Annual Report 2019-2020

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General Director Message

To my dear colleagues, thanks to your support and endless determination, TRC continues to develop and provide services to those in need. With the tremendous changes going on in the country including the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing escalating injustices occurring in North Jordan Valley and East Jerusalem including Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, the staff of TRC work on providing MHPSS services as ongoing intervention for the victims of such events. Similar interventions have also been done in other areas in the West Bank with the help of multiple donors including, but not limited to: Save the Children (SCI), Palestinian Vision (PalVision), Arab Fund, UNICEF, UN Women, IRCT, and UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). The adversities victims of torture face, especially under occupation, are that of many, and TRC intends to be the constant source of aid for these victims, especially children, as they are the foundation for our futures. This annual report is a testament of TRC's collective achievements and with our continuous determination to combat torture; TRC will make even greater changes in the years to come.

Khader Rasras, General Director

1. About Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for victims of Torture

Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (TRC) is non-governmental, non-profit human rights - based organization that provides psychosocial services to direct and in-direct victims of torture and organized violence in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. TRC was founded in 1997 by a Palestinian psychiatrist and human rights activist, Dr. Mahmud Sehwail who has been visiting and treating Palestinian detainees and ex-detainees from Israeli prisons as well as their families on a voluntary basis as early as 1983, and who is currently the President of the Centre. Day-to-day management is run by the General Director Mr. Khader Rasras who is a clinical psychologist, and who manages a team comprised of more than 30 people operating under different programs and across different governorates with offices operating in Ramallah, Jenin and Hebron cities.

Through its main Treatment and Rehabilitation program, TRC aims at reducing the traumatic devastating psychological consequences of human rights based violations mainly torture, violence and other ill- treatment of victims and their families through different interventions of individual, family, group, and child therapies including Debriefing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Narrative Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy,

Psycho-therapy, and Art and Play therapy for children. In addition to the abovementioned interventions, the center has gradually expanded its services to include psychological first aid (PFA) and crisis intervention protocol. All treatment and rehabilitation services at TRC are provided by a team of highly qualified and multidisciplinary mental health experts, including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, to reduce the devastating psychological symptoms of primary and secondary victims and to support their recovery and reintegration.

In parallel to the mental healthcare services, TRC's team across the other different Units focus on providing training and capacity building targeting psychologists and other mental health professionals, students and human rights defenders, in addition to essential work on public awareness, advocacy, outreach, data collection, evidence- based research and networking in order to combat torture, defend human rights and hold perpetrators accountable.

2. TRC Strategy

TRC Statement

Torture is considered an offense to human dignity and integrity and has huge negative impact on the victims, their families and the society. "In 1948, Art. 5 of the UDHR proclaimed the first universal prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (hereafter "torture/CIDTP"). In safeguarding the dignity and integrity of all members of the human family, without exception or discrimination of any kind and regardless of jurisdiction, territory and nationality, the absolute prohibition of torture/CIDTP reflects the recognition that such abuse dehumanizes not only its victims, but also its perpetrators and, ultimately, any society which tolerates such practice."

The United Nations Agencies has been working for several years to combat torture - one of the most severe violations of Human Rights; one of the most pressing challenges for Palestine is the defense of the Human Rights including the combat against torture in Palestinian and Israeli prisons. In 1991 and 2014, Israel and the Palestinian Authority adopted the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) respectively aiming to implement mechanisms to prevent acts of torture and respond accordingly. However, both authorities continue to commit widespread human rights violations, including torture, with full impunity. "According to Human Rights Watch², As of October 31st, the Israeli Authorities have held 5,426 Palestinian detainees including 1,465 pre-trial detainees and 481 detainees in administrative detention held on secret evidence without charge or

¹ https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx

^{2 :} According to Human Rights Watch

trial. Most of these Palestinian detainees have been physically or psychologically tortured (or a combination of both)".³ "In 2018, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) identified 285 allegations of torture of Palestinian detainees perpetrated by the PA Security forces, and 201 cases of arbitrary detention without due process, relying on a 1954 law that allows persons to be indefinitely detained without charge or tried"⁴. The ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the continued internal conflict between opposing political entities in West Bank and Gaza, and the lack of a comprehensive approach that outlines human rights standards and practices on the state level contribute to the continued political arrests, torture, and detainment with impunity. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority is reluctant to take any measures to reinforce the National Prevention Mechanism to protect the rights of all citizens from torture.

