



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Press Conference about the Results of

**Local Community Survey in the Palestinian
Territory: 2003**

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Local Community Survey in the Palestinian Territory: 2003

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Important Note:

According to the administrative classification of the Ministry of Local Governments (An Nueirat, Al Bureij, and Al Maghazi) are municipalities, while these localities were classified as refugee camps in this report for statistical purposes.

Press Release about the Main Results of Local Community Survey 2003

205 Localities (34%) do not have public water network, and 79 localities (13%) do not have electricity network

PCBS conducted the third round of the local community survey in the Palestinian Territory during the period 11/06/2003-10/07/2003. This survey is an important information tool for developing the Palestinian localities.

1. Population:

Population projections reveal that mid year population in 2003 totaled 3,634,495 persons, of whom 2,304,825 in the West Bank and 1,329,670 in Gaza Strip.

2. Local Communities:

According to the official list of local authorities adopted by PCBS and the ministry of local governments, there are 686 localities in the Palestinian Territory. The localities are distributed by type as 54 urban, 603 rural, and 29 refugee camps. (For the purpose of this survey 76 localities were excluded in the presentation of the results due to the fact that some of them are not populated or affiliated in terms of administration and services to other localities).

3. Local Authorities:

There are 521 local authorities in the Palestinian Territory distributed by type as 107 municipalities, 11 local councils, 374 village council or project committee, and 29 director of refugee camp. It is worth mentioning that 99 local authorities provide services for more than one locality.

The results reveal that the total local authorities members are 3,779, of which 3,713 males against 66 females (1.7%). All female members are in the West Bank local authorities.

The results indicate also that 98 local authorities reported the need of upgrading the capacity of technical and administrative staff, 68 reported the need for computers, while 189 reported the need for premises and funding development projects.

4. Water:

205 localities in the Palestinian Territory do not have public water network (34%), of which 204 in the West Bank. The results reveal also that 42 localities were connected to public water network after 1998, of which 35 in the West Bank.

5. Electricity:

79 localities in the Palestinian Territory are not connected to public electricity network (13%), and 53 localities were connected to public electricity network after 1998.

6. Wastewater:

The results of the survey reveal that 63 localities (less than 10%) are connected to public sewage system, of which 46 localities in the West Bank. In addition 545 localities use cesspit for wastewater disposal, 521 in the West Bank and 24 in Gaza Strip.

The results reveal also that 25 localities were connected to public sewage system after 1998, of which 18 in the West Bank and 7 in Gaza Strip.

7. Solid Waste:

The results reveal that 193 (32%) localities do not have the services of collecting solid waste. The local authorities provide collecting solid waste services in 328 localities, of which 309 in the West Bank and 19 in Gaza Strip; while private contractors collect the solid waste in 13 localities of which 12 in the West Bank.

The result about the dumping sites indicate that there are 194 dumping sites in the Palestinian Territory, of which 189 in the West Bank, and 5 in Gaza Strip. There are 99 dumping sites used by one locality, and 94 used by more than one locality.

Concepts and Definitions

Locality:	A permanently inhabited place, with an independent municipal administration or other type of adopted administration.
Irrigated Area:	Irrigation refers to purposely providing land with water, other than rain, for improving pasture or crop production.
Arable Land:	Land that is used mostly every year, for growing temporary crops.
Confiscated and Military Closed Area:	Land that belongs to Palestinians and could not be cultivated because it was confiscated or closed by military law
Public Water Network:	A net of pipes for the purpose of providing clean water to households. It normally belongs to a municipality, the council or to a private company.
Electricity Service:	Availability of public electricity grid inside the community.
Private Generator:	A generator owned by a person or a group of persons for the purpose of covering electricity needs.
Solid Waste Disposal:	Waste elimination techniques comprising landfills containment, underground disposal methods.
Waste Water:	Used water, typically discharged in to the sewage system. It contains matter and bacteria in solution or suspension.
Solid Waste Collection:	Collection or transport of waste to the place of treatment or discharge organized by municipal services or similar institutions, by public or private corporations, specialized enterprises or by the government.
Solid Waste Burning:	Out door burning of wastes such as lumber, used textile and others.
Cesspit:	Well or pit in which night-soil and other refuse is stored; constructed with either tight or porous walls.
Sewage Network:	System of collectors, pipelines, conduits and pumps to evacuate wastewater from any of the places of generation either to municipal sewage treatment plant or to a place where wastewater is discharged.
Waste Water Treatment:	Process to render wastewater to fit environmental standards or other quality norms. Three broad types of treatment may be distinguished: mechanical, biological, and advanced.
Local Authority:	Is a governmental entity authorized by one of the ministries to have competence for providing public services, and handling all the community affairs.