



**State of Palestine
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

Press Release

**Main Findings of the Impact of Israeli Aggression in
2014 on Socio-Economic Conditions of Households in
the Gaza Strip Survey**

October, 2015

PAGE NUMBERS OF ENGLISH TEXT ARE PRINTED IN SQUARE BRACKETS.
TABLES ARE PRINTED IN THE ARABIC ORDER (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT).

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All correspondence should be directed to:
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
P.O.Box 1647, Ramallah - Palestine

Tel: (970/972) 2 2982700
Fax: (970/972) 2 2982710
Toll Free:1800300300
E-Mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps
Web-Site: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>

Acknowledgment

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PCBS also extends its deep appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for providing the tablets needed for data collection.

Notice for Data Users

The survey data was collected during April-May, 2015; thus, the recall period for the displayed data in the tables refers to the mentioned period unless is otherwise stated. Moreover, the presented data cover the Gaza Strip only.

Set of special symbols were used in the tables of this report, the representation of these symbols are as follow:

(-) Nil.

(0) Value is less than half unit.

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Main Findings

The Impact of the Israeli Aggression in 2014, on Socio-Economic Conditions of the Households in Gaza Strip

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics implemented the Impact of the Israeli Aggression 2014, on Socio-Economic Conditions of the Households in Gaza Strip Survey in the period from 01/04 to 31/05/2015, to monitor the socio-economic impact of Israeli aggressions on the livelihood of households in the Gaza Strip. The survey sample included 3,150 households and the response rate reached 87.2%.

The target Population of the survey was the Palestinian households and individuals who normally lived with their households in Gaza Strip during 2014; the sample survey is stratified Regular Random Sample with Two-Stage Clusters:

The first stage: choosing enumeration areas (EAs) from the previous round of Socio-Economic and Food Security survey (SEFSEC) 2013 consisting of 102 EAs (systematic random sampling), 20 EAs were added by systematic random sampling. The whole number of EAs was 122 in the first stage.

The second stage: Visiting the same households of the previous round for SEFSEC survey 2013 which is around 25 households from each EA. The households that changed their previous residential place were tracked to complete the questionnaire including members who were separated from their previous households and formed new independent households excluding separation and divorce cases, the sample included systematic random sample with size of 25 household from each EAs for the additional sample.

The sample distribution was stratified by:

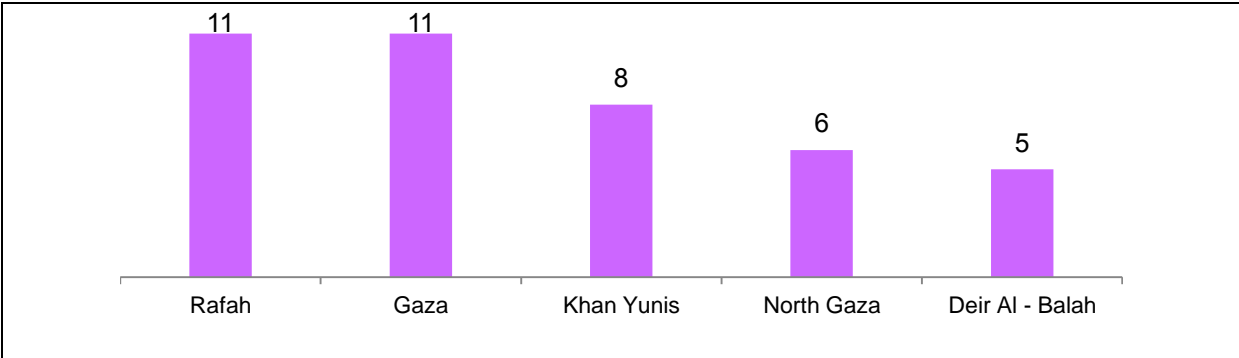
- 1- Governorate.
- 2- Type of locality (Urban, Rural and Camps).

Below is a summary for the main findings of the statistical indicators of the survey

Impact of 2014 Aggression on Place of Residence:

Survey main findings showed that 9% of the households in Gaza Strip changed their place of residence due to the Israeli aggression in 2014. Moreover, upon classification of data by governorate, we found that Gaza and Rafah governorates marked the highest percentage of households that changed their place of residence due to the aggression, with 11% each, while Deir Al Balah governorate scored lowest at 5%.

