

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

On the Eve of the International Illiteracy day, 8th of September

PCBS : Decreasing in Illiteracy rate among individuals 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory from 13.9% in 1997 to 5.4% in 2009, 76.0% of them are females.

In 2009, illiteracy rate among individuals 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory reached 5.4%, the rate varies considerably between males and females, it is 2.6% for males and 8.3% for females. The data reveals that the rates in the urban localities, rural localities and refugee camps are 4.8%, 7.0% and 5.6% respectively. Whereas the illiteracy rate among males in the urban localities, rural localities and refugee camps was 2.4%, 2.8% and 3.2% respectively, and the rate among females was in the urban localities 7.3%, rural localities 11.2% and refugee camps 8.1%.

Illiteracy rates among individuals 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory decreased in the period 1997-2009 from 13.9% to 5.4%. However, it decreased among males from 7.8% in 1997 to 2.6% in 2009, and among females it decreased from 20.3% to 8.3% for the same period. As for type of locality, the illiteracy rate in urban localities decreased from 12.4% in 1997 to 4.8% in 2009, decreased in rural localities from 16.9% to 7.0%, and in the refugee camps it decreased from 13.5% to 5.6% for the same period. In 2009, The lowest illiteracy rate among males was in urban localities (2.4%), followed by males in rural localities (2.8%), and the highest illiteracy rate among males in refugee camps was 3.2%. As for illiteracy rate among females, the highest rate 11.2% was in rural localities followed by the refugee camps 8.1%, while the lowest rate 7.3% in urban localities.

The highest illiteracy rate is found among the individuals 65 years and over in comparison with other age groups (56.2%), and it is 0.8% among individuals aged 15-24 years.

The highest illiteracy rate among individuals 15 years and over in 2009 was in Jericho and Al-Aghwar governorate (7.6%), followed by Hebron governorate at (7.6%), and the lowest rate was in Gaza governorate (3.8%).

In the Palestinian Territory, There are 123,033 illiterate persons in the age group 15 years and over in 2009, (81,520 of them are in the West Bank and 41,513 in Gaza Strip); They are distributed by sex as follows: 29,558 males and 93,475 females, and by type of locality they are distributed as follows: 73,229 illiterate person in urban localities, 36,702 in rural localities and 13,102 in refugee camps.