

Arab Region Program on good land governance in support to inclusive development, peace and stability

AoC 3: Women, Land and Socio-Economic development

Training Workshop on

“Gender, Land Rights and Socioeconomic Development of Women in Palestine”

Date and Venue

26th+27th/June/2021, Abu Mazin Hotel, Hebron, Palestine

Event Report by:

Union of Agricultural Work Committees



Submitted on:

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Executive Summary

A two-day training program was developed to mainly raise the capacities of women of land and property owners/users, especially those who have benefited from previous land rehabilitation initiatives, human rights and advocacy campaigns and other related projects implemented by UAWC; men who are husbands and first degree relatives of the aforementioned women; representatives from Palestinian Civil Society Organizations; and representatives from different governmental institutions related to women and land. The participants were from different locations in Jenine, Jerusalem, Jordan Valley, Bethlehem and Hebron.

The primary objective of this workshop is to build understanding of the participants on concepts of gender, gender equality, gender roles, power and power dynamics, and how attitudes can shape social norms in the society. It further supported increasing the knowledge and capacities of women to be encouraged to join different life spheres and engage in lobby and advocacy to promote their own rights for land tenure and access to and control over productive resources. Moreover, the workshop aimed to raise the awareness of men to become allies of women's social, political and economic rights.

In support of this, the workshop has reported improved participants understanding of concepts of gender, causes of power relations, gender roles, definitions of Economic Gender Based Violence (EGBV), and power relations and how they are constructed in the societies. During the workshop, participants discussed unconscious assumptions about gender roles in the society and expected attitudes from others compared to one's own beliefs. Participants conveyed new knowledge on how to apply actions to support and influence lobby and advocacy for women's economic rights. The later was tackled through applying interactive exercises and visual tools which was perceived by participants as motivational to discover and address gaps in relation to women's access to land and productive resources.

The majority of participants in the two-day workshop expressed that they perceive a need to expand the scope of networking and collective efforts that would, through effective lobby and advocacy, influence change in policies, strategies and procedures to combat women's exclusion from the economy. At the end of the 2nd day, the participants expressed that they feel they had a sense of agency that would allow them to influence change within their family and community to reach a common understanding on women's economic rights based on principals of human rights.

The two learning days combined networking and building trust, knowledge and information sharing, strategizing and planning among participants, trainer and co-facilitator as well as with UAWC Programme and project teams and the facilitator from the Palestinian Land Authority. Both days were interactive since the trainers focused on soliciting feedback from participants, critical analysis, raising questions, and allowing participants to freely express their visions. The trainer has used power point presentations to lead discussions, coupled with group activities, games, case studies, and analyzing obstacles presented in a short-film on women's access to land and productive resources.

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Training Objectives:

1. Improved general knowledge on the concepts of gender, gender-based violation in relation to land rights and issues.
2. Increase awareness and understanding of the importance of women's land rights and tenure security in achieving socio-economic development especially for women, as well as the different channels for women in Palestine to obtain land rights.
3. Define key gender-based issues and challenges that are faced in the land sector in Palestine, and how they influence tenure security and women land rights in a conflict affected area.
4. Familiarization with approaches and tools promoted by GLTN that facilitates resolving of land disputes and promotes land tenure security for all.
5. Facilitate the mutual exchange of expertise, experiences, lessons learned and best practices among the participants, and provide a window for direct engagement between government and CSO representatives with individual land owners and users.

Participants:

1. Day 1. 26 June 2021; Total Participants: 87 (62 women and 25 men).
2. Day 2. 27 June 2021; Total Participants: 60 (41 women and 19 men).

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Introductory Session

The session was officially opened by UAWC project manager, Do'a Zayed, who introduced the trainer Mrs. Hanan Qaoud, co-facilitator Mrs. Lamy Shalaldeh, and the objectives of the workshop. Then a quick round table introduction and workshop expectations from the participants was conducted.

The trainer explained the objective of the introductory session was to ensure that participants know that each of us has a different personality that can be described differently. She elaborated further about the objective of the training and agreed with participants that the main objective is to learn from each other's experiences, increase knowledge, build understanding and enhance coordination and networking in lobby and advocacy interventions to contribute to deconstructing social norms that perpetuate women's exclusion from the economy and influence policy change to promote legislations, policies and strategies that are gender responsive to serve women's equal access and use of productive resources.

