

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Press Release on Statistical Monitoring of the Socio-Economic Conditions of the Palestinian Society (First Quarter- 2004)

This report shows the impact of Israeli measures on the social and economic conditions, specifically the impact on population distribution and demographic characteristics; the living conditions of households and individuals; the levels of poverty; the education sector; the health sector, the labor market, and, the other sectors of the Palestinian economy, Data, as shown in the report, indicate that the Palestinian society suffers from several problems such as high population density; high unemployment rate; high levels of poverty; difficulty in getting to schools, universities and health centers; destruction of buildings and infrastructure; and losses in the Palestinian economy.

Size of Population and Distribution

In mid 2003 the estimated population in the Palestinian Territory was 3.648 million of which 1.848 million were males and 1.800 million were females, the sex ratio was 102.5 males for every 100 females. 2.314 millions were in the West Bank of which 1.173 million were males and 1.141 million were females, the sex ratio was 102.8 males for every 100 females. about 1.334 million were in Gaza Strip of which 675 thousand were males and 659 thousand were females. The sex ratio was 102.4 males for every 100 females.

Labor Market in the Palestinian Territory

As a result of Israeli measures, 144,932 Palestinians lost their jobs, 99,000 of whom worked in the Israeli labor market, The number of the unemployed rose sharply in the first quarter 2004 as compared to the third quarter 2000. It rose from 74 thousand persons in the third quarter 2000 to 215 thousand in the first quarter 2004, i.e. it rose by 190.5%. Unemployment in the West Bank rose sharply in the first quarter 2004. It rose from 38 thousand persons in the third quarter 2000 to 137 thousand persons in the first quarter 2004. While in Gaza Strip it rose from 36 thousand persons in the third quarter 2000 to 78 thousand persons in the first quarter 2004.

The Impact of Expansion and Annexation Wall on Education and Health Sectors in Areas Affected by the Wall

Data showed that 15 schools have been isolated. They provide educational services to 2,751 male and female pupils/students who have been directly influenced due to their isolation from their schools. They encounter great difficulties of movement and getting to those schools daily. And The results of the survey on the impact of Israeli measures on the economic conditions of Palestinian households during the first quarter 2004, showed that 51.0% of Palestinian households in the Palestinian Territory reported that Israeli siege formed a barrier to obtaining health services,

62.7% of them are in the West Bank and 27.8% in Gaza Strip. 48.2% of households reported that the high cost of medical treatment impeded the obtainment of health services .

Population Displacement

Israel displaced about 402 households and 2,323 persons from Palestinian cities, villages and towns affected by the Expansion and Annexation Wall. 12,482 households (42,097 persons) were isolated west of the Expansion and Annexation Wall. It is noticed that Jerusalem governorate had the highest share of displacement and isolation measures, where in 130 households (637 persons) were displaced and 10,040 households (27,220 persons) were isolated west of the Expansion and Annexation Wall. This means that the Israeli government basically focuses on the city on which tedious negotiations to get Israel to recognize the Eastern part of it as a Capital of the Palestinian State.

Gross Direct Losses

Gross losses in consequence to the siege and occupation measures during the period from 1st October 2000 to 31st December 2002 amounted to 4,940.4 million U.S. dollars i.e. a monthly average loss of 182.9 million U.S.