



**State of Palestine
The Palestinian Central Bureau of
Statistics**

**The Status of the Rights of Palestinian
Children, 2016**

April 2017

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Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. The Status of the Rights of Palestinian Children, 2016. Ramallah – Palestine.

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Reference ID: 2275

Acknowledgement

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of those who contributed to the production of this report.

This report was prepared by PCBS technical team with joint funding by the State of Palestine and the Core Funding Group (CFG), represented by the Representative Office of Norwegian to the State of Palestine and the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC).

PCBS also extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Core Funding Group (CFG) for their invaluable contribution in funding the project.



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Introduction

Children compose nearly half of the Palestinian population. Investment in this social group is important in order to guarantee children's rights and provide them with the opportunity to live in dignity and safety. Accurate statistics on this sector allow policy makers to develop plans that translate figures into programs that address the needs of Palestinian children in various areas of their lives. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), in cooperation and partnership with relevant ministries and institutions working with children issues this report on the status of the rights of Palestinian children.

This report is a central tool in monitoring progress of the rights of Palestinian children via provision of an information base based on key data from the ground; it aims to help devising policies, programs and plans to address any gaps and to contribute to achieving the Palestinian vision of childhood in Palestine.

PCBS policy aims to provide the largest database possible within a comprehensive statistical system that serves all sectors, including indicators on the rights of Palestinian children. Publication of this report is thus based on the surveys conducted by PCBS in addition to administrative records from partner organizations and different components of the National Statistical System.

The first report was published in 2013, and updated in 2014 providing a diagnostic analysis of the status of the rights of Palestinian children in all demographic, educational and health areas. It also addressed the status of children under occupation and protection. Parts relevant to the theoretical framework of the report may be accessed at the link <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2116.pdf>

We at PCBS hope that this report will make positive contribution to the life of our children, based on the data available. We hope it will serve as an instrument to develop national reports relevant to the Convention on the Rights of The Child, in addition to providing a diagnosis of the status of Palestinian children to promote developmental plans and programs aiming to respond to the rights of our children in Palestine.

April 2017

Ola Awad

President of PCBS

Main Indicators

Indicator	Data/ Value	Unit	Documented
Estimated Population *	4,816,503	Persons	Mid 2016
West Bank	2,935,368	Persons	mid 2016
Gaza Strip	1,881,135	Persons	mid 2016
Estimated Demographic Growth*	2.82	Persons	mid 2016
West Bank	2.50	Persons	mid 2016
Gaza Strip	3.31	Persons	mid 2016
Population Under 18 years of age	45.8	Percentage	mid 2016
Average size of Households*	5.2	Persons	2015
West Bank	4.9	Persons	2015
Gaza Strip	5.7	Persons	2015
Percentage of households headed by a female**	11.0	Percentage	2016
West Bank	12.1	Percentage	2016
Gaza Strip	9.0	Percentage	2016
Illiteracy rates among males aged 15 years and over**	1.4	Percentage	2016
Illiteracy rate among females aged 15 years and over**	4.8	Percentage	2016
Labor force participation rate **	45.8	Percentage	2016
Males	71.6	Percentage	2016
Female	19.3	Percentage	2016
Unemployment rate**	26.9	Percentage	2016
Males	22.2	Percentage	2016
Females	44.7	Percentage	2016
Total fertility rate ***	4.1	Persons	2011-2013
West Bank	3.7	Persons	2011-2013
Gaza Strip	4.5	Persons	2011-2013
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1000 women)***	48	Persons	2014
West Bank	35	Persons	2014
Gaza Strip	66	Persons	2014
Women aged 20-49 years who first married below age 18 ***	24.2	Percentage	2014
West Bank	21.4	Percentage	2014
Gaza Strip	28.6	Percentage	2014
Women aged 15-49 years who first married below age 15 ***	2.1	Percentage	2014
West Bank	1.8	Percentage	2014
Gaza Strip	2.6	Percentage	2014
Women aged 20-49 years with live births before reaching 18 years ***	22.0	Percentage	2014
West Bank	19.0	Percentage	2014
Gaza Strip	25.1	Percentage	2014

* Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics/ 2017. Demographic Coordinates. Ramallah – Palestine

** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics/ 2017. Labor Force Survey Database, 2016. Ramallah – Palestine

*** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics/ 2017. Palestinian Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey Database, 2014. Ramallah - Palestine

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Chapter One

Demographic Reality

1.1 Demographic Growth

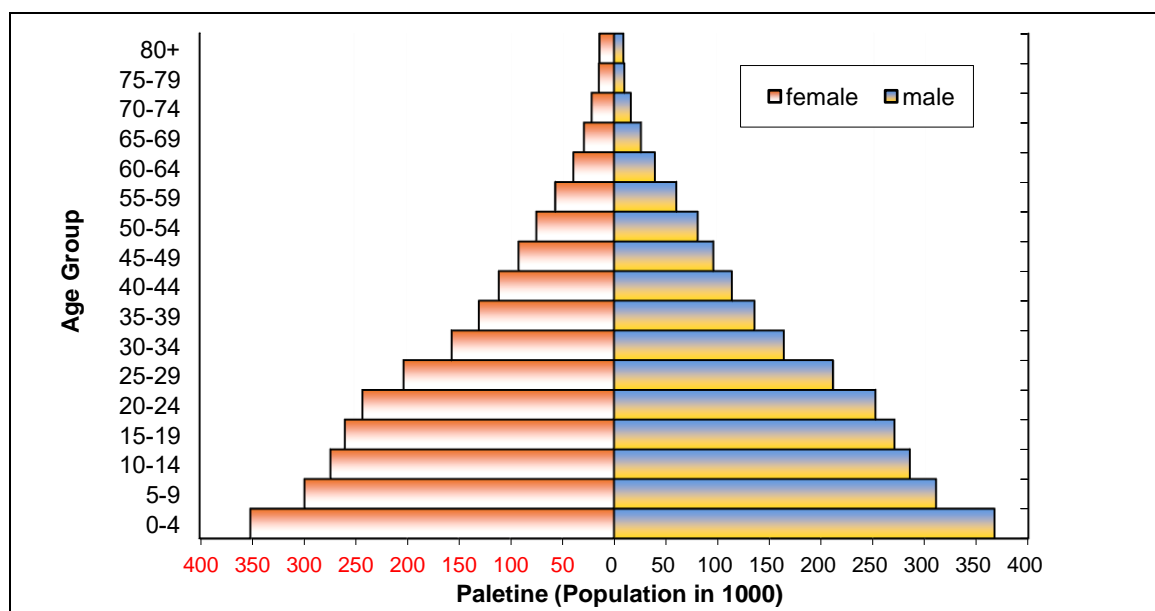
The number of children below 18 years in 2016 was estimated at 2,207,535 children in Palestine, representing approximately 45.8% of the total population. They included 1,127,283 males and 1,080,252 females. In the West Bank male children counted 650,709, compared to 624,320 females while in the Gaza Strip the male children represented 476,574 compared to 455,932 females. Children in the Gaza Strip represent 49.6% of the total population of the Strip, while in the West Bank they constitute 43.4% of the total population of the West Bank.

Table 1: Estimated Number of Children According to Age Group, Region and Sex, Mid 2016

Age Group	West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	205,211	196,215	161,903	154,759
5-9	178,971	172,333	131,875	126,326
10-14	167,974	161,417	117,537	112,215
15-17	98,553	94,355	65,259	62,632

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Edited Estimates based on the Final Results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments, 2007, Ramallah – Palestine.

Demographic Pyramid in Palestine, mid 2016

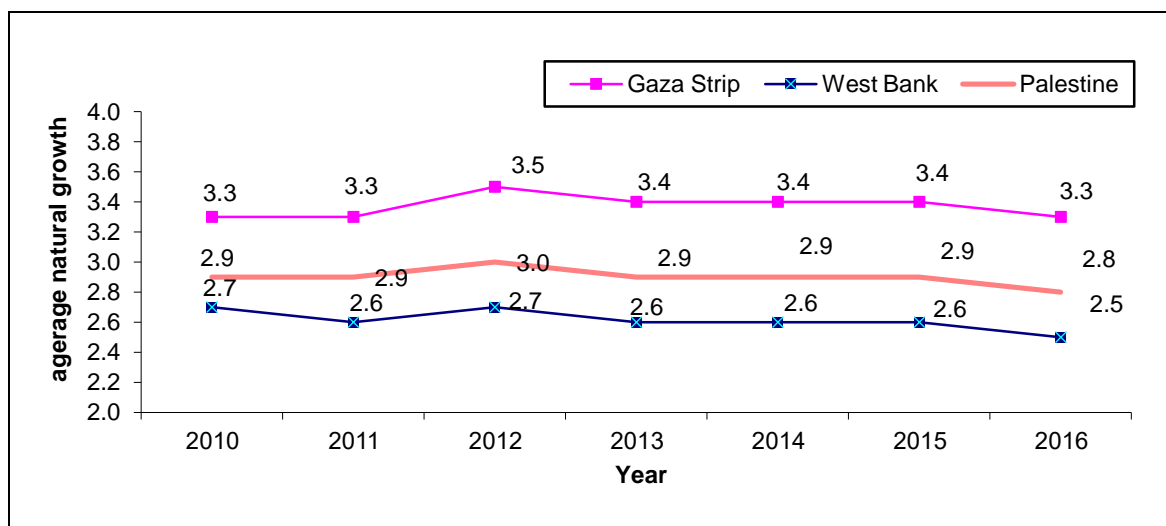


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Edited Estimates based on the Final Results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments, 2007, Ramallah – Palestine.

