Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Poverty Survey, December 2003

User Guide

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Definitions and Explanations

Poverty
Specific criteria were developed to measure the patterns and trends of the economic welfare of Palestinian families and individuals in the Palestinian Territory (West Bank and Gaza Strip). Poverty statistics are based on an official definition of poverty developed in 1997[1]. The definition combines absolute and relative features and is based on a budget of basic needs for a family of 6 persons (2 adults and 4 children). Two poverty lines have been developed according to actual spending patterns of Palestinian families. The two lines have been adjusted to reflect the different consumption needs of families based on their composition (household size and the number of children).

Deep poverty line
was calculated to reflect a budget for food, clothing and housing

Relative poverty line
adds other necessities including health care, education, transportation, personal care, and housekeeping supplies

Closure
A set of measures have been practiced on land by Israeli occupation during Al-Aqsa Intifada, which affected and impeded the movement of persons and goods between Palestinian governorates or between Palestinian Territory and other countries. However, Israeli closure policy (total or partial) of all border points was a major obstacle

Total Income
The total amount of money and real income, which is earned by households, on monthly basis, regardless of its source

Median
The value above and below in which half total society fall, the 50th percentile. If there is an even number of cases, the median is the average of the two middle cases when they are sorted in ascending or descending order

Aid
Any cash or real humanitarian aid, regardless of the source, that are received by households; due to the deteriorating living conditions, which resulted from measures taken by Israeli occupation forces during Al-Aqsa Intifada

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[1](Poverty in Palestine. Poverty Report, 1998. Methodology)

Survey Questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics after revision of the experience of other countries in implementing Poverty Surveys. The Poverty Survey, December 2003 Questionnaire consists of four main sections:

Household Roster Section: includes demographic variables such as relation to head of household, sex, date of birth, age, refugee status, health and educational status, employment status, occupation and marital status.

Dwelling Conditions: includes variables related to dwelling, such as type of dwelling, type of tenure, number of rooms, dwelling atmosphere, connection to public services, etc...

Expenditure and Consumption groups: includes.

Aid: includes indicators about households who received aid, frequency of receiving aid, type of aid, source of aid, amount of aid, coping strategies of households, etc..

Data Set Linkage

The dataset available to users consists of 7 primary files that are related by identification variables (Keys). Description of the file naming anomalies, size and content is below:

File Name	Content	Identification Variables
main	cover	**ID00**: Household Identification Number
roaster	Household Roaster	**ID00**: Household Identification Number **D1**: Individual Identification Number
hhead	Household head characteristics	**ID00**: Household Identification Number
dwelling	Dwelling characteristics	**ID00**: Household Identification Number
Aid1	Aid section	**ID00**: Household Identification Number
Aid2	Aid value and aid source	**ID00**: Household Identification Number
cons	Monthly consumption	**ID00**: Household Identification Number

Target Population

The target population consists of all Palestinian households that usually reside in the Palestinian Territory..

Sampling Frame

The sampling frame consisted of all enumeration areas (EAs) constructed from the Population Housing and Establishment Census, 1997.

Sample Size:
Different criteria were taken into account when sample size was determined. The level of sampling error for the main indicators was considered, the result could be published at 4 subpopulations (National level, The West Bank Level, Gaza Strip level and Governorate level), and 10% incomplete questionnaire was assumed.

The survey based on a random sample of 3,725 households, of which 3,127 households completed the interview. The completed interviews are distributed by region as 1,899 in the West Bank and 1,228 in the Gaza Strip.

Sample Design:
The sample is a two-stage stratified cluster random sample.
The first stage involved the selection of a stratified random sample comprised of 227 enumeration areas.
The second stage involved the enumeration of the first 16 dwellings from the beginning of each selected enumeration area.

Stratification:
Three levels of stratification were made:
 1. Stratification by West Bank and Gaza Strip.
 2. Stratification by Governorate.
 3. Stratification by type of locality which comprises:
(a) Urban   (b) Rural   (c) refugee Camps

Response Rate

Overall 3,127 of 3,519 questionnaires were completed. The response rate was about 90%.

Weights and Estimations

Weights have been calculated for each sampling unit. Weights reflect the sampling procedures.

In weighing procedure the total Palestinian households in the end year 2003 and their distribution according to the region.

Variance

It is important to calculate the sampling error and to show it beside the estimates. This gives the data user an idea about the efficiency and accuracy of the estimates.

