

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Child Statistics Series (No. 3)**

**Palestinian Children—Issues and Statistics
Annual Report, 2000**

September, 2000

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Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. *Annual Report 2000. Palestine Children-Issues and Statistics. Child Statistics Series (No. 3).* Ramallah–Palestine.

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The Swedish Government has provided, through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the necessary assistance for financing the activities of the Child Statistics Program.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation to the Swedish Government, SIDA and the Swedish Consulate–Jerusalem for supporting this project.

Acknowledgement

Mr. Jawad Al-Saleh (Coordinator of the PCBS' Child Statistics Program) Lead the efforts aiming at selecting the indicators included in this report as well as developing the general framework of its chapters. He supervised the preparation of the report material, coupled with editing and finalization. Ms. Khitam Al-Bizreh, Asma Aloosh and Mr. Mamoun Al-Najar assisted hem in accomplishing the task.

A number of researchers participated in developing the material of this report including: Mrs. Aysha Al-Rifa'ii "Child Health"; Mrs. Cairo Arafat (Children in Need of Special Care); Mr. Jawad Al- Saleh (Children Under Poverty Level, Daily Activities of the Palestinian Child, and the Educational Reality of the Palestinian Child); and Mr. Ayman Abu Elkheir (Child Labour). Mr. Ahmad Abu Al-Heija, Mr. Saidi Al- Masri, Mr. Saleh Al-Kafri, and Mr. Mohammad Dreidi prepared the statistical tables essential for the report. Dr. Hasan Abu Libdeh (President, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics) undertook the technical supervision of the report preparation besides directing the work team and offering indispensable comments on the final draft of the reports.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics thankfully acknowledges the efforts of all parties participated in leading, managing and bringing this report into light.

Preface

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is pleased to introduce its third annual report on the socio-economic reality of the Palestinian child, as a part of the activities of the Child Statistics Program. This report is of a significant importance as it is issued after five years of PNA Inception. We attempt through statistics to give specialists, concerned parties and decision makers an opportunity to identify the extent of progress we achieved as a PNA, local and international NGOs, and private sector in providing care, protection and development for our children in the Palestinian Territory.

The report analytically presents available statistics on the socio-economic environment of the Palestinian child and sheds light on the immediate deficiencies and gaps in the child reality, especially in the fields of health, education, culture, recreation, poverty, and child labor.

Developing the reality of the child status and commitment to enforce child rights can not be attained without the accumulation of the efforts of all parties interested in childhood. It is worthy to point that the database we are intending to construct is based-in terms of framework and content - on the nature of our own understanding of the monitoring role assigned to us by the principles of collective participation in defining work priorities. This effort is to be enhanced with integration and coordination with Palestinian regional and international institutions in a way that is in harmony with the tools used in measuring indicators pertinent to child rights, as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and in a way that fulfills these requirements in light of the peculiarities of the Palestinian reality and the unique conditions of our children.

The PCBS hopes that this report be optimally utilized in planning, policy making and strategic decision-making on the child sector in Palestine. Without doubt, the continuous flow of data on the reality of children is one of the basic pillars for bringing about changes in this reality. We will ensure the continuity of this flow, hoping that God blesses our efforts to successfully carry out this task.

September, 2000

**Hasan Abu Libdeh, Ph.D
President**

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Introduction

The third annual statistical report “Palestine Children—Issues and Statistics” is the outcome of the efforts of the Child Statistics Program (CSP) that was established by the PCBS in 1997, with the generous support of the government of Sweden through Swedish Sida. This report constitutes another solid step towards setting up a national mechanism for monitoring the reality and status of Palestinian children, and the extent to which they enjoy their rights. The basic objective for statistical data collection, analysis and dissemination is to promote awareness among decision makers, planners, non-governmental organizations and parties concerned with defending children’s issues in relation to planning, legislation prioritization and meeting pertinent needs.

The report is comprised a set of indicators categorized into seven basic topics, each of which constitutes a separate chapter. Our classification is in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) of 1989 as a general framework, as well as the 1995 Palestinian National Plan of Action, adopted as a special framework.

The report involves indicators on the socio-economic reality of Palestinian children. The importance of these indicators stems from their significance in understanding the socio-economic data in a way that serves the fulfillment of the child’s rights, including leading an honorable life. Likewise, the report involves indicators on children’s health and educational/cultural conditions. The report involves other indicators on children in need of special protection. This group involves juvenile offenders, institutionalized children, children living below the poverty line, and child labor. It is noteworthy that special attention has been given to habitual child activities. The PCBS undertook necessary preparations to conduct a survey on child labor and activities of children aged 5–17 years, along with children living below the level of poverty, constituting the first statistical material on poor children in Palestine.

In issuing this report, the PCBS hopes that it managed to add value and provide an efficient tool for understanding the reality of Palestinian children and their needs in a way that enhance planning levels and the setting up of developmental programs to meet the needs and rights of our children in Palestine.

Social Reality

Population projections show that the number of Palestinian population residing in the Palestinian Territory in the middle of the year 2000 is 3.15 million, 63% in the West Bank and 36.1% in the Gaza Strip. The total number includes an estimated 1.59 million males and 1.55 million females, with a sex ratio of 102.0. In comparison, 1.40 million males and 1.38 million females residing in the Palstinian Territory in 1997, with a sex ratio of 101.90.

According to the projections, the crude birth rate in the Palestinian Territory will gradually decrease from its 1997 level of 42.7 births per 1,000 persons to 34.9 and 25.3 in 2000 and 2010 respectively.

The Palestinian society in the Palestinian Territory is young. The percentage of persons aged less than 18 years is estimated to reach 53% in 2000, 49.1% females and 50.9% males.

Females in the age group 0-4 years constitute 49.1% of the total children in this age group. Moreover, females constitute 49.5% and 49% of the total children in the age groups 5-9 years and 10-14 years, respectively.

In 1998, the median age at first marriage was 18.7 for women and 23.9 years for men.

40% of the total number of married women were aged less than 18 years in 1998.

Child Health

The level of breastfeeding in Palestine is considered acceptable in general (for the first eight months without gender differentials). Nevertheless, mothers continue breastfeeding the male infants (more than females) after the ninth month especially for the age group (15 – 17 months), according to 1996 data.

the infant mortality rate in the Palestinian Territory will gradually decrease from its 1997 level of 24.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 22.7 and 18.1 in 2000 and 2010 respectively.

Premature births constituted the main cause of infant mortality in the Gaza Strip, whereas prenatal conditions constituted the main cause of infant mortality in the West Bank, in 1999.

Child Education Reality

The total number of students attending kindergartens, and basic and secondary levels of education increased from 654,697 to 942,942 during the scholastic years 1994/1995-1998/1999. The growth rate during this period was 44%.

The gross enrollment ratio increased from 91.6% in 1994/1995 at the basic stage to 96.8% in 1999/2000.

The gross enrollment ratio increased from 46% in 1994/1995 at the secondary stage to 56.9% in 1999/2000.

The drop-out rate for males decreased from 2.6% in 1994/1995 at the basic stage to 1.8% in 1998/1999. The drop out rate for females decreased from 2.4% to 1.4% in the same scholastic years.

The drop-out rate for males decreased from 6.5% in 1994/1995 at the secondary stage to 4.0% in 1998/1999. The drop-out rate for females decreased from 9.7% to 6.6% in the same scholastic years.

The repetition rate for males decreased from 5% in 1994/1995 at the basic stage to 2.8% in 1998/1999. The repetition rate for females decreased from 4.4% to 2.3% in the same scholastic years.

The repetition rate for males decreased from 5.4% in 1994/1995 at the secondary stage to 1.5% in 1998/1999. The repetition rate for females decreased from 1.3% to 0.7% in the same scholastic years.

The government provides schooling to 62.24% of the total number of students. UNRWA services are an additional 23.66% of the total, and the rest of the students (14.1%) are enrolled in the private sector, for the scholastic year 1999/2000.

77,402 children attended kindergartens, in the scholastic year 1999/2000, run exclusively by the private sector (*except three in the Gaza Strip, which were government run*) but licensed by the Ministry of Education (MOE). 47.55% of these children are female.

In the scholastic year 1999/2000 a total of 72,550 students are enrolled in the secondary level. Most students choose to follow one of two academic streams (Scientific or Literary). In contrast, 3.9% of secondary school students choose a vocational education.

Almost 51% of secondary school students are female. Gender-based differences are apparent in enrolment levels in each of the secondary streams. Females comprise 55% of total enrolment in the literary stream, 45% of students in the science track. Females make up only 23% of the total enrolment in the vocational stream for the scholastic year 1999/2000.

The percentage of dropouts increases in the secondary level. By the secondary stage level, 6.6% of girls and 4.0% of boys left school, in the scholastic year 1998/1999.

Students per teacher ratios vary according to supervising authority and region. In the scholastic year 1999/2000 the highest ratios are reported for UNRWA schools, where there are 39.4 students per teacher, compared to 27.9 or 17.9 students per teacher in government and private schools, respectively.

Habitual Child (10-17 years) Activities:

The following indicators were derived from the findings of the Time Use Survey (half of the original sample), conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the period May 1999 – April 2000:

Personal care and self-maintenance constitute the first most frequent daily child activities, while cultural and social activities constitute the second frequent daily child activities and mass media-related activities constitute the thirds most frequent activities. 91.6% of the interviewed children noted that they practice cultural and social activities, 89.2% of the interviewed children noted that they practice mass media – related activities.

Personal and self-care activities consume most of the time of the interviewed children, who noted that they spend 47.9% of their time on these activities. On the other hand, the findings showed that interviewees dedicate 15.2% of their time for learning activities, 14.3% of their time for cultural and social activities; 10.6% of their time for written and audiovisual mass media; and 4.9% of their time for different work activities. The rest of their time is spent on other activities.

18.5% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years noted that they had performed certain work during the past 24 hours, whether it was official work in certain establishments or in primary production activities for non establishments. 54.5% of the work performed by the interviewed children was paid work. Moreover, 11.8% of the interviewees noted that they performed the mentioned work on their own. 33.0% of the performed work was done with the help of other household members and 55.2% was done with the help of non-household members.

For the majority of children enrolled at school and aged 10-17 years, schools constitute the main venue in which children spend the longest continuous period of their time and practice. Learning constitutes the second most fragment child activity (17.2% of their time), preceded by personal care activity, which constitutes the first major activity (47.8% of the child's time).

Time spent on public education activities constitutes the first major child activity of the total educational activities performed by children enrolled in educational institutions (55.2% of the educational activities' time). Studying, doing homework and other scholastic preparations constitute the second major child activity (34.1% of the educational activities' time).

Children perform 34.1% of their educational activities by themselves, 3.5% with the assistance of a household member and 62.4% with the assistance of a non – household member.

88.4% of children perform educational activities and school assignments by themselves, 6.0% of children are assisted by a household member and 5.6% are assisted by a non-household member.

Child activities related to watching television constitute the first major child activity pertinent to mass media. The findings of the survey indicated that 86.2% of the interviewed had watched television and 30.4% had listened to radio programs during the past 24 hours. On the other hand, the percentage of children who read newspapers was 11.4%.

25.3% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years noted that they had visited libraries 11 times during the past 12 months: 52.3% males and 47.7% females.

64.0% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years had not read a single book during the past 12 months. 9.8% had read one book, and 10.1% of the total number of children in the same age group had read three to five books, 2.7% had read six to nine books.

8.4% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years are members of sports clubs; 2.8% are members of cultural clubs. In addition, 8.3% of the children in the same age group noted that they are members of public libraries.

47% of the total number of children aged 10 – 17 years are willing to practice cultural activities during their free time.

41.2% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years, among those willing to practice cultural activities during their free time, noted that the main reason that prevented them from doing so was the unavailability of public facilities; 24.7% noted that it was due to the lack of free time. On the other hand, 11.3% of them noted the lack of money needed to cover related costs was the main reason that prevented them from practicing cultural activities during their free time.

Children in Need of Special Protection:

The number of Palestinian children residing in orphanages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was 1714 orphans for 1999 (944 males and 770 females), distributed as follows: 1607 orphans in the West Bank and 107 orphans in the Gaza Strip.

The number of juvenile delinquents accused of committing offences in 1999 was 1404 delinquents, distributed by age as follows: 775 delinquents in the age group 16-18 years; 487 delinquents were in the age group 12-15 years; and 241 delinquents were aged less than 12 years in the West Bank.

The offences committed by juvenile delinquents in 1999 ranged from offenses against others (529 cases); crimes against the properties of others (347 cases); robberies and thefts (246 cases); rape and indecent acts (90 cases); legal violations (68 cases); murder or complicity in murder (23 cases); and other offenses (101 cases).

41.8% of the juvenile delinquents accused of committing offences were institutionalized in the institutions of the Ministry of Social Affairs, 29.4% in the West Bank and 50.6% in the Gaza Strip. Female delinquents constituted 6.1% of the total number of institutionalized children.

55.5% of those accused of committing offences were convicted.

Children living under the level of poverty:

Based on the database of the Expenditure and Consumption Survey, 1996-1998, which was conducted by PCBS, the following indicators were identified:

Child poverty rates in the Palestinian Territory decreased from 27.2% in 1996 to 24.0% in 1998. Nevertheless, about one out of every four children in the Palestinian Territories is poor.

Severe poverty prevalence rates among Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip decreased from 31.2% in 1996 to 24.6% in 1998. At the West Bank level, poverty rates increased from 8.8% to 9.8% for the same period.

Child poverty rates among households with one-two children were 13.2%, compared to 34.2% among the households comprised of 9 children and above.

Refugee camps still suffer from the highest child poverty rate, which amounted to 37.3% in 1998 compared to 35.5% in 1997.

Poverty prevalence rates increase with:

- The increase in the number of household members.
- High poverty rate prevails among the offspring of household heads whose educational attainment levels are less than the elementary certificate.
- High poverty rate prevails among the offspring of households headed by women.
- High poverty rate prevails among the offspring of household heads employed in primary occupations.

Child labor:

The following indicators for children in the age group 10-17 years were derived from the findings of the Labour Force Survey, conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 1999.

34,061 children in the Palestinian Territory were classified in the labor force. This percentage constitutes around 5.9% of the total number of children in the age group 10-17 years.

15.9% of children aged 10-17 years didn't work during 1999, but were available for work and were seeking work (*unemployment*).

The highest labor force participation for children aged 10-17 years was in the northern parts of the West Bank (9.1%) and the southern parts of the West Bank (7.3%).

In most cases, child labor leads to school drop-outs. Available statistics for 1999 indicate that 73.6% of working children in the age group 10-17 years are not enrolled in school.

73.4% of the employed children work more than 35 hours a week.

The highest percentage of employed children belong to households headed by waged employees (16.1%) or persons employed in the private sector (10.8%).

Educational attainment and income levels for the head of the household and the size of the household are among the most important factors affecting the percentage of employed children. Lower percentages of child labor exist among small households with high educational attainment and income levels of the head of the household and vice versa.

Socio-Economic Reality

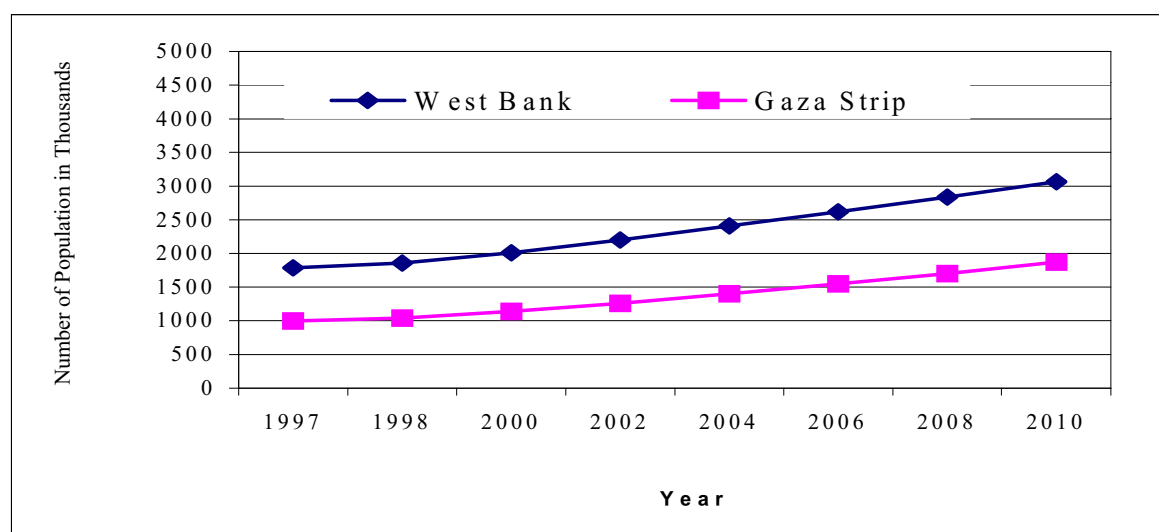
A child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, maturity is attained earlier.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 1)

Population Growth

Population projections indicate that of the estimated number of the de facto Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory in the mid of year 2000, around 2.01 million lived in the West Bank and 1.14 million in the Gaza Strip. That is to say around 63.9% of the total Palestinian population lived in the West Bank, and 36.1% in the Gaza Strip.

Figure (1-1): Number of de facto population in the Palestinian Territory by area (1997 - 2010)

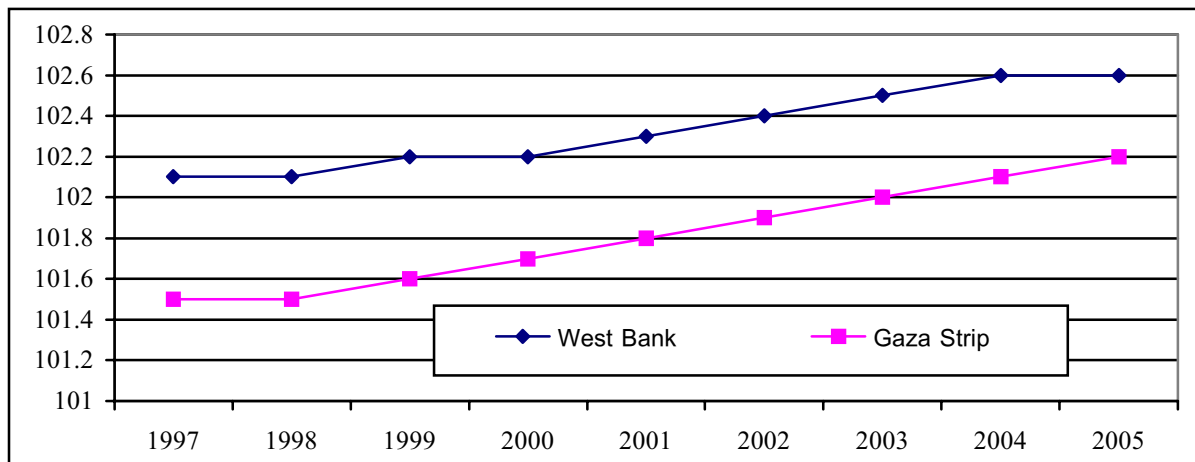


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997 - 2025.

The estimated number of males living in the Palestinian Territory in mid of year 2000 amounted to 1.59 million compared to 1.55 million females, with a sex ratio of 102.0.

In the West Bank, the estimated number of males amounted to 1.01 million, compared to 0.99 million females, with a sex ration of 102.2. In the Gaza Strip, the estimated number of males amounted to 0.57 million, compared to 0.56 million females, with a sex ration of 101.7. Figure (1-2) shows the estimated sex ratio in the Palestinian Territory in the middle for selected years.

