



## AISHA Association for Woman and child protection

(AISHA)

Annual Narrative Report

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## Index

List of tables.....	
<b>Executive summary.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Background on Aisha and its programmes in 2019 .....	4
1.2 Problems addressed in 2019.....	4
1.3 Targeted geographical locations and beneficiaries in 2019.....	6
1.4 Trgeted geograhpical locations .....	6
1.4.1 Direct and indirect target group.....	6
1.5 Financing Aisha Programmes in 2019.....	6
1.6 Financial Department.....	7
<b>2 The general context in 2019.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3Methodologies and mechanisms for implementing programs.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1Methodologies.....	9
3.2 Mechanism of implementation.....	10
<b>4 Results achieved and theory of change.....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 Paths of change.....	10
4.1.1 Achievements at impact level.....	10
4.1.2 Fulfillment of (progress) of outputs.....	13
4.1.3Fulfillment(progress) of activities.....	16
5 Projects.....	22
<b>6 coordination and exchange experience with stakeholders.....</b>	<b>27</b>
6.1 coordination.....	27
6.2 posting and publishing.....	27
<b>7. Challenges faced and mitigation measures.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8.Lessons learned .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>9 Annexes.....</b>	<b>29</b>
Annex 1: Success stories linked to outcomes .....	29
Annex 2: Geographical distribution of beneficiaries and according to the services provided.....	33

**Executive summary:**

The reality of women and childhood in Palestine was never the same as it is today: occupation, siege, division and its consequences. What is left by the current circumstances was not expected in terms of details and timing. Waiting became longer and its consequences is extending to generations that cannot afford suffering anymore. Statistics, in the field of women and child protection, are an indication of the continuing dangerous situation that must be worked on improving or putting an end to its aggravation in the coming years. Palestinian women still represent the most vulnerable group that pays the most precious price for their dignity and freedoms as a result of the armed conflict. Their sufferance continues due to the Israeli displacement, isolation, confiscation of lands and house demolitions, amid unprecedented international silence. Palestinian women have been and still contributing to the process of building and developing the Palestinian society, and they have the will to establish systems of support and immunity in the face of all kinds of discrimination against women. The recent steps against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, due of the continuation of the Palestinian division and the very slow pace in the implementation of reconciliation, have resulted in a significant deterioration in the humanitarian situation, of which the women were the most affected, the thing that directly affected their psychological conditions. This required specific interventions from the specialized governmental and non-governmental institutions. Aisha took the initiative to draw specific interventions in response to their real needs. A new year of achievements and challenges, a new year full of life and hope Aisha implants in the lives of hundreds of women by creating new opportunities for them, various activities and integrated services, continuous support, listening ears, hopeful hearts and hard work to provide protection and psychological, social, legal and economic support. This report summarizes all the interventions that Aisha provided with the aim of achieving the goals set by the association in order to achieve its mission and vision for which it was raised. The report presents the objectives, mechanisms, methodologies, strategic issues, problems, areas of targeting, target groups, and the extent of reaching them. The report also deals with financing and financial management adopted by the association during the year, 2019. At the conclusion of the report, we present the most important achievements and challenges, leading to lessons learned. We hope that we have contributed to improving the human rights reality and protection for women and children, and we affirm that all activities and programs in Aisha are in line with international agreements, Palestinian law and national plans. We wish everyone good luck and success

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Aisha and its programs in 2019**

AISHA Association for Woman and Child Protection (AISHA), established in 2009, is an independent Palestinian women organization working to achieve gender integration through economic empowerment and psychosocial support to marginalized groups in the Gaza Strip with focus on Gaza City and the North area. Prior to 2009 and since 1996, AISHA used to operate under the name "Women Empowerment Program (WEP)" as the women department within the Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCHMP). AISHA seeks to protect women and children from violence through supporting, empowering, and raising awareness of important psychological, social, legal, and economic issues. Furthermore, during implementation of its strategic plan, AISHA has developed and applied a Gender Mainstreaming in all fields of implementation. Ever since its establishment, Aisha worked on the empowerment of vulnerable women and children victims of violence in response to the identified needs in the Women and children portion of the community. AISHA started adopting the individual empowerment approach which takes into consideration the individual differences. Accordingly it has been successful in achieving substantially higher rates of empowerment. On the other hand, focus has been given to influence the community agenda through the sensitization of key individuals and organizations towards the issues of domestic violence, gender equality, and feminist issues. Also, AISHA works on mobilizing and lobbying opinion to influence and pressure on decision-making to get a favorable laws and legislation for women and children in all fields.

#### **Mission:**

AISHA seeks to protect, support and empower vulnerable women and children victims of violence and those with special needs psychosocially, legally and economically through facilitating access to protection and support services.

#### **Vision:**

AISHA was under the administrative and financial umbrella of GCMHP until December 31st 2010, so AISHA and since it got its new registration started to seek funding opportunity where it get fund to implement some projects, for instance, 105 women get benefited from the Individual Empowerment Program and 680 individual get benefited from legal awareness sessions in addition to other projects and activities.

#### **Programms:**

1. Capacity Building Program
2. Women Protection and Empowerment Program
3. Child and Family Protection Program
4. Advocacy and outreach program

#### **Strategic goals:**

- Increase effectiveness and efficiency of women, with special focus on women victims of violence, participation in community development through enhanced access to support services and protection.
- Create a sensitive environment to safeguard and nurture the development of children and their families for better future.
- Legislators and decision makers, are participating in the process of empowering women and children through favourable laws and regulations.
- AISHA is a capable organization in the administrative, professional and financial fields.

### **1.2 Strategic Issues and Problems in 2019**

The continuation of the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories in general and the Gaza Strip in particular due to the occupation, repeated military attacks, political division, the ongoing blockade and restrictions imposed on

movement and access, and the subsequent general deterioration in the provision of services, legislation and the human rights situation had contributed to highlighting the following issues differently from the years Previous:

1. Issues of gender inequality, which are directly affected by norms, customs, and stereotypes of the social roles of both men and women, and these issues are on the rise.
2. The strong authoritarian patriarchal culture, gender-biased social attitudes, and unequal power relations within the family and in society as a whole, which constitute a major barrier to women's civil, political, social, and economic participation.
3. The continued decline in the level of quality and specialized health services and the difficulty of procedures related to accessing them, especially reproductive and sexual health services, and multi-sector services such as psychosocial support, specialized psychological support, addiction treatment, economic empowerment and protection / overnight stay in safety homes within humanitarian standards that ensure gender justice.
4. The lack of specialized mental health services for survivors of social violence and treatment of addiction and drug abuse for women and girls.
5. Lack of legal aid and assistance through litigation, arbitration, mediation and detention for vulnerable women from marginalized groups.
6. The lack of awareness of society and women in particular of women's rights under international humanitarian law, applicable international human rights law, and regional human resources instruments; Palestinian legislation; gender issues, and the violence based upon it.
7. The limited and weak opportunities for women to participate in decision-making positions, and it is most likely that the leaders of them are exposed to bullying in its various forms.
8. Women with disabilities and their limited opportunities to obtain work or gender and protection services.
9. The stereotypical image of the social roles played by women and their relationship to access to economic empowerment opportunities. Women still work in specific fields such as health, education, and social work, and their opportunities to compete in the private sector as business owners are still restricted and specific in the framework of small projects, despite the presence of initiatives for change and creativity, but they are still shy attempts in a male society.
10. The increase in the number of women heading the family due to the repeated Israeli attacks and the March of Return, the deterioration of health, psychological and other conditions, and the need to support them psychologically, socially, legally and economically through multi-sectoral services in order to be able to fulfill their role, protect themselves from violence and obtain their legal rights.
11. The integration of men and boys to achieve gender equality faces many obstacles such as norms, customs and traditions, in addition to the weakness of the methodologies used to integrate men and convert their views from violators to defenders of women's rights, and are limited to awareness-raising and discussion workshops.
12. Early marriage for girls, where the rate of early marriage in the Gaza Strip for the year 2018 reached 20%, among with the deprivation and violence associated with it.
13. School dropout, child labor, and begging are still a recurring and thorny issue that needs systematic and multi-level interventions to ensure rehabilitation and integration.
14. Lack of awareness among children and parents of mechanisms to reject violence against children, mechanisms of protection, access to justice, child rights, and reproductive and sexual health rights.
15. The government and service providers' weak capacities to address social violence and protect women and children.
16. Insufficient studies, analytical research and information materials on gender, women's and children's rights, gender-based violence, protection mechanisms and service providers.
17. The insufficient capabilities of businesswomen to manage and support their businesses and financially market their products.
18. The insufficient use of social media in the defense of women's rights and gender equality.
19. Weak governmental capacity to provide high-quality, multi-sectoral services to victims of violence with standards based on human rights and consistent with Palestinian laws, also the need to build their capacities and increase their awareness of new mechanisms that work to rehabilitate victims and reintegrate them into their societies in a dignified and safe manner, such as women inmates in prison and children in juveniles at Al Rabeeh Foundation.

### **1.3 Targeted geographical locations and beneficiaries in 2019**

#### **1.4 Targeted geographical locations**

Aisha has implemented its interventions in all governorates of the Gaza Strip with a focus on the governorates of the Gaza strip and the North in most of the interventions in the marginalized and poorest areas, according to the Poverty Atlas and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in support of coordination efforts and communication with local partners who implement similar interventions in other areas and in order to increase the quality Services and facilitate access to service for marginalized groups.

Attachment No. 2 shows the geographical distribution of the beneficiaries and according to the services they received.

#### **1.4.1 Direct and indirect target Group:**

The direct beneficiaries of AISHA are women victims of violence and at risk, with special focus on women with disabilities and women headed displaced households, children of these women aged 6-12 years and families of women victims of violence, school counsellors, teachers, doctors and psychosocial service providers.

The indirect beneficiaries of AISHA are the community and the organization staff.

1. 1. Women and men: female heads of households, victims of violence / at-risk, survivors of gender-based violence, homeless people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, parents, mental illnesses, addicts, addicted wives, young men women, university students, graduates, etc.
2. Girls and boys (6-17 years): school students, orphans, people with special needs, street children, child labor, juvenile children, victims of violence / at risk, survivors of gender-based violence, older children, etc.
3. Service providers: Aisha association employees, social workers, psychologists, psychotherapists, media, health personnel, police and al-Rabee 'center staff, school workers, lawyers, judges, municipality workers, etc. (government, local government or UNRWA).
4. Decision-makers: government, local governance, UNRWA, international health, media, social affairs, women, the Legislative Council.
5. Community leaders: Mukhtars, women leaders, human rights activists, etc.

