

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
Issued Child Statistics Report on the Eve of Palestinian
Children's Day April 5, 2011

Within the framework of its proactive dissemination policy,
PCBS issued the annual child statistics report on the occasion of
Palestinian children's day

About 1.9 million children under the age of 18 in the Palestinian
Territory in the mid of 2010 .

Based on the results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the estimated number of children in the Palestinian Territory totaled to 1.9 million out of 4.05 million individuals (the total population in the Palestinian Territory) in the mid of 2010. The percentage of individuals under the age fifteen is still high which is about 41.3% of the total population.

Demographic statistics and trends in the Palestinian society showed that the children will constitute the majority for several coming years; due to the considered high fertility rate of the Palestinian woman and low rates of infant mortality.

The Palestinian household is formed at early ages, where the females mean age at first marriage in the West Bank was 19.9 years and 25.4 years for males in 2009.

11 out of 100 under-five children suffer chronic malnutrition in 2010, including 11.3% in the West Bank and 9.9% in Gaza Strip. Hebron governorate had the highest rate at 16.9% compared to the rest of the governorates.

A drop in underweight rates occurred between 2000 and 2010, when the rates climbed in 2006 and dropped back in 2010 reaching a national rate of 3.7% ; 3.8% in the West Bank and 3.5% in Gaza Strip. On the level of governorates, the rate was 5.6% for Hebron governorate, 4.8% for Ramallah & Al-Bireh governorate and 3.9% for Jerusalem governorate. The underweight rate in Deir Al-Balah reached 4.4% compared to 4.3% in North Gaza and 4.2% in Rafah governorates.

Noticeably, the levels of infant and the under-five child mortality rates were on the decline until 2000 when they started to rise again during the period 2005-2010 due to the high rates of neonatal mortality, which affected the infants' mortality rates in general and reflected higher risk during pregnancy. Infant mortality rate in Palestine reached 20.6 per 1000 live births between 2005 and 2010. Gaza Strip has the highest of these rates at 23.0 per 1000 live birth.

The under-five mortality rate was 25.1 per 1000 live births between 2005 and 2010. Gaza Strip had the highest rates at 29.2 per 1000 live births compared to 22.1 in West Bank at .

19.4% of children aged 6-59 months have anemia in 2010; 25.6% in the West Bank and 13.4% in Gaza Strip. Qalqilya governorate reported the highest rate of anemia among children at 32.3%, followed by Salfit and Nablus governorate at 19.7%, 19.4%, respectively. In the Gaza Strip, Deir AL-Balah governorate reported the highest rate of anemia at 41.4%, followed by Gaza and Khan Yunis governorates; 31.3% and 21.8%, respectively.

Regarding Scholastic Year 2009/2010, the number of school students in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 1,113,802 student; of whom half are females. In addition, 59.4% of the students in the West Bank were enrolled in basic education, compared to 40.6% in Gaza Strip. As for enrolled students in the secondary education; 58.5% enrolled in the West Bank and 41.5% in Gaza Strip

The poverty rate in 2010 indicated that the rate of the total distribution of poverty among Palestinian households in the Palestinian Territory was 21.4% in 2010 (using consumption data), of which 22.8% is among households with children and 15.8% is among households without children.

More significant is the fact that the poverty data indicated that 16.0% of the households in the West Bank were suffering from poverty in 2010 (16.4% among households with children and 14.6% among households without children). Regarding Gaza Strip, 31.9% of households were suffering from poverty in 2010 (34.4% among households with children and 18.8% among households without children).

The results of labor force survey 2010 showed that the percentage of employed children, whether being paid or unpaid, amounted to 3.7% of the total number of children; 5.7% in the West Bank and 0.6% in Gaza Strip. In addition, 63.0% of the employed children were classified as unpaid family members (94.2% females, 57.9% males), compared to 31.4% employed as paid working for others (3.0% females and 36.1% males).

Data showed that 47.0% of employed children are working in agriculture sector; 49.0% in West Bank and 24.7% in Gaza Strip, and 27.1% are employed in trade, restaurants and hotels; 24.9% in the West Bank and 62.1% in Gaza Strip.