



**Palestinian National Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**Elderly People in the Palestinian Territory
Facts and Figure**

Executive Summary

Elderly population in world increasing interests in the field of elderly, and increase in their number in the world. The statistics totaled about 461 million representing 7.0% of the total world population in 2004, and the figure is increasing annually by 10.3 millions, world wide interests is increasing with issue of elderly. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics produced this report to study the situation of elderly in the Palestinian Territory. This report defines the elderly people as of age 65 years and over, the following briefly describes the main indicators of elderly people in the Palestinian Territory.

- Number of elderly in the Palestinian Territory in mid year 2005 are 114.8 thousands person (49.3 thousands males and 65.5 thousands females), and expected to reach in 2010 to 125.5 thousand persons, increased by a rate of 9.3% compared with the year 2005, while the number of elderly will reach to 171.5 thousand persons in the year 2020, increased by a rate of 49.4% compared with the year 2005. The percentage of elderly people will continue a stable figure during the next years that can be referred to high fertility rate especially in Gaza Strip at age structure.
- The elderly represent 3.1% in the Palestinian Territory, it was noticed that statistical variation exist by region where it registered 3.3% in the West Bank compared with 2.6% in Gaza Strip and it is higher for females than of males 3.5% and 2.6% respectively, the sex ratio is 75.2 male per 100 female.
- The life expectancy for old women is higher than old men world with situation and this is referred to health and biological factor. The life expectancy in the Palestinian Territory is 71.5 years for males and 73.0 years for females, compared with 72 years for males and 79 years for females in the Developed Countries and 63 years for males and females in other Developing Countries.
- The percentage of elderly in the Palestinian Territory is expected to constitute the same percentage of the total population at 3.0% in 2020, it is low percentage compared to the percentage of developed countries at 15% of the total population while it reach for other developing countries 5% of the total population.
- Data revealed that 18.3% of the Palestinian households are with one old person, while elderly head 12.2% of households. The mean household size in the Palestinian Territory was 5.7 persons in 2004; 4.2 persons the households for the headed by elderly people compared with 6.4 for the households headed by not elderly.
- 9.1% of the old people in the Palestinian Territory are widowed males compared with 55.5% for old females, this differences between old males widowed and old females widowed related to increase of the life expectancy of female compared with males in all countries and the probability of re marriage for males after deceases his wife higher than females re marriage after decease of her husband.

- 9.6% of the elderly are participating in the labor force in the Palestinian Territory for 2004 compared with 9.8% in Israel and about 6.0% in United Kingdom, where about 67% of Palestinian elderly employees are self-employed and 12.3% of Palestinian elderly employees are wage employees.
- Data revealed that elderly people in the Palestinian Territory did not have good education opportunities, where 81.5% of elderly did not complete any education stage in 2004, this represents 61.1% of illiterate individuals age 15 years and over. Data showed that only 3.6% completed Associate diploma. A significant variation exists among elderly males and females, where percentages of males who did not complete any educational stage 67.2% compared with 92.4% among females, this can be referred to lack of opportunities due to involvement of family members in agriculture activities and particularly females.
- 49.4% of the elderly in the Palestinian Territory are suffering from chronic diseases, 33.8% are suffering from Hypertension diseases and 6.1% are suffering from Ulcer diseases.
- 40.6% of elderly in the Palestinian Territory did not suffer from any diseases, it was noticed that statistical variation exists by region where it registered 36.2% in the West Bank compared with 50.5% in Gaza Strip and it is higher for males than of females 49.9% and 33.6% respectively.
- 8.7% of the elderly are disabled compared with 1.7% for all persons in the Palestinian Territory, and 35.2% of disabled elderly are suffering from Moving disability and 27.3% of elderly are suffering from Seeing disability.
- 42.1% of the elderly are under the poverty line, representing about 4.9% of all poor people in the Palestinian Territory, with a significant variation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where it reached 38.4% in West Bank and 50.1% in Gaza Strip based on the results of poverty survey that was conducted in 2003.
- 14 hours and 35 minutes are being spent daily by elderly in personal care and self-maintenance activities¹, 17 hours and 16 minutes are spent daily at home, in addition to one hour and 15 minutes in other activities home.
- Data showed that 82.0% of the elderly in the Palestinian Territory are satisfied with food that they consumed and 81.9% are satisfied with their personal safety, 74.4% are satisfied with the housing and environmental conditions while 43.5% of them are satisfied with social security.

¹ Personal and Self Care Activity: this concept refers to the work carried out by the individual (male or female) to meet his biological and other personal and self care needs such as sleep and other related activities (such as staying awake in the bed); preparing and arranging the bed to sleep; relaxing in the bed because of sickness... etc. Other similar activities involve having meals and drinks; personal health care (having a shower, dressing...etc); relaxing while doing nothing; praying and personal religious contemplation (praying, praising God, reading religious books; and movement from one place to another for purposes related to carrying out such activities.