- Women: 28,831
- Men: 11328
- Girls: 4,664
- Boys: 3179
- Women with disabilities: 832

### **1.5 Financing Aisha Programmes in 2019:**

The Projects and Funds Recruitment Department presented a number of proposals to support 2019 plan for a number of financiers, which reached 81 projects that included humanitarian projects, developmental projects and initiatives to cover the approved programs and activities within the strategic plan and the action plan for 2019, where the department managed by the end of the year 2019 and under the supervision of the executive management and the Board of Directors with help of an external consultant, covering the entire budget for t 2019 and part of the budget for 2020, while the budget of some projects extends for the year 2021, and now we are working to cover the remainder of the year 2020 and 2021. The department contributed during the year to the preparation of the five-year strategic plan 2020-2024, structuring the institution, and working on systems for the databases in which will help in computerizing projects and beneficiary's information. The department has also set implementation plans for projects and follow-up on various reports: field, interim, and final, and reviews them before sending them to the doners. In addition to following up the official communication and field visits to doners to follow up the progress of work within projects, achievements and challenges, discuss future needs of the target groups, and develop the relationship with the Aisha Association. The department also participated in several institutional evaluation sessions carried out by the doners to assess the association as a potential future partner in future projects.

## 1.6 Financial Department:

- The Financial Department witnessed a diversity of existing and acquired experiences that helped work on the principle of separation of tasks, which in turn led to an improvement in the level of work in terms of ensuring transparency in addition to the quality of work.
- Developing some financial policies and procedures to suit the requirements of donors, for example, the mechanism for maintaining financial data in a more secure manner, and supporting financial transactions with additional documents that support the financial process.
- The Financial Department has shown remarkable development in managing project budgets and developing monitoring tools to contribute to curbing unauthorized abuse.
- The volume of work during the year 2019 within the department represented work on approximately 26 project budgets, as the number of accounting entries amounted to 1,945 accounting entries, and the bids amounted to 21 bids, and approximately 45 quotations.

**Table 1: Funding sources:**

Funding sources	Projects numbers	The amount in Shikle	The total
Global Affaiers Canada	2	1,451,467.61	24.8%
Kvinna till kvinna	2	370,016.46	6.3%
UNDP	2	271,432.07	4.6%
Ireland	1	75,094.97	1.3%
OCHA	2	1,181,895.44	20.2%
APS	1	220,621.89	3.8%
UNRWA	1	111,687.54	1.9%
SCI	1	199,897.62	3.4%
Gazella	1	161,186.59	2.8%
WILFP	1	14,373.57	0.2%
Crowns without boarders	1	19,236.00	0.3%
OXFAM	2	129,402.65	2.2%
AECID	1	340,634.02	5.8%
UN WOMEN	1	63,372.95	1.1%
UN WOMEN-OCHA	1	479,673.21	8.2%
CISS	1	148,805.92	2.5%
British Representative Office	1	25,000.00	0.4%
<b>TOTAL funding in 2019</b>	<b>5,263,798.51</b>		

Self-financing sources in 2019	<b>580,717.09</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
Total internal and external financing for 2019	<b>5,844,515.60</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## **2 The general context in 2019:**

The humanitarian situation remains difficult in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially in the Gaza Strip. The blockade imposed by the Israeli occupation on the Gaza Strip since 2007 and with the continuation of the internal Palestinian division, the basic infrastructure services, livelihoods and coping mechanisms for all residents of the Gaza Strip have eroded, which led to the increase in the systematic denial of Palestinian rights and thus the lack of respect for international law and lack of accountability for violations, as 80% of Gaza residents depend on food aid. Thousands of families have lost their livelihoods and their property has been completely damaged, furthermore the Gaza Strip has witnessed a significant increase in the number of Palestinian victims as a result of the Great March of Return demonstrations. Moreover, women and girls continue to suffer from multiple forms of violence, human rights violations, and a growing humanitarian crisis, which is exacerbated by outdated customs, traditions, legislation and patriarchal norms. The level of violence against women and girls is still high due to the culture of silence and stigmatization in society, also, it as found that there is limited access for women to work opportunities and sustainable financial income, which bear a heavy burden of caring responsibilities, as well as the imposed marginalization due to geographical fragmentation and related They restrict movement, which increases women's vulnerability to violence and impedes access to protection, justice and safe services. Since there is not enough experience and knowledge of people, society and individuals on women's rights, gender equality, violence against women and gender-based violence while they have gender-biased attitudes and beliefs and negative behaviors towards women's rights, gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence, we find among men Boys have negative attitudes and behaviors towards women's rights and gender equality. They also use violent methods of conflict resolution and are the main actors of violence against women and violence against women and girls. However, men and boys have not yet been involved adequately and effectively in preventing violence against women / gender-based violence. Adolescent girls and boys are particularly vulnerable to dropping out of school and as such, they require multiple protective services, including protection from physical and emotional violence, sexual abuse, arrest and detention, child labor and the risk of early marriage. It is worth noting that violence breeds violence. Children in Gaza deal negatively with children who drop out of school, while we find that there is an increase in many girls who marry at an early age, which calls for interventions at the community level to ensure the protection of the rights of these children, according to the statistics of violence. 2019 in the Gaza Strip, issued by the Palestinian Statistics Center, showed a high rate of violence against children (physical violence 74.4% for males under 11 years old, 68.8% for females of the same age group, while psychological violence reached (82.5% for males, 97.8% for females).According to the statistics report of the Palestinian Statistics Center 2019, the report stated that 37.5% of married women aged (18-64 years) in Gaza have been subjected to one form of violence (psychological - physical - sexual - sexual - economic - social) - 26.4% Physical violence, 63.5% to psychosocial violence, 10.6% to sexual violence, 46.7% to social violence, and 55% to economic violence; according to the survey conducted by the Palestinian Statistics Center, and the survey issued by the United Nations Women in September 2019 stated that women who were exposed to physical violence accounted for 45%, and 2.5% for sexual violence. While 35% of them received psychosocial support, and 65% did not receive any service. Overall, 66.7% of



those receiving aid were dissatisfied as it was insufficient and did not fully meet their needs. All this confirms that interventions for the protection and support of women victims and survivors of gender-based violence need to be reviewed and evaluated in order to develop them to suit the acceleration in the size and type of violence they are exposed to, and on the other hand, to achieve the national strategic goals towards a society that supports women's rights based on equality and justice. Between the sexes, and this is the real role played by the Aisha Association, in partnership with the different official and informal sectors, which is evident in this report.

### **3 Methodologies and mechanisms for implementing programs**

#### **3.1 Methodologies**

1. Adopting a participatory approach and integrating stakeholders from beneficiaries, service providers, and decision-makers in all project phases, starting with needs assessment, project design, implementation of activities, evaluation, follow-up and submitting complaints to ensure their ownership of the program's objectives and achievements.
2. Development and implementation of partnership projects with local and international partners. Each partner shall have clear and specific roles and responsibilities consistent with the partners' experiences and the nature of the services they provide.
3. Adopting a human rights-based approach in implementing all projects and developing evidence and information and awareness-raising
4. Development of projects and interim and final completion reports according to the theory of change approach to ensure that change and impact are measured at the three levels of intervention (direct beneficiaries, society, decision-makers / duty-holders)
5. Incorporating the transformative gender approach and reframing the authoritarian power through the inclusion of men and boys in interventions promoting gender equality and combating violence against women. This was represented in the mechanisms of integrating men and boys in development and innovative ways based on the institution's approach in previous years and based on lessons learned.
6. The association has worked on developing a set of policies, including an anti-corruption policy, a code of conduct, and staff training on it to ensure that the targeted beneficiaries are treated with respect and dignity, while enhancing their well-being and receiving support in an environment in which every effort is made to promote well-being and prevent exploitation and / or abuse.
7. Enhancing the monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability system by developing the monitoring and evaluation framework and appointing a monitoring and evaluation officer, who worked on extracting lessons learned, success stories and recommendations to improve annual work plans and collecting quantitative and qualitative information in various ways. In addition to developing the complaints system and its registration mechanisms to enhance accountability and ensure that vulnerable women are satisfied with the program's activities.
8. Development of evidence and studies that are considered as a reference for interventions in the field of social violence, protection and empowerment of women and children, provision of specialized social violence services, mental health and economic empowerment, including case management and referral pathways in accordance with international standards approved by the IASC on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
9. Promote a "do no harm" approach when implementing humanitarian interventions, which ensures the effective participation of women and children in collective interventions.
10. Developing and activating a security and safety policy to protect its employees working in remote marginalized areas, as well as the beneficiaries of its programs.
11. Strengthening the case management system and providing multi-sectoral services while providing referrals for additional services to ensure the empowerment and protection of women and children.
12. Promoting women's economic participation through developing the policy of the legal clinic for employment, and small projects that included capacity-building programs and new vocational training inside and outside the institution in cooperation and partnership with vocational training service providers, so that the beneficiaries could obtain grants to start small income-generating projects that preserve their dignity. The Foundation also developed and revised the approach according to the results and recommendations of previous interventions. The recommendations included strengthening partnership with the private sector to expand the circle of available opportunities and change the stereotype in which women's work was concentrated in previous years.

### **3.2 Mechanism of implementation:**

Aisha "and continues" to provide, with funding from international institutions and donors, various services for women and girls, especially the violence and those with developmental and humanitarian disabilities, with the aim of alleviating their suffering, saving their lives, preserving their human dignity, as well as strengthening their steadfastness and protection in times of crises and protracted disasters in Gaza in line with international law Humanitarian and international human rights law.

The services provided include the following:

- Legal services, such as legal awareness, individual legal advice, and representation in the courts to defend women's rights to property, inheritance, child custody, alimony, luggage and deferred dowry.
- Psychological services, such as group and individual psychosocial support for battered women and girls, specialized mental health treatment and medication, and open leisure days.
- Health services, such as emergency health care services, quality health services, diagnostic and health treatment services for women who are breast cancer survivors.
- Economic services, such as economic empowerment, vocational training and small projects, enhancing livelihoods for poor women to secure the necessary and basic needs, providing cash assistance to poor women, providing cash for work, and a dignity kit that helps alleviate the suffering of women and girls and secure part of their special basic needs.
- Case management, providing services to battered women and girls according to the case management system.
- Protection services, educating women and girls about early marriage, the types of gender-based violence and mechanisms to protect against it, providing information (brochures and pamphlets) and guides for GBV service providers for battered women and girls, organizing advocacy initiatives and increasing the awareness and sensitivity of government agencies about protecting women And girls from gender-based violence, providing shelter and protection for battered women and girls in safety homes.
- Advocacy, including issuing factsheets and basic studies and organizing various events in order to shed light on the suffering of women, organizing field visits to delegations and international institutions for destroyed homes, and getting close acquaintance with the problems of displaced and affected women, their suffering and their real needs due to the continued siege and Israeli attacks, in addition to adopting individual advocacy on issues Women and dealing with each case on its own in order to achieve protection for it and not wait for amendments in the laws due to the breakdown of legislation.