Building trust and creating a climate and atmosphere that promotes learning were the major objective of the introductory session where each participant has different experiences. Participants became confident that they are here to learn from each other's experiences. They expressed noticeable interest to learn about the different concepts, systems, and protection mechanisms, as well as new GLTN Tools and applicability in Palestine to resolve disputes, which were introduced during the second day of the training workshop.

Pre-Training Assessment and Analysis

To measure the impact of the two-day workshop on the participants, a pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires were prepared by the consultant to measure the short-term impact and results of the training on the participants. The results of the pre-assessment revealed that the majority of the participant's lack understanding of gender and gender equality concepts, and are not able to define or express their views in relation to the causes of discrimination in the Palestinian society in relation to land tenure gender challenges and how these reflect on women's land ownership rights and rights to access productive resources. Moreover, few participants have referred to the following discriminatory practices that render gender discrimination in the land sector:

1. The Palestinian Culture and traditions (discrimination against women inheritance and land ownership rights and stereotypical roles assigned for women in the unpaid care work).
2. The practices of the Occupation (land and natural resources confiscation).
3. Lack of access to productive resources for women.

Also, very few participants have stated that these obstacles reflect negatively on women's psychosocial health and that women's inability to own and control land and productive resources reflect positively on her and on her relation with her family at the social level.

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Based on the participants' consent, the results of the pre-test were discussed with participants at the beginning of the first day, to ensure that the trainees benefit from the training and that the training materials for both training days that were presented by the trainer would help fulfil their needs and priorities. The discussion was interactive and open which enabled an atmosphere that promotes trust and needs-based learning to ensure better results.



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Training Sessions, Day 1:

The training started with short elaboration of the training objectives made by the trainer and elaboration provided by the participants about their expectations of the content of the training. Around 73% of the participants said that they never attended such trainings, but believe the training is of great importance and is in line with their capacity development needs.

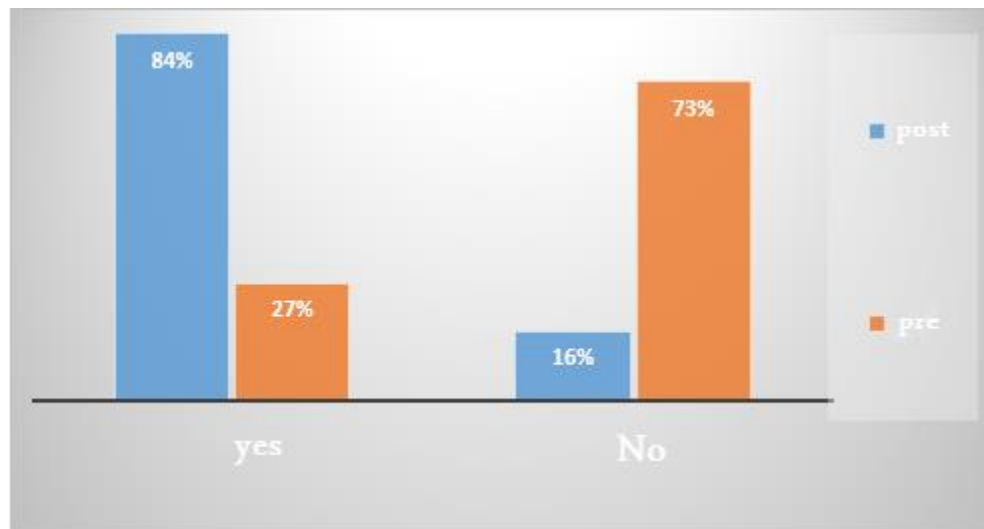


Figure 1: did you attend trainings on Gender Equality, and Women's Rights to access Land and Productive Resources?

Only 16% of the participants attended similar training, yet they explained that they still believe that the thematic combinations of this training is unique and will serve to raise their knowledge in relation to the correlation between gender based violence and land ownership, available opportunities for women's access to land and productive resources, overview of women tenure rights in Palestine - Women's Land Rights and tenure security in national policy making and land reform, and channels for women in Palestine to access land.

Session one: Module 1: Why should we promote Gender Equality?