The consequences of torture are tremendous. After discharge, victims of torture often exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, social phobia, and other debilitating side effects of the violence perpetrated against them. As a result, they are at high risk of carrying out acts of domestic violence against their children or spouses. The cycle of violence could even manifest in other forms of violence and ill-treatment that have far-reaching and devastating effects that could lead to damaging the social fabric on the long run.

TRC's Mission statement:

TRC will combat and document torture, and incriminate its perpetrators, in line with delivering treatment and rehabilitation services for victims of torture and organized violence and providing support for them and their families, consistent for their right to rehabilitation and atonement, through prevention and specialized treatment programs; all in the context of human rights approaches and in accordance with international laws and treaties.

TRC's Vision:

TRC's vision is for Palestine to be free of torture. TRC will continue its programs in providing services to victims of torture through direct treatment and rehabilitation services, advocacy and raising awareness, research, documentation and capacity building. The four domains are necessary for the developing process towards achieving the vision of the center, as to have a torture free Palestinian community.

³ https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/israel/palestine

⁴ https://ichr.ps/en/1/6/2408/ICHR-23rd-Annual-Report.htm



Picture (1): TRC's Greenall Director, Mr. Khader Rasras, addressing his speech in commemoration of International Day in Support of Victims of Torture-June 26, 2019

3. Annual Activities 2020

3.1 Partners and stakeholders

❖ IRCT (International rehabilitation council for torture victims)

TRC has been an active member and a partner of IRCT since 1997, and is part of its global membership consisting of 152 members from 75 different countries across the globe that work together towards a unified goal of supporting torture victims worldwide. Appointed by its General Manager Mr. Khader Rasras, TRC was elected in 2020 as a member of IRCT's Executive Committee for three consecutive years.

TRC is part of the Anti – Torture Database through which it provides data related to its beneficiaries, which has been instrumental in pursuing positive change and well thought interventions. TRC Palestine has been systematically collecting, storing and analyzing data on patterns of torture over the past three years. The findings have been used to advocate for the rights of survivors of torture in Palestine.

Local partnerships through coalition making and MOUs.

- Palestinian Coalition Against Torture- PCAT

PCAT is an essential Palestinian body consisting of 10 human rights based organization⁵ working towards a common goal of eradicating torture and ill-treatment and upholding human rights of all Palestinians.

TRC has been a core member of PCAT and has been its Secretariat over the past 12 years. Towards a mutual goal of putting an end to Torture, PCAT's members work together on Joint statements, press releases, conferences, visitations, and advocacy campaign. Furthermore, the coalition's work is highlighted yearly through efforts to commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26 of every year.

PCAT has been an essential body through which TRC's database has been employed towards evidence – based advocacy and research. Furthermore, TRC, with close consultation and cooperation of its members, has an active role in managing, coordinating and organizing the work of the coalition.

- MoUs with Palestinian Ministries of Interior, Justice, Women's Affairs and Social Development.

Through the MoU with MoI, TRC was able to access the Palestinian prisons in Jenin, Ramallah, and Jericho to provide MHPSS to women and men detained in each center.

The MoU with the Ministry of Justice, TRC was able to implement trainings to staff like lawyers, judges, attorney generals, and staff from the authority of the Public Prosecution ... etc....on identification of evidence of torture to support the prosecution of perpetrators. TRC trained them on using Istanbul Protocol, which is an evidence-based process for identifying and documenting torture (using photographs, medical reports, sworn statements, etc....).

