

On the Occasion of the 13th of December, the International Day for the Disabled, PCBS Presents Data on Disabled Persons in the Palestinian Territory

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) reported on the characteristics of disabled persons on the occasion of the 13th of December, the International Day for the Disabled. In a press release issued on this occasion, PCBS presents data on the prevalence of disability in the Palestinian society, and the characteristics of the disabled based on the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 and the findings of the Palestinian Family Health Survey 2006.

The final results of Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 showed that the number of persons the West Bank, excluding that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967, who have at least one disability was 107,785 people (5.3%), 55,557 were males and 52,228 females. About 22.6% of the total number of persons who have at least one difficulty (disability) are from the Hebron governorate, while 1.7% are from Jericho & Al Aghwar governorate.

Census data showed that difficulty (disability) in vision represented the highest number of disabilities in the West Bank with 60,041 persons, 29,562 males and 30,479 females. 21.5% of persons with difficulty (disability) in vision are from Hebron governorate, while 1.7% of them are from Jericho & Al Aghwar governorate. On the other hand, difficulty (disability) in communication had the lowest number in the West Bank, totaling 14,781 persons, 7,899 males and 6,882 females.

Moreover, data showed that 76.6% of the disabled who are aged 10 years and over in the West Bank are outside labor force. Data also showed that 19.2% of the disabled are employed while 4.3% were classified as unemployed at the time of conducting the census.

The definition of disability used in the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 was the latest one approved by the United Nations Statistics Division and is more detailed than the definition used in the Palestinian Family Health Survey 2006.

2.7% of individuals with difficulties (disabilities) in the Palestinian Territory.

2006 data showed that the percentage of individuals with difficulties (disabilities) in the Palestinian Territory was 2.7% (2.9% in West Bank and 2.3% in Gaza Strip). Males have higher percentages of reported difficulties compared to females, (3.0% and 2.3%, respectively).

Physical difficulty (disability) is the most common type of disability in the Palestinian Territory.

2006 data indicated that the most common type of difficulty (disability) in the Palestinian Territory is physical difficulty, totaling 1.3% of the population, 1.4% in the West Bank and 1.2% in Gaza Strip. Persons suffering from difficulties of communicating with others represent the smallest category of disability in the Palestinian Territory, totaling 0.26%, 0.25 in the West Bank and 0.28% in Gaza Strip. Concerning type of locality, the data indicated that physical difficulty is higher in camps and rural areas than in urban areas (1.62%, 1.24%, and 1.18%, respectively),

and higher than vision difficulties, which the data indicated is higher in camps and rural areas than in urban areas (0.84%, 0.83% and 0.70%, respectively)

Genetic or congenital conditions are the main cause of difficulty in the Palestinian Territory.

2006 data indicated that the main cause of disability in the Palestinian Territory is due to genetic or congenital conditions representing 30.0% of difficulties, 29.9% in the West Bank and 30.3% in Gaza Strip. These causes are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Diseases are the second leading cause of disability in the Palestinian Territory representing 29.5% of difficulties, 29.9% in the West Bank and 28.6% in Gaza Strip.

32.2% of individuals with difficulties (disabilities) did not receive any medical or social services.

2006 data indicated that 32.2% of individuals with difficulties (disability) did not receive any medical or social services during the year 2005, 32.6% in the West Bank and 31.2% in Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the percentage of individuals with difficulties (disability) who received social services in the Palestinian Territory in the year 2005 was 4.9%: 4.1% in the West Bank and 6.6% in Gaza Strip.

More than half of the disabled aged 10 years and over are illiterate or uneducated.

2006 data revealed that more than half of the disabled aged 10 years and over are illiterate or uneducated, 19.0% of them have completed their elementary education, and 12.0% have completed secondary education and above.