The objectives of this session were to refresh the participants' understanding of key terminology in relation to what comes to mind when we say "sex" and "gender". To this end, participants were asked to define what these terminologies mean to them. After this exercise, participants were successfully able to assign the correct terms for each of the following statements:

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The trainer made sure all participants were able to define each term. In this respect, the technical definition of Gender was presented by the trainer:

“Gender” refers to the social differences between males and females that are learned. Though deeply rooted in every culture, social differences are changeable over time, and have wide variations both within and between cultures. “Gender” determines the roles, responsibilities, opportunities, privileges, expectations, and limitations for males and for females in any culture. “Gender” relates to the roles of men and women in the society and to relations that are forms as a result of these roles.

Social Norms and Gender Roles

Participants were requested to write down statements that are only said to boys and those that are only said to girls. Discussions and debates were exciting and opened the eyes of participants about stereotypical roles within the family and in the society as a whole. Participants gained more knowledge pertaining to what social norms is:

“Social norms are identified as what people in a group believe is typical (normal) and appropriate (approved) behavior. They are often implicit, informal rules that most people accept and abide by. They are influenced by belief systems, perceptions of what others expect and do, and sometimes by perceived rewards and sanctions.

Social norms comprise shared beliefs about what others are doing, and collective expectations about what people should and should not do in different contexts. They are often imposed by social approval (e.g. status) or disapproval (e.g. sanctions). Norms are usually embedded in formal and informal institutions and produced and reproduced through social interaction. Additionally, social norms are important because they can be significant drivers of behavior, or a contributing reason as to why a person adopts or does not adopt a particular behavior”.

Discussions were very interesting. Participants were able to discuss the social implications of popular proverbs and how do these proverbs reflect the lives of women and girls in the society. Participants agreed/disagreed on some proverbs which means that we need to get ourselves out of the socially approved norms and think of how we as individuals can promote justice and human rights in our society.

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- One male participant said:

"We established a participatory system in our house. I share the roles and responsibilities with my family and we all agree on them (females and males). It is our behaviors that form the quality of life that we want to live".

In general, the participants indicated a clear understanding of gender equality and justice, empowering women and enhancing their participation at different levels.

- Another male participant said:

"It is important to develop to raise awareness and build capacities of the local community in regards to gender role, in order to deconstruct masculine mind-sets and power relations, as well as dynamics especially in relation to increase women's participation at the social, economic and political levels".

- One female participant said:

"I used to smoke, but this does not mean that I am doing something wrong. My attitude is clear but the society does not accept this. My father has influenced my personality. I have the right to choose my husband, for example. My father empowered me and I advise you all to give the same space for daughters and wives to think freely and take the right decision that influence their rights".

- Almost all participants agreed on what the woman said and also on what another woman has said:

"I am well educated and I imposed my right to express my opinion inside the family and then outside in the society. Being educated is my power and I use it to advance my career and my position in the family and society".

Module 2: Correlation between Gender Based Violence and Land Ownership

Gender Based Violence

The concept of Gender-based violence and how it relates to economic gender based violence were introduced to the participants as an entrance to understand how economic exclusion is a form of violence perpetrated by the family, society, existing legislation and policies, and colonial practices.

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Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. Perpetrators are most often male, survivors are most often female – based on power differences.

Moreover, participants became able to self-define the concepts of voluntary or obligatory abeyance. The trainer's observations were up high towards the participants' attained knowledge. The session continued successfully by explaining the causes of gender-based violence, namely, cultural and social, economic, political, and legal. Discussions took place by using the flip chart where the trainer took notes of different perceptions.

Participants were asked why women and girls stay silent. Some of them were able to answer the question in a critical manner. Some answers were presented by the trainer. Participants agreed with all points.

Many women remain in the circle of violence, do not react and do not attempt to exit it, this is due to:

1. Fear of greater violence should they speak out and ask for help.
2. Fear of being labeled or stigmatized by their community as abused, battered or other labels. And fear of society blame.
3. Self-conviction of being guilty and irresponsible, and that violence and abuse are the deserved punishment for them.
4. Fear of being abandoned by the abuser, which in most cases is their provider and financial supporter.
5. The misconception that violence and abuse by the partner are normal parts of any woman's life.
6. The self-convection that women who tolerate violence and remain silent are respected by their communities.

