



State of Palestine Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

The Status of the Rights of Palestinian Children, 2025



November, 2025

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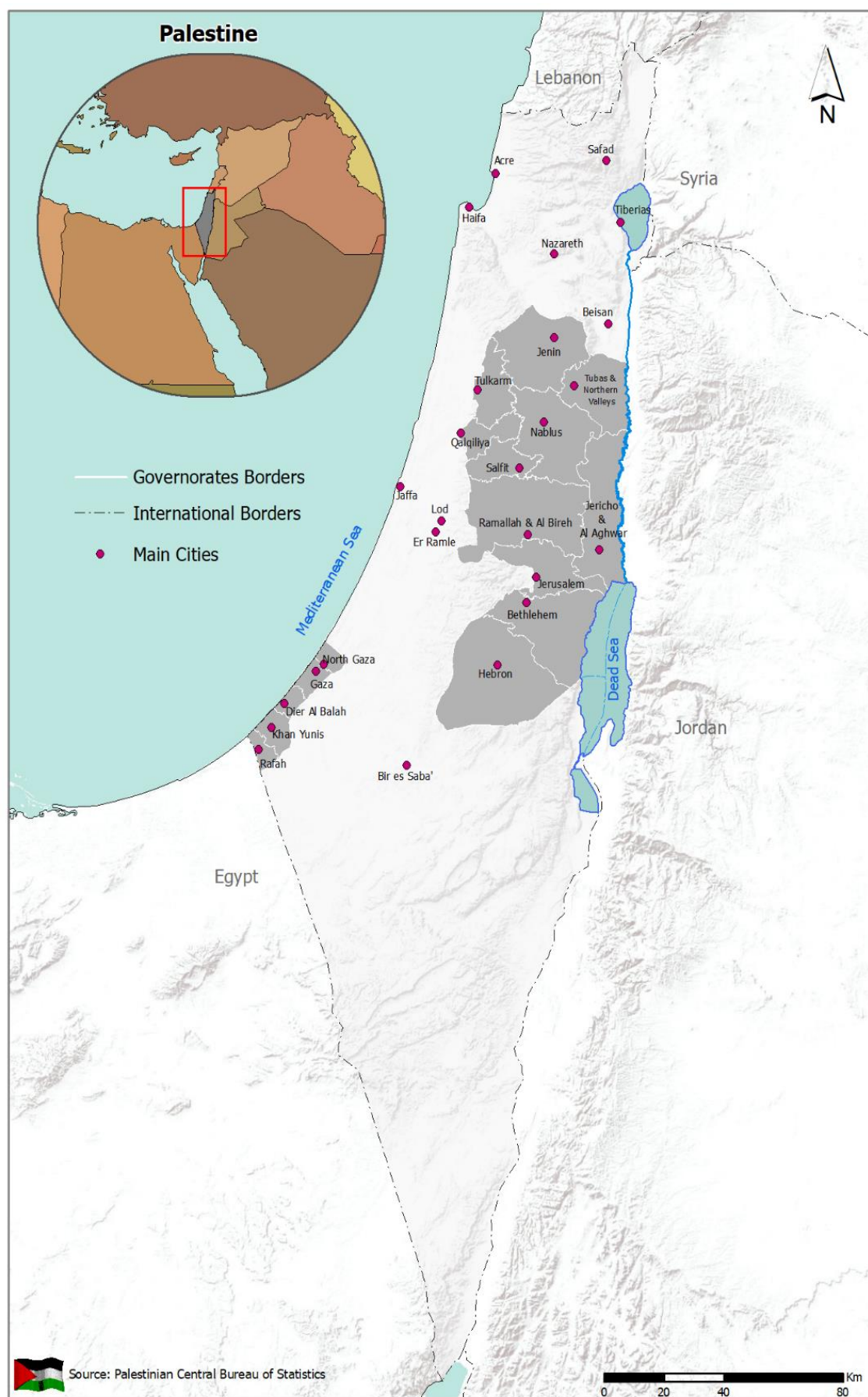
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All correspondence should be directed to:
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
P.O. Box 1647,
Ramallah P6028179, Palestine.

Tel: (970/972) 2 298 2700
Fax: (970/972) 2 298 2710
Toll Free: 1800300300
E-Mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps
Website: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>

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Work Team

- **Report Preparation**

Faten Abu Qara'

- **Dissemination Standards**

Hanan Janajreh

- **Preliminary Review**

Nehaya Odeh

Khaled Abu Khaled

- **Final Review**

Mohammad Duraidi

Jawad Al-Saleh

- **Overall Supervision**

Dr. Ola Awad

President of PCBS

Notice for Users

1. Due to the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, it has been impossible to provide Gaza Strip data. Therefore, some indicators have been published at the West Bank level only, while indicators related to all of Palestine have been published where Gaza Strip data was available. Please refer to the notes below the tables and charts, which explain the details related to the available data.
2. To understand the sections related to the theoretical framework and the definition of the child, as well as their rights and needs, you can access them through the following link: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2116.pdf>.
3. The previous version of the report can be obtained through the following link: The Status of the Rights of Palestinian Children, 2024
<https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2707.pdf>.
4. The percentages within the report texts are rounded to the nearest decimal place.
5. All terms and concepts used in this report are sourced from the Glossary of Statistical Terms Used in PCBS and can be obtained through the website at the link: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2721.pdf>.

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Introduction

Children in Palestine constitute nearly half of the population, representing the future of sustainable Palestine. This underscores the urgent need to intensify efforts to invest in this vital segment of society and strive diligently to safeguard their rights, dignity, and provide them with the means to lead decent and secure life in their homeland. Children in Palestine bear the heaviest burden of the Israeli Occupation's crimes and discriminatory practices. Throughout over the century, not a single day goes by without Palestinian children experiencing various hardships, from home demolitions, forced displacement, to intimidation, terror, and even outright physical harm, including injuries and the tragic loss of their families. This leaves them to navigate a harsh existence, deprived of the basic security and stability they surely deserve.

The release of this report comes amid the escalation of Israeli aggression since October 7, 2023, highlighting the severe violations faced by Palestinian children and reflecting the catastrophic humanitarian situation they endure due to the direct targeting of their homes and vital facilities. In the face of this aggression, there is an urgent need for this report to shed light on the devastating impact of the occupation on Palestinian children's rights, making them the most affected group. The current aggression has not only resulted in the deaths and injuries of thousands of children but has also intensified their daily suffering, as many have been deprived of their rights to education, healthcare, and a safe environment. The report aims to document these violations, raise international awareness about the crisis faced by Palestinian children under Israeli occupation, and call for urgent intervention to protect them and ensure their fundamental rights in accordance with international charters and treaties.

This report is a pivotal tool for tracking the state of children's rights in Palestine, encompassing various sectors such as education, health, and safety. It accomplishes this by establishing a comprehensive database, pivotal in shaping policies, developing plans, programs, and interventions, and crucial for their subsequent evaluation. The report also aids in building the Palestinian vision concerning childhood. It is meticulously prepared based on data derived from field surveys executed by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), enriched by administrative records from collaborating institutions and integrated with various elements of the national statistical system.

The inaugural report on children's rights in Palestine, published in 2013, marks the beginning of a series to which this current edition is an update. This report offers a comprehensive analysis and diagnosis of the state of Palestinian children's rights. It delves into demographic aspects and crucial population indicators pertaining to children, examining the sectors of education, health, and child protection. Furthermore, it addresses the impact of Israeli occupation measures on children, and other indicators.

We aspire for this report to be a pivotal resource in fostering a brighter future for our children. It is intended as an instrumental addition in developing national reports pertinent to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This report's goal is to offer an insightful diagnosis of the current situation of children in Palestine and to aid in the formulation of strategic plans and the implementation of focused developmental programs. These efforts are directed at fulfilling and upholding the rights of Palestinian children, ensuring their well-being and progress.

November, 2025

Dr. Ola Awad
President of PCBS

Chapter One

Terms and Indicators

1.1 Terms and Indicators

The terms and indicators used in this report are defined by the glossary and guide on statistical indicators issued by PCBS, certified on the latest international recommendations in statistics, and consistent with international systems.

A child:

Every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

Juvenile child:

An individual who is below the age of 18 years at the time of committing a criminal act.

Household:

One person or a group of persons with or without a household relationship, who live in the same housing unit, share meals and make joint provision of food and other essentials of living.

Head of Household:

The person who usually lives with the household and is recognized as head of household by its other members. Often he/she is the main decision maker and is responsible for financial support and welfare of the household.

Age-sex Structure:

The composition of a population as determined by the number or proportion of males and females in each age category. The age-structure of a population is the cumulative result of past trends in fertility, mortality, and migration rates. Information on age-sex composition is an essential prerequisite for the description and analysis of demographic data

Median Age at First Marriage: (Indicator)

Indicator measures the age at first marriage that divides ages of marriages (at first marriage) into two equal groups.

Fertility:

The actual reproductive performance of an individual, a couple, a group, or a population (refers to actual number of children that would be born alive to the women during her childbearing).

Diarrhea:

The passage of loose or liquid stools more frequently than is normal for the individual. Diarrhea may be defined as it is understood by respondents or mothers.

Crude Birth:

It is the new births, the Crude Birth Rate refers to the number of these new births per 1,000 persons in a given year. (Not to be confused with growth rate).

Infant Mortality:

It Refers to infant deaths (infants who are less than a year old), the infant mortality rate refers to the number of infant deaths in a given year per 1,000 live births during the year.

Under-5 Mortality:

The probability of dying between birth and the fifth birthday.

School:

Any educational institution excluding kindergartens, regardless of students' number and grade structure.

Government School:

Any educational institution run by MOE or any other ministry or governmental instrument.

UNRWA School:

Any school run or supervised by UNRWA.

Private School:

Any licensed local or foreign non-governmental educational institution.

Basic Stage:

The first nine scholastic years of schooling on which other stages of education depend.

Secondary Stage:

The stage consisting of three scholastic years following the basic stage, the years 10 and 11 and 12 of schooling.

Class:

A group of students (pupils) at any educational stage who make up one grade or more and share one classroom.

Student/Pupil:

Any one attending an educational institution.

Supervising Authority:

The body legally and administratively responsible for running the school. It can be governmental, UNRWA, or private.

School Gender:

The school is classified according to the sex of the students studying in it, either male or female or a mixed school for both males and females.

Kindergarten:

Any educational institution licensed by MOE offering education to four or five year olds. Kindergarten Consists of the first and second grades.

Repeater:

A student who fails one or more subjects and therefore is not promoted to the following grade.

Drop-out Student:

A student who left school during the last scholastic year and who did not transfer to another school.

Gross Enrollment Rate (Indicator):

Indicator measures total enrolment in a specific stage of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to the same stage of education in a given scholastic year.

Net Enrollment Rate in Primary Education: (Indicator)

It is the total number of students who are of official enrollment age in primary education (6-15 years), regardless of the grade they are enrolled in, expressed as a percentage of the total population in the corresponding age group (6-15 years).

Net Enrollment Rate in Secondary Education: (Indicator)

It is the total number of students who are of official enrollment age in secondary education (16-17 years), regardless of the grade they are enrolled in, expressed as a percentage of the total population in the corresponding age group (16-17 years).

Suspected pneumonia:

Children under five years who suffer from cough with quick breath or have difficulty breathing due to problem in chest or both problem in chest and blocked nose.

Breast feeding:

It Refers to the method of feeding infants and children, and is defined as a child having been fed breast milk directly from the breast or expressed.

Exclusive breastfeeding:

Children aged 0-5 months who are being breastfed and have not received any other food or drink, except for vitamins and medications.

Malnutrition:

Malnutrition means “badly nourished” but it is more than a measure of what we eat or fail to eat. Clinically, malnutrition is characterized by an inadequate intake of protein, energy and micronutrients and by frequent infections or disease. Nutritional status is the result of the complex interaction between the food we eat, our overall state of health and the environment in which we live – in short, food, health and caring, the three “pillars of well-being”.

Percentage of Children under 5 years of age who suffer from stunting (Indicator):

Indicator measures the percentage of children under age 5 who fall below minus two standard deviations of the median height for age of the WHO standard.

Immunization:

Immunization is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine.

Percentage of Children under 5 years of age who suffer from Underweight (Indicator):

Indicator measures the percentage of children under age 5 who fall below minus two standard deviations of the median weight for age of the WHO standard.

Percentage of Children under 5 years of age who suffer from wasting (Indicator):

Indicator measures the percentage of children under age 5 who fall below minus two standard deviations of the median weight for height of the WHO standard.

Maternal Mortality:

It is number deaths between women due to pregnancy and birth complications, the maternal mortality rate refers to the number of dead women due to these reasons per 100,000 live births.

Work:

All activities performed by persons in order to gain profit or wage either monthly wage, weekly, daily, on piece for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind. One hour or more of such activity constitutes work. Work also includes unpaid activity on a family farm or business.

Employed:

Persons aged 15 years and over who were work at least one hour during the reference period, or who were not at work during the reference period, but held a job or owned business from which they were temporarily absent (because of illness, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason) he\ she was employer, self-employed, wage employed, unpaid family member or other. The employed person is normally classified in one of two categories according to the number of weekly work hours, i.e. 1–14 work hours and 15 work hours and above. Also the absence due to sick leave, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason considered employed from 1-14 hours.

Self-employed:

A person who work in an establishment that is totally or partially belonging to him/her (partner) and do not hires any wage employees. This includes self-employed who worked to own selves outside establishments.

Paid-employed (wage employee):

A person who works for a public or private employer or under its supervision and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tips, piece rates or in kind ...etc. This item includes persons employed in governmental, non – governmental and private institutions along with those employed in a household enterprise in return for a specific remuneration.

Unpaid family member

A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person living in the same household and has no share in profits.

Employer:

A person who work in an establishment that is totally or partially belonging to him\ her and hires or supervises the work of one or more waged employees. This includes persons operating their projects or contracting companies provided they employ a minimum of one waged employee. Shareholders are not considered employers even if they are working in it.

Worked Hours:

Time spent by employed person in his/her occupation.

Cash Wage:

Cash net wage paid to the wage employees.

Household Consumption:

It refers to the amount of Cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes, and The value of goods and service payments or part of payments received from the employer, and own-produced goods and food, including consumed quantities during the recording period, and Imputed rent for owned houses.

Household Expenditure:

It refers to the amount of cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes, and the value of goods and services payments or part of payments received from the employer, and cash expenditure spent as taxes (non-commercial or non-industrial), Zakat, Insurance, gifts, contributions, interests on debts and other non-consumption items.

Poverty line:

The monetary value for the household basic basket (shelter, clothes, and food), in addition to other needs including health care, education, transportation, personal care, and housekeeping supplies. The

poverty lines has been adjusted to reflect the different consumption of families based on their composition (household size and the number of children).

Deep Poverty line:

The monetary value for the household basic basket (shelter, clothes, and food).

Income:

Cash or in kind revenues for individual or household within a period of time; could be a week or a month or a year.

Internet:

The Internet is a worldwide public computer network. It provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries e-mail, news, entertainment and data files, irrespective of the device used (not assumed to be only via a computer – it may also be by mobile telephone, tablet, PDA, games machine, digital TV etc.). Access can be via a fixed or mobile network.

Internet Use:

For the purposes of this survey, defined as the basic uses of the Internet (during the last twelve months), such as access to certain sites, reading newsletters, and downloading files or programs from the Web.

Computer Use:

For the purposes of this survey, defined as the basic use of the computer (during the last twelve months), such as opening the computer and files, creating, copying, pasting, and saving files.

Website

Location on the World Wide Web identified by a Web address. Collection of Web files on a particular subject that includes a beginning file called a home page. Information is encoded with specific languages (Hypertext mark-up language (HTML), XML, Java) readable with a Web browser, like Netscape's Navigator or Microsoft's Internet Explorer

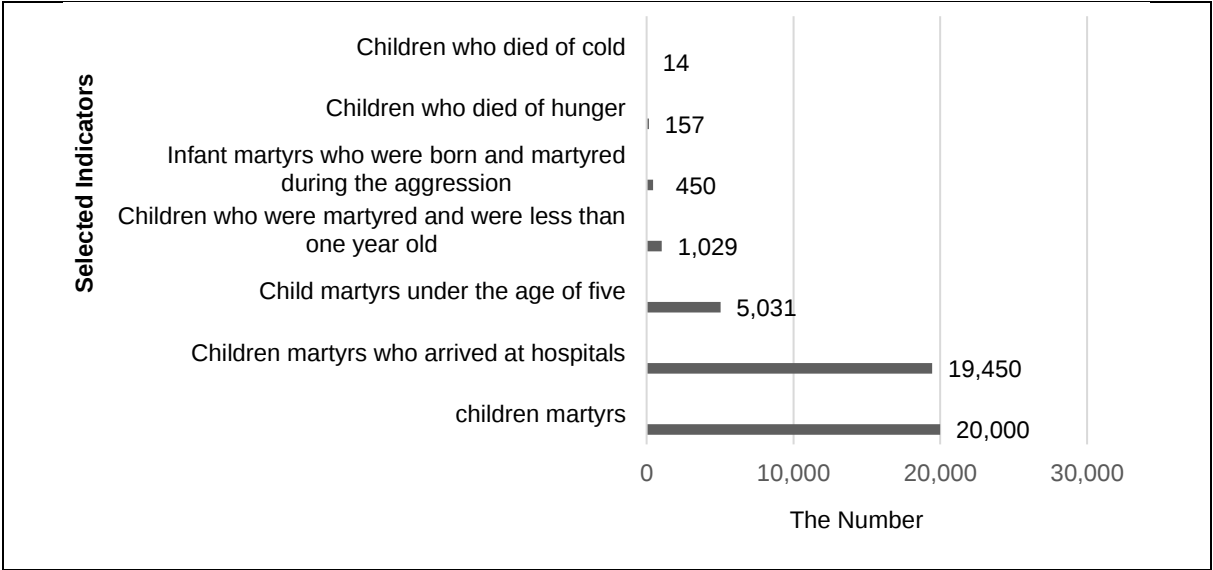
Chapter Two

Children Under Israeli Occupation

2.1 Child Martyrs

After more than two years of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, which began on 07/10/2023 until 07/10/2025, its effects accelerated on all components of the Palestinian society, reaching stones, trees and people, and increasing the restrictions on the capabilities of the Palestinian people, as they suffered devastating human and material losses. The attack is still continuing throughout Gaza Strip and the West Bank alike, which is represented by genocide, starvation, and ethnic cleansing, as more than 2.11 million people in Gaza Strip are at risk of genocide, starvation, and ethnic cleansing, in addition to arrests, raids, closures, and restrictions on movement and travel. More than 39,022 households were subjected to massacres by the Israeli occupation, and 2,700 households were wiped out and erased from the civil registry. There are also more than 6,020 households that were wiped out, leaving only one survivor. The Israeli occupation aggression targeted civilians, as the number of martyrs and missing persons in Gaza Strip reached more than 76,639 martyrs and missing persons since the beginning of the genocide, of whom 67,183 martyrs arrived at hospitals until 10/7/2025, including more than 20,000 children, of whom 19,450 arrived at hospitals, including more than 450 infants who were born and martyred during the Israeli aggression. There are 1,029 children who were martyred during the Israeli aggression and were under the age of one year old, and 5,031 were under the age of five. 157 children died of hunger and malnutrition, and 14 children died of the cold in the forced displacement camps. It is worth noting that children, women and the elderly constituted more than 55% of the total number of martyrs, while there are more than 9,500 missing, the majority of whom are children and women. The number of the wounded who arrived at hospitals in Gaza Strip reached 169,841, with children constituting 26% of them, or approximately 44,143 wounded children. As of October 20th, 2025, the number of martyrs in the West Bank reached 1,056, including 213 children.