## **4 Results Achieved and Theory of Change**

### **4.1 Paths of change**

#### **4.1.1 Achievements at Impact Level**

Pathways of change:

1. Change at the individual level / women (right holders): increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of women's participation in community development by improving their access to support and protection services.
2. Change at the individual level / children (right holders): Create a sensitive environment to protect and promote the development of children and their families for a better future.
3. System / decision-making change (duty-bearers): Legislators and decision-makers participate in the process of empowering women and children through appropriate legislation and laws.
4. System level change / institutional building: Aisha Association is an association that is empowered in the administrative, professional and financial fields.

**The overall changes (impacts) achieved by Aisha Association in 2019:**

**First:** Change at the individual level / Women (Right Holders): Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of women's participation in community development by improving their access to support and protection services.

- An improvement in the access of women victims of violence to support, empowerment and protection services through the provision of multi-sectoral services, case management system and referral to additional services, as the number of women who went to the association with the aim of obtaining its services reached 2000 women.
- Improving the level of mental health and psychological well-being of marginalized women and girls who are victims of violence and at risk through individual and group psychological support groups and home visits.
- Improving access to justice for vulnerable women and girls who are victims of violence and at risk.
- Improved women's access to economic and income-generating services from small enterprises and employment opportunities, which contributed to improving opportunities for the sustainability of their income sources.
- Improved awareness of women (and women with disabilities) of their legal rights and increased participation in decision-making at the individual and societal level.
- The grassroots institutions have the ability to advocate for women's rights and promote gender equality by building their capacities, attitudes and skills by attending specialized training on gender-based violence, gender equality, women's legal rights, mechanisms for access to justice and providing specialized psychological support services.
- Women's awareness of protection mechanisms, access to justice, referral pathways, and centers for providing psychological, social, legal, economic and health services for gender have improved.
- There has been a positive change in the gender dynamics within the families of marginalized women / victims of violence targeted in the program, whereby the traditional roles of women in the field of reproduction and child-rearing have changed into multiple roles, including participation in economic opportunities (livelihoods and employment). The multiple roles of women have added new burdens to women, especially while establishing their businesses outside their homes. To avoid the negative effects of these women, Aisha targeted the husbands of the beneficiaries with the aim of redistributing the gender roles between women and men at the household level and creating greater achievement in the event of a shift in gender roles and creating a permanent environment for women with the emergence of the economic role.
- In conclusion, there is progress towards the equal participation of women and men at the family level, in addition to greater areas in terms of women's economic rights, equal opportunities to participate in the labor market, social and cultural empowerment and legal empowerment of women.

**Second:** Change at the individual level / children (right holders): Create a sensitive environment to protect and promote the development of children and their families for a better future.

- Increasing children's awareness of gender equality issues, transformational gender, access to justice and protection mechanisms.
- The level of violence against children directed by parents and children to each other has decreased due to the skills they have acquired about alternative means of violence, positive parenting methodologies, the concept of parenthood and re-framing concepts of power and masculinity.
- Higher levels of protection for children from gender-based violence due to coordination to provide protection services in coordination with officials and decision-makers from the Ministry of Social Development and its child protection networks.
- The level of skills and attitudes of workers in child protection services improved due to the training they received on issues of reproductive and sexual health rights and positive education in daily education and daily education.
- The level of advocacy and the quality of child protection services at the grassroots partner institutions improved as a result of the skills acquired and the increased level of coordination and networking between service providers and their knowledge of referral pathways for child protection cases.
- Community awareness of the need to reject violence against children has improved as a result of online and direct advocacy campaigns with decision-makers, which related to issues of early marriage and violence against children in its various forms.

- The level of mental health and well-being of children improved after their integration with psychosocial support services, play therapy, yoga, aerobics, specialized individual and group psychological support sessions, home visits and family counseling to create a supportive environment for children.
- Decision-makers have become more sensitive to the gender-specific needs of children and there are many examples of their interaction with issues of protecting children from violence in a more sensitive manner that takes into account the needs of both sexes.
- Raising the level of skills of child protection service providers working in formal institutions such as health and social development in dealing with child protection issues such as begging, child labor, early marriage and school dropout. The network of relationships that Aisha Association built with child protection service providers contributed to raising the level of response and the quality of service provided.

**Third:** Change at the system level / decision-making (duty-holders): Legislators and decision-makers participate in the process of empowering women and children through appropriate legislation and laws.

- Decision-makers have become more sensitive to the gender-specific needs of children and there are many examples of their interaction with issues of protecting children from violence in a more sensitive manner that takes into account the needs of both sexes.
- Decision makers are more open to discussion and exchange of information with civil society institutions and have the desire to develop their services and build partnerships with civil society institutions to provide quality and quality services.
- Contributing to the development of shadow reports on CEDAW, the rights of the child and disability, in partnership with UN Women, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the General Union of Palestinian Women, as the association is one of the members of the shadow reports writing committees. In addition to the Foundation's participation in developing the national action plan to localize UN Resolution 1325 to enhance the participation of women in response and recovery and peace building efforts.
- Judges incorporate women's rights and gender equality in their work. Among the positive indicators of this are the number of cases that judges refer to legal clinics and their participation in many accountability sessions for raising the age of marriage for girls.

**Fourth:** Change at the system level / institutional building: Aisha Association is an association that is empowered in the administrative, professional and financial fields.

- Raising the level of information and skills of Aisha's employees at the administrative, professional and financial levels, through a set of training, discussion and supervision sessions.
- Adopting innovative and new work methodologies that allow providing quality services.
- Developing regulatory working policies such as the policy of protecting whistleblowers and exploitation and training staff working on it. Developing a five-year strategic plan 2020-2024 and updating the organization's structure in accordance with the development of cadres and programs within the new strategy, in addition to evaluating employees and developing a capacity building plan for the coming years.
- Developing awareness-raising materials and evidence that are consistent with international standards and the local context and respond to the humanitarian needs of the target groups.
- Building databases that contribute to facilitating access to information on targets, services, areas of spread, and partners from the grassroots institutions.
- Building strong partnership relations with institutions of the international community to implement joint projects or to implement joint advocacy campaigns aimed at improving community awareness and accountability for decision makers on issues of women's and children's rights and gender equality.
- Aisha Association became remarkable in providing gender services and case management with a specialist in providing mental health services and addiction treatment, which contributed to the existence of the psychological clinic in creating this image, so the institution becomes a reference for studies and research carried out by many institutions.

#### **4.1.2 Fulfillment (Progress) of outputs**

**Realizing the outcomes could be attributed to delivering the following outputs:**

##### **Outputs under Capacity Building Program (CBP):**

**Output 1.1.1:** AISHA internal organizational policies, arrangements, procedures and frameworks prepared and used.

AISHA has developed set of policies including MEAL policy, complain policy, internal control, prevention and reporting fraud waste or abuse policy, project management, safety and security, C4W policy that emphasize the quality in AISHA programmes. Also, AISHA appointed MEAL officer who developed MEAL plan and reporting on it. In addition, AISHA developed, published and used Case Management manual for addicted children. Moreover, AISHA Restructuring its main program “Individual Model Empowerment” (IEM) to be more adapted with women needs, and focus more on E-commerce vocational training than the tradition vocational training.

**Output 1.1.2:** AISHA staff trained in managerial skills

AISHA built the capacity of (46) employee on MEAL framework, Project cycle Management including Needs Assessment, fundraising, risk management, MEAL, lesson learned, and Case Management involving a total (140) training hours.

**Output 1.1.3:** Aisha staff developed their professional knowledge and skills according to specified needs.

AISHA developed the professional knowledge and skills according to specified needs for (35) employee on clinical supervision and Case Management for addicted and substance abuse children, and case management for children SOPs involving a total (52) training hours.

**Output 1.1.4:** Wellbeing of the staff enhanced

Aisha enhanced the wellbeing of its staff including participation in (4) open days sharing knowledge and experience, and exercise psychosocial support activities.

**Output 1.1.5:** Financial audits and evaluation reports issued

AISHA issued financial audit and evaluation report for 2019.

**Output 1.2.1:** Capacity of CBOs strengthened on women rights and GBV.

AISHA strengthened CBOs and built the capacity of (116) service providers on Case Management and HAWWA ZAHARA, SRHR, Social Debates, and men storytelling.

**Output 1.2.2:** Capacity of university students developed in social debates.

AISHA developed the capacity of (25) university students on Social Debates, and men storytelling.

**Output 1.2.2:** Capacity of school counselors built on women rights and GBV.

AISHA built the capacity of school counselors on first Promundo manual including (Gender, examining power, what does it mean to be a man? Emotional life of men, understanding violence, and Building Healthy), second Respectful confrontation manual addressing masculinity and managing difficult conversations between partners, and respectful relations.

**Output 1.2.3:** Men and boys are more engaged to promote gender equality and combat gender based violence and violence as a means to resolve conflicts.

**Output 1.3.1:** AISHA staff and stakeholders trained in gender research methodology

**Output 1.3.2:** Action researches conducted and disseminated on VAW/GBV, gender and women and children issues.

AISHA conducted and published mapping Study of economic spaces for women survivors of GBV in the Gaza Strip.

**Output 1.4.1:** AISHA staff trained in IHL, IHRL, mechanisms of monitoring and documenting IHL and human rights violations against women victims of violence and at risk and those with disabilities and displaced and their children.

Aisha staff participated on (1) training on reporting mechanisms and complaints to CEDAW Committee to obtain the rights of children and women. Also, (6) staff member participated in training by OHCHR on right of health,

information, Reports submitted by NGOs related to the Child Convention, Discrimination and Persons with Disabilities. Training on Contractual Objects Course which focus on specialized sessions between Palestine and Israel. Finally, training on the Mechanisms to enhance communication with the Committee of Child rights and shadow reports and their purpose, the training is still ongoing on the same issues and others during the year 2020.

**Output 1.4.2:** Monitored and documented IHL and human rights violations against women victims of violence and at risk and those with disabilities and displaced and their children.

**Output 1.4.3:** Documentary report in English and Arabic languages published and disseminated

Outputs under Women Protection and Empowerment Program (WPEP):

**Output 2.1.1:** Women victims of violence selected

AISHA selected and engaged (141) women victim of violence in IEM program.

**Output 2.1.2:** Vocational skills of targeted women built and job opportunities offered.

AISHA developed the vocational skills of (203) Women victim of violence involving a total (1600) training hours and provide (203) job opportunities (140) job placement and (63) grants. Where they gained (160) specialized economic training hours to manage grants and start small projects.

**Output 2.1.3:** The knowledge, awareness and life skills of women required for their future success developed.

AISHA enhanced (203) women knowledge and life skills on GBV, and personal status law involving at total (442) awareness sessions.

**Output 2.2.1:** Psychosocial support provided to women and girls.

AISHA provide psychosocial support for (5711) Women and girls on Hawwa Zahra Toolkit for GBV in crisis context, and Respectful confrontation manual addressing respectful on business, risk mitigation and handling conflict within the business as well as within the household, life skills, time management, communication skills, and body language.

