

Land Management in Time of Crisis:

Conflicts, Climate Change and Epidemics

Recovery Plan for the Land and Water Settlement Commission from the COVID-19 Crisis

Ahmad El-Atrash, ahmad.el-atrash@un.org

Mona AlQutob, mona.alqutob@un.org



المؤتمر العربي
الثاني للأراضي

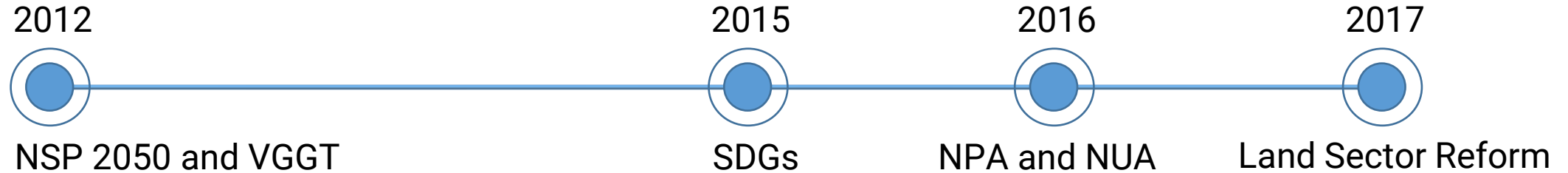
Second Arab Land
Conference

22-24 FEBRUARY 2021
CAIRO, EGYPT

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Land and Water Settlement Commission (LWSC)

Imperative to fostering tenure security and safeguarding land rights of Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable groups



Land settlement is part of the land administration system, and the overall land governance processes in Palestine

Geo-political designations of land in Palestine complicates the efforts of standardised land registration processes. By end of 2020 the uncompleted work in terms of land settlement processes was tantamount to 1 million and 1.5 million dunums in Area A/B (under Palestinian control) and Area C (under Israeli control), respectively.

Bethlehem Landscape ©UN-Habitat 2021



COVID-19 pandemic

Palestinian specific impact on land settlement and LWSC's work

- Interrupting land surveying work
- Reprioritisation and reallocation of government and donor funding
- Increasing pressure and responsibility on services provided by Local Government Units (LGUs) straining financial resources available and changing LGU and community priorities
- Intensification of Israeli annexation plans, demolitions and displacements

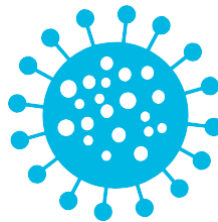
Globally identified potential risks of COVID-19 to land administration

- Threats to tenure security related to housing, land and property, including tenants and land users
- Weakened local economic development, reduced private and public investment opportunities, and delayed local and regional spatial development
- Marginalised groups', including women, fear of claiming their inheritance rights and increased financial needs, making them more likely to forfeit their right to the land in exchange for undervalued rates
- Increase in forced migration to urban areas which threatens rural stability and increases land disputes

Ways to recovery and improving service provision



Providing LWSC and settlement offices with the necessary technical staff



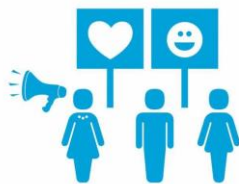
Accelerating the settlement process and its procedures within the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines



Harnessing new financial tools and sources



Reviewing and contributing to change of policies, laws, governmental procedures and measures, including ones related to the state of emergency, and their ramifications on the business continuity and governance of the land sector



Mobilising the community and advocacy for the right to land and natural resources

Objective 1 Providing LWSC and settlement offices with the necessary technical staff

Short, medium and long terms, three activities and six target indicators identified

- Analysis of LWSC staff by age, gender, education, and location
- 50 approved by the central government for employment at LWSC offices
- Four interns seconded by UN-Habitat