Selected Indicators of Child Martyrs due to the Israeli Aggression against Gaza Strip since October 7th, 2023

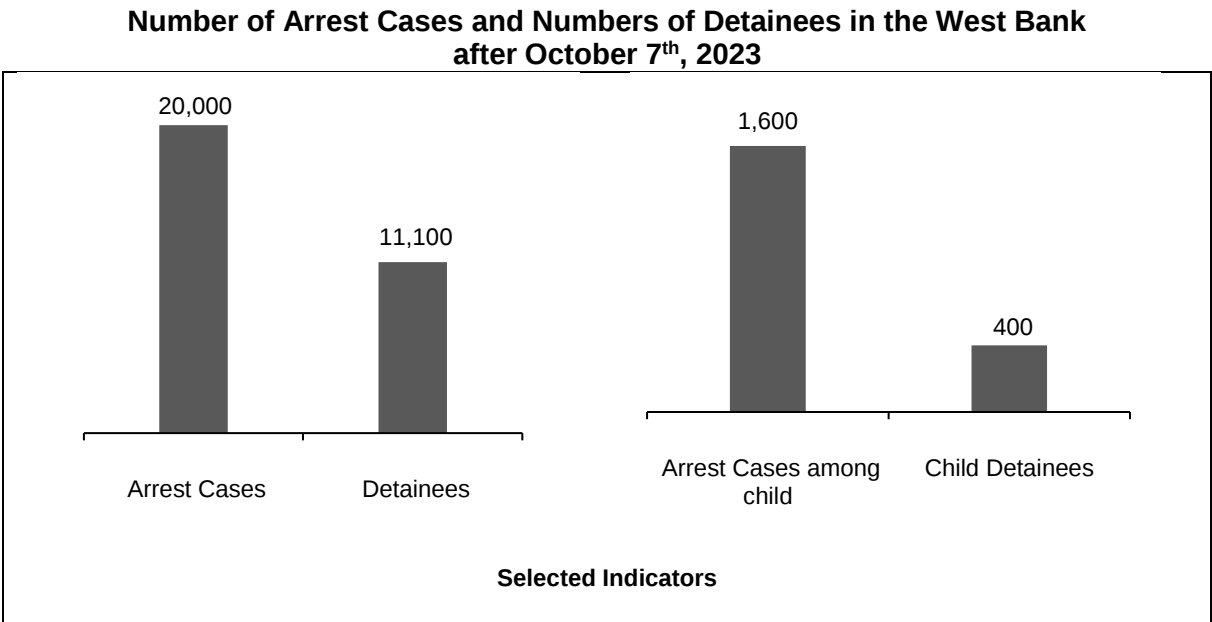


Source: Humanitarian Situation Update #329 | Gaza Strip | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory

2.2 Detained Children

According to data issued by the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, the number of arrests in the West Bank since the beginning of the ongoing Israeli aggression after October 7th, 2023 has reached more than 20,000 cases in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, of them 1,600 children under the age of 18 years. As for Gaza Strip, accurate information is not available due to the enforced disappearance that the occupation continues to carry out against the detainees in Gaza Strip.

After two years of the Israeli war of genocide waged against Gaza Strip, the number of Palestinians in the Israeli prisons continues to increase, and the suffering continues, as their number has risen to more than 11,100 prisoners even before the ceasefire came into effect, including more than 400 children. Those children are being deprived of their childhood experiences and rights, including their education. Furthermore, they are subjected to various violations during their detention, such as nighttime arrests, physical assaults witnessed by their households, gunfire during arrests, being shackled, blindfolded, and denied access to legal assistance. These practices contravene international legal standards and the principles set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Before October 7th, 2023, the total number of detainees in prisons exceeded 5,250, including 180 children.



Note: the arrests include those who were arrested and kept in detention by the Israeli occupation, and those who were later released.

Source: Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, 2025. Updated until 07/10/2025. Ramallah - Palestine.

2.3 Demolitions by the Israeli Occupation Authorities

There is no safe place for children in Gaza Strip due to the ongoing Israeli bombardment. In Gaza Strip¹, life has turned into a continuous tragedy with no safe haven, as the Israeli aggression has caused massive destruction to the housing infrastructure. Approximately 268,000 housing units have been destroyed, around 148,000 units have been severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable, and nearly 153,000 units have been partially damaged. This has resulted in the loss of shelter for more than 288,000 Palestinian households, amid the deterioration of temporary housing conditions, as over 125,000 tents have completely

¹ **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025.** Interactive platform on the Israeli occupation aggression against Palestine - Updated until 05/10/2025. Ramallah - Palestine.

deteriorated and become uninhabitable out of a total of 135,000 existing tents. The policy of forced displacement has also led to the displacement of more than two million individuals, alongside the targeting of 293 shelters and displacement centers by the Israeli occupation forces. This destruction has forced children to flee and seek shelter in overcrowded places such as schools and hospitals, limiting privacy and increasing the likelihood of violence and conflict due to resource shortages. They also face difficulties in accessing sanitary facilities and basic needs, impacting their dignity and physical and mental health, which exacerbates their psychological and physical strains and affects their overall quality of life.

In the West Bank², between October 7th, 2023 and October 6th, 2025, the Israeli occupation demolished, confiscated, or forced owners to demolish 3,588 Palestinian structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This led to the displacement of more than 7,164 Palestinians, including 3,071 children, and 2,014 women, and 2,079 men. The demolitions after October 7th, 2023 included over 1,297 inhabited residential units, 235 uninhabited residential units, more than 979 agricultural structures, more than 310 water, sanitation and hygiene structures, and 557 livelihood structures. Approximately 92 incidents of demolition and destruction targeted the infrastructure, most of them in Tulkarm Camp, Nour Shams Camp, and Jenin Camp, where water, sanitation, and electricity infrastructures were repeatedly damaged in those areas during Israeli operations, affecting entire neighborhoods and beyond, and there were 118 demolition incidents classified as other.

² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA, 2025.

Chapter Three

Demographic Reality

A child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 1)

3.1 Demographic Growth

As of mid-2025, the child population in Palestine (individuals below 18 years) was estimated at 2,334,253, representing approximately 42% of the total population. This includes 1,190,609 males and 1,143,644 females. Breaking it down regionally, in the West Bank male children counted 705,867 compared to 676,102 females while in Gaza Strip the male children counted 484,742 compared to 467,542 females. Children in Gaza Strip represent 45% of the total population of the Strip, while in the West Bank they represent 41% of the total population of the West Bank.

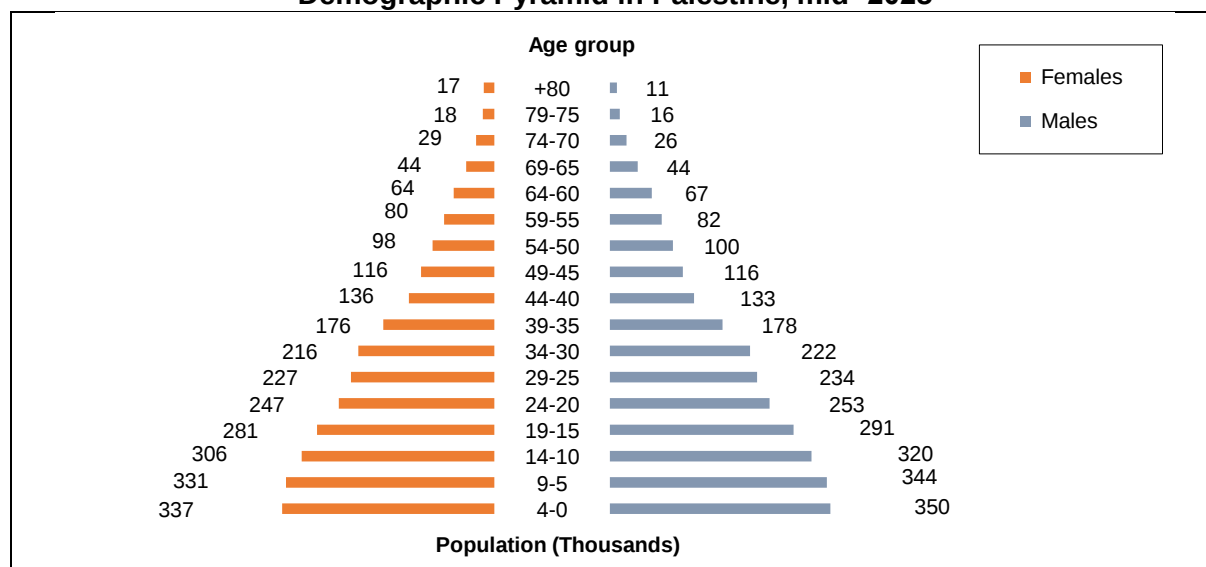
Table 1: Number of Children in Palestine by Age Group, Region and Sex, Mid- 2025

Age Group	Palestine		West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-4	349,996	336,662	214,821	207,178	135,175	129,484
5-9	344,034	330,522	200,102	191,768	143,932	138,754
10-14	319,734	305,603	186,212	176,905	133,522	128,698
15-17	176,845	170,857	104,732	100,251	72,113	70,606
Total	1,190,609	1,143,644	705,867	676,102	484,742	467,542

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Revised Estimates based on the Final Results of Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 2017. Ramallah – Palestine.

Estimates for the middle of mid-2025 indicate that the percentage of individuals aged 60 years and above decreases to 6%, and these percentages indicate that fertility rates have been declining continuously since the year 2000, Palestinian society is a young society.

Demographic Pyramid in Palestine, mid -2025



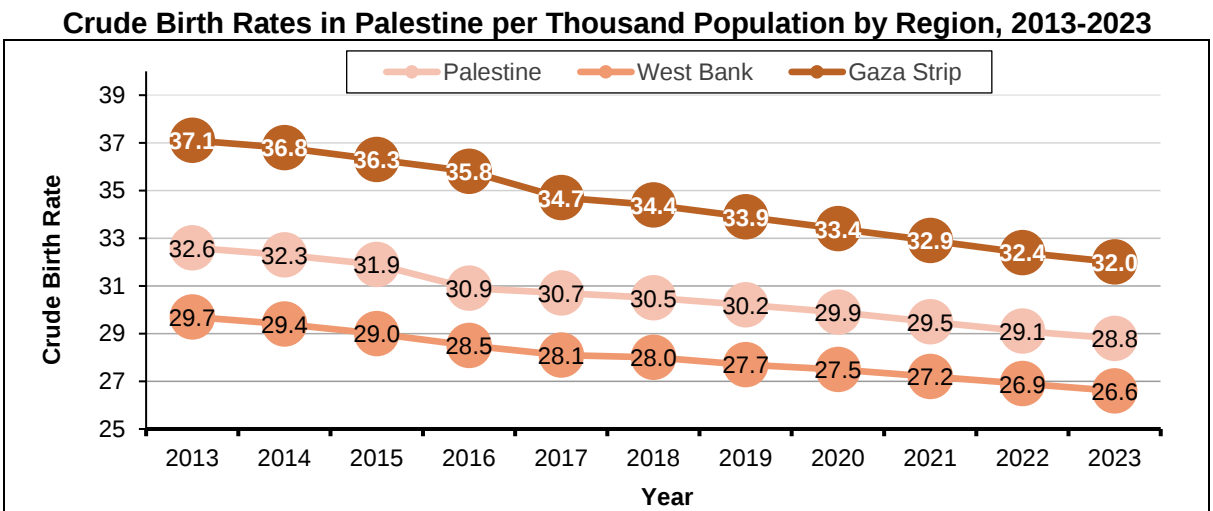
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Revised Estimates based on the Final Results of Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 2017. Ramallah – Palestine.

The population estimates were prepared before the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023. As a result of this aggression, and taking into account the increasing number of martyrs and missing persons, the number of those who left Gaza Strip, in addition to a decrease in the number of births, population estimates indicate a decrease in the population of Gaza Strip to 2,129,724 persons, a decrease of 6% from what was estimated for mid-2024. Moreover, the population of the Strip has decreased to 2,114,301, (10% decrease from the estimates for mid-2025).

3.2 Crude birth rates

Birth rates are influenced by various factors, including levels of fertility and childbearing, health services, and state policies on maternal and childcare. Based on estimates from the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census 2017, the crude birth rate in Palestine has declined to 28.8 births per thousand population in 2023, down from 32.6 births per thousand population in 2013. This decrease is likely attributable to reduced fertility levels and the effective implementation of reproductive health and family planning programs.

Regionally, there are significant differences in crude birth rates between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In 2023, the West Bank recorded a crude birth rate of 26.6 births per thousand population, a decrease from 29.7 in 2013. In contrast, Gaza Strip saw a decrease to 32.0 births per thousand population in 2023 from 37.1 births per thousand in 2013.



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024. Revised Estimates based on the Final Results of Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 2017. Ramallah – Palestine.

Palestine is expected to witness a decline in birth rates in the coming years, influenced by multiple factors, including decreasing fertility and the implementation of reproductive health programs in family planning, alongside the impact of political and economic conditions. The recent Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, which began on October 7, 2023, and continues to date, has led to deteriorating economic conditions and increased unemployment in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, prompting families to reduce the number of children. Furthermore, the aggression has damaged healthcare infrastructure, negatively affecting maternal and child health services. These direct and indirect impacts of the Israeli aggression contribute to declining birth rates.

3.3 Child Mortality

States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

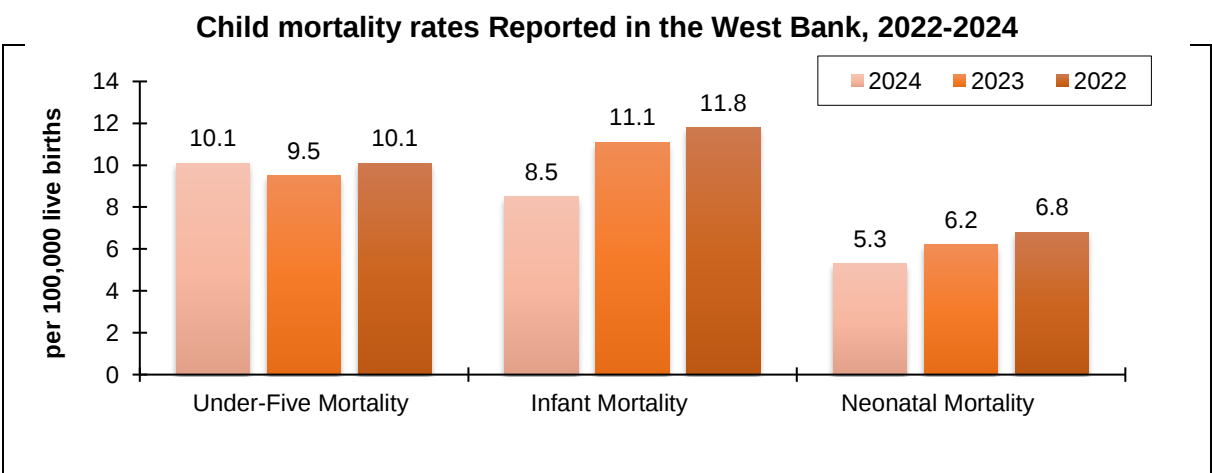
(Child’s Rights Convention, Article 24)

Child mortality is measure of the country's social and health conditions. In Palestine, infant and under-five mortality rates have declined over the past two decades. However, this improvement must be understood within the complex context of life in Palestine.

The Israeli aggression has both direct and indirect impacts on children's health. Repeated attacks have damaged healthcare infrastructure, limiting access to essential maternal and child healthcare. Additionally, the economic decline due to blockades and imposed restrictions has led to shortages in medical supplies and medications, negatively affecting children's health and survival in health emergencies. Furthermore, psychological and social factors such as poverty, displacement, and psychological stress heavily impact children's health, making the effects of Israeli aggression evident despite improvements in child mortality rates.

3.3.1 Child Mortality in the West Bank

Data reported by the Ministry of Health in the West Bank indicate slight fluctuations in child mortality rates in recent years. The reported under-five mortality rate in 2024 was approximately 10.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, roughly the same as in 2022, after a slight decrease in 2023 (9.5) The data also showed a clear decrease in reported infant mortality from 11.8 in 2022 to 8.5 in 2024, as well as a decrease in reported neonatal mortality from 6.8 in 2022 to 5.3 in 2024. These trends indicate a relative improvement in child health and maternal and newborn health care indicators in recent years, despite some annual variations that may reflect differences in the quality of reporting or in health conditions and services available.

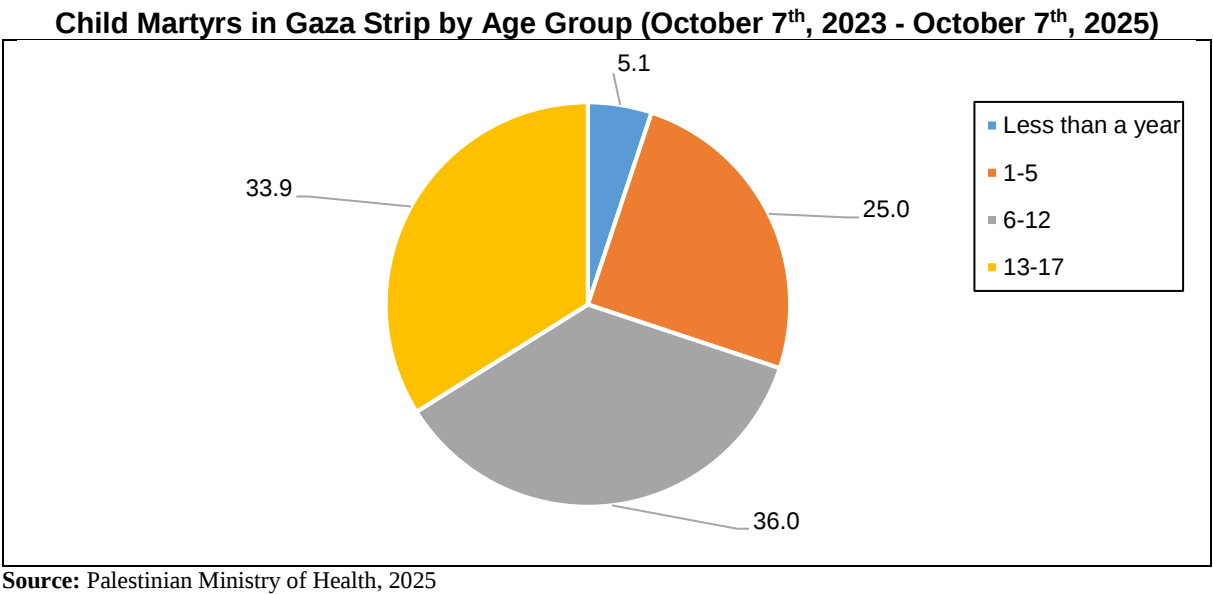


Note: Under-Five Mortality (Sustainable development indicator 3.2.1.1)
Infant Mortality (Sustainable development indicator 3.2.1.2)
Neonatal Mortality (Sustainable development indicator 3.2.2)
Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Reports 2023, 2024. Ramallah- Palestine.

3.3.2 Death among Children in Gaza Strip from October 7th, 2023, to October 7th, 2025

The number of child martyrs in Gaza Strip from the beginning of the Israeli aggression on October 7th, 2023, to October 7th, 2025, reached more than 20,000 children, representing 30% of the total number of martyrs in Gaza Strip, which reached 67,183 during the same period.

Data indicated that among the martyred children, 1,029 were under one year old, and 5,031 were under five. Data indicates that the life losses affected children of various age groups, with the age groups (6-12 years) accounting for the highest percentage of child martyrs by 36%, followed by the age groups (13-17 years) by 33.9%, and the age groups (1-5 years) by 25%. The percentage of martyrs under one year of age was 5.1%. These tragic figures reflect the widespread and indiscriminate nature of the violence targeting children in Gaza Strip. No age group has been spared, with attacks targeting infants, children in early childhood, school, and adolescence. This situation has resulted in an unprecedented rise in child mortality rates due to the direct targeting of residential neighborhoods and health facilities, the deterioration of medical care services, and the difficulty of accessing basic needs. This reality highlights a blatant violation of children's rights to life, safety, and protection.



3.4 Road Accidents

The issue of child fatalities and injuries in traffic accidents is a significant concern globally; this situation underscores the various risk factors that contribute to these tragedies. Children are particularly vulnerable on the roads due to their limited experience and understanding of the dangers involved in road travel. Their lack of attention can be a critical factor in these accidents. Additionally, drivers may not exercise sufficient caution in areas frequented by children, thereby increasing the risks. The problem is compounded by inadequate road infrastructure and the distracting influence of mobile phone technology on children, especially when they are walking.

In 2024, the data showed that 2,127 children were injured in road accidents in this region. The age distribution of these victims is particularly concerning: 61.9% were between 7 to 17 years old, while 38.1% were under 7 years old. The highest incidences of these accidents were reported in the governorates of Nablus, Hebron, and Jenin.

Table 2: Children Injured in Road Accidents in the West Bank by Governorate and Age Group, 2024

Governorate	Age Group		
	Less than seven	7 years - below 18 years	Total
Jenin	109	114	223
Tubas & Northern Valleys	41	57	98
Tulkarm	57	82	139
Nablus	205	386	591
Qalqiliya	29	50	79
Salfit	39	43	82
Ramallah & Al-Bireh	75	180	255
Jericho & Al- Aghwar	14	39	53
Jerusalem*	12	37	49
Bethlehem	61	81	142
Hebron	169	247	416
Total	811	1,316	2,127

Note: Data excluded those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli Occupation in 1967.