**Output 2.2.2:** Referral of cases in need of protection services to specialized protection facilities and networks

Women received specialized and professional protection services through referral pathways to specialized organization such as shelters and Haya center in total of (30) case.

**Output 2.2.3:** Awareness raising workshops organized on protection measures for women and girls

Capacity of women and girls built on protection measures.

**Output 2.2.4:** case management services provided to Vulnerable WHHs.

Vulnerable WHHs received case management services in total of (402) women and girls using different techniques and highly networking with ministries, NGOs, protection cluster, shelters, police center to provide high quality services.

**Output 2.2.5:** mental health services provided to GBV, mental health and substance abuse women.

Mental health and substance abuse women received specialized and professional services such as mental health (599) case, assistive tools (116) tool, medical services (626) women through referral pathways to AISHA's partners.

**Output 2.3.1:** Legal aid services (representation – mediation – consultation, referral) provided for women victims of violence through legal aid clinic 04.

Women victims of violence received legal aid services in total of (727) women considered as representation, and (1100) women considered as legal consultations.

**Outputs 2.3.2:** The capacity of newly graduated lawyers developed and the skills enhanced

Capacities and skills of newly graduated lawyers developed and enhanced on Sharia Courts laws and policies to support women to resort to legitimate court and subsequently access to justice and Personal Status Law in total (50) lawyers.

Outputs under Child Protection Program (CPP):

**Output 3.1.1:** Community awareness-raising undertaken on children's human rights

Community, stockholders and decision makers raised their knowledge on children's human rights through participating in steering committee in Gaza and North of Gaza city. The committee consist of (50) member contributed to enhance community acceptance for SRHR by providing mobile services used to extend access to the laws that related to corporal punishment /physical and sexual abuse. Moreover, AISHA Establishing one steering committee in south area (Middle area and Gaza; and conduct 3 semi-annual steering committee meetings (1meetings in north and Gaza and 3 meetings in south) to monitor and develop the sensitive activities with community. in addition, the participants discussed the modules to make it more appropriate with Palestinian community especially at the middle area and south area of Gaza strip which is consider as conservative community and differs in comparison of Gaza city.

**Output 3.1.2:** Parents and service providers increased knowledge and skills on SRHR and PD, GBV, and women access to justice and security.

Capacities and knowledge of (1487) parents and (180) service providers, judge, lawyers and police men increased and enhanced on SRHR and PD, GBV, and women access to justice and security, early marriage, legal rights through participating in trainings, workshops, awareness sessions, round table and roundtable discussion.

**Output 3.2.1:** Children increased knowledge and skills on SRHR, GBV .

Knowledge and skills of (2525) children developed and increased on psychosocial support techniques, SRHR, GBV, women's access to justice through participating in (592) structured awareness session.

**Output 3.2.2:** School children attend educational, cultural and recreational activities.

School children participated in structured psychosocial support session using individual counselling, home visits, and play therapy techniques in total of (330) children. Also, (1900) boys and girls participated in structured psychosocial support session using Hawa Elzahrah toolkit. And (17) open day organized for (2230) children.

**Output 3.2.3:** Case management services provided to GBV children.

GBV Children received case management services in total of (232) child using different techniques and highly networking with ministries, NGOs, child protection cluster, child protection network to provide high quality services.

**Output 3.2.3:** mental health services provided to GBV, mental health and substance abuse children.

Mental health and substance abuse children received specialized and professional services such as mental health (411) case through referral pathways to AISHA's community center for mental health and substance abuse.

Outputs under Advocacy and Communication Program (ACP)

**Output 4.1.1:** Hardware, software and staff training needs assessed for high performance MIS in AISHA

AISHA staff trained on MIS including Zahr online system and the recently developed data base to collect data of CBOs, Salary allocation, project activities/ services through conducting (30) training hours for (40) of AISHA staff.

**Output 4.2.2:** Media coverage used to highlight AISHA activities and positions.

AISHA contributed in publishing news of it's project activities on social media, website, YouTube channel, and electronic magazine.

**Output 4.2.3:** Media campaign Organized and implemented to highlight VAW/GBV and issues of women and children.

Electronic magazine for parents, service providers, and stockholders issued on VAW/GBV specially domestic violence addressing SRHR, PD and child protection through developing number of articles.

**Output 4.2.4:** Literature prepared and disseminated to raise community raised awareness on GBV and women access to justice and security.

AISHA developing and disseminated manual and brochure which contributed in raising community awareness on GBV and women access to justice and security

**Output 4.3.1:** AISHA developed networking and communication with local, regional and international alliances and bodies protecting and empowering women victims of violence and at risk

Aa AISHA member of many networks, it seeks with high efforts to continue with organizing lobbying and advocacy campaign related to critical women issues.

**Output 4.3.2:** International events organized with stakeholder organizations.

AISHA participated in two international conferences and presented one work paper at Localization of humanitarian fund and 4 work papers at The 7th international conference of Gaza community mental health program. In addition to 5 work papers at Local conferences and workshops.

**Outputs 4.3.3:** Duty bearers sensitized towards women's legal rights and gender based violence.

AISHA participated in (4) roundtable, (9) community meetings and (6) meetings with Dr. Hassan Al JoJo the Head of Sharia Supreme Court to discuss the issue of raising the age of custody of divorced women and to equalize between the widowed and divorced women in terms of child custody pursuant to the principle of equality and non-discrimination stipulated in the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law and 2004 Palestinian Child Law. During the last meeting, Dr. Al JoJo submit a verbal approval regarding this issue.

**Outputs 4.3.4:** Information level, public awareness on women's legal rights and gender based violence improved in Gaza.

AISHA published (5) videos, (2) radio spot, (5) radio sessions, (1) fact sheet, (20) case studies (10 children, 10 women) on women's legal rights and Gender Based Violence.

**Output 4.3.5:** Advocacy initiatives to protect women victims of violence and at risk executed in partnership with CSOs.

#### **4.1.3 Achievements at the level of activities:**

##### **Fulfilling the outputs that related the following activities:**

##### **The activities of building capacities:**

1. Developing and publishing Monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability policy.
2. Conducting (60) training hours under Monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability for (20) from Aisha's association team.
3. Conducting (30) training hour in project management, fundraising, and reports for (10) from Aisha's association team.
4. Conducting (15) training hour in need assessment for (7) from Aisha's association team.
5. Conducting (70) training hour in case management, referral pathway, protection against exploitation and sexual abuse for (46) from Aisha's association team.
6. Developing the data base for Aisha association such as salaries system, Human resources system, documentation, evaluation, monitoring and reports, project management system.
7. Developing the monitoring and protection system and warning system from increasing the numbers of cameras.
8. Processing and installation the association with solar energy about 20 solar panels to cover the consumption of the association about 60% in the case of cutting the power.
9. conducting (15) training hour for (20) from Aisha's team in using Zahar system.
10. Revising and developing the case management manual for GVB cases.
11. Developing protection tools manual from exploitation and sexual abuse.
12. Conducting (22) training hour in professional supervision for (35) from Aisha's team.
13. Conducting (4) open recreational days for Aisha's team to enhance their wellbeing.
14. Conducting (30) training hour in case management and Hawa Alzahra Manual for (25) from service providers from CBOs and partners.
15. Conducting (15) training hour in health, reproductive and sexual rights for (20) from service providers.
16. Networking with Awn network for legal service providers and legal services under Protection Cluster for United Nations.



17. Conducting and publishing survey study to understand the available economic areas and the new one, challenges and opportunities, and orientation of gender for women to work in the specific economic sectors that enables survivors of GBV in Gaza Strip under individual economic empowerment program.
18. Conducting (4) specialized training for Yoga, Circus, and Aerobatics trainers for 5 days each training and training course for the whole day (2 days). The training course is in cooperation with international experts for (24) trainers in Yoga and Circus and in coordination with Gaza Community Mental Health. Also, implementing self-practice sessions for (20) sessions for teachers to increase their skills.
19. Revising and developing the individual economic empowerment program in terms of the quality and the content of psychosocial and legal support for women needs and focus on vocational training in non-stereotypical specializations such as electronic trade and maintenance more than the traditional one. Providing work opportunities for women to work in private sectors due to their skills.
20. Implementing a lot of internal meetings in the administrative level with the team, case study meeting, coordination between coordinators meeting, and implementation team to participate in the trainings that CBOs and partners organized such as UNCIF in partnership with save the children. Participation in attending the training about reports and complains for child rights and CIDAW committee to get the child rights in the case of not discussing these issues seriously in the Palestinian judge.
21. Participating (6) from the vocational and administrative team to attend training that the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza Strip about 1) special indicator in the right of health 2) reports provided from the associations that interested in children, racial discrimination, and persons with disabilities. 3) Revising the contractual objects: focusing on the special sessions in Palestine and finally Israel. 4) Mechanisms of enhancing the communication with child rights committee and shadow reports and the training still continue in the same issues and extra in 2020.
22. Participating in training about protection mechanism in humanitarian work that implement humanitarian projects and organized by the protection sector and funded by Humanitarian responses.
23. training the legal team on special works procedures in legal work group LTF-SOPs that followed protection sector.
24. Participating the team in local and regional meetings with work sheets (10 work sheets) such as the regional meeting that conducted in Jordan about humanitarian work nationalization and the seventh international mental health meeting that Gaza community Mental Health implemented and Aisha participated with 5 work sheets and also provided work sheets in meetings and workshops with Ministry of social affairs and mental health circle under Ministry of Health.
25. Conducting training for building capacities for teams in Women Activity Center in Al daraj and Al nusairat and monitoring sessions and vocational supervision to the team and governmental safe house.
26. Developing the association's store in partnership with Maan association and funded by responses box (recovers and mattress) NFIs humanity and processing the stores with tools and equipment in the case of new wars or new humanity emergencies. the team was trained on system and discharge the store and follow up with women center at Alshate.
27. Developing emergency plan for the association which included 3 types and levels of risks in partnership with Maan association and developing responses plan for survivors of GBV in Jabalia ans Al nusairart in partnership with Health Work Committee Union and funded by APS.
28. Processing and opening Yoga center for the association in Tal- Al Hawwa behind Al ameen mosque and included the whole activities and Circus games and developing publish plan and advertisement for the center.

### **Empowerment and Women Protection Activities:**

1. Networking with CBOs and partners in the civil society and official associations to choose beneficiaries for the individual empowerment.
2. Participating (141) women in the individual empowerment form women.
3. Providing (63) women with financial grants in the vocational training in small business projects.