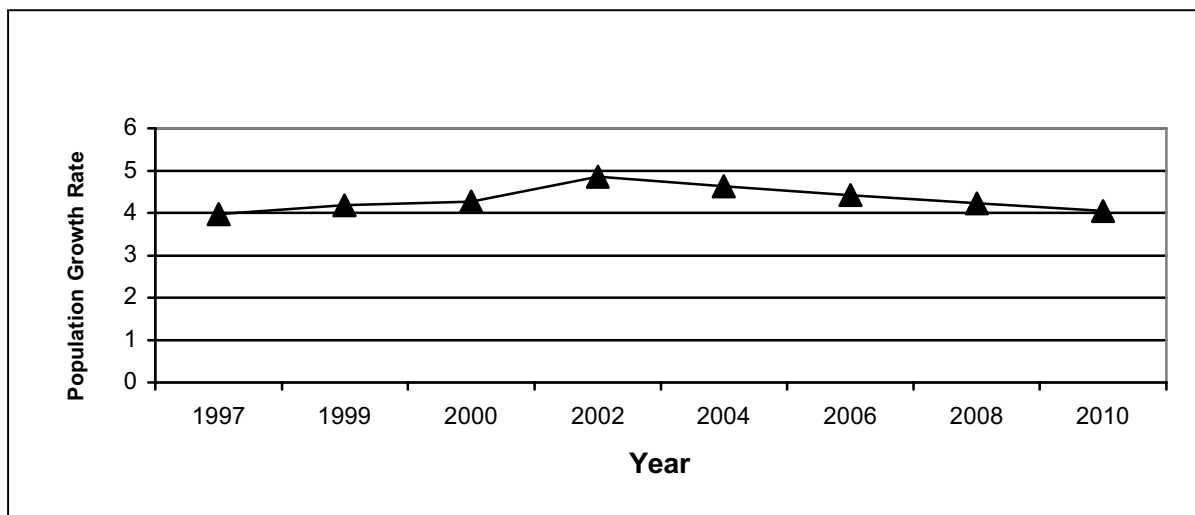
Figure (1-2): Estimated sex ratio in the Palestinian Territory by area (1997-2005)



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025.

Figure (1-3) presents trends of population growth in the Palestinian Territory. The figure clearly shows an increase in the population annual growth rate for the period 1997–2001 and then decreases in time to reach 4.1% by the year 2010.

Figure (1-3): Average population growth in the Palestinian Territory by area (1997-2010)



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997-2025.

Fertility

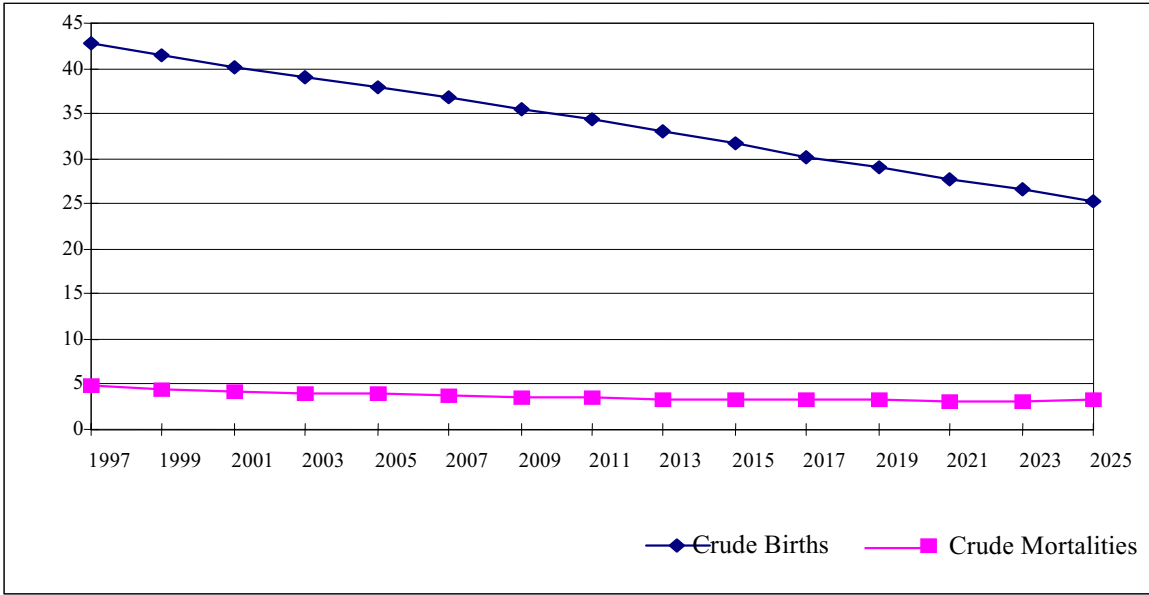
When compared to fertility levels prevailing in other countries, fertility levels in the Palestinian Territory are considered very high. Nevertheless, some existing evidence indicate that fertility rates have started to decrease in the past years. The estimates of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics indicate that there is a

decrease in the crude birth rate during the second half of the past decade. The number of crude births per 1000 of the population was estimated at 42.7 in 1997 and 40.7 in 2000. It is expected that this number will continue to decrease until it reaches 34.9 in the year 2010. As for the total fertility rate, it decreased from 6.4 during the period 1985–1989 to 6.1 in 1995, and 6.0 in 1997.

Mortality

In general, the mortality level in the Palestinian Territory is low compared to other developing and Arab countries. Crude mortality rate in general and infant mortality rate in particular have been decreasing since the last decade. The crude mortality rate amounted to 4.8 per 1,000 persons of the population in 1997. Infant mortality rate amounted to 27.3 per 1,000 live births in the period 1990 – 1994 compared to 35.2 per 1,000 live births in the period 1985 – 1989. This resulted in an increase in life expectancy at birth, which amounted to 69.9 years for males and 73.4 years for females in 1997. It is expected to continue increasing until it reaches 73.8 for males and 76.7 for females in 2025. See figure (1-4).

Figure (1-4): Crude mortality rate in the Palestinian Territory by area (1997- 2025)

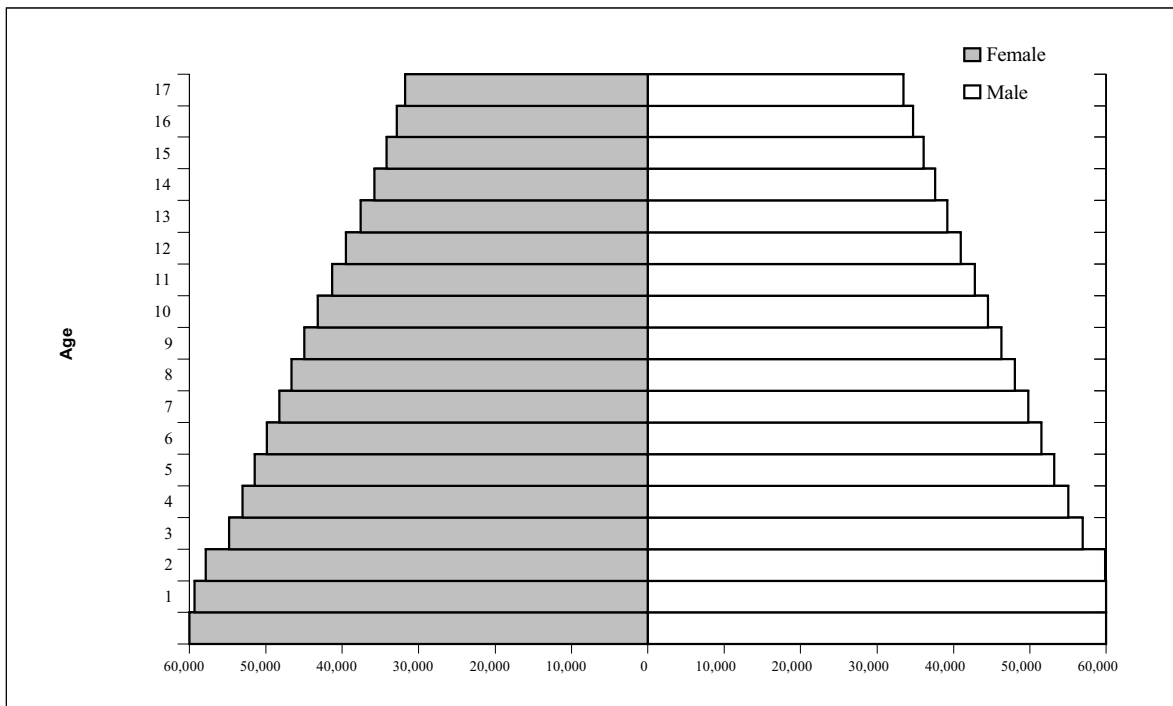


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997 - 2025.

Age Structure

The Palestinian society in the Palestinian Territory is considered young. The percentage of individuals aged less than 18 years in the middle of 2000 was 53% of the total Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory (i.e. 1,668,710 children), 49.1% female and 50.9% male. Estimates indicate that this percentage will decrease in time to 50.4% by 2010.

Figure (1-5): Distribution of Children (aged 0-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Statistical Singular Years of Age and Gender-2000



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997 - 2025.

When examining the demographic indicators for children, it is essential to classify them in age groups according to the development and the changes in their needs by age. The existence of a high percentage of children below the age of five years increases the burdens of the society in achieving a sufficient level of development that meets childhood needs. Children in the age group (0-4 years) constituted 18.5% of the total de facto population in the Palestinian Territory in the year 2000. This is equivalent to 34.9% of the total number of children in the Palestinian society. Girls aged less than 5 years constituted 49.1% of the total number of children in the same age group. On the other hand, children in the age group (5-9 years) constituted 15.6% of the total number of the Palestinian population and 29.4% of the total number of children. Girls in the age group (5-9 years) constituted 49.2% of the total number of the population.

Children in the age group (10-14 years), are characterized as being in a preparatory stage before reaching adolescence. This stage requires special child rehabilitation at the educational, psychological and vocational levels in order to fully prepare them for entering adolescence as well as to make them productive and able to bear their responsibilities in the society. Estimates show that children in this age group constituted 12.8% of the total Palestinian population for the year 2000, a percentage equivalent to 24% of the total number of Palestinian children. The percentage of females in the (10-14) years age group was 49% of the total number of children in this age group. Children in the age group (15-17 years) was 6.4% of the total Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2000, a percentage equivalent to 12.1% of the total number of Palestinian children. The percentage of

females in this age group (15–17 years) was 48.7% of the total number of children in this age group.

Early Marriage

Median age at first marriage in the Palestinian Territory was 18.8 years for females and 24.1 years for males in 1999. In the West Bank, mean age at first marriage was 18.9 years for females and 24.4 years for males. In the Gaza Strip, median age at first marriage was 18.7 years for females and 23.5 years for males.

Median age at first marriage for persons who have a university degree Bachelor Degree and above was 24.4 for females and 27.4 for males. As for persons who hold a preparatory school certificate at most, median age at first marriage was 16.8 years for females and 22.5 years for males.

The percentage of persons who married before the age of 18 years in the Palestinian Territory was about 36.9% for females and 2.2% for males out of the total number of persons married in the same year. In the West Bank, this percentage was 35.7% for females and 1.9% for males. In the Gaza Strip, this percentage was 38.6% for females and 2.7% for males.

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Chapter 2

Child Health³

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)

In the context of sustainable health development, the National Strategic Health Plan of the Palestinian people, which has recently been amended and approved for the period 1999 – 2003, in which a considerable number of child health issues has been given priority for intervention.

Proposed strategies covered fields such as mother and child health, primary health care, and health education and awareness. Emphasis has been made on some areas such as school health, the mortality rate of infants and children under 5 years of age, immunization, casualties, diarrhea, anomalies and malformations, and health care services for healthy children.

As seen in the data of the Health Survey of 1996 and other data obtained from the administrative records of the Ministry of Health, these priorities were defined in many consecutive reports prepared by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. These reports have been very helpful in facilitating and directing the development of the strategy.

In an attempt to identify the health status of the Palestinian children, this chapter uses selected health indicators such as infant and children (under five years of age) mortalities, child mortality causes, and availability of health services for children. These indicators have been used in order to achieve the objective of the report. As much as possible, special attention has been paid to regional and gender differentials.

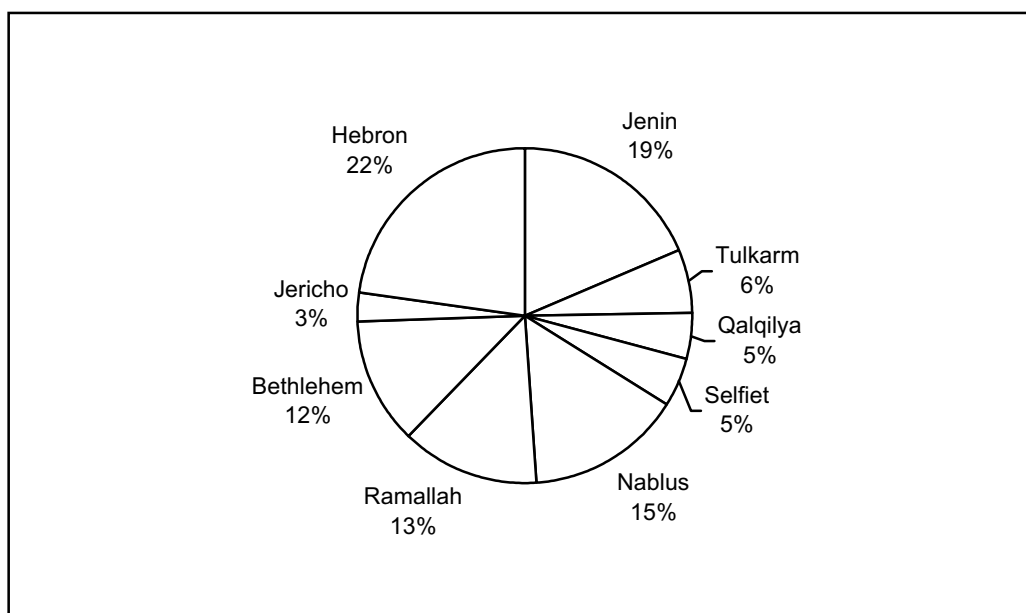
Child Mortality Rate

The child mortality rate in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 15.02 in 1998, compared to 15.8 in 1997.

Available statistics points to a considerable decrease in the total infant mortality rate, compared to the rate prevailing in the previous year. Nevertheless, the distribution of mortality rates figures for 1998 by region indicates that there is a serious gap between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. While infant mortality in the West Bank amounted to 9.5, this same rate amounted to 22.7 for the same period in the Gaza Strip.

³ Indicators presented in this chapter do not include the Jerusalem Governorate (which includes all communities and areas defined for the purposes of the Palestinian General Election in 1996. Its administrative borders were delineated based on the administrative borders)

Figure (2-1): Distribution of Infant Mortality in West Bank Governorates,⁴ 1998



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Health, 1998.

The Palestinian Ministry of health has records of 492 infant mortality cases in the West Bank in 1998. 22% of these cases took place in Hebron,⁵ followed by Jenin (19%) and Nablus governorate (15%). Consequently, it is evident that 56% of the total infant mortalities took place in these three governorates. On the other hand, 840 infant mortality cases were reported in the Gaza Strip. According to figure (2-2) 44% of these cases were reported in Gaza city. The highest number of live births was recorded in the same governorates, as well. This, however, does not mean that the relation is necessarily incidental, as a number of factors play a crucial role in this respect. More important is the quality of health care offered during the perinatal period⁶, which constitutes a core factor in the infant's / child's survival. In fact, the availability of offered services, potentials of access to these services and their effectiveness are all worth of being examined.

During 1998, the percentage of live births was 41.8 of the total births in the Gaza Strip and around 58.2 in the West Bank. The infant mortality rate, on the other hand, was 22.7 in the Gaza Strip and 9.5 in the West Bank.

In 1998, the infant mortality rate in the Gaza Strip was almost one fold higher than in the West Bank (excluding Jerusalem). In the same year, the percentage of

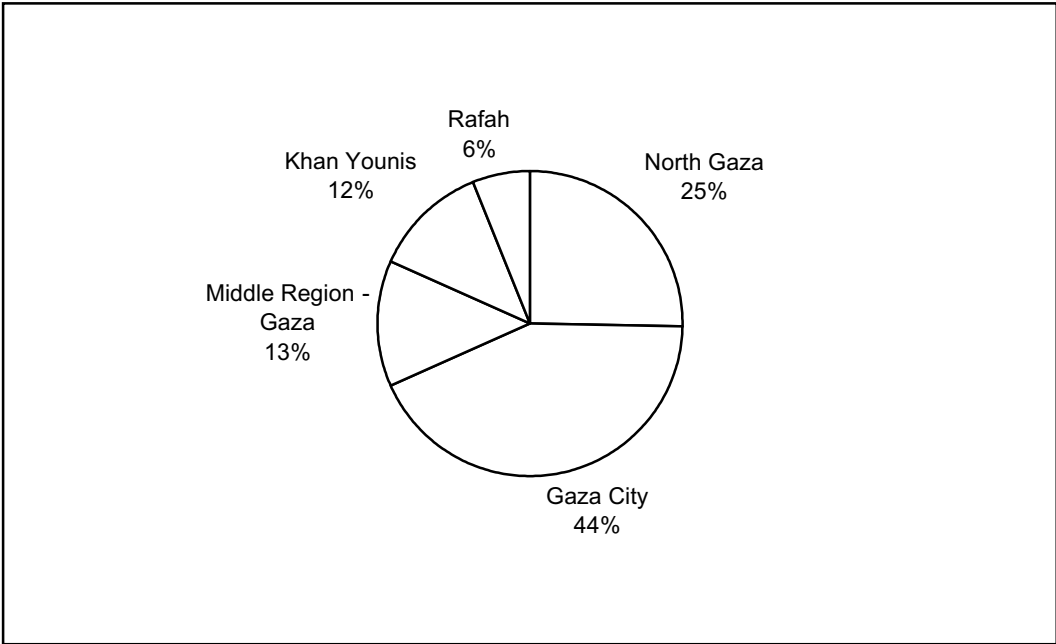
⁴ These indicators do not include Jerusalem

⁵ It is worth pointing that the Hebron and Gaza governorates are the largest in the West Bank in terms of population size, respectively. The population of the Hebron governorate constituted around 21.6% of the total population in the West Bank for 1998. The population of the Gaza governorate, constituted 35.8% of the total population in the Gaza Strip for the same year. The Jericho and Rafah governorates are the least populated governorates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

⁶ Tabor's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary indicates that "perinatal" is a Latin term, comprised of two syllables (Peri + Natalis), that refers to the period of pregnancy as follows: "Peri" which means around and "Natalis" meaning delivery. Thus, this term refers to anything that takes place during delivery or in the period that precedes / follows delivery.

live births out of the total number of births was 41.8 in the Gaza Strip and 58.2 in the West Bank.

Figure (2-2): Distribution of Infant Mortality in Gaza Strip Governorates, 1998.