Source: Directorate General of the Palestinian Police 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

The number of child fatalities resulting from road accidents in the West Bank reached 55 cases in 2024. The data indicated that the mortality rate was higher in the age group below 7, accounting for 61.8% of the total deaths, while the mortality rate for children in the age group of 7-17 years was 38.2%.

Table 3: Child Fatalities in Road Accidents in the West Bank by Governorate and Age Group, 2024

Governorate	Age Group		
	Less than seven	7 years - below 18 years	Total
Jenin	5	2	7
Tubas & Northern Valleys	3	2	5
Tulkarm	0	0	0
Nablus	5	3	8
Qalqiliya	3	1	4
Salfit	0	0	0
Ramallah & Al-Bireh	1	2	3
Jericho & Al- Aghwar	2	1	3
Jerusalem*	3	1	4
Bethlehem	4	2	6
Hebron	8	7	15
Total	34	21	55

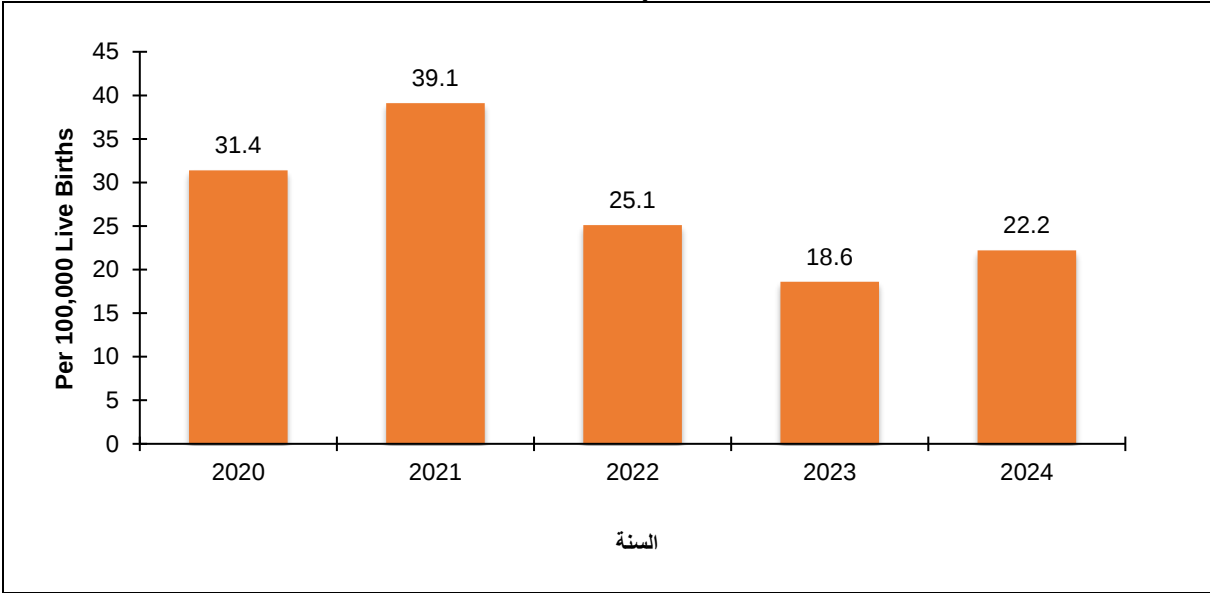
Note: Data excluded those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli Occupation in 1967.

Source: Directorate General of the Palestinian Police.

3.5 Maternal Mortality Rate*

The maternal mortality rate in West Bank decreased to 22.2 women per 100,000 live births in the year 2024, compared to 31.4 women per 100,000 live births in the year 2020.

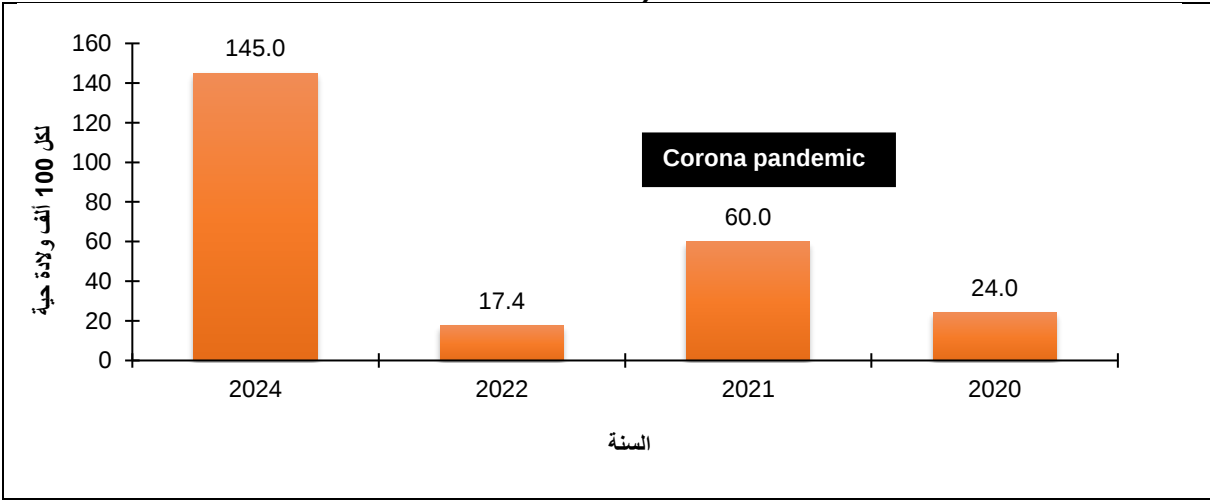
Reported maternal mortality rate in the West Bank for selected years (per 100,000 live births)



Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Reports 2024. Ramallah- Palestine.
*Sustainable development indicator 3.1.1

Data from the Ministry of Health, based on the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), indicate that the maternal mortality rate in Gaza Strip has fluctuated significantly in recent years, reaching 24 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020, rising to 60 in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, then declining to 17.4 in 2022, before sharply increasing to 145 in 2024. These tragic figures reflect the significant impact of the difficult humanitarian conditions, particularly in light of the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, which has led to the deterioration of the health infrastructure, shortages of essential equipment and medicines, and increased pressure on hospitals and health centers. This has directly contributed to the high maternal mortality rate and the difficulty of providing safe healthcare for pregnant women.

Reported maternal mortality rate in Gaza Strip for selected years (per 100,000 live births)



Source: Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2025

3.6 Median Age at First Marriage

The median age at first marriage was 21.0 years for females and 26.0 years for males in 2022, with no difference between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

A notable pattern emerged when correlating marriage age with education. For Palestinians with university degrees (bachelor's or higher), the median marriage age was 24.3 years for women and 27.3 years for men. On the other hand, those with a preparatory education or less married much younger, with women at 17.0 years and men at 24.4 years.

Additionally, there was a slight decrease in early marriages (before age 18) in Palestine in 2022 compared to 2021. It decreased from 12% to 11% for females among all females who got married. For males, it was 0.4% among all males who got married during the years 2021 and 2022.

Chapter Four

Education Sector

States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all; (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 28)

4.1 The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on the Education Sector³

Education is a fundamental human right granted to everyone under Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the ongoing bombardment and violent airstrikes on Gaza Strip have resulted in the destruction of a significant portion of the infrastructure of schools and universities. Additionally, many schools have been used as shelters for internally displaced people, leading to the disruption of the educational process since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on October 7, 2023 until 14/10/2025. This situation represents a blatant violation of individuals' right to access education.

In Gaza Strip, 179 public schools were completely destroyed, and more than 218 public schools and UNRWA schools were subjected to bombing and damage, resulting in approximately 700,000 students being deprived of their right to school education for the 2024/2025 scholastic year. The number of martyrs among school students more than 18,512, while more than 27,000 students were injured.

Additionally, around 70,000 students were deprived of their right to take the high school exam for the two latest scholastic years. As of now, there is no accurate information about the number of school students whom the Israeli military has arrested during ground operations across various areas of Gaza Strip.

The aggression resulted in the complete destruction of more than 63 university buildings, preventing approximately 88,000 students from attending their universities until October 14, 2025. Since the beginning of the Israeli aggression, the number of martyrs among students enrolled in higher education institutions has reached more than 1,333 martyrs, while more than 2,886 students were injured. So far, there is no information available about the number of university students who were arrested by the Israeli occupation army during ground operations in various areas of Gaza Strip.

The number of martyrs among teachers and school administrators reached 791 martyrs, while 3,251 were injured. In higher education institutions in Gaza Strip, 241 workers were martyred, and 1,466 others were injured as a result of the ongoing airstrikes. The occupation also killed more than 193 scholars, academics, and researchers.

So far, there is no information available on the number of educational cadres arrested by the operations in all areas of Gaza Strip.

³:Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Israeli Occupation Violations against Education in Palestine from 07/10/2023 until 14/10/2025. Ramallah – Palestine

In the West Bank, since October 7, 2023 until October 14, 2025, the number of martyrs among the students enrolled in schools has reached 110, and the number of injured students enrolled in schools has reached 791. In addition, 395 students have been arrested by the Israeli occupation army. Regarding higher education institutions, 37 students have been martyred, and more than 246 others have been injured, and 442 students have been arrested. As for teachers and administrators, 5 teachers have been martyred, and 23 others have been injured. And more than 228 members of the teaching staff in schools and universities have been arrested.

4.2 Percentage of public expenditure on Education out of total government expenditure

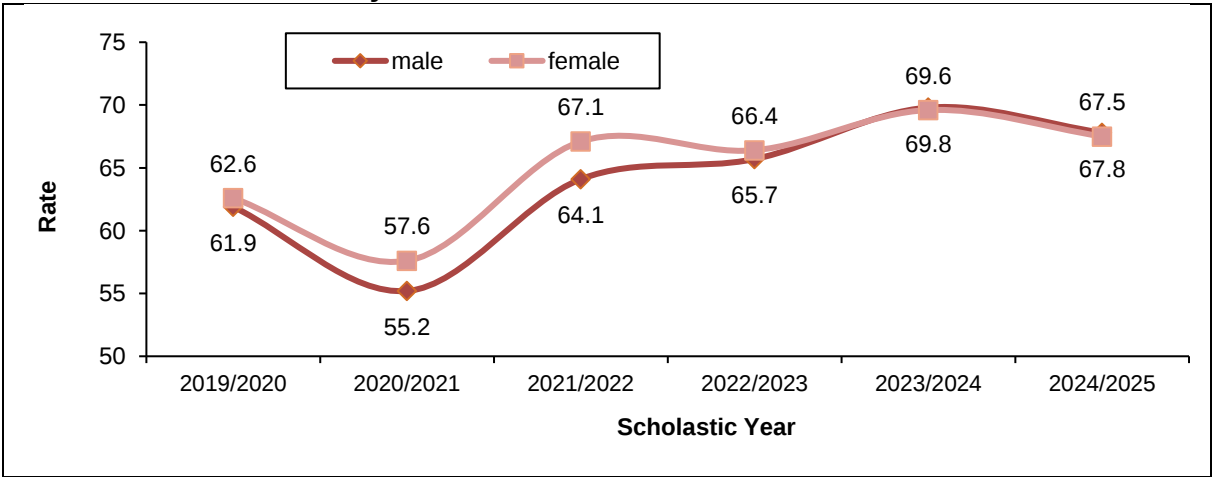
In 2024, the expenditure per student in the education sector in Palestine increased to 972 US Dollars in 2024, compared to 1,124 US Dollars in 2023⁴. However, the public expenditure on education as a percentage of the total government expenditure decreased from 18.2% in 2023 to 18.4% in 2022⁵.

4.3 Enrollment in Kindergartens and Schools

4.3.1 Enrollment in Kindergartens

The total enrollment rate in kindergartens, encompassing KG1 (Kindergarten Year 1) and KG2 (Kindergarten Year 2), is determined based on the total number of children enrolled in these kindergarten levels in a specific year. This figure is expressed as a percentage of the total population of children in the official early kindergarten enrollment age group, which is (4 - 5 years), for the same year.

Total Enrollment Rate in Kindergartens in Palestine among Children Aged (4-5 Years) By Sex for Selected Scholastic Years



Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Comprehensive kindergarten survey database for scholastic years 2019/2020 -2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.
Note: Data for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 scholastic year represents data for the West Bank only.

In the 2024/2025 scholastic year, there is a slight difference between females and males in the total enrollment rate in kindergartens in the West Bank, with 67.8 for males and 67.5 for females. The number of kindergartens in the West Bank in the scholastic year 2024/2025 reached 1,637 kindergartens, and the number of children in kindergartens in the West Bank

⁴ **Source:** Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Annual completion report of the annual plan, 2024. Ramallah – Palestine.

⁵ **Source:** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024. National accounts statistics for the years 2022, 2023. Ramallah - Palestine.

reached 98,739 children, including 50,317 males and 48,422 females. Regarding the staff, there were 5,058 caregivers, and the number of classes reached 4,885 classes in the West Bank, including 4,788 mixed classes, 32 classes for males, and 65 classes for females.

4.3.2 Number of Students in Schools in the West Bank the Scholastic Year 2024/2025

In the Scholastic year 2024/2025, the total enrollment in Palestinian schools in the West Bank reached 813,136 students. The sex distribution among these students is 401,070 male students and 412,066 female students.

When categorized by the supervising authority, the students are distributed as follows: 616,944 in public schools, 46,994 in UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) schools, and 149,198 in private schools. In terms of educational stages, there are 656,471 students enrolled in basic education, and Secondary education includes 156,665 students.

Table 4: Distribution of Students in the West Bank* by Supervising Authority, Stage and Sex, 2024/2025**

Region	Government			UNRWA			Private		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Basic	238,608	238,009	476,617	18,499	28,495	46,994	76,346	56,514	132,860
Secondary	58,553	81,774	140,327	-	-	-	9,064	7,274	16,338
Total	297,161	319,783	616,944	18,499	28,495	46,994	85,410	63,788	149,198
Jerusalem (J1)	2,157	3,989	6,146	298	501	799	11,487	10,771	22,258

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem and includes data for Jerusalem (J1).

**In the scholastic year 2017/2018, the basic education stage encompassed grades 1 through 9, in accordance with the new education legislation issued by the Ministry of Education. This restructuring positioned the 10th grade as part of the secondary education stage, which also included the 11th and 12th grades. This reclassification was a significant change, aligning the education system more closely with the provisions of the new education law.

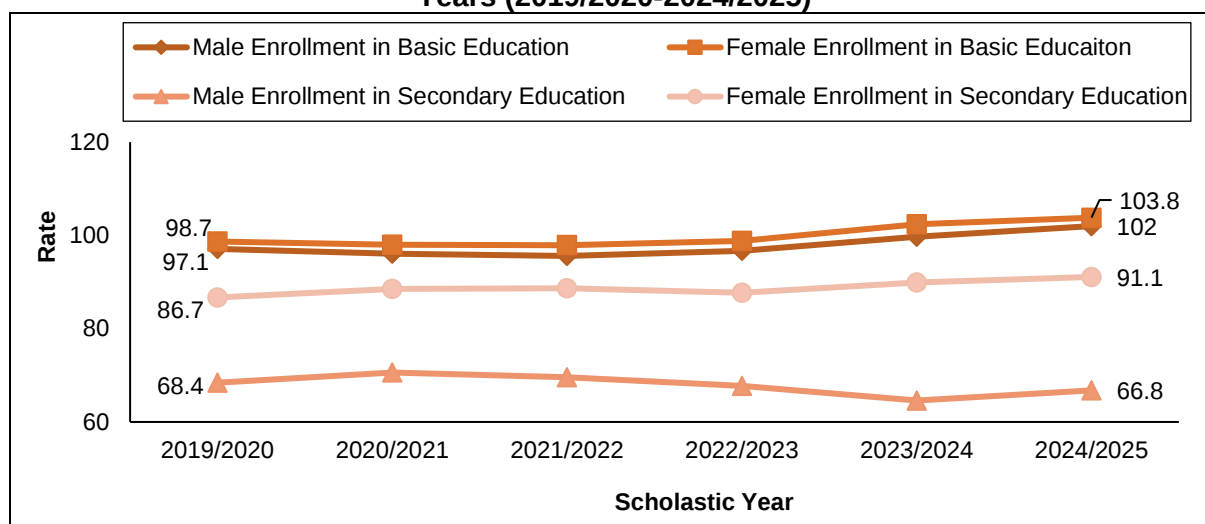
Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025.

4.3.3 Enrollment in Basic Education* and Secondary Education**

The net enrollment rate in basic education in the West Bank reached 101.0% in the scholastic year 2023/2024, while in the scholastic year 2024/2025 it reached 102.9%, with a disparity between males and females in favor of females, reaching 103.8% among females compared to 102.0% among males. *(Sustainable Development Indicator 4.5.1.1).

The net enrollment rate in secondary education in the West Bank reached (78.7%) in the scholastic year 2024/2025, with a clear disparity between males and females in favor of females; 66.8% among males compared to 91.1% among females. **(Sustainable Development Indicator 4.5.1.2).

Net Enrollment Rates in Palestine by Stage* and Sex for the Scholastic Years (2019/2020-2024/2025)

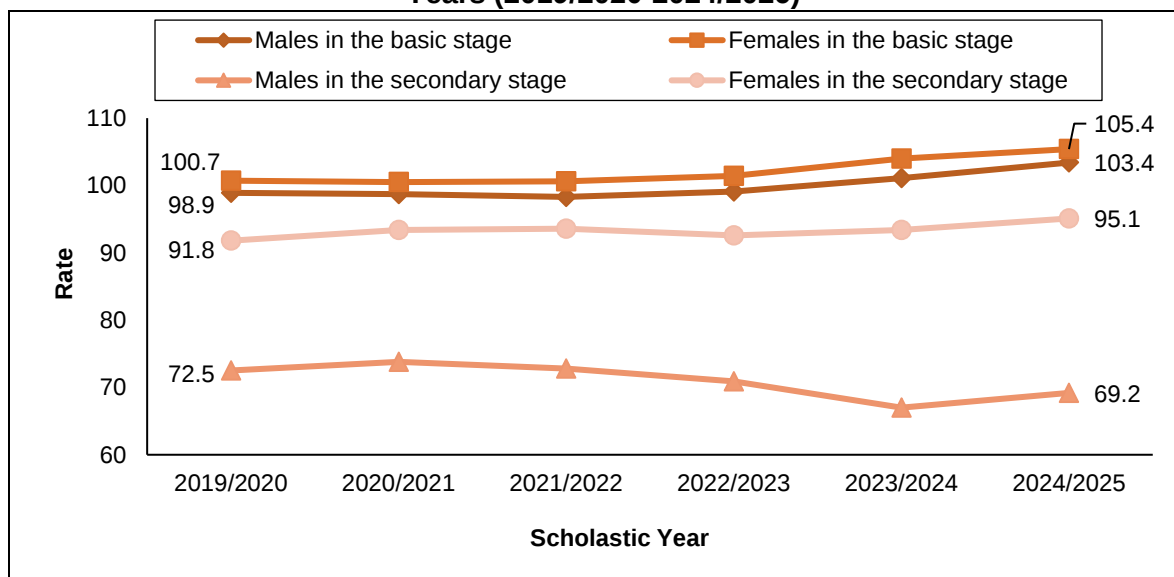


*In the scholastic year 2017/2018, the basic education stage encompassed grades 1 through 9, in accordance with the new education legislation issued by the Ministry of Education. This restructuring positioned the 10th grade as part of the secondary education stage, which also included the 11th and 12th grades. This reclassification was a significant change, aligning the education system more closely with the provisions of the new education law.

Note: Data for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 scholastic year represents data for the West Bank only.

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Comprehensive school survey database for scholastic years 2019/2020-2024/2025. Ramallah-Palestine.

