UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

Combating Electronic Violence against Women and Girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Ramallah City, West Bank.

Haneen Salama

Final assignment submitted to United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training (UNU-GEST) Programme.

Supervised by: Randi Whitney Stebbins.

May 2017

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
UNU-GEST

Table of Contents

Acknowledgment: 4
Executive Summary: 5
Context: 6
1. Introduction and background 7
2. The local context of EVAWG and social media in Palestine 9
3. EVAWG and the current legal situation in occupied Palestinian territories 12
4. Project justification 15
4.1. Problem Statement 16
4.2. Priority needs 17
5. Proposal approach 18
6. Project Aims and Goals: 18
7. Target group 19
8. Project implementation 20
8.1. Time schedule 20
8.2. Human resource and personnel 21
9. Budget and financing 22
10. Monitoring and evaluation: 23
11. Evaluation methodology: 23
12. The specific objectives: 24
12.1. Short-Term Outcomes: 24
12.2. Long-Term Outcomes: 24
13. Conclusion and recommendations: 30
14. Bibliography: 32

- **List of tables:**

Table 1: Proposed budget 22

Table 2. Project logframe 25

- **List of Figures:**

Figure 1: cyber violence against women and girls around the world. 8

Figure 2: Map of electron violence around the world 14

Figure 3: Map of the west bank and Gaza shows the population. 20

- **List of acronyms:**

Almuntada: Forum against domestic violence against women in Palestine.

EVAW: Electronic violence Against Women and Girls in Palestine.

FBU: Family protection unit.

OPT: Occupied Palestinian Territories.

MOWA : Ministry of Women Affair's.

PCBS: Palestinian central bureau.

ICT: Information and communication technology.

Acknowledgment:

First of all, I am very thankful for this opportunity, I would like to thank the Icelandic Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Iceland for providing me this scholarship to pursue Gender Equality studies and Training, in addition Special thanks to my Home University in Palestine, Birzeit University.

I would like to thank my supervisor., Dr. Randi Whitney Stebbins, for her assistance and supervision her support was crucial and effective, UNUGEST team Professors for their support, Dr. Erla Hjalmarsdottir, Dr. Irma Erlingsdottir and, GEST team for their efficient support and guidance through the whole Programme.

I appreciate my family, as well as my friends in Palestine and Iceland for their blessing and support through the past months, particularly the entire class of 2017 UNUGEST fellows.

Special thanks to My unique parents, who taught me how to be strong, and brave to fight for women's rights.

In the end, I dedicate this work to all girls and women who have been subjected to all forms of violence.

Haneen Salameh.

Executive Summary:

This project will be implemented in Ramallah, West Bank. The project is based on the realization that women in the Middle East generally suffer more from violence due to institutional and cultural barriers and norms. Electronic violence has exacerbated violence against women and girls, especially in the age bracket of 15 to 22, who have been adopting usage of the internet and smartphones at a fast rate without knowing appropriate security mechanisms to protect themselves from cybercrime and electronic violence, which is still relatively a new phenomenon in Palestine. This project, which will cover a two year period, aims at contributing towards the elimination of electronic violence by sensitizing girls and women, lobbying for passing and adoption of strong laws against the vice and through strengthening the social support available to women and girl victims of electronic violence in Ramallah.

The living realities continue to insure that the cases of violence experienced by Palestinian women are not confined to any particular group or class, but are spread throughout the social and cultural spheres. They also take many forms and dimensions. In its deepest essence, this is seen in the pattern of distribution of social roles between women and men and then in the laws came to codify this vision and this situation. At a time when Palestinian women are still exposed to violence and its effects, the effects of electronic violence have recently emerged as violence against women as a vulnerable group in society and the increasing phenomenon of electronic violence became a problematic issue which needs urgent intervention. However, awareness of violence is not enough to overcome it. It is always needed as a mechanisms of effectiveness and will have impact at the individual/community level, citizen/citizenship. This requires huge work through this project; by implementing its goals.

Accordingly, this project has identified the causes of electronic violence against women and how to protect young girls and women from it, through lobbying the releant Palestinian authorities in order to ensure a new and modern penal code that protects women and girls, and by empowering those girls and women to fight for their rights and combat all kind of violence, especially electronic violence.

Context:

Violence against women in Palestine, just like in many parts of the world, is institutional and culturally embedded. The main factors behind violence against women and girls in Palestinian society are about, culture, norms, and traditions that have been historically institutionalized. To some extent, one can say that violence is part of the Arabic culture, which is essentially patriarchal in nature. Patriarchal culture is an important parameter in this regard because it shapes the general mentality from which Palestinian standards, ethics, laws, and community behaviors are based, and most of these put the women in an inferior position in comparison to men.

Whereas many governmental institutions and women's rights organizations have been working towards getting rid of these norms and combating violence against women in general, violence against women in Palestine remains a huge problem (MoWA, 2008).

This project aims at contributing to the ongoing efforts in Palestine to combat violence against women by specifically targeting electronic violence against women and girls in Ramallah, Palestine.

1. Introduction and background

The world today is living a new reality in which electronic violence is one of the most prominent forms of violence against women and girls. At the same time, this virtual world reflects real and community environment with its various diseases and problems, which makes, addressing e-violence against women the responsibility of the entire society.

The internet is full of accounts of people whose sole concern is to inflict sexual and material exploitation on victims. This starts with a normal chat in the social media platforms, or comment on a status or like on a post, meanwhile with a Private message and ends in a dark room. Most of the victims are young girls who deal excessively naïvely with the techniques of the internet without realizing their seriousness and exposing them to electronic violence. (West, 2015).

Those involved in these cases are young people, mostly unemployed, whose goal is to obtain money in the easiest and fastest ways (West, 2015),.regardless of the means required, in the face of the collapse of values and the weakness of moral and religious grounds for them.

In the 2015 UN Women's Report on e-violence against women and girls, a survey conducted in 2013 found that 85% of women participating in the survey saw the internet as giving them more freedom, while 73% Were subjected to abuse or violence through the internet (UN Broadband Commission,2015).