Data of the demographic pyramid mid 2016 shows that population under the age of 18 years old represents 45.8% of the total population, being 2.21 million children while senior population rate is decreasing. These rates indicate that fertility rates are still high although

they marked some drop in the past decade. The Palestinian society is a young society with large pyramid base.

Natural Demographic Growth, 2010-2016

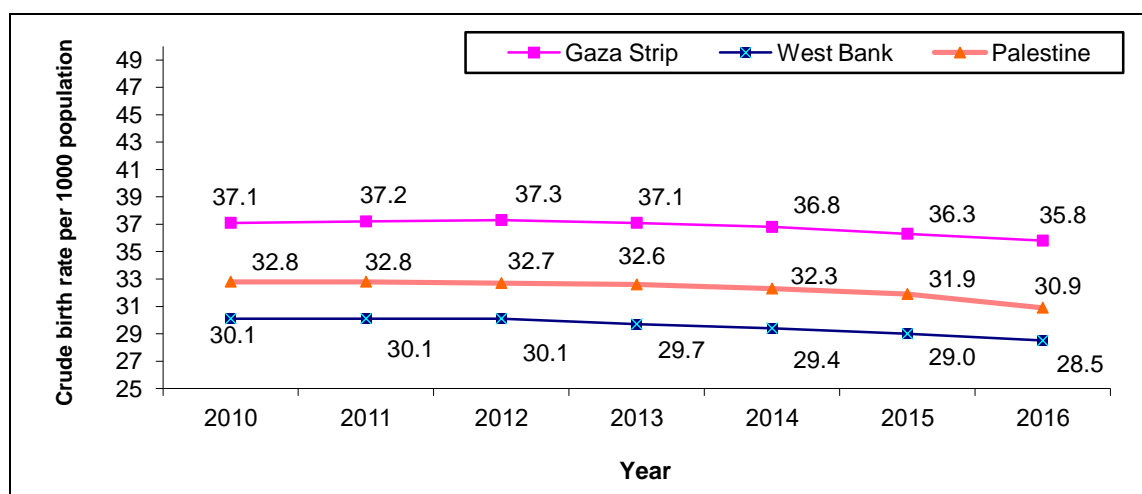


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Edited Estimates based on the Final Results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments, 2007, Ramallah – Palestine.

With decreased mortality rates and high fertility rates, the natural demographic growth in Palestine reached 2.8% in 2016. Disaggregated by region, it was 2.5% in the West Bank, compared to 3.3% in the Gaza Strip.

1.2 Birth Rates

Estimated Birth Rates Per Region, 2010-2016



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Edited Estimates based on the Final Results of the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments, 2007, Ramallah – Palestine.

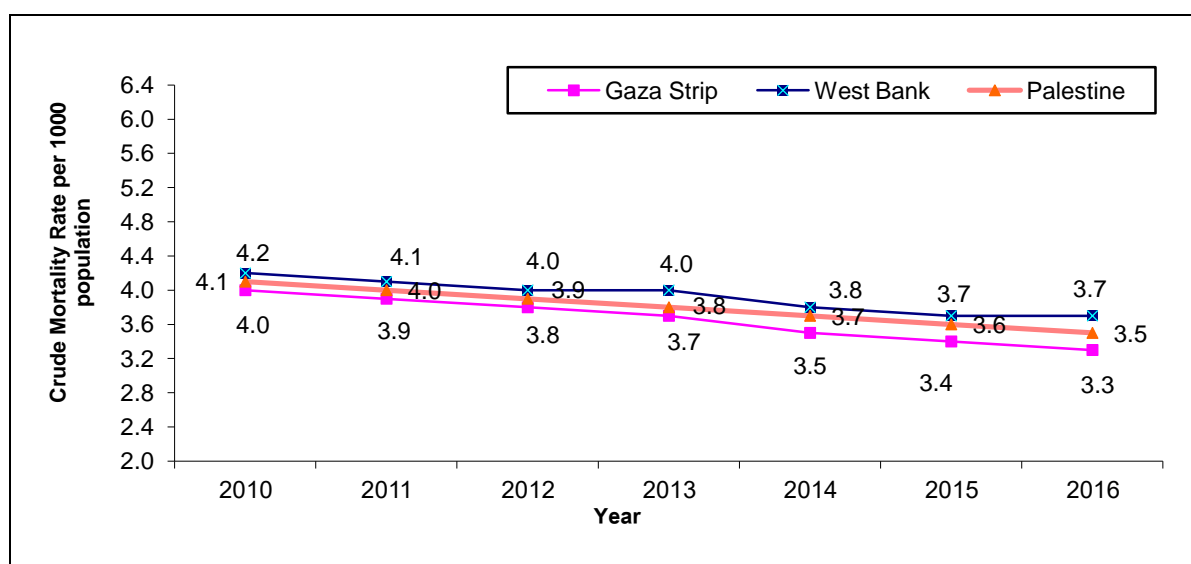
Birth rates depend on a number of factors, including fertility and reproduction rates, health services, and the role of the state in mother and child care. Estimates show a drop in the crude birth rates in the past decades. Birth rates stood at 32.8 per 1000 population in 2010 and declined to 30.9 births per 1000 population in 2016. The decrease may be attributed to fertility rates in addition to implementation of family planning and reproductive health programs.

When disaggregated by region, variances appear in crude birth rate between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, representing 28.5 and 35.8 respectively in 2016.

1.3 Mortalities

Crude mortality rates in Palestine dropped from 4.1 per 1000 population in 2010 to 3.5 per 1000 population in 2016. Regionally disaggregated, there are variances between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since this rate in the West Bank was estimated at 4.2 in 2010 and decreased to 3.7 deaths per 1000 population in 2016 while in the Gaza Strip it declined from 4.0 deaths per 1000 population in 2010 to 3.3 in 2016. This could be an indicator of improved quality of life and better access to medical service in addition to improved health awareness and development of health services.

Crude mortality rates per region, 2010-2016



1.4 Early Marriage

Early marriage has socioeconomic dimensions in any given society. Marriage and divorce data in Palestine reveal that the mean age at first marriage in Palestine was 19.9 years for females and 24.6 years for males in 2010 whereas in 2015 it stood at 20.3 for females and 24.7 years for males. Disaggregated by region in 2015, it was 20.4 years for females in the West Bank and 25.1 years for males while in the Gaza Strip it was 20.2 years for females and 24.2 years for males.

Data showed that the higher educational attainment was, the higher mean age at first marriage was. The mean age at first marriage in Palestine for the year 2015 for persons with a BA or higher reached 23.5 years for females and 26.2 years for males. It should be noted that the mean age at first marriage for persons with basic (preparatory) education or below was 16.8 years for females and 23.3 years for males.

The percentage of persons who were married below eighteen years old in Palestine in 2015 reached 20.3% of the total females who married in this year and 1.1% of females who married in the same year.

1.5 Fertility

Current Fertility Rates

Data from the Palestinian Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey implemented in 2014 showed that the total and age-disaggregated fertility rates (per 1000 women) for the period 2011-2013, if current reproduction rates remain unchanged, will stand at 4.1 births per woman throughout her reproductive years. The total fertility rate for this period dropped compared to the period 2008-2009, which stood at 4.4 births. Data also showed that total fertility rate in the Gaza Strip was higher than the West Bank.

Table 2: Total Fertility Rates Disaggregated by Age and Region for the period 2011 – 2013

Age	Palestine	Region	
		West Bank	Gaza Strip
15-19	48	35	66
20-24	201	182	226
25-29	244	237	254
30-34	177	170	186
35-39	103	91	125
40-44	35	30	45
45-49	3	3	3
Total Fertility Rate	4.1	3.7	4.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2015. Main Findings, The Palestinian Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014, Ramallah – Palestine.

