

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Announces the Preliminary Findings on the Governance Survey of the Palestinian Territory 2008

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics announced the Preliminary findings of the governance survey of the Palestinian Territory 2008 pointing out that the survey is a recent survey study, which is the first of its kind on the statistical level in the Arab world. PCBS also pointed out that the survey was conducted between October 16, 2008 and November 30, 2008 on a sample of 2,544 households; 1,764 households in the West Bank and 780 households in Gaza Strip (one member of each household –aged 18 and above- was interviewed).

The governance survey aims to establish detailed and comprehensive database on governance indicators in the Palestinian Territory through developing a special questionnaire to be the first of its kind. The questionnaire included a group of questions that has to do with the areas of the rule of law in the Palestinian Territory, public posts, elections, the efficiency of the Palestinian Legislative Council performance, the government, the NGOs, the freedom of opinion and expression, the freedom of the press and media, the freedom of accessing information, the freedom of forming parties, and the right to education, health, work, and women rights. The questions included professional experiences and individuals' perceptions.

The Preliminary findings of the survey, revealed:

- **17.0% of the Palestinian households had a Dispute among one of their members during the last five years; only 10.5% of them referred to the court for arbitration**
- **Based on personal experiences with the courts, 86.0% of individuals believed that Palestinian judges were independent**
- **42.0% of the Palestinian individuals in the Palestinian Territory stated that they would go to Palestinian courts in cases that Dispute arose**
- **39.0% of the individuals in Gaza Strip felt Not-Secure compared to 24.9% in West Bank**

Data showed that 17.0% of the Palestinian Territory households' members experienced Dispute during the last five years; however, only 10.5% of them (including 12.6% for the West Bank and 6.4% for Gaza Strip) referred to the court for arbitration. Additionally, most of the lawsuits in the Palestinian courts (79.2%) were criminal ones, including theft, fight, homicide or assault.

Moreover, the survey findings showed that 86.0% of individuals in the Palestinian Territory; (86.8% in the West Bank and 83.9% in Gaza Strip) believed that Palestinian judges were independent in making decisions. They had come to this conclusion through personal experience with courts. Additionally, 42.0% of the individuals said that they would go to Palestinian courts if they had a Dispute that required judicial intervention; 39.9% said they would refer to clannish arbitration; and 18.1% said they would seek other types of arbitration.

40.9% of the Palestinian Territory individuals felt Secure and 29.4% felt slightly secure. On the other hand, 29.7% of the individuals; (24.9% in the West Bank and 39.0% in Gaza Strip) felt Not-Secure at all. 42.7% of the Persons felt Not-Secure because of the Israeli occupation and 31.1% shared the same feeling due to security disorder; 61.3% in Gaza Strip and 16.2% in the West Bank

35.4% of the individuals said there were no freedom of press and media in the Palestinian Territory; including 28.3% in the West bank and 49.0% in Gaza Strip

Survey findings showed that 45.0% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory believed that the freedom of demonstration and peaceful assembly did not exist, 27.8% stated that the freedom of thought and belief did not exist, and 35.4% (28.3% in the West Bank and 49.0% in Gaza Strip) stated that there was no freedom of press and media in the Palestinian Territory.

64.3% of the individuals are unfamiliar with the constitution and internal covenant programs of any of the Palestinian factions; 66.7% in the West Bank and 59.7% in Gaza Strip

Survey findings showed that 86.7% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory believed that there is a corruption in the Palestinian factions; alternatively, 13.3% believed that there was no corruption within them. Moreover, 35.7% of the respondents said that they were familiar with the constitution and internal programs of the Palestinian factions; however, 64.3% were not familiar of which, 66.7% in the West Bank and 59.7% in Gaza Strip.

- **About one-half of the individuals believed that the women achievements were sufficient**
- **94.0% of the individuals believed that violence against women must not be allowed in any case**

The study showed that 66.3% of the interviewed individuals believed that men and women had equal opportunities to reach senior positions at the different institutions, 50.5% of the Persons believed that the women's achievements in the society were sufficient, and 53.2% stated that the adopted laws in the Palestinian Territory did not discriminate between men and women while 42.3% thought they did. 94.0% of the interviewed individuals rejected violence against women in any case.

- **The official Palestinian performance with respect to improving living standards was inadequate according to 63.4% of the interviewed individuals of the Palestinian Territory**
- **52.8% of the interviewed individuals in the Palestinian Territory believed that the official Palestinian anti-corruption performance was good**

Data revealed that, 63.4% of the interviewed individuals in the Palestinian Territory stated that the official Palestinian performance in creating better socioeconomic conditions was inadequate; 66.3% in the West Bank and 57.9% in Gaza Strip. 62.5% of the individuals in the West Bank said that the official Palestinian performance in providing security for the citizens was good compared to 35.6% who stated that it was inadequate. On the other hand, 72.9% in Gaza Strip described such performance as good while 26.7% described it as inadequate. Moreover, 52.8% of the Palestinian Territory population (42.5% in the West Bank and 72.5% in Gaza Strip) assessed the official Palestinian performance in fighting corruption as good.

97.3% of the Palestinian Territory's population stated that NGOs played effective role in the society

Data revealed that, 97.3% of the Palestinians in the Palestinian Territory agreed that NGOs played effective role in the society and 95.7% of them agreed that NGOs' programs were based on society's needs. Furthermore, 68.3% stated that NGOs played a role in monitoring policies and laws; whereas, 21.1% denied such role.

86.9% of the individuals said that they were satisfied with the Teachers' competency in the private sector schools compared to 79.9% in UNRWA and 55.5% in public schools

Governance survey revealed that there was a gap between individuals satisfaction with teaching methods and curriculum. Such gap was expressed in the fact that 44.6% of the individuals expressed satisfaction with teaching methods and curriculum of the public schools compared to 68.5% who were in favor of teaching methods and curriculum of the private one and 54.9% who were in favor of UNRWA-operated schools. Furthermore, 80.0% of the respondents were satisfied with the environment of the public schools and in terms of location and equipment compared to 88.0% who were satisfied with the private schools and 91.2% who were satisfied with the those of the UNRWA-operated schools. 86.9% of the Persons said that they were satisfied with the teachers' competency in the private schools compared to 79.9% and 55.5% who were satisfied with the Teachers' competency at UNRWA-operated schools and government schools, respectively. 85.1% were satisfied with the competencies of the teachers at the higher education institutions.

26.0% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory pointed out shortage of appropriate medical equipment at medical centers and hospitals

Findings revealed that, 88.1% of the persons said that cleanliness at medical centers and hospitals was good and 83.2% said that the competencies of the doctors of the Palestinian Territory were good; however, 26.0% of the individuals said that the availability of appropriate medical equipment was inadequate.

- **47.4% of the individuals are unsatisfied with their wages; 56.3% in the West Bank and 25.1% in Gaza Strip**
- **94.1% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory believed that the main reason of the increase of unemployment was the Israeli siege and occupation**

Data showed obvious variation between individuals satisfaction with their wages. In Gaza Strip, 74.2% of them said they were satisfied with their wages compared to 43.3% in the West Bank. Moreover, 51.9% of the individuals in West Bank said they felt secure at their jobs compared to 44.1% in Gaza Strip.

The main reason for the increase in unemployment rates in the Palestinian Territory was referred to the Israeli siege and occupation, according to 94.1% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory while 86.1% referred it to inefficient private sector and 85.7% to incorrect government policies.