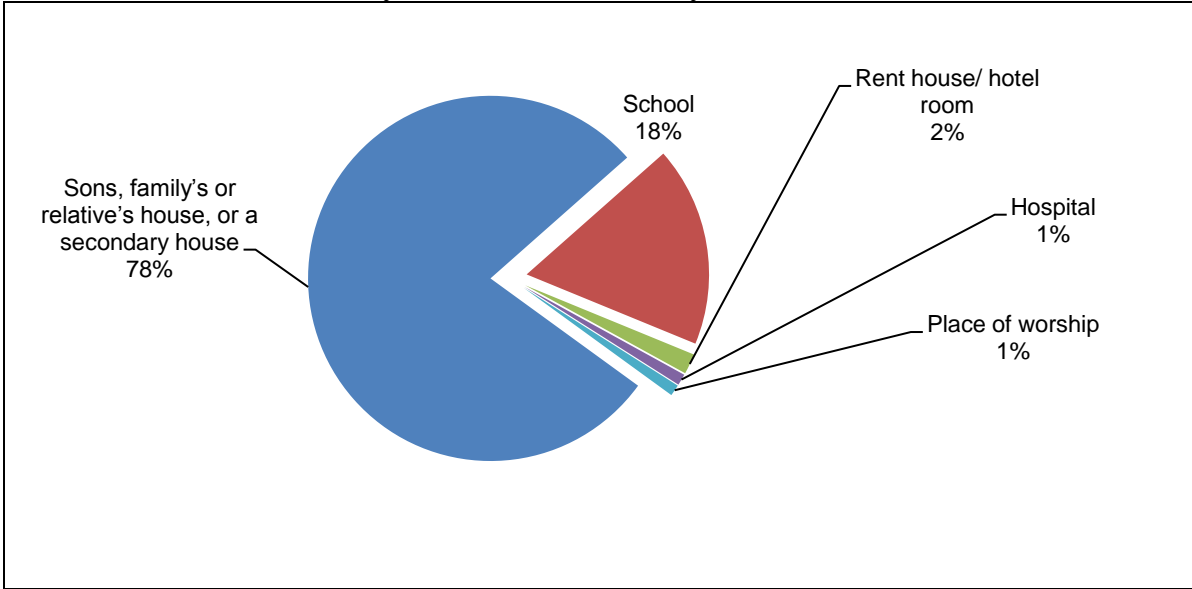
Percentage of Households that Changed their Residence due the Aggression by Governorate



Displacement:

Data showed that 59% of the individuals in Gaza Strip were displaced from their place of residence. Findings showed that the first place to which individuals moved during the 2014 aggression was 78% to parents’ house, sons, relatives or secondary residence. On the other hand, 18% of individuals sought shelter in schools. The remaining 4% rented hotel rooms/ houses, moved to hospitals, places of worship or pubic areas and squares.

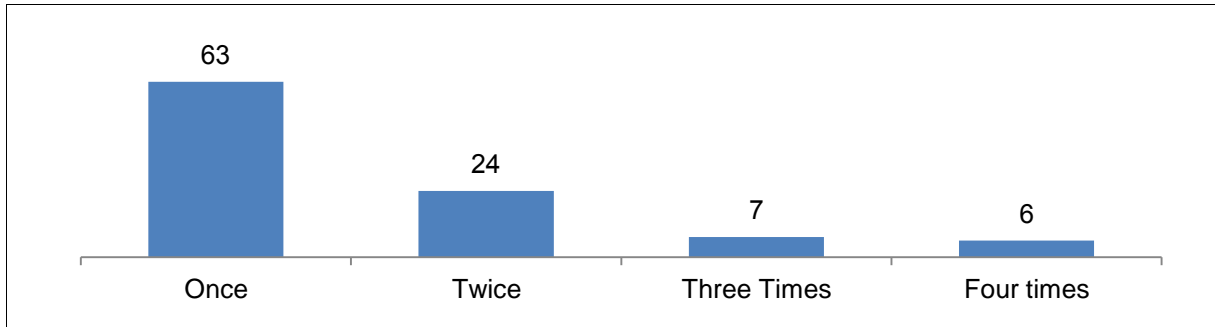
Percentage Distribution of Persons who fled their Main Residence during the Aggression in 2014 by the First Place that they Moved to



Number of Fled Times:

The findings also showed that the individuals in Gaza Strip moved from their place of residence to a different place, where 63% of the individuals moved once, 24% of them moved twice, 7% of them moved three times, and 6% of them moved four times.