Figure (1): Percentage of women employees at LWSC by title

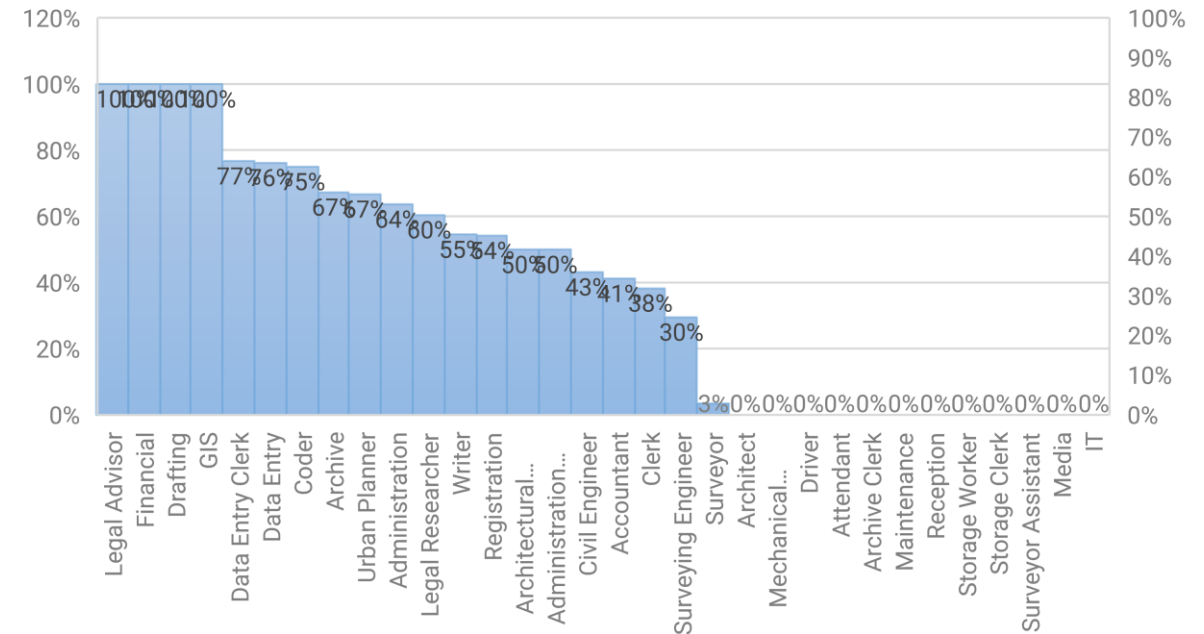
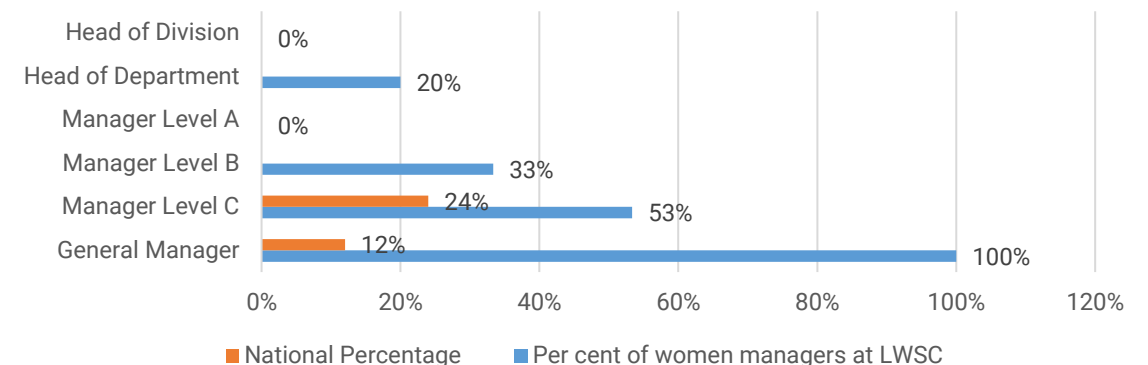


Figure (2): LWSC Employees according to management classification and gender



Objective 4 Accelerating the settlement process and its procedures within the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines

Short and medium terms, three activities and two indicators identified

Eight recommendations thus far, for example:

- Gender information to the LWSC forms and tables
- Revision to produce gender disaggregated data
- Incorporation of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)
- Social Impact Study: increasing community awareness on land settlement, strengthening partnerships with LGUs, improving dispute resolution to reduce the need for courts, improving the capacities of settlement courts and their support systems, and supporting the complaints systems

Good practices in land related planning and implementation

Integrating the socio-economic aspects related to land settlement into all strategies and plans even during crises when other priorities and time constraint are factors in rapid response

- gender equality and human rights-based approaches
- user rights/ continuum of land rights and participatory approaches
- empowerment of marginalised communities and leaving no one behind
- RBM and identification of target indicators
- Assessments and integration of new models and ways of working

Ar Ramadin, Hebron Landscape
© UN-Habitat 2021



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!