Facts and figures about the Palestinian Labor Market

The third quarter of 2020 did not witness much improvement related to participation in the labor market. The unemployment rate among labour force participants (15 years and over) reached 29% compared to 27% in the 2nd quarter according to PCBS.

The unemployment gap between the West Bank and Gaza remained high, reaching (19% in the W.B. & 49% in the G.S.). As for female and male workers, unemployment rate among men reached 25% compared to 44% among women.

Due to a reduction of Covid-19 containment measures and a gradual return to work, the number of employed persons, who were absent from their jobs, decreased by 56% during the 3rd quarter of 2020.

As for basic workers' rights, 49% of wage employees in the private sector were hired without any contract, 33% of wage employees receive a contribution to a pension fund/end of service compensation, and 60% of women workers received a paid maternity leave. 27% of wage employees in the private sector were paid less than the minimum wage (1,450 NIS) in Palestine. The monthly wage of those paid less than the minimum wage in Gaza Strip was (678 NIS), compared with (1,065 NIS) in the West Bank.

This quarter also indicated an increase in the number of employed persons in Israel and Israeli settlements by 30 thousand between the 2nd and the 3rd quarters of 2020.

DWRC undertakes an awareness campaign on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center in Palestine, implemented an awareness campaign in the West Bank and Gaza on the occasion of the ***16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.***

In the West Bank, DWRC implemented a workshop in 26/11/2020 about protecting women from violence and harassment at work. The workshop was attended by 16 female and male unionists, and representatives of feminist organizations. During the workshop, participants discussed adopting zero tolerance policies for violence at work, women's rights violations as a result of Covid-19 according to *the report on "the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Containment Measures on Palestinian Women Workers"* prepared by DWRC, and challenges & interventions required to protect women from violence in the private, public and economic spheres.

DWRC also implemented ten awareness meetings in the West Bank and Gaza addressing ILO Convention No. 190 about eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work.

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In Gaza and in cooperation with a number of feminist institutions and cooperatives, DWRC implemented an event to discuss the correlation between the economy and violence against women. During the event, women had the opportunity to share their stories and challenges facing them at work, and they called for their right to a decent job, and workplaces free of violence.

Garment and Textile Workers' Union in Tubas holds its general conference

The Garment and Textile Workers' Union in Tubas held its general conference on Wednesday 15/12/2020. The conference was attended by members of the union, all of them women. During the conference, participants reviewed and approved the managerial and financial reports, approved recommendations submitted to the general conference, and elected the new union's administrative committee.

DWRC reviews the situation, risks, policies and regulations related to the petrol and gas stations' sector in the Gaza Strip with NCOSH

On 21/12/2020, DWRC presented its case study on the petrol and gas station sector to members of the National Committee for Occupational Safety and Health in the Gaza Strip. On 30/12/2020, the Center held a joint conference with the Ministry of Local Government and the safety committee about mechanisms for the implementation of preventive and safety measures in gas and petrol stations and hazardous establishments, as well as the regulation for gas distributors and hazardous occupations and establishments of 2020.

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, DWRC, unions and competent authorities discuss required interventions for enhancing workers' rights

The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center addressed issues facing trade union work in the Gaza Strip, the current situation and future perspectives during its annual trade union forum held in Gaza. The forum was attended by male and female unionists representing various sectors, and representatives from the Ministries of Labor and Justice.

During the forum, participants discussed the importance of unifying laws in Gaza and the West Bank, focusing on the adoption of a unified and modern trade union law that prioritizes workers' rights and interests, and provides adequate protection for trade union work. They also discussed amendments to the Palestinian Labor Law related to social rights in relation to the frozen social security law, in addition to labor law amendments from a gender perspective.

Unionists also had the opportunity to discuss issues facing health services provided to workers, and health insurance issues. At the end of the forum, participants agreed on forming an emergency committee to follow up on issues facing trade union action, and to develop programs to improve trade union situation and work conditions in the extremely challenging political, economic and social context in Gaza.