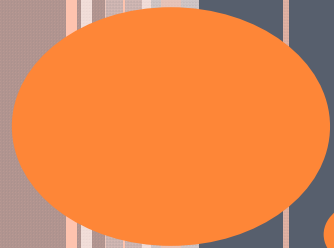




# **INEQUITY IN ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES FOR PALESTINIANS IN EAST JERUSALEM**

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**Palestinian youth volunteers contributing to improve access to emergency services to Palestinian Neighborhoods in East Jerusalem**



# EAST JERUSALEM



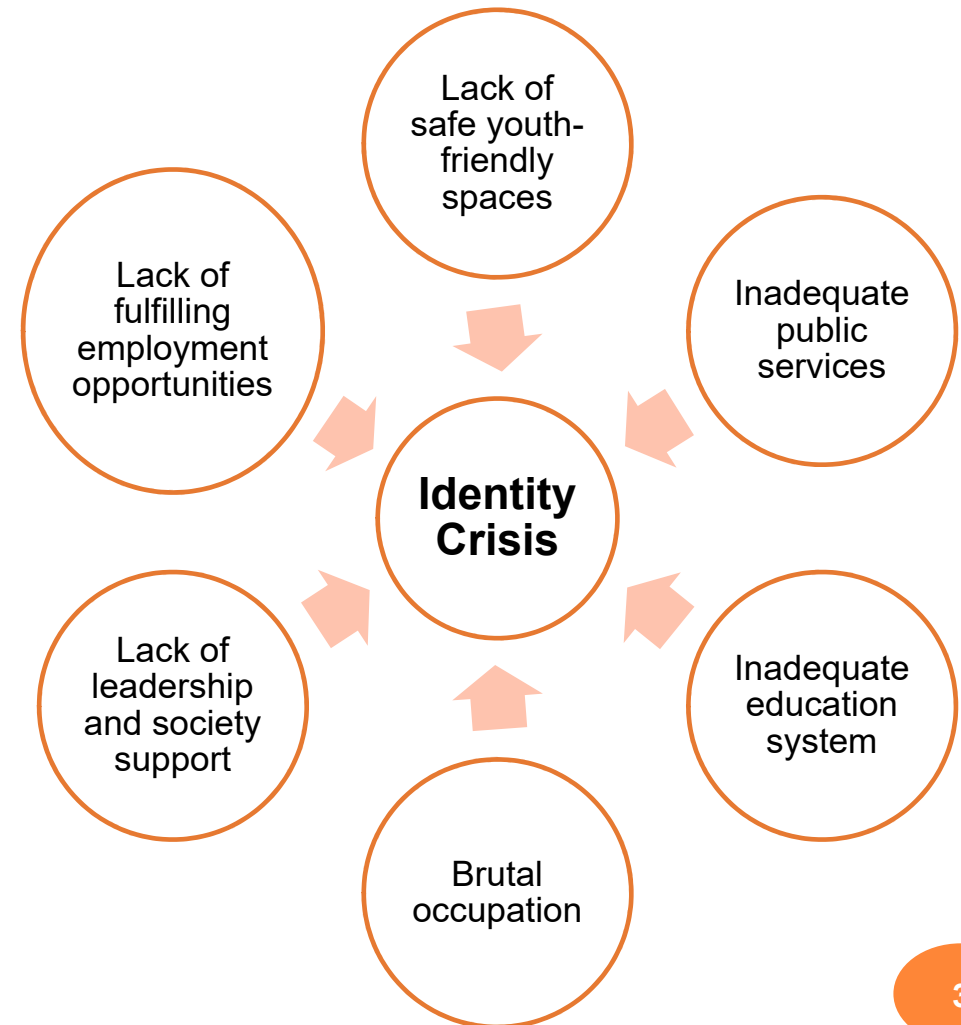
Problems and Causes



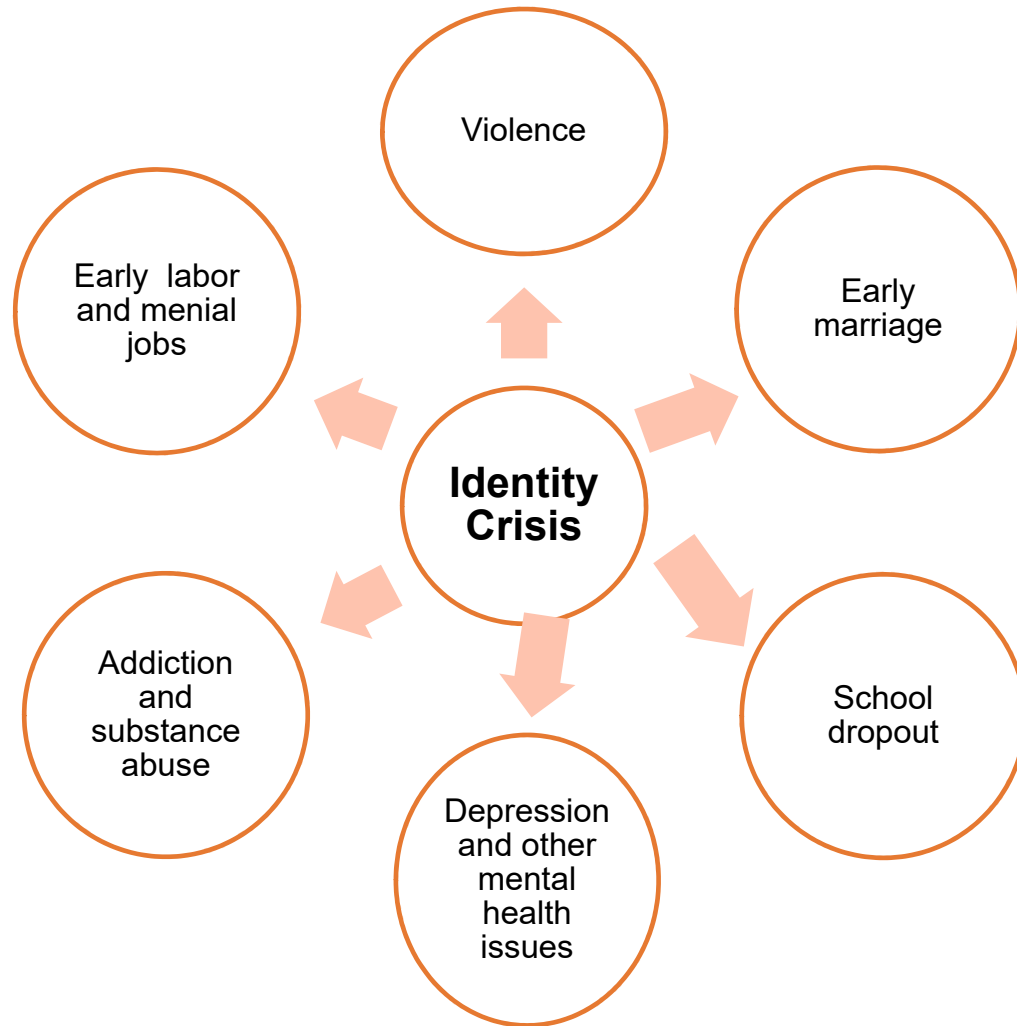
# 1. DISILLUSIONED YOUTH

## A. CAUSES

Discriminated against, separated from their fellow Palestinians by the wall, Palestinian youth in Jerusalem have for many years fallen between the cracks.

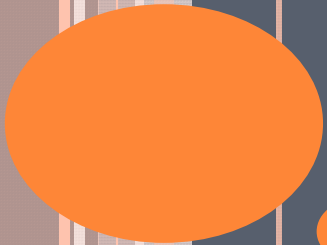


## B. CONSEQUENCES



## 2. Challenges in Access to Emergency Services

- Israeli emergency services are required by law to wait for police escort to enter some Palestinian neighborhoods in EJ
- The Palestinian Red Crescent – which has only 5 ambulances, none of which has an ICU unit – must obtain prior authorization from Israeli forces before intervening at any site in EJ
- During times of tensions, entire Palestinian neighborhoods might be sealed off by police



# PMRS INTERVENTIONS



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Increasing Community Emergency Preparedness and Empowering Youth



# 1. BUILDING UP EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

- PMRS trains teams of first responders from 14 community in vulnerable locations to be able to intervene until emergency services can reach the site.
- PMRS set up first aid stations in 8 neighborhoods across the city for volunteers to use
- PMRS organizes basic first aid and evacuation training in 54 local schools for faculty and students



