

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of Palestinian Households

Press Conference on the Survey Results

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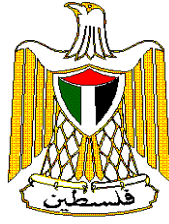
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Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of Palestinian Households

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Press Release
**On the Main Findings of the Survey on the Impact of Israeli Measures on
the Economic Conditions of the Palestinian Households**

“More than two million Palestinians live below the poverty line”

PCBS conducted a survey on the impact of Israeli measures on the economic conditions of the Palestinian households. Data collection took place during the period 10/3/2001 – 5/4/2001.

The main objective of the survey is to produce a baseline on the economic conditions of the Palestinian households, and to monitor the changes on their standard of living as the Israeli measures continue against the PNA and the Palestinian population.

The survey is based on a random sample of 2915 households, of which 2394 households completed the interview. The completed interviews were distributed by region to 1610 in the West Bank and 784 in Gaza Strip.

Household's income:

The results indicated that 10.7% (57,300) of the households reported that they lost their sources of income during Al-aqsa Intifada, of which 10.3% (37600) in the West Bank and 11.5% (19700) in Gaza Strip. About 49.2% of households reported that they lost more than 50% of their usual income during the last six months, of which 47.7% in West Bank and 52.0% in Gaza Strip.

According to survey results, the median monthly income has decreased by 48% (from 2300 NIS to 1200 NIS). This decrease varies by region, the median monthly income decreased in the West Bank from 2,600 NIS to 1500 NIS, while in Gaza Strip it decreased from 1,800 NIS to 900 NIS. Comparing this result to the estimated poverty line for the year 2000 (1622 NIS for a household composed of two adults and four children), 64.2% of the Palestinian households (2,107,400 individuals) are expected to be living below the poverty line. This figure reached 55.7% in the West Bank against 81.4% in Gaza Strip.

Coping with the current economic conditions:

Eighty one percent of the households reported that they reduced their expenditures, 55.4% delayed paying bills, 41.6% used their savings, 35.9% borrowed money to cover their expenditures, whereas 18.2% sold the wife's Jewelry or part of it, 12.1% cultivated some land and/or bred livestock, and about 0.6% of households (or one of its members) have changed their place of residence.

Access to health services

The results indicate that 52.3% of surveyed households encountered serious obstacles try to obtain health services due to Israeli measures. About 57.9% of the households reported to suffer due to the inability of professional health staff to reach the health centers, 64.4% reported having difficulties paying for the required health care, and 24.4% reported difficulties due to far distance between residence and location of health centers.

Humanitarian Aid

48.1% of interviewed household reported that they received humanitarian assistance during the Intifada, of which 35.1% in the West Bank against 71.0% in Gaza Strip. About 46.5% of the household reported receiving humanitarian aid expressed their satisfaction of this assistance, of which 48.9% in the West Bank and 45.1% in Gaza Strip. On the other hand 30.8% of the households reported that they did not receive any assistance although they were in need of it. This percentage in the West Bank is 37.6% against 18.9% in Gaza Strip.

About 59.1% of the household reported receiving humanitarian aid reported that the total amount the received assistance is less than U.S \$25, 84.9% less than \$50, 87.7% less than \$100, while 12.3% received an assistant of \$100 or more.

Concerning the frequency of providing the assistance for households, UNRWA occupied the highest rank which was about 60.4%, then comes PNA by 17.8%, then Al-Zakat committees (Charity) by 6.2%, ministry of social affairs by 4.6% charity institutions by 5.3%, and 3.8% by political parties.

The results revealed also that 78.7% of the assistance were in the form of food supplies, 20.5% were in cash, and the rest about (0.8%) in the form of clothes, health insurance and medicine.

Finally, the results indicated that 3.2% of the households usually receive financial assistance from relatives abroad, of them 84.4% received such assistance during the Intifada. The survey indicated clear discrepancy between West Bank and Gaza Strip in this regard. While 4.5% of the households in the West Bank reported they usually receive financial assistance from relatives abroad, this figure in Gaza Strip reached 0.8%.

Concepts and Definitions

Closure:

A set of measures have been practiced on land by Israeli occupation during Al-Aqsa Intifada, affected and impeded the movement of persons and goods between Palestinian governorates or between Palestinian Territory and other countries including Israel through total or partial closure of all boarder points.

Total Income:

The total quantity of monetary and real incomes, which is earned by household monthly, regardless of its source.

Median:

The value above and below which half the cases 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 navels, regarding of its source, which received by households; because of deep dropping in living conditions resulted from measures of Israeli occupation forces during Al-Aqsa Intifada.

Manpower:

All persons in the West Bank and Gaza Strip aged 15 years and over.

Unemployed:

Unemployed persons are those individuals 15 years and over who did not work at all during the reference week, who were not absent from a job and were available for work and actively seeking a job during the reference week. Persons who work in Israel and were absent from work due to closure are considered unemployed.

