- Water Management Awareness: Organize workshops to teach families effective water collection and storage techniques.

Summary:

Bedouin women in East Jerusalem face enormous challenges due to the policies of the occupation, including assaults and violence, property confiscation, home demolitions, forced displacement, and difficulties accessing basic services such as electricity and water. Therefore, the situation requires urgent interventions at both local and international levels to provide the necessary support to women and families in these areas, and to enhance their resilience in the face of these unjust policies.

Section 4: The Special Needs of Bedouin Women in East Jerusalem According to Proposed Projects, Ranked by Importance

The needs of Bedouin women in East Jerusalem are closely linked to economic empowerment projects that help develop their skills and increase their income, thereby enhancing their independence and role in society. Projects focused on empowering women assist them in establishing their own businesses and achieving economic stability, as well as boosting self-confidence and active participation in public life.

List of Proposed Projects:

- **Agricultural Sector: Represents 80% of the proposed projects, including:**

1. Sheep farming projects
2. Poultry farming projects
3. Dairy and cheese production projects
4. Home gardening projects

- **Economic and Social Sector: Represents 20%, including:**

1. Women's beauty salon (hairdresser)
2. "Sharak Bread" project
3. Accessories project
4. DJ project
5. Environmental recycling projects

Needs Analysis:

1. Agricultural Projects hold the highest priority due to their direct impact on food security and job creation, representing **80%** of the interests. The diversity in agricultural projects, such as sheep and poultry farming and dairy production, helps reduce economic risks and strengthens family financial stability.

2. The Economic and Social Sector does not hold the same priority, representing 20% of total projects. However, these projects remain essential for expanding Bedouin women's economic horizons, with a need for additional support and funding in this sector.

3. Focusing on the agricultural sector enhances opportunities for skill development in farming, while economic projects can contribute to improving women's well-being, such as beauty and accessories businesses.

Conclusions:

- **Cooperatives** play a crucial role in supporting economic and social projects, as they provide women the opportunity to pool resources and experiences, which enhances the chances of project success and sustainability. Cooperatives also improve competitiveness and access to new markets, contributing to increased income and food security. Thus, cooperatives can be a powerful strategic tool in empowering Bedouin women and enhancing sustainable economic development in Bedouin communities.

Recommendations for Improving the Status of Women and Girls in Bedouin Communities:

First: The Social Sector

1. Enhancing Education and Health Awareness:

- Organize workshops to raise awareness of women's and children's rights, focusing on the importance of education and health.
- Provide scholarships and financial support for girls from low-income families to encourage them to continue their education.

2. Expanding Healthcare Services:

- Establish mobile health centers providing essential healthcare services for women and girls, with awareness programs on reproductive health and chronic diseases.
- Train healthcare workers to offer psychological and social support, especially in mental health.

3. Building Social Support Networks:

- Establish local women's associations to promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing, and support women suffering from violence or marginalization.
- Organize community events to raise awareness of women's issues and strengthen social ties.
- Provide safe spaces for women to offer psychological and social support.

Second: The Economic Sector

1. Developing Vocational Training Programs:

- Offer training courses in sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, and dairy production to empower women to improve their skills and increase their income.
- Establish educational programs to teach marketing skills, business management, and financial planning to enhance women's ability to manage their own businesses.
- Provide individual consultations for women to help them develop their skills and start their own businesses.

2. Encouraging the Establishment of Cooperatives:

- Support women in registering their businesses in commercial chambers to promote the transition to organized work and access economic benefits.
- Establish support networks for female entrepreneurs to share knowledge on how to transition to the formal sector.
- Provide government incentives or subsidized funding for women's cooperative projects.
- Support the establishment of cooperatives in agricultural and handicraft sectors to enhance market access.

3. Enhancing Access to Funding:

- Collaborate with civil society organizations to provide small loans or grants to support women's economic projects.
- Offer subsidized loans or financial grants for women wishing to start their own businesses, in collaboration with banks and financial institutions.
- Organize workshops to raise awareness of the importance of registering businesses in commercial chambers and explain the legal and financial benefits.

4. Expanding Networking Opportunities:

- Organize events and exhibitions to market women's projects and connect with investors and professionals.
- Create online platforms to exchange experiences and resources between women in various fields.

5. Raising Awareness and Promoting Supportive Culture:

- Implement awareness campaigns to change societal perceptions of women's roles in the economy.
- Highlight women's success stories as sources of inspiration.

6. Enhancing Participation in Decision-Making:

- Support women's representation in boards of directors and economic and developmental committees.
- Provide leadership training programs to develop women's leadership skills.

7. Collaboration with the Private Sector:

- Encourage companies to adopt diversity and inclusion programs to create job opportunities for women.
- Support partnerships between companies and women's cooperatives.

Third: Challenges Imposed by the Occupation Authorities

- Pressure at the Governmental Level: Collaborate with non-governmental organizations and international governmental bodies to exert pressure on the occupation authorities to improve the situation of Bedouin women and lift restrictions that impede access to education and healthcare.
- **Strengthening Advocacy:** Highlight the issues of Bedouin women at the local and international levels to increase awareness and support policies that promote their rights.