In addition, for the MoU with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, this was closely related to our work with UN- Women, providing MHPSS to women victims (including women in conflict with law) providing technical support and capacity

وحقوق الإنسان، مركز هدف لحقوق الإنسان.

أعضاء الائتلاف: مركز علاج وتأهيل ضحايا التعذيب (سكرتاريا الإئتلاف) ، مؤسسة الحق، الهيئة المستقلة لحقوق الإنسان-عضو: 5 مراقب-، الهيئة الأهلية لاستقلال القضاء وسيادة القانون-استقلال، مؤسسة الضمير لرعاية الأسير وحقوق الإنسان، برنامج غزة للصحة النفسية، مركز إعلام حقوق الإنسان والديمقراطية-شمس، مركز الدفاع عن الحريات والحقوق المدنية، مركز القدس للمساعدة القانونية

building to women's rights defenders, referrals and follow up on women's cases, etc...

Partnership through projects



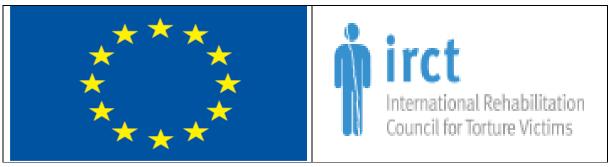


Image (1): Logos of TRC's main international and regional partners

3.2 Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit (TRU)



Figure (1): schematic representation of cases served by TRU

In 2020, Palestinians witnessed unprecedented challenges due to the Covid- 19 pandemic that had worsened living conditions and increased the daily challenges due to restrictions of movements. This new layer of limitations accompanied by deterioration in health had led to a worsening in the general mental health and wellbeing of Palestinians.

Despite imposed lock downs and limitation in movement due to the spread of the Covid-19, TRC persevered in its service provision to those in need.

At the core of TRC lies the Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit consisting of a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, community awareness counselors, and doctors across the West Bank.

In the year 2020, the Unit provided services for 2,517 clients; 73% of which were new clients. 43% of all clients were male while the remaining 56% were females. The majority of clients fall under the age group of 18+ with a percentage of 55%, while the remaining 44.8% were under 18 years of age.

Furthermore, the majority of clients had multiple traumas with 52.2% while 43.3% were categorized under a single trauma. The total amount of sessions that were provided by the Unit amounts to 14,248 sessions.

TRC's data for 2020 indicates that the largest percentage of beneficiaries (19.8) were victims of war, hence war constitutes as the primary source of suffering and psychological trauma. 13.65% of beneficiaries indicated that violence is their primary source of trauma, followed by 9.8% were victims of torture and ill treatment for ex-detainees. Further victims were categorized, as victims of settlers' violence with 4.7%, while 4.2% were victims of the Apartheid Wall, 3.9% house demolition and 0.7% physical injuries.

TRC also offered services to secondary victims of torture and ill- treatment. 10% of the beneficiaries were categorized as secondary victim of tortured detainee or ex-detainee and 2.2% were secondary victims of the non- tortured detainee or ex-detainee.

3.7% of beneficiaries were bereaved families that received psychological assistance throughout the year.

As for cases which needed services that suffered primarily from the challenges imposed by the spread of the Covid- 19, 11.4% fell under that category, which is indicative of the unprecedented obstacles and added pressure resulting from this new reality. Lastly, 7.7% of all clients were social cases relating to family conflicts. 3.1% of clients were inmates at the Palestinian Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers- CRCs, majority of which were females. Individual and group psychological sessions were provided in addition to face-to-face psychological counseling to the inmates.

