

## **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)**

**In the Occasion of the International Illiteracy day, 8<sup>th</sup> of September**

**PCBS :Despite the decrease in Illiteracy rate by 61% Since the founding of the Palestinian National Authority, still there is 124 thousand adult illiterate in the Palestinian Territory, 77% of them are females**

The illiteracy rates among individuals 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory decreased in the period 1995-2007 from 15.7% to 6.1%. However, it decreased among males from 8.5% in 1995 to 2.8% in 2007, and among females it decreased from 23.0% to 9.5% for the same period. While as by the type of locality, the illiteracy rate in urban localities decreased from 12.8% in 1995 to 5.2% in year 2007, in rural localities it decreased from 18.4% to 8.1%, and in the refugee camps it decreased from 15.5% to 5.7% in the same period.

In 2007, the illiteracy rate among individuals 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory reached 6.1%, while it varies considerably between males and females, it is 2.8% for males and 9.5% for females. The findings indicated that the rates in the urban, rural and refugee camps are 5.2%, 8.1% and 5.7% respectively. Where as the illiteracy rate among males in the urban, rural and refugee camps was 2.5%, 3.5% and 2.5% respectively, and among females in the urban 8.1%, rural 12.9% and refugee camps 8.8%.

The highest illiteracy rate is found among the individuals 65 years and over in comparison with other age groups (58.0%), and it is 0.9% among individuals aged 15-24 years.

The highest illiteracy rate among individuals 15 years and over in 2007 was in Tubas governorate (8.4%), followed by Jericho and Al-Aghwar and (Ramallah and Al-Bireh) governorates at (7.5%) for each, and the lowest rate was in North Gaza governorate (5.1%).

In the Palestinian Territory, There is 123,834 illiterate persons in the age group 15 years and over in 2007, 82,719 of them are in the West Bank and 41,115 in Gaza Strip, They are distributed by sex as follows: 28,216 males and 95,618 females, and by type of locality they are distributed as follows: 59,452 illiterate person in urban areas, 46,458 in rural areas and 17,924 in refugee camps.