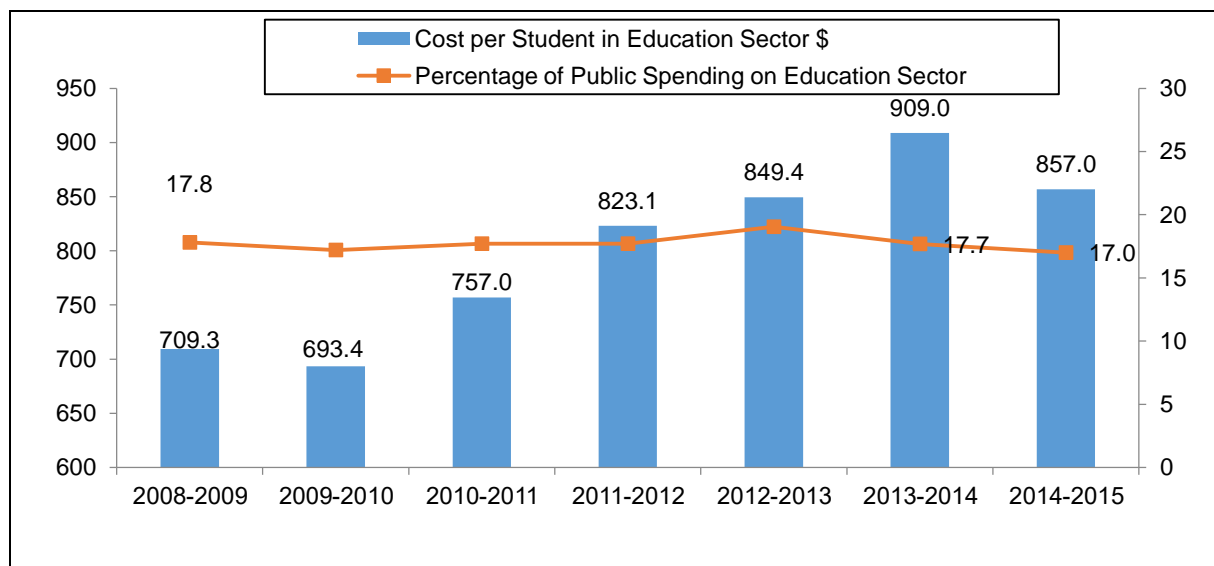
Chapter Two

Education Sector

2.1 Public Spending on Education

The cost per student in the education sector dropped to 857 US Dollars for the school year 2014/2015 compared to 909 US Dollars in 2013/2014. Furthermore, public spending on the education sector dropped from 17.7% in 2013/2014 to 17.0% in 2014/2015.

Percentage of Spending on Education Compared to Cost per Student in Selected School Years



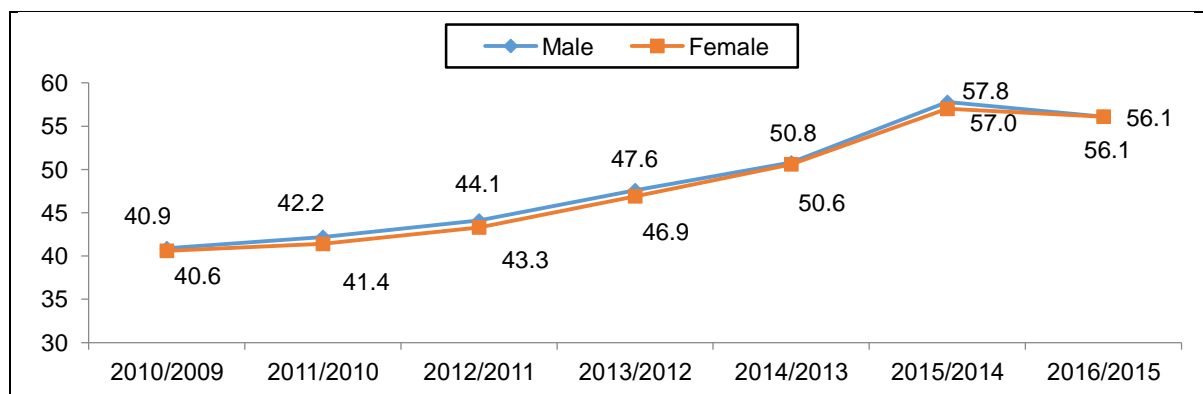
Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, General Monitoring and Evaluation Report, 2015.

2.2 Enrollment in Kindergartens (Early Childhood Care) and General Education

Enrollment in Kindergartens (Early Childhood Care):

Total enrollment rate in kindergartens (KG1 and KG2) is calculated on the bases of the total number of children enrolled in early childhood education in the kindergartens accredited by the Ministry of education in a given year as a percentage of the total population at official early childhood enrollment age (4-5 years) for the same year.

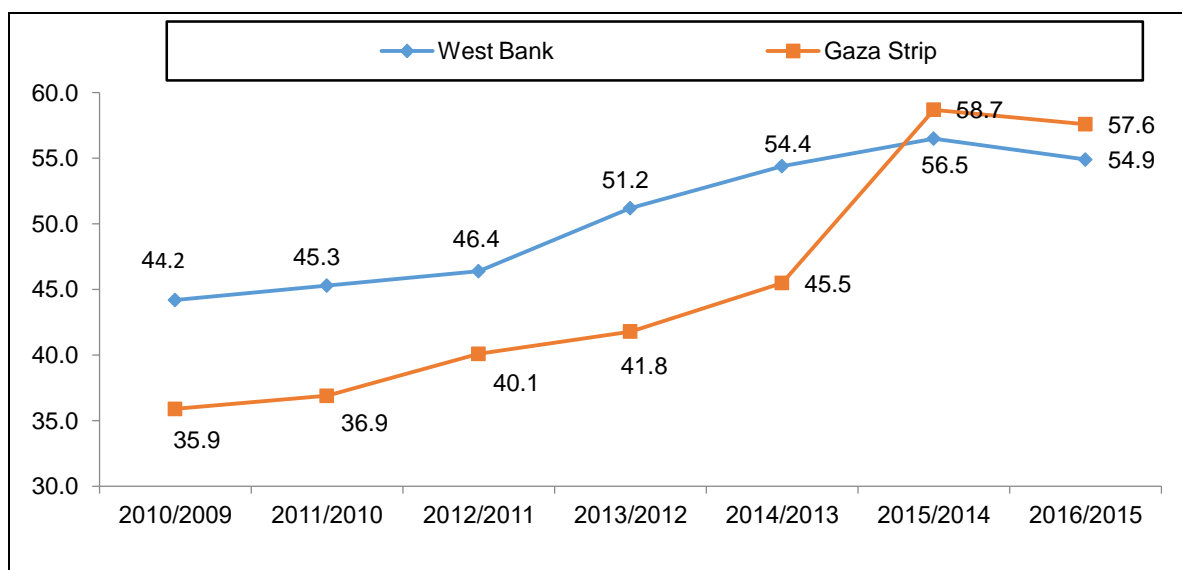
Global Enrollment Rates in Early Childhood Education by Gender for Selected School Years



Source: Educational Databases. Directorate General of Planning, Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

No differences are observed relating to enrollment in early childhood care based on gender; however, there are differences between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Still, generally speaking, an increase in the global enrollment rate in early childhood care is observed.

Enrollment Rates in Kindergartens in Selected School Years by Region



Source: Educational Databases. Directorate General of Planning, Ministry of Education and Higher Education..

The number of kindergartens in the West Bank reached 1,148 in 2015/2016, compared to 518 in the Gaza Strip. Number of children enrolled in kindergartens in the West Bank reached 78,731, compared to 62,675 in the Gaza Strip. The number of classrooms was 3,637 in the West Bank and 2,269 in the Gaza Strip.

Enrollment in Basic Education:

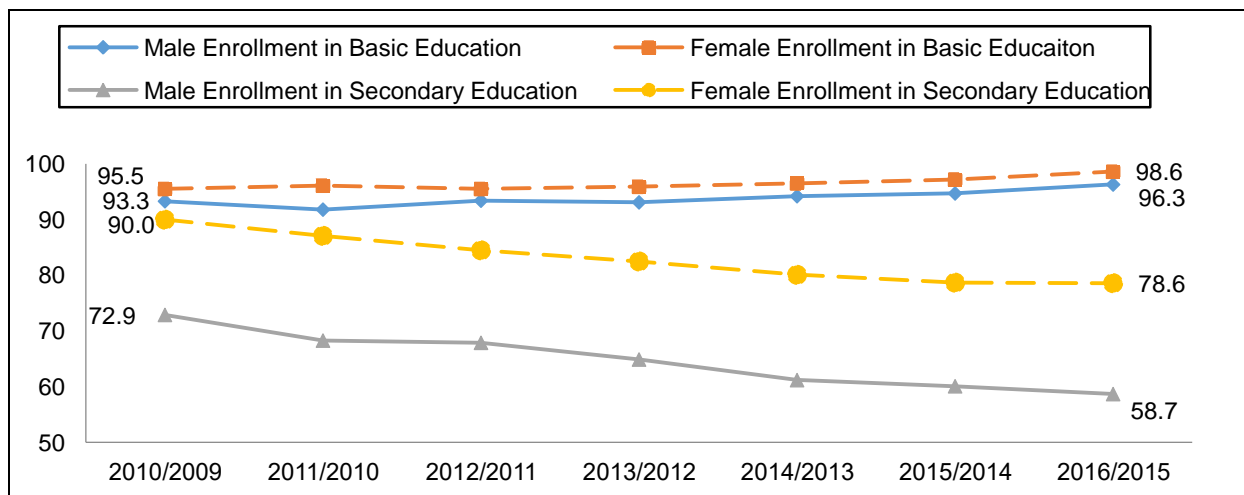
Net Enrollment Rate in Basic Education is the total number of students in official enrollment age for this stage (6-15 years) regardless of the grade they are enrolled in, expressed as percentage of the total number of population with corresponding age group (6-15 years)

The net enrollment rate in basic education in Palestine in 2014 reached 94.2%, compared to 94.6% in 2015. The total male enrollment age in basic education in the West Bank reached 94.1%, compared to 96.4% female enrollment. The rate in the Gaza Strip was 94.3% for male enrollment compared to 95.9% for female enrollment.