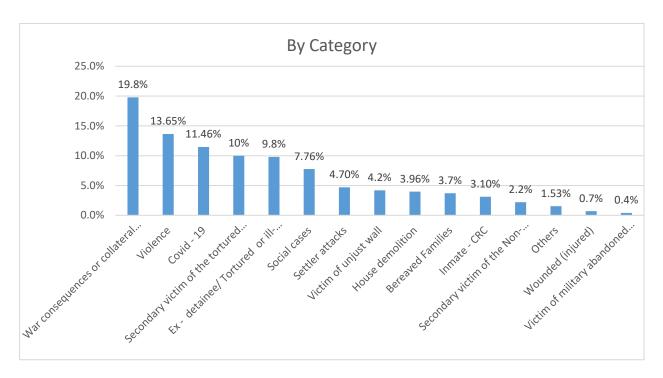


Figure (2): schematic representation of categories of cases served

Case Study

Background of beneficiary

Client (R.A) is an 18 years old high school female student from Issawiya village. She is currently living with her family consisting of 10 members enjoying a stable income and an adequate livelihood. The beneficiary is currently in her senior year of high school. Although she is an exceptional student, a disturbing event had affected her academic life and overall life. She was unable to fully commit to her studies and did not attend school on regular basis.

The incident

A psychologist from TRC followed up on the case of the beneficiary, who was in a constant state of fear, anxiety and threat. Her father had sexually harassed her; an event that has severely affected her life and mental health.

Symptoms from the event and diagnosis

The beneficiary suffers from an extreme state of fear and anxiety of re-living the event again and from others knowing about it. She is worried that this might affect her chances of getting married in the future and having her own family. She preferred to keep this to herself and deal with the pain alone, which had eventually led her to suffer from depression.

Description of the personality

The client is a victim to her surroundings, including her father, and is a victim to social norms and cultural background that would be considered backward and limited and turns the victim into the perpetrator. She preferred to deal with her pain alone instead of reaching out for help even from her own mother.

The client, on the other hand, is hopeful for a better future as she sees herself as a nurse. She seeks independence and aims to assist her younger sisters and brothers in living their best childhood years away from what she had suffered. Her hope is in her dream that she seeks to reach.

The follow up with the girl was conducted at school, and the treatment plan is individual therapy. The mother was also included in the plan.

Treatment

CBT treatment techniques was utilized to assist the beneficiary in understanding the traumatic event that she had experienced, thus helping her overcome the event. The aim was also to help her commit to school. The treatment plan included her class teacher and her school principle to ensure their help and her safety. Her mother's assistance is important in ensuring that she attends school every day. She will not allow any contact between the daughter and the father and will assert her power in all necessary manners to protect her children. The father was eventually placed in an isolated room away from the children. It was decided that the event will remain a secret as it is in the student and the family's best interest as it might lead to family dysfunction. The mother will provide the highest levels of safety for the entire family.

Results

After several sessions and involving the mother and the teacher in the treatment plan, a significant improvement was noticed in the student. She is attending school more regularly and catching up with the help of her teachers.

The mother has become more active and aware of her protective role towards her children, especially the females, in terms of any assault or violation occurring. Although the father refused any therapy or intervention, it is guaranteed that he will not put any family members in any danger, especially the beneficiary.

The treatment is still ongoing with the client and her mother.



Picture (2): group therapy session conducted by TRC psychologist Ms. Rasha

3.3 Capacity Building Unit

In 2020, the Capacity Building Unit conducted specialized workshops and trainings with the aim to advance and build the knowledge and capacities of mental health professionals to improve access to quality MHPSS. Three workshops were conducted with 60 mental health workers from CSOs in Jericho governorate on topics relating to Crisis Intervention Protocol, Data Protection and Narrative Therapy.

Furthermore, and as part of TRC's signed MoUs with local ministries, TRC's team provided capacity building trainings on human rights-related issues for PA security forces (Preventive Security, Presidential Guard, Civil Police, Correctional Center Officers, ...) as well as trainings to the Ministry of Social Development' workers and received referrals from them for Juvenile in conflict with the law who required MHPSS.