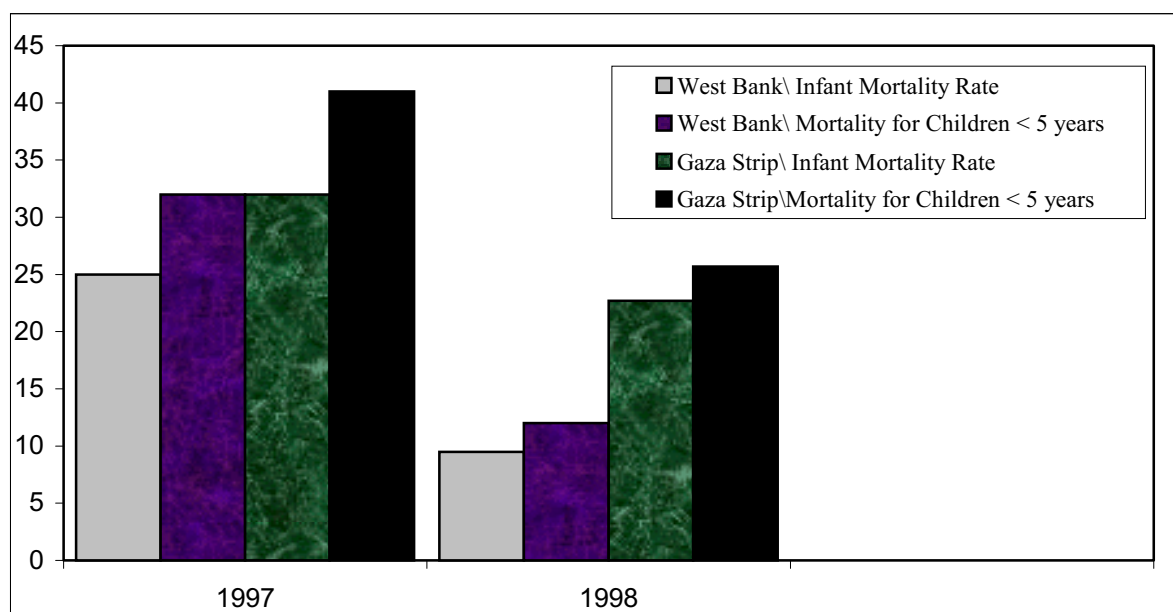


Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Health, 1998.

The mortalities of children below five years of age registered a considerable decrease. As for the West Bank, the mortalities of children below five years decreased to 12 cases in comparison to 25.7 in the Gaza Strip. Thus, the total mortality rate for children below five years of age amounted to 17.7, compared to 36 in the last year.

Data presented in figure (2-3) indicate that a considerable decline occurred in the values of both regions during 1998. Even if we take into account the fact that these rates had always been lower in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank, eliminating regional differences remains an absolute goal. Officials responsible for health planning along with Palestinian decision - makers ought to develop the tools essential to achieve that goal.

Figure (2-3): Infant Mortality and Children Under Five Years in the Palestinian Territory, 1997 -1998



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Health, 1998.

It is possible that causes underlying this progress include: Continuing providing free health care services for children aged less than three years by the public sector; improvement of quality of care as compared with previous years; increase of health care awareness; and better utilization of available resources.

Causes of Infant Mortality

Respiratory system diseases constituted the main cause of infant mortality in the West Bank for 1998, whereas premature births and malformations\ congenital anomalies constituted the main cause of infant mortality in the Gaza Strip

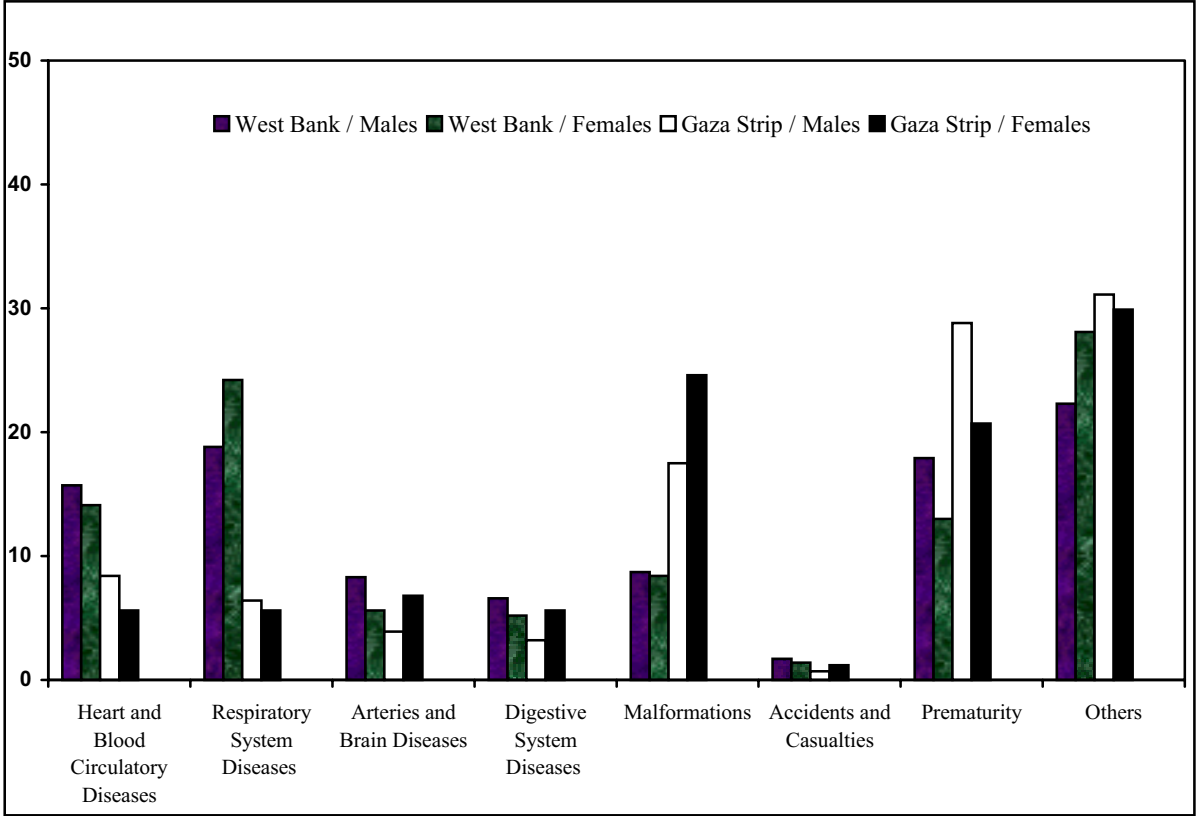
The main four causes of infant mortalities during 1998 were premature births, malformations\ congenital anomalies, respiratory system diseases and heart and blood circulatory diseases. Regional and gender differences are highlighted in Figure (2-4). While male and female infants in the West Bank share respiratory system diseases as the first main cause leading to infant mortalities, the other three main causes leading to infant mortalities are premature births, heart and blood circulatory diseases and malformations\ congenital anomalies. On the other hand, the main causes leading to infant mortalities among females are heart and blood circulatory diseases, premature births and malformations / congenital anomalies.

In the Gaza Strip, male and female infants suffer from premature births and malformations\ congenital anomalies as the main two causes leading to infant mortalities. Whereas malformations\ congenital anomalies is the main cause leading to infant mortalities, prematurity occupy the same position among males. The third and

fourth main causes leading to mortalities among both male and female infants are heart and blood circulatory diseases and respiratory system diseases.

In comparison with data from previous years, the prominent achievement this year is that “complications accompanying deliveries” was dropped from the list of main causes leading to infant mortalities in the West Bank. This is due to an improved level of maternity care services and a better utilization of attainable health services, both of which are related to an increase in health awareness among people.

Figure (2-4): Percentage of Registered Infant Mortality by Cause, Gender and Area, 1998



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Health, 1998.

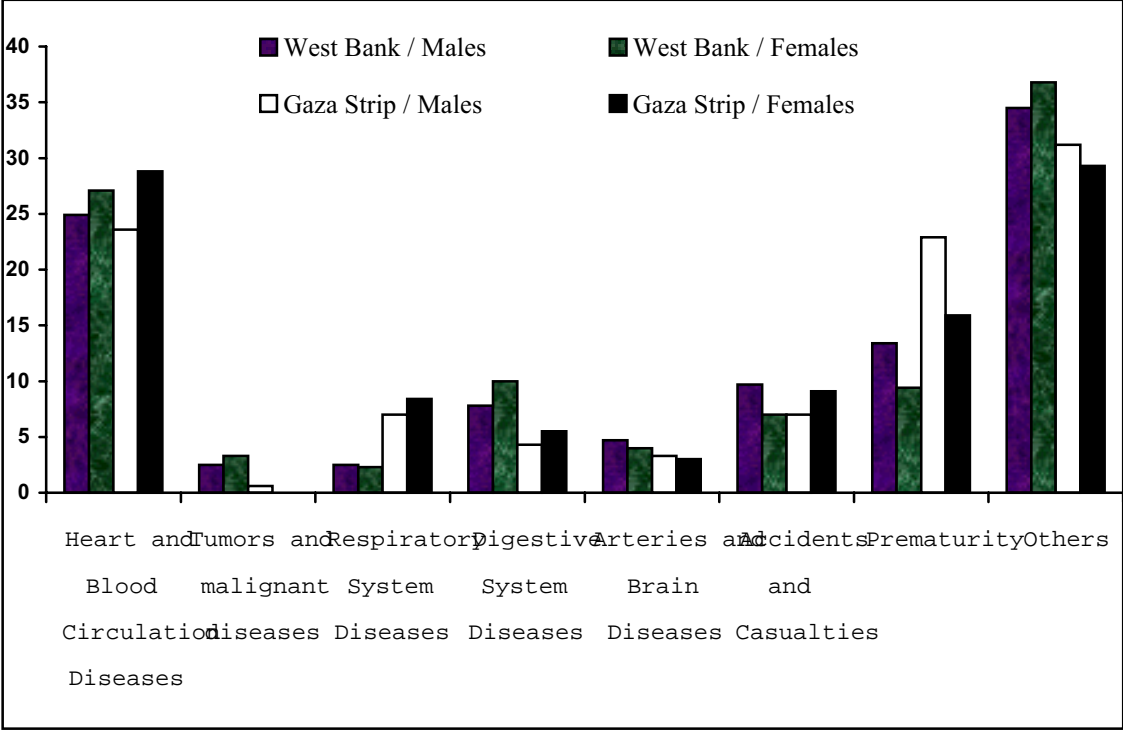
Causes of Mortality Among Children Under- Five

As for mortalities among children-under five, the most substantive change was pertinent to respiratory system diseases, which constituted the main cause of mortalities during 1997. Respiratory system diseases decreased to the fifth rank. In addition, malformations / congenital anomalies completely disappeared from the list of causes of deaths among this age group. However, heart and blood circulation diseases increased to occupy the first rank among the causes of mortalities among children under five. The four main causes leading to death are prematurity, accidents and casualties, digestive system diseases, and respiratory system diseases.

Moreover, premature births proved to be a dominant cause of mortalities among children under five and occupied the first and second positions in the lists of causes

leading to deaths among infants and children under five. Figures (2-4) and (2-5) depict this in more detailed way.

Figure (2-5): Percentage of Registered Mortalities Among Children Under 5 Years of Age By Cause, 1998.



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Health, 1998

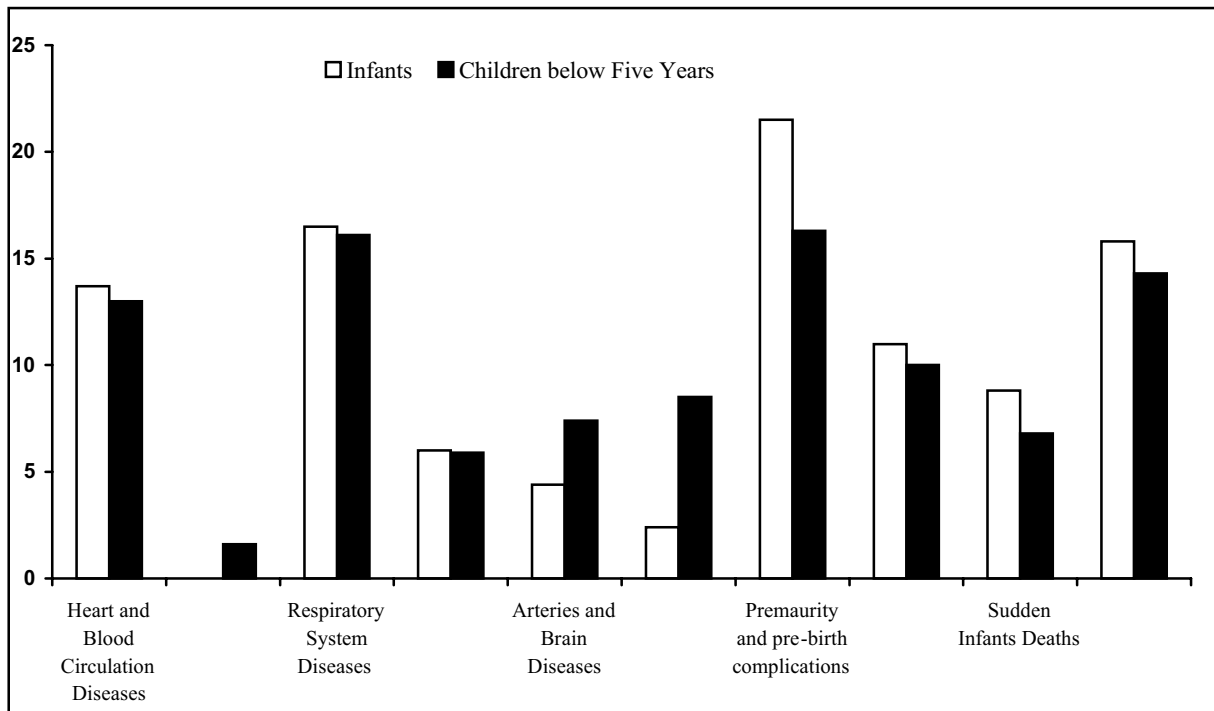
Available statistics indicate that the median age at first marriage for females is 18 years, which means that half of the Palestinian females get married before they reach this age. This situation, coupled with scientific facts and research findings stressing greater risks in terms of higher mortalities among infants and children under five belonging to young mothers (Imran and Standly 1976, Safe Maternity Bulletin 1996\ Al-Khawarztani 1996, World Health Organization 1998), leads to a logical conclusion: Countering early marriages remains a strategic prerequisite for decreasing mortalities resulting from fetus prematurity.⁵

On the other hand, causes leading to infant mortality stress the measures that need to be taken against young age at first marriage and marriages among relatives, in particular at the level of policy making and legislative intervention. The significant intervention would be to increase the legal age at first marriage and to instate compulsory medical checkup before marriage.⁶

⁵Low birth weight, improper fetus growth inside the womb, infant and under – five mortalities, and maternal mortalities are all documented results of early age at first marriage and adolescents pregnancies. For more details, see Safe Maternity Bulletin (1996), issue 22, April (3) or Al – Khawarztani, M.N (1996). Characteristics and Determinants of Reproductive Patterns in the Arab World: 1976-1995. Arab Regional Population Conference, Cairo.

⁶The findings of the Demographic Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 1996 point to the prevalence of marriage among relatives in Palestine. The percentage of this type of marriage out of the total marriages amount to 52% in the Gaza Strip and 47% in the West Bank.

Figure (2-6): Percentage of Registered Deaths among Infants and Children (under five years) by Cause, 1999



Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of the Ministry of Health, 1999

During 1999, premature births and complications pertinent to the fetus were the leading causes of death for both age groups, infants (0-11 months) and children under five. This is clearly shown in Figure 2 – 6. This enhances the earlier discussion on pregnancies at early ages (which is imperative from a social point of view) as well as the early marriage phenomenon.

The same causes leading to infant and children under five mortality remain almost the same. An exception to this is the recurrence of Sudden Infant Deaths Syndromes (SIDS), which occupies the sixth main cause of infant mortalities and the seventh main cause of mortalities among children under five years. Although SIDS occurred as one of the causes of infant mortalities during 1997, the occurrence of these Syndromes as one of the causes leading to under five mortalities is new.

A revision of international bulletins on SIDS including definition, causes and diagnoses makes apparent that reported cases need reconsideration in order to prepare accurate and detailed diagnostic reports.

Sudden Infant Deaths Syndromes (SIDS) describe the sudden death of the infant, which remains ambiguous even after examining all known and possible causes through analyzing the anatomy, the death scene and reference history.⁷ This means

⁷The internet provides a considerable number of sites and home pages addressing Sudden Infants Death Syndromes. All available sources stress that there are no sufficient medical explanations for such deaths. Much research has been conducted to identify causes leading to sudden deaths among children. Scientists are working on exploring the development and operations of the nervous system, including the brain, heart,

that mortalities among children under five years are not considered among this group. Thus, it is essential to probe and follow up the causes of mortalities in more detail. In addition, restrictions on anatomy in the Palestinian Territory stress the need to conduct more detailed research studies on SIDS.

Place of Delivery

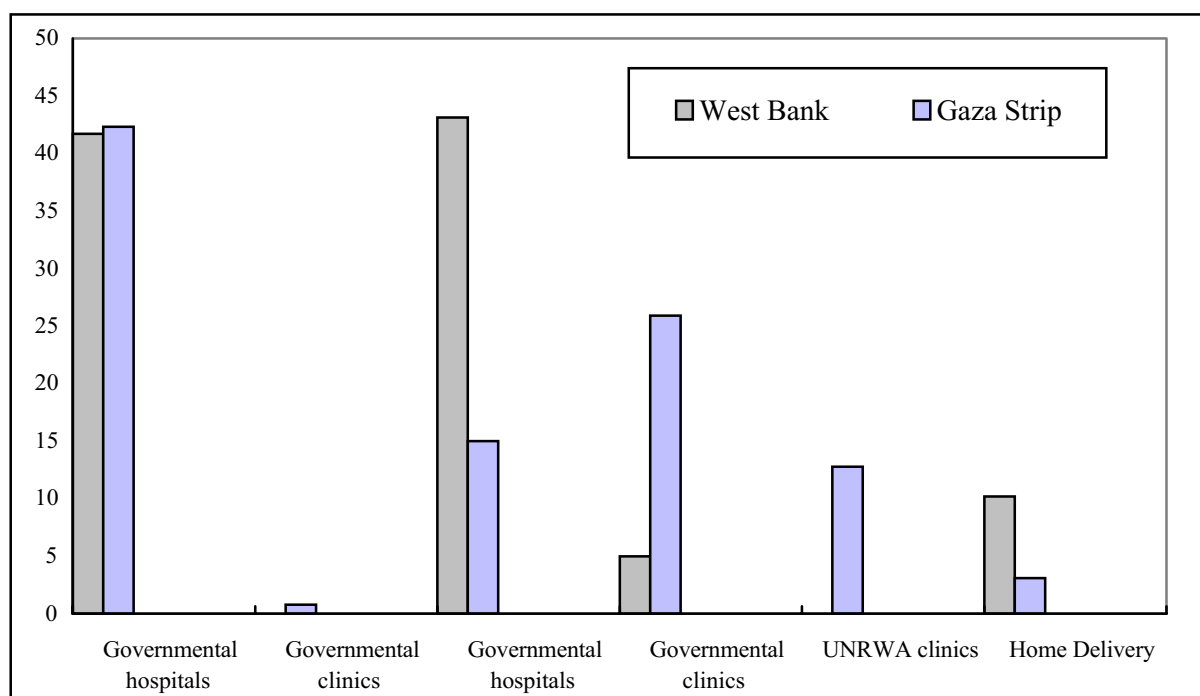
Each of the various factors of readiness, effectiveness and competency of health staff plays a significant role in determining the outcomes of delivery, including the well-being of the mother. Each of these factors could be crucial in determining the chances of child survival.

Figure (2-7) indicates that “deliveries in clinics” are more prevalent in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank, in which this practice is almost absent. What is interesting is that a high percentage of live births took place in private clinics in the Gaza Strip (25.9%) out of the total number of live births in 1998, compared to only 5% in the West Bank. Also in the Gaza Strip, around 12.8% of live births occur in UNRWA clinics; nevertheless, this practice is not common in the West Bank. In addition, a small percentage (0.8%) of deliveries take place in governmental clinics.

