

# CSR Risk Check



## ISRAEL

### 8 country risk(s) have been identified

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- **LABOUR RIGHTS (4)**  
**DISCRIMINATION & GENDER (2 RISKS)**

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Women workers receive some 60% of the wages of their male counterparts in the Palestinian Territories, and wages are the lowest in sectors that are predominantly female, such as agriculture and services. Security issues, legislative discrimination and cultural issues deter more women from entering the labour force. Women make up less than 15% of employees in the Palestinian labour market according to the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU), and most of them are unorganised.

**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, Survey of violations of trade union rights - in practice 2012-2015, 2015](#)

According to Human Rights Watch, Israel provides Israeli businesses in the Palestinian territories in many cases with land, water infrastructure, resources, and financial incentives, and does not do so for Palestinian businesses. To the contrary; Human Rights Watch argues that that Israel has forcibly displaced Palestinians, restricts their freedom of movement, and limits their access to water and electricity. These discriminatory policies place Palestinian companies at a great disadvantage in comparison with Israeli companies, and have harmed the Palestinian economy.

**Sources:** [Human Rights Watch, Occupation, Inc.: How settlement businesses contribute to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights, 2016](#)

#### **LABOUR CONDITIONS (CONTRACTS, WORKING HOURS) (1 RISK)**

Despite the fact that Israeli law should be applied equally to both Israeli and Palestinian workers, in many instances employers continue to pay Palestinian workers less than the Israeli minimum wage. They work often in poor health and safety conditions. Increasingly children are also found working in settlements, often in construction with poor safety conditions and no insurance.

**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, Survey of violations of trade union rights - in practice 2012-2015, 2015](#)

#### **WAGE & REMUNERATION (1 RISK)**

According to Human Rights Watch, the combination of the lack of government oversight in the Palestinian territories, the lack of clear labour protections for Palestinians working there, and Palestinian workers' dependency on Israeli-issued work permits, creates an enabling environment for human rights violations. The organisation suggests that Israeli employers in the Palestinian territories may discriminate Palestinian workers, pay them below Israel's minimum wage, and deny them the benefits they do provide to Israeli employees (vacation, sick days, or other social benefits).

**Sources:** [Human Rights Watch, Occupation, Inc.: How settlement businesses contribute to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights, 2016](#)

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## • HUMAN RIGHTS & ETHICS (3)

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### CONFLICTS & SECURITY (2 RISKS)

This country is marked as a 'high risk' country for terroristic attacks on the Aon Terrorism Risk Map. It is considered as level 4 on a 1-5 scale.

**Sources:** [Aon, Terrorism risk map, 2020](#)

Israel has been in an armed conflict with Palestina for many years, which has cost the lives of many civilians. According to Human Rights Watch, the Israeli government is violating Palestinians' human rights in various ways. Read more in their [report](#).

**Sources:** [Human Rights Watch, World Report 2020 - Events of 2019, 2020](#)

### LAND USE & PROPERTY RIGHTS (1 RISK)

Selling products originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories may be in conflict with the law. The settlements are contrary to international law and therefore considered illegal. Suppliers can be accused of involvement in human rights violations. Furthermore, the trade in these products can lead to reputational damage.

**Sources:** [SOMO, Nederzettingenhandel en de rol van Nederlandse supermarkten bij mensenrechtenschendingen, 2015](#), [Human Rights Watch, Occupation, Inc.: How settlement businesses contribute to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights, 2016](#)

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## • ENVIRONMENT (1)

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### WATER USE & WATER AVAILABILITY (1 RISK)

According to the World Resources Institute, Israel suffers from a very high water stress. The water stress score is 4.8 on a scale of 0 (low risk) to 5 (extremely high risk). This means that more than 80% of the total renewable water supply is consumed. Both the agricultural (score 4.8) and the industrial (score 4.8) sector are major contributors in this matter.

**Sources:** [Science Advances, Four billion people facing severe water scarcity, 2016](#), [World Resources Institute, Aqueduct Country Rankings, 2019](#)

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