



## **Palestinian National Authority**

### **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

#### **On the Occasion of “Palestinian Children’s Day”**

**April 5, 2007**

#### ***More than half of the Palestinians (52.2%) were children below the age of 18 years in 2007.***

- Population estimates in the Palestinian Territory for 2007 show a small increase in the number of males under the age of 18 years compared to females. The number was 1.1 million males compared to 1.0 million females, a sex ratio of 102.8.
- In the West Bank, the number of males under the age of 18 years was estimated at 643,245, compared with 618,811 for females, a sex ratio of 102.9, while in Gaza Strip, the number of males was 424,677 and 409,408 for females, a sex ratio of 102.7 in 2007.

#### ***For every five Palestinian martyrs in the Current Crisis, one was a child.***

- Between September 2000 and February 28, 2007, there were 902 Palestinian children martyred, (19.2% of the total martyrs); 369 children in the West Bank and 531 in Gaza Strip, and 2 children in the occupied 1948 areas of Palestine.
- About 391 Palestinian children were arrested between 28/9/2000, and 28/2/2007.

#### ***Two of three households in the Palestinian Territory believe that there is violence against children***

- 65.0% of the households in the Palestinian Territory stated that there was violence against children representing 69.8% in the West Bank and 55.5% in Gaza Strip, (1<sup>st</sup> half of 2006). For 56.8% of the households the current crisis in the Palestinian Territory represented the main source of violence against children compared to 9.6% who believed violence was due to the absence of security.
- More than half (52.2%) of Palestinian households believed that they are able to provide security for their children.
- The indicators showed that the majority of children were exposed to assault mainly at home followed by school and then the streets.

- ***Two out of every five children under 18 years old live in poverty.***
- By the end of 2005, more than 36.9% of children in the Palestinian Territory were living in poverty (of which 28.3% were in the West Bank, and 50.1% were in Gaza Strip). They represented more than half of the poor (56.8%) in the Palestinian Territory.

***For every ten children under 18 years old, one was classified as a worker.***

- 4.4% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years were classified as workers during 2006.
- 73.4% of the employed children were classified as family workers (unpaid family employee), and 21.5% of them as wage-employees.
- The majority of the employed children were classified as agricultural, fishing and forestry workers(53.6%), followed by commerce, restaurants and hotels (26.6%), mining and manufacturing (9.5%), and construction (6.7%).

***Child Health***

- 9.9% of children under five years suffered from stunting, 4.9% of children suffered from underweight, and 2.8% of children suffered from wasting in 2004.
- Infant mortality rate dropped from 25.5 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999 to 24.2 per 1000 births between 1999 and 2003.
- Under five mortality rate also dropped from 28.7 per 1000 births between 1995-1999 to 28.3 per 1000 births between 1999-2003.
- The data in the annual report of the Ministry of Health 2004 states that the main leading causes of infant mortality in the West Bank were premature delivery and low birth weight (16.0%), respiratory system diseases including infection (8.3%), and congenital anomalies (18.3%).
- In Gaza Strip, the main leading causes of infant mortality remained prematurity and low birth weight (34.6%).
- Conditions in the perinatal period are the main leading causes of deaths among infants and children under five in the West Bank (33.5%) and in Gaza Strip (45.7%).

***Child Education***

- Students at basic stage increased from 572,529 in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 953,621 in the scholastic year 2005/2006, an increase rate of 66.6%. Females and males constituted 49.7% and 50.3% respectively.

- In the scholastic year 2005/2006, 70.2% (757,615 students) of total students were enrolled in governmental schools, 23.6% (254,552 students) were enrolled in UNRWA schools, and 6.2% (66,321 students) were enrolled in private schools. About 11.6% were in the secondary stage, and 88.4% were in the basic stage.
- Students at secondary education stage increased from 45,339 in 1994/1995 to 124,867 students during the scholastic years 2005/2006, an increase of 175.4%. Female students constituted 52.1% of the total number of students, and males constituted 47.9%.