Enrollment in Secondary Education:

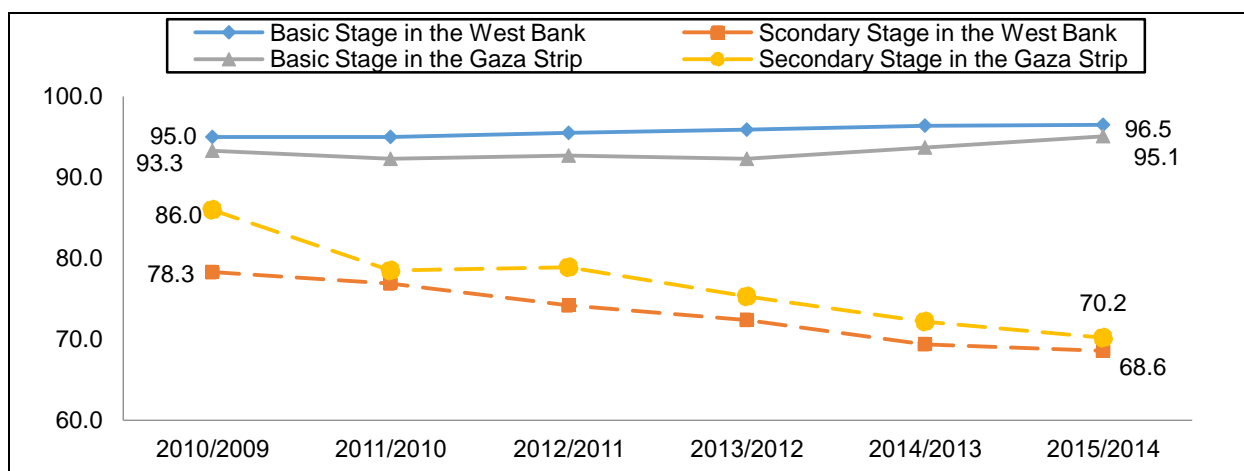
The net enrollment rate in secondary education is the total number of children at the official enrollment age for this stage (16-17 years) regardless of their grade, represented as a percentage of the total population of the corresponding age group (16-17 years).

Global Enrollment Rates by Stage and Gender in Palestine for the School Years (2009/2010 – 2015/2016)



Source: Educational Databases. Directorate General of Planning. Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Global Enrollment Rates by Stage and Region for the School Years (2009/2010 – 2014/2015)



Source: Educational Databases. Directorate General of Planning. Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

2.3 School Distribution in Palestine

Table 3: School Distribution by Region, Supervisory Agency and Gender, 2015/2016

Region	Government				UNRWA				Private			
	Male	Female	Co-ed	Total	Male	Female	Co-ed	Total	Male	Female	Co-ed	Total
Palestine	840	818	477	2,135	144	106	103	353	45	30	351	426
West Bank	663	655	422	1,740	35	48	13	96	35	24	299	358
Gaza Strip	177	163	55	395	109	58	90	257	10	6	52	68

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Students in Palestine:

There are 1,192,808 students enrolled in schools in Palestine, including 693,165 in the West Bank and 499,643 in the Gaza Strip. They include 591,117 male students and 601,691 female students. Distributed according to supervisory agency, they represent 781,169 students in government schools, 296,835 in UNRWA schools and 114,804 in private schools.

Table 4: Distribution of Students by Region, Stage and Gender, 2015/2016

Region	All stages			Basic			Secondary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Palestine	591,117	601,691	1,192,808	530,083	523,430	1,053,513	61,034	78,261	139,295
West Bank	341,434	351,731	693,165	306,155	303,933	610,088	35,279	47,798	83,077
Gaza Strip	249,683	249,960	499,643	223,928	219,497	443,425	25,755	30,463	56,218

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Classroom Density 2015/2016:

The total number of students per classroom in government schools for the school year 2015/2016 reached 29.3, being 26.9 in the West Bank and 37.1 in the Gaza strip. The rate in the Gaza Strip is higher while UNRWA schools still suffer from insufficient classroom and over-crowdedness, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Table 5: Classroom Density by Region and Supervisory agency, 2015/2016

Region	All agencies	Government	UNRWA	Private
	Student/classroom	Student/classroom	Student/classroom	Student/classroom
Palestine	30.1	29.3	37.6	22.4
West Bank	26.5	26.9	32.0	22.6
Gaza Strip	36.9	37.1	39.0	21.1

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Drop-out Rates 2015/2016:

Dropout rates in Palestine are relatively low and represented 1.36% for all stages in the school year 2015/2016 (1.54% males and 1.18% females); they stood at 1.28% in basic education (1.47% male and 1.09% female) while represented 1.96% in secondary education (2.12% male and 1.83% female).

It should be noted that some dropout students join the youth rehabilitation centers managed by the Ministry of Social Development and vocational training centers.

Table 6: Dropout Rates by Region, Stage and Gender, 2015/2016

Region	All stages			Basic			Secondary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Palestine	1.54	1.18	1.36	1.47	1.09	1.28	2.12	1.83	1.96
West Bank	1.36	0.76	1.06	1.13	0.49	0.81	3.34	2.48	2.85
Gaza Strip	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.95	1.92	1.94	0.47	0.86	0.68

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Failure Rate 2015/2016:

The rate of failure in all stages in Palestine reached 0.93% with 1.16% in the West Bank and 0.62% in the Gaza Strip. It is noted that failure in basic education is higher than in secondary education.

Table 7: Failure Rate by Region, Stage and Gender

Region	All stages			Basic			Secondary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Palestine	1.09	0.78	0.93	1.17	0.85	1.01	0.42	0.30	0.35
West Bank	1.14	1.09	1.16	1.30	1.18	1.24	0.71	0.46	0.57
Gaza Strip	0.88	0.35	0.62	0.99	0.39	0.69	0.03	0.06	0.04

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Student/Teacher Ratio According to Supervisory Agency 2015/2016:

The student/teacher ratio for all stages reached 21.6 students per teacher for the school year 2015/2016, being 20.6 students per teacher in government schools, 29.2 in UNEWA schools and 16.2 in private schools.

Table 8: Rate of student per Teacher by Region and Supervisor Agency

Region	All agencies	Government	UNRWA	Private
Palestine	21.6	20.6	29.2	16.2
West Bank	19.8	20.1	24.6	16.6
Gaza Strip	24.8	21.9	30.4	14.4

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Distribution of Schools by Main Source of Water, Electricity and Wastewater Disposal 2015/2016:

Statistics show that most schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have basic infrastructure as 99.1% of schools are connected to the electricity grid, and 91.2% to the public water pipeline in the West Bank while 90.0% of schools in the Gaza Strip are connected to public water pipelines and 99.3% to the public water grid. It should, however, be noted that the Gaza Strip suffers chronic power cuts.

Table 9: Distribution of Schools by Main Source of Water and Electricity, 2015/2016

Region	Public water pipeline	Tanks	Well	Public electricity grid	Special power generator	Photovoltaic cells
Palestine	90.9	2.9	6.0	99.1	0.3	0.5
West Bank	91.2	3.6	5.0	99.1	0.3	0.6
Gaza Strip	90.0	1.0	8.9	99.3	0.4	0.3

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

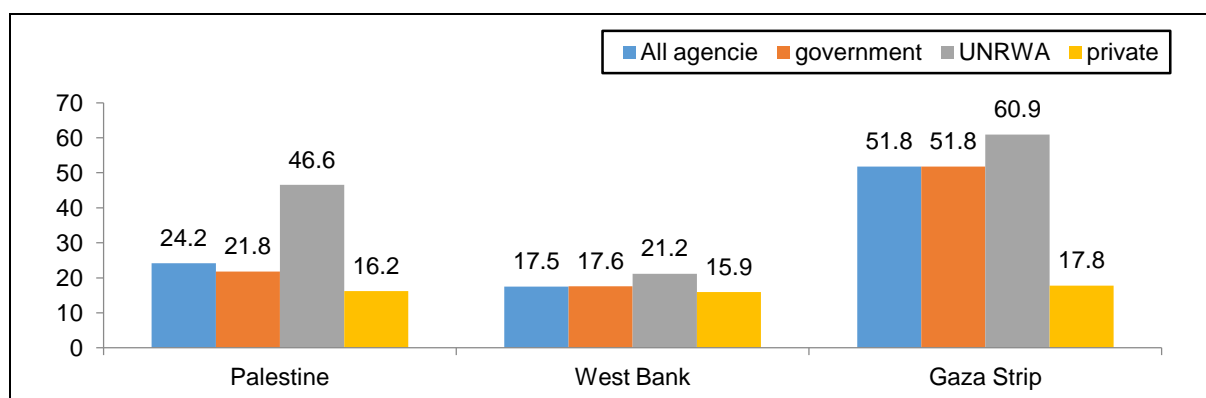
Table 10: Percentage Distribution of Schools by Main Method of Disposal of Wastewater, 2015/2016