Around the world, technology has become more widespread among young people, which makes it as an easy tool to use against vulnerable populations. Not only that, the internet and social media have also become a place where women are made to feel unsafe and vulnerable, as they are facing now all norms of violence in the offline world.

However, this modern technology has contributed to the proliferation of new types of violence against girls and women. These kinds of cyber crimes collide directly with the fact that most of the girls who are victims have been subjected to various forms of violence, and they do not have the tools and knowledge how to deal with such violence.

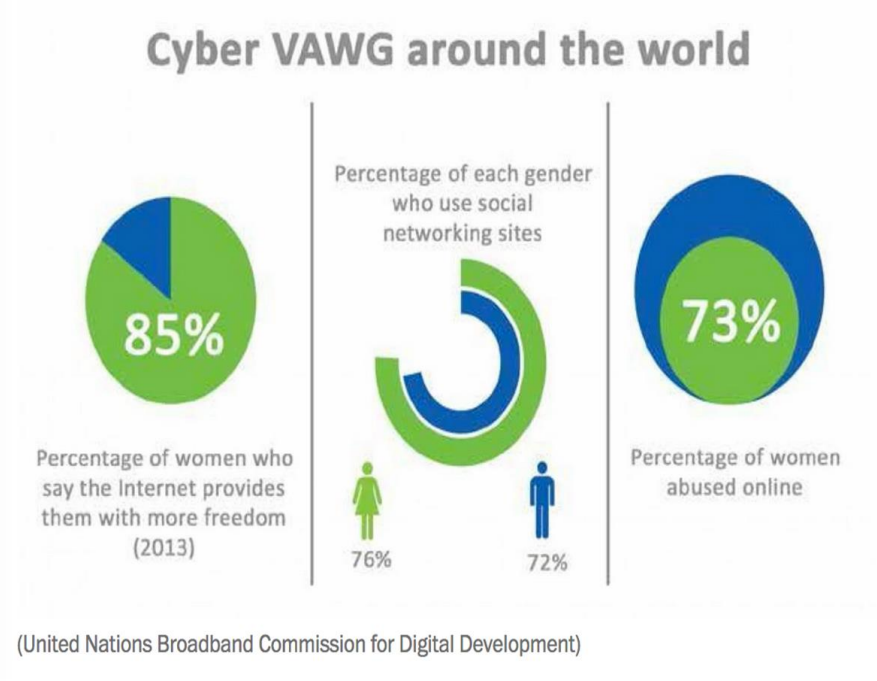

Figure 1: cyber violence against women and girls around the world.

Furthermore, Palestinian society contributes to the hegemony of the criminal since the perpetrator is not punished or criticized in the absence of concrete evidence proving criminal action. This puts the girl to a psychologically destructive situation, especially if it comes to an embarrassing sexual scandal (Ismael, 2015), and then problems arise that undermine the social relations. Failure in school and social and psychological failure may occure. Victims may become depressed due to the types of oppression and humiliation, espcially when the receive more blaming and accusation by parents and the community (Abu-Oun, 2017).

Electronic violence against women and girls is being connected with using different types of medias platforms (UN Boardband commission, 2015), for example, texting, email, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram (West, 2014). Moreover, in any other cyberspace or social media platform you can think about, women and girls are subjected to a new norm of violence. This make this kind of violence one of the most dangerous types of violence due to the fact that the perpetrator or the source sometimes are unknown and intangible as anonymous, or in most cases, it is unknown for the victim, as he might be from outside the country.

The concept of cyber crimes includes all law-breaking offenses committed using an electronic device, for instance, cell phone or a personal computer connected to the internet one of the most known cyber crime is electronic violence (Alwatan, 2016). Those crimes have similar elements as regular crimes, including a perpetrator, a victim, and a crime tool (Maan, 2016).

The term cyber is used to capture the different ways than the internet worsens, amplifies or broadcasts the abuse. The full spectrum of behaviour ranges from online harassment to the desire to inflict physical harm ,including sexual assault, murder and suicide (Alwatan, 2016).

Cyber violence takes different forms, where the kinds of behaviors it has exhibited since its inception have been changed as rapidly and will continue to evolve. Cyber violence might spread more whenever the digital and virtual platforms and tools have been developed.

Hacking, impersonation, surveillance/tracking, harrassment/spamming, recruitment, and malicious distribution (Maan, 2016) are six, broad categoried that encompass of EVAWG according to the VAW learning network.

2. The local context of EVAWG and social media in Palestine

Throughout the last decades, women and girls in the occupied Palestinian territories have experienced various forms of violence at the international and national levels, on the one hand, and at the local level, on the other hand (Mowa, 2008).

At the international level, the Israeli occupation increases the level of violence in Palestinian society in general and affects all social groups, not women exclusively (Maan, 2012). Thus, the occupation puts all members of Palestinian society, men, women, boys, and girls, at risk of getting involved in cycles of violence. Yet, for women, the oppressive policies of the occupation are a double source of violence, reinforcing the violence they experience because of their already compromised social role and status at the internal and domestic levels, where they often find themselves outside the official systems of protection in Palestinian society, especially legal protection (MOWA, 2014).

The main factors behind violence against women and girls in the Palestinian society are culture, norms, and social traditions. As such, they form a general framework to violates women's rights. To clarify this violence, as a part of the Arabic, patriarchal culture, is an important parameter in this regard, as it shapes the general mentality from which Palestinian standards, ethics, laws, and community behaviors stem. Therefore, in the Palestinian society, the role of traditional approaches of child rearing is also important for consideration, as it promotes gendered role divisions among family members in favor of male dominance and power.

This role division creates male space in both the public (community, political) and private (family, home) spheres, while it restricts women to the private (family, home) sphere. This issue is still an objective goal for the government and women’s rights organizations working towards getting rid of these norms and combat violence against women in society (MOWA, 2008). Palestinian women know the existing culture contributes to the increased severity of violence practiced against them. They face unacceptable violations regarding their basic rights as citizens. They suffer violence (physical,

psychological, economic, sexual and early marriage). One of the newest forms of violence that Palestinian women are facing is electronic violence, that has spread widely.

The rise in cybercrime cases is due to the increased use of the internet and social networking sites and the increase in the number of users, as well as the weakness of information and data on e-crimes based on gender, which became known as electronic violence against women and girls (Wonews, 2013).

