

# **Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics (PCBS)**

**A press Release issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic on the Occasion of the International Woman Day**

**The Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics issued a press release at the Eve of the International Woman Day, within the policy of the Bureau in disseminating statistical data and informing the public about the most recent statistics.**

**About half of the Palestinian society are females at end of 2008  
6.4% of women (15 years and over) are widows and 36.8% are Never married**

By the end of 2008, the estimated population of the Palestinian Territory reached 3.88 million (of which 1.97 million males and 1.91 million females), with sex ratio of 103.1. The life expectancy as in mid-2008 in the Palestinian Territory was 70.2 years for males and 73.0 years for females, (70.6 years for males and 73.6 years for females in the West Bank), and (69.7 years for males and 72.1 years for females in Gaza Strip).

The results of the labour force survey in 2008 showed that more than half of the women (55.4%) aged 15 years and over are currently married, 6.4% are widows, 1.2% are divorcees, 0.3% are separated from their husbands and 36.8% are single (never married).

**90.9% of females 15 years and over are literate**

Females education is one of the most important social rights that lead to equity between males and females towards the sustainable development, during 2008, the percentage of females aged 15 years and over who are enrolled in education is 23.7% versus 21.8% for males. On the other hand, the data for the same period showed that 9.1% of the Palestinian females aged 15 years and over are illiterate versus 2.9% for males, and 15.1% of females are holding Elementary certificate compared with 17.4% for males, and 7.6% of females holds bachelor degree and above compared with 14.9% for males.

**labor force participation rate for females (15 years and over) in the Palestinian Territory is still low at about 15.2% against 66.8% for males, while unemployment rate for females reached 23.8% in 2008**

Data for 2008 showed that, The labor force participation rate for females (15 years and over), in the Palestinian Territory reached 15.2% compared with 66.8% for males. In the West Bank, This rate was 17.1% for females compared with 68.3% for males; while in Gaza Strip was 11.7% for females and 64.0% for males. The highest rate was among Rural females at 18.7% then 14.3% in Urban and 12.7% in Camps.

Unemployment rate for females, (15 years and over), registered 23.8% compared with 26.5% for males. Unemployment rate among females who completed 13 years of education and

above was higher than the males; it was 34.9% for females compared with 18.6% for males in the same mentioned period.

As for females participation by economic activities, the highest participation percentage was in agricultural sector, foresting, hunting, and fishing at 27.5%. The highest participation for females in the service sector was in education at 31.7% followed by health at 8.8%.

**61.2% of households headed by females in the Palestinian Territory are poor as in 2007**

The percentage of poverty among households headed by females was 61.2% compared with 56.9% for the households headed by males in the Palestinian Territory in 2007, the difficult condition due to the Israeli measures against the Palestinians is a major cause of the increasing prevalence of poverty among households. The poverty rate among households headed by females that has 7 children and more is 79.7% and 68.6% for households with 5-6 children and the poverty rate has declined for the households with the least number of children as they hit 49.3% of households with 1-2 Childs in 2007.

**330 females martyr over the past eight years, and the number of female prisoners are 60 women at the end of 2008**

While the world celebrate for freedom and independence, Palestinian detainees are still locked up behind the bars of the Israeli occupation. According to the latest statistics on the number of prisoners at the end of 2008, approximately 10,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, 60 of them are women, 68% of women are sentenced, the rest are waiting for trail and in administrative detention. Since the beginning of al-Aqsa intifada in 2000 until the end of 2008, there were 330 female martyr

**10% of the Palestinian judges are females and more than half of employed in nursing sector are females in 2007**

The percentage of females in the Ministries Council is 9.5% 2007 compared with 4.0% in 2006. The percentage of females who are employed as journalists in the Palestinian Territory is 14.3% of the total number of journalists during 2008. About 10% of the total number of judges are females in 2007.

For the health sector, Ministry of Health data for 2007, indicated that 54.8% of the total employees in nursing are females, compared with 45.2% for males. Meanwhile, the gap of the gender increases for the favor of males reach 80.7% compared with 19.3% females for dentists, and 58.8% of males are employed as pharmacists compared with 41.2% for females.