Gross Enrollment Rates in Palestine by Stage* and Sex for the Scholastic Years (2019/2020-2024/2025)



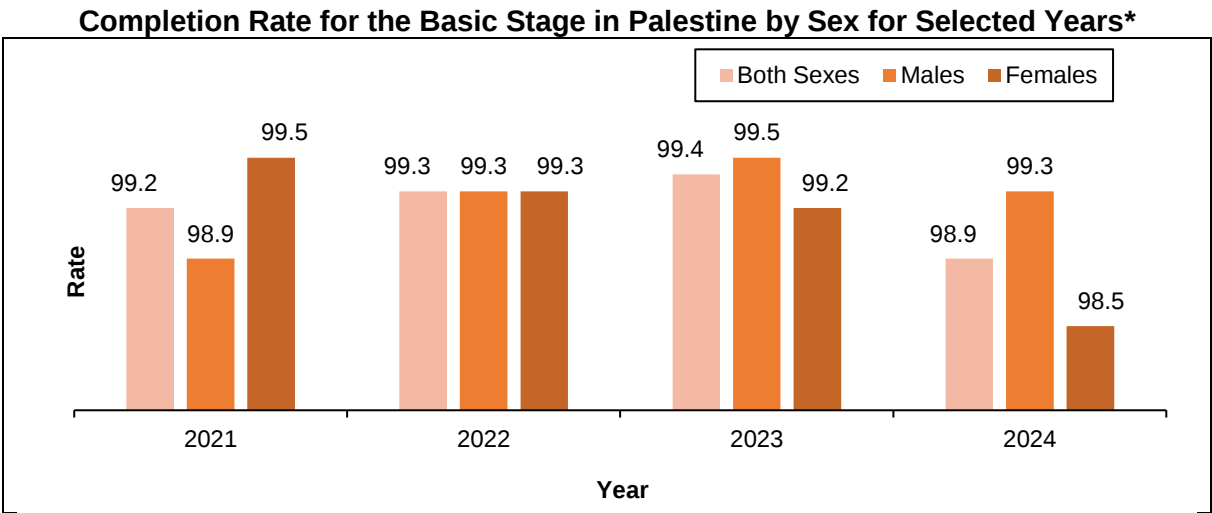
* In the scholastic year 2017/2018, the structure of the education stages in Palestine was defined under the new education law issued by the Ministry of Education. According to this law, the basic education stage comprised grades 1 to 9. Conversely, the secondary education stage was expanded to include grades 10, 11, and 12, marking a significant shift in the classification of the 10th grade from the basic to the secondary stage.

Note: Data for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 scholastic year represents data for the West Bank only.

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Comprehensive school survey database for scholastic years 2019/2020-2024/2025. Ramallah-Palestine.

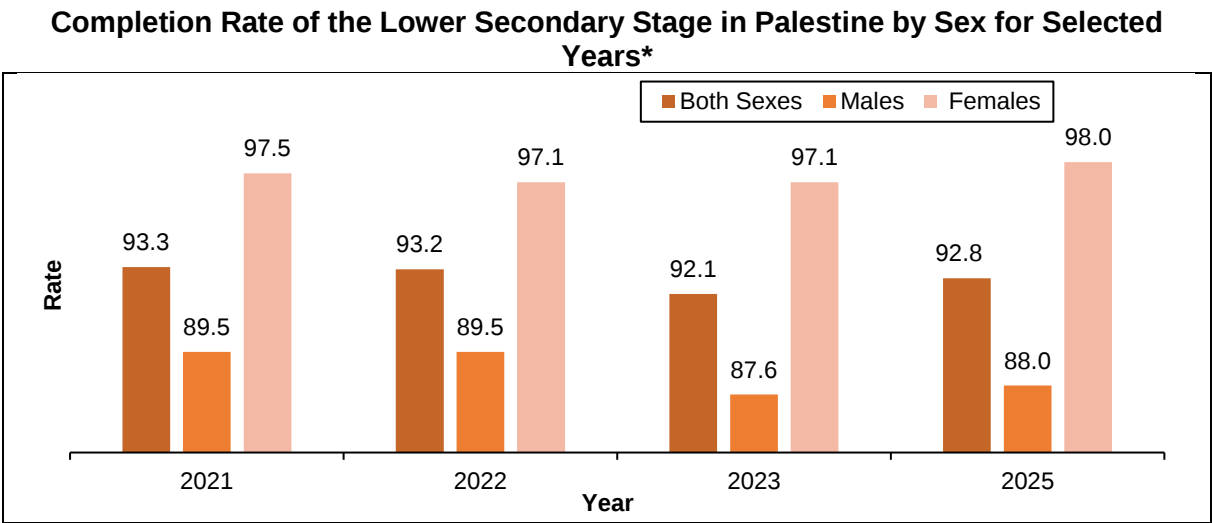
4.4 Completion Rates for Different Educational Levels* (Basic, Lower Secondary, Upper Secondary)

In 2024, Palestine achieved a notable accomplishment in its education sector, evidenced by the completion rate for the basic education stage. This rate stood at 98.9% for both sexes, with 99.3% for males and 98.5% for females during the year 2024. *(Sustainable Development Indicator 4.1.2).



Note: The indicator was calculated based on the number of years of study that the individual successfully completed. The last grade of primary school is the sixth grade.
*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.
** 2024 data represents data for the West Bank only.
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Data base of Labour Force Survey for Years, 2021 - 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

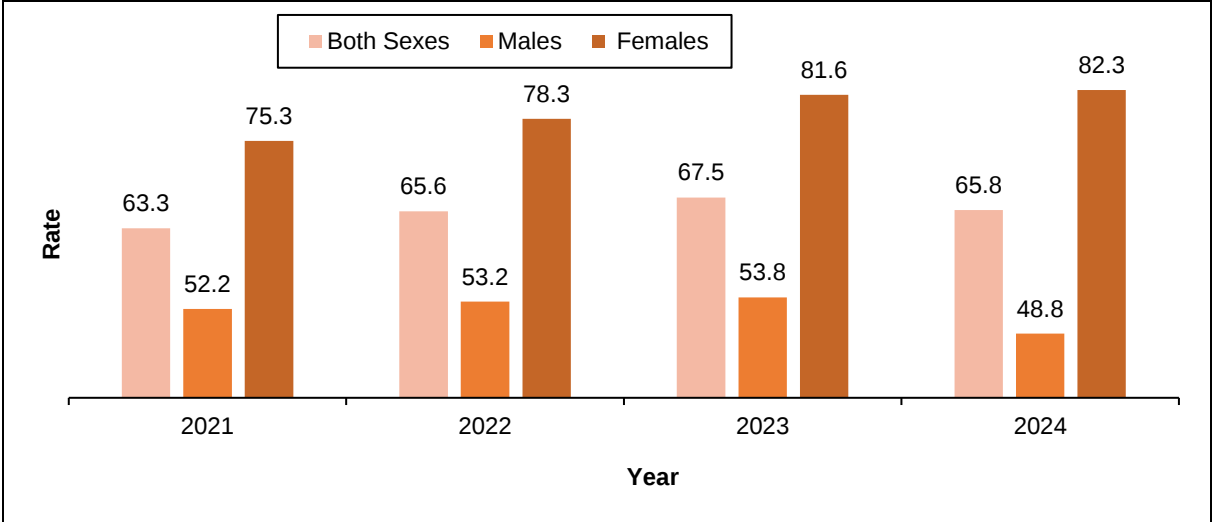
In the year 2024, Palestine's education statistics showed a completion rate of 92.8% for the lower secondary stage, encompassing both sexes in West Bank. However, a distinct sex disparity was observed in these figures. Female students exhibited a notably higher completion rate of 98.0%, in contrast to their male counterparts, who had a lower rate of 88.0% for the same stage.



Note: The indicator was calculated based on the number of years of study that the individual successfully completed. The last grade of lower secondary school is the tenth grade.
*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.
** 2024 data represents data for the West Bank only.
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Data base of Labour Force Survey for Years, 2021 – 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

The completion rate for the upper secondary stage reached 65.8% for both sexes in West Bank, with a clear difference in favor of females at 82.3% compared to 48.8% for males for the upper secondary stage during the year 2024.

Completion Rate of the Upper Secondary Stage in Palestine by Sex for Selected Years



Note: The indicator was calculated based on the number of years of study that the individual successfully completed.
*The last grade of upper secondary school is the twelfth grade.
**Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.
*** 2024 data represents data for the West Bank only.
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Data base of Labour Force Survey for Years, 2021 - 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

4.5 Distribution of Schools in the West Bank for the Scholastic Year 2024/2025

In the West Bank, the educational infrastructure encompasses 2,474 schools. This total includes 1,935 government-operated schools, 96 schools managed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and 443 private school. Furthermore, the schools are categorized by educational stage, comprising 1,430 basic schools and 1,044 secondary schools.

Table 5: Distribution of Schools in the West Bank by School Type, Supervising Authority And Stage*, 2023/2024

Region	Government			UNRWA			Private		
	Basic	Secondary	Total	Basic	Secondary	Total	Basic	Secondary	Total
Males	402	328	730	35	-	35	9	25	34
Females	298	405	703	48	-	48	5	15	20
co-ed	333	169	502	13	-	13	287	102	389
Total	1,033	902	1,93	96	-	96	301	142	443
Jerusalem (J1)	24	17	41	6	-	6	22	31	53

* In the scholastic year 2017/2018, the basic stage includes grades from the 1st to the 9th, while secondary stage includes 10th, 11th and 12th grades, based on the new education law issued by the Ministry of Education that consider the tenth grade to be within the secondary stage.
The sign (-) means none.
**Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.
Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

4.5.1 Average Number of Students Per Classroom for the Scholastic Year 2024/2025

The average number of students per class in government-supervised schools in the 2024/2025 academic year in the West Bank was 26.8 students, 34.5 students in UNRWA-supervised

schools, and 23.9 students in private schools. As for the average number of students per class by stage, it was 27.2 students in the Basic stage, and 23.9 students in the secondary stage.

Table 6: Average Number of Students for Each Classroom in the West Bank by Stage and Supervising Authority, 2024/2025

Region	Supervising Authority			
	Total	Government	UNRWA	Private
Basic	27.2	27.6	34.5	24.3
Secondary	23.9	24.3	-	21.0
Total	26.5	26.8	34.5	23.9
Jerusalem (J1)	21.7	14.8	16.6	25.2

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem and includes data for Jerusalem (J1).

**In the scholastic year 2017/2018, the basic education stage encompassed grades 1 through 9, in accordance with the new education legislation issued by the Ministry of Education. This restructuring positioned the 10th grade as part of the secondary education stage, which also included the 11th and 12th grades. This reclassification was a significant change, aligning the education system more closely with the provisions of the new education law.

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

4.5.2 School Drop-out and Repetition Rates

In the scholastic year 2023/2024, the West Bank reported relatively low overall dropout rates across all educational stages, with a rate of 0.62%. This rate, however, exhibited a sex disparity: it was 0.86% among male students and 0.38% among female students. Breaking down these rates further by educational stage, the basic education stage saw a dropout rate of 0.32%, with males at 0.51% and females at 0.12%. In contrast, the dropout rate in secondary education was notably higher at 1.87%, with male students having a rate of 2.63% compared to 1.31% for female students.

The Drop-out rates can be attributed to a decline in the ability to study and enter the workforce, especially among males, or due to engagement in early engagement and marriage, particularly among females. Other reasons include repeated failure, lack of interest in co-education or attending a school outside the residential area, in addition to the presence of some disabilities such as visual impairment and psychological or medical conditions.

Table 7: School Drop-out and Repetition Rates in the West Bank by Stage and Sex, 2023/2024

Indicator	Total			Basic			Secondary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Drop-out Rate	0.86	0.38	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.32	2.63	1.31	1.87
Repetition Rate	0.32	0.27	0.29	0.31	0.25	0.28	0.39	0.32	0.35

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.

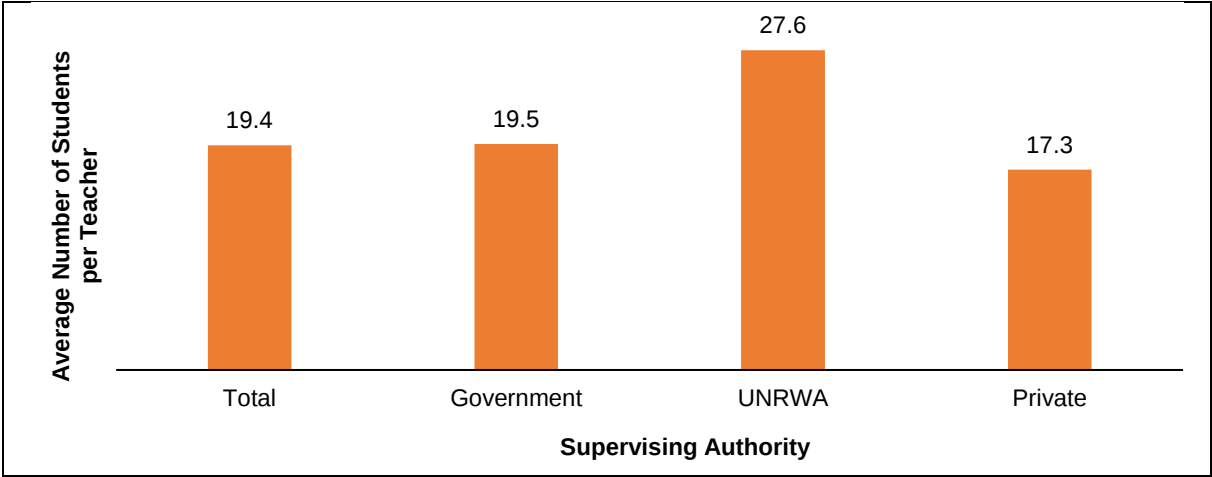
Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

In the scholastic year 2023/2024, the rate of grade repetition in the West Bank was also relatively low across all educational stages, recorded at 0.29%. This rate showed a slight sex variation, with 0.32% for male students and 0.27% for female students. When analyzed by educational stage, the basic education level had a repetition rate of 0.28%, with a slightly higher rate of 0.31% for males compared to 0.25% for females. In secondary education, the repetition rate was somewhat higher, at 0.35%, with male students having a rate of 0.39% and female students slightly higher at 0.32%.

4.5.3 Average number of Students per Teacher for the Scholastic Year 2024/2025

In the scholastic year 2024/2025, the average student-to-teacher ratio in the West Bank schools was 19.4 students per teacher. In Government schools, the average was 19.5 students per teacher, in schools operated by the UNRWA, the ratio was significantly higher at 27.6 students per teacher. Private schools, on the other hand, reported the lowest student-to-teacher ratio, with an average of 17.3 students per teacher.

Average Number of Students per Teacher in the West Bank by Supervising Authority, 2024/2025



*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem and includes data for Jerusalem (J1).

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

4.5.4 School Counseling in the West Bank for the Scholastic year 2024/2025

School counseling is crucial in shielding students from the adverse social, economic, and political impacts of their environments. It provides essential tools for students' survival and development, mitigates risks, and facilitates the early identification and intervention for students facing social or psychological challenges.

The percentage of schools in the West Bank covered by counseling services reached 72.2%, and the average number of students per educational counselor in the West Bank schools reached 369 students per educational counselor in the 2024/2025 scholastic year. These numbers are not sufficient, especially if the primary goal is preventive, especially under the current circumstances.

Table 8: Numbers of Educational Counselors, Average Number of Students per Counselor and the Percentage of Schools Covered in the West Bank schools by Counseling, by Supervisory Authority, 2024/2025.

Selected Indicators	Total	Supervisory Authority		
		Government	UNRWA	Private
Number of Counselors	1,767	1,280	84	403
Average Number of Students per Counselor	369	370	482	342
Percentage of Schools Covered by Counseling	72.2	68.7	80.2	85.8

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

4.5.5 Distribution of Schools in the West Bank by Main Source of Water, Electricity and Wastewater Disposal

The educational statistics from the scholastic year 2024/2025 demonstrate that the majority of schools in the West Bank have access to basic infrastructure, specifically in terms of electricity and water supply, with around 99% of schools connected to the electricity network and approximately 94% of schools connected to a public water network.

Table 9: Percentage Distribution of Schools in the West Bank by the Main Source of Water and Electricity and Wastewater Disposal, 2024/2025.

Main Source	Percentage
Main Source of Water	
Public water network	94.2
Tanks	3.0
Well	2.6
Other	0.2
Total	100
Main Source of Electricity	
Public electricity network	99.4
Private generator	0.6
Total	100
Primary Method of Wastewater Disposal	
Public sewage network	41.3
Porous Cesspit	24.3
Tight Cesspit	34.2
Other	0.2
Total	100

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.

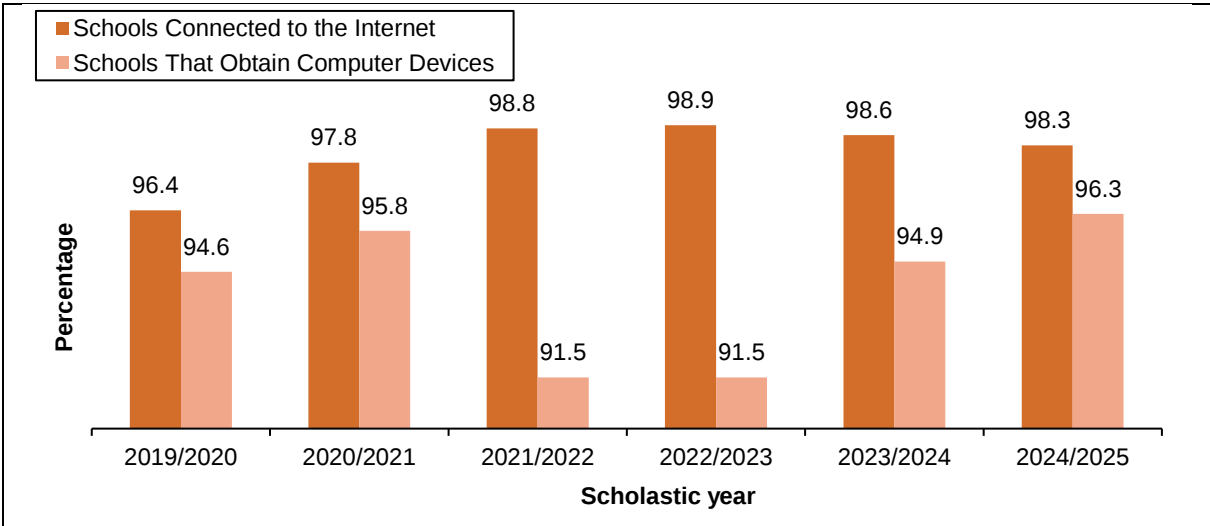
Source: Ministry of Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024/2025.
Ramallah – Palestine.

Educational statistics also show that the main method of wastewater disposal in the West Bank schools is through the public sewage network, accounting for 41%, while 34% of schools dispose of wastewater through the tight cesspits.

4.5.6 Students, the Internet and Computers

The data shows that the percentage of schools connected to the internet for educational purposes in the West Bank in the scholastic year 2024/2025 reached 98.3%. The data also indicated that schools receiving computers for educational purposes in the West Bank during the scholastic year 2024/2025 reached 96.3%.

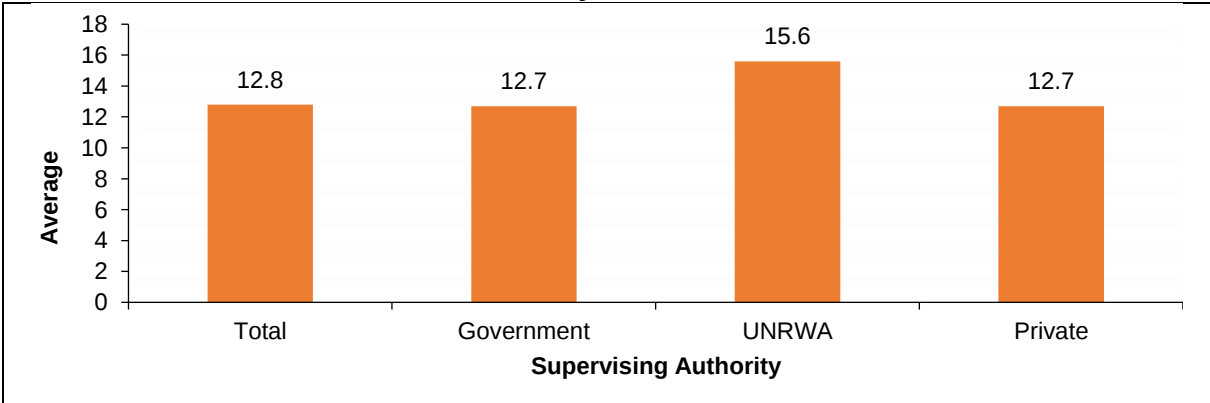
Percentage of Schools Connected to the Internet* and That Obtain Computer Devices** for Educational Purposes in Palestine, 2019/2020-2024/2025



*Sustainable development indicator 4.a.1.2.
** Sustainable Development Indicator 4.a.1.3.
Note: Data for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 scholastic year represents data for the West Bank only.
Source: Ministry of Education, 2025. Data base of education survey 2019/2020 -2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

The average number of students per computer in the West Bank was 12.8 for the scholastic year 2024/2025. This figure varies by supervisory authority, with UNRWA schools reached 15.6 students per computer, Public schools and private schools at 12.7 students per computer.