Furthermore, ignorance and lack of experience in using the internet, not to mention the lack of use of safety protections impacts victims. While some internet users lack a sense of security, which makes them more disposed to such crimes, noting that cybercriminals usually try to lure victims online to access or hack accounts or websites initially the features of cybercrime were not clear, but in recent years became clear this crime. The police have become more aware of the problem, which is a full-fledged crime with a perpetrator, a victim and a crime tool (Arouri, 2016).

A lack of awareness makes it very difficult to develop policies and strategies to deal with the perpetrators, prevent, punish the perpetrators and ensure that they are not exempt from punishment and that victims/survivors receive adequate compensation. Moreover, the lack of awareness among the community, especially among women and girls, of this type of crime, and the inability of many of them to deal with modern techniques and programs used on computers and the internet make the reduction of these crimes more difficult.

Importantly, crimes have impact on the family, according to the spokesman for the Palestinian police, Lo'ay Erzikat, who pointed out that 25% women were divorced, and 61% were a victim of a blackmail in 2015 because of the EVAWG (Maan, 2016).

According to the report of the statistical Social Studio 2015 website, which specializes in monitoring and documenting the statistics and rates of use of social networking programs in Palestine, the percentage of internet users in the population has reached 50%, or 3.2 million. The percentage of social media users in OPT is at 37%, which is equivalent to 2.4 million. Facebook is the most used of social networking sites in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, reaching a use 84% (Social Studio, 2015).

Moreover, data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) showed that more than half of Palestinian families have smart phones. The percentage of households with a smartphone was 51.0 % in 2014, 59.4% in the West Bank and 34.7% in the Gaza Strip. In contrast, in 2014, OPT had a computer usage of 63.1%, 66.9% in the West Bank and 55.6% in the Gaza Strip. Approximately one third (32.8%) of households in OPT had a computer in 2006. The gender gap in the use of technology has declined, with the proportion of internet users of both sexes increasing in 2014 compared to 2000. The percentage of males rose from 7.9% to 59.6% and the percentage of females rose from 2.8% To 47.5% (PCBS,2015).

The statistics on the number of cybercrimes in OPT are still not accurate, as they include only the reported cases. Many victims do not file complaints out of fear of intimidation by the perpetrator and society. This is not to mention the lack of awareness about the danger of impunity, which leads to more crimes. The most common types of cybercrimes in OPT are defamation, extortion, threat and theft.

Regarding the qualitative data on EVAW in the OPT, although many institutions have recently shown their interest in conducting such studies because of their potential for depth and richness of analysis, the qualitative studies that currently exist about VAW in the Palestinian context are mostly generic and do not examine the issue in adequate depth. Furthermore, there is only one qualitative study on EVAW in the OPT (AL-Muntada, 2017), launched earlier this year as a part of its activities within its campaign to combat EVAWG.

3. EVAWG and the current legal situation in occupied Palestinian territories

The political circumstances in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), and other circumstances has impacted the legislative process and turned the legal situation in the OPT into a major dilemma rarely faced by other societies.

The Palestinian legislative framework falls under four different systems (Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian) according to the political, geographic location. For example, Occupied Jerusalem is currently subject to Israeli civil legislative jurisdiction, while the West Bank is subject to Jordanian laws, such as family law 1976 and Penal code 1960, as well some Ottoman laws, the civil law, the Israeli military orders since 1967, and a few Palestinian laws (Mowa, 2008).

While in Gaza Strip, there are a combination of Ottoman and Egyptian laws except for the few laws since the British mandate and other Israeli's military orders, for instance, the applicable penal code since 1936 a combination of Ottoman and Egyptian laws and few Palestinian laws (Mowa, 2008). In 2007, due to the political situation, the Palestinian Legislative Council (the Palestinian parliament) has been paralyzed (Maan,2015), which impats the developement proces of the Palestinian legal framewrok.

In order to discuss the situation of the Palestinian women in the legal framework, it is necessary to shed light on what Palestine has undergone in a wide variety of laws governing the Palestinian society. This is due to the succession of various periods of government that were present in Palestine from the days of Ottoman rule. Jordanian laws still apply in the Palestinian courts to the present time in the West Bank and the Egyptian laws in Gaza strip by virtue of geographical location and political divisions (Mowa, 2008). In addition, both the Jordanian and the British penal codes fail to include a complete definition of violence, which is not limited to the tangible effects of sexual and physical violence, but that also extends to include electronic violence, psychological, social and economic deprivation, all of which have a devastating impact on the victim, similar to that of other types of violence (Ibid).

The presence of gaps in local laws concerning women’s protection also reflects the inability of the executive systems in the OPT to perform their required functions in protecting women from violence. Since the current legal framework is the main reference for the executive systems in the protection of citizens' rights, women’s faith and trust in the effectiveness of the police and the judiciary are also compromised (Salameh,2017). One of the most unjust laws for women is the Jordanian Penal Code 1960, which is old and outdated and lacks the proper vision of women. In the provisions of this law, we clearly recognize disregard for women's bodies and entities.

Even at this stage of life, based on cultural and technological development, it is necessary to strive for the adoption of the draft Palestinian Penal Code, which carries the rise of women's rights and the protection of life and body. There are no specific laws or provisions in the OPT that protect women against all kinds of violence, including the EVAWG and sexual violence.

Passing new laws, notably to protect women against violence, or the amendment of existing laws that are deemed discriminatory towards women and in contradiction to human rights, remains hampered by the paralysis of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt a Palestinian penal code that goes beyond all these violations as soon as possible.

At present, there are 10 specialized Family Protection Units (FPU) operating in 10 districts of the West Bank: Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Jericho, Salfeet, Tubas, Tulkarem and Qalqilya, with the specific mandate to protect families, specifically women and children, and ensure that the rule of law is upheld. These FPUs are facing the same problem of not having a modern penal code that protects those women and girls who have been subjected to any kind of violence (UN Women,2014).