4. Participating (140) women in cash for work program and they get temporary work for 3 months.
5. Conducting (1600) training hour in the vocational training inside the association and outside for the beneficiaries from the individual empowerment program in the sewing, wool, embroidery, photographing, marketing, food production, maintenance cellphones, cleaning industry, and painting.
6. Networking with local service providers to attract extra training or work opportunities for the trainees or services such as food parcels, surgery operations, medical referral, mobile and assistive tools for disabilities.
7. Conduct (120) training hours for 4 groups from women (30 women each group) about the economic planning and how to start working in the small business projects, management and marketing, and developing the feasibility study of the project.
8. Providing consultation about how to manage the financial grants and small business projects for survivors of GBV with 3 sessions each woman about 609 economic consultation.
9. Implementing 203 evaluation visits for economic projects and 126 follow up visits for women who started their small business projects in 2019.
10. Networking with the private sector to provide training opportunities and work and open new fields to change the serotype of the work opportunities for women through meetings with business men association and the minister of empowerment and leadership, industries union and Palestinian employment fund and ministry of work about 16 meetings in 2019.
11. Implementing training about the skills of the economic empowerment and personal skills for graduates about 147 women.
12. Conducting 100 training hour in personal skills and communication skills for 100 women from survivors of GBV (4 groups) and how to benefit from the cash for work.
13. Implementing groups of psychosocial support sessions on Hawa Alzahra Manual to improve the wellbeing and internal peace for 4242 women.
14. Conducting 1959 individual counseling sessions about 2711 counseling.
15. Conducting 1560 follow up visits by protect team to evaluate the psychosocial evaluation and economic one.
16. Implementing psychosocial groups by using Yoga (4 groups) about 64 women.
17. Conducting 22 follow up sessions for families about positive discipline and sexual and reproductive rights.
18. Conducting 20 open recreational days for beneficiaries.
19. Conducting 780 Psychosocial support sessions (15 women each group and from disabilities) in all governorates in Gaza Strip.
20. Conducting 222 awareness sessions about GBV for women.
21. Refer 281 beneficiaries to other services.
22. Conducting 30 training hour in the self-support groups for beneficiaries which targeted 30 women.
23. Providing 31 women with protection services through referring them to safe house and police.
24. Conducting 30 awareness sessions in the protection procedures and referral pathways for women.
25. Providing health services and sexual rights and reproductive for 50 women and distributing mobile and assistive tools for 116 beneficiaries.
27. Specialized mental health services and psychological counseling and treatment for 599 by using the cognitive and behavioral treatment techniques, mind, body, and other techniques.
28. Refer 626 women to get health services in coordination with RCS4GS and Health Work Committee Union and Alquds Hospital and other health association.
29. Conducting 14 sessions for capacities building on respect confrontation Manuel in titled with Respect at Work, mitigate the risks, solving the conflict inside work and family, life skills, time management, communication skills, body language (2 groups and each group 6 sessions for per group).

30. Conducting 30 training hour in debate about women rights and quality between the gender for 25 university students and have 51 debate in the universities.
31. Conducting 18 awareness sessions in story telling for men about 46 from the ambassadors of the gender qualities.
32. Implementing 14 awareness sessions for men on referral gender manual and mainstreaming men (3 sessions per group and one session in the day) which included: gender, strength checking, what do you mean to be a man? And emotional life for men, violence understanding, health building, respect confrontation manual, (4 sessions per group and one session in the day) titled with Masculinity and management of difficult conversation between parents, respect relationships (2 groups and each group attend 7 sessions).
33. Conducting 6 follow up sessions about the respect confrontation for 10 ambassadors of the qualities between genders and 4 psychologists from Aisha.
34. Conducting 100 legal awareness sessions about personal status and women rights.
35. Providing representation in court for 717 women and provide 509 legal counseling fir them.
36. Providing temporary house for 70 women from household and threats of risk displacement from 6-17 months for about 1200 USD for each women.

#### **Activities under Child Protection Program (CPP)**

- In 2019, Aisha Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse received 414 children (6-18 years old, 58% female) who were referred to awareness activities. The majority of these children reported experiencing the trauma of war, and 23% reported experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault (12%). 43% (182) of these children received individual and family counseling for problems related to stress and behavior. The majority complained of fears (74%), bed-wetting (21%), nightmares, and various behavioral and emotional symptoms. 20% of them were found to suffer from mental illness, mainly emotional disorders including depression (17%), PTSD (23%), behavioral disorders (18%), and substance abuse (6%). They received psychotherapy, behavioral and family therapy that focuses on trauma.
- Implementation of group psychosocial support sessions using the Eve Al-Zahra guide for 6 groups, with a total of 109 children who are school dropouts and homeless children
- 330 children from the northern region received psychosocial support services through home visits, individual sessions, and play therapy in play laboratories
- 139 children received case management services in different age groups 6-17 years, such as psychosocial support services, family counseling, home visits, medical referrals, remedial classes, vocational training, protection provision and skills building.
- Implementation of 12 yoga and aerobic groups for a total of 163 girls in the age group, 12-17
- Implementation of 17 open entertainment days for 1930 children in the age groups 9-17 years, accompanied by their families in 8 of these trips.
- 119 children and girls were referred to the Palestinian Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip to receive medical services, treatments, medical examinations and support tools.
- Selecting (15) children who are in conflict with the Palestinian Law to benefit from psychotherapy and multisectoral services.
- Conducting (50) psychosocial group counselling sessions for targeted families on early marriage and its impact, legal, gender, and SRHR for (10) groups (each group 20 member of drop out girls' families), involving a total of (200) members of drop out girls' families.

- Conducting (200) group awareness and psychosocial support sessions (2 hours each session), following the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) – Module 2 that focuses on early marriage, wellbeing and self-care, law, gender, GBV, and protection mechanism for (10) groups (each group includes 20 girls drop out from schools) involving a total of 200 young married girls and girls at risk of early marriage (dropped-out from school), so that every participant attends (20) sessions during the project duration.
- Establishing one steering committee in south area (Middle area and Gaza; and conduct 3 semi-annual steering committee meetings (1 meetings in north and Gaza and 3 meetings in south) to monitor and develop the project activities. The committee contributed to enhance community acceptance for SRHR by providing mobile services used to extend access to the laws that related to corporal punishment /physical and sexual abuse. Also, the participants discussed the modules to make it more appropriate with Palestinian community especially at the middle area and south area of Gaza strip which is consider as conservative community and differs in comparison of Gaza city
- Conducting (3 training day) on SRHR module 3 for 20 of service providers 1 groups - at South area (Rafah and Khanunis).
- Conducting (48) parents' sessions on SRHR module 1 for 120 parents (4 groups-each group is 20 attendant) for (Gaza city and Northern Gaza)
- Conducting (48) parents' sessions on SRHR module 2 for 120 parents (4 groups-each group is 20 attendant) in Gaza city and Northern Gaza.
- Conducting (48) parents' sessions on SRHR module 3 for 120 parents (4 groups-each group is 20 attendant) for (Gaza city and Northern Gaza).
- conducting PD training (15 groups, each group 8 sessions with total of 120 sessions) targeting (277) parents.
- Conducting follow up sessions "Training of parents" for PD.
- Conducting SRHR sessions in module 1 for (80) children (age 10-17). ( 4group, each group is 20 children and they will attend 12 sessions) (Gaza city and northern Gaza).
- Conducting SRHR sessions in module 1 for (80) children (age 10-17). ( 4group, each group is 20 children and they will attend 12 sessions) (Middle Area - Aisha Staff).
- Conducting SRHR sessions in module 2 (80) children (age 10-17). ( 4group, each group is 20 children and they will attend 12 sessions) (Gaza city and northern Gaza).
- Conducting SRHR sessions in module 3 (80) children (age 10-17). ( 4group, each group is 20 children and they will attend 12 sessions) (Gaza city and northern Gaza).

### **Activities under Advocacy and Communication Program**

conducting 100 training hours: (5) trainings on early marriage, legal rights, and SRHR module 2 involving (100) participants in (5) groups (each group includes 20 participants) from psychosocial workers, and school principals, teachers and counsellors so that each participant attends (20) hours in one training

conducting (4) roundtable discussions involving (40) judges, lawyers, and police men on early marriage and legal rights (10 participants in each roundtable).

Developing server of Aisha and data base system.

Developing Aisha website, salary system, human resources system, document management system, 360-degree evaluation, time attendance, reporting and monitoring system, and project management system.

Conducting (4) training hours for (20) of Aisha staff on MIS.

Conducting (15) training hours for (20) of Aisha staff on using Zahr online system.

Issuing electronic magazine to highlight VAC, domestic violence, SRHR, and PD.

Advocacy campaign on critical women issues with focus on abandoned women issue (included activities such as: issuing position papers, press releases and open letters on critical women issues).

Community educational campaign using media to advocate women rights.

Event inviting women at risk and representatives of credit organizations and other civic.

Conducting social experiment in a supermarket in Al Saftawi neighborhood in order to assess the community perspectives toward the equality between women and men in implementing home care activities.

Conducting (6) meeting with Dr. Hassan Al JoJo the Head of Sharia Supreme Court to discuss the issue of raising the age of custody of divorced women and to equalize between the widowed and divorced women in terms of child custody pursuant to the principle of equality and non-discrimination stipulated in the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law and 2004 Palestinian Child Law. During the last meeting, Dr. Al Jojo submit a verbal approval regarding this issue.

Conducting (9) community meeting which targeted (377) beneficiaries.

Conducting (2) radio spots, (2) radio sessions, and (1) short video.

Participating in 16 days activism to compact GBV.

Aisha is active member in AMAL and WESAL coalitions, PNGO network, General Union for Palestinian Women, and Protection Cluster.

Conducting (30) training hours on preparing family agreements for (19) members of family counseling unit who work closely with women and family member.

Publishing (3) denunciation and denunciation statements on the issue of women honor-killing crimes.

## 5 Projects implemented in 2019

Table below illustrates the projects implemented in 2019.

