

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Issued the Third Quarter 2004 Report About:

Statistical Monitoring of the Socio-Economic Conditions of the Palestinian Society

The Israeli Blockade Represented a Main Obstacle in Front of Health and the Educational and Living Services

This report shows the impact of Israeli measures on the social and economic conditions, specifically the impact on 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; and losses in the Palestinian economy.

The sex ratio was 102.8 males for every 100 females in Palestinian Territory, in the West Bank it was 102.9 males for every 100 females, in Gaza Strip it was 102.6 males for every 100 females.

Labor Market in the Palestinian Territory

The rate of unemployment since 2000 continued to rise in comparison to previous years reaching 31.3% in 2002. In the Palestinian Territory the unemployment rate in the third quarter 2004 was 26.8% as compared to 10.0% in the third quarter 2000. The unemployment rate in Gaza Strip was higher than that in the West Bank during the period 1995-2002. In the West Bank the rate rose from 7.5% in the third quarter 2000 to 22.3% in the third quarter 2004. In Gaza Strip it rose from 15.5% in the third quarter 2000 to 36.8% in the third quarter 2004. The unemployment rate of females is higher than that of males in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Impact of Expansion and Annexation Wall and Other Israeli measures on Education and Health Sectors

48.1% of households resorted to taking alternative roads to get to school and 81.5% to universities, in addition to being absent from school due to closure (77.6%) and from university (81.0%) in the affected localities. Also 40.2% of households that have members at higher education institutions resorted to using permissions or special coordination, while 11.0% of households that have members at basic or secondary education did so. Some school pupils/students have been compelled to change their place of residence (4.5% for basic and secondary students and 34.6% for university students) or to change school (16.5%) or to change university (10.3%).

36.1% of Palestinian households in the Palestinian Territory reported that the Israeli siege constituted a barrier to obtaining health services; 43.2% of them are in the West Bank and 21.8% in Gaza Strip. 39.4% of households reported that the high cost of medical treatment impeded access to health services.

Population Displacement

The results revealed that the percentage of persons living west of the wall in the north of the West Bank who changed their place of residence was 2.8%, compared with 16.7% of those living east of the wall. In the middle of the West Bank this percentage was 39.6% for those west of the wall and 18.0% for those east of the wall, and in the south of the West Bank was 15.8% for those west of the wall and 13.1% for those east of the wall.

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4.8% of Palestinian households who changed their place of residence indicated that the wall and other Israeli measures was the main reason, and 7.0% of Palestinian households indicated that work was the main reason. On the other hand, 31.0% of Palestinian households who are considering changing their place of residence indicate that the wall is the main reason, and 11.3% of Palestinian households indicate that work is the main reason.