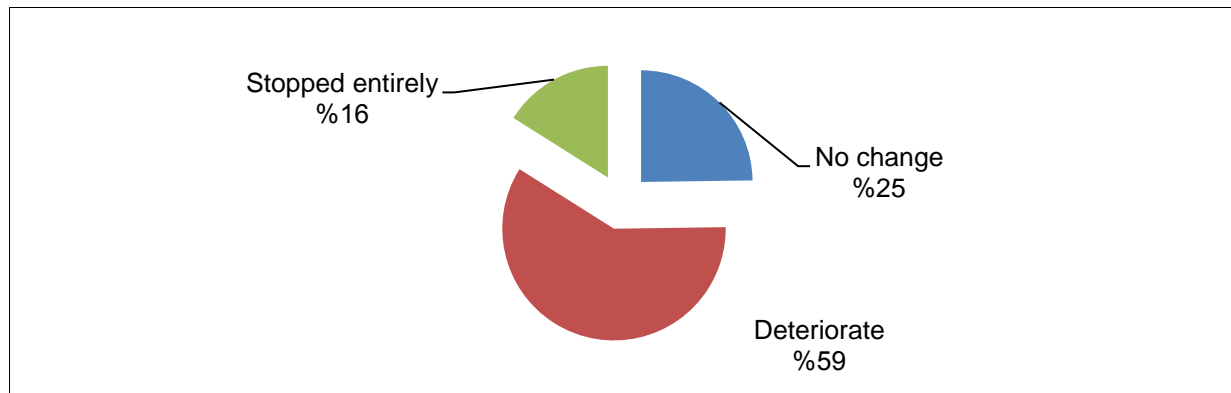
Percentage Distribution of Persons who Left their Main Residence during the Aggression, by Number of Times they Moved



Impact of 2014 Aggression on the Labor Force:

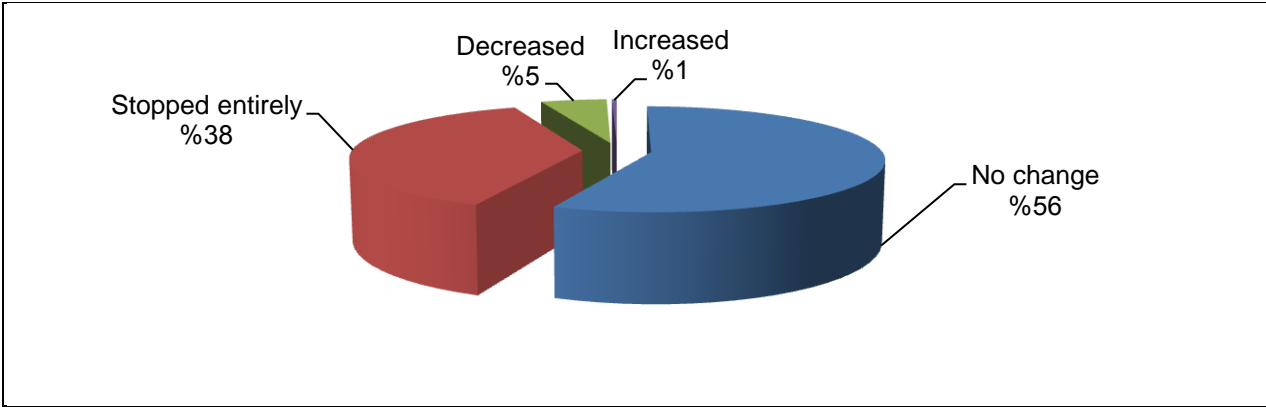
13% of the workers were either employers or self-employed and 85% of them worked as wage employees. The findings showed that 25% of the employers and self-employed had no change to their work, and 59% of them suffered deterioration of their business after the aggression, while 16% had to stop their business entirely.