Participants reached understanding on how power and authority perpetuate superiority (mainly men and boys) and inferiority in the society, especially for women and girls who are less advantaged due to prevailing attitudes that shape social norms in the society.

The trainer then delivered a lecture on what protection from economic gender-based violence would mean, referring to equal access to opportunities and economic resources; inclusion in economic and financial decision making; and abolishment of gender discriminatory laws on labor, inheritance, property rights, and access to and control of lands and productive resources. Protection from economic gender

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based-violence would refer to assigning value to care work by government, by private sector institutions and at the household level, as well as ensuring equal distribution of household responsibilities.

A study on the Assessment of Women's access to and ownership of land in OPT was then presented by UAWC, represented by **Dr. Moayad Bisharat**. The presentation focused on the mutually reinforcing relations between the practices of the Israeli occupation represented by confiscation of land, and control over productive resources in addition to the expansion of settlement on (agricultural) Palestinian lands, and the prevailing masculine system that deprives women of their rights to access their own land and productive resources.



Discussions focused on the social conditions that are produced by political, economic, legal and institutional factors. Participants raised questions regarding land policies and strategies that protect women's rights to access/own land and productive resources. Dr. Bisharat shed light on available strategies developed by the key actors/public institutes, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, highlighting however that these strategies would need to be implemented on the ground. He then presented two short videos to ensure that visualize concepts, challenges and successes.

- A female participant commented:
"These strategies are not sufficient. We hear about them but our main problem that they need to reach out to us, listen our needs and address our priorities and challenges".
- Another woman from Hebron, H2, said:
"We are ready and want to work and develop our cooperative, but usually civil society organizations work with us for a short period then they leave us. We want to sustain our work. In H2 area, we face discrimination from the political context and from the Palestinian Authority".

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Module 3: Land Tenure and Women's Rights

Overview of Women Tenure Rights in Palestine

The work of the Land Authority presents a window of opportunity for the mainstreaming of gender analysis and considerations in its work. This is said more specifically since the Land Authority has established a Gender Unit with the aim of fulfilling this objective. In this session, Mr. Khalid Abu Ali delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting historical background of the Palestinian Land Authority, the main policies that govern its work, associated strategies and programs especially in terms of women.



The session was interactive and participants raised so many questions and cases in regards to land disputes. They encumbered on presenting their own experiences and requested further sessions in this topic.

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Legal and human rights frameworks regulating the right of women to own, access and control land

The trainer, Hanan Kaoud, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the main legal and human rights frameworks that regulates the right of women to own, access, and control land. Some of which include:

1. *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights which establishes the principle of non-discrimination, including on the basis of sex, and in the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed in the Declaration. Among many other rights, the Declaration recognizes the rights to property, food, housing, and education.*
2. *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the rights to food, housing, education, health, culture, work and union (labor unions). These rights are closely related to ownership of and access to land.*
3. *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women calls on states to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, and that they participate in and benefit from rural development. This includes the right to education, access to credit and loans, access to housing and the right to participation. Importantly, it also includes guarantees of equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes¹.*
4. *Closely related is the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) called on Governments to enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land and to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and ownership of land and other resources.²*

Gender gaps in law and practice:

The trainer, Hanan Kaoud, presented an overview of the gender gaps in law and practice. In general, participants were very interested to learn and engage in debates about the legal instruments that protect rights to land and resources. They became more aware that land discrimination is not isolated from other forms of discrimination. As such, the fulfillment of land rights by women requires equitable gender rights in all fields and at all levels on the basis of human rights. In addition, international and human rights organizations place emphasis on the holistic approach to land ownership as connected to rights in other relevant fields such as rural development, economic empowerment, and ownership of productive resources and access to credit. Nevertheless, land rights are not being viewed in relation to the broader

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx>

² <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/>

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context of formal (legal and institutional) and informal discrimination in the private and public spheres and the interlink ages between them³.

