



**Palestine National Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**



Special Report on the 58th Anniversary of the Nakba

“Catastrophe”

Public Relations Department

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On the eve of the 58th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe) of 1948, the PCBS president presented the statistics of current conditions prevailing in Palestinian society and disclosed the following:

- **The Palestinian people kept their Palestinian Identity and national loyalty despite displacement of half of their population from their homeland.**
- **Palestinians in Israel are still keeping their Palestinianism in terms of identity and national loyalty despite living and residing in their homeland within Israel.**
- **Palestinians in Israel doubled in number 7 times since the Nakba and reached 1.1 million people.**
- **Absence of any development vision, economic setbacks, and increase in unemployment and poverty rates in Palestinian territory are main characteristics of our society.**
- **Demography was a crucial factor in stipulating Israeli disengagement from the Gaza strip but could be an internal developmental burden to Palestinians in future, taking into consideration the negative impact of the Israeli annexation and expansion wall on the socio-economic conditions in Palestine.**

58 Years have passed since Israel was established on the destruction and dispossession which shattered the Palestinians especially those who were expelled from their homeland and lost their property: this was the Palestinian Nakba, the “Catastrophe.”

The Nakba is considered as the black event marking Palestinian modern history: on one side, the Palestinians were displaced and lost their homes and lands and, on the other side, they became homeless all over the world and suffered myriad kinds of misfortune.

The immediate results of the Nakba were the occupation of more than three quarters of Palestine land, destruction of 531 localities and displacement and expulsion of about 85% of the Palestinian population.

Population and Demographic Balance

The estimated number of Palestinians who were expelled as a result of the Nakba is about 750,000 persons in addition to approximately 350,000 persons in 1967. The Palestinians in the Diaspora are estimated currently to be about 5.1 million. They are mainly in Jordan (about 3 million), 1.6 million are distributed in other Arab countries and the rest are in Western countries including Europe, U.S.A and Latin America.

Refugees make up about half of the Palestinians in the Diaspora and are represented in the Palestinian Territory also. Based on UNRWA records for the end of 2004, the number of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza total 4.2 million,

many of whom live in 59 camps, distributed as follows: 10 Camps in Jordan, 10 camps in Syria, 12 camps in Lebanon, 19 camps in the West Bank and 8 camps in the Gaza Strip. The average size of the Palestinian household in Jordan is about 6.2 persons, compared to 5.5 persons in Syria and 4.9 persons in Lebanon. The illiteracy rate for Palestinians 15 years and over in the neighboring countries is 17.6% in Jordan, 19.0% in Syria and 33.9% in Lebanon.

The estimate of the number of Palestinians who remained in their homeland in the 1948 territories after the Nakba is 154,000 persons, compared to 1.13 million persons in the 58th anniversary of the Nakba. The sex ratio is 103.4 males per 100 females, and the percentage of persons aged less than 15 years is 41.2% of total population, compared with 3.1% aged 65 years and over.

The data reveal that about 25% of the Palestinians in Israel were recently exposed to at least one kind of property confiscation. Even after the Nakba, 15.1% of Palestinians who are still behind the green line are considered to be displaced. The available data indicate that the literacy rate is 94.4% among persons aged 15 years and over, and the education enrolment rate for persons aged 5-17 years is 97.8%; and 77% for persons aged 18 years and over. The labor force participation rate among Palestinians in the 1948 territories is 43.6% of total persons aged 15 years and over, and the unemployment rate is 11.4%. The average number of persons per room is about 1.3 persons.

The population of the Palestinian Territory is estimated to be 3.88 million at the mid 2006, with 2.44 million in the West Bank and 1.44 million in Gaza Strip. The estimated population of the Palestinian Territory by mid 2010 is 4.4 million, with 2.7 million in the West Bank and 1.7 million in Gaza Strip. The number of Palestinian people in the Jerusalem governorate is 407,000 persons, of which about 254,000 live in those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israel in 1967.

The data base shows that 42.5% of the population in the Palestinian Territory are refugees. They are estimated to be 1.6 million at the end of 2005, of which 655,000 (27.2%) are in the West Bank and 969,000 (68.4%) are in Gaza Strip.

The fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory is high compared to other countries. The total fertility rate in 2003 was 4.6 births, 4.1 births in the West Bank and 5.8 births in Gaza Strip. In mid 2006 the crude birth rate in the Palestinian Territory is 36.7 births per 1000 population, 33.7 births in the West Bank and 41.7 births in Gaza Strip. The crude death rate in the Palestinian Territory in mid 2006 is 3.9 deaths per 1000 population, 4.0 deaths in the West Bank, and 3.8 deaths in Gaza Strip. Following a decline in mortality rates, life expectancy at birth increased in the Palestinian Territory to 71.7 years for males and 73.2 for females.

Housing Conditions

The Housing conditions data reveal that the average number of household persons per room was 1.9 persons per room in the Palestinian Territory refugee camps. The average for the West Bank refugee camps is 1.8 persons per room and for Gaza Strip refugee camps is 1.9 persons per room. Likewise, the percentage of household members living in highly crowded conditions (three persons or more per room) in the Palestinian Territory refugee camps was 15.3% but varies as well: 14.2% in the West Bank refugee camps and 15.9% in Gaza Strip refugee camps.

Labor Force

The labor force participation rate in the Palestinian Territory in 2005 reached 40.7% (42.9% in the West Bank and 36.7% in Gaza Strip). The unemployment rate was 23.5%, 20.3% in West Bank and 30.3% in Gaza Strip. The median daily wage for Palestinian wage employees was NIS 65.4 in the West Bank and NIS 57.7 in Gaza Strip.

Educational Status

The data for the scholastic year 2005/2006 indicated that the number of schools in the Palestinian Territory was 2,277 schools, distributed by supervising authority as follows: 1,726 governmental schools, 279 UNRWA schools, 272 private schools. Of these, 1,715 schools were in the West Bank, and 562 schools were in Gaza Strip. The number of pupils in these schools was 1.067 million, of which 535,000 were males and 532,000 were females. The number of students in the West Bank was 633,000 and in Gaza Strip 434,000 and distributed according to supervising authorities as follows: 749,000 enrolled in governmental schools, 251,000 enrolled in UNRWA schools, and 66,000 enrolled in private schools. The number of school teachers is 40,953 (18,632 males and 22,321 females), of which 26,094 were in the West Bank and 14,859 in the Gaza Strip. As well, the illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years and above was 7.1% in 2005. This rate varies between males and females: 3.1% for males and 11.1% for females.

In the Palestinian Territory, there are 11 universities and 13 university colleges (offering programs leading to the bachelor degree). 3 universities and 4 university colleges are in Gaza Strip, and 8 universities and 9 university colleges are in the West Bank. There are 19 intermediate community colleges, 14 in the West Bank and 5 in Gaza Strip.

Living Situation

47.8% of the households in the Palestinian Territory reduced expenditures on basic needs during the last 12 months.

27.2% of households received humanitarian assistance during the fourth quarter of 2005; on the other hand, 67.0% of the households reported that they need assistance.

UNRWA is rated highest at 58.4% concerning the frequency of providing assistance for

households, followed by PNA institutions (including Ministry of Social Affairs) at 15.6%, with relatives at 11.6%, labour unions at 8.1% and charity institutions and committees (including Zakat) at 4.4%.

65.1% of the total assistance is provided in the form of food supplies, and 21.1% in cash.

Macroeconomics

Prices in the Palestinian Territory increased by 3.47% in 2005 (2.89% in the West Bank, and 1.17% in Gaza Strip). In March 2006, compared to September 2000, prices increased by 23.31% in the Palestinian Territory (24.68% in the West Bank, and 14.14 % in Gaza Strip).

The main findings of the Palestinian National Accounts Report, developed by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for 2005 at constant prices, indicate that the Gross Domestic Product in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip was US \$4,456.4 million. The per capita share of GDP amounted to \$ 1,268.20.

Trade Deficit

The results indicate that the total value of imports of goods in 2004 was US \$ 2,373.2 million. The results indicate that imports of services was US \$ 94.0.5 million and the total value of exports in 2004 was US\$ 312.7 million. The total value of export of services to Israel in 2004 was US\$ 92.6 million. The results indicate that the net trade balance amount to US\$ (-2.1) billion in goods with a surplus of 35.5% compared with 2003, while the net trade balance on services showed a deficit of US\$1.5 million.

