

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

On the Eve of International Population Day 11/7/2009

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

The total Population of the Palestinian Territory mid 2009 was about 3.9 million, 2.4 million in the West Bank and 1.5 million in Gaza Strip.

One out of every four of participants in the labour force is unemployed in the first quarter of 2009.

9.1% of females(15 years and over) are illiterate, which is about four times as males rate of 2.9% in 2008.

Demographic Status

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

Based on estimates prepared by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics according to the results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, the total population of the Palestinian Territory mid 2009 was about 3.9 million; 2.0 million males and 1.9 million females. The estimated population of the West Bank was 2.4 million; 1.2 million males and 1.2 million females. While the estimated population of Gaza Strip totaled 1.5 million; 755 thousand males and 732 thousand females. The percentage of urban population mid-2009 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 581 thousand mid 2009 and Jericho was the lowest populated governorate 44 thousand, while in Gaza Strip the highest was Gaza Governorate 519 thousand and the lowest was Rafah governorate totaled 182 thousand, mid 2009.

Data revealed that the population of the Palestinian Territory is young population; the percentage of individuals aged (0-14) constitutes 41.9% of the total population mid 2009, of which 40.0% in the West Bank and 44.9% in Gaza Strip. The elderly population aged (65 years and over constitute 3.0% of the total population, 3.4% in the West Bank and 2.5% in Gaza Strip, mid 2009 .

Population density of the Palestinian Territory in general is high at 654 persons/ Km² and particularly in Gaza Strip 4,073 persons/km² compared with lower population density in the West Bank at 433 persons/Km², mid 2009 .

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 with 4.6 births in 2007 compared to 6.0 births in 1997. At the level of the region high rate of total fertility in Gaza Strip 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 32.7 births per one thousand of the population in 2008 to 31.9 births in 2015.

Crude mortality rate is expected to decline in the Palestinian Territory by 0.7% during, 2008-2015

Available data showed that crude mortality rates are relatively low if compared to the rates prevailing in Arab countries. Where the crude mortality rate is expected to decline in the Palestinian Territory from 4.4 deaths per 1000 of the population in 2008 to 3.6 deaths per 1000 in 2015, the crude mortality rate in the West Bank expected to drop from 4.5 in 2008 to 3.8 deaths per one thousand in 2015, while in Gaza Strip is expected to drop from 4.2 deaths in 2008 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 years 1997-2007 in the Palestinian Territory

The total estimated households in the Palestinian Territory was 675,524; 445,684 household in the West Bank and 229,840 in Gaza Strip mid 2009. Data revealed that there was a decline in the average households size in the Palestinian Territory during the period (1997-2007), declined from 6.4 persons in 1997 to 5.8 in 2007. The average declined in the West Bank from 6.1 persons in 1997 to 5.5 in 2007, while it declined in Gaza Strip from 6.9 persons to 6.5 for the same period.

The results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census, 2007, showed that 8.8% of households is headed by females in the Palestinian Territory; 9.7% and 7.1% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip respectively, the size of female headed households are relatively small, with an average size of 3.5 persons compared to 6.5 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 41.4% of the total labour force (Persons aged 15 years and over) during the 1st quarter 2009; of which 42.8% in the West Bank compared to 38.9% in Gaza strip.

The females participation rate in labour force is very low compared to males participation rate; 15.4% of which 16.5% in the West Bank and 13.5% in Gaza Strip, against 66.9% for males; 68.5% in the West Bank and 63.8% in Gaza Strip.

Unemployment

More than one fourth of participants in the labour force were unemployed (25.4%) in the first quarter of 2009.

The results showed that more than one fourth of participants in the labour force were unemployed in the 1st quarter of 2009 at 25.4% (19.5% in the West Bank and 37.0% in Gaza Strip). Unemployment rate reached 23.8% among females compared with 25.7% among males. Unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory is considered very high compared to other countries; for instance unemployment rate was 13.1% in Jordan in 2007 and 6.1% in Israel in the 4th quarter of 2008. Data showed that the highest unemployment rate was in Tulkarm governorate at 26.3% followed by Hebron governorate at 25.6% and the lowest rate was in Jericho and Alaghwar governorate and Jerusalem governorate among the West Bank governorate 6.2% and 11.0% respectively, while among Gaza strip governorates, the highest unemployment rate was in Khan Younis governorate at

46.7% followed by 39.0% in North Gaze governorate and the lowest was in Gaza governorate at 29.8% during the 1st quarter 2009.

