

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

On the Eve of the International Population Day 11/07/2010

On the Eve of International Population day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released the following statistical review on the status of the Palestinian Population:

The total Population of the Palestinian Territory at mid 2010 was about 4.05 million, 2.51 million in the West Bank and 1.54 million in Gaza Strip.

One out of every fifth of participants in the labour force is unemployed in the first quarter of 2010.

8.7% of females(15 years and over) are illiterate, which is more than three times higher as males rate (2.6%) in 2009.

Demographic Status

Palestinian Population in Gaza Strip is younger than the West Bank Population

Based on estimates prepared by PCBS according to the results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, the total population of the Palestinian Territory at mid 2010 was about 4.05 million; 2.06 million males and 1.99 million females. The estimated population of the West Bank was 2.51 million; 1.27 million males and 1.24 million females. While the estimated population of Gaza Strip totaled 1.54 million; 779 thousand males and 756 thousand females. The percentage of urban population mid-2010 was about 73.7%, while the percentage of the rural population and camps areas was 17.0% and 9.3% respectively. Hebron governorate in the West Bank was the highest populated governorate 600 thousand mid 2010 and Jericho was the lowest populated governorate 45 thousand, while in Gaza Strip the highest was Gaza Governorate 535 thousand and the lowest was Rafah governorate totaled 189 thousand, mid 2010.

Data revealed that the population of the Palestinian Territory is young population; the percentage of individuals aged (0-14) constitutes 41.3% of the total population mid 2010, of which 39.4% in the West Bank and 44.4% in Gaza Strip. The elderly population aged (65 years and over constitute 3.0% of the total population, 3.3% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip, mid 2010 .

Population density of the Palestinian Territory in general is high at 672 persons/ Km² and particularly in Gaza Strip 4,206 persons/km² compared with lower population density in the West Bank at 444 persons/Km², mid 2010 .

High Fertility rates in the Palestinian Territory in 2007

Fertility in the Palestinian Territory is considered high if compared to other countries, although data of the last decade of the last century revealed that fertility is declining. According to final results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 1997, the total fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory has declined to 4.6 births in 2007 compared to

6.0 births in 1997. At the level the region, the fertility rate in Gaza Strip is higher than in the West Bank during the period (1997-2007), reached 4.1 births in the year 2007 in the West Bank compared to 5.6 births in 1997. In Gaza Strip has reached 5.2 births in 2007 compared to 6.9 births in 1997.

Population projections revealed that the crude birth rate in the Palestinian Territory is expected to drop from 32.8 births per one thousand of the population in 2010 to 31.9 births in 2015.

Crude mortality rate is expected to decline in the Palestinian Territory by 0.5 death during, 2010-2015

Available data showed that crude mortality rates are relatively low if compared to the rates prevailing in the Arab countries. Where the crude mortality rate is expected to decline in the Palestinian Territory from 4.1 deaths per 1000 of the population in 2010 to 3.6 deaths per 1000 in 2015, the crude mortality rate in the West Bank is expected to drop from 4.2 in 2010 to 3.8 deaths per one thousand in 2015, while in Gaza Strip it is expected to drop from 4.0 deaths in 2010 to 3.5 per one thousand in 2015. These results reflect the improvement in the quality of life, access to medical services and increased health awareness among the population and the development of health services.

Household

Decline in the average households size during the previous years in the Palestinian Territory

The total estimated households in the Palestinian Territory was 694,652; of which 457,357 household in the West Bank and 237,295 in Gaza Strip mid 2010. Data revealed that there was a decline in the average households size in the Palestinian Territory during the period (1997-2009), declined from 6.4 persons in 1997 to 5.8 in 2009. The average declined in the West Bank from 6.1 persons in 1997 to 5.6 in 2009, while it declined in Gaza Strip from 6.9 persons to 6.3 for the same period.

The results of the Household Culture Survey 2009, showed that 9.0% of households is headed by females in the Palestinian Territory; 9.9% and 7.2% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip respectively, the size of female headed households are relatively small, with an average size of 3.4 persons compared to 6.1 persons for male headed households.

