

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

On the Eve of the International Population Day 11/07/2012

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 main theme of International Population Day for this year " Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services"

The total Population of the Palestinian Territory at mid 2012 was about 4.29 million, 2.65 million in the West Bank and 1.64 million in Gaza Strip.

More than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed (23.9%) in the first quarter of 2012.

7.4% of females (15 years and over) are illiterate, which is more than three times higher as of males rate (2.1%) in 2012.

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 of 2007, the total population of the Palestinian Territory at mid 2012 was about 4.29 million; 2.18 million males and 2.11 million females. The estimated population of West Bank was 2.65 million of which 1.35 million males and 1.30 million females. While the estimated population of Gaza Strip totaled 1.64 million of which 835 thousand males and 809 thousand females. The percentage of urban population mid-2012 was about 73.8%, while the percentage of population in rural and camps areas was 16.8% and 9.4% respectively.

Data revealed that the population of the Palestinian Territory is a young population; the percentage of individuals aged (0-14) constituted 40.4% of the total population at mid 2012 of which 38.4% in the West Bank and 43.7% in Gaza Strip. The elderly population aged (65 years and over) constituted 2.9% of the total population of which 3.3% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip of mid 2012.

Population density of The Palestinian Territory is generally high at 713 persons/ Km² , particularly in Gaza Strip is 4,505 persons/km² compared to lower population density in the West Bank at 468 persons/Km² at mid 2012 .

High Fertility rates in the Palestinian Territory

Fertility in the Palestinian Territory is considered high compared to other countries, although data of last decade of last century revealed that fertility is declining. According to results of Family Health survey 2010, the total fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory had declined to 4.1 births (2008-2009) compared to 6.0 births in 1997. At the regional level, the fertility rate in Gaza Strip is higher than West Bank during the period between (1997-2009), where it reached 3.8 births during the period between (2008-2009) in the West Bank compared to 5.6 births in 1997. While it reached 4.9 births in Gaza Strip during the period between (2008-2009) compared to 6.9 births in 1997.

Population projections revealed that crude birth rate in Palestinian Territory is expected to drop from 32.7 births per one thousand of the population in 2012 to 31.9 births in 2015.

More decline in crude death rates during the next four years

Available data showed that crude death rates are relatively low compared to rates prevailing in Arab countries. Where crude death rate is expected to decline in the Palestinian Territory from 3.9 deaths per 1000 of the population in 2012 to 3.6 deaths per 1000 in 2015, the crude death rate in the West Bank is expected to drop from 4.0 in 2012 to 3.8 deaths per one thousand in 2015. While in Gaza Strip, it is expected to drop from 3.8 deaths in 2012 to 3.5 per one thousand in 2015. These results may reflect the improvement in the quality of life, access to medical services, development of health services and increased health awareness among the population.

Household

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

The total estimated households in the Palestinian Territory was 736 thousand households; of which 482 thousand households in the West Bank and 254 thousand households in Gaza Strip mid 2012. Data revealed a decline in the average of households size in the Palestinian Territory during the period between (1997-2011) from 6.4 persons in 1997 to 5.8 in 2011. This average declined in the West Bank from 6.1 persons in 1997 to 5.6 in 2011, while it declined in Gaza Strip from 6.9 persons to 6.4 for the same period.

The results of the Labour Force Survey of 2011 showed that 9.3% of households were headed by females in the Palestinian Territory as of 10.0% and 7.9% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip respectively, the size of female-headed households were relatively small, with an average size of 3.3 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 in the 1st quarter of 2012 is 43.4% of the total labour force (Persons aged 15 years and above) of which 45.4% in the West Bank and 39.9% in Gaza strip.

The females participation rate in labour force is very low compared to males participation rate in the 1st quarter of 2012 is 17.3% of which 19.3% in the West Bank and 13.7% in Gaza Strip, against 68.9% for males; of which 70.8% in the West Bank and 65.5% in Gaza Strip.

Unemployment

More than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed (23.9%) in the first quarter of 2012

The results showed that more than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed in the 1st quarter of 2012 at 23.9% as of 20.1% in the West Bank and 31.5% in Gaza Strip. Unemployment rate reached 31.5% among females compared to 22.0% among males.

Monthly Household Expenditure

More than a third of total expenditure spending on food

The results of the Palestinian expenditure and consumption survey of 2011 revealed that the average monthly household expenditure on various goods and services amounted to 945.4 JDs in the Palestinian Territory as of 1058.4 JDs in the West Bank compared to 729.3 JD in Gaza Strip).