Summary of Main Indicators

(Standard Household Size is Two Adults and Four Children)

Indicators	Estimate		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The Impact of the Current Situation on the Following:			
Household's Income			
Percentage of Households bellow poverty line	64.2	55.7	81.4
Number of Households bellow poverty line	343,280	203,230	140,050
Number of Individuals bellow poverty line	2,107,400	1,158,400	949,000
Percentage of Households had no source of income (Before Intifada)	3.4	2.0	5.8
Percentage of Households do not have any source of income (During Intifada)	14.1	12.3	17.3
The median amount of money that a Household need to satisfy its basic needs (NIS)	1,800	2,000	1,500
The median of Household's income before Intifada (NIS)	2,300	2,600	1,800
The median of Household's income during March, 2001(NIS)	1,200	1,500	900
Percentage of Households lost more than half of their income during the last six months	49.2	47.7	52.0
Changing Place of Residence			
Number of Households (or one of its members)changed their place of residence	3,200	2,500	700
Obstacles to Accessibility of Health Services			
Percentage of Households who faced difficulties to pay fees.	64.4	50.0	89.8
Inability for medical staff to reach health centers	57.9	48.1	75.2
Remoteness of health centers	24.4	16.0	39.1
Inability for households to reach health centers because of Israeli measures	52.3	53.3	50.6
Coping with Current Situation			
Percentage of Households used their savings	41.6	43.6	38.3
Percentage of Households sold or mortgaged lands or buildings	1.5	1.5	1.4
Percentage of Households sold wives' Jewel or part of it	18.2	13.4	26.7
Percentage of Households worked in farming or breeding livestock	12.1	16.3	4.8
Percentage of Households reduced their expenditures	81.0	83.1	77.4
Percentage of Households sent at least one family member to work a broad	2.3	2.9	1.2

Indicators	Estimate		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Percentage of Households postponed paying bills	55.4	62.2	43.5
Percentage of Households borrowed money	35.9	36.0	35.7
Percentage of Households borrowed from banks or financial Institution	5.4	2.8	10.0
Assistance			
Percentage of Households who usually receive remittances from abroad	3.2	4.5	0.8
Out of Households usually receive remittances from abroad, the percentage of Households who reported receiving remittances during Intifada	84.4	84.0	88.0
Percentage of Households who received humanitarian aid during Intifada	48.1	35.1	71.0
Out of the Households who received humanitarian aid during Intifada, the percentage of Households who are satisfied with assistance	46.5	48.9	45.1
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance, although did not receive it	30.8	37.6	18.9
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 25 US\$	59.1	40.0	73.2
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 50 US\$	84.9	85.6	84.5
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 100 US\$	87.7	89.5	86.3
Percentage of Households who received assistance of 100 US\$ or more	12.3	10.5	13.7
Median of total in-kind assistance in US\$	17	24	17
Median of total in-cash assistance in US\$	146	37	146
Source of Humanitarian Aid			
Frequency of providing assistance by UNRWA (%)	60.4	40.2	72.4
Frequency of providing assistance by Ministry of Social Affairs (%)	4.6	4.7	4.4
Frequency of providing assistance by other PNA Institutions (%)	17.8	25.5	13.2
Frequency of providing assistance by Charity (Zakat) Committees (%)	6.2	12.1	2.7
Frequency of providing assistance by Political Parties (%)	3.8	7.5	1.6
Frequency of providing assistance by Charity Institutions (%)	5.3	5.2	5.3
Median Value of Assistance in US\$ by Source			
UNRWA	17	37	17
Ministry of Social Affairs	17	24	15
Other PNA Institutions	146	29	146
Charity (Zakat) Committees	24	24	17
Political Parties	24	24	24
Charity Institutions	24	24	24
Types of Humanitarian Aid			
Food assistance received by Households as a percentage of over all assistance	78.7	67.8	85.2
In-cash assistance received by Households as a percentage of overall assistance	20.5	30.1	14.7
Other assistance received by Households as a percentage of overall assistance	0.8	2.2	0.1
First Priority Needs of the Households			
Percentage of Households who indicated that food is their first priority	30.9	39.5	15.7
Percentage of Households who indicated that money is their first priority	32.6	21.6	52.0
Percentage of Households who indicated that medicine is their first priority	5.4	7.9	0.9

Indicators	Estimate		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Percentage of Households who indicated that finding jobs is their first priority	14.9	13.1	18.0
Percentage of Households who indicated that security is their first priority	4.2	5.0	2.8
Percentage of Households who indicated that having a house is their first priority	5.3	6.4	3.5

Table 1: Percentage of Households Living Below Poverty Line of Year 2000 by Type of Locality

Type of Locality	Below Poverty Line (%)	Above Poverty Line (%)	Total
Urban	61.1	38.9	100
Rural	63.0	37.0	100
Camp	78.7	21.3	100

Table 2: Percentage of Households Living Below Poverty Line of Year 2000 by Region

