

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Releases the Main Results of Local Community Survey, 2008

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) conducted the Local Community Survey in the Palestinian Territory during the period 01/06/2008-29/06/2008. The main objective of the survey was to provide reliable and comprehensive data on the situation of local communities in the Palestinian Territory. Local authorities are responsible for providing essential services and public utilities for all communities in the Palestinian Territory. PCBS initiated the implementation of this survey to provide the necessary data for development planning in coordination with the different governmental and non-governmental institutions.

According to the official list of local communities adopted for the Population and Housing Census 2007, there are 557 localities in the Palestinian Territory; however, the data was presented to 537 localities where the data on a number of localities were merged together for all localities supervised by the same local authority.

The results of the Local Community Survey 2008 show that there are 517 local authorities in the Palestinian Territory distributed by type as 121 municipalities, 12 local councils, 355 village councils or project committees, and 29 directors of refugee camps. There are 20 local authorities that provide services for more than one locality. The results revealed that there are 4,214 total local authority members in the Palestinian Territory, of which 3,651 are males and 563 are females (13.4%), most of the female members are in the West Bank. In comparison, there were 3,790 local authority members in the Palestinian Territory in 2005. Of the male members, 3.3% are less than 30 years of age, 76.5% are between 30-50 years of age and 20.2% are more than 50 years of age. Of the female members, 6.7% of female members are less than 30 years of age, 85.1% are between 30-50 years of age and 8.2% are more than 50 years of age.

As for the number of people represented by a member of the local authority, there was a significant disparity noted between the West Bank and Gaza Strip and at the governorate level: the overall rate in the Palestinian Territory was 894 persons per member (601 in the West Bank and 4,706 in the Gaza Strip). The Gaza governorate recorded the highest rate (12,728 persons per member), and Qalqilya governorate recorded the lowest rate (304 persons per member). The results indicate that 103 local authorities reported the need to upgrade the capacity of technical and administrative staff, 109 reported the need for computers, while 60 reported the need for premises and funding for development projects.

The results showed that 123 localities (22.9%) in the Palestinian Territory, with 177,275 persons, have no public water network, all of them in the West Bank. The results reveal also that 64 localities were connected to public water network after 1998, of which 58 were in the West Bank. Regarding the main source of water, data show that 110 of the localities connected to public water networks in the West Bank in 2008 obtain water through the Israeli Mekorot company, while 112 of the localities connected to the public network in the West Bank obtain water through the West Bank Water Department. However, in the Gaza Strip, 17 of the localities connected to the public network obtain water through wells, and only 6 localities obtain water through the Israeli Mekorot Company. 427 total developmental projects are needed by local authorities in the Palestinian Territory in the rehabilitation and improvement of infrastructure for water

There are 38 localities (7%) with 12,337 persons in the Palestinian Territory not connected to the public electricity network, and 102 localities connected to the public electricity network after 1998. Data show that 272 localities in the Palestinian Territory are provided with electricity by the Israeli

Electricity Company, and 152 localities are provided with electricity by the Jerusalem Electricity Company, all of them are in the West Bank. 559 total developmental projects needed by local authorities in the Palestinian Territory in the rehabilitation and improvement of infrastructure for electricity.

The results of the survey reveal that 85 localities (16%) are connected to the public sewage system, of which 64 localities are in the West Bank. In addition 511 localities use cesspits for wastewater disposal, 478 in the West Bank and 33 in Gaza Strip. The results reveal also that 33 localities were connected to the public sewage system after 1998, of which 25 were in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip.

The results reveal that 99 (18%) localities do not have the services of collecting solid waste with 59,444 persons. The local authorities provide collecting solid waste services in 331 localities, and 122 dumping sites in the Palestinian Territory, of which 119 are in the West Bank, and 3 are in the Gaza Strip. There are 67 dumping sites used by one locality, and 55 used by more than one locality.