

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics “PCBS” Released the Poverty Estimates for 2009

21.9% of individuals in the Palestinian population suffered from poverty in 2009

The data in this release depend on the 2009 Palestinian Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey (PECS) which was conducted during the period 15/1/2009 – 14/1/2010.

The estimates depend on a standard family composed from two adults and four children, two poverty lines were prepared; the Poverty Line which reflects the basic needs (food, clothing and housing) in addition to the core needs like health care, education, transportation, personal care, and house utilities; and the Deep Poverty Line which reflects the basic needs (food, clothing and housing).

The main results are as follows:

The estimated poverty line was 2,278 NIS (581 US \$), while the deep poverty line 1,870 NIS (477 US \$). The results revealed that 21.9% of the individuals in the Palestinian Territory suffered from poverty in 2009 with 15.5% in the West Bank and 33.2% in Gaza Strip. On the other hand, 12.0% suffered from deep poverty (7.5% in the West bank and 20.0% in Gaza Strip). The poverty severity in Gaza Strip was higher (4.2%) than in the West Bank (1.4%).

The results also indicated that the poverty rates decreased from 31.2% in 2007 to 21.9% in 2009, and the poverty gap decreased from 5.8% in 2007 to 4.9% in 2009.

The size of the family is positively correlated with poverty rate, it was found that the poverty rate among households consist from 10 individuals and more was 36.2%, while it significantly decreased to 9.0% among households with 2 – 3 individuals. Moreover, the number of children in the household has the same impact on the poverty rate, it was 14.1% among households with 1 – 2 children while it jumps to 35.3% for households with 7 – 8 children.

The results showed that households headed by women are less poorer than those headed by men, the poverty rate for households headed by women was 17.0% while it reached 18.6% for households headed by men.

Regarding the relation between the education of the head of household and poverty prevalence, it was found that education and poverty are highly negative correlates, i.e. the increase of educational attainment decreases the poverty rates. The results

showed that poverty rate among household headed by persons with no education was 27.4%, and decreased to only 4.6% among those households headed by persons completed Bachelor and above educational levels.

It was also noticed that the participation of the head of household in the labor force has the same characteristic as education, i.e. there is a negative relation between poverty and participation in the labor force. The poverty rate among households headed employed persons was 14.0% and increased to 44.0% among households headed by unemployed persons.