Here, there are two main concerns. The first is the extent to which clinics (public clinics in general and private clinics in particular) are responsible for monitoring and assessing the quality and outcome of its services. The second concern is to what extent these clinics observe the minimum level of standards and specifications, if there are any.

breathing patterns, sleep patterns, chemical balance in the body and environmental factors. It is possible that SIDS – as it is the case for many health disorders – have more than one interpretation. In the United States, SIDS account for deaths among children, especially among infants aged 1 – 12 months, more than any other cause. Around 7,000 death cases are diagnosed every year as SIDS. Also, one death case every hour in every day is considered a sudden death.

Figure (2-7): Percentage of Live Births by Place of Delivery and Area, 1998



Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Ministry of Health, 1999.

In this respect, it is noted that there is a close relation between place of delivery and the infant mortality rate, which is double in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank. While the percentage of live births of the total births in the Gaza Strip amounted to 41.8%, it amounted to 58.2% in the West Bank.

Mother and Child Care Services

The majority of health services in the West Bank are offered in areas involving mother and child care centers and public clinics, which amounted to 152 in 1996 and increased to 163 in 1999. A smaller number of communities (9 communities) offer mother and child care services (solely offered to mothers and children). Considering the structure of governmental primary health care services (compared to other types of services offered at that level), it is noted that mother and child care services are widely available. What is important in this regard is data quality and its appropriateness for the communities it serves.

However, no similar data is available for comparative purposes on the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, expectations indicate that the number of governmental mother and child health care centers in the Gaza Strip is very much smaller than it is in the West Bank, as these services are well covered— at the primary health care level— by UNRWA, which is more prevalent in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank.

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Children's Educational Reality¹

State parties recognize the right of the child to education. In order to fully and gradually achieve this right based on equal opportunity, state parties shall particularly ensure the following: A – Make the elementary education compulsory and available to all. B – Encourage all types of secondary education - public and vocational; make it available to all children; and take appropriate procedures such as free education and offering financial assistance when needed.
(Children's Rights Convention – Article 28)

The pre-university educational system in the Palestinian Territory is comprised of two stages: Basic compulsory education stage (10 years) and the secondary non-compulsory education stage (2 years). Three authorities supervise this educational system: The government, the private sector and UNRWA. In this chapter, we will attempt to examine the trends of development in this sector between the time the Palestinian National Authority assumed full responsibility of this sector in 1994 until 1998/1999. This chapter includes indicators on kindergartens and basic and secondary schools. It illustrates the indicators that depict the reality of the educational system and present core issues for following up and monitoring the trends of the educational process from 1994/1995 until 1998/1999.

Data obtained from the database provided by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Education indicate that currently an increasing percentage of youth are currently enrolling in schools and are continuing schooling for a longer period. The findings of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 1997 show an improvement in literacy rates in the Palestinian Territory.² The percentage of literate persons in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 86.1%, according to the findings of the census. This percentage amounted to 84.3% in 1995, according to the findings of the Demographic Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics that year (an increase of 1.8%). Furthermore, the findings of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census of 1997 indicate that the illiteracy rate among females in the Palestinian Territory is higher than among males. The illiteracy rate amounted to 20.3% among females as compared to 7.8% among males.

Enrollment in Kindergartens

The aforementioned data indicate that the enrollment rate in kindergartens is increasing at a rapid pace. Around 32.2% of the children (aged 4 – 5 years) were enrolled in kindergartens in the scholastic year 1999 / 2000. Table 3 – 1 depicts the variation in the enrollment rate at the level of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. While this rate is increasing in the West Bank (rose from 32.5% to 34.9% in the scholastic years 1996 / 1997 and 1999 / 2000, respectively), its trend is decreasing in the Gaza Strip (fell from 35.0% to 28.1% in the same period). Moreover, the enrollment rate among males remained higher than among females.

¹ Educational reality indicators included in this chapter do not include data on the schools supervised by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Israeli Municipality in that part of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in the 1967 War.

² Excluding that part of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in the 1967 War

Table (3-1): Net Enrollment Rate in kindergartens by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1996/1997-1999/2000

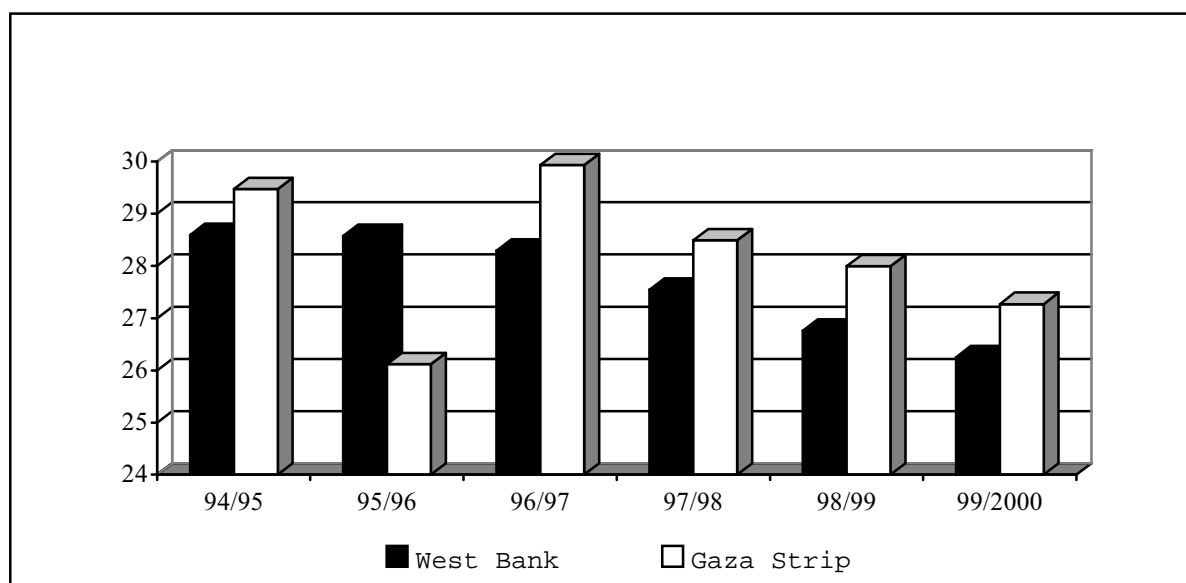
Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
		Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1996/1997	33.1	31.8	32.5	37.0	33.1	35.0	34.5	32.3	33.4
1997 /1998	36.7	36.5	36.6	32.5	29.1	30.8	35.0	33.6	34.3
1998/ 1999	37.7	36.5	37.1	30.1	27.2	28.7	34.7	32.9	33.8
1999/2000	36.2	33.4	34.9	29.1	27.0	28.1	33.5	30.9	32.2

Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Note: The age group (4–5 years) was considered the official age of the kindergarten stage.

Furthermore, the number of kindergartens increased from 436 kindergartens in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 843 kindergartens in the scholastic year 1999/2000. Around 72% (606 kindergartens) of the total number of kindergartens operating in the Palestinian Territory in the scholastic year 1999 / 2000 are concentrated in the West Bank as compared to 28% (237 kindergartens) in the Gaza Strip. It is worth mentioning that around 66% (50,788 children) of children enrolled in kindergartens live in the West Bank in comparison to 34% (26,614 children) in the Gaza Strip.

Figure (3-1): Average Number of Students Per Class in Kindergartens by Area, 1994/1995-1999/2000



Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

The increase in the number of kindergartens left positive impacts on improving the average number of students\ pupils per class. This average decreased to 26.6 students\ pupils per class in the Palestinian Territory in the scholastic year 1999/2000, although the student/teacher ratio was 28.6 in the scholastic year 1994/1995.

Students

The average number of students enrolled in the basic and secondary stages amounted to 865,540 students in the outset of the scholastic year 1999/2000. Female students constitute around 49.6% of the total number of these students. This percentage varies from one stage to another. While the percentage of female students amounted to 49.4% at the basic education stage, it amounted to 51% at the secondary education stage.

Around 59.9% of the total number of students enrolled in the basic education stage are concentrated in the West Bank, compared to 40.1% in the Gaza Strip. Students enrolled in the secondary education stage, amounted to 57.9% in the West Bank and 42.1% in the Gaza Strip.

When taking the supervising authority into account, we notice that 67.8% of the total number of students enrolled in the basic and secondary education stages in the scholastic year 1999/2000 are enrolled in governmental schools. On the other hand, 25.8% and 6.4% are enrolled in UNRWA and private schools, respectively.

Available data show a continuous increase in the number of students enrolled in the basic and secondary education stages. Whereas the percentage of increase among pupils enrolled in the basic education stage was 38.5% in the period 1994/1995 and 1999/2000, this percentage amounted to 60.0% among students enrolled in the secondary education stage for the same period.

Private schools are also enjoying an increasing percentage of pupils enrolled in the basic education stage. The percentage of pupils enrolled in private schools at the basic education stage increased from 5.9% in the period 1994/1995 to 6.5% in the period 1999/2000.

As for students enrolled in the secondary education stage, it is noted that there is an increase in the number of students enrolled in governmental schools coupled with a decrease in the number of students enrolled in private schools.

Table (3-2): Distribution of Students by Stage for Scholastic Years, 1994/1995-1999/2000

Stage	1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000
Basic						
Governmental	377580	401488	429591	459339	487738	518483
UNRWA	161332	174284	187518	199467	210759	223085
Private	33617	36085	39244	43576	48417	51422
Total	572529	611857	656353	702382	746914	792990
Secondary						
Governmental	41117	46334	52087	56821	61666	68294
UNRWA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private	4222	4436	4380	4264	4142	4256
Total	45339	50770	56467	61085	65808	72550

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Gross and Net Enrollment Rates

An examination of the gross enrollment rates and their variation from one year to the next (between 1994/1995- 1999/2000) indicates an increase over time. The gross enrollment rate increased at the basic education stage from 91.6% in the period 1994/1995 to 96.8% in the period 1999/2000.

At the basic education stage, the gross enrollment rate has been rising since the scholastic year 1994/1995. The gross enrollment rate increased by 10.9% in the scholastic year 1998/1999. In the period 1994/1995, this rate was 46.0% but increased to 56.9% in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

Available indicators show that the gross enrollment rate at the secondary education stage is higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank. The gross enrollment rate increased in the Gaza Strip by 14.8% in the scholastic year 1999/2000. In the period 1994/1995, this rate was 50.8% but increased to 65.6% in the scholastic year 1999/2000. In the West Bank, the gross enrollment rate increased by 8.5% in the same period. The gross enrollment rate in the secondary education stage in the West Bank amounted to 51.9% in the scholastic year 1999/2000 compared to 43.3% in the scholastic year 1994/1995.

Table (3-3): Gross Enrollment Rate at the Basic Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years, 1994/1995-1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	88.2	87.4	87.8	99.3	98.0	98.7	92.1	91.1	91.6
1995/1996	86.4	86.2	86.3	101.0	100.5	100.5	91.6	91.1	91.4
1996/1997	86.7	87.5	87.1	102.4	102.2	102.3	92.3	92.8	92.5
1997 /1998	90.1	91.6	90.8	98.0	98.2	98.1	93.1	94.1	93.6
1998/ 1999	91.5	93.4	92.4	100.1	100.0	100.0	94.8	95.9	95.3
1999/2000	93.1	95.1	94.1	100.6	101.4	101.0	96.0	97.6	96.8

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Table (3-4): Gross Enrollment Rate at the Secondary Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	45.6	40.9	43.3	54.6	46.9	50.8	48.8	43.0	46.0
1995/1996	46.1	43.9	45.0	57.7	49.3	53.6	50.2	45.8	48.0
1996/1997	47.7	46.7	47.2	58.5	54.0	56.3	51.5	49.3	50.4
1997 /1998	47.2	47.9	47.5	60.0	57.7	58.8	51.7	51.5	51.6
1998/ 1999	46.2	51.1	48.6	62.7	62.2	62.5	52.2	55.1	53.6
1999/2000	48.3	55.6	51.9	64.9	66.4	65.6	54.3	59.6	56.9

Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

An overview of tables (3-6) and (3-7) indicates that the total enrollment rate at the basic education stage increases from one year to the next. It increased from 87.5% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 92.2% in the scholastic year 1999/2000. The net enrollment rate at the secondary education stage is constantly increasing. It increased from 33.9% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 44.5% in the scholastic year 1999/2000. Available data indicate that the net enrollment rate at the secondary education stage in the Gaza Strip is higher than in the West Bank.

From a gender viewpoint, the net enrollment rate at the secondary education level was higher among males than females until the scholastic year 1996/1997. The net enrollment rate amounted to 40.3% and 38.7% among males and females, respectively. The net enrollment rate amounted to 47.3% and 41.8% among females and males respectively in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

Table (3-5): Net enrollment Rate at the Basic Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	84.2	83.2	83.7	95.0	93.9	94.5	88.0	87.0	87.5
1995/1996	82.3	82.2	82.2	95.6	95.2	95.4	87.0	86.8	86.9
1996/1997	82.7	83.0	82.9	96.8	97.2	97.0	87.7	88.1	87.9
1997 /1998	86.2	87.0	86.5	95.1	95.2	95.2	89.6	90.1	89.8
1998/ 1999	87.2	88.6	87.9	96.0	95.6	95.8	90.6	91.3	90.9
1999/2000	88.6	90.1	89.3	96.6	97.0	96.8	91.6	92.7	92.2

Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Table (3-6): Net Enrollment Rate at the Secondary Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male	Female	Total		Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	32.8	29.6	31.3	41.4	36.3	38.9	35.8	32.0	33.9
1995/1996	34.6	35.5	35.0	43.2	38.0	40.6	37.7	36.4	37.0
1996/1997	37.4	36.9	37.2	45.5	42.1	43.8	40.3	38.7	39.5
1997 /1998	36.5	36.9	36.7	46.4	46.3	46.3	40.0	40.3	40.2
1998/ 1999	36.9	40.9	38.9	46.2	49.5	47.8	40.2	44.0	42.0
1999/2000	39.0	44.6	41.7	46.6	52.1	49.3	41.8	47.3	44.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Drop out Rate

The drop out rate at the basic education stage amounted to 1.8% among males and 1.4% among females in the scholastic year 1998/1999. At the secondary education stage, the drop-out rate amounted to 4.0% among males and 6.6% among females in the same year.

It is worth noting that drop out rates for female students at the secondary education stage were higher than among male students during the period 1994/1995-1997/1998. This could be due to social factors such as early marriage among females or the unwillingness of the parents to have their daughters continue their education. Nevertheless, this tendency does not occur at the basic stage, in which drop out rates among males were higher than among females during the same period.

Table (3-7): Drop out Rate at the Basic Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.5
1995/1996	2.8	2.2	2.5	1.9	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4
1996/1997	2.5	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.6	1.9
1997 /1998	2.4	1.8	2.1	1.5	1.0	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.8
1998/ 1999	2.3	1.7	2.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.6

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Table (3-8): Drop out Rate at the Secondary Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	9.3	10.3	9.8	2.3	8.6	5.1	6.5	9.7	8.0
1995/1996	7.8	9.5	8.6	3.3	5.9	4.5	6.0	8.1	7.0
1996/1997	5.8	9.2	7.4	1.2	6.0	3.4	3.9	7.9	5.8
1997 /1998	6.1	9.8	7.9	1.7	6.0	3.8	4.3	8.3	6.2
1998/ 1999	6.1	9.4	7.8	1.3	2.5	1.8	4.0	6.6	5.3

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Repetition Rate

An examination of the repetition rate in general indicates a decrease from one year to the next. At the basic education stage, the repetition rate amounted to 2.8% among males and 2.3% among females in the scholastic year 1998/1999. At the secondary education stage, the repetition rate amounted to 1.5% among males and 0.7% among females in the same scholastic year.

Table (3-9): Percentage of Repetition at the Basic Stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1994 /1995	3.5	3.3	3.4	7.5	6.1	6.8	5.0	4.4	4.7
1995/1996	3.4	3.2	3.3	5.8	4.7	5.3	4.3	3.8	4.1
1996/1997	3.2	2.9	3.1	4.3	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.2	3.4
1997 /1998	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.7	2.7	3.2	3.0	2.4	2.7
1998/ 1999	2.4	2.1	2.2	3.5	2.6	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.5

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Table (3-10): Percentage of Repetition at the Secondary stage by Area and Gender for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1998/1999

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
1994/1995	2.6	1.3	2.0	9.6	1.3	5.9	5.4	1.3	3.5
1995/1996	2.5	1.5	2.0	4.9	0.6	3.0	3.5	1.1	2.4
1996/1997	3.5	1.8	2.7	3.4	0.4	2.0	3.5	1.2	2.4
1997/1998	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.2	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.9
1998/ 1999	1.9	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.1

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Distribution of Teachers by Qualification

The percentage of male and female teachers with intermediate (associate) diploma decreased from 58.3% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 46.5% in the scholastic year 1999/2000. Likewise, the percentage of male and female teachers with the general secondary school certificate or lower decreased from 4.34% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 2.0 in the scholastic year 1999/2000. The percentage of male and female teachers who hold the first university degree decreased, however, from 35.3% in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 49.4% in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

Examining available data by gender indicates that male teachers at the basic and secondary education levels have higher academic qualifications than female teachers, although the difference between them may narrow from one year to another, see table (3-12). Female teachers at the basic and secondary education levels constitute 12.52% out of 37.4% of the total number of male and female teachers with higher academic qualifications (Bachelor degree and above) in the scholastic year 1994/1995. They constitute 44.8% out of 51.4% of the total number of male and female teachers with higher academic qualifications (Bachelor degree and above) in the scholastic year 1999/2000.

Table (3-11): Distribution of Teachers by Academic Qualification and Gender for the Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000

Basic and Secondary										
Years	Secondary or Less		Associate Diploma		Bachelor Degree		Higher Diploma		MA and above	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1995/1994	352	458	5410	5838	4463	2353	215	29	125	35
1995/1996	340	443	5722	6173	5182	3189	235	80	160	35
1996/1997	303	521	5868	6558	5992	3944	296	126	204	43
1997/1998	350	465	5809	6937	6890	4967	236	102	234	55
1998/1999	289	454	5702	7091	7591	5885	111	33	240	65
1999/2000	231	333	5562	7274	7402	6229	78	37	340	90

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

Average Number of Students Per Teacher

The number of students per teacher varied by supervising authority and area. Available data indicate that the highest number was in the UNRWA schools, followed by governmental and private schools.

Table (3-12): Average Number of Students Per Teacher by Area and Supervising Authority for Scholastic Years 1994/1995-1999/2000

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Govern.	UNRWA	Private *	Govern.	UNRWA	Private *	Govern.	UNRWA	Private *
1994 /1995	29.9	32.9	19.1	34.0	38.7	25.4	30.9	36.9	19.5
1995/1996	29.2	33.7	18.3	34.0	39.1	22.7	30.4	37.5	18.6
1996/1997	28.0	33.9	17.9	32.4	39.5	20.5	29.2	37.9	18.1
1997 /1998	27.2	33.4	18.1	31.4	40.8	19.6	28.3	38.7	18.2
1998/ 1999	27.4	34.0	18.4	31.4	41.5	20.5	28.5	39.4	18.6
1999 /2000	27.9	34.8	18.1	31.4	41.3	17.5	28.7	39.5	18.0

Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

* *These rates do not include kindergartens.*

Class Density

The average class density varied from one year to another at the basic and secondary education stages during the scholastic years 1994/1995-1999/2000. In the scholastic year 1999/2000, the average class density amounted to 37.5 pupils at the basic education stage and 30.3 students at the secondary education stage.

Table (3-13): Average Number of Students Per Class by Area for Scholastic Years 1994 / 1995 - 1999 / 2000.