The major share of cash expenditure was on food at 34.5% of the total expenditure (32.7% in the West Bank compared with 39.4% in Gaza Strip).

Poverty

25.8% of individuals in in the Palestinian Territory suffered from poverty during the year of 2011

The relative poverty line and the deep poverty line according to consumption patterns (for reference household consisted of 2 adults and 3 children) in the Palestinian Territory in 2012 were 2,293 NIS, and 1,832 NIS respectively. The poverty rate among Palestinian individuals was 25.8 (17.8% in the West Bank, and 38.8% in Gaza Strip).

Data revealed that 12.9% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory were suffering from deep poverty in 2010 according to consumption patterns. (7.8% in the West Bank, and 21.1% in Gaza Strip).

Education

The 2011 data revealed that the percentage of individuals (15 years and over) who completed university education (A bachelor degree and above) was 11.3%. while the percentage of individuals who did not complete any stage of education reached 10.8%. 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 12.0% compared to 10.5% for females. As for those who did not complete any stage of education, their percentage among males was 8.3% compared to 13.4% for females.

Illiteracy

Female illiteracy rate was more than three times higher than that of males in 2011

Illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years or over in the Palestinian Territory was 4.7% in 2011, illiteracy gap is significantly noticed among males and females at 2.1% and 7.4% respectively. The results showed differences in illiteracy rate between the West Bank and Gaza Strip at 4.9% and 4.5% respectively.

Computer

The percentage of households who had personal computers in 2011 in the Palestinian Territory was 50.9% of which 53.2% in the West Bank and 46.5% in Gaza Strip.

Internet

30.4% of households in the Palestinian Territory had internet access in 2011

Available data indicated that 30.4% of households in the Palestinian Territory had Internet access in 2011 of which 30.6% in the West Bank and 30.0% in Gaza Strip. The data showed that 39.4% of

individuals (10 years and over) were using Internet, this percentage varies significantly between males and females at 44.3% and 34.3% respectively.

Health Services in the Palestinian Territory

Decline in the percentage of unsafe deliveries

In 2010, 0.8% of deliveries in the Palestinian Territory occurred at home or in other unsafe places; 1.2% in the West Bank compared to 0.3% in Gaza Strip. while the percentage was 5.2% in the Palestinian Territory in 2000.

High rate of ante-natal and natal care

In 2010, 99.4% of married women aged 15-49 in the Palestinian Territory reported receiving health care (4 visit at least) from qualified personnel during their last pregnancy: 99.5% in the West Bank and 99.3% in the Gaza Strip.

36.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian Territory are supervised run by Non-governmental organizations in 2010

Data showed that the Ministry of Health supervised run 33.0% of the hospitals, and 58.8% of total hospital beds in 2010, while UNRWA supervised run 1.3% of hospitals, and 1.2% of total beds. Non-governmental organizations supervised run 36.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian Territory, and 29.3% of total hospital beds, while the private sector supervised run 26.3% of hospital, and 9.3% of total hospital beds. Data showed that military supervised run 2.6% of the hospitals, and 1.4% of total hospital beds in 2010.

Disabilities

About 113 thousand people with disabilities in the Palestinian Territory of which 75 thousand in the West Bank, or 2.7% of the total population in the West Bank; and 38 thousand in the Gaza Strip; or 2.4% of the total population in the Gaza Strip are with disabilities. And the ratio was 2.9% among males and 2.5% among females within the Palestinian Territory.

Housing Units Ownership

85.1 of housing Units in the Palestinian Territory is owned by a family member in 2011

In 2011, the percentage of Palestinian households that a family member owned a housing unit was about 85.1% of which 80.7% in the West Bank and 93.6% in Gaza Strip, while the percentage of households who were living in a rented houses in the Palestinian Territory was 7.0% of which 8.7% in the West Bank and 3.7% in Gaza Strip.

Connection to Public Networks

Available data for 2011 showed that 91.8% of households in the Palestinian Territory lived in houses that supplied with drinking water from public network of which 89.4% in the West Bank and 96.4% in Gaza Strip. Moreover, the majority of households in the Palestinian Territory lived in houses connected to the electricity network at 99.9%.

About 44.3% of Palestinian households were living in houses connected to cesspits. where waste water disposed through of which 58.6% in the West Bank and 16.9% in Gaza Strip. While there were 55.0% of Palestinian households were living in houses connected to public sewage network of which 40.2% in the West Bank compared with 83.1% in Gaza Strip.