Participation in Labour Force

Participation in labour force is a key indicator of the extent of labour market activity and effectiveness in providing job opportunities. The results of labour force survey revealed that the labour force participation rate decreased from 43.5% in the 3rd quarter of 2000 (Al Aqsa Intifada) to 40.7% of the total labour force (Persons aged 15 years and over) during the 1st quarter 2010; of which 43.2% in the West Bank compared to 36.3% in Gaza strip.

The females participation rate in labour force is very low compared to males participation rate (14.1%) of which 15.8% in the West Bank and 11.2% in Gaza Strip, against 66.7% for males; (70.7% in the West Bank and 60.9% in Gaza Strip).

Unemployment

More than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed (22.0%) in the first quarter of 2009.

The results showed that more than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed in the 1st quarter of 2010 at 22.0% (16.5% in the West Bank and 33.9% in Gaza Strip). Unemployment rate reached 26.8% among females compared with 21.1% among males. Unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory is considered very high compared to other countries; for instance unemployment rate was 12.9% in Jordan in 2009 and 7.2% in Israel in the 1st quarter of 2010. Data showed that the highest unemployment rate was in Tulkarm governorate at 24.9% followed by Hebron governorate at 21.2% and the lowest rate was in Jericho and Alaghwar governorate and Nablus governorate among the West Bank governorates 7.0% and 11.6% respectively, while among Gaza strip governorates, the highest unemployment rate was in Khan Yunis governorate at 41.0% followed by 35.8% in North Gaza governorate and the lowest was in Gaza governorate at 26.9% during the 1st quarter 2010.

Monthly Household Expenditure

The average monthly expenditure in the West Bank is higher than in Gaza Strip in 2007

The results of the Palestinian expenditure and consumption survey 2007 revealed that the average monthly household expenditure on various goods and services amounted to 608 JD in the Palestinian Territory (708 JD in the West Bank compared with 415 JD in Gaza Strip).

The major share of cash expenditure was on food at 33.0% of the total expenditure (31.7% in the West Bank compared with 37.7% in Gaza Strip).

Monthly per Capita Expenditure

Data showed an increase of 8.4% in the per capita expenditure in the West Bank in 2007 compared with 2006, where it increased from 107 JD in 2006 to 116 JD in 2007, while in Gaza Strip it decreased by 13.6%; decreased from 69 JD in 2006 to 60 JD in 2007.

Poverty

Out of every three households in the Palestinian Territory one household have suffered from poverty during the year 2007

The relative poverty line and the deep poverty line according to consumption patterns (for reference household consisted of 2 adults and 4 children) in the Palestinian Territory in 2007 were 2,375 NIS (US\$ 580), and 1,975 NIS (US\$ 482) respectively. The poverty rate among Palestinian households was 34.5% (23.6% in the West Bank, and 55.7% in Gaza Strip). The poverty rate according to the income patterns was 57.3% (47.2% in the West Bank, and 76.9% in Gaza Strip).

Data revealed that 23.8% of the households in the Palestinian Territory were suffering from deep poverty in 2007 according to consumption patterns , (13.9% in the West Bank, and

43.0% in Gaza Strip), while according to income patterns 48.0% of households were suffering from deep poverty (37.3% in the West Bank, and 69.0% in Gaza Strip).

Education

The 2009 data revealed that the percentage of individuals (15 years and over) who have completed university education (Bachelor and above) was 9.5%. while the percentage of individuals who did not complete any stage of education, reached 12.9%. These results showed that there were differences between males and females in educational attainment, where the percentage of males who have completed university education (Bachelor and above) was 10.4% compared to 8.6% for females. As for those who did not complete any stage of education, the percentage among males was 9.5% compared to 16.5% for females.

