



A press release issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

On the Occasion of “Palestinian Children’s Day”

April 5, 2009

Within the framework of its proactive dissemination policy, PCBS issued a press release on the occasion of Palestinian children’s day

About 1.9 million children under the age of 18 in the Palestinian Territory 2008 .

Based on the results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census, 2007. The estimated number of children in the Palestinian Territory totaled to one million and nine hundred thousand out of 3,880,381 individuals (the total population in the Palestinian Territory) 2008. The data showed that the percentage of individuals under the age fifteen is still high (42.5%), this indicates the high fertility rate although it has been declined compared to the last decade. Thus, the Palestinian society is considered young one with a wide young pyramid base.

Demographic statistics and trends in the Palestinian society, showed that the children will constitute the majority for several years to come; due to the considered high fertility rate of the Palestinian woman and low rates of infant mortality. It is worth mentioning that life expectancy in the Palestinian Territory in mid 2008 was 73.0 years for females and 70.2 years for males.

The Palestinian household is formed at early ages, where the females mean age at first marriage was 19 years, and 25 years for males in 2007.

Ministry of Health data 2007 stated that the main causes of infant mortality in the West Bank were respiratory diseases including infections at 40.1%, underweight and premature births at 13.4%, congenital abnormalities at 16.1%, and sudden death at 4.3%. whereas in Gaza Strip, infant mortality was mainly caused by premature births at 36.2%, and congenital abnormalities at 23.5%.

The findings of the Palestinian Family Health Survey 2006 indicated that 34.1% of the Palestinian women in the Palestinian Territory received at least one dose against Tetanus during their last pregnancy, of which 27.8% in the West Bank and 44.6% in Gaza Strip, and the data showed that two thirds of children under five years have vaccination record cards at 66.7%; 69.4% in the West Bank and 62.8% in Gaza Strip. 2006 data revealed that 10.2% of children under five years suffered from stunting, 2.9% of them suffered from underweight, and 1.4% suffered from wasting.

Scholastic year 2007/2008 data showed that the number of school students in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 1,097,957; half of them are females. 59.6% of the students were enrolled in the West Bank basic education, while 40.4% were in Gaza Strip. As for enrolled students in the secondary education; 59.2% of them in the West Bank and 40.8% in Gaza Strip

The statistics on poverty in 2007, revealed that 76.9% of households in Gaza Strip were poor according to the usually income whereas 78.9% for those households have children, and 63.7% for childless ones, while poor households in the West Bank, reached 47.2% of total households; whereas 48.6% for households have children, and 41.3% for childless ones.

The results of labor force survey 2008 showed that the percentage of employed children, whether being paid or unpaid amounted to 3.7% of the total number of children, 5.3% in the West Bank and 1.2% in Gaza Strip. (67.7%) of the employed children were classified as employed family members (91.6% females, 64.1% males), compared to 25.6% employed as paid working for others (7.0% females and 28.4% males)..

Data showed that 45.5% of employed children are working in agriculture sector; 49.7% in West Bank and 17.1% in Gaza Strip, and 29.6% are employed in trade, restaurants and hotels; 23.8% in the West Bank and 69.5% in Gaza Strip.

During September 2000 and February, 2008, about 959 Palestinian children were martyred out of 5,264 martyrs which represent 16.3% of the total martyrs; of which 384 in the West Bank and 573 in Gaza Strip, in addition to two martyrs in occupied territory in 1948.

Due to the recent Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip during 27/12/2008 until 18/01/2009 there were 1,334 martyrs, 417 of them were children.