Region	Public sewage network	Septic hole	Septic tank	Other
Palestine	48.4	38.0	13.3	0.3
West Bank	36.6	46.4	16.7	0.3
Gaza Strip	84.4	12.4	2.9	0.3

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Students and Computer:

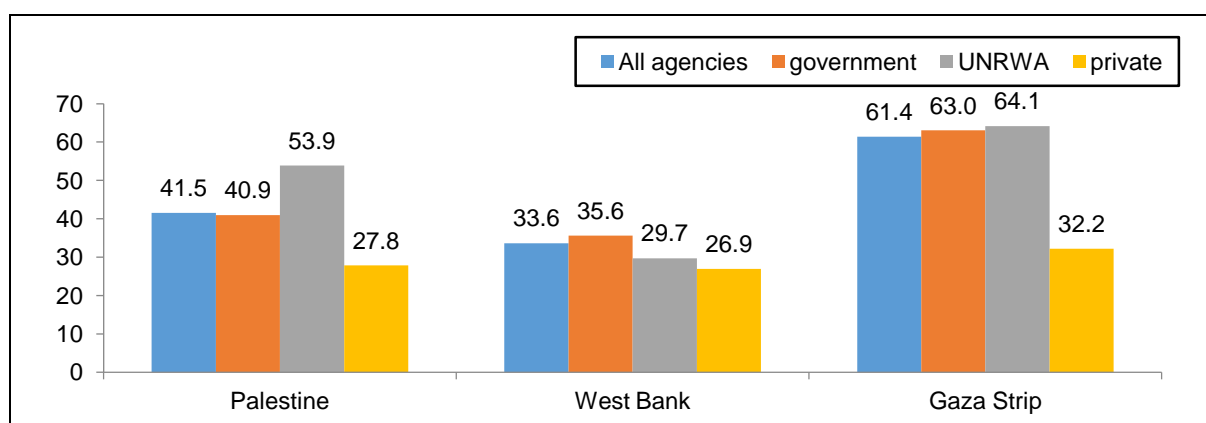
The student/computer ration in UNRWA school reached 46.6 students per computer, while this ratio was 21.8 in government schools and less than 16.2 students per computer in private schools.

Rate of student per computer by region and supervisory agency, 2015/2016

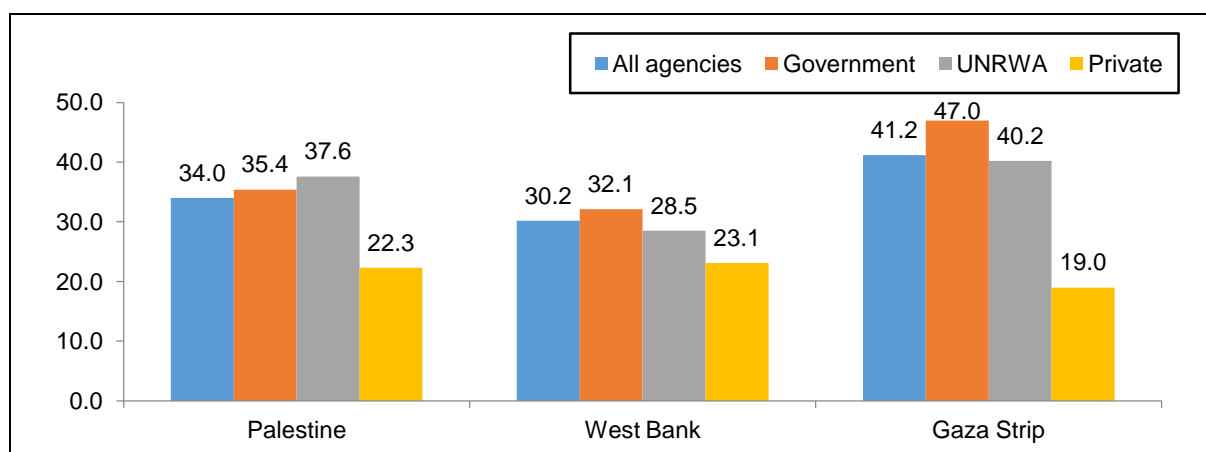
Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Student per Drinking Water Fountain, Toilet, and Hand Sink 2015/2016:

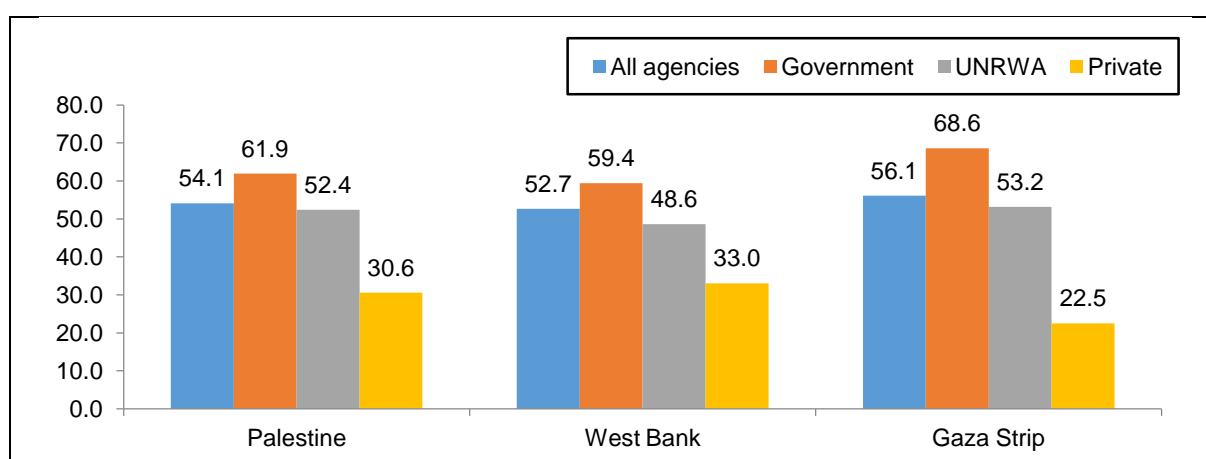
41.5 students share a single drinking fountain while 34.0 students share the same toilet and 54.1 students share a single hand sink in Palestine. The rates in the Gaza Strip were 61.4 and 41.2 and 56.1 respectively and in the West Bank they were 33.6 and 30.3 and 52.7 respectively.

Rate of students per drinking fountain by region and supervisory agency

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Rate of students per toilet by area and supervisory agency, 2015/2016

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Rate of students per hand sink by region and supervisory agency

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

2.4 Adaptation of Schools for Students with Disability, 2015/2016

63.6% of government schools in Palestine are adapted to the needs of children with disabilities in terms of toilets while 53.3% of schools have slopes proper for mobility of children with disability. Such adaptation is more present in government and UNRWA schools compared to private schools. Although these schools have adapted toilets and mobility slopes for children with motor disability, they are not adapted for other types of disabilities; moreover, access to schools in public transport is not adapted; the same applies to classrooms. In spite of the decision made by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to adapt all new schools to children with disability since over seven years, and notwithstanding the enactment of the regulatory framework and the creation of a special program and Directorate of inclusive education since 1997, it is still necessary to focus on children with mental disabilities. There is a need for a national strategy for inclusive education to identify children with disabilities that are not enrolled in formal education system or in any other special rehabilitation centers.

Table 11: Distribution of students with disabilities in government schools by type of disability and region, 2015/2016

Region	Total	Visual disability/total	Visual disability/partial	Hearing disability/total	Hearing disability/partial	Speech disorder	Motor/ physical	mental
Palestine	7,635	112	1,755	157	1,143	2,274	1,639	555
West Bank	5,231	58	1,140	77	741	1,584	1,097	534
Gaza Strip	2,404	54	615	80	402	690	542	21

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2016. Annual Education Statistics Book 2015/2016. Ramallah-Palestine.

Chapter Three

Health Sector

3.1 Spending on Health¹

Data of the Directorate General of Financial Affairs at Palestinian the Ministry of Health showed that the total budget for the Ministry of Health in 2016 reached NIS 1,711,900,000 distributed to key budget items where salaries received the lion's share with 50% of current budget, followed by curative treatment abroad, representing 27.0%. medicines and medical supplies consumed 16.0% of the budget while capital and other operational expenditure remained the lowest with mere 7.0% of the total overhead budget.

3.2 Revenues of the Ministry of Health²

Revenue of the Palestinian Ministry of Health reached NIS 121,316,838, disaggregated by source of revenue as follows: fees of primary health care, representing the largest share with 46.2%, followed by fees of health insurance with 27.6%. General revenue collected in government hospitals reached 24.1% while revenues of administrative centers were the least with 2.1% of total revenues.