Youth volunteers  
conduct a  
simulation exercise  
in Beit Hanina





Evacuation exercise  
in a school in Sur  
Baher

## 2. MOBILIZING YOUTH TO PROTECT THEM

- Around 1500 young Palestinian men and women trained in first aid & emergency preparedness in Jerusalem over the past 10 years
- Trained youth report a newfound purpose and feeling of usefulness at being able to help their communities, as well as a renewed sense of identity & a sense of pride
- First aid serves as a key to attract youth to the organization; other trainings are offered to increase their participation in the community & their civic engagement: advocacy, campaigning, communication, gender issues, environmental issues...

### 3. EMPOWERED YOUTH IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES' HEALTH & WELLBEING

- PMRS volunteers implement several small initiatives each year.
- In 2019, for instance, they:
  - rehabilitated gardens, planted herbs & fruit trees in 2 schools & 1 community center
  - applied fresh coats of paint in 3 schools
  - organized visits to orphanages and retirement homes
  - distributed cloth bags in bakeries and shops around the city to raise awareness about the impact of plastic
  - volunteered as youth leaders in PMRS's summer camp
  - organized a "bring your own book & come" at their local library for local children
  - ... and many more activities



*(left)* With the approval of the local authorities, PMRS volunteers paint the road sides in Al Ram's main street to ease up traffic and increase safety.

*(down)* PMRS school committee volunteers apply a coat of fresh paint to their school's playground walls.





Youth volunteers (in red) lead PMRS summer camp participants (in green) in Hizma