In preparation for the issuance of the cybercrime draft law that is expected to be passed in the first half of this year 2017, the Attorney General of the Palestinian Authority, Ahmed Barak, has issued a decision to commission members of Public Prosecution to start operating the Cybercrime Task Force, to be more specialized and ready to protect victims (ALhurreya, 2017). This law addresses all forms of electronic crimes considering the recent high number of cyber crimes in Palestine.

According to the spokesman for the Palestinian police; Lo'ay Erzikat, this law addresses all forms of electronic crimes considering the recent high number of cyber crimes in Palestine(Maan, 2017). As he pointed out, that per Palestinian police statistics in Ramallah, 2016 has exhibited more than 1,200 cybercrimes compared to 520 in 2015 (Maan,2016). The statistics show that this is a large problem facing Palestinian society, which needs a huge change.

The provisions of the Jordanian Penal Code are loose and nondeterrent, as they do not include anything on cybercrime, there is an urgent need to ensure a law texts that are more detailed and specialized to keep pace with the technological development. This needs to happen in tandem with the establishment of the Cybercrimes Task Force to prevent the spread of this type of crime, according to Barak (Alhurreya, 2017).

On the other hand, the Cybercrime Unit in the Palestinian police was established in 2014 by the Palestinian Authority and is taking action to reduce the rate of cyber crimes by working on two levels (Maan,2016). First, they are following up on complaints and carrying out investigations. Second, they are raising awareness about the threats and consequences of cyber crimes through lectures and seminars in educational institutions and nongovernmental organizations, as well as through the local media.

Erziqat said: "The main problem in OPT is not procedures, as we have a modern Cybercrime Unit in the Police as well within the public prosecuter. It includes technicians trained at home and abroad to develop their skills and abilities to expose perpetrators." The urgent need is to ensure a modren penal code, that protects women and girls from EVAW (Ibid).

Lastly, in light of the spread of cybercrime and the current legal situation in the OPT, the necessity to issue a modern penal code that protects Palestinian women from all forms of violence, including electronic violence is a national duty at all levels, especially with regard to human rights. Palestine is a signatory to the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Electronic Crime (Alhurreya,2017) that requires a speedy enactment of a law on this subject since Palestinians have become a party to these crimes, whether they are victims or perpetratores.

Figure 2: Map of electron violence around the world

4. Project justification:

In 2015 a report by the United Nations published estimates that 95 % of aggressive behavior, harassment, abusive language and denigrating images in online spaces are aimed at women and come from male partners or former partners. Perpetrators are also using digital technologies to control and track their victims, such as spyware, wireless technology, logging facilities in instant messaging services and internet browsers, webcams and GPS (UN broadband commission 2015).

The United Nations Broadband Commission report of 2015, acknowledges that electronic violence is an increasing phenomenon driven by the recent explosion in the usage of internet and smart phones in the middle East.

The report explains that electronic violence is largely due to the widespread use of the internet and social networking sites and increased number of users, as well as, the ignorance and lack of experience in using the internet by the electronic consumers, not to mention the lack of knowledge about use of safety protections and precautions when using the internet (Ibid). The report laments that lack knowledge about the secure use of the internet, makes internet user predisposed to cybercrime, noting that cybercriminals usually try to lure victims online to access or hack accounts or websites.

The growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the middle East in general and in Palestine, in particular, has increased opportunities for women to exploit their capabilities and improve their quality of life (wonews, 2017), it has also exacerbated existing structures of inequality by enabling cybercriminals to access and misuse the technology to abuse, harass and harm women, thereby reinforcing existing structures of inequality .

In Palestine, initially the features of cybercrime were not clear and the authorities weren‘t attentive to this new wave of violence against users, but in recent years, authorities such as the the state police have become more aware of it and declared it a full-fledged crime where there are clearly perpetrators and victims and crime tools and there is an increasing consensus from different organs in Palestine that more must be done to fight electronic violence and protect the most vulnerable which in most cases includes women, due to traditionally, their low level of education and lack of awareness about the particular ways how electronic/cyber crime can be avoided. Moreover, the existence of the Israeli occupation and its practices, and its violent attacks on the Palestinian people, as well as the control of technological sector and other resources, have led to the reduction of the exercise of sovereignty by the Palestinian Authority over the territories under its control which has further exacerbated the problem of electronic violence in Palestine in general and towns like Ramallah, in particular, where the highest numbers of smartphone and internet users reside.

To sum it up, this project is conceived based on the realization that:

1. Electronic violence is a new and growing phenomenon in Palestine.
2. That there is need to develop grassroots efforts to fight cybercrime as an effective tool to end electronic violence especially among the women.
3. That women who are in most cases vulnerable due to already existing social, economic and institutional factors and often ignored in policy design and implementations, must be the principal focus when thinking of ways of fighting cybercrime in Palestine in general and Ramallah.
4. That existing efforts to fight cybercrime especially from the government are not enough and must be complemented by the civil society and other grassroots community-based support if cybercrime, especially against vulnerable groups such as women, is to be effectively averted.

4.1. Problem Statement:

Electronic violence against women has a psychological, social, material and economic effects, but the most prevalent effects are the psychological effects of most women who experience e-violence. The most common psychological effects are anxiety and self-deformity, and sometimes the psychological effects are more extreme such as suicidal ideas or engaging In the behavior of self-harm (West, 2014).

The effects of cyber violence on women also include insomnia, panic attacks, extreme fear of leaving the house, and feelings of humiliation. The economic effects of e-violence against women are serious, sometimes resulting in the loss of their jobs due to defamation or the dissemination of retaliatory pornography (Ibid).

The cultural heritage of the Palestinian society is also dominated by a male culture dominated by customs and traditions, which leads to the spread of domestic violence directed at the girl, whether she is a wife or a daughter.

The absence of law in Palestinian society has paralyzed judicial institutions that protect citizens and their institutions. as it has led to the intensification of violence in all its forms and types (Salameh, 2017).

Moreover, The issue of electronic violence in the Palestinian society has not received sufficient importance among decision-makers. It is the lack of studies and reports that monitored this phenomenon, but it is in the process of increasing continuously because of the weakness of the mechanisms of intervention and its inability to put an end to this phenomenon (Arouri, 2015).

