

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Declare the Press Release in the Occasion of the World Water Day “Coping With Water Scarcity” Which Encounter in March 22,

**The Quantity of Water Purchased in the West Bank from Israeli Water Company (Mekorot) Amounted to 40 million m³ in 2006
70,103 Households in the Palestinaian Territory do not Have Public Water Network in 2006**

'Coping with Water Scarcity' is the theme for World Water Day 2007, which is celebrated each year on 22 March. This year's theme highlights the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both at international and local levels.

The theme was decided among all members of UN Water at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2006¹.

This is a more obvious and acute problem in the Palestinian Territory, which suffers from water deficiency, and has no control on the limited resources which controlled by the Israeli authority, as Palestinians are deprived from legal share of water. A major issue is that water resources are very limited and do not meet the needs of the existing population and coming generations.

Water Sources:

About 40 million m³ the Quantity of Water Purchased from Israeli Water Company (Mekorot) in the West Bank in 2006

Water resources in the Palestinian Territory are restricted mainly to ground water that abstracted from wells and springs and water purchased from Israeli Water Company (Mekorot).

According to Water Authority² data, the quantity of water purchased by the West Bank from Israeli Water Company (Mekorot) was 39.73 million m³ in 2006 in the West Bank. The highest quantity of water purchased was in August and reached 4.2 million m³ and the lowest was in February with 2.4 million m³.

The annual available water quantity in the Palestinian Territory (water abstracted from wells and springs and water purchased from Israeli Water Company (Mekorot)) was 315.21 million m³ in 2005.

And the quantity of water pumped from wells in the Palestinian Territory reached to 214.66 million m³ for domestic and agricultural uses, of them 57.76 million m³ in the West Bank and about 156.90 million m³ in Gaza Strip. Data also show that the average annual discharge of springs was 53.64 million m³ in 2005, and its important to know that springs existence is restricted in the West Bank governorates.

¹ UN. World Water Day- Coping with Water Scarcity. <<http://www.unwater.org/wwd07/flashindex.html>>

² Water Authority, 2007. Primary data subjected to be changed.

Israeli Settlement Consumed About 2.2 million m³ of Water From the Wells Which are Located in the Palestinian Territory and Controlled by Mekorot

According to Palestinian Water Authority the Israeli Settlement in the West Bank consumed about 2.2 million m³ of water in 2006, from the wells which are located in the Palestinian Territory and controlled by Mekorot.

The Unequal distribution and Sharing of Water Between the Palestinians and the Israelis:

The Israeli Settler Use Far More Water Nearly Nine Times as Much Water per Person in the Palestinian Territory the Total Water Use in Israel is Seven and A Half Times Higher than What the Palestinian Territory Consume.

Data show that the quantity of water supplied for domestic use in the Palestinian Territory was 153.18 million m³ in 2005, and that the quantity of supplied water for domestic use per capita was 119.4 (liter/capita/day) in the Palestinian Territory distributed as 96.8 (liter/capita/day) in the West Bank and 154 (liter/capita/day) in Gaza Strip.

Unequal sharing of water is reflected in very large discrepancies in water use between Israelis and Palestinians. According to Human Development Report 2006³ the Israelis population is not quite twice the size of the Palestinians population, but its total water use is seven and a half times higher. In the West Bank Israeli settlers use far more water per capita than Palestinians, nearly nine times as much as much water per person as Palestinians. By any standard, these are large disparities.

The World Health Organization recommend 100 liters of water per person per day as the minimum quantity for basic consumption. This amount includes, in addition to domestic use, consumption in hospitals, schools, businesses, and other public institutions.

Conection to Public Water Network:

70,103 Households do not have Public Water Network in 2006

Household Environmental Survey⁴ Results 2006 indicated that 88.6% of households in the Palestinian Territory are living in housing units connected to water public network, (which means that 70,103 households do not have public water network), this percentage distributed into 84.1% of households in the West Bank, against 97.3% of households in Gaza Strip. During 2006 there were 5.2% of the households in the Palestinian Territory depending on the household water wells as a main water source.

Household Water Quality

50.6% of Households in the Palestinian Territory Consider the Public Water Network Quality as Good

Data of the 2006 survey revealed that 50.6% of the households in the Palestinian Territory consider the water quality as good, and this percentage increase in the West Bank to reach 77.9% compared with 4.5% in Gaza Strip.

³ United Nations Development Program, 2006. Human Development Report-2006. New York- USA.

⁴ Palesinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2006. Household Environmental Survey - Ramallah. -Palestine.

Availability of Domestic Wells

Results of 2006 survey showed that domestic rainwater wells are available and being used for 41.3% of households in the West Bank, while there is no domestic wells in Gaza Strip (it was 43.5% for the West Bank in 2005). On the region level 66.2% of households in the North of West Bank and 20.3% in the Middle of the West Bank use their domestic rainwater wells.