Weights of reported births:

The percentage of newborns weighing less than 2500 grams reached 5.7% in Palestine in 2015 of the total newborns (5.8% in the West Bank and 5.6% in the Gaza Strip).

3.3 Mother and Child Care

Antenatal Care:

In 2015, the total number of pregnancy visits to primary health centers reached 541,388. The total number of pregnant women registered with the centers of the Ministry of Health for the same year reached 91,837. Pregnancy coverage represented 72.2%. Pregnancy check in the centers of the Ministry of Health mounted to 5.9 checkup during pregnancy per pregnant woman registered with the Ministry's centers.

Postnatal Care:

The total number of mothers visiting the Mother and Child Centers in MoH primary health care services in 2015 reached 15,394, representing 12.1% of reported live births, in addition to 97,141 pregnancy checks representing 76.3% of unreported live births.

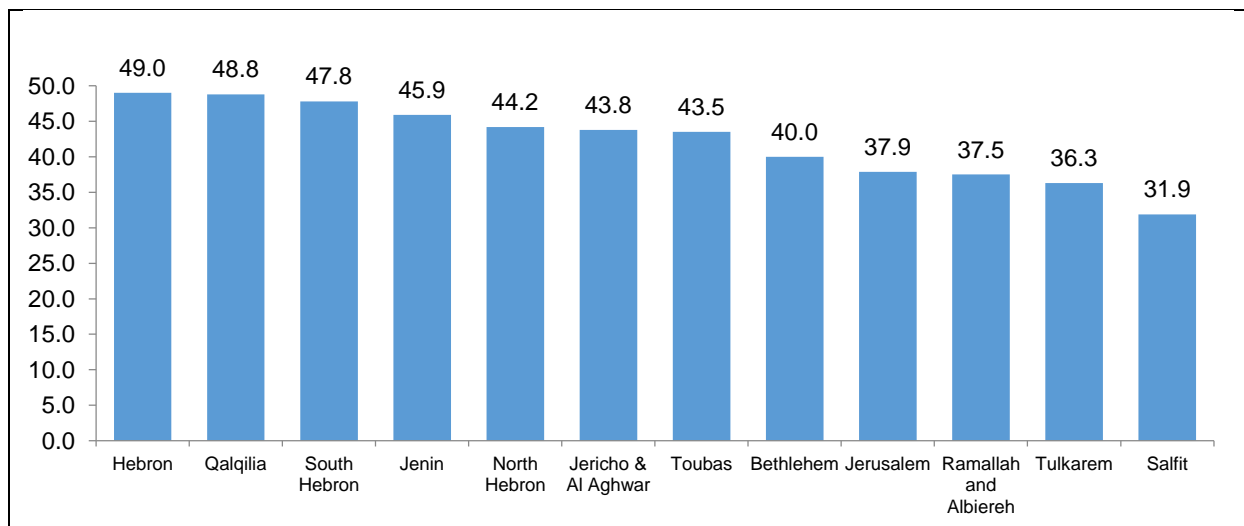
Anemia among Children at 12 months old:

Anemia incidence among children checked at the age of 12 months represented 43% in the West Bank in 2015 with minor anemia representing 93.5% of the total anemia cases registered. Moderate anemia incidence reached 6.4% while severe anemia was minimal. Anemia for children aged 6-59 months is defined as HGB concentration of less than 11.0 gm/deciliter.

¹ Ministry of Health. Palestinian Health Information Center, unpublished data, 2016.

² Ibid.

Anemia among children aged 12 months and registered with MOH primary health care centers according to district in the West Bank, 2015

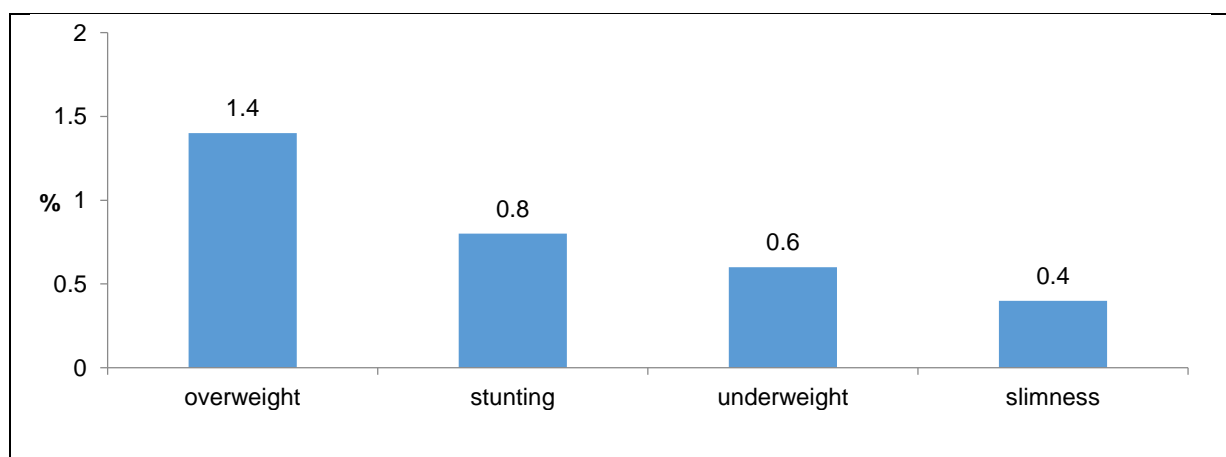


Source: Ministry of Health. Palestinian Health Information Center. Annual Health Report, 2015.

3.4 Key Growth Indicators

Data of primary health care centers in the West Bank for 2015 showed that 0.4% of children suffer from slimness while 25% of them have severe slimness and 0.6% are underweight and 29% are severely underweight. Overweight affected 1.4% of children, including 23.1% with obesity. Stunted children represented 0.8% of the total number of children checked at the mother and child centers of the primary health care system. 34.7% of these children are severely stunted.

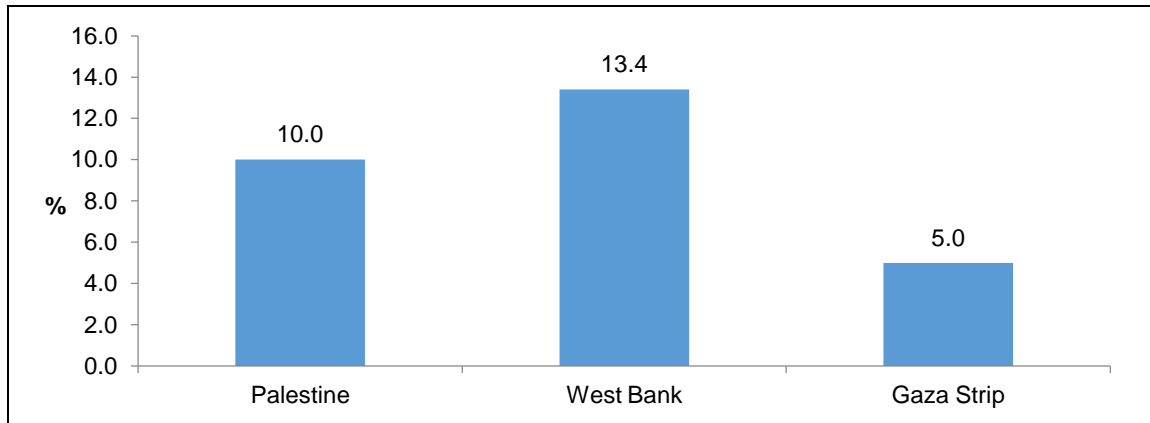
Distribution of growth indicators registered for children aged 12 months at MoH primary health care centers by indicator in the West Bank, 2015



Source: Ministry of Health. Palestinian Health Information Center. Annual Health Report, 2015.

3.5 Smoking

Percentage of individuals (15-17 years) who smoke by region, 2015



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2016. Palestinian Youth Survey 2015, Main Findings. Ramallah-Palestine.

Data of the Palestinian Youth Survey 2015 shows that the percentage of children aged 15-17 years who smoke reached 10.0% being 13.4% in the West Bank and 5.0% in the Gaza Strip.

Chapter Four

Children Under Occupation

4.1 Martyr Children³

Thirty-five children martyred in 2016, showing an increase of 13.0% compared to 2015 (31 martyrs). This shows clearly that Palestinian children are a target of the occupation forces.

4.2 Child Detainees

According to data from Defense for Children International (DCI), a noticeable increase in the number of detained children was observed in 2015 with 2,634 cases of arrest. This exhibits an increase of 15.9% compared to the previous year, 2014 when the number of children detained reached 2,273. Furthermore, the number of children arrested in January and February and April 2016 reached (406, 440, 414) respectively.⁴ Jerusalemites were the most vulnerable to detention and arrest by the Israeli occupation authorities in 2016. The occupation authorities arrested 2,029 citizens including 757 children and 79 women in Jerusalem of a total of 6,970 Palestinians arrested in all governorates in the same year. Furthermore, house arrest and exile were part of the punishments inflicted upon tens of Jerusalemites.