Picture (3): Training workshop on stress and job burn-out



Picture (4): Training workshop on Conflict Intervention Protocol (CIP)

3.4 Awareness and Advocacy Unit

In accordance with the Unit's strategy set for (2020-2022), TRC's advocacy and public awareness activities were set in order to fulfill its short and long-term objectives with clear tactics.

In 2020, as part of a project funded by UNICEF entitled Safe Guarding Children's Rights in East Jerusalem "Reaching out with specialized rehabilitation and therapeutic services to the most vulnerable children and their families in East Jerusalem," the unit organized 12 workshops with 360 participants in Silwan, Issawiya, Old City of Jerusalem, Shuf'at Refugee Camp, and Jabal Al Mukaber. The

workshops covered topics on debriefing, importance of mental health, stress management, children's rights and positive parenting.

Furthermore, in close collaboration with local partners and under the umbrella of Save the Children's project entitled: "Respect, Act, Protect: Community led action for protection of children and youth affected by conflict", the team organized recreational days targeting children and their families affected by the occupation with the aim of providing an opportunity to meet, share stories and express anger and fear in a safe and controlled environment. The recreational days are complementary to the psychological support sessions provided by the Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit.

Moreover, the project further entails four awareness workshops targeting parents to introduce issues relating to child psychological well-being and gender sensitive children's rights in order to ensure that children's rights are protected. In terms of public awareness, the unit worked in close cooperation with local partners on developing and disseminating gender sensitive awareness raising material on legal aspects relating to children's rights, especially in cases of arrest and detention.

Lastly, the unit is one of many pillars of TRC and is unable to fully achieve its goals without constant cooperation and collaboration across all departments. Unified efforts ensure the production of high-quality, evidence-based advocacy material, and ensures that human rights based approaches are applied in programming and in all other departmental work. The unit also represented TRC at several activities, seminars, book launches and campaigns pertaining to local non-governmental organizations working towards the same goal.



Picture (5): awareness-raising workshop for parents, on children stress release



Picture (6): TRC's staff stress release activity, city of Jaffa

4. Annual Activities 2019

4.1 Partners and Stakeholders

Throughout its existence, TRC has been supported by various donors including the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC), the Netherlands Representative Office (NRO), the European Commission through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Spanish Cooperation, the United Nations Voluntary Fund, the Australian-Palestinian Partnerships in Education and Health, the European Union (EU), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), War Child Holland (WCH) and others, which served as opportunity for TRC to act practically on desired and planned activities that were limited to financial support, however here is a list of TRC's key stakeholders:

- 1. Human Rights organizations
- 2. Palestinian Coalition Against Torture
- 3. Ministry of Social Development
- 4. Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers
- 5. IRCT
- 6. Ministry of Interior
- 7. Child Protection Clusters (CP)
- 8. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Network (MHPSS)
- 9. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- 10. Independent Commi**s**sion for Human Rights (ICHR)

4.2 Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit Activities:

- 1. Two summer camps were completed for 200 affected children in Hebron and Qalandiya camps.
- 2. Vocational training was conducted for 24 children, teaching them life skills and labor market-demanded crafts.
- 3. Vocational rehabilitation training was conducted for 30 women in Tubas and North Jordan Valley Governorate.
- 4. Training sessions were conducted by TRC Staff and all the workshops were covered by the awareness department.
- 5. The required Psychological First Aid- PFA for the project was covered.
- 6. The work was increased in Jericho and Al Aghwar Governorate, which had covered the whole governorate.

TRC team gave many rehabilitation and psychosocial treatment services, the table blow explain that the total cases that were 2,093 including 1,109 females which represents 53%, and 984 males that represents 47%.

Table (1): Number of cases

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	1,109	53%
Male	984	47%
Total	2,093	



Picture (7): TRC contribution to the national campaign in respect to human rights

The 2,093 beneficiaries were from several governorates, where Jerusalem is considered the highest in receiving the services and the most affected with 768 cases followed by Hebron with a total number of 388. The table below explains more.