Despite the fact that ICT has increased opportunities for women to exploit their capabilities and improve their quality of life, it has also exacerbated existing structures of inequality by enabling cybercriminals to access and misuse the technology to abuse, harass and harm women, thereby reinforcing existing structures of inequality.

The UN estimates that 95 % of aggressive behavior, harassment, abusive language and denigrating images in online spaces are aimed at women and come from male partners or former partners. Perpetrators are also using digital technologies to control and track their victims, such as spyware, wireless technology, logging facilities in instant messaging services and internet browsers, webcams and GPS(Unwomen,2014).

Cybercrimes are becoming increasingly common, ranging from threats or false accusations about a person in an online space (e.g. social networks and mobile phone calls), stealing identities or data and spying and monitoring a person's computer and internet use without permission. This can result in devastating psychological effects on women, particularly young women, who may turn to self-harm or even suicide, Such violence includes acts that are inhumane, offensive or harmful, which in turn are physical, psychological, sexual and exploitative.

4.2. Priority needs:

The importance to end electronic violence the reason why and the benefits of ending EVAWG to the society became a necessary Since electronic violence against women and girls has become an increasing threat within a substantial difficult to control.

It became one of the most dangerous types of violence against women, and we can cope with these types of cybercrimes against women through a legislation and strict laws that criminalize both the prejudice of their rights in support of efforts to end the phenomenon, besides having a community awareness campaign . However, Cyber crimes against women and girls are considered a new phenomenon in the Arab world.

The scarcity of local and regional research on the negative consequences of cyber-attacks has led to poor attention to the problem. Although some research and studies have been carried out on the psychological, social and economic impact in Europe, North America, and other countries, but still there are rare studies in the Arab region and especially in Palestine.

Electronic violence takes different forms, and the kinds of behaviors it has exhibited since its inception have changed as rapidly — and, unchecked, will continue to evolve — as the digital and virtual platforms and tools have spread.

The prioritization way based on analysis of available studies and statistics on violence against women in the Palestinian occupied territories, despite the lake of data on electronic violence against women and girls in the Palestinian occupied territories, however, that does not mean this kind of violence is not exist, rather it has not received the same level of institutional focus on domestic violence or any other sort of violence.

The importance of this project lies in a provision of a general framework to regulate the work of many other institutions working and interesting in the issue of EVAWG. And examines the special Exploring and analyzing what are the policies and procedures of prevention, to criminalize and reduce cyber crime against women and girls in Palestine.

In addition, this project determines the different and overplanning roles between various parties disturbed with fighting EVAWG, in order to achieve better outcomes towards ending violence against women and girls and ensuring respect for women's rights.

5. Proposal approach:

This project will be done by applying the relevant theories and frameworks needed in the implementation process, it also will utilize the training manuals of UNUGEST by engaging all the relevant stakeholders, through a participatory research approach.

Preventing EVAWG through a change in the social norms and behaviors in the society, by providing the target groups pieces of training and development community, as well, tackling a strategic policy to integrate EVAWG concerns into all training, are the main concern of this project. Moreover, by adopting and applying new regulations and modern laws, developed with technologies and having a legal system to enforce obedience and disciplinary consequences for perpetrators.

The efforts to address violence against women through prevention, redress, and services continue to require substantive resources.

As well concerted and coordinated efforts across communities and sectors, including governmental and non-governmental organization, policy makers, law enforcement agencies, social services agencies, teachers, the international organizations, donors, and a whole society.

Commented [RWS1]: This is where things start to fall apart. Instead of stringing assetions together, tell me more about the target group.

6. Project Aims and Goals:

This project, **Combating Electronic Violence Against Women and Girls in Ramallah in OPT**, has the following aims and objectives. The aims are in form of the general contribution that the project will have towards eliminating electronic violence in Palestine while the objectives are the specific targets that this project will aim at achieving once the project has been successfully implemented in Ramallah.

The main goals of this project are:

1. To contribute towards detection, prevention and elimination of electronic violence against women and girls in Palestine.
2. To contribute towards efforts that advocates for legislation that criminalizes electronic violence against women and girls in Palestine.
3. To improve the social protection and support for women victims of electronic violence.

The specific objectives of this project on the other hand are:

1. To educate women and girls in Ramallah about ways in which electronic violence manifests itself and how they can prevent it or fight it.
2. To lobby the key decision makers so that strong laws are introduced and adapted against electronic violence in Palestine.
3. Set up social support centers for counseling women victims of electronic violence.

7. Target group

This project aimed at women and young girls, who are suffering from VAWG in all settings, and EVAWG in particular, and it will take a place in the west-bank, Ramallah, as a result of the political situation and divided country, it will be sited in Ramallah as a center, but implementing in the whole west bank cities.

- The project targets working with girls and women between the ages of 15 and 22 in Universities and Schools in Ramallah, in West bank in Palestine.
- The total number of women and girls that this project intends to work with is between 150 and 200.

This project targets girls between the ages of 15 and 22 because this is the age brackets that is more vulnerable to electronic violence because they use the internet more. But also, this age bracket constitutes the majority of the population of women in Palestine hence this, in the long run, will have a huge impact on the society, in general. By educating women and girls about electronic violence in Ramallah and how they can detect it and fight it, it will also empower them and help them navigate the institutional, cultural and social barriers that exacerbate violence in general against women and girls in Palestine.

