

WEST BANK / GAZA

Socio-Economic Costs of Gender-Based Violence



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Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic, with serious social and economic repercussions for survivors, their families, communities and nations.ⁱ

This project aimed to estimate the socio-economic costs of GBV (domestic violence, early and forced marriage, and public sexual harassment) in six USAID presence countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and West Bank and Gaza.

Across the globe, 1 in 3 women has ever experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV).ⁱⁱ In West Bank and Gaza, the prevalence of physical IPV in 2011 alone is 24%, and sexual IPV for a 12 month period between 2010 to 2011 is estimated at 12%.ⁱⁱⁱ The majority of survivors in Gaza (63%) experience multiple forms of IPV.^{iv} More than half (58%) of women experienced recent psychological abuse, with a significantly higher prevalence in Gaza (76%) than in West Bank (49%), the majority by their husbands.^v Workplace harassment is also common- nearly a quarter of women (23%) have experienced some form of violence or harassment at work in the last 12 months, for instance.^{vi}

24% of women have experienced recent physical IPV

24% of women were married before 18

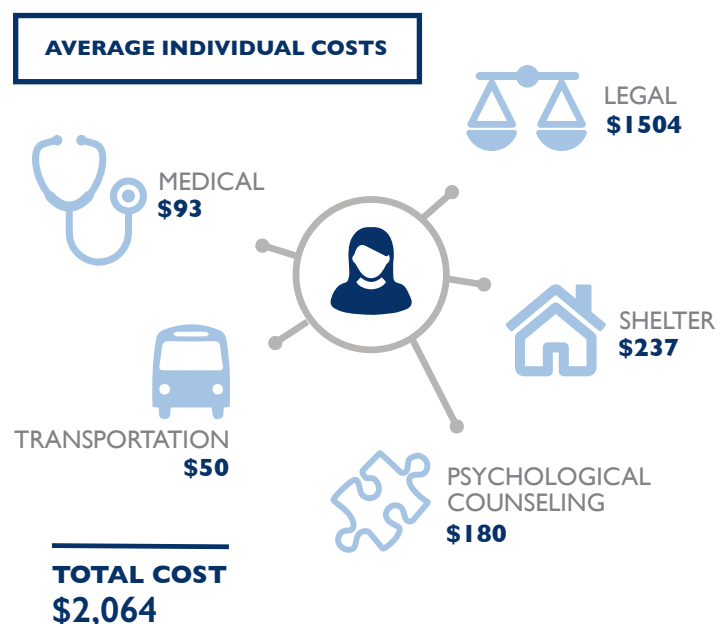
Child marriage - defined as any marriage before the age of 18 is prevalent in West Bank and Gaza, with 24% of women aged 20-49 married as children.^{vii} Such early marriage is strongly associated with increased risk of IPV.^{viii}

Despite the fact that the local laws establish 18 as the legal age for an adult to sign legally binding documents, such as a marriage contract, the Jordanian Shari'a law followed in the West Bank sets the minimum age for girls to marry at 15 and for boys at 16. In Gaza, the unmodified, or old, Egyptian laws are followed which sets the age of marriage at 17 for girls and 18 for boys.^{ix}

In conjunction with the legal context and conflict setting, social and cultural norms are supportive of child marriage and also serve to perpetuate other forms of GBV. Notably, stigma against GBV survivors is common, which severely limits help seeking and prosecution in cases of violence. Less than one percent of women who experience violence seek formal help from health, legal, law enforcement, or social service providers.^x This low help seeking can also be explained by the limited access to survivor-centered services due to distance, mobility restrictions, fragmentation of areas and services, and fear of stigma, social exclusion, murder in the name of family honor, or other serious reprisals.^{xi}

INCIDENT LEVEL COSTS

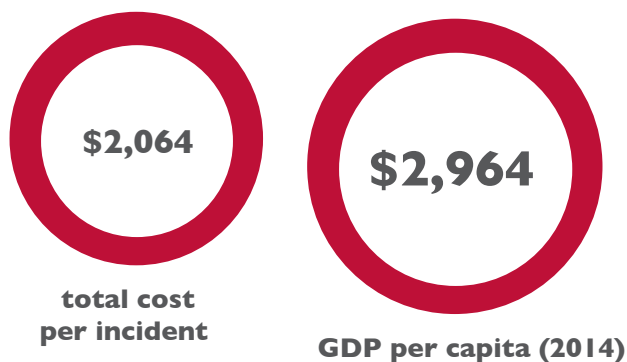
The model below assumes that IPV survivors who seek help through formal sources receive comprehensive treatment across four types of services listed below, and require transport



to access these. Similar costs are likely for other forms of GBV, though estimates for these costs are not available. The average total costs of each type of service per episode of IPV are summarized in the graphic below:

Based on interviews with providers in West Bank and Gaza, we estimate that survivors of non-partner sexual violence and public harassment typically make approximately three visits to a psychologist; women and girls who experience school-based harassment may make up to 12 psychology visits. It should also be noted that survivors end up missing work, which contributes to GBV's overall costs to society and the economy. An IPV survivor misses approximately 10 days of work, while someone who experiences school harassment may miss up to 15 days of school. Women who experience non-partner sexual violence may miss five days of work, while those who experience workplace harassment miss approximately one day. However, these indirect costs are not included in the calculations.

The total average cost incurred for this full complement of care for survivors of IPV is approximately \$2,064 per episode of violence. It is important to note that not all these incident level costs are exclusively borne by the survivor. Therefore, the above comparison of these costs to the GDP per capita in West Bank and Gaza only provides a loose comparison of the magnitude of the economic impact of GBV. As represented in the graphic above, this incident level cost is the sum of the average costs for medical services, legal services, psychological counseling, transportation and shelter. The average cost of a medical consultation is \$51, whereas the average cost if it involves other services \$135, thus the average total medical cost is \$93.



The costs for psychological counseling and transportation are calculated to include the average number of follow up visits a survivor is required to make for full treatment, an average of \$180.

NATIONAL LEVEL COSTS

The average total cost, assuming all services are used, varies depending on whether a survivor requires post-rape care. These calculations can help us understand how much of the West Bank and Gaza's GDP is invested in services for GBV response. Taking into consideration the national IPV prevalence and help-seeking rates among IPV survivors, these expenditures can add up to \$1.4 million or 0.01% of total GDP for 2014. Even for a simpler package of services, including only help seeking for counseling from a social service provider, the cost still equates to \$0.3 million.



METHODOLOGY

The data presented here were collected via 15 key informant interviews with service providers in Jordan. The cost estimates include only the direct costs of service access and provision for survivors of GBV and were calculated at the individual level using an accounting methodology.^{xii} Due to limitations of the primary data collected, the national level cost estimates relied on extrapolation using secondary data/statistics.

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