UN Women Palestine Office conducted a flash online survey on the impact of COVID-19 on women-led MSME’s employing up to 95 employees. The online survey was administered between 17-27 March 2020. In total, 301 women entrepreneurs from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip responded to the survey. The results are a summary of 101 women respondents across Palestine.

**95% of Palestinian women reported that their businesses are being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**27% of women’s businesses were shut down**

**73% of women reported that they could only sustain their businesses during the current situation from one to four months**

**53% of women reported that they are considering laying off their employees**

**30% of women reported that they have increased their work hours to support their families and their employees during this time**

**42% of the Palestinian women-led MSME’s witnessed a decrease in demand, while 9% of them reported movement restrictions and 7% reported childcare limitations to be able to continue operating**

**I reduced all my income-generating schemes, that are limited in scope, because I was left alone, for Ramadam we re-opened due to the current situation. I cannot earn those incomes even if we produce alternative products and support my family, I am thinking now to produce products made from materials and equipment such as masks, drawers, Coronavirus masks and various daily use providers who are in need, however, because of the high inflationary costs, I am thinking of different materials within affordable means in such circumstances. I have loan payments that are over one and paid, ending up with no alternative way to earn a living.**

Ms. Suad Abu Tahoup, soap factory owner from Nablus and has seven children.

**I invested all my accumulated leftover materials, that are stuck in my workshop, because I could not use them, for Ramadan, I re-opened due to the current situation. I cannot earn those incomes, unless we produce alternative products and support my family, I am thinking now to produce products made from materials and equipment such as masks, drawers, Coronavirus masks and various daily use providers who are in need, however, because of the high inflationary costs, I am thinking of different materials within affordable means in such circumstances. I have loan payments that are over one and paid, ending up with no alternative way to earn a living.**

Ms. Wael Hijazi, from Silwan, Ramallah district, I was a fashion design workshop.

**The most affected sectors are the food products (26%) followed by the embroidery sector (20%) and the childcare services (11%), while the least affected sectors are ICT, furniture and wood (6%)**

**Action Points for government, civil society, private sector and international stakeholders**

- Ensure availability of sex- and age- disaggregated data and that all interventions are informed by gender analyses/ gender-based livelihoods and risk analyses.
- Monitor and mitigate against new and possibly increased threats against women’s engagement in economic activities and continue to focus on programming that builds women’s economic resilience for this and future shocks, with specific emphasis on female heads of households and other at-risk groups, in all economic recovery efforts.
- Support service providers in providing equitable and responsive services for women entrepreneurs and small producers to ensure the safety of women and hygienic production practices, in addition to safe delivery of their products, especially essential providers of food and pharmaceuticals.
- Ensure women entrepreneurs benefit equally from the emergency procurement actions and financial service provision, including taxation, guaranteed loans, and specific MSME’s packages.
- Promote and support women’s engagement and leadership in policy and decision making during the crisis to reflect and address the rights and needs of women, including the furthest left behind and most marginalized groups of women (e.g. the female heads of households, the working poor, women with disabilities, and rural women), and ensure that women’s capacities are equally recognized and integrated, equally to men, in any economic recovery plans.

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