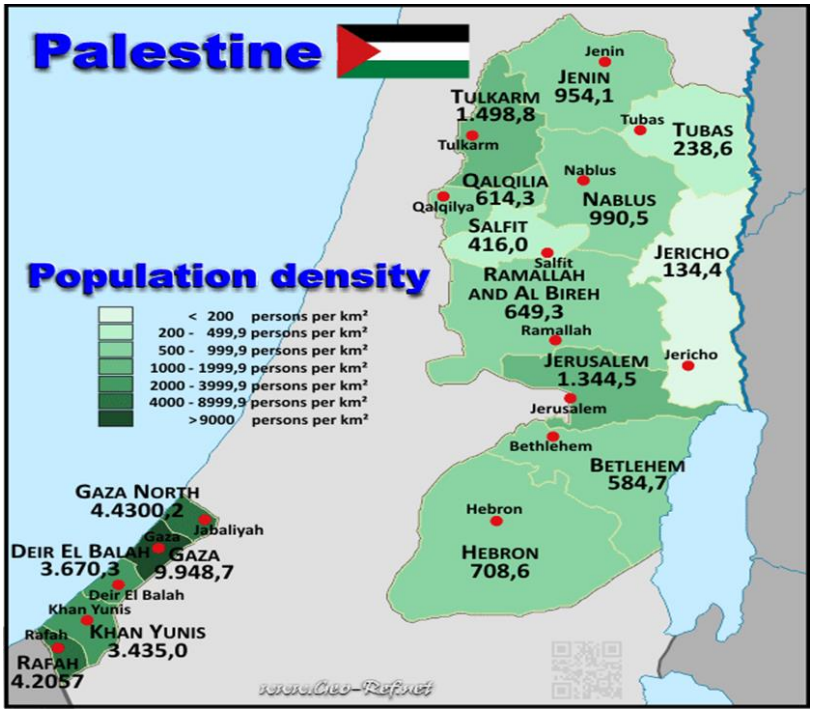

Figure 3: Map of the west bank and Gaza shows the population.

8. Project implementation

8.1. Time schedule

The project will be implemented in two years starting from September 2017 and ending in September 2019. Details on the principal activities of the project are in the log frame attached but in summary, they will include:

The first year of implement will include the following activities:

- Sensitization of women and girls about electronic violence specifically in Ramallah
- Lobbying relevant key decision makers notably the local politicians and judicial system officials and communication companies.

While the second year will implement the following activities:

- Establishing a social protection, support and counseling center to support women and girls who are victims of electronic violence.

- Through advocacy against electronic violence and signing of petitions, making sure that a strong law is adopted and enforced, which criminalizes electronic violence Palestine
- Make campaigns on social media, radios and infographic materials and brochures about electronic violence.
- Public dialogue meetings with relevant stakeholders, on the issue of electronic violence against girls and women especially between the ages of 15 and 22.

8.2. Human resource and personnel:

The project will have the following human resource personnel:

- **Project Coordinator**: He/she will be the overall head of the project and will oversee directing and representing the project and all its activities. Will ensure that the project goals, objectives are being met through implementation of relevant activities. That appropriate financial management is adhered to. Ensure that appropriate monitoring and evaluation activities to gauge the success rate of the project goals. Supervise all the other staff directly under him/her
- **Assistant project coordinator**: The assistant project coordinator will deputies the Project coordinator and will oversee doing any work delegated to him/her by the project coordinator.
- **Field officers** (03): These are in charge of assisting with field activities and will be given temporary assignments depending on when field activities are available.

9. Budget and financing

The overall cost of the project is about 813.800 Euros and the project will finance 20% of this budget from its own incomes and the rest of the 80% will seek from potential donor support.

Below is a detailed budget of the entire project.

Table 1: Proposed budget

Number	Description	Duration	Quantity	Cost/unit	Total in local currency	Total cost
1	project coordinator	2 years	1 persons	800.00 EUR	1,600.00 EUR	1,600.00 EUR
2	assistant project coordinator	2 years	1 persons	500.00 EUR	1,000.00 EUR	1,000.00 EUR
3	stationery	2 years	10 Items	700.00 EUR	14,000.00 EUR	14,000.00 EUR
4	Transportation	2 years		4,000.00 EUR	8,000.00 EUR	8,000.00 EUR
5	social media specialist	0 months	1 persons	3,000.00 EUR	0.00 EUR	0.00 EUR
6	laptops	2 years	3 Items	600.00 EUR	3,600.00 EUR	3,600.00 EUR
7	camera	2 years	2 Items	1,000.00 EUR	4,000.00 EUR	4,000.00 EUR
8	office equipment	2 years	7 Items	1,500.00 EUR	21,000.00 EUR	21,000.00 EUR
9	Radio edvertisment			1,700.00 EUR	1,700.00 EUR	1,700.00 EUR
10	confrence hall	1 days	1 Items	500.00 EUR	500.00 EUR	500.00 EUR
11	councillers	2 years	2 persons	38,400.00 EUR	153,600.00 EUR	153,600.00 EUR
12	office rent	2 years	1 Items	240,000.00 EUR	480,000.00 EUR	480,000.00 EUR
13	research paper	2 months	1 persons	8,000.00 EUR	16,000.00 EUR	16,000.00 EUR
14	hospitality for workshops and trainings	3 months		8,000.00 EUR	24,000.00 EUR	24,000.00 EUR
15	trainers	8 months	2 persons	5,000.00 EUR	80,000.00 EUR	80,000.00 EUR
16	access to the Internet	2 years	1 Items	200.00 EUR	400.00 EUR	400.00 EUR
17	printing and publish	1 years		3,000.00 EUR	3,000.00 EUR	3,000.00 EUR
18	field officers	2 years	3 persons	200.00 EUR	1,200.00 EUR	1,200.00 EUR
	Total budget					**813,600.00 EU**

10. Monitoring and evaluation:

Monitoring of the project will be an ongoing process throught the entire implementation process of the project. The aim of monitoring will be to ensure that the project is on course towards achieving the set objectives which as had been mentioned are as follows:

The main goals:

- To contribute towards detection, prevention and elimination of electronic violence against women and girls in Palestine.
- To contribute towards efforts that advocates for legislation that criminalizes electronic violence against women and girls in Palestine.
- To improve the social protection and support for women victims of electronic violence.

Meanwhile, the project coordinator and assistant together with the donor will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the project. It will develop the project, as it will be quarterly monitoring findings in the project with the donor. As there will be Mid-Term evaluation impact, and after the end of the project there will be evaluation and recommendations about how successful the project was.

11. Evaluation methodology:

Evaluation methodology will adopt a difference in different approach. Here our project staff intends to compare electronic crime rates against young girls and women in Ramallah before implementation of the project with the rates after the project has been implemented. The assumption will be that after implementation of the project, electronic violence and crime rate against young girls and women in Ramallah shall reduce compared to before.

The evaluation will hinge on the following two evaluation questions:

1. What has been the impact of sensitization on electronic violence among women and young girls aged between 15 and 22, on the prevalence rate of electronic crime in Ramallah?
2. To what extent has the project's activities led to legislation against electronic violence in Ramallah?