The following obstacles were identified by the participants through group discussions:

1. The prolonged military occupation (including land expropriation, settlement building, control over land and other natural resources, as well as the encroaching closure regime)
2. The patriarchal system which produces and reinforces social, economic, legal, cultural and institutional structures which impede progress towards equitable gender relations, roles, and rights.
3. The inability (or political will) of the Palestinian Authority to enact laws and policies in line with international laws and conventions, more specifically those that the Government has endorsed.
4. The inability (or political will) of the Palestinian Authority to engage the communities in developing and monitoring legislations, policies and strategies that would influence their lives, more specifically to ensure justice and equal access to land and productive resources for all.

The trainer presented an info-graph that highlights the result of a study developed in 2020 by AWRAD (see Annex 1).

[Annex1_infographic_results of land research study.pdf](#)

Discussions on the results were interesting and the majority of participants conformed to the results, since they were seen as reflecting the realities of their lives and the lives of other woman in their communities.

³ For more on a holistic approach to the conceptualization of land rights, refer to the following:

- 1) CESCR, Gender Equitable and Socially Inclusive Land Rights, Geneva, 14 October 2019 – Palais des Nations, room XVII. See also, UN Women and OHCHR, 2018. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/11/realizing-womens-right-to-land>
- 2) UN Women and OHCHR, 2013. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/11/realizing-womens-right-to-land>

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Presentation of GLTN Tools

Following the presentations and discussions, GLTN tools were virtually presented by representatives from UN Habitat, Palestine. Participants expressed an increased knowledge in relation to the new tools that are being adopted by UN Habitat and its partners in Palestine. They were eager to put this new knowledge in practice so as to better understand the concepts and system and how this system would address different forms of land disputes.



Addressing Gender and Land Disputes

The following sessions comprise a case study of a recently published short video “A Dash of Soil”. The video can be accessed through the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTGYhLCQ5yI&t=2s

Participants were requested to critically analyze the film in terms of, among others: “what kinds of violations of women’s rights do they observe? Who are the main perpetrators (Who is responsible)?

Discussions were very interesting. The questions have raised concerns and opened the eyes of participants on economic gender-based violence. To conclude, using visual tools such as the video has helped participants to conceptualize visuals clearly and improved their ability to recall facts from a critical perspective. The visual tool also supported reaching a definition of power and authority, namely social, political, and economic. Participants reached understanding on how power and authority perpetuate superiority (family, men and political system) and inferiority in the society, especially for women and girls who are less advantaged due to prevailing attitudes that shape social norms in the society, henceforth women’s exclusion from the economy through deprivation from land ownership.

Following the discussions, the following questions were put for discussions in group sessions:

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What are the causes of land conflicts between men and women? Who is in Charge? And what do you think is the solution?

At the end of this last session, each group representative presented the results of the discussions and participants proposed the following recommendations:

1. Key actors and decision makers would need to collectively set up participatory programmes that engage the community.
2. CSOs would need to engage the community in lobby and advocacy programmes, media campaigns, awareness raising, social rights, and ownership rights.
3. Social mobilization to restore democratic processes through holding national elections and have a Legislative Council is in place. UAWC and CSOs as well as political parties would need to support the participation of women in the national elections on equal basis.
4. The services of lawyers would need to be solicited by key actors and CSOs in the sector to increase awareness of the communities on their equal rights to access and control productive resources and support the community, more precisely women to resolve land disputes.
5. A gender sensitive law on land rights must be proposed by CSOs in the sector.
6. Develop and implement awareness programs for the new generations in schools (males and females) through a new curriculum.
7. Support and expand the scope of developmental projects for women to promote their access to land and control over resources. Women who own agricultural land need to be fully supported through rehabilitation and marketing of products.
8. Promote the participation of men to support the livelihood of the families especially in rural and conflict affected areas.
9. Exemption from fees and taxes for women-led projects.
10. Engage women in land disputes committees
11. Profile capable and empowered women as models for societal change.
12. Support unemployed young men and women especially those who are most at risk.
13. Ensure mainstreaming of women and men with disabilities in agricultural and productive projects.



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Analysis of Post-Evaluation Results

The results of the post-test were measured against the information presented in the pre-test. The analysis shows increased knowledge of the concepts that were presented in both training days. All participants were able to differentiate between the concepts of sex and gender. Around 59% of participants have indicated that they have excellent knowledge about concepts of gender equality. In general, most answers were positive and revealed a good understanding of concepts of gender roles, power, power relations, social norms, gender equality, the types of gender-based violence, and consequences of violence on women, more specifically economic gender-based violence.

