

## **PCBS Reviews Status of Housing Sector in the Palestinian Territory on Arab Housing Day 30/9/2008**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) reviewed the status of Palestinian housing on Arab Housing Day, based on the decision of the Council of Arab Housing and Reconstruction Ministers in the framework of the League of Arab States to consider the first Monday of October of each year as Arab Housing Day.

The need of housing unit is the one of the most critical needs of life to proceed by anyone especially the Palestinian citizen who suffer from several problems in providing housing units for their households under Israeli Occupation.

The Israeli confiscation of land, expanding of settlement, building of the (Expansion and Annexation wall) and the difficulty of obtaining licensed housing units. Beside the Israeli aggregations there is bad economic situation of the Palestinian Refugee Camps. These problem caused the dominate and increasing of the private construction and real estate companies which increase the suffer of the Palestinian citizen

PCBS reviewed the most important indicators of housing in the Palestinian Territory, based on the latest updates available on the housing sector.

### **701,937 Number of Houses in the Palestinian Territory**

The final results of Building Report as Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2007 showed that the number of housing units was 701,937 in the Palestinian Territory, distributed as 456,314 housing units in the Remaining West Bank (excluding Jerusalem J1) and 245,623 housing units in Gaza Strip.

While the results showed that the number of occupied housing units (housing units represent habitation and habitation and work together) in the Palestinian Territory were 593,429 and distributed as 376,343 in the Remaining West Bank and 217,086 in Gaza Strip.

The results showed that 2,398 housing units was closed, vacant and deserted because of deportation and Israeli measures in the Palestinian Territory.

### **7,631 Number of Licensed Housing Units**

The number of new licensed housing units in 2007 increased from 5,576 in the year 2006 to 6,059 in 2007, while the number of licensed existing housing units in 2007 reached 1,572 housing units. The average area of a licensed housing unit was 140.0 m<sup>2</sup>, in 2007.

**1.7 Persons Per Room was the Average Housing Density in the Palestinian Territory**

The average housing density in the Palestinian Territory in general was 1.7 persons per room in 2007; the average for the West Bank was 1.6 persons per room whereas the average for Gaza Strip was 1.8 person per room. The average number of rooms in a housing unit in the Palestinian Territory was 3.6.

**53.3% of Households in the Palestinian Territory Live in the Pattern of the Traditional House**

The results of the annual housing report of 2007 indicate that 53.3% of households in the Palestinian Territory live in a house, while 45.0% live in apartment.

The percentage of households living in owned housing units in the Palestinian Territory was 87.6%.

**77,433 Buildings Damaged in the Palestinian Territory Since the Outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada**

Data of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing show that the number of damaged buildings in the Palestinian Territory since the outbreak of Al Aqsa Intifada until the date of 30/4/2007 was 77,433 buildings, including 69,330 partially damaged buildings, and 8,103 buildings destroyed or damaged significantly.