12. The specific objectives:

- To educate women and girls in Ramallah about ways in which electronic violence manifests itself and how they can prevent it or fight it.
- To lobby the key decision makers so that strong laws are introduced and adapted against electronic violence in Palestine.
- Set up social support Centre for counseling women and girls who are victims of electronic violence in Ramallah. The monitoring will be done by the project staff especially by the project director and his assistant.

Evaluation will be done twice in form of mid-term evaluation, eight months after beginning the project and then, at the end of the implementation of the project. Detailed indicators that will be part of the evaluation are stipulated in the log frame which is attached below. Evaluation will be done by the Project coordinator and his assistant.

12.1. Short-Term Outcomes:

The monitoring process will be on the look out for the following short term project outcomes which the project intends to achieve:

1. A penal law that criminalizes electronic violence is passed and enforced in OPT.
2. Increased cases of electronic violence reporting by women and girls in Ramallah, to relevant authorizes
3. Increased number of women victims of electronic violence seeking social support from the counseling center.
4. Increase cases of electronic violence perpetrators being arrested and successfully convicted by relevant authorities.

12.2. Long-Term Outcomes:

The long-term outcomes will be measured by the evaluation conducted either by our project staff or external evaluators, five months after completion of the project. The project will also expect an external evaluation by the donor staff/agents but this will depend on whether the this is needed or not by the project's donor partners.

These long outcomes are:

- Victims of electronic violence obtain adequate social protection and support for their rehabilitation in the community at a national level.
- Changes occur in the attitudes of the project's target group towards reporting electronic violence easily and understanding generally their rights.
- Local laws and legislations change to reflect a view towards protecting women from electronic violence.
- Government deals with cases of electronic violence against women and girls in a systematic and organized manner.

Table 2. Project logframe

Goals		Indicators		Verification sources		Assumptions	
1	To contribute towards effort that advocates for legislation that criminalizes electronic violence against women and Girls.	1-1	A modern Penal law and legislation has been Passed.	1-1-1	Courts implementing the new code.	1-1	willingness by the relevant authorities to enact, ensure, and implement the law.
2	To improve the social protection and support for women victims of electronic violence.	2-1	Number of Social protection centers established.	2-1-1	Projects own survey.	2-1	willingness to establish a protection center.
3	To contribute towards detection, prevention, and elimination of electronic violence against women and girls.	3-1	Number of cases being reported by women and girls.	3-1-1	Police criminal records.	3-1	willingness to report.
Purposes		**Indicators**		**Verification sources**		**Assumptions**	
1	Lobbying key decision makers, so that strong law is adOPTed against the electronic violence.	1-1	Passing the Penal Law against electronic violence.	1-1-1	Judiciary authorities	1-1	The decision makers are willing to cooperate.
2	To sensitize women and girls in Ramallah about ways in which electronic violence manifests itself and	2-1	Number of women and girls participating in the workshops and campaign's activities.	2-1-1	Project own Survey	2-1	willingness of young girls and women to participate in the Campaign and workshops.

	how they can deal with it.						
				2-1-2	attendance record from workshops		
		2-2					
3	Set a social support centers for counseling women and girls who are victims of electronic violence.	3-1	Number of women and girls who are attending the social support center.	3-1-1	survey done by the project staff.	3-1	willingness by the implementing partner to set up a social center.
Outputs		**Indicators**		**Verification sources**		**Assumptions**	
1	**Lobbying key decision makers, so that strong law is adOPTed against the electronic violence.**						
1-1	relevant authorities have passed a penal law that criminalize electronic violence.	1-1-1	number of convictions.	1-1-1-1	Judiciary authorities. courts		
2	**To sentisize women and girls in Rmallah about ways in which electronic violence manifests itself and how they can deal with it.**						
2-1	Increased cases of electronic violence being reported by women.	2-1-1	Number of cases reported.	2-1-1-1	Criminal recodes by Police.		
3	**Set a social support centers for counseling women and girls who are victims of electronic violence.**						
3-1	Increased number of women seeking social support from the counseling centers.	3-1-1	Number of social support centers established.	3-1-1-1	survey done by the project staff.		
		3-1-2	Number of women and young girls visiting those centers.				
Activities		**Resources**		**0.00 EUR**		**Assumptions**	
1	**Lobbying key decision makers, so that strong law is adOPTed against the electronic violence.**						
1-1-1	Arrange meetings with parliamentarians and politicians and other relevant authorities to convince them about legislation	1-1-1-1	contacts and addresses of the parliamentarians and other politicians.		500.00 EUR		

	against electronic violence.						
		1-1-1-2	transport means		1,000.00 EUR		
		1-1-1-3	stationery		300.00 EUR		
1-1-3	organize a petition and used it to lobby for support.	1-1-3-1	media specialist to organize the petition.		3,000.00 EUR		
		1-1-3-2	Access to the internet- establish a website.		100.00 EUR		
		1-1-3-3	human resource to compile and present the petition to the relevant authorities.		500.00 EUR		
1-1-4	Arrange a Dialogue session with the Prime minister.	1-1-4-1	contacts, address.		500.00 EUR		
		1-1-4-2	stationery		300.00 EUR		
		1-1-4-3	transportation		1,000.00 EUR		
2	**To sensitize women and girls in Ramallah about ways in which electronic violence manifests itself and how they can deal with it.**						

2-1-1	Publish infographic materials and brochures about electronic violence and circulate them on social media, schools, university and Public spaces.	2-1-1-1	stationary		300.00 EUR		
		2-1-1-2	Printing and publishing		3,000.00 EUR		
		2-1-1-3	transportation		1,000.00 EUR		
		2-1-1-4	access to the internet		100.00 EUR		
2-1-2	Radio spot advertisement for six months, about electronic violence and how to prevent it and where to report it.	2-1-2-1	recording a spot		500.00 EUR		
		2-1-2-2	human resource		200.00 EUR		
		2-1-2-3	access to the radio.		1,000.00 EUR		
2-1-3	organize workshops twice a month for 8 months.	2-1-3-1	specialist in social media and communication		2,000.00 EUR		
		2-1-3-2	trainers		1,000.00 EUR		
		2-1-3-3	transportation		1,000.00 EUR		