Economic Establishments

The number of establishments in the Palestinian Territory totaled 118,703 at the end of 2004, distributed as follows: 105,238 operating establishments, 5,897 closed establishments, 1,118 establishments are in process of being established, and 6,450 auxiliary activity units.

Operating establishments by tenure are distributed as follows: 94,381 private establishments, 6,090 public establishments and 3,218 establishments classified under other tenures.

Tourism and Hotels

The main findings of the hotel activity during 2005 show that the number of hotels operating in the Palestinian Territory was 77. There were 3,648 rooms with 7,732 beds. The total number of guests in those hotels was 131,908 and they spent 350,220 nights.

Agriculture

The main finding of the Farm Structure Survey, 2004/2005 shows that 95.5% of the agricultural holders in the Palestinian Territory are males, and 25.6% of the holders have

a household size of 10 persons and more. The results show that plant holdings are the most common holding type, representing 69.5% of the total number of agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory.

The results show that the agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory are concentrated in the group of small size holdings of (1-10) dunums, representing 58.4% of agricultural holdings. The results show that area of trees horticulture comprises the highest percent of the total cultivated area in the Palestinian Territory, reaching 58.9%, followed by the area of field crops with 30.3% and vegetables with 10.8%.

The agricultural sector was subject to different kinds of damage from the beginning of the second Intifada (Al-Aqsa Intifada) in the fourth quarter 2000 due to Israeli measures against this vital sector. The data show that 26.1% of the agricultural holdings were subjected to damage due to Israeli measures in the Palestinian Territory; in the West Bank the percentage was 23.1% and in the Gaza Strip, 50.3%.

Plant holdings accounted for 68.4% of the total number of damaged holdings in the Palestinian Territory, while 27.1% were mixed holdings and 4.5% were animal holdings.

Israeli Settlements in the Palestinian Territory

The data shows that the number of formal settlements in the West Bank totaled 148 at the end of 2004. Data indicate that the number of settlers in the West Bank in 2004 reached 432,275 settlers. At the end of 2004, data show that the highest number of settlers lives in the Jerusalem Governorate (236,480 settlers), with 184,229 of them living in those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israel in 1967; 67,279 settlers live in Ramallah & Al-Bireh Governorate.

Expansion and Annexation Wall

149 Palestinian localities were affected by the Expansion and Annexation Wall until the end of May 2005, with 675,000 Palestinian living in these localities; 15 of these localities with 44,000 Palestinians became west of the wall. A total of 47,921 dunums of land has been confiscated since the building of the Expansion and Annexation Wall until the end of May 2005, with most of the confiscations in the north of the West Bank; 22,530 dunums was confiscated in the north of the West Bank. Confiscated land in the middle of the West Bank totaled 19,107 dunums, and confiscated land in the south of the West Bank was 6,284 dunums.

The results show that the area of land isolated since the building of the Expansion and Annexation Wall until the end of June 2005 is about 301,122 dunums; most of this land is located in the north of the West Bank, where 191,336 dunums is isolated land. The area of isolated land in the middle of the West Bank is 66,023 dunums, and in the south is 43,763 dunums.

Concerning the impact of the wall on socio-economic conditions of Palestinian households in the localities in which the wall passes through, as of August 2005, 29.0% of the individuals in the affected localities abandoned their education due to the security situation and the bad economic conditions. 69.1% of the households were forced to be absent from (university and college) due to the closure. 79.9% households have at least one member attending (basic/secondary) education who was forced to be absent from school due to the closure.

The survey results indicate that 42.1% of the Palestinian households in the localities affected by the expansion and annexation wall indicated that they suffer separation from the health services in the main cities. Also 31.4% of the households report a lack of child health care services, and 41.6% report a lack of medicines and other essential medical needs.

21.6% of Palestinian households in the localities affected by the wall report that one of their members have been separated from relatives, and 57.3% of households living in localities affected by the wall had their ability to visit relatives affected. The wall also affected the ability of 80.4% of households to visit religious and holy places.