



Palestinian National Authority

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Palestinian Children – Rights and Numbers

2/11/2005

The availability of statistics on children in the world is better since the United Nations General Assembly meeting on Child Rights Convention, the objective is to provide a statistical database on the conditions of children and to measure the progress achieved to meet their needs, the United Nations reemphasized the concerns of the international community in children rights. The Convention, signed and approved by almost all member countries, constitutes a reference and an international legal framework for monitoring progress made in meeting child's needs and requirements. The different countries translate their commitment to protect child rights through allocation of own reports, The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics took on itself the task of providing the enabling atmosphere, as well as promote awareness among policy makers, planners, and other parties engaged in defending children rights and interested in bringing about sustainable and comprehensive developments for children.

Socio-Economic Reality

- The estimated population of the Palestinian Territory was 3.8 million in mid 2005, of which 2.4 million were in the West Bank and 1.4 million in Gaza Strip.
- More than half of the Palestinians (52.6%) were children below the age of 18 years in 2005.
- PCBS estimates indicate there has been a drop in the crude birth rate over the past decade. It was estimated at 42.7 per 1000 persons in 1997 and dropped to 37.3 in 2005.
- 42.2% of Palestinian children under 18 years living in the Palestinian Territory are refugees: 37.9% in the West Bank and 62.1% in Gaza Strip.
- Data on marriage and divorce in the Palestinian Territory in 1997-2004 showed a widespread phenomenon of early marriage especially among females. The mean age of females at first marriage was 19.3 years, and 24.6 years for males.
- The findings of the Demographic and Health Survey of 2004 showed that females head 7.0% of the total number of Palestinian households in the West Bank compared with 9.9% in Gaza Strip.

Child Health

- 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 2003 states that the main leading causes of infant mortality in the West Bank were premature delivery and low birth weight (33.7%), respiratory system diseases including infection (15.5%), and congenital anomalies (12.1%).
- In Gaza Strip, infant mortality caused by premature and low birth weight remained the main leading causes of infant mortality (45.9%).
- Evidently respiratory system infections and congenital anomalies are the main leading causes of deaths among infants and children under five, in West Bank 38.6% and 55.2% in Gaza Strip.
- The data show that the percentage of children (last child born during the period 2001-2003) who were breastfed was 95.6% in 2004, distributed as 95.5% in the West Bank and 95.7% in Gaza Strip.
- In the Palestinian Territory the mean duration of breastfed was 10.9 months in 2004.
- 9.9% of children under five years suffered from stunting and 4.9% of children suffered from underweight, 2.8% of children suffered from wasted in 2004.
- The Demographic and Health Survey 2004 revealed that 99.7% of Gaza children aged (12-23 months) were immunized against tuberculosis, whereas 92.2% of West Bank children were immunized against tuberculosis.
- There has been a significant increase between the cases of diarrhea registered while 6.7% of children in April 2000 were suffered from diarrhea. It reached 15.3% in June 2004.
- The Annual Report of the Ministry of Health 2003 showed that the number of primary health care centers run by the Ministry are 391 of which 337 centers in the West Bank and 54 centers in Gaza Strip, compared with 375 centers in 2002; 228 in the West Bank and 47 in Gaza Strip.

Children's Educational Reality:

- At the outset of the scholastic year 2004/2005, the number of students enrolled in the basic and secondary stage was 1,043,935 students. Female students constitute around 50.2%.
- In the scholastic year 2004/2005, 10.8% of all students were enrolled in the secondary education stage, and 89.2% are enrolled in the basic stage.

- In the scholastic year 2004/2005, 69.9% (729,340 students) of total students were enrolled in governmental schools, 24.2% (252,584 students) were enrolled in UNRWA schools, and 5.9% (62,011 students) of them were enrolled in private schools.
- The number of children in kindergarten rose from 69,134 in scholastic year 1996/1997 to 73,119 in scholastic year 2004/2005, an increase of 5.8%.
- Students at basic stage increased from 572,529 in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 931,260 in the scholastic year 2004/2005, an increase rate of 62.7%. Females and males constituted 50.1% and 49.9% respectively.
- Students at secondary education stage increased from 45,339 in 1994/1995 to 112,675 students during the scholastic years 2004/2005, an increase of 148.5%. Female students constituted 51.1% of the total number students, and males constitute 48.9%.
- The percentage of repetition at basic stage in the scholastic year 2003/2004 in the Palestinian Territory was 1.5% for males and 1.3% for females, while at the secondary stage, the percentage was 1.4% for males and 0.6% for females.
- The drop-out rate at the basic stage in the scholastic year 2003/2004 in the Palestinian Territory was 0.9% for male students and 0.6% for female students. At the secondary stage, the rates were 2.3% for males and 3.6% for females.
- The number of schools totaled 2,192 in 2004/2005: 1,497 basic stage and 695 secondary schools. 76.0% of schools are in the West Bank and 24.0% are in Gaza Strip.
- 76.0% of schools are in the West Bank (1,665 schools) and 24.0% are in Gaza Strip (527 schools).
- Comparing classroom density according to region in basic stage, it is noticed that the classroom density in basic schools is higher in Gaza Strip than in the West Bank (42.3 students per classroom in Gaza Strip and 32.2 students per classroom in the West Bank in 2004/2005).
- The number of teachers in schools and kindergartens reached 41,676 in the scholastic year 2004/2005 of which 17,841 male teachers and 23,835 female teachers (42.8% male teachers, and 57.2% female teachers).