Illiteracy

Female illiteracy rate was more than three times higher than that of males in 2009

Illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years or over in the Palestinian Territory was 5.6% in 2009, illiteracy gap is significantly noticed among males and females, at 2.6% and 8.7% respectively. The results showed differences in illiteracy rate between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 5.1% and 5.4% respectively, while illiteracy rate among males in West Bank is equal with Gaza Strip (2.6%), while it is lower among females 15 years and over in Gaza Strip than in the West Bank (7.6% and 8.7% respectively).

Computer

The percentage of households that have computers in 2009 in the Palestinian Territory was 49.2% (51.1% in the West Bank and 45.6% in Gaza Strip). Data showed that 84.3% of households in the Palestinian territories own a computer to use for learning purposes, while 85.8% of households use for entertainment purposes, and 33.4% to be used for business purposes, and 83.6% of households used for the development of skills and capabilities, and 56.3% of households used for access to the Internet, and 1.8% of households in the Palestinian Territory used for other purposes.

Internet

28.5% of households in the Palestinian Territory had internet access in 2009

Data showed that 28.5% of households in the Palestinian Territory had Internet access in 2009, 27.2% in the West Bank and 30.9% in Gaza Strip. The data showed that more than half of individuals (10 years and over) can use the Internet (59.1%), while 32.3% of individuals were using Internet, this percentage varies significantly between males and females significantly, at 38.2% and 26.2% respectively.

Health Services in the Palestinian Territory

33.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian Territory are supervised by Non-governmental organizations in 2009

Data showed that the Ministry of Health supervised 32.4% of the hospitals, and 57.0% of total hospital beds in 2009, while UNRWA supervised one the of hospitals, and 1.3% of total beds. Non-governmental organizations supervised 33.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian Territory, and 27.5% of total hospital beds, while the private sector supervised 29.7% of hospital, and 12.7% of total hospital beds. Data showed military supervised 2.7% of the hospitals, and 1.5% of total hospital beds in 2009.

Health Insurance

Health insurance coverage is one of the most difficult areas in the Palestinian health system. This is due to the scarcity of national resources in addition to the diversity of widespread diseases, hampering the provision of health insurance packages and a comprehensive national Palestinian public insurance. Government health insurance includes Ministry of Health and Social Security, except the military insurance. Insurance is provided to all workers in the various institutions of the Palestinian National Authority and its associated institutions, is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health.

Data of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 revealed that the number of health insured individuals in the Remaining of West Bank (the West Bank excluding Jerusalem) reached 1,508,788 people constituting 75.6% of the total population of the West Bank, and the percentage of individuals who have government health insurance reached 42.9%.

Disabilities

The final results of the of Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, showed that 107,785 people in the remaining of the West Bank (the West Bank excluding Jerusalem) suffer from at least one disability/difficulty which compose 5.3% of the total population of the remaining of the West Bank); (55,557 and 52,228 among males and females respectively.

Housing Units Ownership

86.3% of housing Units in the Palestinian Territory is owned by a family member in 2008

In 2008, the percentage of Palestinian households that a family member owns hosing unit was about 86.3%; (83.0% in the West Bank and 93.0% in Gaza Strip), while the percentage of households living in rented houses in the Palestinian Territory was 9.2% (11.4% in the West Bank and 4.5% in Gaza Strip).

Connection to Public Networks

Available data for 2009 showed that 88.4% of households in the Palestinian Territory live in houses receiving water from the public network (95.8% in Gaza Strip and 84.5% in the West Bank). On the other hand, the majority of households in the Palestinian Territory live in houses connected to the electricity network at 99.9%.

About 47.4% of Palestinian households are living in houses connected to cesspits, where waste water is disposed through ;(63.5% in the West Bank and 16.0% in Gaza Strip). While there are 52.1% of Palestinian households are living in houses connected to public sewage network (35.5% in the West Bank compared with 83.8% in Gaza Strip).

Availability of Durable Goods

The available data for 2008 revealed that the electric refrigerator, gas stove, washing machine and television are the major available durable goods for the Palestinian households. 95.8% of the household have refrigerators, 99.0% have gas stove, 92.8% have washing machine, and 94.8% have television, while the central heating is available with low percentages in the West Bank and very limited in Gaza Strip.