Scholastic Year	West Bank			Gaza Strip			Palestinian Territory		
	Kinder-garten	Basic Stage	Second -ary Stage	Kinder-garten	Basic Stage	Second -ary Stage	Kinder-garten	Basic Stage	Second -ary Stage
1994 /1995	28.6	33.4	25.9	29.5	45.2	40.6	28.6	37.1	30.2
1995/1996	28.6	33.6	26.1	26.1	45.6	40.5	28.5	37.5	30.4
1996/1997	28.3	33.4	25.9	29.9	45.3	39.2	28.9	37.3	30.2
1997 /1998	27.5	33.1	25.5	28.5	45.9	39.7	27.9	37.2	29.8
1998/ 1999	26.8	33.2	25.5	28.0	45.4	40.4	27.1	37.2	30.2
1999 /2000	26.3	33.5	26.0	27.3	45.8	39.1	26.6	37.5	30.3

Source: **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** Database of Education Indicators, 1994/1995-1999/2000.

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Children in Need of Special Protection

In this section, data and information pertaining to a specific subgroup of children will be addressed. This group of children is referred to as “children in need of special protection”. They represent a diverse group of children who live in undesirable conditions that have a negative impact on the child’s physical and mental well-being. These children are frequently defined by the type of circumstances they are exposed to or living under. This category includes children who are:

1. Separated from their parents due to institutionalization, hospitalization, lack of family reunification licenses, and are adoption, deprived of a family environment. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Articles 9,10, 20, 21*)
2. Exposed to violence in all of its forms - physical, psychological, and sexual. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Articles 19, 34*)
3. Disabled. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Article 23*)
4. Living in poverty. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Articles 26, 27*)
5. Child laborers. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Article 32*)
6. Exposed to drug use, sales, and trafficking. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Article 35*)
7. Deprived of their liberty and/or within the juvenile justice system. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Articles 37,40*)
8. Affected by armed conflict and violence. (*Child’s Rights Convention, Articles 38,39*)

Children who are in need of special protection represent a diverse category of children aged less than 18 years who are considered “in danger”, “in need”, and “prone to unhealthy living conditions at the physical, social, mental or ethical levels”. This category includes children living in poverty and in need of special protection \ disabled children, school dropouts\ child laborers\ abused children\ orphans\ exploited & neglected children\ juvenile delinquents\ children prone to violence and conflict situations. This diverse category of children does not only differentiate them in terms of the type of living conditions they are subjected to but also in terms of the treatment they receive, severity, duration, and frequency of such conditions. Normally, it is difficult to determine the way these living conditions affect the child from qualitative and quantitative points of view.

All of such crucial issues should be addressed appropriately at the various levels. Still, there is a pressing need to conduct social and psychological studies within the Palestinian society to define the characteristics of this phenomenon in a clearer manner. Following is an overview of the trends emerging in relation to the Palestinian children in need of special protection. Annual comparisons do not always constitute a direct approach, for:

- Data collection methods differ from one year to another and from one study to another.
- Criteria for defining concepts, terminology and categories may differ from one year to the next and from one study to another.
- Sampling data do not always use the same sampling techniques; also administrative records may differ from one district to another. A single method can not be used in all cases.

Children in Social and Health Care Institutions

A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 20-1)

Articles 9, 10, 20, and 21 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child address specific issues of the rights of those children separated from their parents, deprived of family environments or family reunification, temporarily or permanently placed in places other than home, and adopted children.

A sample survey conducted jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Social Affairs in 1995 revealed that 5,336 children live in 17 orphanages, out of 23 orphanages providing residence for orphans. However, the survey data did not indicate whether those children were really orphans or separated from their families and receiving permanent care.⁷ In 1998, the Ministry of Social Affairs indicated - following a comprehensive review of orphans status - that 1,980 children permanently live in 22 orphanages out of the total number of orphanages operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. As reported in 1995 data, more than 2,000 children were receiving aid / care from orphanages on a weekly basis, (they return to their families by the end of the week). These orphanages provide assistance to a broad category of children in need of help, e.g. children suffering from poverty, children suffering from family conflicts, and orphans. Data for 1999 indicate that 1,714 children permanently live in 21 orphanages out of the total number of orphanages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Out of the aforementioned orphanages, two serve 107 children in the Gaza Strip; seven orphanages serve 638 children in Jerusalem and 11 orphanages serve 969 children in the West Bank.⁸ It is noted that the past four years witnessed a considerable decrease (50%) in the number of institutionalized Palestinian children. The decrease is basically due to the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs in targeting juvenile children living in such institutions. The policy of the ministry was to return children to their families and fully study their conditions before admitting them to social care institutions, coupled with efforts to find alternatives when ever possible. The non-ogovernmental sector, which provided some of such institutions, was committed to abidance by related rules and regulations. They exerted serious efforts in providing appropriate institutional care alternatives when ever possible.

⁷ Ministry of Social Affairs, 1995. Children and Orphans Endangered within their Families. July 11th 1995, p.5.

⁸ Ministry of Social Affairs, 1999. Annual data from the Family and Child Department.

Table (4-1): Children (less than 18 years old) Institutionalized in Orphanages, 1998-1999

Child Gender	West Bank (12 orphanages)	Gaza Strip (3 orphanages)	Jerusalem (7 orphanages)	Total No. of Children
1998				
Male	501	75	519	1095
Female	620	43	222	885
Total	1121	118	741	1980
1999				
Male	470	74	226	770
Female	499	33	412	944
Total	969	107	638	1714

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Social Affairs, 1999.

Disabled Children

State parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 23-1)

Disability in children is represented in the deficiency or permanent inability in body movement, terminal movement, sensory or speech abilities, or a deficit in cognitive and mental health and /or their functions. Undoubtedly, lack of appropriate examination means and mechanisms for diagnosing and monitoring disabled persons (children in particular) in Palestine has obstructed the efforts aimed at obtaining objective and quantitative data on the numbers of disabled children and the type / severity and causes of disability. This resulted in the disabled children's inability to enjoy their complete rights to health care, education, social aid, participation and entertainment.

In 1997, UNICEF put forward estimates stating that there are around 36,500 disabled children in Palestine.³ Following the implementation of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census of 1997, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics managed to reveal that there are 15,567 disabled persons in Palestine.⁴ Such discrepancies in the data are expected, due to the absence of a functional system for reporting such cases at the national level, coupled with the lack of a monitoring mechanism that could provide detailed data on the disabled children. The recently ratified Disabled Children's Law of 1999 entrusted the Ministry of Social Affairs with complete authority and responsibility in relation to supervising the conditions of disabled children in Palestine. Undoubtedly, such a task should be coordinated with the health and education (governmental and non-governmental) sectors in order to assure the availability of appropriate and detailed data on disabled children, the causes of disability, and the availability of services offered to or not offered to the disabled.

³ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Status of Palestinian Children and Women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, p. 5.

⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The database of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census of 1997, unpublished data.

The findings of different studies stressed the following trends:

- The overall rate of prevailing disabilities is higher among males than females.
- A considerable number of disabilities could be avoided with the availability of proper examination, care and supervision.
- Movement disorders are the most commonly reported disabilities for children.
- The majority of disabled children do not receive health, education and social services essential to meet the needs of the disabled.
- Disabilities resulting from home or car accidents are increasing.
- Disability rates are higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank.
- Insufficient number of institutions offering services to the disabled children.

If we, as a society, are to secure complete rights for the disabled children, it is crucial to embark on setting up a comprehensive monitoring system. Such a system shall appropriately provide qualitative and quantitative information on all disabled children in order to ensure that they receive appropriate medical treatment and care services. Likewise, the availability of such data is essential for the ministries and other institutions in order to lay solid plans suiting the vulnerable children.

Juvenile Delinquents

State parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 40 - 1)

Youth are likely to be exposed to violence on a more frequent basis than adults. This is due to a number of factors including their young age, lack of power and involvement in society, and lack of experience. This is likely to increase their chances of being victims to violence and abuse and actually committing crimes themselves. It is essential to take into consideration that they are young and, therefore, should not be dealt with based on the laws and regulations applicable to adults.

Comparative studies indicated that the numbers of juvenile children for 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 were as follows: 1153, 1469, 1460, and 1404 respectively.⁹ Differences between old and recently prepared reports could be due to the reporting process itself. Recent data are more accurate in terms of the fact that they are comprehensive data representing the various governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moreover, the old reports did not always reflect the remarks of the different regional inspection offices in the district and governorates. The majority of reported offenses and crimes include violent attacks against others and / or properties of others, followed by robbery and immoral offenses.

⁹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1998. A Survey of Disabled Centers in the West Bank Region.

As for the ages of juvenile delinquents, available data for 1999 indicate that their ages are as follows: 10% under 12 year; 35% between 12 and 15 years; 55% between 16 and 18 years. It is worthy noting that female delinquents committed less than 3% (36 cases) of the total delinquencies. In 1999, 42% of the total number of juvenile delinquents were admitted to rehabilitation centers- 254 juvenile delinquents aged (12-18 years) were admitted to the Dar Al-Amal Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah and 297 juvenile delinquents were admitted to the Dar Al-Rabee' Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in Gaza. More than half of the juvenile delinquents were students while the rest were as follows: 22% full time workers; 14% unemployed and 10% part time workers.

During the past three years, the juvenile delinquent rate out of the total number of youth population (i.e. aged 12-18 years) was around 2 delinquents per 1000 persons. This information is highly important for planning and preparing for anti – crime programs among the youth and determining causes of violence among them. Available data are also very important for laying a solid basis for assessing youth-oriented social trends.

Table (4-2): Juveniles Accused of Committing Offences by Age Group and Area, 1998-1999

Age Groups	1998			1999		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Below 12 years	72	38	110	53	89	142
12 – 15 years	222	287	509	232	255	487
16 – 18 years	412	429	841	445	330	775
Total	706	754	1460	730	674	1404

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Ministry of Social Affairs, 1999.

Children Suffering from Abuse, Negligence, and Exploitation

State Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. (Child’s Rights Convention, Article 34-1)

State Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child’s welfare. (Child’s Right Convention, Articles 36.)

During the past four years, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs has established national programs to help children who are exposed to improper social practices. The Ministry of Education currently employs more than 330 social workers in more than 600 governmental schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These social workers handle cases such as abuse, negligence, and exploitation.

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Children Living Below the Level of Poverty

State parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 27 - 1)

The parent(s) or other(s) responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.

(Child's Rights Convention, Article 27-2)

Size of Poverty Phenomenon Among Children

Albeit the decrease of poverty rates among children in the years 1996-1998, one out of four children (under 18 years old) suffers from poverty.

Population estimates indicate that the number of Palestinians living de facto in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 2.8 million in mid 1998. Around 53.3% of the population is aged less than 18 years. Population estimates indicate also that the number of people aged less than 18 years was 1.5 million in mid 1998. The findings of pertinent surveys show that 23.3% of the Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory lived below the level of poverty in 1998; children constitute around 54.4% of this percentage. Furthermore, the findings reveal that 24.0% of children in the Palestinian Territory lived below the poverty level (50.5% males and 49.5% females). Nevertheless, this rate is lower than the estimated rate for 1997 and 1996 (in which poverty rates were 25.6% and 27.2%, respectively). In 1998, poverty rates among children decreased by 7% and 12% from the 1997 and 1996 levels, respectively. The decrease of poverty rates among children is due to the decrease in unemployment rates among the heads and members of the households to which children belong (the unemployment rate among heads of households was 10.5% in 1998 compared to 16.1% and 24.1% for 1997 and 1996, respectively).

Figure (5-1): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years old) in the Palestinian Territory, 1998

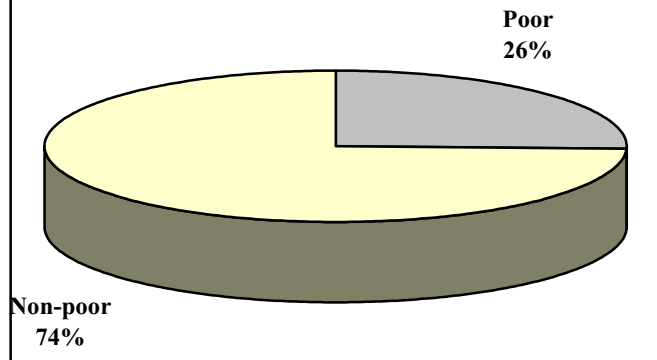
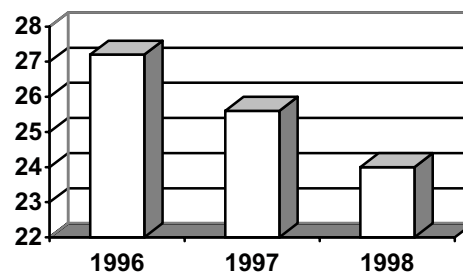


Figure (5-2): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years old) in the Palestinian Territory by Selected years



Another possible cause for the decrease is the improvement of wage levels (the wage averages per person were NIS 46.2, NIS 50.0 and NIS 57.7 for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998, respectively). These indicators are considered positive indicators of the potential improvement in the living conditions in the Palestinian Territory, compared to the past two years.

Albeit the tangible decrease in poverty rates among children in 1998 compared to 1997 and 1996, children still constitute 54% of the total poor community – one out of every four children suffers from poverty.

In the West Bank, poverty rates among children amounted to 16.1% in 1998 (51.1% male and 48.9% female), compared to 37.2% in Gaza Strip for the same year (50% male and 50% female).

Table (5-1): Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years old) in the Palestinian Territory, 1996-1998

Region	1996		1997		1998	
	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty
West Bank	17.1	8.8	16.8	10.1	16.1	9.8
Gaza Strip	45.5	31.2	41.5	29.0	37.2	24.6
Total	27.1	16.7	25.6	16.8	24.0	15.3

The poverty rate prevalence decreased at the whole Palestinian Territory level, irrespective of the measure used in determining this phenomenon. The findings indicated that 15.3% of the total number of children aged less than 18 years in the Palestinian Territory lived below the severe poverty level in 1998, compared to 16.8% and 16.7% for 1997 and 1996, respectively. However, the discrepancy is very clear at the regional level when examining severe poverty rates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip separately. Severe poverty rates among the West Bank children fluctuated between 8.8%, 10.1% and 9.8% for 1996, 1997, 1998, respectively. In the Gaza Strip, severe poverty rates among Gazan children decreased from 31.2% and 29.1% in 1996 and 1997 to 24.6% in 1998.

Available data suggests that the refugee camps still suffer from having the highest level of child poverty rates, which amounted to 37.3% in the refugee camps of the Palestinian Territory in 1998, compared to 35.5% in 1997. This rate is higher than the poverty rates in the Palestinian rural and urban areas. In the cities, child poverty rates amounted to 22.8% in 1998 and 25.8% in 1997. In the villages, child poverty rates amounted to 20% in 1998 and 21.6% in 1997. As shown, it is evident that there is an increase in child poverty rates in the refugee camps, followed by a similar increase in the cities and villages. Nevertheless, the number of poor children in the village is equivalent or higher than the total number of poor children in the cities and the total number of poor children in the refugee camps. This is evident from the contribution of villages children in the general child poverty rates. The findings indicated that the distribution of poor children in 1998 by area was as follows: 37% in the villages, 37% in the cities and 27% in the refugee camps.

The findings indicated that 39% of the total number of poor children lived in villages in 1997, compared to 36% in the cities and 24.7% in the refugee camps for the same year.

Girls constitute around 49% of the total number of children aged less than 18 years, and poverty rates among this group exceed the counterpart rates among male children. In 1998, poverty rates among females amounted to 24.9% compared to 23.2% among males.

Table (5-2): Poverty Rates Among Children (under 18 Years) in the Palestinian Territory by Gender, 1996 - 1998.

Sex	1996	1997	1998
Male	26.9	25.0	23.2
Female	27.3	26.2	24.9
Total	27.1	25.6	24.0

Number of Children in the Household

As most of the Palestinian households have children (the percentage of households with no children does not exceed 15%), we should take into account – when making comparisons on poverty and its prevalence among children - that households with a larger number of members are closer to the level of poverty. The findings indicated that there is a proportional relation between the number of children in the household and its distance or proximity to the poverty line, which means poverty rates among children increase in relation to the increase of children in the household. Moreover, an increase in the number of children in a poor household widens poverty gaps among children themselves. Poverty rates among children belonging to households with 1-2 children amounted to 13.2% in 1998 compared to 34.2% among children belonging to households with 9 children and above.

Table (5-3): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Number of Children in the Household, 1996-1998

Number of Children	1996	1997	1998
1-2	19.5	14.4	13.2
3-4	20.2	21.3	16.1
5-6	27.4	22.2	24.0
7-8	32.6	32.5	30.7
9 +	35.6	37.8	34.2
Total	27.1	25.6	24.0

When examining poverty among children, it is essential to classify them in age groups according to the developments and changes in their needs as well as the extent to which poverty affects their physical and mental growth and their educational attainment. After examining the findings pertinent to this indicator, no considerable differences were found in the prevalence of poverty among children in the Palestinian Territory. This could be due to the definition adopted in defining the poor child in this chapter; namely, as one who belongs to a poor household, regardless of the needs and requirements of the age group, e.g. nutritional, health or educational needs. As for the socio-economic indicators of poverty will be addressed through the social and health indicators of the physical and mental development, in addition to educational (enrollment and drop out rates) and health indicators.

Table (5-4): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years old) in the Palestinian Territory by the Age Group of the Child, 1996-1998

Age Group	1996	1997	1998
0-4	28.0	26.7	24.2
5-9	27.5	25.4	23.3
10-14	25.4	25.3	24.0
15-17	26.7	24.2	25.4
Total	27.1	25.6	24.0

Socio - economic characteristics of poor children's households

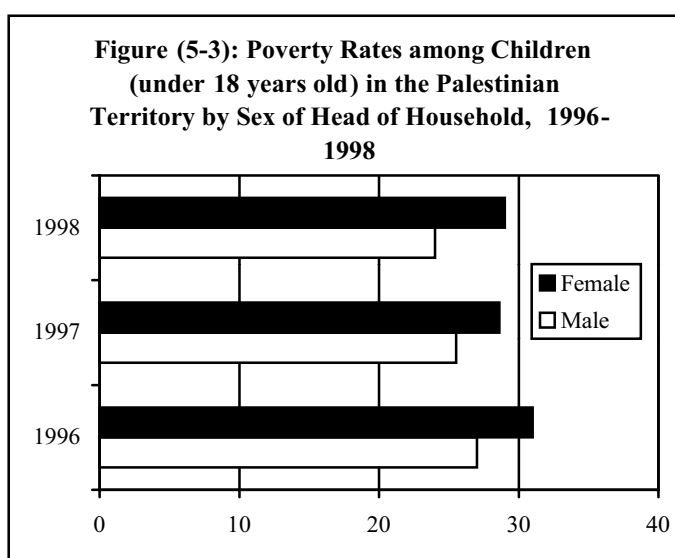
Sex of the Head of Household

Poverty severity among children belonging to household headed by women is higher than it is among children living in male - headed households.

The findings of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 1997 indicated that around 3.1% of children live with one of the parents.¹⁰

The percentage of children living with their mothers amounted to 92.5% compared to 7.5% living with their fathers. Households headed by women in the Palestinian society constituted about 8%² of Palestinian households in 1997. Although the households headed by women

constitute one of the main groups receiving public aid in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, poverty rates among children in this group are higher than among children belonging to households headed by males. This could be attributed to the low participation of in the labor force and their lower wages, compared to male wage levels. The fluctuation of social aid is provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Charitable (alms-giving) Committees. As women rarely tend to get married after being widowed or divorced, they constitute the greatest proportion of the divorced / widowed community, compared to men. This situation reflects on the household.³ The findings indicated that poverty rates among children belonging to households headed by divorced or widowed women amounted to 29%,



¹⁰ Data include the mother and the father when they are heads of households as well as marital status, (divorced or widow/or).

² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 1997.

³ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Poverty in the Palestinian Territory (December-January, 1998). Ramallah- Palestine.

compared to 24% among children belonging to households headed by divorced or widowed men for 1998.

