



تأسست سنة ١٩٥٢

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## The Impact of Gaza War and the Closure of Main Crossings on the Cleaning and Household Care Sector in Bethlehem Governorate

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry is preparing reports that analyses the repercussions of Gaza War and the closure of main crossings on various economic activities in Bethlehem Governorate. This report prepared during the period between November 17 to November 22, 2023, specifically focuses on evaluating the impact on the sector of the cleaning and household care products. The comprehensive non-regular purposive sample included 11 establishments, representing 85% of the study community, comprising 13 establishments from BCCI General Assembly members at various locations in the governorate.

### ➤ Summary of Results and Recommendations:

#### 1. Average Reduction in Consumption by 68%:

The findings revealed a substantial reduction in consumption, with 55% of the surveyed entities reporting a sales decline ranging from 70% to 95%. Additionally, the remaining 45% experienced a sales decline within the range of 30% to 50%. Notably, all participants in the study, constituting 100% of the sample, acknowledged restricting sales exclusively to essential items such as laundry/floor/dishes soap and paper disposable products.

#### 2. Average Workforce Reduction by 23%:

Results show that 64% of the surveyed sample maintained their workforce levels both before and after the war, with some adopting a rotation system among workers. Additionally, 18% of the sample reduced their workforce by more than 50%, while another 18% reported a complete workforce reduction of 100%.

### ➤ Key Challenges Impacting the Cleaning and Household Care Sector:

1. A Decrease in households' overall income, leading to a focus on essential cleaning products consumption only.
2. Increased internal transportation costs due to closures and barriers between cities and governorates.
3. Rise in external shipping costs and prices for importers due to currency differences.



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4. Cancellation of facilities previously provided to importers by foreign companies, such as payment and installment options.
5. Imposition of pressure on suppliers for immediate cash payments upon goods delivery.
6. A Relative decrease in consumption due to “wholesalers and distributors “dependence on the hotel, restaurant, and other service sectors.

**Note: Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry retains detailed responses from the sample included in the study.**