Average number of Students per Computer in the West Bank Schools by Supervising Authority, 2024/2025



*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.
Source: Ministry of Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

4.5.7 Average Number of Students per Drinking Water Fountain, Toilet, and Hand Sink

The student-to-unit ratio for drinking water fountains, toilets, and hand sinks represents the number of students relying on a single unit of these essential facilities in schools. These ratios help assess the adequacy of school infrastructure to ensure student health and comfort, thereby supporting a healthy and safe learning environment.

A drinking water fountain provides students with access to clean drinking water. In the West Bank schools, around 32 students share a single drinking fountain, reflecting the efficiency of

water provision for students; the higher the number of students per fountain, the lower the convenience and speed of access to drinking water.

The number of toilets allocated per age group or sex (male or female) is crucial for ensuring personal hygiene and comfort. The data indicates that approximately 35 students share a single toilet in the West Bank schools. Higher student-to-toilet ratios may lead to difficulties in maintaining hygiene and comfort.

Around 38 students also share a single hand sink in the West Bank schools. The hand sink is where students wash their hands, which is essential for maintaining hygiene after using the toilet and before eating. The higher the number of students per hand sink, the more likely it is to cause congestion and difficulty accessing it during peak times, such as break periods.

Table 10: Average Number of Students Per Drinking Water Fountain, Toilet, and Hand Sink in the West Bank Schools by Supervising Authority, 2024/2025

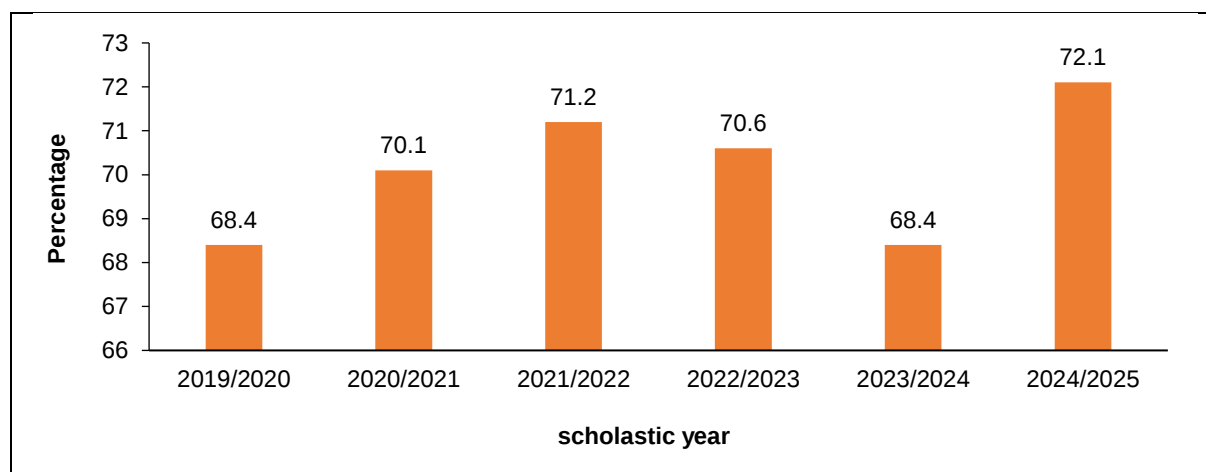
Facilities / Supervising Authority	Average
Drinking Water Fountain	
Government	32.4
UNRWA	29.1
Private	30.5
Total	31.8
Toilet	
Government	36.9
UNRWA	33.9
Private	28.1
Total	34.8
Hand Sink	
Government	41.6
UNRWA	33.6
Private	30.0
Total	38.3

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.
Source: Ministry of Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025.
Ramallah – Palestine.

4.6 Students with Disabilities in Schools

Data shows that the percentage of schools with infrastructure and materials adapted to the needs of students with disabilities in the West Bank in the 2024/2025 scholastic year reached 72.1%.

Percentage of Schools with Infrastructure and Materials Adapted to the Needs of Students with Disabilities* in Palestine, 2019/2020– 2024/2025



*Sustainable development indicator 4.a.1.4

Note: Data for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 scholastic year represents data for the West Bank only.

Source: Ministry of Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

The data from the scholastic year 2024/2025 shows that among students with disabilities attending government schools in the West Bank, learning difficulties are the most common type of disability, accounting for 60.0% of cases and are more prevalent among males than females. Following this, Communication Disorders constitute a significant portion, presenting 16.5% of disabilities among these students. Then Movement and cerebral palsy at (11.9%), which are more prevalent among males than females.

Table 11: Distribution of Students with Disabilities Enrolled in Public Schools in the West bank by Type of Disability, and Sex, 2024/2025

Disability Type	Both sexes	Sex	
		Males	Females
Communication Disorders	1,517	874	643
Movement + cerebral palsy	1,093	592	501
learning difficulties	5,528	3,027	2,501
Autism and pervasive developmental disorder	443	283	160
Mild and moderate mental illness, Down	634	250	384
Total	9,215	5,026	4,189

*Data for schools does not include the Israeli Municipality and Culture Committee Schools in Jerusalem.

Source: Ministry of Education, 2025. Data base of education survey for scholastic year 2024\2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Chapter Five

Health Sector

State parties recognize the child's rights to enjoy the highest possible health level and to have access to medical treatment and health rehabilitation. State Parties shall exert utmost efforts to ensure that no child is denied its right to these health care services.

Child's Rights Convention, Article 24-1)

Investing in children's health is a crucial step towards creating a society that is both healthy and productive. Achieving this goal requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing legal, legislative, policy, and planning dimensions. It involves the implementation of comprehensive programs, the allocation of appropriate budgets, and the provision of both curative and preventive healthcare services. Building partnerships and enhancing awareness among children, households, society, and the state about the importance of children's health is also vital. Equipping children with the knowledge to make healthy lifestyle choices and to understand prevention strategies is key. A special focus should be placed on marginalized children and those at risk of marginalization, as this will help to bridge the health and social disparities among children in different regions of Palestine. By targeting these groups, there can be a significant reduction in the financial and health burdens on the society. This approach not only protects children in the present but also safeguards their future, particularly against chronic diseases. The most prominent health indicators for the Gaza Strip will be presented due to the lack of updated data on the health situation in the West Bank.

The ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, which has had a devastating impact on the health status of Palestinian children, as the bombing and military attacks. Bombing and military attacks have exposed children to direct injuries, which may result in permanent disabilities or even death. The destruction of healthcare infrastructure impedes access to essential medical care. In addition, children endure immense psychological stress, leading to mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The destruction of water and sanitation facilities has further led to the spread of infectious diseases, while malnutrition worsens due to the blockade and deteriorating economic conditions. These health challenges impact children's physical and mental development, limiting their chances for a better future and deepening the health and social crisis within Palestinian society.

5.1 Orphaned Children in Gaza Strip

During the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, estimates have showed that 58,554 children in Gaza Strip have lost one or both parents until October 7th, 2025, including around 17,000 children who were unaccompanied by or separated from their parents. Data indicate that 55,861 children have lost one parent (49,758 lost their father and 6,103 lost their mother), while 2,693 children have lost both parents, to face a harsh reality, and struggle to survive without support or care. These children are living in dire conditions, as many were forced to seek refuge in torn tents or destroyed homes, amidst a near-total absence of social care and psychological support. Their suffering goes beyond the loss of household and shelter, extending into severe psychological and social crises. They experience deep mental disturbances, such as depression, isolation, and chronic fear, in the absence of safety and proper guidance. Additionally, their weak education and poor social development leave them vulnerable to child labor and exploitation in a ruthless environment.

5.2 Famine and Malnutrition in Gaza Strip

The right to access sufficient and nutritious food is considered one of the fundamental rights essential for the survival, growth, and development of children. Studies highlight the importance of proper nutrition for both the child and the mother during pregnancy, emphasizing the need for vitamins and necessary supplements to protect the child. Furthermore, exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of a child's life is crucial for providing the necessary immunity against diseases during this period.

An Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)⁶ report for the period July–September 2025 showed that, as of August 15th, 2025, famine (IPC Phase 5) was confirmed after 22 months of aggression. More than half a million people in Gaza Strip are facing catastrophic conditions characterized by hunger, deprivation, and death.

5.3 Injuries and Disabilities among Children in Gaza Strip

A report issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)⁷ revealed that the World Health Organization estimates that approximately 42,000 people in Gaza Strip have sustained life-changing injuries, 25% of whom are children, as of September 24th, 2025. The tragedy is exacerbated by the fact that these children are facing a double catastrophe due to physical and psychological disabilities, in addition to the collapse of the health system resulting from the destruction of hospitals, the denial of entry of medical supplies, and the shortage of assistive devices (such as wheelchairs, walkers, hearing aids, glasses, crutches, prosthetic limbs, and toilet seats). More than 5,580 children are also in urgent need of immediate medical evacuation to save their lives.

Data through⁸ October 7th, 2025 indicated that 4,900 amputations were performed in Gaza Strip, including 1,102 cases involving children. These figures illustrate the profound impact of the aggression on children. Children with amputations face significant physical and psychological challenges, given limited access to assistive devices and rehabilitation services, and a shortage of essential medical resources due to the destruction of health facilities and restrictions on the entry of medical supplies. The data also indicate that 169,780 people were injured as a result of the Israeli aggression, including 44,143 children, representing approximately 26% of the total number of injured. Those children face severe physical and psychological effects as a result of their injuries, amid limited access to healthcare and essential medical supplies necessary for recovery. This number reflects the scale of the humanitarian suffering of children affected by the Israeli aggression. Many hospitals and health facilities in Gaza Strip lack the capacity to provide specialized care for injured children, making urgent intervention through medical evacuation vital to save their lives and ensure they receive appropriate treatment.

5.4 Polio Vaccinations among Children in Gaza Strip

The WHO, in collaboration with the United Nations and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, organized the first round of polio vaccination for approximately 640,000 children over 12 days (September 1-12, 2024). The new Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) was administered to 559,161 children aged 0-10 years throughout Gaza Strip. The second round of polio vaccination took place during (October 10th-25th, 2024), where 556,774 children received the vaccine.

⁶https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_Sep2024_Apr2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf

⁷ Humanitarian Situation Update #329 | Gaza Strip | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory

⁸ Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2025

Then, the third round (third dose) of polio vaccination took place during (22-24/02/2025), where 602,795 children received the vaccine.

Table 12: Number of Children in Gaza Strip Who Received Polio Vaccination during September and October 2024

Governorate/Sex/Age	First round	Second round	Third round
Governorate			
North Gaza	45,665	5,185	101,777
Gaza	66,844	100,373	210,279
Dier Al-Balah	195,466	202,355	100,279
Khan Yunis	239,640	239,985	143,931
Rafah	11,546	8,876	46,529
Total	559,161	556,774	602,795
Sex			
Males	287,099	285,064	308,228
Females	272,062	271,710	294,567
Total	559,161	556,774	602,795
Age group			
4-0	278,807	265,831	308,973
10-5	280,354	290,943	293,822
Total	559,161	556,774	602,795

Source: The OPT Health Cluster <https://app.powerbi.com>

5.5 Children in Gaza Strip Suffer from Systematic Water Deprivation

Due to the ongoing aggression against Gaza Strip, over 70% of the population have been forced to rely on contaminated and unsafe water sources. This crisis worsened sharply, reaching a critical point in July 2025, when 95% of the households were completely unable to access safe drinking water. Data show that 96% of the households live under water insecurity, while 90% reported a severe deterioration in water quality. This humanitarian catastrophe resulted from the systematic destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, including the demolition of over 725 central water wells and 134 freshwater projects, as well as the damage of more than 700,000 meters of water networks and 700,000 meters of sewage networks. Moreover, 83% of water tanks were disrupted, and only 40% of water facilities were partially operational. This acute shortage in both the quantity and quality of water has led to the spread of gastrointestinal diseases, such as diarrhea and food poisoning, adversely impacting children's health. Additionally, the insufficient water supply affects personal hygiene and public health, increasing the risk of disease transmission. Washing hands with soap and water is considered the most cost-effective method for combating diarrhea and acute respiratory infections in children under five years old. Furthermore, the difficult living conditions may lead to psychological issues, such as anxiety and depression, along with negative effects on children's growth and development.

The crisis directly impacted public health, with waterborne diseases spiking by 150% between April and July 2025, accounting for 44% of total medical consultations. Children were the most affected: 43% suffered from diarrhea, 58% from fever, 25% from acute respiratory infections, and about half experienced skin infections. The situation worsened due to fuel shortages and electricity cuts, which disrupted desalination plants and pumps, while the discharge of untreated

sewage into the sea and the presence of 15% of emergency waste dumps near water sources exacerbated contamination risks and the spread of epidemics. Children's lives in Gaza Strip have turned into a vicious cycle of daily danger, threatening them with long-term consequences, including stunting, chronic illnesses, and intergenerational psychological trauma.

5.6 The Need for Psychological Support Due to the Effects of Israeli Aggression

A report issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)⁹ revealed that partner organizations in the area of responsibility for child protection were able to reach more than 105,000 children (54% of whom were girls) and provide them with essential protection and psychosocial support services in September amid the deteriorating security situation, it leaves profound psychological effects on the children of Gaza Strip. These effects may include negative emotions such as fear, anxiety, depression, and psychological shock due to continuous psychological pressure and material and human losses, such as the loss of relatives or homes. The aggression can also affect their behavior and daily life patterns, such as changes in sleep patterns, nutrition, and social relationships. Additionally, children may suffer from painful physical injuries or the loss of loved ones, increasing their need for psychological and emotional support to recover from these traumatic experiences.

5.7 Anemia in 12-Month-Old Children in the West Bank

Ministry of Health data for 2024 indicated that 31.7% of the children screened at 12 months of age in the West Bank governorates suffer from anemia, which is considered a high percentage. The total number of children screened was 59,780.

5.8 Immunizations against infectious diseases

Palestine ranks highly in the field of coverage of basic vaccinations¹⁰, with 86% of children aged 24-35 months fully vaccinated at any time against preventable childhood diseases. 83% in the West Bank and 91% in the Gaza Strip during 2019-2020.

Significant health milestones have been achieved in Palestine over the years. Notably, the last case of polio was recorded in 1988. In 2024, 42 cases of acute flaccid paralysis were monitored (29 cases in the West Bank and 13 in the Gaza Strip), and all were found to be free of the polio virus. Additionally, there were no recorded cases of measles in 2024. The Ministry of Health ensures that children receive two doses of the measles vaccine at the ages of one and a year and a half. Furthermore, pregnant women attending government clinics are provided with the tetanus vaccine, which has contributed to the absence of reported cases of tetanus among newborns in recent years.

However, other diseases remain a concern. In 2024, there were 12 reported cases of mumps in Palestine all in the West Bank. Additionally, 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded in the West Bank, along with 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the West Bank. Despite these cases, the vaccination rate against tuberculosis (BCG) for newborns is very high, almost achieving complete coverage. Since 1996, the Ministry of Health has implemented the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) system for treating tuberculosis patients, which involves direct monitoring and treatment, further indicating robust efforts in managing tuberculosis in Palestine.

⁹ [Humanitarian Situation Update #329 | Gaza Strip | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)

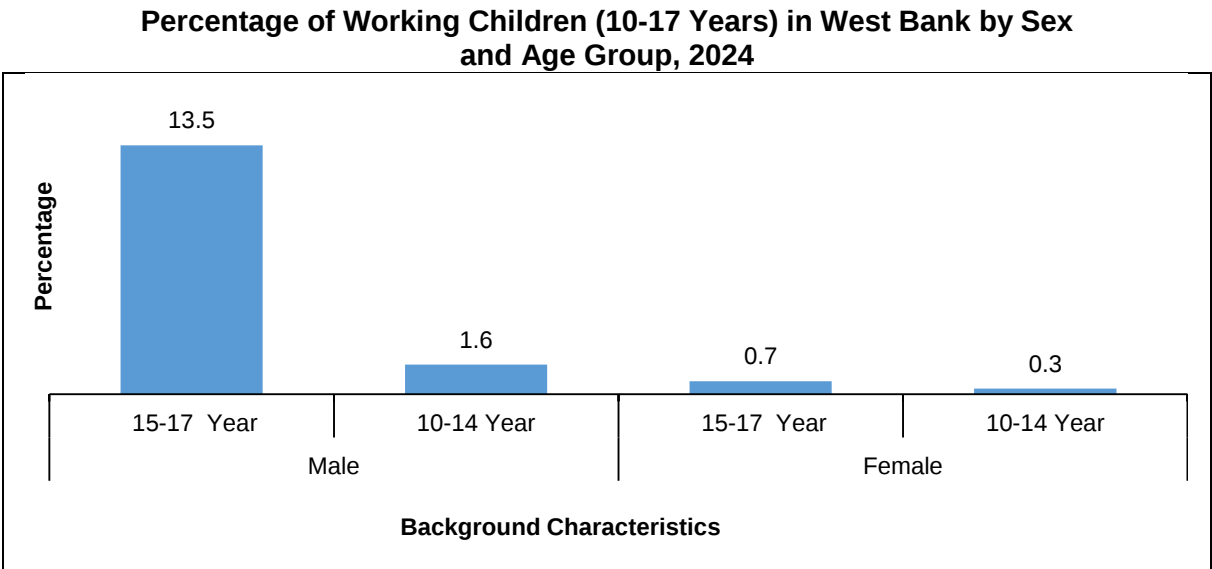
¹⁰ Basic vaccinations: include (BCG tuberculosis, the third dose of the OPV3 polio vaccine, the third dose of the DPT3 vaccine (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus)).

Chapter Six

Protection

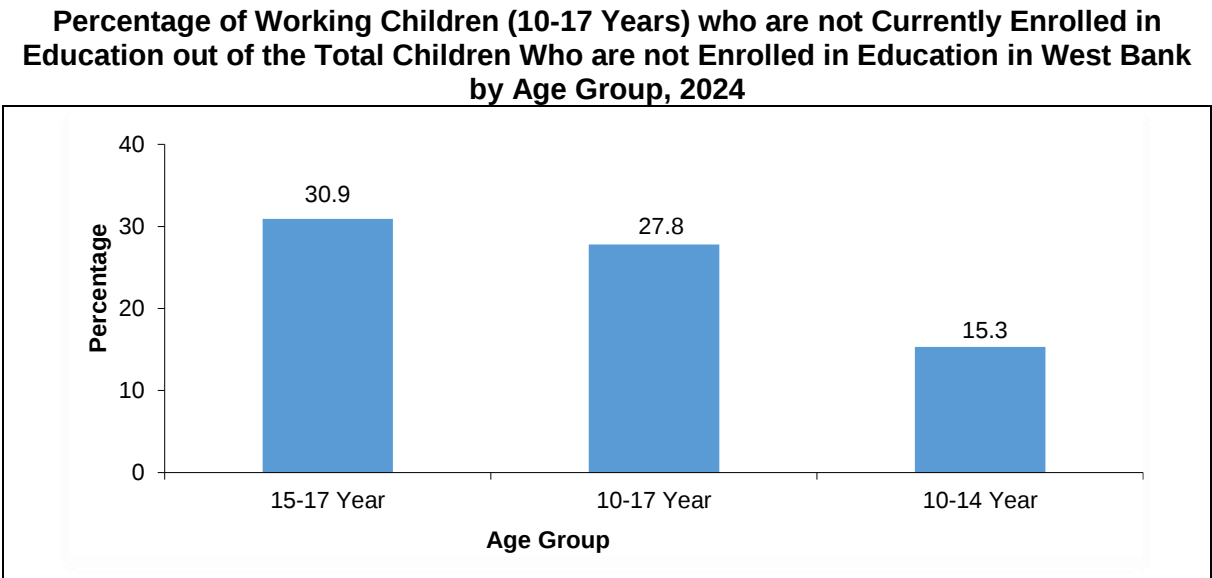
6.1 Children in Labour

In 2024, the percentage of working children aged 10-14 years in the West Bank reached 1.0% (1.6% for males and 0.3% for females), while this percentage for the age group (15-17 years) reached 7.0% (13.5% for males and 0.7% for females).