Percentage Distribution of Employers and Self-employed by Changes to their Work in the Aftermath of the Aggression



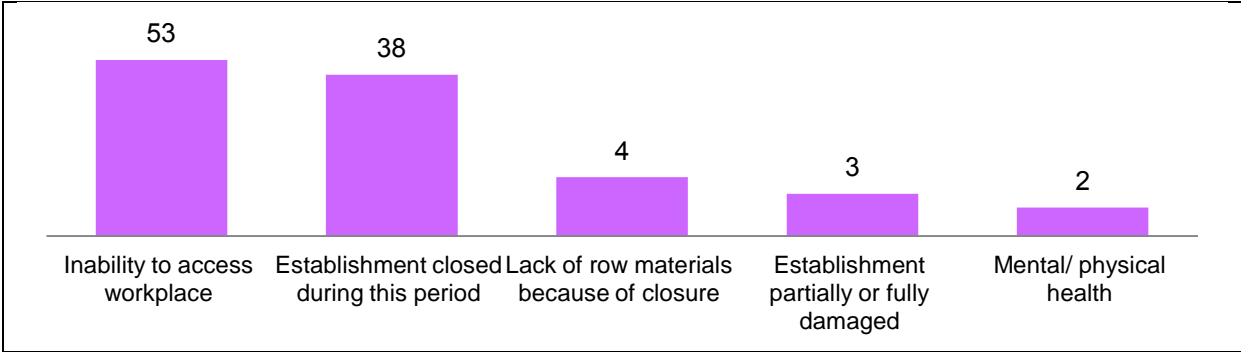
For the wage employees, the findings indicated that 56% of them didn't encounter any changes to their wages, 38% did not receive their pay during the aggression of 2014 as it stopped entirely, while 5% of their wages had decreased.

Percentage Distribution of Wage Employees by Changes on their Wages during the Aggression



An analysis of forced absence during the 2014 aggression showed that 64% of wage employees were forced to stop working. For 75% of them did not receive any compensation for the days absent. The average number of days of forced absence reached 50 days, being 82% for employees forced to be absent from work missed work actually throughout the duration of the aggression.

Percentage Distribution of Persons Forcefully Absent from their Work during the Aggression by Main Reason



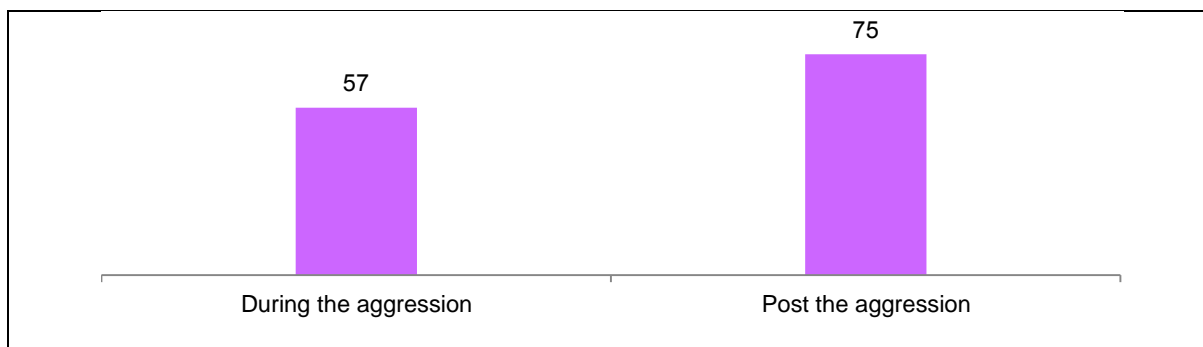
Impact of the Aggression on the Infrastructure:

Main findings showed that 87% of the households in Gaza Strip encountered several cuts a week of water supply from the public network, while 97% of the households endured a daily cut and for limited hours during the day in electricity supply service from the public network.

Receiving Assistance During and After the Aggression:

Main findings showed that 57% of the households in Gaza Strip received assistance during the aggression of 2014, while 75% of the households in Gaza Strip received assistance after the end of aggression.

Percentage of Households which Received Assistance by Period of Receiving Assistance



Type of Assistance:

Findings highlighted that 63% of the households in Gaza Strip received food assistance of total households who received assistance during the aggression, while it reached 82% of the households who received assistance after the end of the aggression. Housing assistance (shelter center, dwelling rent fee and caravan) came next with 13% of the households who received assistance during the aggression and 23% of the households who received assistance after the end of the aggression. Thirdly, Cash assistance reached 9% of the households who received assistance during the aggression and 33% of the households who received assistance during the aggression.