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), taking into consideration that the average household size was 6.1 in the West Bank and 6.9 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 Territories 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 deep poverty (37.3% in the West Bank, and 69.0% in Gaza Strip).

Education

Results of Labour Force survey 2008 revealed that the percentage of individuals (15 years and over) who have completed university education (Bachelor and above) was 8.8%. while the percentage of individuals who did not complete any stage of education, reached 12.5%. 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 9.9% compared to 7.6% for females. As for those who did not complete any stage of education, the percentage among males was 9.4% compared to 15.7% for females.

Illiteracy

Female illiteracy rate was more than three times higher than that of males in 2008

Illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years or over in the Palestinian Territory was 5.9% in 2008, illiteracy gap is significantly noticed among males and females, at 2.9% and 9.1% respectively. The results showed differences in illiteracy rate between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 6.1% and 5.6% respectively, while illiteracy rate among males in West Bank is higher than in

Gaza Strip (2.9% and 2.7% respectively), while it is lower among females 15 years and over in Gaza Strip than in the West Bank (8.6% and 9.4% respectively).

Computer

The percentage of households that have computers in 2006 in the Palestinian Territory was 32.8% (33.9% in the West Bank and 30.8% in Gaza Strip). While the rate of households having (Satellite) was 80.4% (82.7% in the West Bank and 75.9% in Gaza Strip).

Internet

15.9% of households in the Palestinian Territory had internet access in 2006

Data showed that 15.9% of households in the Palestinian Territory had Internet access in 2006, 15.7% in the West Bank and 16.2% in Gaza Strip. The data showed that half of individuals (10 years and over) know using the Internet (49.9%), while 18.4% of individuals were using Internet, this percentage varies significantly between males and females significantly, at 23.6% and 13.1% respectively. Data showed that the home was the main place for using internet at 49.6% with a significant variation among males and females (43.6%, 60.6%) respectively. As for the time of using Internet, 39.6% of individuals aged 10 years and over used it between 3-8 pm, and 36.7% used the Internet after 8 pm.

Health Services in the Palestinian Territory

36.8% of hospital in the Palestinian Territory are supervised by Non-governmental organizations, 2008

Data showed that the Ministry of Health supervised 31.6% of the hospitals, and 58.0% of total hospital beds in 2008, while UNRWA supervised one the of hospitals, and 1.3% of total beds in 2008. Non-governmental organizations supervised 36.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian Territory, and 30.0% of total hospital beds in 2008, while the private sector supervised 27.6% of hospital, and 9.3% of total hospital beds in 2008.

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, insurance 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 the 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.

Diseases

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 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 Unit in the Palestinian Territory is owned by a family member in 2008

Percentage of Palestinian households that the ownership of the housing unit is for a family member is about 86.3% in 2008; 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

Results of the Domestic Environment Survey in the Palestinian Territory, 2008 showed that, 88.2% of households in the Palestinian Territory live in houses receiving water from the public network (97.0% in Gaza Strip and 84.2% in the West Bank). The results of a survey of domestic energy (July, 2008) revealed that the majority of households in the Palestinian Territory live in houses connected to the electricity network at 99.8%; 99.7% in the West Bank and 99.9% in Gaza Strip.

The results of domestic environment survey, 2008, revealed that about 53.7% of Palestinian households are living in houses connected to cesspits, where waste water is disposed through ;68.6% in the West Bank and 24.7% in Gaza Strip. While there are 45.4% of Palestinian households are living in houses connected by public sewage network (30.2% in the West Bank compared with 75.1% in Gaza Strip).

Availability of Durable Goods

The results of 2008 revealed that the electric refrigerator, gas stove, washing machine and television are the major available durable goods for the Palestinian households. 95.8% 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.