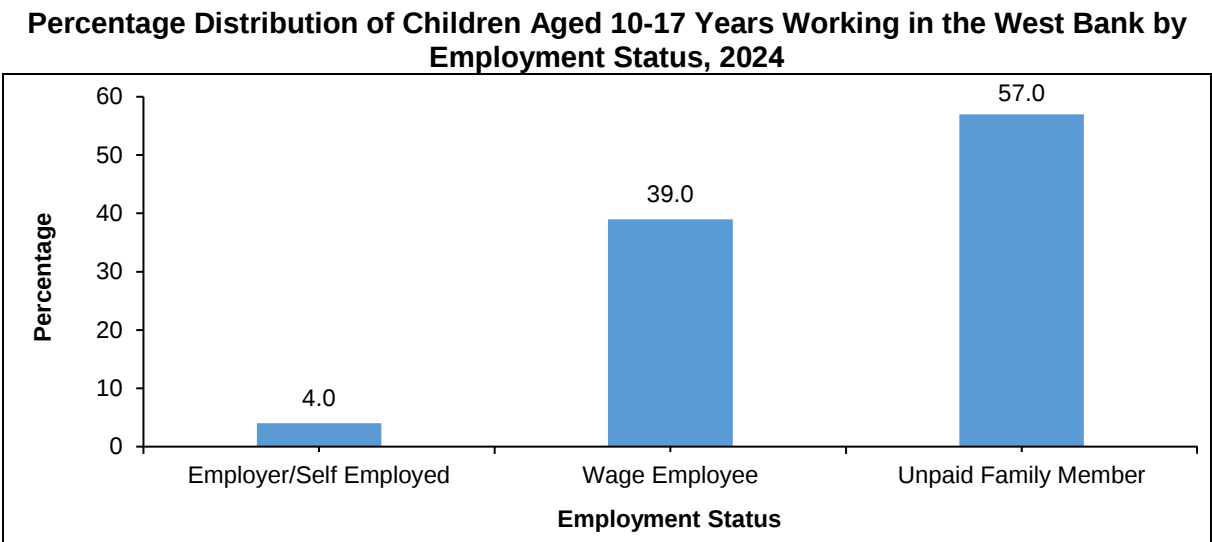
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Data base of Labour Force Survey, 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

The percentage of working children, who are not enrolled in education, aged 10-17 years, reached 27.8% of the total number of the children who are not attending school in the West Bank. Meanwhile, the percentage of children who are working and enrolled in education for the same age group and year was 1.1% in the West Bank.



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Database of Labour Force Survey, 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

In the West Bank, 57.0% of children aged 10-17 years are working as unpaid household members, and more than a third of working children were paid employees in 2024.



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Database of Labour Force Survey, 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

Data indicated that child workers aged 10–17 years in the West Bank in 2024 worked under relatively intensive conditions, with the average weekly working hours reaching approximately 40.4 hours. The average daily wage for these children was 73.2 shekels, while the median wage was 70 shekels, indicating a relatively limited wage disparity among them. These indicators highlight that working children contribute to the labor market at low wage levels and long working hours.

Table 13: Average Daily Wage in Shekels, Median Wage, and Average Weekly Working Hours for Wage-Employed Children (10-17 Years) in the West Bank, 2024

Average daily wage in shekels	Median daily wage	Average weekly working hours	Monthly working days
73.2	70.0	40.4	20.9

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Database of Labour Force Survey, 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

The phenomenon of child labor is considered a serious social problem, indicating the use of children for work during their early years instead of focusing on their fundamental rights and comprehensive development. This phenomenon results from various factors, including poverty, which forces households to rely on the income of children to meet their basic needs. Children also turn to work in light of limited educational opportunities and dropout rates, where work becomes a tangible alternative to education. Households are affected by challenging economic conditions and job loss, leading children to contribute to supporting the household.

6.2 Households by Sex of the Head of the Household

In the West Bank, women head 11% of total households. Within these female-headed households, a significant portion, about 23%, have children under the age of 18. Conversely, the majority of these households, constituting 77%, do not have children under the age of 18.

Table 14: Percentage Distribution of Households in the West Bank by Sex of the Head of the Household and Presence of Children under 18 Years of Age, October-December 2024

Having children	Sex of the head of the household		Total
	Male	Female	
There are no children	27.7	77.2	34.8
There are children	72.3	22.8	65.2
Total	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Database of Labour Force Survey, Fourth quarter 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

Data indicated that 13% of women who head households are unemployed out of the total number of women participating in the labor force in the West Bank.

Table 15: Women Heads of Households Aged 15 Years and above in the West Bank by Background Characteristics, October-December 2024

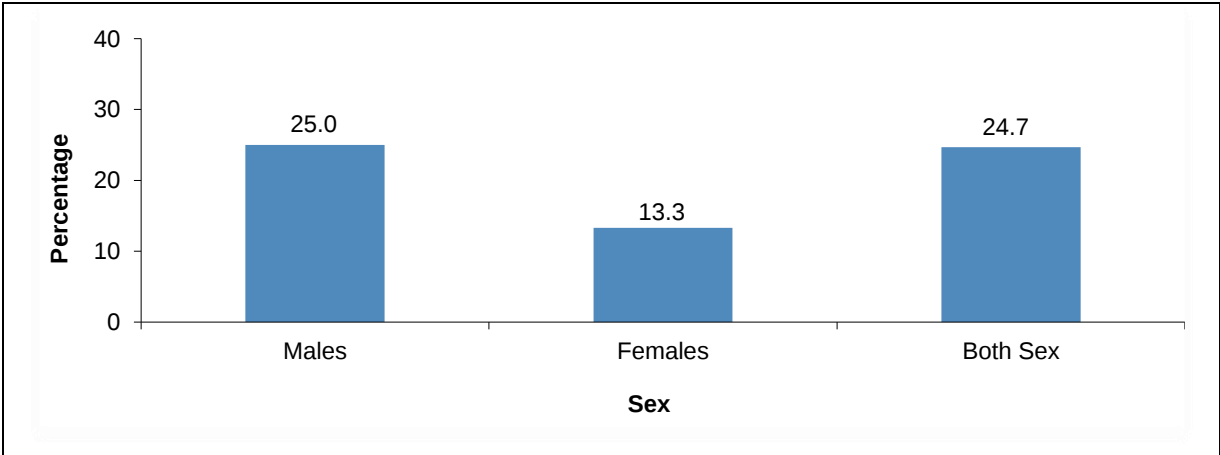
Background Characteristics	West Bank
Percentage of women who head households	11.4
Percentage of participation in the labor force	14.7
Percentage of unemployed women out of total participation in the labor force	13.3
Marital status	
Never Married	12.9
Currently married	12.5
Other*	74.6
Total	100

*Others: Includes Divorced, Widowed and Separated Persons.
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Database of Labour Force Survey, Fourth quarter 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

6.3 Unemployment

Unemployment rates for males and females in the West Bank are similar in the fourth quarter of 2024, with the overall rate reaching 28.8%; 29.1% among males compared to 27.7% among females.

Unemployment Rate among Heads of Households in the West Bank by Sex of the Head of the Household, October-December 2024



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2025. Database of Labour Force Survey, Fourth quarter 2024. Ramallah-Palestine.

The unemployment rate among women who head households reached 13.3% in the West Bank in the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to 25.0% among men who head households in the West Bank. This may be reflected on children who live in households headed by women or men who are unemployed, whether in terms of their standard of living or psychological well-being.

6.4 Poverty in the West Bank

Two poverty lines were prepared according to the consumption patterns of households, the first is known as the poverty line and the second is the deep poverty line. The poverty line reflects a budget covering basic needs, in addition to other necessities like healthcare, education, transportation, communication, personal care, household items, furniture, and other home essentials. The extreme poverty line, however, reflects the budget for only essential needs, such as food, clothing, and housing. Both poverty lines were adjusted to account for the diverse consumption needs of households, based on household composition, household size, and number of children, with the reference household being a household of five (two adults and three children).¹¹

6.4.1 The prevalence of Poverty

11.5% of Individuals suffer from Poverty in the West Bank, 2023

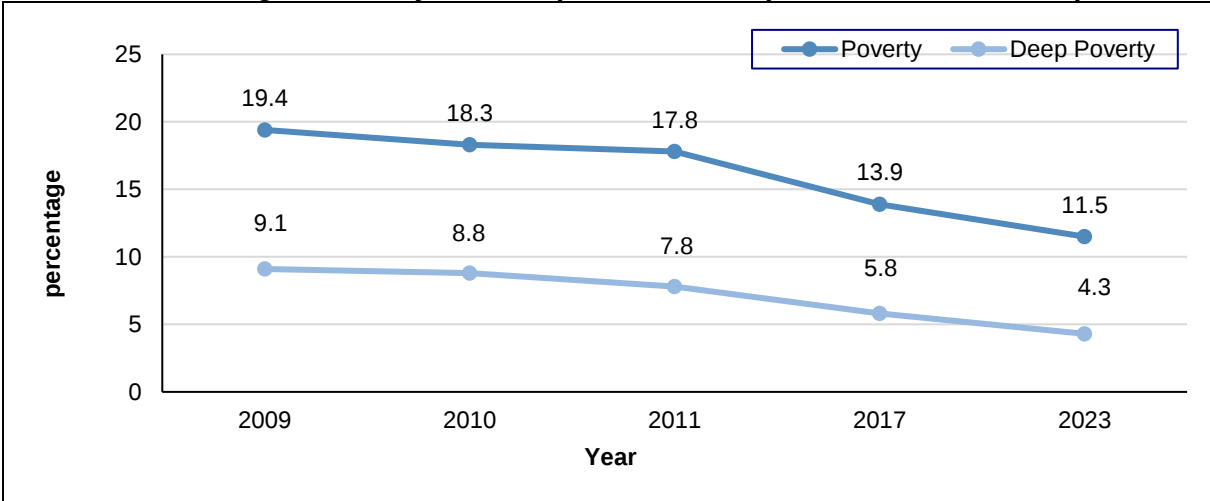
The poverty percentage among individuals in the West Bank in 2023, based on monthly consumption patterns, reached 11.5%. Additionally, 4.3% of individuals in the West Bank suffer from deep poverty according to monthly household consumption patterns. Based on average income, the poverty percentage among individuals was 22.9%, and 15.3% of individuals in the West Bank have a monthly income below the deep poverty line.

Decrease in Poverty Percentages among Individuals Between 2017 and 2023

The poverty percentage according to monthly consumption patterns in the West Bank decreased, reaching 11.5% in 2023, while it was 13.9% in 2017. On the other hand, the poverty percentage according to monthly income increased, as it was 15.1% in 2017 and reached 15.3% in 2023.

¹¹ **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024.** Main Findings of Living Standards in the West Bank (Expenditure, Consumption and Poverty), 2023. Ramallah – Palestine.

Poverty and Deep Poverty Percentages Among Individuals in the West Bank According to Monthly Consumption Patterns (2009-2011, 2017, 2023)

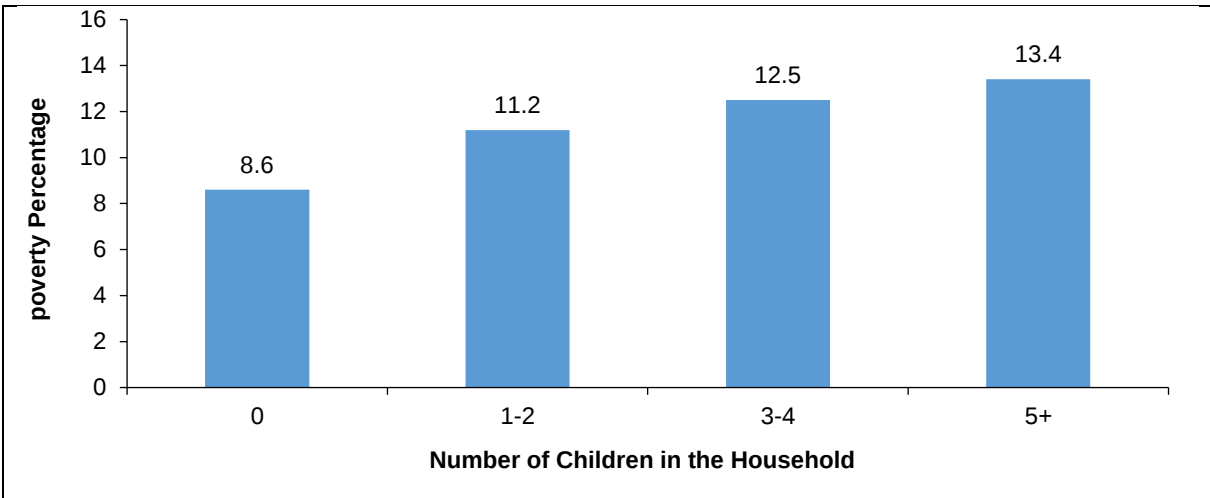


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024. Main Findings of Living Standards in the West Bank (Expenditure, Consumption and Poverty), 2023. Ramallah – Palestine

6.4.2 Poverty and Number of Children in the Household

There is a clear relationship between the number of children in households and poverty Percentages. The poverty percentage among individuals in households with children was 12.2%, compared to 8.6% among those in households without children. The poverty percentage increases with the number of children in the household; individuals in households with one or two children are less vulnerable to poverty, with a poverty percentage of 11.2%. This percentage begins to exceed the national poverty percentage in households with three or more children, reaching 12.5% for households with 3-4 children and peaking at 13.4% for households with five or more children.

Poverty Percentages among Individuals According To Monthly Consumption Patterns by Number of Children in the Household, 2023



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2024. Main Findings of Living Standards in the West Bank (Expenditure, Consumption and Poverty), 2023. Ramallah – Palestine.

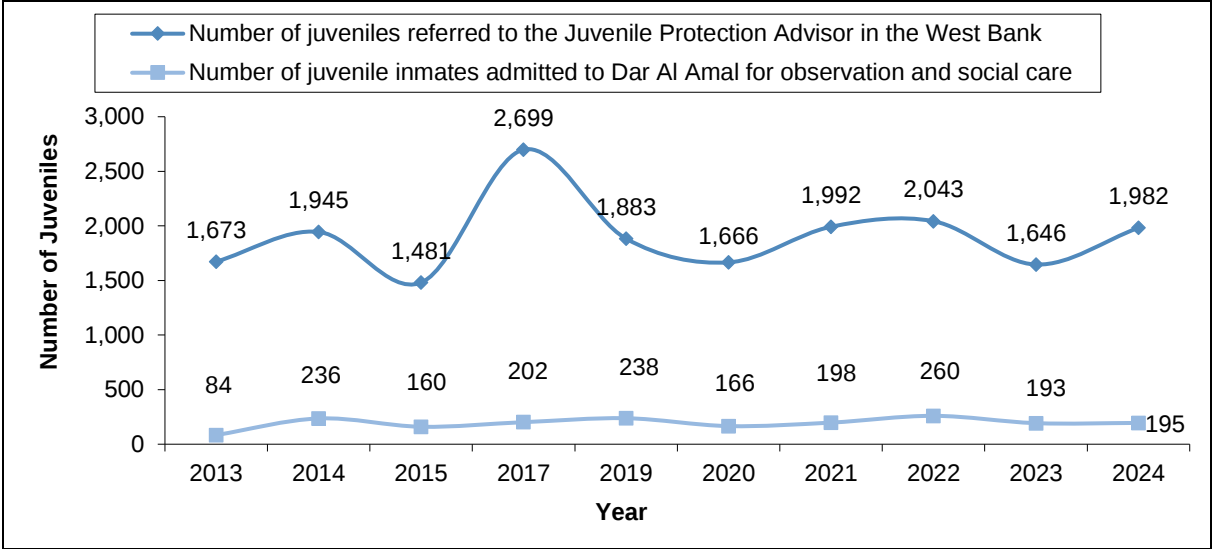
6.4.3 Poor Children

The poverty percentage among children under 18 years old in the West Bank reached 11.7% in 2023, with an estimated 148,000 children living in poverty. Additionally, 60,540 children suffer from extreme poverty, representing 4.5% of children in the West Bank.

6.5 Children In Conflict With the Law

The 2024 data from the Ministry of Social Development highlights the issue of children in conflict with the law in the West Bank. A total of 1,982 juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Protection Counselor during the year. Out of these, a notable number, 195 juveniles, were admitted to Dar Al Amal, an institution dedicated to observation and social care.

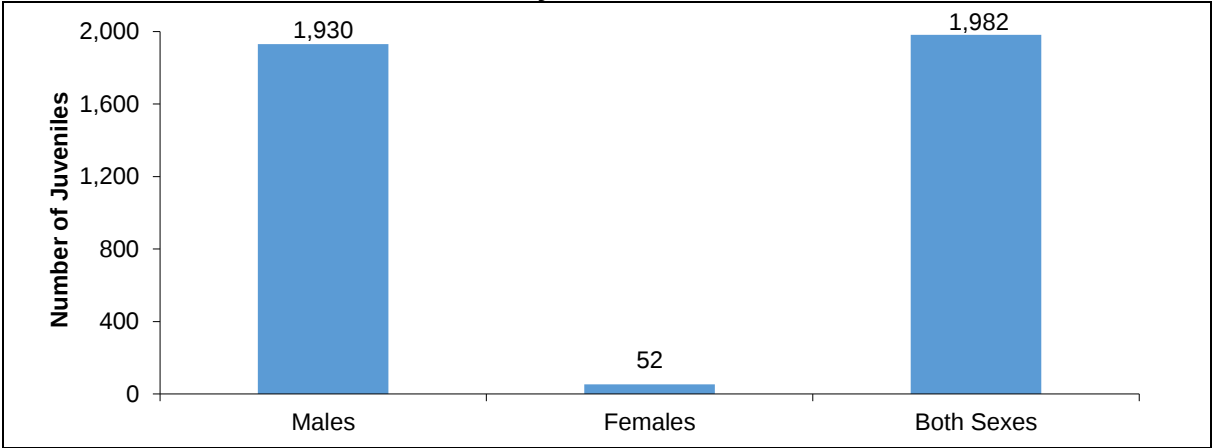
The Number of Juveniles who were Referred to the Juvenile Protection Counselor and the Number of Juveniles who were Admitted to Dar Al Amal for Observation and Social Care in the West Bank, 2013-2024



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

97.4% of juveniles referred to the Juvenile Protection Counselor in the West Bank were males, compared to 2.6% females.

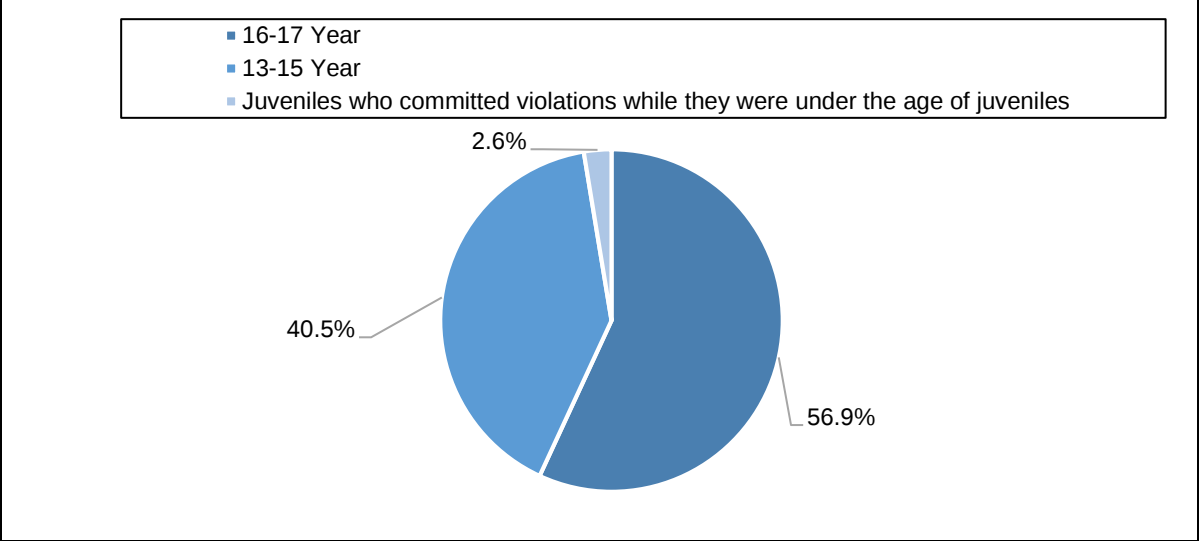
Number of Juveniles Referred to the Juvenile Protection Counselor in the West Bank, by Sex, 2024



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

About 57% of the juveniles who were referred to the Juvenile Protection counselor in the West Bank were in the age group (16-17 years), compared to 41% in the age group (13-15 years), and while 3% committed the violation while they were of the age of juveniles in the year 2023 in the West Bank.