Table (2): Number of cases by area

Locality	Frequency	Percent
Jericho Governorate	180	8.6%
Jerusalem (Al Quds) Governorate	768	36.7%
Bethlehem (Beit Lahm) Governorate	85	4.1%
Hebron (Al Khalil) Governorate	388	18.5%
Jenin Governorate	121	5.8%
Nablus Governorate	11	0.5%
Ramallah and Al Bireh Governorate	290	13.9%
Tubas & North Jordan Valley Governorate	243	11.6%
Tulkarm Governorate	7	0.3%
Total	2093	

This table reflects the average monthly income of the beneficiaries. Which shows that the majority of them are the most vulnerable.

Table (3): Number of cases served by TRC, by monthly income

Mean of Monthly Income	Frequency	Percent
	60	2.9
1000-1999 NIS	610	29.1%
2000-2999 NIS	556	26.6%
3000-3999 NIS	318	15.2%
4000 NIS or above	150	7.2%
less than 1000 NIS	179	8.6%
Not Applicable	220	10.5%
Total	2,093	

The table below shows that 57.6% cases have finished their treatment and sessions, while 42.4% still receiving the service.

Table (4): Number of cases by status of case

Client Status	Frequency	Percent
Active	14	0.7%
Active - New	873	41.7%
Discharged	1,206	57.6%
Total	2,093	

The distribution of cases according to the source of the shock, the cases caused by organized violence from the occupation are the most affected. Figure 5 below explains more:

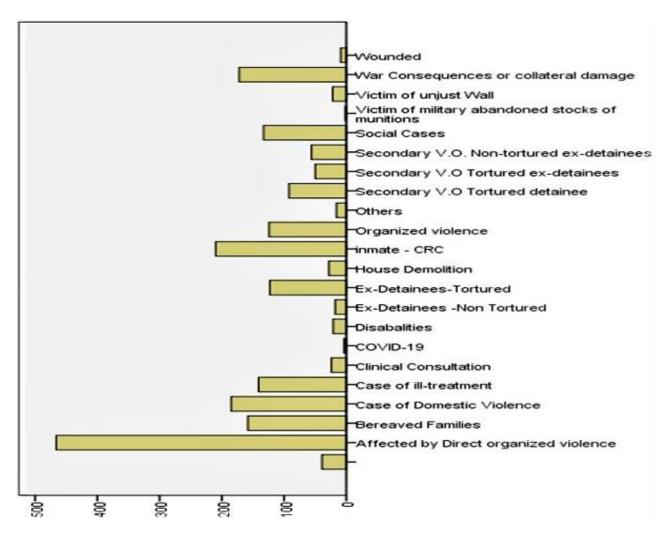


Figure (3): classification of cases served, by category



Picture (8): participants in TRC's summer camp in Jalazoun Refugee Camp

Table (5): Number of cases served by category

Category	Frequency	Percent
	39	1.9%
Affected by Direct organized violence	466	22.3%
Bereaved Families	158	7.5%
Case of Domestic Violence	185	8.8%
Case of ill-treatment	141	6.7%
Clinical Consultation	24	1.1%
COVID-19	4	0.2%
Disabilities'	21	1%
Ex-Detainees -Non Tortured	18	0.9%
Ex-Detainees-Tortured	123	5.9%
House Demolition	28	1.3%
inmate – CRC	210	10%
Organized violence	124	5.9%
Others	16	0.8%
Secondary victim of Tortured detainee	92	4.4%
Secondary victim of Tortured ex-detainees	50	2.4%
Secondary V.O. Non-tortured ex-detainees	56	2.7%
Social Cases	133	6.4%
Victim of military abandoned stocks of munitions	2	0.1%
Victim of The Wall	22	1.1%

Category	Frequency	Percent
War Consequences or collateral damage	172	8.2%
Injured	9	0.4%
Total	2,093	

The table below shows the type of interventions during 2019, where 761 received psychological first aid, as 341 had individual therapy and there were 82 beneficiaries took family therapy, whereas 607 beneficiaries received counseling and psychological counseling services.