Educational Levels of Household heads

The higher the educational attainment levels of the head of household entail the lower the prevalence of poverty among children

The findings of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census of 1997 indicated that 10.1% of children aged less than 18 years belong to households headed by illiterate parents of households. The percentage of children belonging to households headed by literate heads households and by heads of households who had attained a general secondary education certificates and above were 13.8% and 30.0%, respectively. Children belonging to households headed by heads of households with less than an elementary school education was 23.9%. As a higher education is closely related to a lower poverty prevalence, poverty rates among children proportionally decrease with the increase of higher education levels of the heads of the households. Thus, poverty prevalence rates among children belonging to households headed by heads with less than an elementary school education (32.6%) for 1998 are higher than among children belonging to households headed by heads of households who hold certificates from intermediate community colleges (9.3%). In other words, poverty prevalence rates among children decrease in a proportional way with the increase of the educational attainment levels of the heads of households.

Table (5-5): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years old) in the Palestinian Territory by the Educational Attainment of Head of Household, 1996-1998

Educational Attainment level Of Head of Household	1996	1997	1998
Less than elementary	39.1	35.4	32.6
Elementary	26.4	24.3	24.1
Preparatory	24.1	26.0	25.3
Secondary	20.4	23.0	20.3
Intermediate diploma	15.7	13.6	09.3
Bachelor degree +	10.1	11.2	11.7
Total	27.1	25.6	24.0

Household size

There is a clear relationship between household size and the standards of living. Smaller households tend to occupy a higher rank in terms of better living conditions, which deteriorate with the increase of the size of the household, except for households comprised of 1-2 members, that most often belong to the elderly sector.⁴ Based on the definition of the “poor child”, child poverty rates conform to the findings at the household level: child poverty rates increase with the increase in the size of household. The findings indicated that poverty prevalence rates among children increase with the increase in household members. The poverty ratio amounted to 9% among households comprised of 2–3 members, compared to 32.9% for households comprised of 10 or more members for 1998.

Table (5-6): Poverty Rates among Children (under 18 years old) in the Palestinian Territory by the Size of the Household, 1996-1998

Household Size	1996	1997	1998
2-3 persons	11.7	8.6	9.0
4-5 persons	17.7	15.9	13.0
6-7 persons	19.3	17.4	15.4
8-9 persons	25.6	22.8	22.9
10 persons or more	35.5	34.9	32.9
Total	27.1	25.6	24.0

Employment Status of Head of Household

Children of households whose heads are employed in primary occupation contribute to the national poverty rate more than other groups

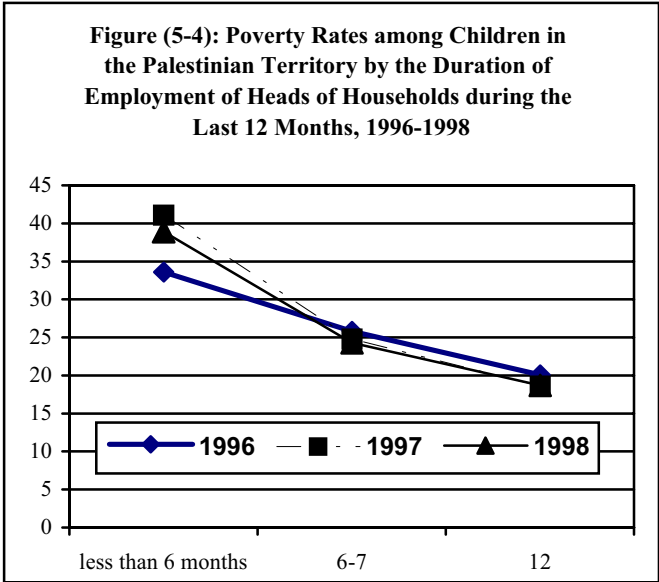
Participation in the labor force contributes considerably to lowering poverty rates. In 1998, child poverty rates of households with unemployed heads reached 36.2%, compared to 22.8% for heads participating in the labor force.

Since labor force participants are not a homogenous group, the importance of determining the status of heads of households in terms of poverty is more significant than the importance of labor force participation. Available data shows that one poor child out of every four children belonged to a households with employed heads in 1998. The heads' employment type of also plays a key role in determining children's positions in relative to poverty lines. Child poverty increases among children belonging to household heads classified as unskilled laborers in primary occupations (around 33%). However, poverty prevalence among children belonging to household heads employed in other occupations is lower than the general average poverty rate, depending on the vocation. The poverty rates range from 10% among directors and higher management level employees to 23% among machine assemblers and operators.

⁴Source: PCBS, 1998. Living Standards in the Palestinian Territory. Annual Report, 1998. Ramallah - Palestine.

This is congruent with data presented in the chapter on child labor⁵. The findings show that employed children aged (5-17 years)- who belong to households with heads employed in primary occupations-go to work for various reasons. About 41% of these children reported that they work primarily to increase their family’s income; 28.5% said they work to provide assistance to a family enterprise, whereas 30.3% said they based their decisions on other reasons (self - reliance, independence, spending school vacation, had nothing to do after quitting school, etc.).

About 56% of employed children aged (5 -17 years) who reported that they work to increase the family income also stated that their households’ heads are working in primary occupations. Another 11.3% of the same group live with heads involved in agricultural and fishing activities. These children reported that their family heads are employed in primary vocations (20.3%), in service sector and sales (2.3%), in machine operation and assembling (4.3%), and in other professions (5.6%). for example as directors and higher level management employees, specialized personnel, technicians and clerks.



When taking into account the distinctive characteristics of the labor force, the best measure would be long term employment rather than short term participation in the labor force. In 1998, 38.7% of the children lived with household heads who had worked for up to six months. This rate is one fold higher than among children whose households’ heads worked throughout the last year (18.7%).

⁵ PCBS. Child Labor and Activities Survey in the Palestinian Territory (October - December 1998). Ramallah - Palestine.

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- **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** *Labor Force Survey in the Palestinian Territory, 1999.*
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Child Labour

State parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

Child's Rights Convention, Article 32 -1)

Childhood is the stage in which the child's character develops in the various physical, psychological and mental aspects. That is why children require special care and attention at this stage. Governments and the international community must pay special attention to the child. Legislation and statutes were put into force to ensure the proper protection, development and growth of the child, and in order to prepare his /her well for a better future.

In spite of all calls to protect children and ensure that they do not become subjected to exploitation, we still find parties who exploit children, in the economic field.¹ The Arab Labor Organization issued a number of agreements and conventions regulating child labor, including the Arab Agreement (No. 1) of 1966 on labor levels;² the Arab Agreement (No. 6) of 1976; and the Arab Agreement (No. 12) of 1980 on agricultural workers.

Legislation is a new process in Palestine. Applicable laws in the West Bank are Jordanian laws. According to the Jordanian Labor Law (No. 16) of 1960, the child is defined as any child aged less than sixteen years. This law prohibits the employment of children aged less than thirteen years and protects them from performing any work at night or any work that is likely to be hazardous. The employment of children (aged 13 – 16 years) is allowed only with a medical report indicating the child's ability to work. The law stipulated a maximum of six work hours a day for the child. In the Gaza Strip, the Labor Law (No. 16)³ of 1964 prohibits the employment of children aged less than 12 years and calls for the direct payment of their wage to them at this age. This law prohibits the employment of children below fifteen years in certain industries except with a medical report and specifies six work hours a day. The law prohibits night and overtime work. However, the law does not cover agricultural work and unpaid family work.

¹ Many statutes and legislations were issued to ensure child protection. The International Labor Organization issued a set of agreements that prohibit child labor, e.g. The Child's Rights Convention was issued in 1989 and was ratified by most countries. Article 32 of the convention stressed the child's right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This convention followed the International Declaration of Child's Rights, issued by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 20/11/1959, which is deemed an implementation of article 25 of the International Declaration of Human Rights.

² This agreement addressed child issues in articles 52 and 64; it prohibited child labor for children aged less than 12 years and child labor in industrial plants for children aged less than 15 years.

³ Source: Child Legislation in Palestine (1900 - 1995), legal studies, prepared by Mirvat Rashmawi, compiled by Tareq Tuqan, BZU Law Center, 1997.

Size of Child Labour in the Age group Group (10-17 Years)

The total number of children aged (10-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory was estimated at 577,305 children in the middle of 1999, forming 19.1% of the total population. At the same time, the total number of individuals in the age group (10–14 years) amounted to 382,666 children, around 12.7% of the total population.⁴

The number of children (aged 10-17 years) inside the labor force in the Palestinian Territory⁵ is estimated at 34,061 children or 5.9% of the total number of children in the same age group, according to the findings of the Palestinian Labor Force Survey of 1999. It is noted that the highest child labor force participation rate was in the northern part of the West Bank (around 9.1%), followed by the southern part of the West Bank (7.3%) and the middle part of the West Bank (5.2%). In the Gaza Strip, the child labor force participation rate amounted to 3.6%.

On the other hand, the percentage of children inside the labor force in the Palestinian Territory was estimated for the age group (10 –14 years) at 2.1% for 1999, distributed as follows: 4.3% in the northern part of the West Bank; 2.3% in the southern part of the West Bank and 1.3% in the middle part of the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, it amounted to 1.0%. This indicates that children aged less than fourteen years are participating in the labor force, while applicable laws prohibits employing children in this age group. See (Table 6 -1).

Table (6-1): Children (10-14 years) and (10-17 years) by Relation to Labor Force and Area, 1999.

Relation to Labor Force	West Bank			Total	Gaza Strip	Total
	North	Middle	South			
10 – 14 Years						
Inside labor force	4.3	1.3	2.3	2.7	1.0	2.1
Outside labor force	95.7	98.7	97.7	97.3	99.0	97.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
10 – 17 Years						
Inside labor force	9.1	5.2	7.3	7.3	3.6	5.9
Outside labor force	90.9	94.8	92.7	92.7	96.4	94.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

Moreover, out of the number of children inside the labor force the percentage of children in the age group (10 –14 years) who are actually employed was 89.8% in the Palestinian Territory for 1999. The remaining percentage (10.2%) refers to those seeking work. In the West Bank, this percentage amounted to 93.2%. The highest percentage at the West Bank level was in the southern part of the West Bank (95.6%). In the Gaza Strip, this percentage amounted to 75.9%, as shown in Table 6 -2.

⁴ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1999. Population in the Palestinian Territory, 1997 – 2025. Ramallah-Palestine

⁵ The term “inside the labor force” refers to those employed or unemployed but willing to and seeking work.

Furthermore, out of the number of children inside the labor force the percentage of children in the age group (10 –17 years) who are actually employed was 84.1% in the Palestinian Territory for 1999. The remaining percentage (15.9%) refers to those seeking work. In the West Bank, this percentage amounted to 87.0%. The highest percentage at the West Bank level was in the southern part of the West Bank (89.7%). In the Gaza Strip, this percentage amounted to 74.3%, as shown in Table (6–2).

Table (6-2): Children (10-17 years) by Age Group, in Relation to Labour Force and Area, 1999

Relation to Labor Force	West Bank			Total	Gaza Strip	Total
	North	Middle	South			
10 – 14 Years						
Employed	91.7	94.5	95.6	93.2	75.9	89.8
Unemployed	8.3	5.5	4.4	6.8	24.1	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
10 – 17 Years						
Employed	84.8	87.7	89.7	87.0	74.3	84.1
Unemployed	15.2	12.3	10.3	13.0	25.7	15.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

The percentage of children aged (10 –17 years) inside the labor force in the Palestinian Territory was 89.7% of the total number of male children inside the labor force in this age group for 1999. On the other hand, the percentage of female children aged (10 –17 years) inside the labor force in this age group was 88.8% of the total number of female children inside the labor force in this age group for 1999.

Table (6-3): Distribution of Employed Children (10-17 years) from the Total Number of Children in the Same Age Group by Area, 1999

Sex	West Bank			Gaza Strip	Total	Employed children %
	North	Middle	South			
Male	34.0	18.7	26.0	21.4	100	89.7
Female	60.3	17.5	14.8	7.4	100	88.8
Total	36.3	18.5	25.0	20.2	100	89.7

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

Child Educational Status

The majority of children completed 1-6 years of education (35.4%) and 7-9 years of education (52.3%). This indicates that school drop outs start at the basic stage. Usually, children drop out either due to their unwillingness to study or willingness to enter the labor market to contribute to raising the household income.⁶ There is a close relation between child labor and basic education problems. Usually, the inability of the household to meet the basic educational needs of its children, leads to drop outs and child labor. Table (6-4) illustrates the relation between education and labor. School drop - outs mainly prevail in the elementary and secondary stages.⁷

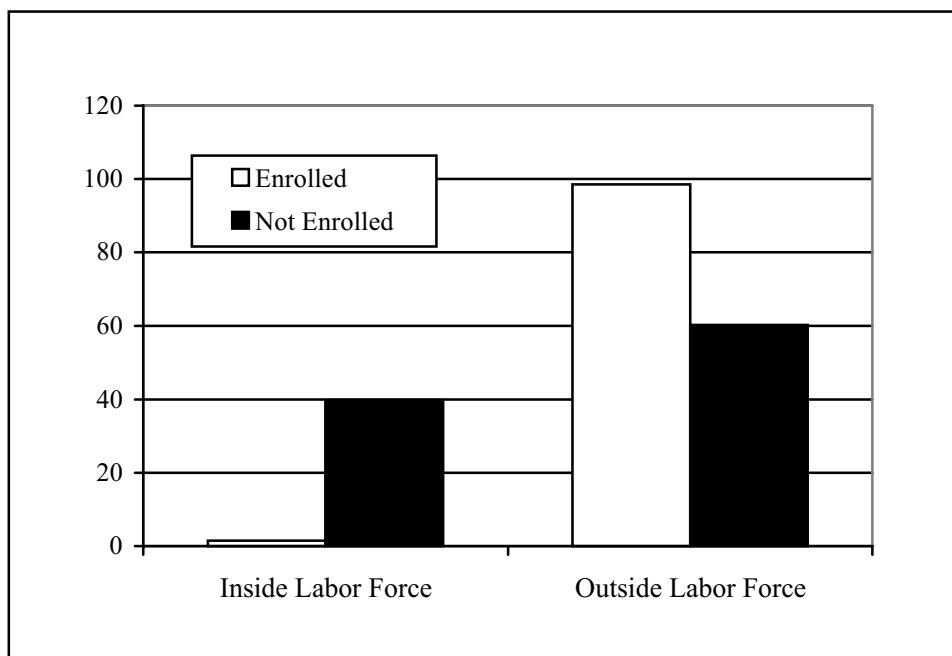
Table (6-4): Distribution of Employed Children by Area and Years of Schooling, 1999

Years of Schooling	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
0	0.7	1.4	0.8
1-6	30.9	53.3	35.4
7-9	52.3	38.2	49.5
10-12	16.1	7.1	14.3

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

Also, a considerable number of the children inside the labor force are not enrolled in school (39.8%). Figure (6-1) shows the considerable percentage of children participating in the labor force among those not enrolled in schools, which shows a close relation between leaving school and working.

Figure (6-1): Distribution of Children (10-17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Relation to Labor Force and School Enrollment, 1999



⁶The percentage of children who left school to work amounted to 0.2%. See last issue of "Palestine Children: Issues and Statistics". Child Statistics Series (No. 2). Annual Report, 1999.

Table (6-5) distributes children in the age group 10 – 17 years by school enrollment for 1999. The percentage of employed children not enrolled in schools in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 73.6%, compared to 26.4% for employed children who are enrolled in schools. In the West Bank, the percentage of employed children not enrolled in schools amounted to 70.1% compared to 87.5% in the Gaza Strip.

Table (6-5): Employed Children (10 – 17 years) by School Enrollment and Area, 1999

Enrollment in School	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Enrolled	29.9	12.5	26.4
Not Enrolled	70.1	87.5	73.6
Total	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

Weekly Work Hours

The percentage of children employed for 35 hours a week and above in the Palestinian Territory was 73.2%. In the West Bank, this percentage was 70.1% compared to 85.5% in the Gaza Strip. See Table (6-6).

Table (6-6): Employed Children (10 – 17 years) by Weekly Work Hours and Area, 1999

Weekly work hours	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
1-14	8.9	3.4	7.8
15-35	21.0	11.1	19.0
35+	70.1	85.5	73.2
Total	100	100	100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

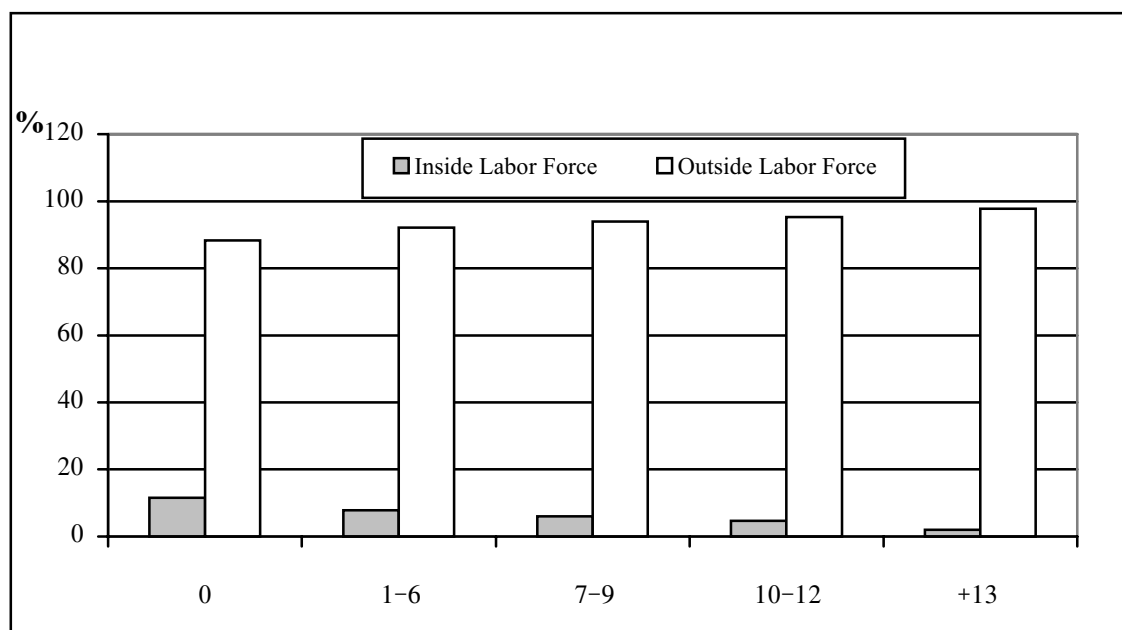
Socio-economic Reality for the Households of Children Inside the Labor Force

Education of the Head of the Household

The highest child labor force participation rate was among children whose fathers had not received any education, 11.6% of 1999. This percentage proportionally decreases with the increase in the number of schooling years until it reaches 2.0% only among children whose fathers completed 13 years or more of education. This is a solid indication of the connection between fathers' education and their children's engagement in work. See Figure (6-2)

⁷ The Annual Report "Palestine Children: Issues and Statistics" for 1999 indicates that 20.6% of the Palestinian children leave school as a result of their household willingness, and that almost a similar percentage leave school as a result of their willingness to do so.

Figure (6-2): Children (10–17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Relation to Labour Force and the Education Level of The Head of Household, 1999.



Average Daily Wage for the Head of the Household

The economic conditions of the household play a direct role in child labor. The findings for 1999 indicate that the percentage of children inside labor force whose fathers earn less than 39 NIS a day amounted to 7.3% compared to 3.6% for children whose fathers earn more than 130 NIS a day, according to Table (6-7).

Table (6-7): Employed children (10 – 17 years) by relation to labor force and average daily wage of the head of household, 1999.