Following are the results of the quantitative pre-and post-assessments:

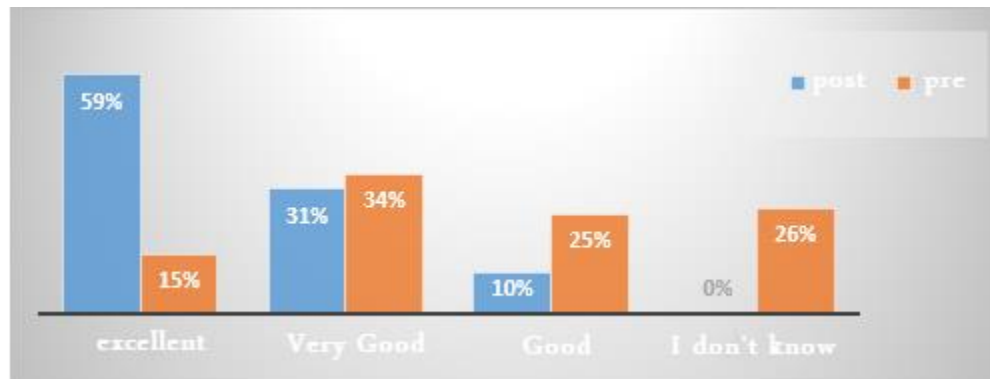


Figure 1: Are you familiar with the concept of gender equality?



Figure 2: Do you have any knowledge about women's access to land and productive resources?

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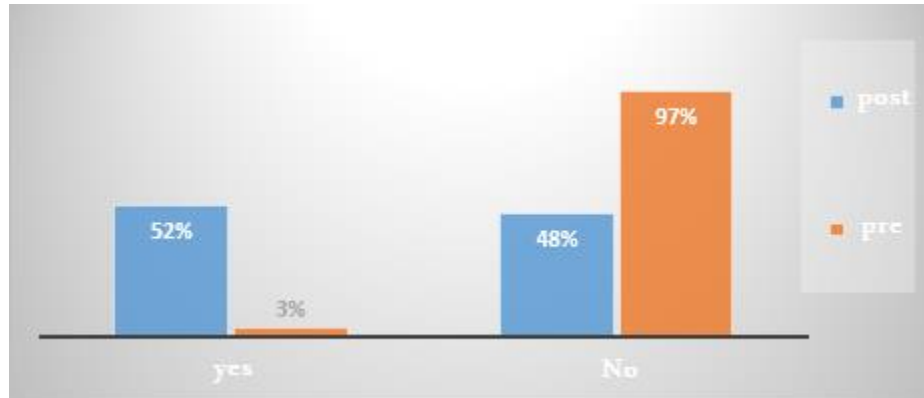


Figure 3: Did you hear about the GLTN tools on land disputes?

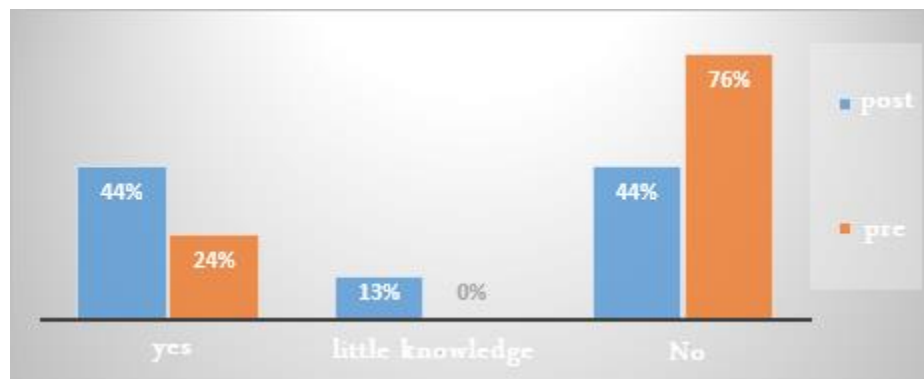


Figure 5: Do you know national land tenure policies and strategies?