Region	Below Poverty Line (%)	Above Poverty Line (%)	Total
West bank	55.7	44.3	100
Gaza Strip	81.4	18.6	100
Palestinian Territory	64.2	35.8	100

**Table 3: Percentage of Households Living Below Poverty Line
of year 2000 by Household Size**

Households Size (Number of Persons)	Below Poverty Line (%)	Above Poverty line (%)	Total
1	60.5	39.5	100
2	56.6	43.4	100
3	56.3	44.7	100
4	52.4	47.6	100
5	54.9	45.1	100
6	59.6	40.4	100
7	68.5	31.5	100
8	70.5	29.5	100
9	74.6	25.4	100
10	74.6	25.4	100
11 and More	79.1	20.9	100

**Table 4: Percentage of Households Whose Income Decreased by
Size of Decrease and Type of locality**

Type of locality	Size of Decrease			
	(0-24)%	(25-49)%	(50-74)%	75%+
Urban	25.1	28.5	17.2	29.2
Rural	21.7	26.9	22.1	29.3
Camp	28.1	21.0	10.2	40.3
Total	24.2	27.0	18.2	30.6

Table 5: Households Reported Increase In Time to Reach Vital Places Compared to the Period Prior to Intifada by Increase of Time (Minutes) and Type of Place (%)

Increasing of Time (Minutes)	Type of Vital Place				
	Shopping Center	Health Center	Primary School	Usual Place of Work	Governorate Center
Below zero*	4.6	3.1	4.6	19.9	3.2
Zero	77.6	86.4	92.1	61.3	71.1
1-29	8.3	5.9	2.0	6.3	10.2
30-59	6.8	2.4	0.3	4.7	11.1
60+	2.7	2.2	1.0	7.8	4.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100

* There is a decrease of time needed to reach vital place.

Table 6: Households Reported Increase in Time to Reach Usual Place of Work Compared to the Period Prior to Intifada by Increase of Time and Governorate- West Bank (%)

Increase of Time (Minutes)	Governorate										
	Jenin	Tubas	Tulkarm	Nablus	Qalqiliya	Salfit	Ramallah & Al-Bireh	Jericho	Jerusalem	Beith-lehem	Hebron
Below zero*	22.1	5.2	9.5	3.7	42.3	11.1	25.5	3.1	9.9	10.8	22.3
Zero	60.6	77.0	71.8	77.8	47.7	54.0	51.5	96.9	73.8	48.4	40.8
1-29	1.3	2.5	4.0	3.0	0.7	7.9	6.7	0.0	8.5	12.3	10.5
30-59	3.9	1.3	3.9	3.9	3.4	11.1	2.9	0.0	5.9	18.0	7.8
60+	12.0	14.0	10.8	11.6	5.9	15.9	13.4	0.0	1.9	10.5	18.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

*There is a decrease in time needed to reach usual place of work.

Table 7: Households Reported Increase in Time to Reach Usual Place of Work Compared to the Period Prior to Intifada by Increase of Time and Governorate Gaza Strip (%)

Increase of Time (Minutes)	Governorate				
	North Gaza	Gaza	Deir Al-Balah	Khan-Yunis	Rafah
Below zero	35.2	24.7	34.0	22.4	30.1
Zero	60.4	70.6	48.2	64.7	55.0
1 – 29	4.4	3.4	13.6	5.7	7.8
30 – 59	0.0	0.0	2.9	6.1	4.2
60+	0.0	1.2	0.5	1.1	2.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100

*There is a decrease in time needed to reach usual place of work.

Table 8: Important Factors In Selecting Food Commodity and Region

Region	Households Distribution by Factor %		
	Factor Type		
	Manufacture Place (Trade Mark)	Price	Quality
West Bank	50.0	88.7	85.2
Gaza Strip	60.8	99.0	78.4
Palestinian Territory	53.6	92.1	82.9

Table 9: Important Factors in Selecting Clothes and Region

Region	Households Distribution by Factor %		
	Factor Type		
	Manufacture Place (Trade Mark)	Price	Quality
West Bank	35.0	89.9	82.4
Gaza Strip	54.1	98.5	70.9
Palestinian Territory	41.3	92.7	78.6

Table 10: The Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over from the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Characteristics and Place of Residence

Place of Residence	Employed (%)	Unemployed ever worked (%)		Total (%)
		Due to closure	Other reasons	
North- West Bank	63.6	26.0	10.4	100
Mid- West Bank	81.6	13.3	5.1	100
South- West Bank	79.5	19.2	1.3	100
Gaza Strip	69.0	26.0	5.0	100
Palestinian Territory	72.2	21.9	5.9	100

Table 11: The Percentage Distribution of Currently Employed Persons (Those Who Work in Different Places from the Place of Residence) by Absence from Work During the Israeli Closure and Place of Residence

Place of Residence	Employed absent due to closure (%)	Employed didn't absent from work during the closure (%)	Total (%)
West Bank	25.7	74.3	100
Gaza Strip	14.8	85.2	100
Total	23.0	77.0	100