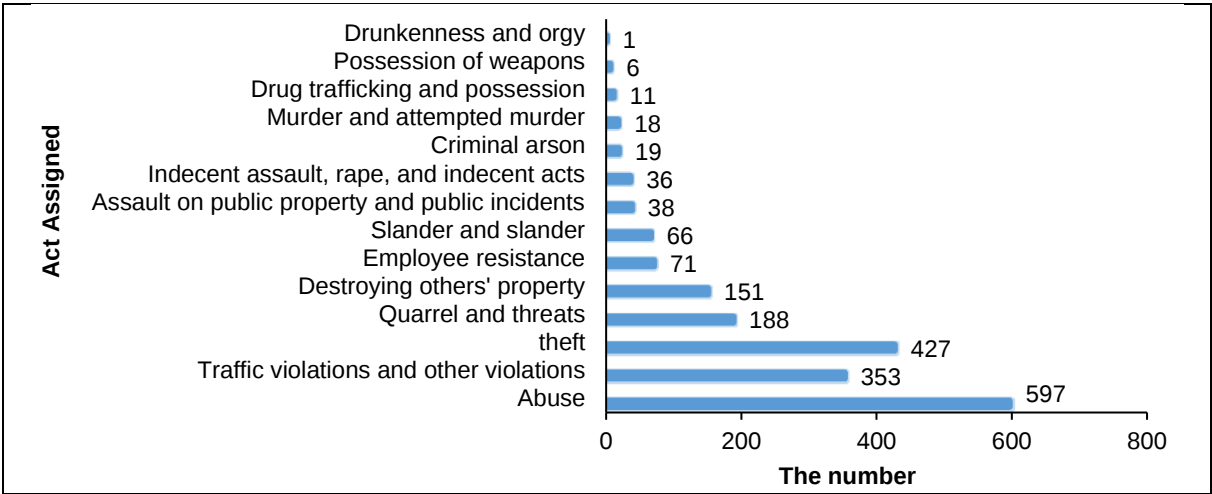
Percentage Distribution of Juvenile Children in the West Bank by Age Group in 2024



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Regarding to the actions assigned to juveniles when referring them to the Juvenile Protection advisor in the West Bank, we find that 30% of the juveniles were assigned the act of “harm,” then comes the juveniles who were assigned the act of traffic violations and other violations at a rate of 17.8%, and a percentage of 21.5% of the juveniles were assigned the act of theft, and 9.5% were assigned the act of quarrels and threats.

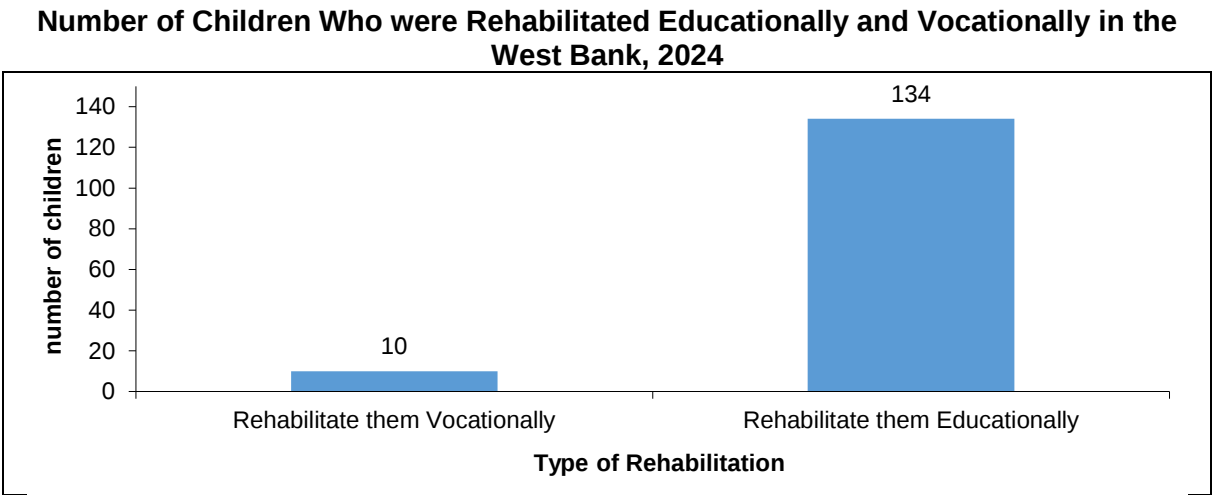
Distribution of Juveniles Referred to the Juvenile Counselor Guide in the West Bank by the Act Assigned for the Year 2024



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

6.6 Educationally and Vocationally Qualified Juveniles

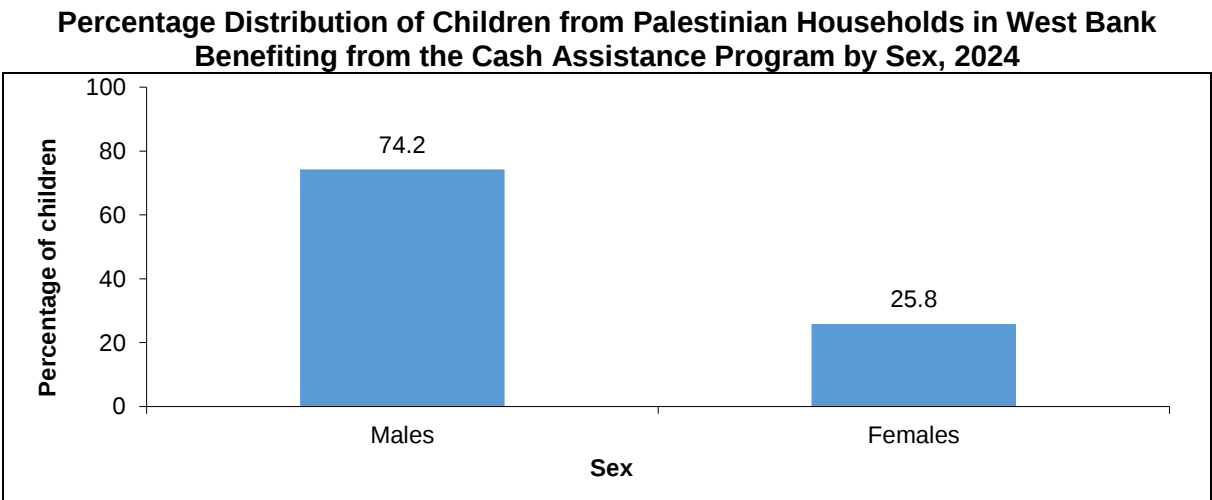
Data from the Ministry of Social Development indicated that 144 juveniles underwent educational and vocational rehabilitation in 2024, in the West Bank, of whom 134 received educational rehabilitation and 10 received vocational rehabilitation. Most of these juveniles were male.



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

6.7 Cash Social Assistance

Data from the Ministry of Social Development for the year 2024 indicated that the number of children from poor households receiving cash social assistance program in the West Bank reached 28,325 children, of them 21,025 males and 7,300 females.



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Data indicated that children from poor households in the West Bank living in urban areas received higher cash assistance compared to children from poor households living in camps and rural areas.

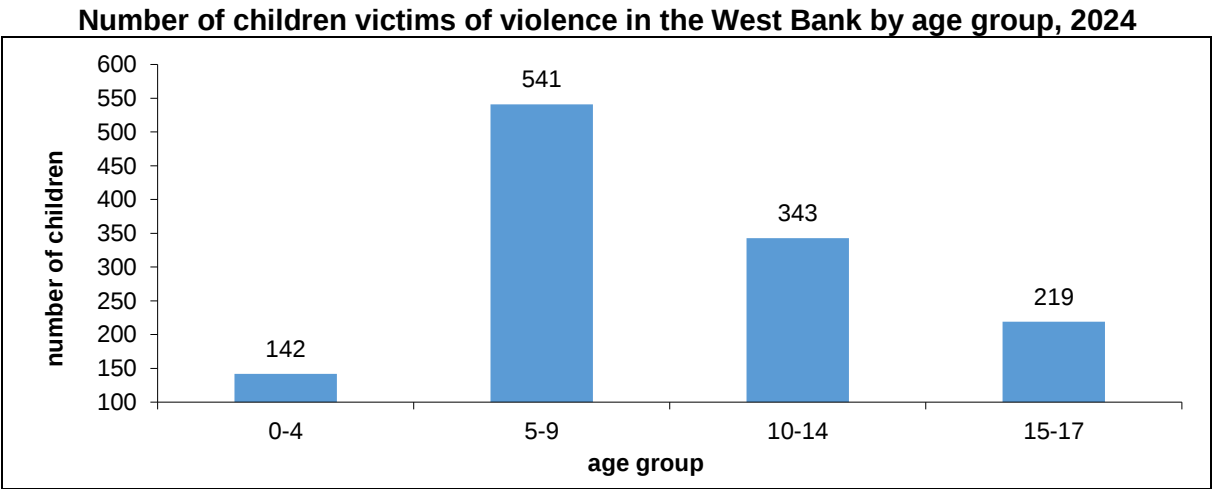
6.8 Children of Unknown Parentage and Illegitimate

MOSD indicated that the number of children of unknown parentage, those born out of wedlock, and those placed in foster care who were reported across all directorates in the west bank reached three children. Birth certificates were issued for them, and they were placed with qualified foster and alternative families. Additionally, special aments were made to the first and last names of number of children through Ministry of Interior.

6.9 Child Victims of Violence

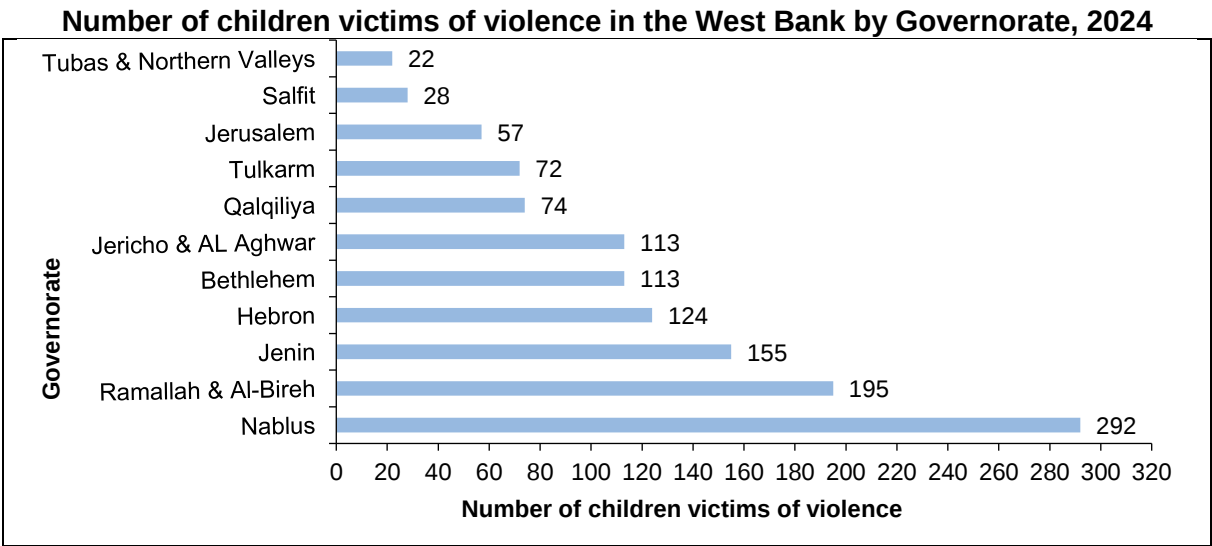
In 2024, 1,245 children in the West Bank were documented as victims of violence across all Social Development Directorates. Among these cases, 43.4% were children aged 5–9 years, 27.6% were children aged 10–14 years, 17.6% were children aged 15–17 years, and 11.4% were children aged 0–4 years.

Additionally, five children with disabilities were reported as victims of violence, including three boys and two girls.



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Nablus Governorate recorded the highest number of child violence cases, with 292 affected children, followed by Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate with 195 cases, and Jenin Governorate with 155 cases. In contrast, Tubas and the Northern Valleys Governorate reported the lowest number of cases, with 22 children affected.



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

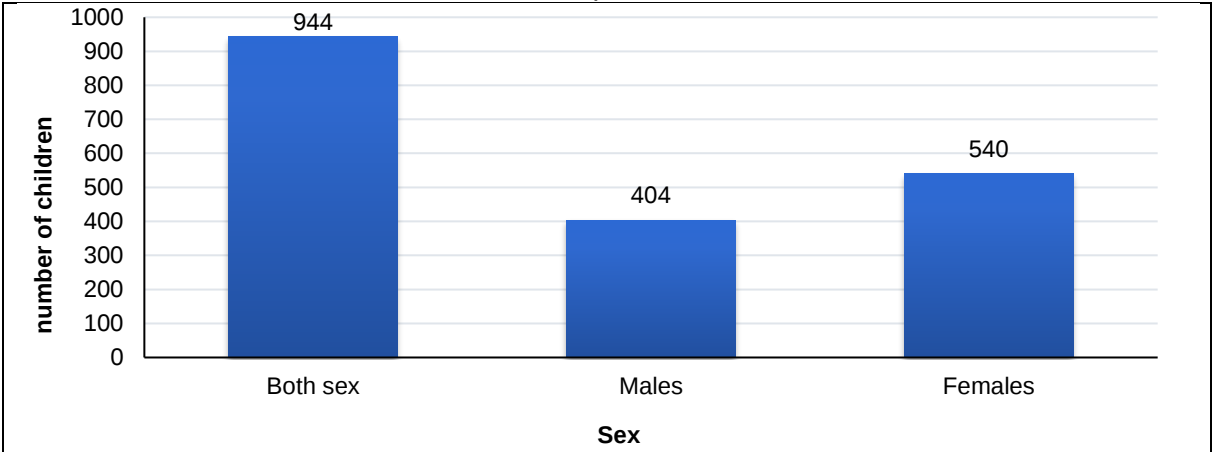
6.10 Integrating Children into their Natural Environment

The number of children who were successfully reintegrated into their natural environment, meaning their household and community, resuming everyday life with friends and household, and returning to school, reached 944 in the West Bank (404 were boys and 540 girls).

The reintegration process involves working with each child according to a tailored plan based on their needs and the type of violence experienced. After completing the plan and implementing necessary child protection measures, the child is returned to their household and natural environment.

Additionally, five children with disabilities were reintegrated, including three boys and two girls.

Number of Children Reintegrated into their Natural Environment in the West Bank by Sex, 2024

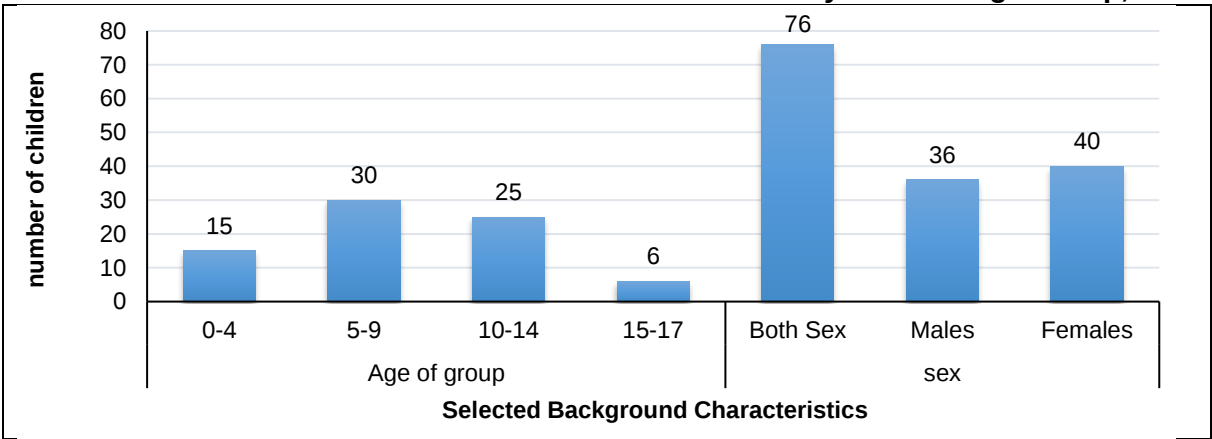


Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

6.11 Alternative Care for Children

The number of children who received alternative care—which provides a substitute for parental care when biological parents are unable to care for the child due to reasons such as death, neglect, violence, or difficult circumstances—reached 76 children in the West Bank. This care may involve placement within the extended household or with foster families who voluntarily or mutually agree to care for the child temporarily. Among these children, 36 were boys and 40 girls.

Number of Children in Alternative Care in the West Bank by Sex and Age Group, 2024



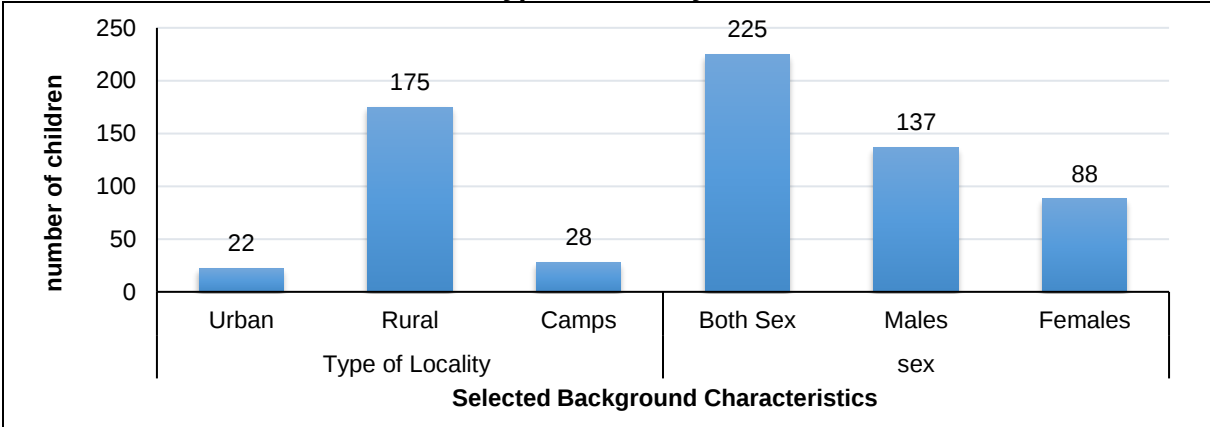
Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

According to the records of the Ministry of Social Development, the number of children in alternative care in the West Bank reached 76 children. Of these, 39.4% were aged 5–9 years, 32.9% were aged 10–14 years, 19.7% were aged 0–4 years, and 8.0% were aged 15–17 years.

6.12 Care in Child Protection and Care Centers

The number of children who received care in protection and care centers in the West Bank reached 225 children, including 137 boys and 88 girls.

Number of Children Cared for in Protection and Care Centers in the West Bank by Sex and Type of Locality, 2024



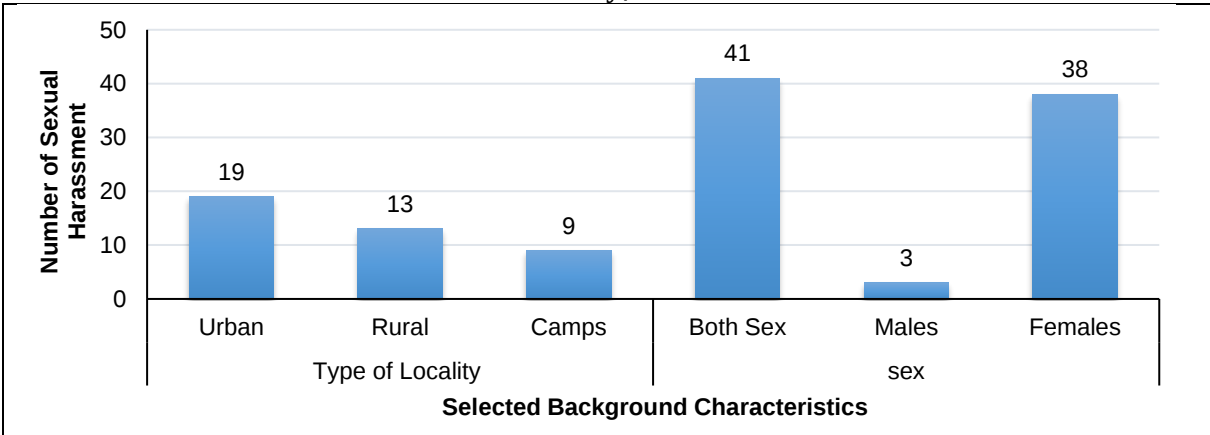
Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Data indicated that the number of children receiving care in protection and care centers in the West Bank was highest in rural communities compared to urban areas and camps. Specifically, 175 children were cared for in rural communities, 28 children in camps, and 22 children in urban areas. Additionally, two children with disabilities received care in these centers.