Source of Assistance:

UNRWA represented the main source of assistance, serving 36% of the households who received assistance during the aggression and 60% of the households who received assistance after the end of the aggression. The second main source was Charitable/Religions associations at 14% of the households who received assistance during the aggression and 12% of the households who received assistance after the end of the aggression. Then, International Agencies/Development Institutions, which provided to 12% of households who received assistance during the aggression and 21% of the households who received assistance after the aggression, As for Ministry of Social Affairs. It served 8% of households who received assistance during the aggression, and 26% of the households who received assistance after the end of the aggression.

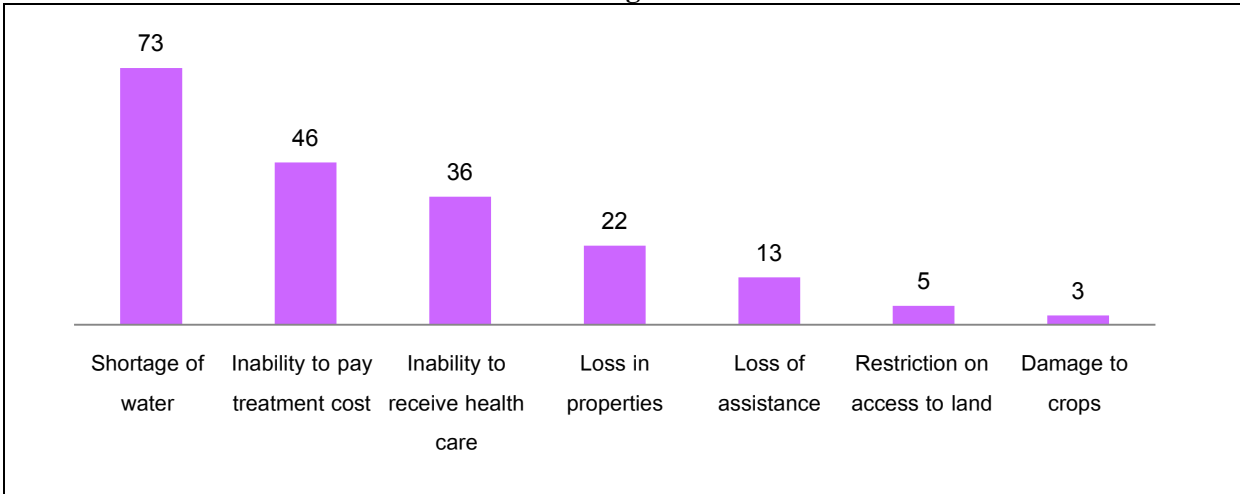
Loans:

Main findings highlighted that 54% of the households in Gaza Strip received loans, advances or debts during the aggression in 2014, while 52% of them received loans, advances or debts during the last 12 months, and that 99% of them spent these loans on living or food. In other field, the percentage of the households that bought their needs of food by debts during the aggression was 58%

Exposure to Shocks:

Main findings showed that 73% of the households in Gaza Strip had one of their members exposed to the lack of water during the second half of 2014, and 46% of them could not afford medication expenses. 36% of them could not receive medical services because of the lack of medicines and tools while 22% of them endured loss in properties.

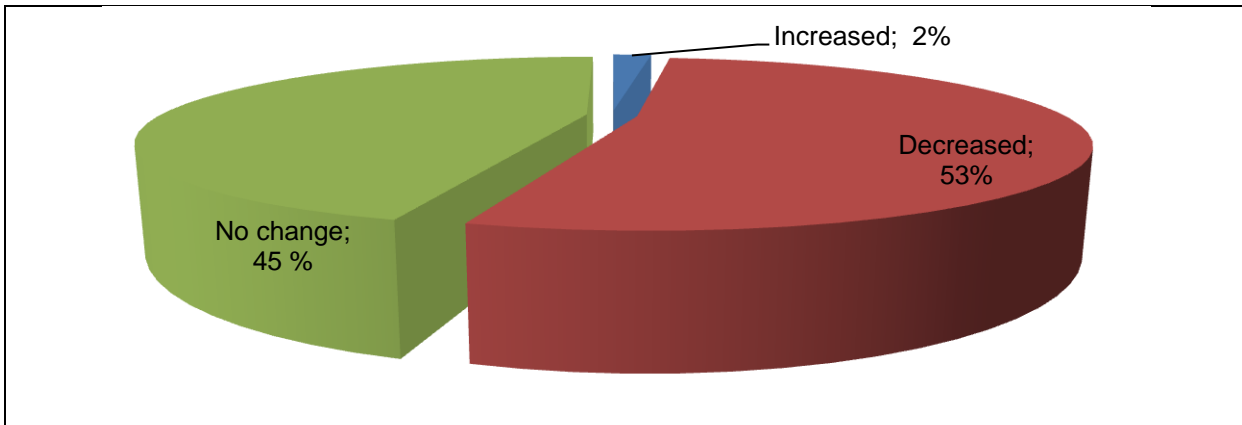
Percentage of Households by Exposure of any Member of the Households to Some Incidents/Shocks during the Second half of 2014