4.3 Confiscation of Jerusalem ID cards

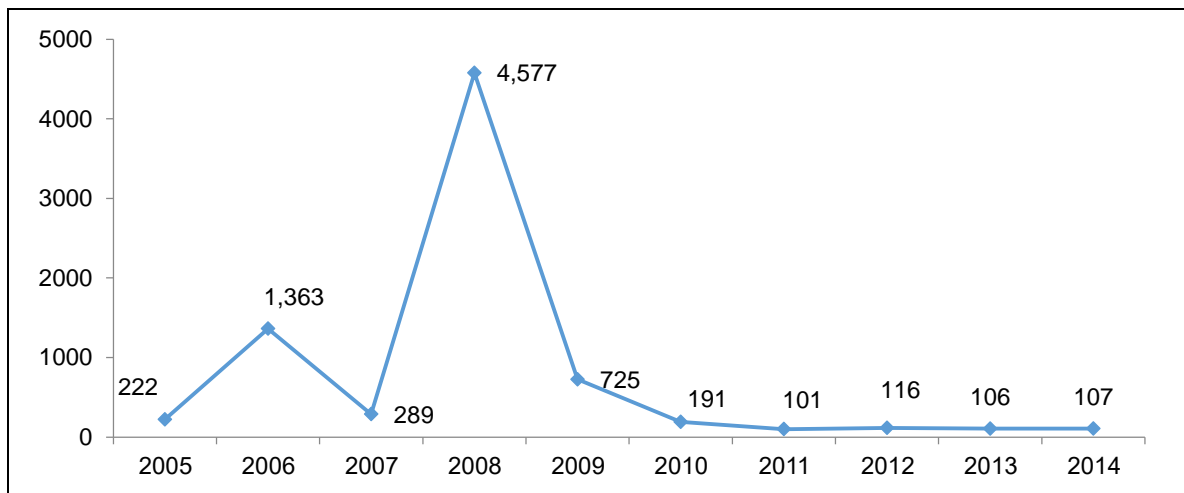
Thousands of Jerusalemite Palestinians lost their residency rights in their hometown of Jerusalem because of the Israeli-imposed administrative boundaries of Jerusalem and the area they deem part of the State of Israel. According to these regulations, Palestinians living in other Palestinian governorates and students receiving their education abroad as well as any Palestinian Jerusalemites who reside temporarily out of the country lose their residency rights.

Data on the confiscation and annulment of Jerusalem ID cards are based mainly on official statements made by the Israeli Interior Ministry, which refer to the seizure of 14,481 ID cards in the period from 1967-2014. Part of this number includes withdrawal of ID cards of heads of households, which automatically entails withdrawal of the right of residency of all members of the family. This means that the number of Jerusalem residents who lost their right to residency was much higher than the figure reported. Figure (17) shows that the number of Jerusalemites whose right of residency was abolished by the Israeli Interior Minister reached 4,577 citizens in 2008, including 99 children. Furthermore, this right was denied to another 107 Jerusalemites in 2014, according to data from Israeli Human Rights Information Center in Palestine (Betselem).

³ Defense for Children International

⁴ Ibid

Number of Jerusalem ID cards confiscated in the period 2005-2014



Source Betselem website :www.btselem.org/arabic/jerusalem/revocation_statistics.

4.4 Home Demolition

Data of the Land Research Center showed that 1,064 housing units and establishments were demolished in 2016, being 418 houses and 646 establishments. This entailed the displacement of 1,852 persons, including 848 children. Jerusalem Governorate recorded the highest rate of houses demolished (161), which affected 8,000 persons, including 4,300 children.

Data from Betselem showed that 684 houses were demolished in East Jerusalem in the period from 2004 till December 2016, resulting in the forcible displacement of 1,369 children. In the period 2006 till 31st December 2016, Israel demolished at least 1,219 housing units belonging to Palestinians in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem). Demolition resulted in loss of shelter for 5,593 Palestinians, including 2,809.

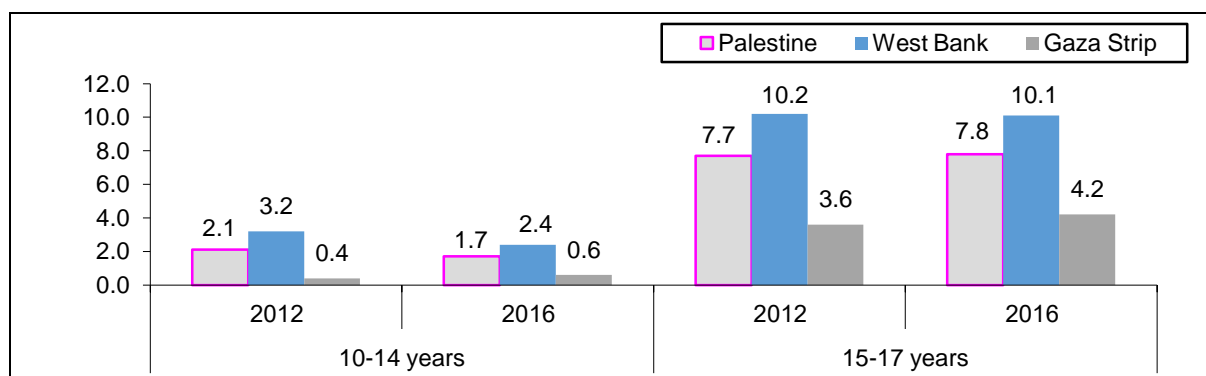
Chapter Five

Protection

5.1 Children in Labor

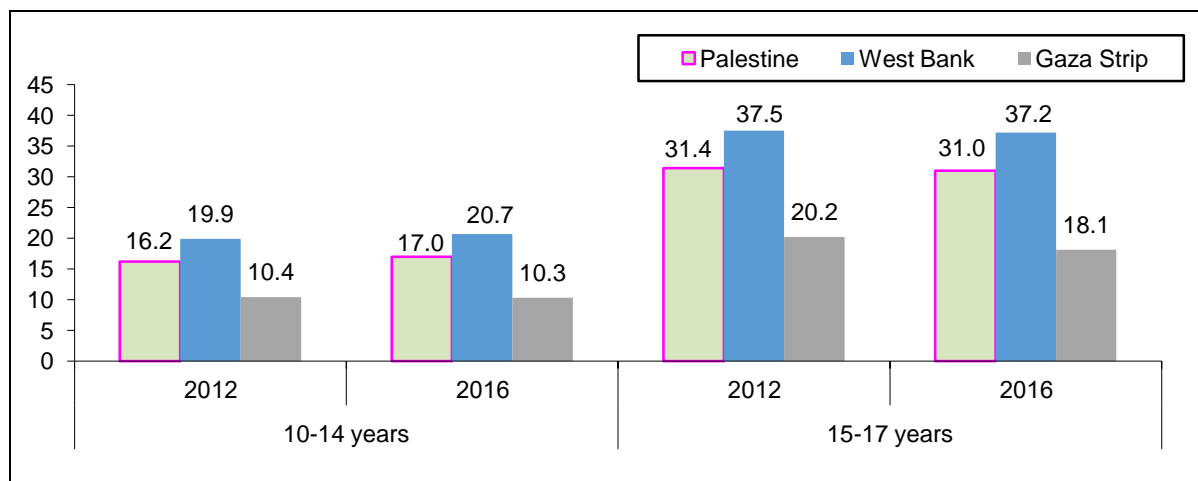
The percentage of children (10-14 years) in labor reached 1.7% in 2016, compared to 2.1% in 2012. For the age group 15-17 years, this percentage attained 7.8% in 2016 compared to 7.7% in 2012. Children in labor, who are not enrolled in education, represented 17.0% and 31.0% for both age groups respectively in 2016. The rate of children in labor who are still enrolled in the education system represented 1.3% for the age group 10-14 years in the same year and 2.7% for the age group 15-17 years.

Percentage of Children in Labor by Region and Age, 2012 and 2016



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Database of the Labor Force Survey for the years 2012, and 2016.

Percentage of children in labor who are not enrolled in education for the years 2012, 2016



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Database of the Labor Force Survey for the years 2012, and 2016.