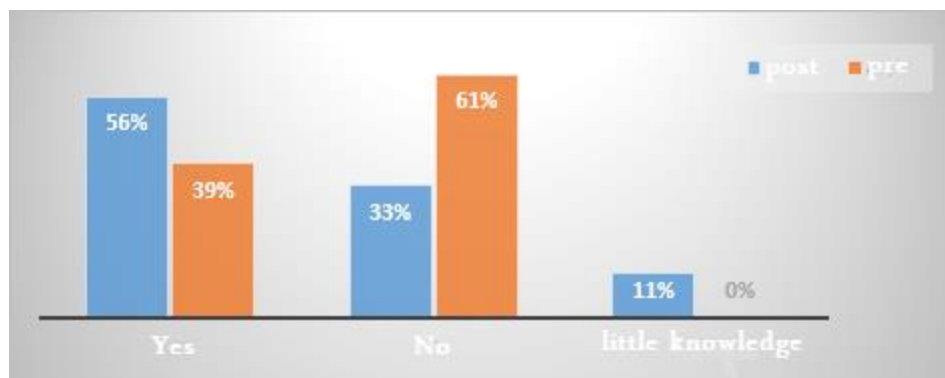


Figure 4: Do you have any knowledge on the work the Palestinian Land Authority?

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Participants Reflections and Training Impact:

An oral feedback session was held at end of the training day. All comments were taken into account as a ground basis for future interventions that would be planned by UAWC. The participants were asked about what they are going to take home with them and how they will be using the terms and attained knowledge in the work they do.

- One male participant said:
"I feel so happy that I participated in the training. The nature of the training was different – participatory and an opportunity to engage in discussions with others and learn from the lessons that we heard today".

The participants were attracted by the trainer's decision to apply a "role-play" approach.

- Another male participant added:
"All the attained knowledge and the concepts that were addressed are new to me. I liked the tools and presentations that were used by the trainer and I thought of them as inspiring; pictures, videos, discussions, the trainer's style is attractive and nice, including activating our participation by adopting mixed motivating tools. I would like to request an advanced training in this field".
- Another woman participant elaborated:
"The training is new to me. The workshop was very intensive. I am able to organize the concepts and apply them in the work I do individually and at the collective level, and to integrate the concepts in networking, mobilization and lobby and advocacy interventions. It would have been great if we receive intensive trainings in this field. Broadcasting and discussing the film enhanced our critical thinking. The trainer has merged between theories, practice, debates and discussions. The two days were interesting and exciting and the trainer's style is attractive".
- Another female participant said:
"The training and materials were very well-structured and organized. We were exposed to series of ideas and reviews. The later was a catalyst for us and confirmed and enhanced the information and concepts that we acquired. The training was well organized. The tools that were applied by the organizers, the trainer's style, consciousness, understanding, and fairness, have collectively helped us with comfort. What we still need is an extensive training on the concepts. We also need to understand what to do if we encounter violence in the society and at the local level".

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This very last point regarding the need for intensive and specialized training was confirmed by all participants.

In summary, the participants enjoyed the spirit of open exchange; everyone was so involved in working in groups. The training raised their interest and attention. It enhanced their expertise and promoted their openness through working as one team. The training was characterized by its high interaction between the trainers, UAWC team, Land Authority representative, and participants.

Recommendations:

1. A follow up session with the group or a follow-up needs assessment are needed to ensure that the training results are satisfactory and that participants are able to apply the knowledge and skills in their work and daily lives.
2. More awareness workshops similar to this one should be conducted to eliminate the misconceptions and convictions created by the community and social norms regarding women and their rights. The trainees asked for an advanced and prolonged training on land legislations, policies and strategies on land ownership rights, with the participation of specialized government land and gender workers, especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Authority.
3. Government land authorities should be easier to access by the public to gain guidance and instructions on how to deal with their cases. Therefore, a digital platform run by the government should be created to help answer inquiries and increase public knowledge on land and property rights.
4. It was observed by the trainer that the trainees do not normally participate in similar trainings and do not engage with others from similar profession. They expressed the importance of meeting together and exploring the different experiences as knowledge-based exchange exercise. They also proposed engaging in mobilization, networking and advocacy interventions to promote women's access to and ownership of land and productive resources and to influence change in policies from a gender equality perspective.