Income Status:

Main findings on income status during the 2014 aggression, compared with the period before the aggression, showed that 45% of the households in Gaza Strip believed they kept their income during the aggression, while the 53% of them thought their income decreased.

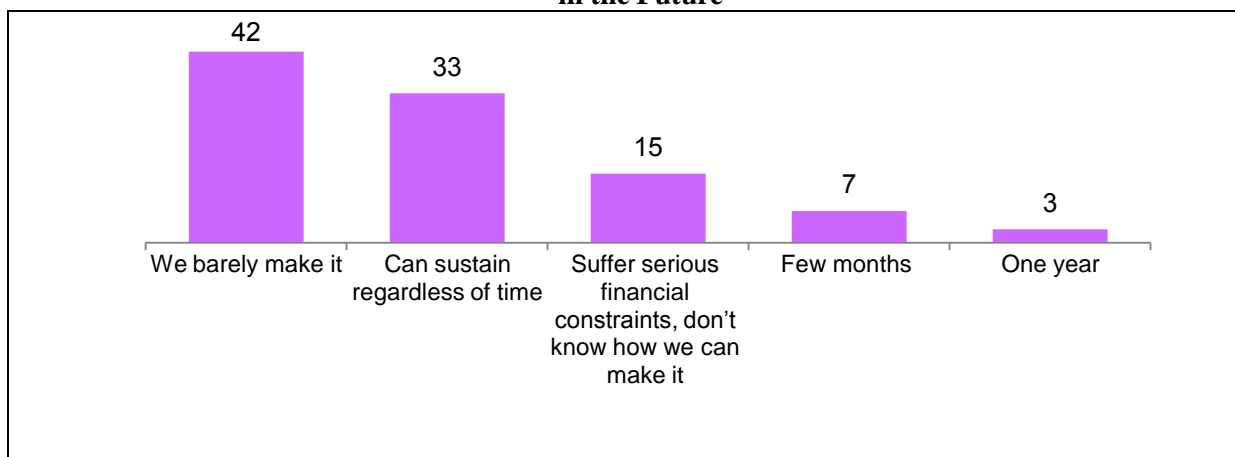
Percentage Distribution of Households by Change of Income During the Aggression



Households' Steadfastness Period:

When households were asked about how long they could sustain themselves financially within the same conditions, 33% of respondents said they could sustain their standard of living for any period. 15% reported facing serious financial instability and that they were not sure how to manage their living. Other responses varied but did not exceed one year of living under decent conditions.

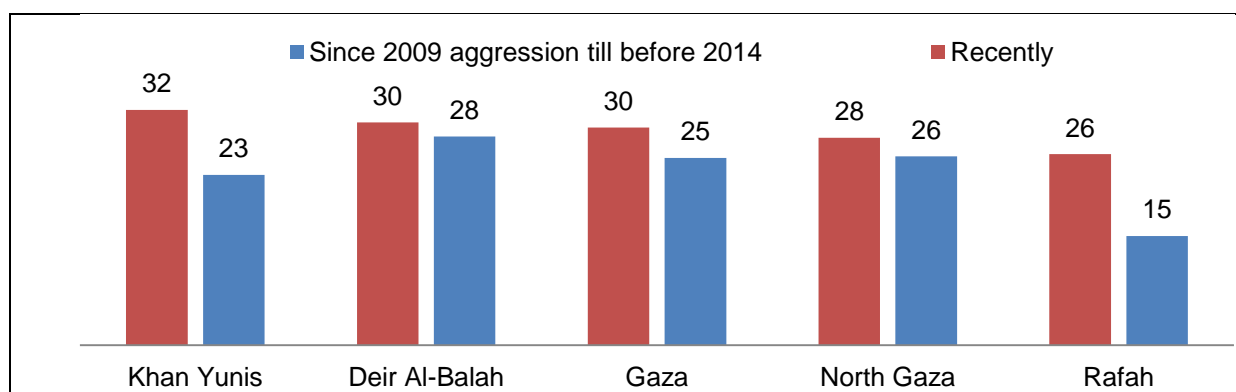
Percentage Distribution of Households by Time Duration that they could Steadfast Financially in the Future