Average Daily Wage	Relation to labor force		Total
	Inside Labor force	Outside Labor force	
Less than 39 NIS	7.3	92.7	%100
40-69	4.8	95.2	%100
70-99	5.2	94.7	%100
100-129	4.9	95.1	%100
130 +	3.6	96.4	%100
Total	5.1	95.0	%100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

The economic factor is one of the two main determinant factors of child labor.⁸ This factor affects the child and his\ her engagement in work in two main ways. The first way has much to do with the household inability to educate the child, which cause him\ her to drop out and

⁸Education was discussed as the first determinant factor.

engage in the labor market. The second occurs as a result of the child's attempt to increase the household's income through work or seeking work.

The Poverty rate among those who completed less than the elementary level was 32.0% compared to 23.0% for those who completed the elementary stage. The poverty rate decreases with the increase of the educational level; it amounted to 8.0% among those with university degrees.⁹

Occupation of the Head of the Household

There is a close relation between the occupation of the head of the household and the child's engagement in the labor market. The highest percentage of children inside the labor force in the Palestinian Territory was among those belonging to households headed by persons employed in agriculture and fishing (13.2% for 1999). This stresses the need to examine the impact of the father's occupation on child labor or the household's decision to engage their children in the labor market. The agricultural occupations occupied a prominent position in the agricultural nature of the Palestinian society, according to Table 6-8.

Table (6-8): Employed children (10 – 17 years) by relation to labor force and occupation of the head of household, 1999.

Occupation of the Head of Household	Relation to Labor Force		Total
	Inside Labor Force	Outside Labor Force	
Legislators, senior officials and managers	5.2	94.8	%100
Professionals and clerks	2.2	97.8	%100
Service, shop and market workers	4.1	95.9	%100
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	13.2	86.7	%100
Crafts and related trade workers	6.2	93.8	%100
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	4.2	95.8	%100
Elementary occupations	6.3	93.7	%100
Total	5.9	94.1	%100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

⁹Palestine, Poverty Report 1998. National Team for Encountering Poverty. Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, November 1998.

Nature and Conditions of Child Labor

Distribution of Child Labor by Employment Status

The great majority of employed children in the Palestinian Territory are waged employees – 57.9% compared to 36.7% for children employed in family enterprises. The percentage of male children classified as waged employees was 60.9% compared to 33.6% for male children employed in family enterprises. On the other hand, the great majority of employed female children were unpaid family members- 68.8% compared to 27.0% for female children classified as waged employees for 1999.

Figure (6-3): Relative Distribution of Children (10 – 17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Employment Status, 1999

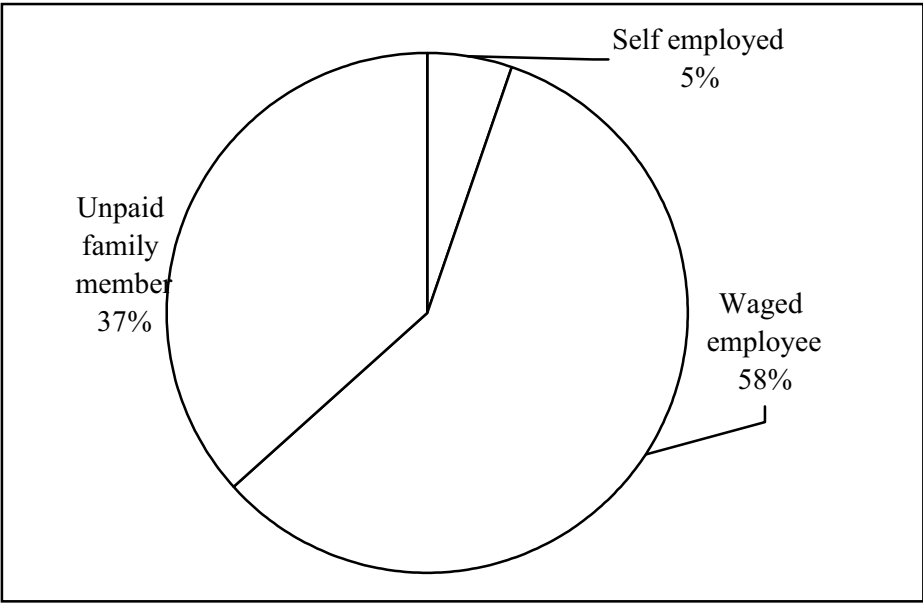


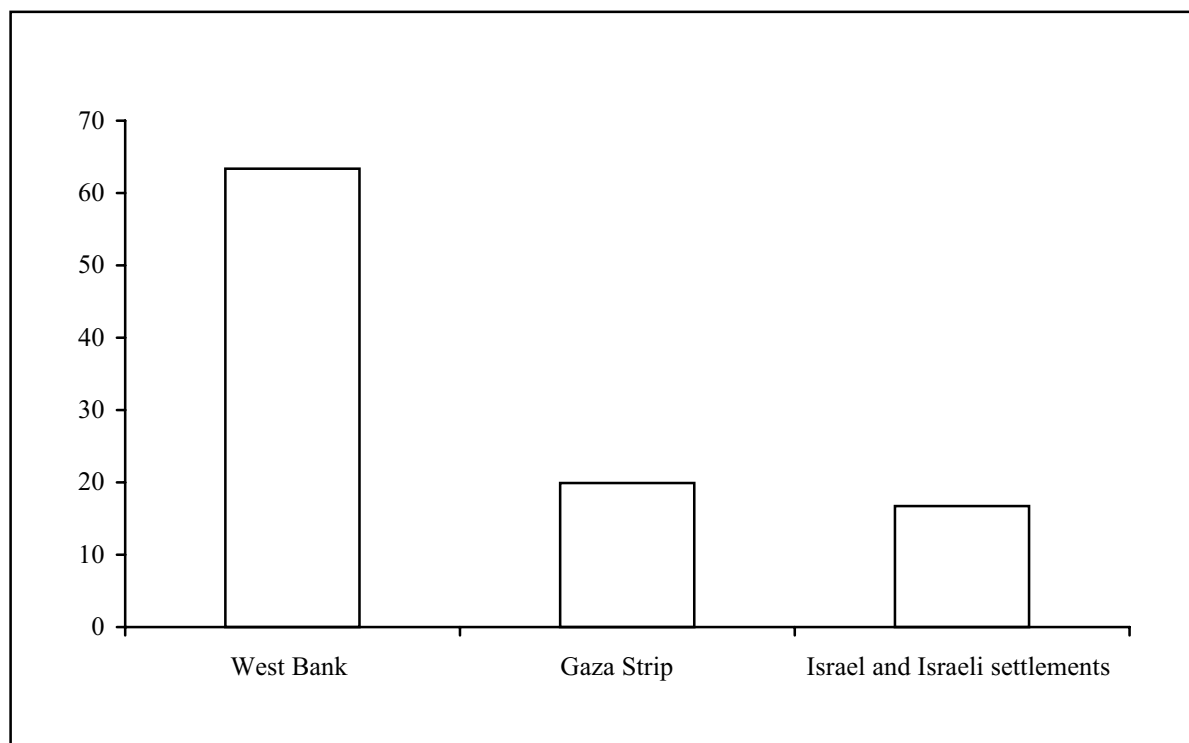
Figure (6-3) indicates that the great majority of employed children are classified as waged employees. It also shows that the majority of children seek work in order to increase their families’ levels of income whereas other children work as unpaid family members.

Children Employed in Israel and in Settlements

The percentage of Palestinian children from the Palestinian Territory who are employed in Israel and in settlements amounted to 16.7%. Male children constituted 18.2%.

Figure (6-4) illustrates the percentage of employed Palestinian children, 17.0% working in Israel and the settlements.

Figure (6-4): Relative Distribution of Children (10 – 17 years) in the Palestinian Territory by Work Place, 1999



Employed Children by Economic Activity

Child labor is concentrated in commerce and restaurants (26.6%); mining and manufacturing (26.4%); and agriculture (24%). As shown in Table (6-9), agriculture occupies the third position. Children are considered a cheap resource of the labor force in this field.

Table (6-9): Employed Children (10–17 years) by Economic Activity, 1999

Economic activity of the child	Sex of the Child		Total
	Male	Female	
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	20.1	64.0	24.0
Mining, quarrying, and manufacturing	26.9	21.5	26.4
Construction	20.3	2.1	18.7
Commerce, restaurants and hotels	28.3	9.8	26.6
Transport, storage and communication	0.9	–	0.9
Services and other branches	3.5	2.7	3.4
Total	%100	%100	%100

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. Labor Force Survey, 1999.

Employed Children by Occupation

The highest percent of working children was reported in elementary occupations, followed by the percent of children working in crafts and other related occupations with 46.6% and 27.4% respectively, the majority of these children were males, while working females were concentrated in agriculture with 64.5% percent

Wages and Work Hours

There is a clear variation between the wages of children aged 10 – 14 years and those aged 15-17 year, compared to the wages of men (although children work the same number of hours and days worked by men). The daily wage for children aged 10-14 years amounted to NIS 22.4 NIS in the West Bank compared to only 16 NIS in the Gaza Strip. In Israel and the settlements, the daily wage for children aged 10 – 14 years amounted to 60.4 NIS.

Table (6-10): Wages and Work Hours for Children (10-17 years), 1999

Area	Average daily wage in NIS		Average weekly work hours	
	10 –14	15 –17	10 –14	15 –17
West Bank	22.4	46.0	42	46
Gaza Strip	16.4	25.0	41	46
Israel and settlements	60.4	71.2	46	43

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000. The Data Base of the Labor Force Survey, 1999.

However, the age group (15-17 years) enjoyed a relatively high wage in spite of the contiguosness of work hours and days. The daily wage in the West Bank was 46.0 NIS compared to 25.0 NIS in the Gaza Strip. In Israel and the settlements, the daily wage amounted to 71.2. NIS it is worth noting that the work hours for those children are similar to the number of hours for men.¹⁰

¹⁰The average number of hours for individuals aged 15 years and above amounted to 44.4 hours and the average daily wage was 76.2. NIS (Labor Force Survey, July – September Round, 1999)

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Child Daily Activities

The findings of this report are based on the Time–Use Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the Palestinian Territory during the period May 1999 to April 2000. The sample size of this survey amounted to 4,019 households. In deriving the findings pertinent to that period, emphasis has been placed on the period between May and October 1999 (half of the original sample). Likewise, emphasis has been placed on the main items included in this survey, without investigating other issues thoroughly. In addition, this was accompanied with different analyses that could relate the survey to other indicators comprising qualitative and quantitative data on the daily activities of the child and their impact on the reality of the child. In this report, we tried to depict a cross report on child (10-17 years) status, needs, daily activities, distribution of such daily activities, and the identification of child interests, attitudes and aptitude to change in the context of the surrounding environment. On the other hand, we attempted to identify the reflections of such influence by illustrating the important issues in a child’s life, along with those issues leading to denial or improvement of opportunities in the near future. Such issues shall be addressed through shedding light on the nature of child activities, the timing of such activities, on time spent in implementing activities; the participants of such activities and the place in which such activities take occur.

These realities were examined through the basic indicators provided by the Time Use Survey, which could be classified as follows: House management and care & household related shopping, child care and attending to patients, the elderly and the disabled in the same household, social services and helping other households, education, social and cultural activities, mass media use, personal care and self care. Details of some activities shall be depicted below?

Habitual Child Activities

The findings derived from the Time Use Survey indicate that cultural and social activities occupy the second most frequent child daily activities after the personal and self-care activities (100%) among the activities practiced by children in the past 24 hours. The findings indicated that 92.6% of the children practiced cultural and social activities whereas mass media – related activities occupied the third position (85.2%).

Core differences occurred between male and female children in relation to practicing household related activities (house management and care, childcare and attending to patients and the elderly). Such activities occur more frequently among female children than male children. The findings showed that 87.8% of female children carried out house management activities compared to 50.0% of male children.

Likewise, the findings indicated that 25.4% of female children practiced activities that fall under “child care and attending to patients, the elderly and the disabled household members”, whereas 8.6% of male children practiced such activities.

The trend is reversed in relation to official work (in establishments, primary production and income generation activities). The findings indicated that 31.6% of male children practiced work – related activities compared to 5.1% of female children.

Table (7-1): Percentage of Children Practiced Activities by Type of Activity, May-October, 1999

Activity	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Work	31.6	5.1	18.5
Housekeeping and household oriented shopping	50.0	87.8	68.7
Child / patients/ elderly/ and disabled care inside the households	8.6	25.4	16.9
Education	49.7	50.3	50.0
Cultural and social activities	92.6	90.5	91.6
Mass media use	85.2	93.7	89.4
Personal and self care	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other activities	19.8	27.3	23.5

It was also found that children spend 47.9% of their time in personal and self care activities. The findings show that they spend 15.2% of their time in education – related activities whereas children spend 14.3% and 10.6% of their time in cultural / social activities and mass media activities, respectively.

Table (7-2): Time Spent in Daily Activities of the Child (in minutes), May-October, 1999

Activity	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Work	132	10	71
Housekeeping and household oriented shopping	37	121	79
Child / patients/ elderly/ and disabled care inside the households	5	15	9
Education	211	226	218
Cultural and social activities	228	184	206
Mass media use	138	169	153
Personal and self care	678	701	689
Other activities	11	13	12

As for time spent on household activities (house management and care, childcare and attending to patients and the elderly), the findings indicated that female children practice such activities more than male children. Female children spend 8.4% of their time on house management and care, childcare and attending to patients and the elderly. Male children, on the other hand, only spend 2.6% of their time on such activities. This is true opposite in relation to cultural\ social and work–related activities (in establishments, primary production and income generation activities). While male children spend 15.8% of their time in cultural and social activities, female children spend 12.8% of their time on such activities. Moreover, male children spend 9.2% of their time on work– related activities, while female children

spend 0.7% of their time on work – related activities. This could be due to the traditional role drawn by the society for male and female children from an early age.

Table (7-3): Percentage of Time Spent in Daily Activities by Child Age Group and Type of Activity, May-October 1999

Activity	Age Group		Total
	10 - 14	15 -17	
Work	16.9	21.6	18.5
Housekeeping and household oriented shopping	68.3	69.4	68.7
Child / patients/ elderly/ and disabled care inside the households	18.4	14.1	16.9
Education	53.8	42.9	50.0
Cultural and social activities	91.5	91.7	91.6
Mass media use	90.0	88.2	89.4
Personal and self care	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other activities	23.5	23.5	23.5

The child’s age plays a significant role in defining the nature, type and time he / she spends in practicing activities. The findings of the survey indicated that 16.9% of children in the age group (10-14 years) practiced work – related activities compared to 53.8% of the Palestinian children who practiced education- related activities. The findings also indicated that 91.5% of children in the age group (10-14 years) practiced social and cultural activities and 90.0% practiced mass media activities.

The findings of the survey also showed that while 21.6% of children in the age group (15-17 years) practiced work-related activities, 42.9% of the Palestinian children practiced education-related activities, compared to 91.7% of children in this age group who practiced cultural and social activities.

As for time spent in such activities, the findings of the survey indicated that 4.2% of children in the age group (10-14 years) go to work while 15.8% of their time is dedicated to education-related activities. Moreover, the findings of the survey indicated that 14.6% of children’s time in this age group is spent on cultural and social activities in comparison to the time spent on mass media activities (10.7%).

With regard to the age group (15-17 years), the findings of the survey indicated that 6.5% of child time is spent on work – related activities while 14.0% of their time is spent on education- related activities. Moreover, 13.9% of their time is spent on cultural and social activities. Figure (7-1) depicts the relationship between the age group of the child and the time spent on his / her daily activities.

Figure (7-1): Percentage of Time Spent on Daily Activities by Child Age-Group and Type of Activity, May-October, 1999

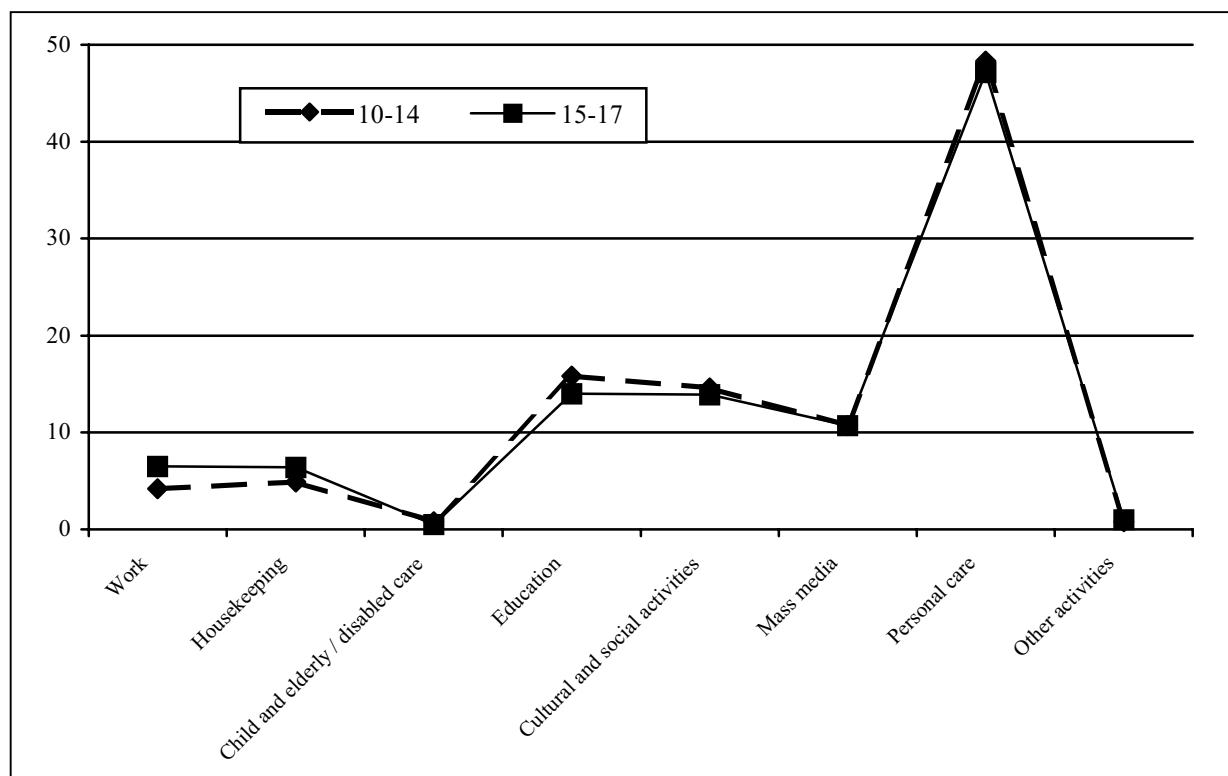


Table (7-4): Child Time Spent on Different Activities (in minutes) by Age Group in the Palestinian Territory, May-October 1999

Activity	Age Group		Total
	10 - 14	15 -17	
Work	60	93	71
Housekeeping and household oriented shopping	71	92	79
Child / patients/ elderly/ and disabled care inside the households	11	7	9
Education	228	201	218
Cultural and social activities	210	199	206
Mass media use	154	153	153
Personal and self care	695	677	689
Other activities	11	14	12

Child Participation in Economic Activities

If childhood is characterized with a dependency on others, child engagement in economic activities is considered a transitional step of high importance. The timing of this transition is crucial as early engagement in work may deny the child opportunities to natural growth and development of his/her abilities, in addition to the fact that such engagement may have negative impacts on the child's psychological health and well-being.

The findings showed that 18.5% of children (aged 10-17 years) performed work-related activities during the past 24 hours, whether such activities were performed in official work inside establishments or in primary production for non-establishments. The findings also

showed that 54.5% of the child's work-related activities were unpaid activities. Around 11.8% of these activities were performed by children themselves while 33.0% of these activities were performed by children with the help of a household member. 55.2% of these activities were performed with the help of a non-related person.