No	Project Name	Donor	Years	Target group	Main theme of the project	Main activities	Budget/Year
1	Digitalization for Human Rights (Utilizing Digital Tools to Promote Human Rights and Create Inclusive Public Spaces in the Gaza Strip)	Belgium government, UNWOMEN, UN Habitat	Feb 2017- March 2019	Women, men, female Architect newly graduates, adolescents' boys and girls Community leaders, local municipal councils	Great safe spaces for women and Youth using digital tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness and capacity development for Female architects, youth, and adolescents on rights to participation according to 1325 UNSCR, bullying on Internet. Digital technologies.</li> <li>- Community awareness on SGBV, protection for women and men</li> <li>- Develop Zahr online web application for case management and counseling for GBV cases, CEDAW &amp; 1325 awareness web application</li> <li>- Develop the capacities of municipal counsel to provide gender sensitive services</li> <li>- Create gender inclusive and sensitive public gardens</li> </ul>	242, 000 €
2	Protecting Children and Adolescents from Gender Based Violence through the Promotion of their Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Gaza Strip- <b>SRHR</b>	Save the Children	2017-2021		Capacity development for schools staff, Parents, Children and Service providers from CSOs.		80,000 \$ Yearly
3	Promoting the Human right based approach to protect the rights of Women with Disability in the Gaza Strip	Global Affairs CANADA	April 2018- March 2019		Psychological and legal support for women with disability		278000 CAD
4	Comprehensive Protection Response for women at risk and survivors of GBV in the most vulnerable	ALIANZA POR LA SOLIDARIDAD-APS	Feb 2018-Jan 2019		psychological support, economic empowerment		65,000 Euro

	communities of the Gaza Strip						
5	Preventing early marriage of children girls in the Gaza Strip through promoting their rights and empowering them to become catalysts of change in their communities.	AECID- Spanish cooperation	June 2018- May 2020		Awareness, advocacy, economic empowerment		500,000 Euro
6	Green Hopes Gaza: Social and environmental re-development project in the popular districts of Al Nada, Al Isba and Al Awada” (phase 1)	ACS in Partnership with: CISS - Studio Azue	16 months Jan 2018	700 traumatized Children (age 6-17 yrs) from Al Nada towers, Alezba Areas. 500 mothers’ of the selected children	psychological support, economic empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing the Grean hope Gaza public Garden and its multi-function building</li> <li>- Needs assessment for the targeted children in the area including measuring the level of truma and other behaivoral problems to support the decision of individual plan of interventions</li> <li>- Provision of PSS services for 700 children through play rooms, individual counselling, home visits, group sessions.</li> <li>- Awareness raising for the 500 mothers of the targeted children</li> <li>- Help disk to provide consultation and referral to support services for GBV cases through case management approach</li> </ul>	69,000.00 Euro
7	Empowerment Program for Female Heads of Household	UNRWA	March 2018- Oct 2019		Economic empowerment for marginalized groups		34,000 \$
8	Send back street children to school	x 1000 Funds Rome- Italian	Nov 2018, July 2019	43 boys and girls 10-17 years dropout of schools, and their parents	Protection through psychological support, and economic empowerment	Provision of PSS services for the children and their parent. Open days, Awareness raising, remedial classes, health service, vocational training and cash money to enhance their educational level and get them back to school	25,000 Euro

						easily	
9	Comprehensive Protection Response through provision of psycho-social and mental health services for conflict affected population in the Gaza strip	OCHA- HRP, reserve allocation	July 2018, April 2019			psychological support for affected people of the Great March of Return	321,000 \$
10	Toward legal empowerment of community to support women legal rights in the Gaza City and north of Gaza City. [Sawasya II]	UNDP	2018-2019			Access to justice, GBV	65,640\$
11	Supporting local initiatives to advance psychological support and empowerment of vulnerable women over 18 and girls under 18 in Gaza through in yoga and social circus training	Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)	6 months Sept 2018- feb 2019			psychological support through Yoga and Circus	12,305 CAD
12	2019 Humanitarian Response Plan in West Bank and Gaza- Protecting the Dignity of Vulnerable Female Head of Household in Gaza	Global Affairs Canada	12 months April 2019- March 2020			Psychological support for GBV and Female Head of Household Case management and transitional sheltering.	760,000 CAD
13	Multisectoral Responses to Women Victims and Survivors of Gender Based Violence in the Gaza Strip	UNWOMEN	June 2019 April 2020			Psychological and legal support for Case management for GBV Economic opportunities	226,691.59 USD
14	Enhancing protection and respect of the rights of vulnerable women and children who come into conflict with the	UNDP	October 2019- March 2020			Women Access to Justice	109,238.44 USD



	Palestinian law						
15	Enhancing protection and respect of the rights of vulnerable women and children who come into conflict with the Palestinian law	UNICEF	November 2019- August 2020		Mental health and psychosocial support for children who are in conflict with the Palestinian Law		49,715 USD
16	Provision of protection support for adolescent street girls' victims of GBV in Gaza Strip	Oxfam	March-October 2019	33 streets girls from Gaza city and their families (age 12-17 yrs)	Case management for street girls and child protection services	Case management for the targeted children through provision of MHPSS services for the children and their parent.  Open days, Awareness raising, individual counseling, remedial classes, health service, vocational training and cash money to enhance their educational level and get them back to school easily	25,000 Euro
17	Yoga and social circus for women and girls in Gaza strip	Ireland representative-Ramallah	Jan -June 2019	50 women and 50 girls 12-17 yrs	Yoga and social circus activities to enhance their women and girls' wellbeing Capacity development for the trainers	6 groups of women and girls who attended Yoga and social circus (each group of 20 persons attend 6 session)  Develop the capacities of the yoga and circus trainers through self-practice sessions and attending one week training by external trainer	4,000 Euro
18	Yoga and social circus for women and girls in Gaza strip	Crowns without borders	Nov-Dec 2019	42 Women and girls with MHPSS problems who referred form AISHA MH clinic	Capacity development for the staff, yoga group sessions	2 groups of women and girls who attended Yoga and social circus (each group of 20 persons attend 6 session)  Develop the capacities of the yoga and circus trainers via self-practice sessions and attending one-week training by external trainer	19,500 ILS
19	Bent El-Sharq initiative	OXFAM	Sep-Nov 2019	30 women and 21 men	Capacity building	Build the capacity of working women and their husbands on gender transformation and respectful confrontation.	6,320.00 USD
20	Shifting Perspectives: Engaging men and boys in addressing GBV against	Kvinna till Kvinna	01.01.2019-31.12.2019	75 ambassadors to compact GBV	Capacity Building and advocacy	Building the capacity of men to be able to compact GBV.	29,872 EUR

	women and girls in Gaza Strip						
21	Protection and Support of Woman and Girls with Disabilities and Survivors of Cancer Subjected to GBV Through Gender Responsive Multisectoral Responses	OCHA	November,2019 - August, 2020	Women and girls with and without disabilities and survivors of cancer	Enhanced Protection and respect of rights of vulnerable women > 18 years and girls < 18 years with and without disabilities and survivors of cancer subjected to GBV and increased access to gender responsive multisectoral responses.	MHPSS services which include: Structured group Psychosocial support sessions, Yoga sessions, Specialized mental health, Couple therapy, and recreational open days. Legal Counseling/awareness sessions and court representation. Awareness raising sessions for women, girls, and survivors of cancer and awareness sessions for their families. Case Management	314,004.61 USD
22	Eliminating discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence against vulnerable women in marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip	Kvinna till Kvinna	January 2019- December 2019	Vulnerable women	Women's empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IEM program/ 30 cases</li> <li>• WSHG program/ 30</li> <li>• Raising awareness workshops</li> </ul> Clinical supervision sessions	70,534 EURO
23	Saving Dignity of FHHS in the Gaza strip	Government of Canada	April 2019-May 2020	FHHS in Gaza and North Gaza	GBV for women Head of households Humanitarian and developmental based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case management for 80 FHHS</li> <li>• Psycho-social support 1000 FHHS</li> <li>• Awareness raising for 1000 FHHS</li> <li>• Awareness raising for 1000 men</li> <li>• Temporally sheltering 65 families</li> </ul> Life line program	760,000 CAD
24	Toward secure life for women in the Gaza Strip	SAWASAYA II	July 2019- June 2020	Children of prep school and their parents Female inmates	Child protection	Awareness raising sessions for prep school students and their parents Psycho-social support for female inmates Dignity kits	216,658 ILS

## **6 Coordination and exchange experience with the stakeholders:**

### **6.1 Coordination:**

1. Coordination and networking with civil society institutions to develop proposals and implement projects, including the implementation of a project in partnership with the Palestinian Housing Council funded by the Canadian government and project to care for women and girls with disabilities and survivors from cancer in partnership with the Red Crescent Society for the Gaza Strip and the Association for Culture and Free Thought funded by the Humanitarian Response Fund.
2. Coordination with partner community organizations in implementing the programs activities, especially selecting target groups and hosting awareness-raising activities, training and other events such as cinema days.
3. Coordination with local universities (Al-Azhar, Al-Quds Open University, Gaza University Palestine University, and Al-Aqsa University) to facilitate the access for poor women to the university education, and training them to meet the needs of the labor market . in addition to providing them job opportunities, building the capacities of young university students (female and male) on issues that related to gender-based violence, gender equality, debates, and re-framing power and masculinity. As well as training academic cadres on the same concepts and implementing initiatives and debates for youth among their peers.
4. Coordination with representatives of official institutions (Ministry of Social Affairs / Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women's Affairs), community organizations / NGOs, community and religious leaders, mukhtars and political parties to provide protection and referral services for gender purpose and implementing advocacy campaign.
5. Aisha provided a model for successful partnerships with health care service providers such as (the Palestinian Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip and the Union of Health Work Committees) and with the educational centers such as Al-Amal Institute to provide remedial lessons. in addition to coordinate with protection institutions such as safety houses, police and protection networks of the Ministry of Social Development to provide high quality of multi-sectoral services to the targeted women, girls, men and boys.
6. Coordination with the Protection Network and its sub-working groups (Legal Group, Gender Based Violence Group, Childhood Protection Group, Psychological Support Group, and Persons with Disabilities Group) in which affiliated to OCHA in order to provide quality services, targeting marginalized groups, and share Information and lessons learned.
7. Coordination with the networks and alliances such as the Amal Alliance, the Network of International Organizations, the Forum for Combating Violence against Women - the West Bank and Aoun Network for legal aid service providers in order to implement advocacy campaigns related to activities of the eighth of March and the 16-day campaign that aims to reduce violence against women. In addition, for the association's participation in the joint national campaign carried out by UN Women in partnership with 66 international, national and local institutions to implement the 16 days campaign, which included more than 100 activities as Aisha had an opening speech during the day.
8. Coordination with the private sector and vocational training service providers such as vocational colleges and institutes to provide quality vocational training opportunities and to break the stereotype in the field of women's work and the specializations of their work in the local market.

### **6.2 Posting and publishing:**

The association persisted in publishing all its news on its official page and social media pages, and the number of followers of the whole group increased this year, reaching more than 27,000 followers on the Facebook page. The association has also activated other social networking pages, such as Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, to expand the circle of beneficiaries and followers of the association's news.

1. Aisha has published all employment opportunities and tenders on its page to attract new competencies for cooperation and work
2. Aisha has published a set of educational videos, awareness radio interviews and introductory materials on its pages.
3. Posting an introductory video about the mechanisms of using Zahr system for case management and consultations by using sponsored media, which increased the demand for the site and the association's services.
4. Aisha has carried out a total of (21) radio sessions and 2 radio advertisements. Also, participated in attending 14 television interviews, and (5) introductory documentary videos.
5. Aisha has Participated in publishing (10) working papers within local and national conferences on mental health issues, gender-based violence services, case management and child protection.
6. Aisha has Distributed 3000 SMS messages about mental health support for women and rejecting violence
7. Newsletters from local and international news agencies have documented the activities of Aisha Yoga and Circus Center. in addition to participating in opinion interviews on gender-based violence, child protection, mental health, addiction treatment, family relations and positive discipline.
8. Publication of statements of denunciations following the honor killing of women in the Gaza Strip

9. Designing and publishing a video about a social experiment that deals with gender roles and the burden of home care from the point of view of society, in cooperation with Oxfam.