Thinking of Emigration:

Regarding thinking of emigration as a household or any member of the household, 24% of respondents reported they thought about emigration in the period between 2009 till before 2014); this percentage rose to 29% after the aggression.

Percentage of Households or One of their Members that Thought in Emigration by Period and Governorate



Concepts and Definitions

Housing Unit (Dwelling):

A building or part of a building constructed for one household only, with one or more independent entrance leading to the public road without passing through another housing unit. The unit might not be constructed for living purposes but found occupied with a household during the enumeration. Likewise, the unit might be utilized for habitation or for work or both purposes.

Household:

One person or a group of persons with or without a household relationship, who live in the same housing unit, share meals and make joint provision of food and other essentials of living.

Health

Many definitions exist. As defined by the World Health Organization: “A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

Work:

All activities performed by persons in order to gain profit or wage either monthly wage, weekly, daily, on piece for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind. One hour or more of such activity constitutes work. Work also includes unpaid activity on a family farm or business.

Employer:

A person who work in an establishment that is totally or partially belonging to him\ her and hires or supervises the work of one or more waged employees. This includes persons operating their projects or contracting companies provided they employ a minimum of one wage employee. Shareholders are not considered employers even when they work in the shareholding equity.

Employed:

Persons aged 15 years or above who were working for at least one hour during the reference period; or who were not at work during the reference period, but held a job or owned a business from which they were temporarily absent (because of illness, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason). He/she was employer, self-employed, wage employee, unpaid family member or other. The employed person is normally classified in one of two categories according to the number of weekly work hours, i.e. 1–14 work hours and 15 work hours and

Unemployed:

It refers to all persons who did not work at all during the reference period,) not engaged in a certain work) although they are able to work, were available for work and actively seeking work during the reference period. The unemployed persons are normally divided into two categories: Unemployed ever worked and unemployed never worked.

Paid-employed (wage employee):

A person who works for a public or private employer or under its supervision and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tips, piece rates or in kind ...etc. This item includes persons employed in governmental, non – governmental and private institutions along with those employed in a household enterprise in return for a specific remuneration.

Household Expenditure:

It refers to the amount of cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes, and the value of goods and services payments or part of payments received from the employer, and cash expenditure spent as taxes (non-commercial or non-industrial), gifts, contributions, interests on debts and other non-consumption items.

Connection to Public Network (Connection to water resources)

Connection to water resources: this section refers to the types of housing unit's connection to water resources:

1. Public Network: This category applies to Housing units connected to public water networks belonging to the Water Company, municipalities, or municipal councils.
2. Private System: This category applies to Housing units connected to a private water resource providing the household with water. Usually, this type is owned by a group of persons.
3. No piped Water: This category applies to housing units not connected to public water networks nor to private system.

Transportation (Travel)

This concept refers to the movements of the individual (male or female) from one place to another for purposes related to carrying out different activities and using various means of transportation.

Governorate

Governorates were defined according to the official administrative division of the Palestinian Territory for the end of 1997. There are (16) governorates and each governorate consists of Number of localities.

Connection to Public Network (Connection to electricity)

This section refers to the types of housing unit's connection to electricity resources:

1. Public Network: This category applies to housing units connected to public electricity networks belonging to the Electricity Company, municipalities, or municipal councils.
2. Private Generator: This category applies when electricity is provided to the housing unit through a private generator usually owned by the head of household or a group of persons.
3. No Electricity: This category applies to housing units having no access to public network or private generator.