		2-1-3-4	stationery		500.00 EUR		
		2-1-3-5	hospitality		5,000.00 EUR		
2-1-4	a conference with the relevant authorities and stakeholders about electronic violence.	2-1-4-1	hospitality		1,000.00 EUR		
		2-1-4-2	stationery		100.00 EUR		
		2-1-4-3	research about electronic violence		8,000.00 EUR		
		2-1-4-4	transportation		100.00 EUR		
2-1-5	establish a campaign in social media.	2-1-5-1	social media specialist		1,000.00 EUR		
3	**Set a social support centers for counseling women and girls who are victims of electronic violence.**						
3-1-1	Establish a social support center.	3-1-1-1	rent office space.		240,000.00 EUR		
		3-1-1-2	2 councilors		38,400.00 EUR		
		3-1-1-3	stationery		200.00 EUR		

13. Conclusion and recommendations:

The internet led many people to develop ways to raise awareness and to encounter all kinds of violence, from the other hand, the information technology contributed in facilitating the arrival of a lot of women to services and opportunities, particularly in developing non-traditional domains of work for women and girls. Adding to that it raised the awareness about women's issues and human rights through blogs and social media, which started to take the largest space in the communal activity.

However, the risks of the electronic violence affect the peace and prosperity for all the world, particularly in achieving comprehensive and sustainable development goals that put gender equality and the empowerment of women as aim to achieve.

This issue became increasingly prominent due to the high rates of the girls and women who expose to electronic crimes; because they are the weakest they are subjected to all forms of violence. One of the most common aspects of electronic violence against women and girls in the world: the electronic chasing and pursuit, electronic extortion, electronic sexual harassment, surveillance and spy on computers, smartphones and tablets, the illegal using of technology and internet for images, videos either to be distorted or to threaten the victims. Human trafficking for unlawful sexual uses, adding to that impersonates names and famous personalities to exploit women and girls, especially in chat rooms and social networking sites.

Forms of electronic violence crimes against women and girls are in the way to increase side by side with the development and easy access to the multimedia communication and platforms of social networking. These crimes have an aggressive reaction against the participation of women and girls on the networking sites and increase the social and cultural restrictions against them, adding to that it threatens their human security.

Women and girls who subjected to electronic violence are suffering seriously on the social and psychological levels, such as; emotional problems, family disintegration, and even constant fear of pursuit and leaving the house, social blame that increase the social and family restrictions. And there are indicators of sexual harassment, anxiety, and symptoms of depression and melancholy thoughts about suicide and panic attack, insomnia and signs of disturbance post-traumatic stress. Moreover, electronic violence has a negative effect on the freedom of expression and the enjoyment of other human rights.

The fear of the social stigma is one of the reasons for the silence of girls and women and not asking for help when they subjected to electronic violence. Due to, Common norms, traditions, and expectations remain the responsible of violence based on gender. And in many cases, women and girls are blamed for acts that were not conducted by them; often those issues arrives the official authorities in the latter stages of extortion, which surpasses the victim's capacity to respond, or endurance.

Electronic violence is committed by a wide range of people; students, enthusiasts, terrorists and members of organized crime groups. On the contrary of the ordinary crimes, it committed by a person who knows how to use the computer and internet devices, and this helped him in the selected crime, whether he has been committed crime once or more.

The average age of women whom the most subjected to higher risk for all forms of electronic violence is 15-22 years; women and girls in these ages expose to the chasing, sexual harassment, and phishing in the absence of official measures to raise awareness of safety and security on the internet.

On the other hand, The Israeli military occupation still a fundamental obstacle to the control of the Palestinian networking and telecommunications, also the Palestinian division is an obstacle to the procedures of integration and follow-up of work at the justice sector level and prosecution of the perpetrators of electronic crimes between the two sides of a homeland.

The subject of electronic crimes will surely continue unless it is included in the programs of educational, official protection and non-governmental institution, and internet services provider companies, which would show up this phenomenon prominently and expand awareness and knowledge about it. There is the severe weakness in the procedures of safety and security, and lack of cooperation procedures between institutions to develop and institutionalize the ways of dealing with the phenomenon and its impact on women and girls.

In conclusion electronic crimes are on the rise; and have not been addressed in the traditional criminal law, due to its modernity, Justice systems including the Palestinian judiciary are still facing challenges in dealing with electronic crimes; they need training, technical skill and technical expertise to deal with this type of crime, fighting electronic crimes still without a law criminalizing and determining all its kinds.

14. Bibliography:

1. Central Bureau of Statistics Annual report: Palestine, 2015.
2. Cyber violence against women and girls: a world-wide wake up call, Un Broadband commission, 2015.
3. Jessica West, Battered women's support services, May 2014.
4. Ministry of Women's Affairs: national committee to Combat Violence against Women 2011-2019, the national strategy.
5. Social Studio Palestine, Annual report 2015.
6. Al-Hayya, available at: http://www.alhaya.ps/arch_page.php?nid=173948
7. AL-Hurreya e-newspaper, available at: http://www.hr.ps/ar/101669.html
8. Alwatan voice, available at: https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/12/18/1000881.html
9. Dunia Ismael, Amad press, 13th, 12, 2015, available at: https://www.amad.ps/ar/Details/102434
10. Dunya Alwatan, 18th, December, 2016, available at: https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/12/18/1000881.html
11. Fayez Abuoun, Electronic days, 18th.February.2017, available at: http://www.alayyam.ps/ar_page.php?id=11de650ey299787534Y11de650e
12. Woman news, 7th.October.2013, available at: http://wonews.net/ar/index.php?act=post&id=7646
13. https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=878936
14. Maan news, 28th, 11, 2016, available at : https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=878936
15. Maan news, 26th, June,2013, available at : http://maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=608774
16. Maan news, 18th, December, 2016, available at: https://maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=882249
17. http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/cyber-violence-report-press-release
18. Sabah salameh, ALmutada, 28th, 11, 2016, available at : https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=878936
19. Wattan press, 7th December, 2016, available at: http://www.watanpressonline.com/archives/4080