### **7 Challenges faced and mitigation measures**

1. The loss of security and protection, along with the continued threats of repeated Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, in which constitutes a major obstacle to the progress of our work.
2. The stigma caused by culture and customs continues to be an obstacle to providing empowerment, support and protection services for women and children.
3. Emergency, humanitarian and short duration financing projects do not serve the continuous need due to the bad conditions prevailing in the sector. As the need for development and economic empowerment is very real.
3. The appeal is still standing with the need for permanent, long-term, program-based financing. -
4. Depending on the fund of projects makes a cut in the provision of services, as the psychological support should be for a long period to achieve the goal.
5. Recognition by society and women of the importance of psychological and social services must have - permissions and conditions.
6. The integration of psychosocial support services in the different sectors does not meet the real need. It constitutes a double burden on our professional staff.
7. Governmental specialized centers suffer from the weakness of female visitors due to the stigma - "madhouse" and due to the unjustified controls inside those centers, which do not allow dealing with emergency or normal cases of women except in the presence of a first-degree relative.
8. Transfer systems need to be trained and applied.
9. The official role is weak and does not meet our ambition as an institution working on protection issues. -
10. There is a severe shortage of specialized addiction treatment centers for men and women.
11. Sustainability of services is a big challenge where some services are project based. The lack of fund is also a big reason behind the suspension of some activities.

### **8. Lessons learned**

- Aisha ensures effective participation of target groups in all project stages, including assessing needs, developing creative solutions that meet these needs, and examining, evaluating and modifying these solutions on an ongoing basis to ensure the relevance, feasibility and effectiveness of these solutions for the target group.

- Aisha analyzes the gender of the target groups in terms of age, gender, health suitability and geographical location (with a focus on marginalized areas) to ensure that the different needs of these groups are met, especially people with disabilities and women survivors of breast cancer, as well as ensuring that all target groups have access to the services provided.

- Aisha is committed, during the provision of services period to violated women and girls, to apply the theory of - change, promote a human rights-based approach, communicate with local communities, implement a system of complaints and accountability by the target groups, implement a code of conduct, protect children, combat corruption, organize volunteer work, to ensure security and the safety of personnel and target groups during the provision of field services.

- Aisha is closely coordinating and exchanging information with partners to ensure complementarity and non - duplication in common work areas, as well as exchanging experiences with members of the protection group and members of the gender-based violence sub-group to ensure coverage of the real needs and requirements to alleviate the suffering of women and their families.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the services provided to women, Aisha Association developed professional - module (Hawa Al Zahraa) to provide psychosocial support services, as well as a legal clinic to provide legal advice and representation of women in courts, in addition to a mental health outpatient clinic to provide specialized services for women and girls.

## 9. Annexes

### Annex one: success stories:

#### **New born**

H.E is 11 years old, and was subjected to sexual assault for the first time by her uncle, this matter was only discovered when she was 14 years old, when she attended the program, based on the case management evaluation procedures, she was transferred from the social researcher to the psychologist for testing. Initially, she was diagnosed with symptoms of shock and the presence of other symptoms, the specialist suspected sexual assault. The medical examination for virginity was carried out in the Red Crescent Society, which deals with cases confidentially and reliably. The results showed the presence of a slight scratch in the hymen, but fortunately she did not lose her virginity, and the mother was contacted to inform her and she was in a state of great shock, first not because of her daughter's abuse, but how it happened and that they live in a conservative family. The time had come when the girl told her tragic story of her sexual assault. Several years later, she was sexually assaulted by her single uncle, a drug addict, who forced her into an intimate relationship. Later, she was also subjected to sexual assault by her married uncle. Aisha Association team attributed the aggressive behavior of the girl to her exposure to a violent sexual assault. and she became aggressive with her brothers, brothers, relatives, peers at school, her teacher, and also her parents for several years. Based on Aisha Association's team and the girl's educational file, she was not superior in her studies and her academic achievements were weak and gradually deteriorated when she was 11 years old, in addition to the program's activities and long interventions with the girl in the group, a special plan was developed to provide her with protection measures and Safety, especially at night, the girl started sleeping next to her mother and the room door was always closed. On the other hand, she was subjected to physical violence from her mother's, grandmother, her father, and her siblings, as she was accused of assaulting her uncle. The specialist confirmed that the treatment was approved by the girl. One of the techniques, practicing a simulation exercise in the appearance of her mother, who took a place in the Aisha Association clinic, which simulates home exercises such as hypothetical and realistic scenarios and plans that simulate the goals to provide different solutions. The girl was dealt to release her feelings and thoughts, disclose them, and share them with the mother and with the specialist appropriately. This will not happen without the confidence and familiarity that develops in each session. Gradually, the girl began to express her thoughts and feelings and take control of herself. The specialist worked on her understanding of the people around her, which includes her brothers and relatives who practiced violence with them and who was diagnosed as a defense mechanism as a result of her long cumulative stories that lost confidence in people. She considered that all of them were accomplices in the crime against her. To overcome this, the specialist carried out a series of anger management and conflict resolution exercises with her such as: slow breathing, imaginative breathing, reading stories, watching movies. Besides when she gets agitated, we strongly advise her take a breath and have fun. After a few weeks, her mother reports that there have been major changes in her child's unexpected behavior. The mother told Aisha Association team that her daughter was not the known child 4 years ago. And this is the evidence when the mother spoke that her daughter apologized to her teacher for making the mistake. She became able to solve her own problems on her own in her school effectively and in a good manner, and this did not happen before. In addition, she forced her father to listen to her and discuss with him what happened to her during the previous years, and this is a great job and helping her to address the problem and overcome emotional difficulties. The specialist felt motivated by this success and was amazed at this result. Recently, ALamal Center noticed improvements in her academic achievements as well as her teacher at the school. The girl began to spend her time with her mother discussing her interests, and helping her with her homework, while she was still continuous, organized, brilliant. We are all proud of her.

#### **Memory shock**

(Shock) This word will remain engraved in my mind forever because it was a reason to try to burn myself with kerosene and it itself became the reason for change and increase my self-confidence.

Five years ago, until I was integrated to the services of the association, and I was daily subjected to verbal and physical insult from all members of my family, based on their mistaken understanding when they

suddenly entered my room and found my cousin kissing me, and at that time I remember that they all beat me severely and called me the ugliest girl and they break up their relation with my uncle's house thinking that he kissed me and violated my body and removed my virginity and they convinced me of that and I grew up and I was very afraid and avoid people in order to not hearing their hurtful words . As I do not go school so due to a big scar that appeared on my face. After that I felt the all the world is black and my life is very dark. I was forced daily to serve my young brothers based on My parent's belief that a girl is born only to serve her family and brothers.

By chance, my sister and I, who used to go and collect plastic from the street, went to register at Aisha Association, and I avoided going to it too at the beginning, but I found them interested and constantly ask about me and my feelings, so I gave them safety and began a journey to change my wrong ideas about myself and others through psychological counseling sessions, and I understood well, and my mother understood too through the family counseling sessions that I am innocent of sin and I had to bear it for five consecutive years, so I learned to defend myself and confront the attempts of others verbally assault me. I no longer run from people I also decided to return to school and start support classes at the Al-Amal Institute to cover all the lessons I missed during my days of absence, and I also had a medical referral to e plastic surgeon and started taking the prescribed treatment, and indeed the scar that I had on my face started to disappear. I returned to challenge my friends at school without fear or shame. Excellence has returned to my life as before, and here I am, I am continuing to confront the trauma that they branded me with full force and boldness.

### **My sister and I**

We tried to commit suicide a lot, my sister and I have no meaning in our lives, and we are daily exposed to rejection, and violence in all its forms, no water, no electricity, or even food, so how and why will we study and get tired? My grandmother at times and my uncle at other times, and we are prevented from going out and going to school, even the dentist we cannot go to him to treat the constant tooth pain. As the joy began to appear on our lips when our mother took us to the market to buy a new school uniform with the design that We want as we dreamed throughout our life and we will not forget this day what we lived, because this simple money that you helped us with was a reason for us to walk among our friends in school without fear or shame.

N.A (The smell of my hair and my body is very beautiful, for the first time I used shampoo, and because of it and the rest of the things that I found in the bag that I got , I no longer run away from my friends because of my bad smell).

And we do not forget the dentist who we also went to together and treated tooth pain, and from now until the end of life we will stay together and with the rest of our brothers, as we understood very well our feelings towards each other and we no longer fight as before the family. As the group counseling sessions for us were very benefited.

FA (How happy I am with the math lessons I took at Al-Amal Institute, because I really needed it and we did not have the money to go, and now I no longer fear mathematics and I am trying hard to get the best grades).

### **I hate school due to bullying**

I do not want to go to school, I hate it. The teacher and my colleagues make fun of me always because of my constant feeling of tiredness and illness. I hate all of my father's family who live around me, so they often accuse my mother of false things and often beat me and my sisters and reject us and do not involve us on any occasion, my father does not work, he cannot defend us because if he does, he will be thrown out of the house and there is no food or drink in the house.

So, I went out of school to sell the thermos and get the money and give it to my father to buy us food and not ask help from my grandmother who refuses to give us any things. This was my thinking before he put my name in the project and before the specialist saw me I sell the thermos in the street and I was exposed to harassment and bullying, but she quickly merged me In group counseling sessions with other children who suffer like me, in addition to health education sessions, I did not respond at first and continued to refuse to go to school and be absent from attending, until I got individual psychological counseling sessions in the psychiatric clinic, and then I became certain that my only salvation is to stick to my study and my expression. About my feelings and opinion

Indeed, I decided to return to school after my mother spoke to the counselor, so I went back and told the school of the feeling of anger that I felt when she mocked me in front of all the students, so she apologized for what happened. I

also told her that I still feel tired and in pain and that I need rest sometimes, so we sat together and put together a protection plan that I had learned in the association in order to follow it as soon as I felt pain. Indeed, I felt comfortable after discussing the plan with the teacher and she accepted it as I am. I was more encouraged to return to school after I was transferred by the association to the Crescent Society to conduct the necessary medical examinations

and take the necessary treatment, and I am still continuing on the journey of treatment with my parents, who are no longer quarrels, since the last family counseling session attended by the specialist in the association.

### **Second Birth**

Jamila Salman\* is am divorced, with three children. She suffered from domestic violence and an economic empowerment session. Through UN Women and AISHA's Cash for Work Opportunity in the Gaza Strip funded by oPt Humanitarian Fund, she has worked at the health centre as a nurse. Now she is very happy to work in her field.



Jamila Salman. Photo: UN Women/Seung Deok Seo

My name is Jamila Salman and I live in the Gaza Strip. I am divorced, with three children. I graduated with a nursing degree in 2012 and married in that same year. Throughout my marriage, I suffered from domestic violence and marital problems with my drug-addicted husband and his extended family. I wanted to divorce him, but my own family fiercely opposed it. Only after I said I would commit suicide did my family approved my divorce. I divorced and left the marital home. After that, my family was always afraid of the stigma of divorce, so my brothers controlled me and even beat me. I visited some of the CBOs and other associations, seeking support, but none of them responded to my requests for help.