Table 12: Percentage Distribution of children (10-17 years) in labor by economic activity and region, 2016

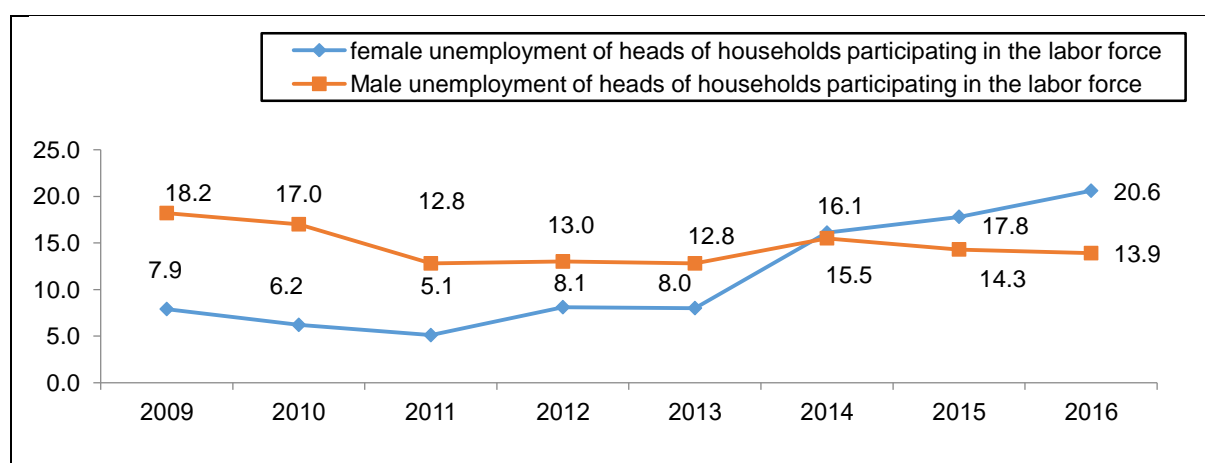
Economic activity	Palestine	Region	
		West Bank	Gaza Strip
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	23.0	24.5	16.7
Mining, queries and transformational industry	19.8	22.5	45.6
Construction	15.0	15.9	-
Trade, restaurants and hotels	35.8	33.5	-
Other economic activities	6.4	3.6	37.7
Total	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Database of the Labor Force Survey for the years 2012, and 2016.

5.2 Unemployment

Unemployment among participants in the labor force reached 26.9% in Palestine in 2016, compared to 25.9% in 2015. Gender gap is still huge with 44.7% unemployed females compared to 22.2% unemployed males in 2016. Unemployment rate of women participant in the labor force and head of households reached 20.6% in 2016, compared to 13.9% unemployment rate among men heads of households and participating in the labor force. Female unemployment rates also constantly increased for women with more number of schooling years; the opposite situation applied to men. Statistics also showed that women's participation in the labor force increased in consistency with the increase of the number of schooling years.⁵

Unemployment rate for heads of households participating in the labor force by gender of head of household, 2009 – 2016



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017. Labor Force Survey Database for the years 2009, 2016.

Data of the Youth Survey 2015 showed that 86.0% of children aged 15-17 years who are in labor are waged, while 10.3% work for a family member in unpaid labor and 3.7% are self-employed.

Data also indicated that of children aged 15-17 years who attempted to establish their own business, 7.9% do have their own business (8.8% male and 5.0% female).

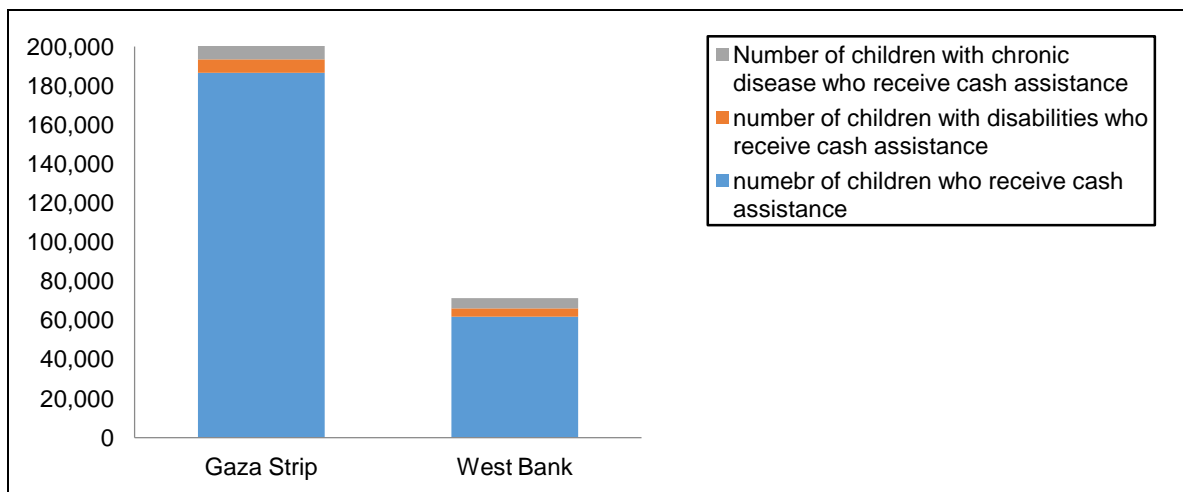
⁵ PCBS 2017, Labor Force Survey Database for the years 2009 and 2016.

5.3 Cash Social Assistance

Data of the Social Development Ministry for the year 2015⁶ show that the number of children receiving cash assistance reached 58,544 in the West Bank and 193,505 in the Gaza Strip. The number of children with chronic diseases who receive cash assistance reached 4,486 in the West Bank and 9,021 in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, 3,994 children with disabilities receive cash assistance in the West Bank and 7,149 children with disabilities receive cash assistance in the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, the number of children with schooling fees exemption reached 43,073 in the West Bank and 104,881 in the Gaza Strip within the category of social hardship cases.

Number of children who receive social assistance by region and health status, 2016

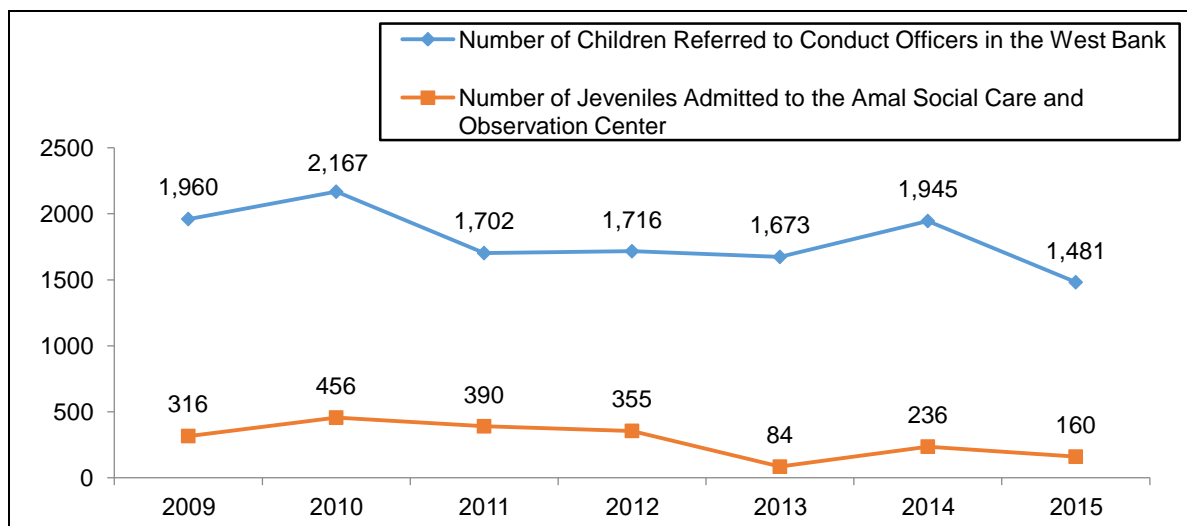


Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2016.

5.4 Children and Social Care

The number of children referred to conduct officer in 2015 reached 1,481 in the West Bank while 160 children were admitted to Amal Center for Social Care and Observation.

Number of Children Referred to Conduct Officers or admitted to Amal Center for Social Care and Observation in the West Bank, 2009-2015



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2014.

⁶ Ministry of Social Development, Cash Assistance Program, 2015.

5.5 Statistical Indicators on Children in Foster Families and Children Without Family Care

Data of the Palestinian Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 2014 reveal that 2.3% of children aged 0-17 years lost either one or both of their parents and that in Gaza Strip, 2.1% of children aged 0-17 years live with their mothers while their fathers are alive while this rate was 1.5% in the West Bank.

Table 13: Percentage of Orphan Children in Palestine (0-17 years) by Place of Residency, According to Region and Gender, 2014

Region and Gender		One or both parents dead (1)	Living with either parent (2)	Living with father		Living with mother	
				Mother dead	Mother alive	Father dead	Father alive
Total		2.3	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.7
Region	West bank	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.5	1.6	1.5
	Gaza Strip	2.6	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.8	2.1
Gender	Male	2.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.6	1.6
	Female	2.4	0.8	0.4	0.7	1.8	1.9

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2015. Palestinian Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014. Unpublished Data.

This is an indicator of the importance of the role of mothers in the family. However, it is worrying to note that some families place their children in orphans care centers because they are financially incapable of sustaining them.

Table 14: Number of Orphan Children Registered with the Ministry of Social Development, 2016

		Both parents dead	Only father alive and lives in the same house	Only father alive and does not live in the same dwelling	Only mother alive and lives in the same dwelling	Only mother alive and does not live in the same dwelling
Palestine	Registered	412	1,539	266	17,561	778
	Beneficiaries	338	1,124	97	12,474	570
Gaza Strip	Registered	288	1,072	141	9,460	466
	Beneficiaries	253	863	120	7,643	375
West Bank	Registered	124	467	125	8,105	312
	Beneficiaries	85	261	77	4,833	195

Source: Ministry of Social Development 2016.

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