6.13 Child Sexual Harassment Cases

According to the Palestinian Police records for 2024, the number of children reported as victims of sexual harassment in the West Bank reached 41 children (3 boys and 38 girls). Sexual harassment is defined as any aggressive or unwanted behavior of a sexual nature that violates a person’s dignity, body, privacy, or feelings, creating an uncomfortable environment. It may take various forms, including verbal remarks, gestures, threats, or intimidation.

Number of Child Sexual Harassment Cases in the West Bank by Sex and Type of Locality, 2024

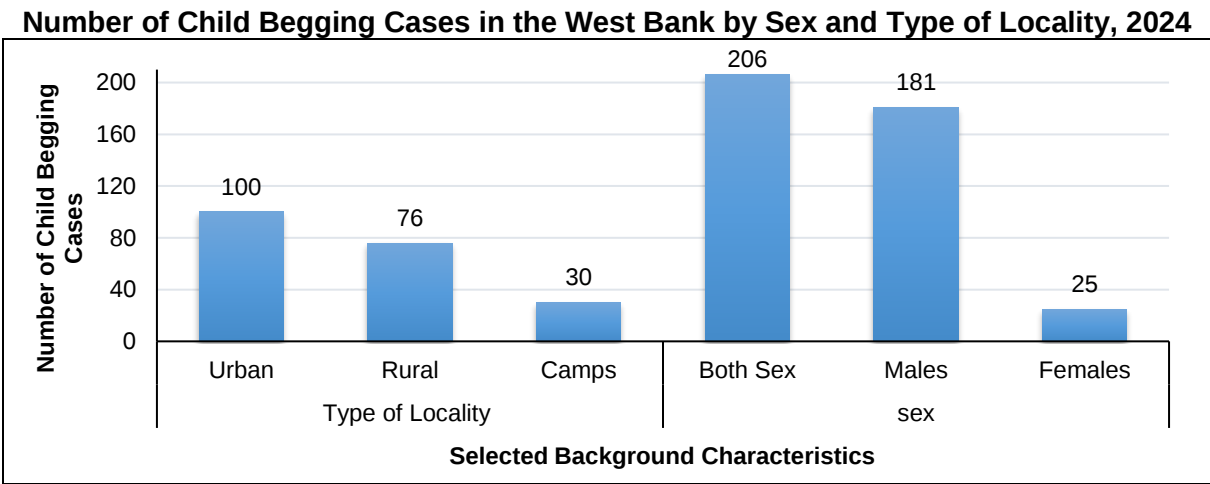


Source: Palestinian Police, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

The same source indicated that the number of children who were victims of sexual harassment in the West Bank was the highest in urban areas compared to rural areas and camps. Specifically, 19 cases were recorded in urban communities, 13 cases in rural communities, and 9 cases in camps.

6.14 Child Begging Cases

According to the Palestinian Police records for 2024, the number of children reported as victims of begging in the West Bank reached 206 children (181 boys and 25 girls).

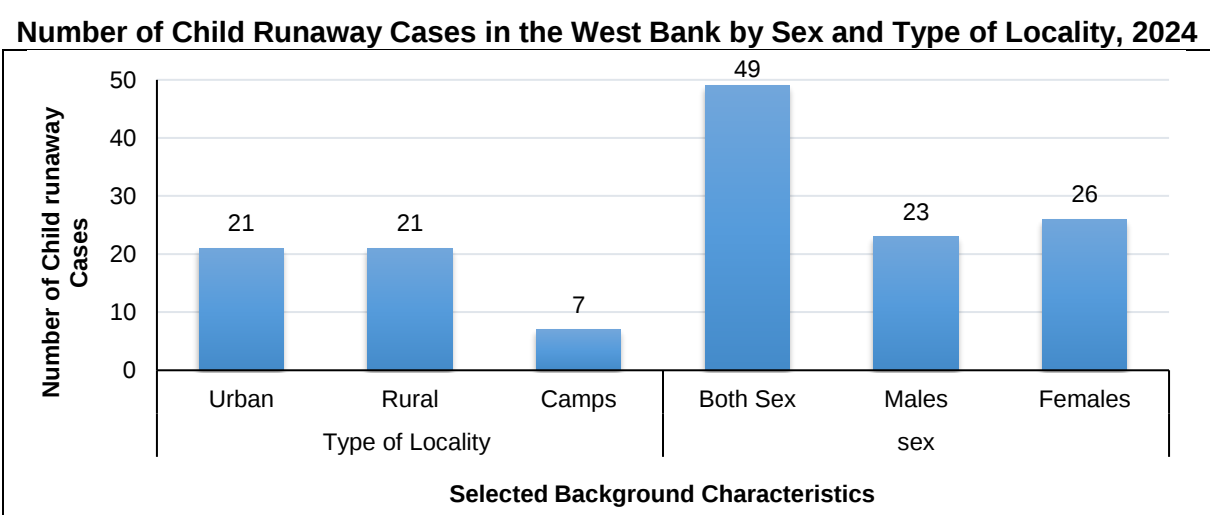


Source: Palestinian police, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Regarding children begging cases in the West Bank, the highest numbers were recorded in urban communities compared to rural areas and camps. Specifically, 100 cases were reported in urban communities, 76 cases in rural communities, and 30 cases in camps.

6.15 Child Runaway Cases

According to the Palestinian Police records for 2024, the number of reported cases of children running away from home in the West Bank reached 49 cases (23 boys and 26 girls).



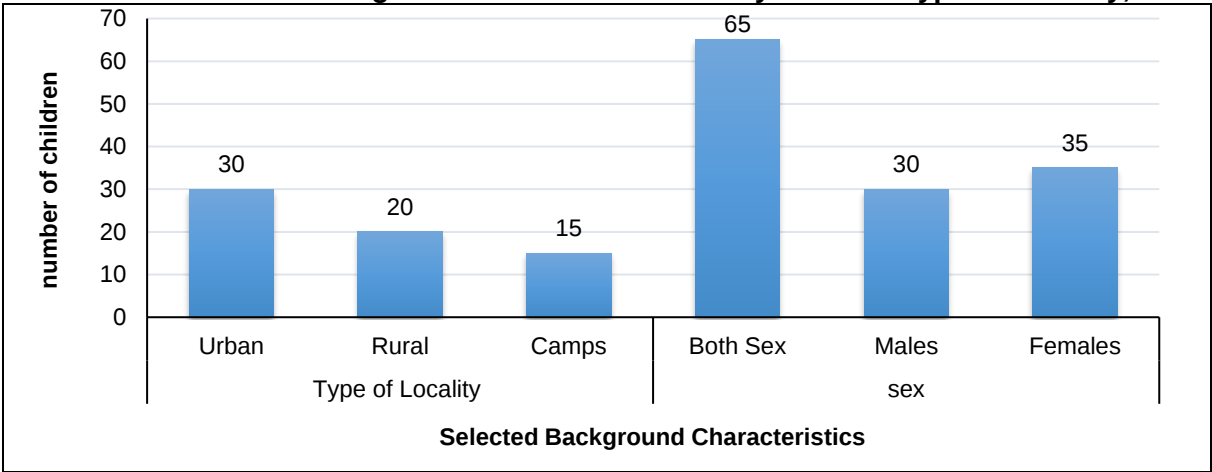
Source: Palestinian police, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

6.16 Shelter Cases for Children

According to the Ministry of Social Development records for 2024, the number of child sheltering cases in the West Bank reached 65 cases (30 boys and 35 girls).

Child sheltering refers to cases where children or individuals are provided with a safe and appropriate place to live, especially when they do not have a secure home or when remaining in their original home poses a risk to them. Sheltering goes beyond simply providing a place to sleep; it also involves creating a safe environment and offering care, protection, and psychosocial support.

Number of Child Sheltering Cases in the West Bank by Sex and Type of Locality, 2024



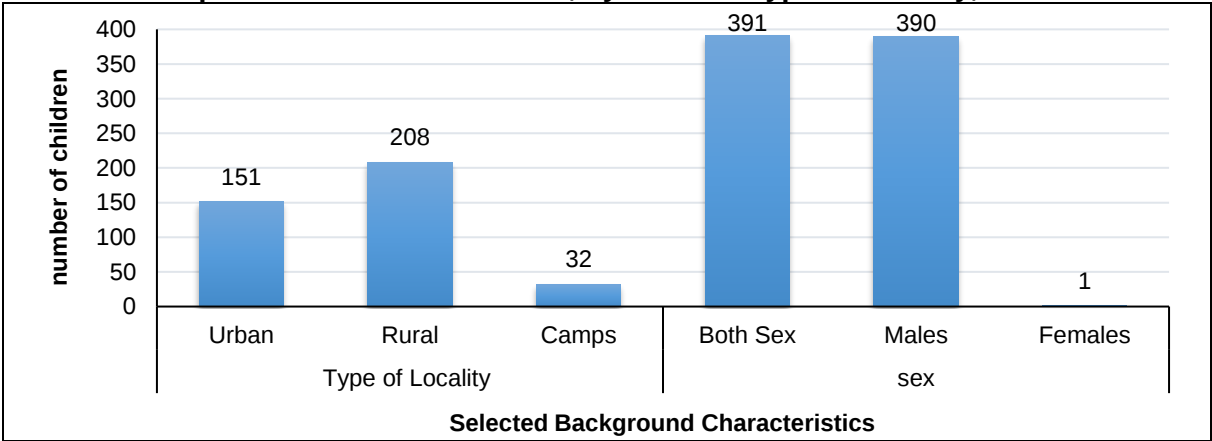
Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

The highest number of child sheltering cases was recorded in urban communities compared to rural areas and camps. Specifically, 30 cases were reported in urban communities, 20 cases in rural communities, and 15 cases in camps.

6.17 Cases of Juvenile Detainees in Family Protection Department Custody

According to the Palestinian Police records for 2024, the number of cases involving juvenile detainees in the Family and Juvenile Protection Units in the West Bank reached 391 cases; (390 males and 1 female).

Number of Juvenile Detainees in the Custody of the Family and Juvenile Protection Department in the West Bank, by Sex and Type of Locality, 2024



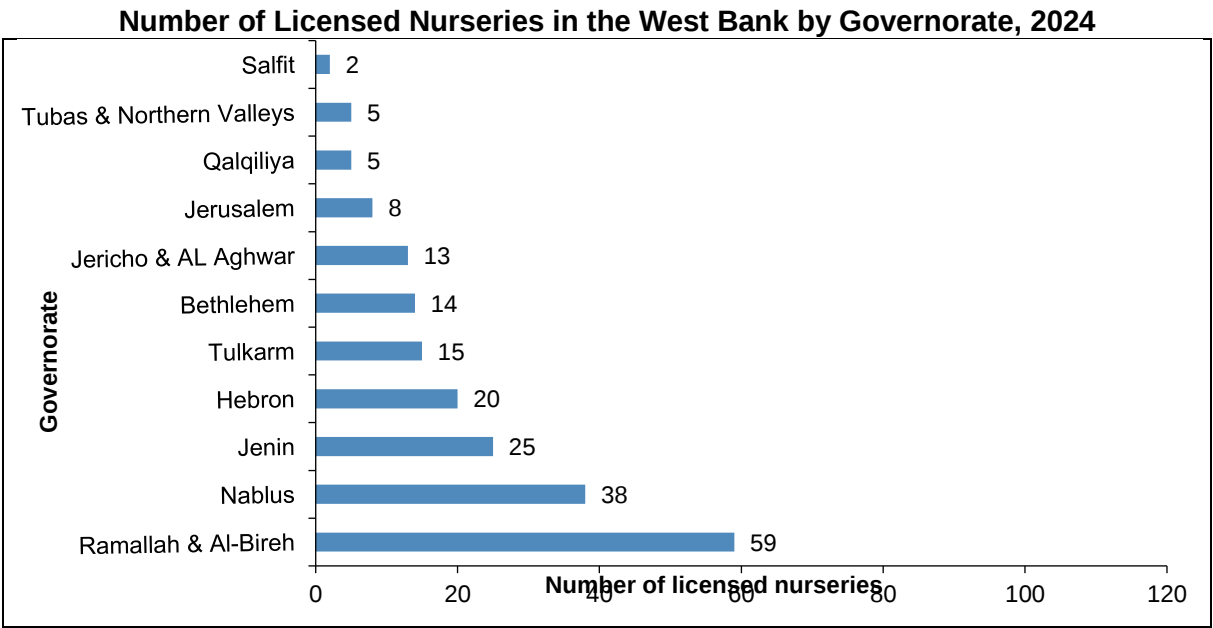
Source: Palestinian police, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

6.18 Licensed Nurseries

In 2024, the West Bank had 204 licensed nurseries, serving a total of 7,115 children, including 48 children with disabilities 21 boys and 27 girls. These nurseries operate under the supervision of 932 qualified caregivers, providing early childhood education in a safe and stimulating environment.

The nurseries follow standards set by the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development, ensuring high-quality services that promote healthy growth and development. They are also subject to regular inspection visits to ensure compliance with the required standards, thereby reinforcing parental confidence and guaranteeing an appropriate educational and care environment.

According to the Ministry’s 2024 data, Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate ranks first in terms of the number of licensed nurseries, accounting for 28.9% of the total. Nablus Governorate follows this with 18.6%, and Jenin Governorate with 12.3% of the total licensed nurseries in the West Bank.



Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2025. Ramallah – Palestine.

Chapter Seven

Children and the Information Society**7.1 Computer Use and Internet Access for Households with Children Aged (5-17 Years)**

In 2023, 24.5% of households in Palestine with children aged (5-17 years) used computers (desktop, laptop, or tablet), with 31.9% in the West Bank and 13.2% in Gaza Strip. Additionally, 97.8% of households with children in this age group had internet access, with 98.9% in the West Bank and 96.1% in Gaza Strip.

7.2 Purpose of Websites Visited by Children

Regarding the purpose of websites visited by children online, 96.2% of households in Palestine with children aged (5-17 years) use the internet for entertainment (games, music, songs, etc.), while 76.8% use it for studying, 45.2% for information and knowledge, 17.0% for chatting, and 26.4% for messaging and communication, according to the 2023 ICT Household Survey data.

7.3 Regulating Internet Usage Hours for Children Aged (5-17 Years)

The results of the 2023 ICT Household Survey indicated that 75.5% of households with children aged (5-17 years) monitor the programs their children use online, with 79.8% in the West Bank and 69.0% in Gaza Strip. Additionally, 80.9% of households regulate the daily hours of internet usage for their children aged (5-17 years), with 79.3% in the West Bank and 83.8% in Gaza Strip.

Table 16: Percentage of Households in Palestine Regulating Daily Internet Usage Hours for Children Aged (5-17 Years) by Region and Type of Locality, 2023

Region\ Type of Locality	Percentage
Palestine	80.9
West Bank	79.3
North of West Bank	79.8
Middle of West Bank	73.2
South of West Bank	83.8
Gaza Strip	83.8
Type of Locality	
Urban	82.7
Rural	71.4
Camps	84.1

*The data do not represent the period of the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, Data collection was completed on the eve of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2024. Household Survey on Information and Communications Technology 2023, Main Findings Report. Ramallah – Palestine.

7.4 Protective Measures Taken by Households to Protect Children During Internet Use

There are several measures that households take to protect and safeguard children when using the internet. Data from the 2023 survey indicated that 88.2% of households sit with their children aged (5-17 years) while they use the internet. Additionally, 85.0% of households reported communicating with their children about what they do online and educating them about internet safety. Furthermore, 77.2% of households establish agreed-upon household rules regarding internet and personal device usage.

Table 17: Percentage of Households in Palestine That Take Protective Measures to Protect Children (5-17 Years) While Using the Internet by Measures Taken and Region, 2023

Protective Measures	Region		
	Palestine	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Placing the computer in a public Place of the house	27.1	35.2	12.8
Installing Internet filter software on the computer	15.8	19.0	9.9
Installing monitoring software on the computer	8.1	11.1	2.6
Talking to the child about what she/he is doing online	85.0	87.8	80.2
Sitting with the child during use the Internet	88.2	87.0	90.3
Agree house rules about using the Internet and personal devices	77.2	79.5	73.2

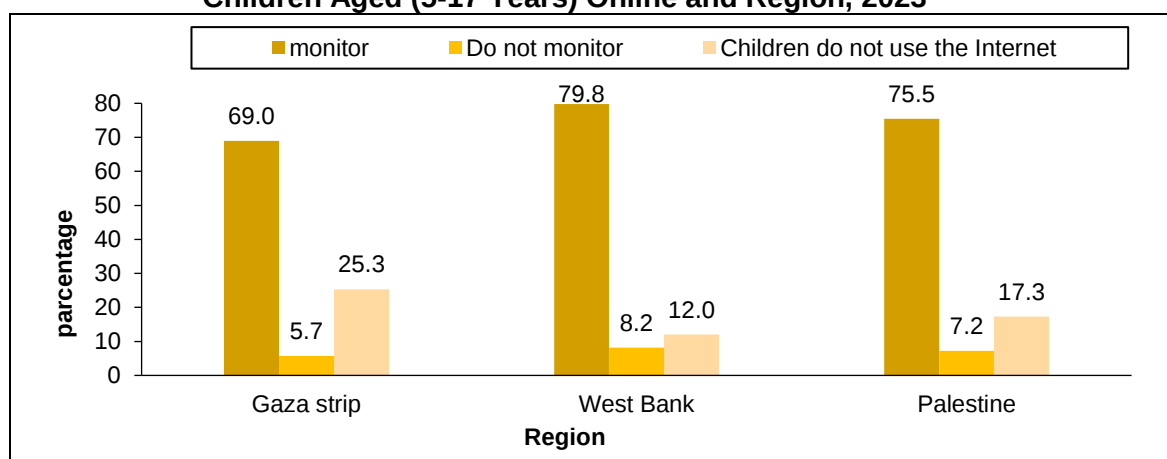
*The data do not represent the period of the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, Data collection was completed on the eve of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2024. Household Survey on Information and Communications Technology 2023, Main Findings Report. Ramallah – Palestine.

7.5 Monitoring Programs Used by Children Aged 5-17 Years on Computers

The percentage of households that monitor the types of programs used by children aged (5-17 years) on computers reached 83.3%, with 88.6% in the West Bank and 63.6% in Gaza Strip. Regarding the monitoring of programs used by children online, 75.5% of households in Palestine reported that they monitor the programs their children use. Additionally, 17.3% of households with children in this age group stated that their children do not use the internet, according to the 2023 ICT Household Survey data.

Percentage Distribution of Households in Palestine by Monitoring Programs Used by Children Aged (5-17 Years) Online and Region, 2023**



*The data do not represent the period of the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, Data collection was completed on the eve of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2024. Household Survey on Information and Communications Technology 2023, Main Findings Report. Ramallah – Palestine.

7.6 Prohibited Activities for Children Aged (5-17 Years) on the Internet by Households

Regarding households preventing their children from engaging in certain online behaviors, data revealed that 88.8% of households in Palestine prohibit their children aged (5-17 years) from talking to strangers online, with 89.1% in the West Bank and 88.3% in the Gaza Strip. The results also showed that 85.7% of households prevent their children in this age group from sharing personal information online, with 87.7% in the West Bank and 82.1% in Gaza Strip. Additionally, 83.2% of households with children aged (5-17 years) restrict their children from

using chat rooms, with 80.4% in the West Bank and 88.3% in Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, the percentage of households that prevent their children aged (5-17 years) from purchasing goods or services online is 82.5%, with 82.2% in the West Bank and 83.0% in Gaza Strip.

Table 18: Percentage of Households in Palestine That Prevent Their Children Aged (5-17 Years) from Engaging in Certain Online Activities by Type of Activity and Region, 2023

Protective Measures	Region		
	Palestine	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Give out personal information	85.7	87.7	82.1
Buy goods or services online	82.5	82.2	83.0
Talk to people they don't know in real life	88.8	89.1	88.3
Use chat rooms	83.2	80.4	88.3
Download movies videos, images, TV programs or music	70.8	70.8	70.8
Download or play games	19.0	21.2	14.9

*The data do not represent the period of the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip, Data collection was completed on the eve of the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2024. Household Survey on Information and Communications Technology 2023, Main Findings Report. Ramallah – Palestine.