Then one day, one of my neighbours recommended Association for Women and Child Protection (AISHA) to me. When I first visited AISHA, I expected it would be the same as the other associations I had visited. But it was completely different. The AISHA staff were very kind and welcoming to me. Here, unlike at other associations, I could receive not only various types of services, including awareness-raising sessions, legal awareness sessions, psychosocial services, entertainment activities, and economic empowerment sessions, but also the specific support which I need.

For example, AISHA knows that my family is going through financial hardship. AISHA placed me in an economic empowerment session. AISHA's economic empowerment support is very useful. I was able to attend hairdressing training, and recently I started my own salon, with AISHA's financial support. With such support, I can learn how to be empowered, how to speak up, and how to feel confident.

I have also been selected a beneficiary of the 'Cash for Work' Opportunity implemented by CFTA in partnership with UN Women's Protection and funded by oPt Humanitarian Fund.

I have worked at the health centre as a nurse since November 2019. When AISHA learned that I had majored in nursing, they give me a chance to work as a nurse. I am very happy to work in my field. Actually, this is my first chance to use my nursing skills. I had never worked as a nurse before, because I married directly after graduation.

I feel that I have been born twice. The first birth was my real birth, and the second was on the day when I first visited AISHA. My life restarted when I came here; it was meaningless before that. I was very insecure and nervous all the time. After receiving AISHA's support, I have now become a strong woman and can realize my rights. AISHA is always on my side. I wish that all women who need support will visit AISHA.

\*Note: The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the survivor.

### **Success Story**

Nadia Ausaf, 25, is from the Gaza Strip. Throughout her marriage, she has suffered from domestic violence and marital problems. In the end, her husband kept their daughter away from Nadia for eight months. With the support of AISHA and its lawyers, she won the right to alimony for herself and her daughter, and visitation rights to see her daughter.



Nadia Ausaf. Photo: UN Women/Seung Deok Seo

Nadia Ausaf is from the Gaza Strip. She has been married for five years. Throughout her marriage, she has suffered from domestic violence and marital problems. Due to the periodic violence from her husband and his parents, she left the marital home 14 times. During that time, her mother died and her father remarried. In addition, Nadia's husband is a drug addict. When he was under the influence of drugs, his violence towards her and their daughter (now three years old) worsened. In the end, her husband kept their daughter away from Nadia for eight months.

“Since my mother passed away, everything has been worse than before. I lost the only people I can count on. Violence from my husband and his family escalated. Whenever my husband was violent towards me, his family became involved. They also used violence against me, or kept me the other floor, alone for days. I felt very isolated. I was not allowed to see anyone, including my baby and other families. For those reasons, I had to leave my husband's house and stay at my father's house. While I was in my father's house, my husband and his family kept my daughter from me for eight months. I was unable to see my kid for eight months. It was totally unbearable. I felt like I was in prison,” she recalled.

While Nadia was facing persistent domestic violence, her friend introduced her to AISHA, and Nadia was offered legal consultations about her marital difficulties. Since that first visit to Association for Women and Child Protection (AISHA), she has received several legal consultations, funded by United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OHCA), with professional lawyers and counsellors. With the support of AISHA and its lawyers, Nadia filed four cases on alimony for herself and her daughter, the custody of her daughter, and visitation rights to her daughter. After a couple of legal proceedings, she won the right to alimony for herself and her daughter, and visitation rights to see her daughter. The custody lawsuit is in progress.



She concluded the interview by saying that “I had never dreamt of having a lawyer who is always on my side. I don’t have enough money and cannot find any kind of job so I can afford to hire a lawyer here. thanks to Aisha, I have had several chances for legal consultations. now can claim my rights and receive alimony from my husband. above all, I am very happy to be able to see my daughter whenever I want to.”

\*note: the name has been changed to protect the privacy of the survivor.

## **Annex No. 2: Geographical distribution of beneficiaries and according to the services provided**

- In 2019, the association was able to provide services to 48,834 beneficiaries (women, men, children and girls) within its various projects in all governorates of the Gaza Strip and within the six main areas of services:

Research and building capacity

Economic empowerment and vocational training

Mental health and substance abuse

Legal aid

Psychosocial support and case management

Awareness and advocacy

The distribution of beneficiaries according to gender and disability is as follows:

Women: 28,831

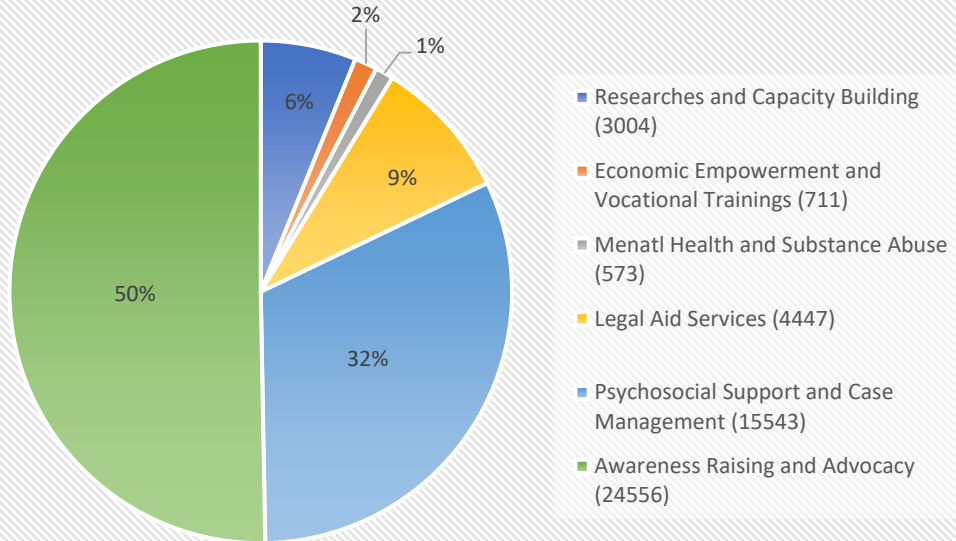
Men: 11328

Girls: 4,664

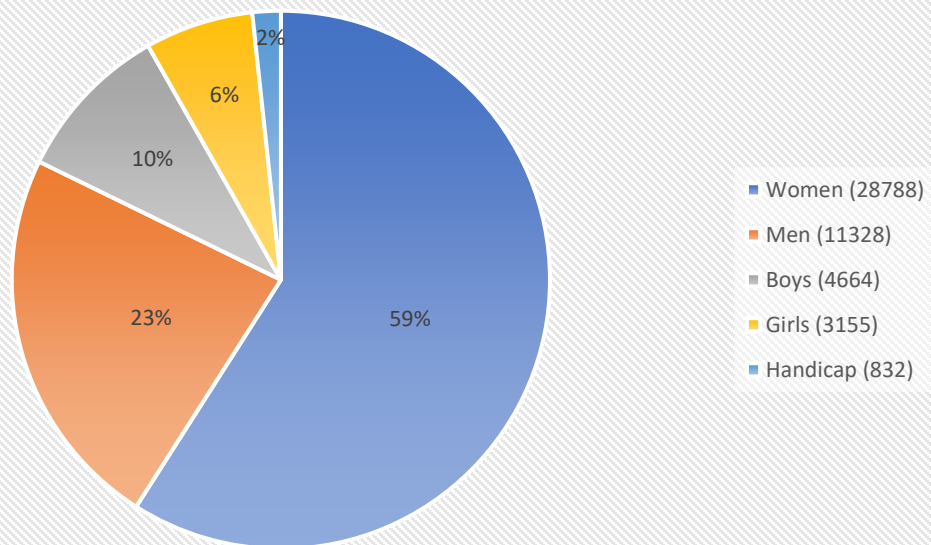
Boys: 3179

Women with disabilities: 832

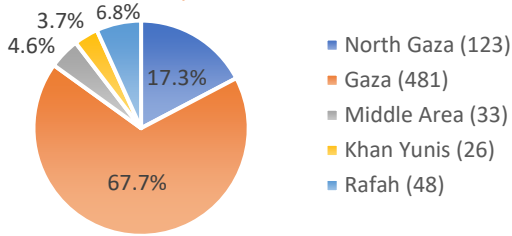
### women beneficiaries according the services



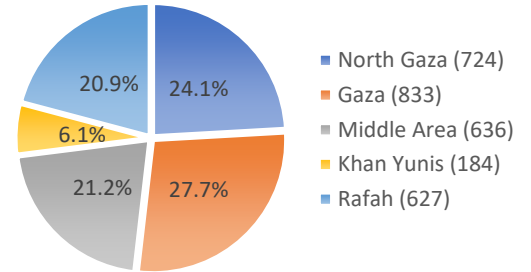
### Beneficiries according to the age and gender



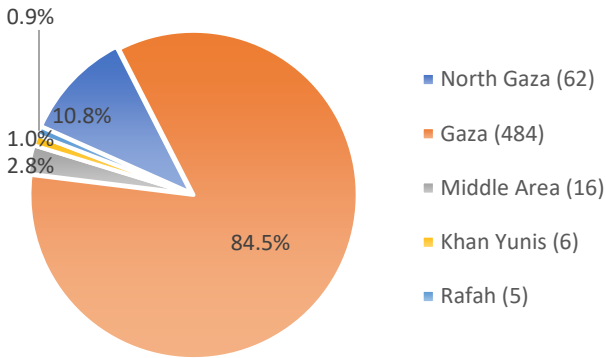
### Vocational training and economic empowerment



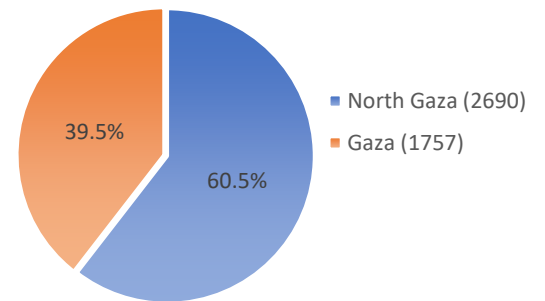
### Research and capabilities building



### mental health and drugs misuse

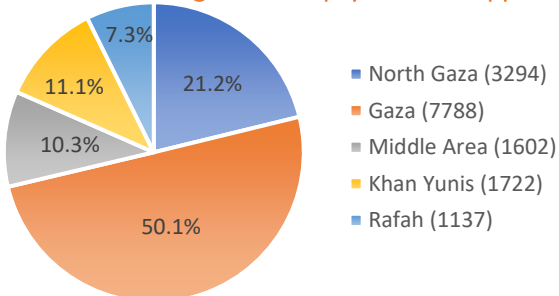


### legal services



## Main Services

### Casemangement and psychosocial support



### Awarness and advocacy