Gender differentials clearly occurred among children who took part in performing work-related activities. One male child out of every three male children and one female child out of every twenty female children performed a work-related activity among those who performed any type of activity. 54% of the total child's work-related activities were paid activities that were performed by male children. Around 67% of the total child's work-related activities were paid activities that were performed by female children.

It is worth noting that 11.7% of male children performed work-related activities by themselves and 33.3% of male children performed them with the help of a household member. 54.9% of these activities were performed by children with the help of a non-related person. The findings also indicated that 13.4% of female children performed work-related activities by themselves and that 33.0% of female children performed them with the help of a household member. 58.6% of these activities were performed by female children with the help of a non-related person.

The percentage of children who work increases with the increase of the child's age. The findings indicated that 16.9% of children in the age group 10-14 years performed a work-related activity among those who performed any type of activity. As for the age group 15-17 years, the findings indicated that 21.6% of children in this age group performed a work-related activity among those who performed any type of activity.

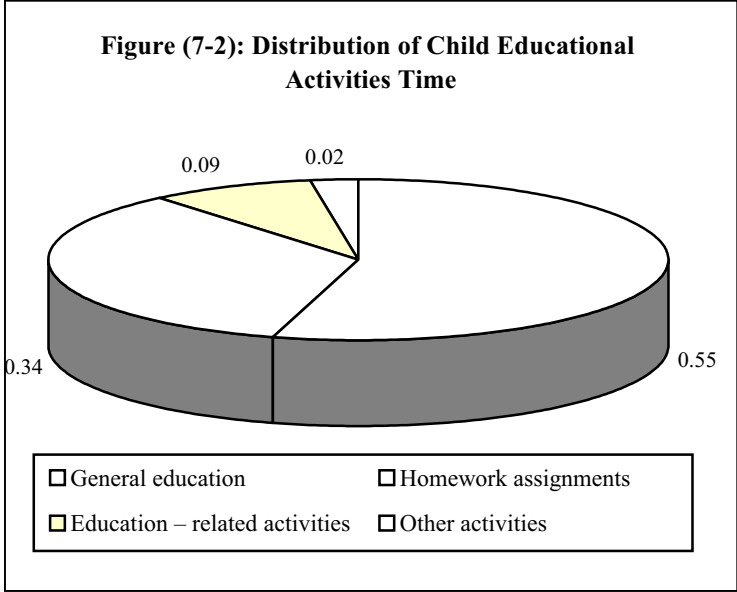
This age group shows a variation in child participation in paid activities. The findings indicated that 38.9% of paid child activities were performed by children in the age group 10-14 years, compared to 73.3% of such activities performed by children in the age group 15-17 years.

Child Educational Reality

The findings derived from the database of the Time Use Survey indicate that an increasing percentage of children are enrolled in education. For the majority of children (in the age group 10-17 years) enrolled in school, a school environment constitutes the place in which they spend the longest consecutive period spent on any daily activity. Education constitutes the second (15.2%) most frequent child daily activity after personal and self-care activities, which are considered the first child daily activities (47.9%).

The time spent in general education occupies the first place (54.6%) among the education activities conducted by children enrolled in education, with an average of 218 minutes per day. Time spent in studying, doing homework, and revision classes related to general education occupies the second place (34.1%) among the child education activities. As for the majority of time spent in general education, the findings indicated that children spend 112 minutes a day in classes and 7 minutes only as a break, compared to less than one minute spent in cultural activities during schooling time.

The findings also show that 33.4% of child education activities were performed by children themselves and that children with the help of a household member performed 3.8% of such activities. On the other hand, children with the help of a non-related person performed 62.6% of these activities. 88.4% of the children study and do their homework by themselves; children who need the help of a household member made up 6.0%. On the other hand, children with the help of a non-related person performed 5.6% of these activities.



Cultural and Recreational Reality

The surrounding environment is the basic source of the child’s culture. It forms a social and cultural pattern with which the child interacts and influences the experiences acquired by the child. It affects the child’s mental and intellectual growth along with his\ her daily conduct through the availability of entertainment and recreational means such as the library, television, daily newspapers coupled with visits to cultural institutions including theatres and clubs. Such means are enhanced by social activities.

The findings of the Time Use Survey in the Palestinian Territory shed light on the type and nature of child activities for the previous day, as reported by the children themselves. Watching television activities had the highest share among mass media- related activities. The findings indicated that 86.2% of the children included in the sample survey reported they had watched television during the past day in comparison to 30.4% and 11.4% who reported that they had listened to the radio or had read newspapers, respectively.

The findings also show that 83.7% of the Palestinian male children reported that they had watched television in comparison to 29.6% and 12.3% who reported that they had listened to the radio or had read newspapers, respectively. As for female children, the findings of the survey indicated that 88.8% of the Palestinian female children reported they had watched television in comparison to 31.2% and 10.4% who reported that they had listened to the radio or had read newspapers, respectively. The findings also show that the percentage of the Palestinian female children practice mass media-related activities (such as watching television, listening to the radio and reading newspapers) more than males. This could be due to the fact that female children do not engage in activities outside the house as much as males.

As for visits to libraries, around 25.3% of children in the age group (10-17 years) visited libraries around 11 times during the past 12 months, 52.3% males and 47.7% females. Around 25.9% of children in the age group (10-17 years) reported that they visited libraries around 12

times during the past 12 months. As for female children, 24.7% reported that they visited libraries around 9 times during the past 12 months.

Reading among children differs from other mass media – related activities. The findings of the Time Use Survey indicate that 64.0% of children had not read any books during the last 12 months, whereas 9.8% of them reported that they had read one book only. Around 10.1% of the Palestinian children reported that they had read three to five books, compared to 2.7% who reported that they had read six to nine books. This percentage is lower among male children than among females. Around 59.3% of female children reported that they had not read any books compared to 68.6% of male children who reported that they had not read any books.

The findings derived from the Time Use Survey indicate that mass media-related activities occupy the fourth (10.6%) most frequent child daily activities after the personal and self-care activities (47.9%), followed by education related activities (15.2%) and cultural and social activities (14.3%).

Cultural and Social Activities

The findings of the survey indicate that children are engaged in cultural and social activities as follows: 8.4% are subscribed in sports clubs, 2.8% are subscribed in cultural clubs; 8.3% are subscribed in public libraries; 0.8% are subscribed in charitable societies; 0.2% are subscribed in a union. Moreover, the findings of the survey indicate that 16.4% of female children have a musical hobby compared to only 4.7% of male children who have similar hobbies. Likewise, the findings of the survey indicate that 17.4% of female children practice activities related to forums and lectures compared to only 17.3% of male children who have similar hobbies. The percentage of male children participating in sports activities amounted to 59.0% compared to only 24.6% of female children who have similar hobbies.

Table (7-5): Percentage of Children Practicing Cultural Activities in the Palestinian Territory by Type of Activity, May-October, 1999

Activity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Writing	11.8	22.3	16.9
Playing a musical instrument	8.8	8.9	8.9
Societies or club activities	22.7	12.4	17.7
Sports	59.0	24.6	42.2
Dancing and music bands	4.7	16.4	10.4
Attending public forums and lectures	17.3	17.4	17.3
Singing in bands	4.4	9.5	6.9
Drawing	31.6	36.2	33.8

Table (7-6) indicates that 47% of the total number of children in the sample are willing to perform a cultural activity during their free time and that the main reason that prevented them from performing any activity was due to the unavailability of public institutions for practicing cultural activities or the unavailability of money needed to cover the cost of such activities.

Table (7-6): Percentage Distribution of Children Willing to Practice Activities in Their Free Time by Type of Activity, May-October 1999

Activity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Writing	2.5	7.9	5.3
Playing a musical instrument	17.2	22.4	19.9
Societies or clubs activities	11.7	7.6	9.5
Sports	36.9	12.8	24.3
Dancing and music bands	3.8	2.9	3.3
Attending public forums and lectures	2.8	6.2	4.6
Singing in bands	3.4	6.0	4.8
Drawing	13.0	13.5	13.3
Other Hobbies	8.8	20.7	15.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage of children willing to practice an activity	44.0	50.3	47.0

Around 41.2% of the total number of children willing to perform a cultural activity during their free time indicated that the main reason that prevented them from performing any activity was the unavailability of public institutions for practicing cultural activities. On the other hand, 24.7% of the total number of children willing to perform a cultural activity during their free time indicated that the main reason that prevented them from performing any activity was lack of free time. In addition, 11.3% of the total number of children willing to perform a cultural activity during their free time indicated that the main reason that prevented them from performing any activity was the unavailability of money needed to cover the cost of such activities.

Table (7-7): Percentage Distribution of Children Willing to Practice Activities during Their Free Time by Reason For Not Practicing the Activity, May-October 1999

Main Reason	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Free Time	24.4	24.9	24.7
Lack of information	6.3	5.2	5.8
Lack of money	12.6	10.2	11.3
Lack of public institutions	42.2	40.3	41.2
Lack of personal interest	6.0	6.4	6.2
Difficulty in transportation	4.2	2.7	3.4
Other reasons	4.3	10.3	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage of children willing to practice an activity during their free time, but did not do so	44.0	50.3	47.0

References

- **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2000.** *Time Use Survey (May 1999- April 2000).*
- **International Population Council, 1999.** *Turning to Maturity Stage. A National Survey on Youth in Egypt.*

Annex No. 1

Concepts and Definitions

Total Fertility Rate	Average number of live births per woman or group of women during their reproductive life by the age of specific fertility rate for a certain year. This rate is calculated by multiplying the age specific fertility rate by five.
Crude Births Rate	Number of births per 1000 population in a certain year.
Crude Mortality Rate	Number of deaths per 1000 population in a certain year.
Growth Rate	The average increase or decrease in the number of population during a certain year, due to natural increases and nets migration. It is expressed by a percentage of the base population
Age at Marriage	The age of the individual in years at the time of his\ her actual marriage.
Level of Living	Food consumption divided by the total consumption. This definition is based on the following assumption: The level of living is identified by the proportion of consumption on food out of the total consumption (Engel's Law of Poverty). It was distributed to three categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Better-off: "Food Consumption of Total Consumption Less than 30%".- Middle Category: "Food Consumption of Total Consumption Between 30 – 44%".- Worse-off: "Food Consumption of Total Consumption Between 45– 100%".
Unemployment	This term refers to all persons in the work age who did not work at all during the reference period, who were not absent from a job and were available for work and actively seeking for work during the reference period in different ways, e.g. reading newspapers, registration in employment offices, asking friends or relatives ...etc.
Remaining West Bank	It refers to the West Bank excluding that part of East Jerusalem annexed to Israel by force following the Israeli occupation of 1967.
Jerusalem Governorate	Includes all communities and areas defined for the purposes of the Palestinian General Election in 1996. Its administrative boarders were delineated based on the administrative boarders.

Household	One person or a group of persons living together who make common provision for food or other essential for living. Household members may be related, unrelated or a combination of both.
Head of Household	The person who usually lives with the households and recognized as head of the household by its other members. Often, he \ she is the main decision-maker or responsible for financial support and welfare of the household.
Age – Sex Structure	Population structure by the number of / percentage of males and females in a certain age group. The age – sex structure is the accumulative result of the aforementioned trends in fertility, mortality and migration rates.
Illiterate	A person who can not read and write a shore abstract about his \ her life in any know language and had not accredited any formal educational certificate.
Health	A state of completes physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of diseases or infirmity.
Infant Mortality Rate	The number of infant deaths (aged less than one year) per 1,000 live born births in a certain year.
Under Five Years Child Mortality Rate	The number of death cases among children (aged less than fives years) per 1,000 children in the age group 0 – 4 during a certain year.
Death Causes	A state of illness, infirmity, incidence, or poisoning that directly or indirectly leads to death. .
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	Acute respiratory infections are the most common illness suffered by children, no matter where they live . ARIs are caused by a wide variety of disease agents , these include form of the vaccine preventable tangent disease :diphtheria, Pertusis and tuberculosis .ARIs are traditionally divided into two main categories : those of the upper respiratory tract (the common cold) and those of the lower reparatory tract (primarily pneumonia). Their principal transmission factors are: high population density, crowded conditions, and seasonal changes that favor the spread of disease.
Traffic Accidents	Accidents occurring for vehicles driven in the public road and
Diarrhea	A clear change in the number of excretion episodes (more than three times a day). Diarrhea is characterized with liquid – like stool. Fever and blood in the stool indicate severity of diarrhea episodes.

Health Care Provider	An individual or organization whose responsibilities involve on or more of the following: The provision ,administration, teaching, and development of health services, activities or supplies. The provider may have direct or indirect interest in the health industry.
Primary Health Care	Primary health care refers to primary check up and the comprehensive health care including basic or initial diagnosis and treatment, health supervision, management of chronic conditions and preventive health services. The provision of primary health care does not necessarily require highly sophisticated equipment or specialized resources.
Poor Child	The child belonging to a poor household (whose income is below the national poverty line).
Poverty	Poverty is defined as the absence of the minimum level of income or resources necessary for meeting the basic needs for living. It is also defined as “the inability to keep the minimum living level”. Two poverty lines were prepared, taking into account the requirements of the consumer basket (a basket comprising a set of the basic essentials) and a broader group of essentials. The first poverty line (referred to as the severe poverty line) was calculated in a way that reflects the basic living needs, e.g. food, clothes and residence. The second poverty line (referred to as the poverty line) was calculated in a way that reflects the budget of the basic living needs (food, clothes and residence along with other basic need such as health and personal care, education, transportation). As expenditures reflect the nature of the needs more than income, the monthly expenditure, instead of the monthly income, was adopted in order to define the poverty line in the Palestinian Territory.
Subsidies	The value of subsidies in kind or cash received by the household in the month, irrespective of whether they were provided by UNRWA, Ministry of Social Affairs, alms (Zakat) committees, charitable societies, or other parties.
Poverty Gap	This indicator measures the volume of the total gap existing between the incomes of the poor and the poverty line (the total amount needed to promote the consumption levels of the poor to reach poverty line). It is recommended to calculate this indicator as a percentage of the total consumption value for the whole population, when the consumption level for each of them is equal to the poverty line.
Poverty Severity	Besides reflecting the poverty gap, this indicator depicts the variations and differentials among the poor (this indicator equals the mean of the total relative squares of poverty gaps for all the poor).

Employed Child	The child performing a certain work for the other in return for a wage, or for him \ herself, or unpaid family work.
Employer	A person who operates his\ her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more waged employees.
Self–Employed	A person operates his\ her owns economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade and hired no employees.
Waged Employee	A person who works for a public or private employer 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 work without pay in an economic enterprise (farm, undertaking ... etc) operated by a related person living in the same household.
Occupation	Occupation refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the employed person, irrespective of the economic activity or employment status or the type of study or training the person received.
Economic Activity	Economic activity refers to the main activity of the establishment in which the employed person or the kind of work done previously if unemployed ever worked person. For persons employed outside the establishments, the activity
Work Hours	The duration of time spent in performing a certain work.
Average Daily Wage	The total net wage paid to all waged employees divided by the total number of workdays according to the average exchange rate for that month.
Work Time	It could either be during the day or the night. Whereas the day refers to the duration starting from sunrise to sunset, the night refers to the duration between sunset to sunrise.
Household Library	A set of extracurricular books, magazines, or periodicals available to the household, which is used for developing the cultural or religious aspects, provided it is not comprised of less than 10 books magazines, or periodicals.
Radio and TV Programs	The program is a complete package by itself that has a title and transmitted (broadcast) through TV or radio in a pre–announced periods.

Children Libraries	An organized set of books, magazines, periodicals, drawings, audiovisual means that offer services and facilities to the children upon demand.
Cultural Institutions	Institutions equipped with instruments and equipment used in the different artistic and / or crafts activities, including games and sports. Such instruments and equipment facilitate the cultural activities in the broader sense.
TV Watching Habit	This terms is used to describe the person who normally sets in front of the television to watch TV programs, irrespective of the type of the program, spent time and place of watching.
Reading Habit	This terms is used to describe the person who regularly reads to enhance knowledge and awareness, regardless of whether the reading is part of the schooling or any other purpose and regardless of the material being read and the period spent in reading.
Handicapped Child	The child incapable of performing normal activities due to a disability or handicap that limits or undermine his ability to perform an activity, in comparison to another child in the same age and under the same circumstances.
Juvenile	This term refers to an offender below 18 years of age.
Orphan	The child who lost one or both parents as a result of death.
Stealing	Seizing the fixed or moveable properties with out the consent of the owner. It includes dwelling sneaking and invasion for the purpose and stealing cars. Minor offenses in the markets may and might not be classified under stealing.
Type of Handicap or Disability	<p>The disabled person is defined as the person suffering from a clear and evident weakness in performing certain activities due to continuous difficulties emanating from a physical, mental or health state that lasted for more than six months. Disabilities resulting from a bone break or a disease lasting for less than six months are not considered disabilities that are classified as follows:</p> <p>Visual: It includes blind and one-eyed persons and any persons suffering from clear sight weaknesses even after using special devices, provided they do not suffer from any other disabilities.</p> <p>Auditory: It includes deaf persons and any persons suffering from clear auditory problems even after using special auditory devices, provided they do not suffer from any other disabilities.</p> <p>Speech disability: It refers to any person suffering from clear problems in speech. However, persons unable to correctly vocalize some sounds are not considered disabled, provided they do not suffer from any other disabilities.</p>

Fingers use: It refers to persons physically unable to use their fingers in their daily life, provided they do not suffer from any other disabilities.

Mental: It refers to mentally retarded persons who do not suffer from any other disabilities.

Multiple disability: It refers to the disabled suffering from many disabilities other than items 4 & 8. It applies to persons suffering from complete disabilities.

School	Any educational institution other than kindergartens, irrespective of the number of students / pupils and grade structure, provided that the lowest grade is the first basic grade and the highest grade is the twelfth grade.
Kindergarten	Any educational institution licensed by the Ministry of Education to offer child education services two years prior to the basic stage (for 4 years old or 5 years old children). Kindergarten education is divided into two stages. First Grade: Offering educational services to four – year – old children & Second Grade: Offering educational services to five – year – old children
Governmental Schools	Any educational institution that is run by the Ministry of Education or any other ministries or governmental body.
UNRWA Schools	Any school run or supervised by UNRWA.
Private Schools	Any licensed local, foreign non – governmental educational institution, that is established, headed, run or financed by a foreign or Palestinian individuals, societies or bodies.
Basic Stage	The first of ten scholastic years on which other educational stages depends.
Secondary Stage	The stage consisting of two scholastic years following the basic stage, (that is, years 11 and 12 of schooling).
Pupil / Student	Any one enrolled in an educational institution.
Teacher	A person with specialized qualification that is responsible for teaching students at an educational institution.
Gross Enrollment Rate	It refers to the percentage of pupils / students enrolled in a certain class to the total number of persons who are in the legal age for enrollment in that class.
Total Enrollment Rate	It refers to the total number of pupils / students enrolled in a certain class, whose ages are in the legal age designated for enrollment in that class as a percentage from the total number of persons in the society who are in the legal age for enrollment in that class.

Repetition	Repeating the same scholastic year for another year due to failure to accomplish the requirements necessary for promotion to next year.
Drop - Out	Leaving schools completely before completing a certain stage. This term refers also to Leaving schools completely in the middle or at the end of a scholastic stage.
Supervising Authority	The party responsible for schools from legal and administrative viewpoints, which could be either governmental, UNRWA or Private
Newspapers	Periodic publications intended for the general public and mainly designed to be a primary source of written information on current events connected with public affairs, international questions, politics, etc.
Time Spent in Different Activities	Time (hours and minutes)spend by the individual (male or female) in carrying out different paid or unpaid works and activities . This term also refer to time spend in housekeeping, child or elderly care, and other works and activities during the period of the survey

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