Child Cultural and Recreational Reality:

- In 2004, 71.5% of households who have children under 18 years do not have computers, 4.8% do not have TV sets, 28.6% do not have a satellite dish, and 90.7% do not have Internet at home.
- The findings of the Computer, Internet and Mobile Survey 2004 showed that 28.5% of households having children under 18 years in the Palestinian Territory have computers, with 31.1% in the West Bank compared with 23.8% in Gaza Strip.
- 28.4% have a home library compared with 15.3% in 2003.

- The Computer, Internet and Mobile Survey 2004 showed that 37.0% of children aged 10-17 years are participating in sport activities, and 29.8% are practicing drawing.
- There is a significant difference, however, between males and females, children aged 10-17 years are participating in sport activities, distributed as 56.6% among males and 15.9% among females, and 29.8% are practicing drawing, distributed as 19.8% among males and 40.5% among females.
- Data showed that 9.8% of children aged 10-17 years are members to sport club, 7.2% are members in activities at a public library, 4.5% are members to Cultural clubs and 2.2% are members to charitable association.
- Computer, Internet and Mobile Survey 2004 showed that 56.0% of children aged 10-17 are using computers, distributed as 56.4% among males and 55.5% among females; 62.0% among the West Bank children compared with 46.3% among Gaza Strip children use computers.

Children in Need of Special Protection

- In 2003, 42.1% of the Palestinian children of the Palestinian Territory lived below the poverty line. 51.8% of the poor children are males, and 48.2% are females.
- The number of employed children was 40,139 children, representing 3.1% of the total number of children aged 5-17 years, 3.8% in the West Bank and 1.9% in Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Children and the Intifada:

- Between September 2000 till 27/9/2005, 776 Palestinian children were martyred, constituting 19.9% of the total martyrs; 340 children were martyred in the West Bank and 434 in Gaza Strip, and 2 children were martyred in the occupied Palestinian territory 1948.
- During the period from 28/9/2000 to 28/9/ 2005 the total number injured was 43,771 Palestinians were injured, 28,861 were children, constituting 65.9% of the total injures; 20,057 children were injured in the West Bank and 8,804 in Gaza Strip .
- About 288 Palestinian children were arrested between September 28, 2000, and September 15, 2005.
- During the Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Israeli occupation forces attacked 269 schools in different places in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These schools were forcefully and illegally broken into, teargas and bullets were used against students, and the premises were then bombed. And 498 schools were closed in addition to 1,289 schools were closed at the begging of -Aqsa intifada.
- During Al-Aqsa intifada, September 29, 2000, till June 8, 2005, 586 students were martyred in the Palestinian Territory, and 7 students from illiteracy centers in Nablus and Hebron.

- Injured students during Al-Aqsa intifada totaled 3,491 during September 29, 2000 to June 8, 2005.
- During Al-Aqsa intifada, Israeli occupation military forces have closed 9 schools in order to confiscate them for military posts; 269 schools were destroyed through shelling by missiles and tank shells, and during 2002/2003 498 schools were closed due to closure and curfew, in addition to 1,289 schools closed since the beginning of Al-Aqsa intifada.
- The results show that 48.1% of Palestinian households in the localities affected by the Separation Annexation Wall that have some members attending secondary education used detour roads in order to reach their schools (66.5% west of the wall and 42.3% east of the wall), and 77.6% of the households were forced to be absent from schools due to closure (73.5% west of the wall and 78.9% east of the wall).
- The results indicated that 39.0% of the households have access problem to health services because of the military checkpoints, 37.8% due to Israeli closure.
- Data showed that 30.8% of the Palestinian children were exposed to violence, distributed by 24.8% in the West Bank and 40.4% in Gaza Strip. Males were more exposed to violence than females at 34.7% and 26.9% respectively.

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Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2005. *Palestinian Children–Rights and Numbers.* Ramallah-Palestine.

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