The total survey errors are divided into two types; sampling errors and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling errors arose from implementing data collection and data processing, such as failure to interview the correct unit, mistakes made by the interviewer or the respondent. It is still difficult to estimate non-sampling errors. But many procedures have been adopted to minimize non-sampling errors.

Sampling errors on the other hand are a measure of the variability between all possible samples. Sampling errors can be estimated from the survey results.

Reference Date

The fieldwork started in this survey from 29/11/2003 to 31/12/2003.

Pilot Survey

The aim of the pilot survey was to test all procedures related to the main survey, the questionnaire, training, survey instructions, sample, conducting the interview, data entry and data processing.

The survey took place in October 2003 in Ramallah and Gaza City Governorates; the sample size was 96 households. Three interviewers and one fieldwork coordinator carried out the survey.

The survey results were evaluated by several means through conducting debriefing meeting with fieldwork teams.

Data Collection

1. Recruitment:
The fieldwork directorate at PCBS screened all available applicants. A scale was designed to rank applicants using objective criteria. 85 interviewers, coordinators, editors were selected to work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2. Training:
Fieldwork manuals have been prepared for training. 6-days intensive training course for 85 interviewers was conducted, 55 of them in the West Bank and 30 in Gaza Strip.

The training course for interviewers consisted of:
Classroom lectures on the objectives and organization of the survey.
Detailed explanation of the questionnaire.
The art of asking questions.

Principles of interviewing include demonstration of interview through role-playing and practice interviews.

3. Fieldwork Organization:
Main fieldwork in the West Bank and Gaza Strip started on November 29th, 2003 and was completed on December 31st, 2003.

Six teams in the West Bank and Gaza Strip undertook fieldwork. Each team consisted of 3-4 interviewers and one supervisor.

Field editing was carried by 15 field editor, further spot-checks were introduced if needed. The field editor thoroughly checked and corrected any obvious mistakes.

4. Editing in the Field:
Fieldwork procedures and organization were designed to ensure adequate supervision and the collection of high quality data. To this end, several quality control measures were used including, periodic sudden visits by the professional staff to the field, adequate communications between the central office staff and the field in the form of daily and weekly reporting, observation of interviewers by supervisors, distribution of written memos to the field when confusion arises, adequate documentation of the flow of the questionnaire through control sheets, and limiting call backs to three visits per household.

Data Processing

ACCESS software was used for data entry. A data entry template was designed to reflect the exact image of the questionnaire, and included various electronic checks: logical check, consistency checks and cross-validation. Continuously thorough checks on the overall consistency of the data files and sample allocation were sent back to the field for corrections.

Data entry started on December 7th, 2003 and finished on January 10th, 2004. Data cleaning and checking processes were initiated simultaneously with the data entry. Thorough data quality checks and consistency checks were carried out.

Final tabulation of results was performed using statistical package SPSS for Windows (version 11.5).

Data Quality

Since the data reported here are based on a sample survey and not on complete enumeration, they are subjected to two main types of errors: sampling errors and non-Sampling errors.

Sampling errors are random outcomes of the sample design, and are, therefore, easily measurable.

Non-sampling errors can occur at the various stages of the survey implementation in data collection and data processing, and are generally difficult to be evaluated statistically. They cover a wide range of errors, including errors resulting from non-response, sample frame coverage, data processing and response (both respondent and interviewer-related).

However, several measures were adopted to minimize the effects of these errors on the data. The interviewers, editors, and coders underwent intensive training and were provided with fieldwork manuals to resort when facing any problem.

The data entry program was designed in a way that allows error detection and correction, particularly illogical errors that might not be discovered before data entry. A consistency check, were performed to assure accuracy after data entry.

Derivative Variables

Variable Code	Variable Code in the Questionnaire	Calculation method
D6	D6	Re-coding the variable D6: (1-2=1), (3=2)
D7	D7	Re-coding the variable D7: (1=1), (2-7=2)
D8	D8	Re-coding the variable D8: (8=1), (1-7=2)
HHD7	D7	Re-coding the variable D7: (1=1), (2-7=2)
HHD8	D8	Re-coding the variable D8: (8=1), (1-7=2)
cons	**Part 6:grp1-grp36**	Sum of monthly consumption of (grp1-grp36)
equivn	-	See: Poverty Methodology in Palestine" www.pcbs.org
povstat	-	See: Poverty Methodology in Palestine" www.pcbs.org
povstat2		See: Poverty Methodology in Palestine" www.pcbs.org
io3bnis	I03-B	Sum of aid received by family during last month from all of aid resources