Table (6): Number of cases served by type of service

Intervention services provided	Frequency	Percent
Psychological first aid	761	36.4%
Individual psychotherapy	341	16.3%
Group psychotherapy	302	14.4%
Family support	82	3.9%
Counseling	607	29%
Total	2,093	

There were more than 10 thousand treatment sessions

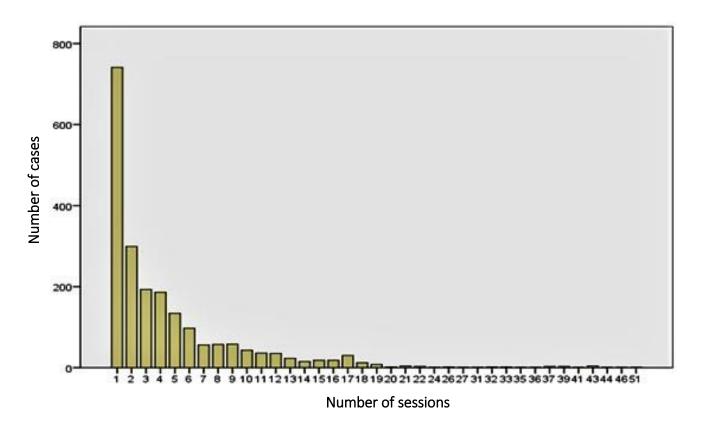


Figure (4): schematic representation of number of session conducted

Age distribution of the beneficiaries, as the number of children who benefited from the treatment were 963, representing 46% and the rest were adults.

Table (7): Number of cases served, by age

Age	Frequency	Percent
Children	963	46%
Adult	1,130	54%
Total	2,093	

4.3 Documentation Unit activities

- 1. Several trainings were conducted. The first training targeted psychosocial workers, counselors and those involved in documenting torture and ill-treatment, according to Istanbul Protocol. The training was held in Jericho with the participation of 22 beneficiaries, while the second training was conducted in Tubas with the participation of 33 participants.
- 2. Training about data management that was implemented in March 2019 in Amman with the participation of seven.
- 3. TRC employees took training about GBV- Gender Based Violence.
- 4. TRC participated in orientation workshops about shadow reports, especially the state report on the Convention against Torture.
- 5. Document more than 20 cases according to Istanbul Protocol.
- 6. Representing TRC in the health sector committee for PNGO Network, and participate in preparing the strategic plan.
- 7. Participation and representation of TRC in the third human rights conference that was held in Egypt in partnership with the Regional High Commissioner Office and the League of Arab States.
- 8. A study on the effect of administrative detention on administrative detainees and their families in Hebron Governorate.



Picture (9): Children in practice of activities

TRC Annual Report 2020 Infographic

Since 1997, TRC is an active member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) with 152 members from 75 countries.

In 2020, TRC was elected in the IRCT's executive committee.

TRC continues to act as the secretary of the Palestinian Coalition Against Torture PCAT

TRC provided MHPSS services to 2517 cases through 14248 sessions:



57% females 43% males



55% adults 45% children



57% of cases suffered from multiple trauma43% suffered from single trauma

Causes of trauma:













secondary victims of tortured

causes



family conflicts





victims of the apartheid





secondary victims of non-tortured detainees/ex-detainees



at Palestinian Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers



60 MHPSS workers form CSO benefited from 3 capacity building workshops conducted by TRC on Crisis Intervention Protocol, Data Protection and Narrative Therapy XX officers from PA's security forces and Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) received capacity building workshops on human rights conducted by TRC

XXX referrals for children in need for MHPSS were received from MoSD

360 participants from Jerusalem participated in 12 workshops conducted by TRC on safeguarding children's rights 420 children affected by occupation participated in 14 recreational days organized by TRC in Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron

300 parents participated in 10 recreational days organized by TRC in Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron

100 parents participated in 4 workshops on children's rights and well-being



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