



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics



Special Statistical Bulletin
On the 62nd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba

May 2010

The fifteenth of May marks the sixty second anniversary of the Nakba, when Palestinians were uprooted and displaced from their lands in a systematic ethnic cleansing manner that was organized by the Zionist armed gangs. The facts and the historical evidence confirm that the forced displacement of Palestinians from their homeland had been planned long time before the Nakba, culminating in the declaration of the State of "Israel" in 1948 on the ruins of the Palestinian people, after the killings and massacres committed against Palestinian civilians.

The Nakba: Ethnic cleansing and systematic replacement of the population

Nakba in literary terms is expressive of natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and hurricanes. However, the Nakba of Palestine is an ethnic cleansing process as well as destruction and displacement of an unarmed nation to be replaced systematically by another nation. Contrary to natural catastrophes, the Palestinian Nakba was the result of man-made military plans and conspiracy of states unfolded a major tragedy for the Palestinian people.

These events along with the displacement of Palestinians and the subsequent occupation of the remaining land of Palestine in 1967 have resulted in great tragedy for the Palestinian people. More than 800,000 out of 1.4 million Palestinians (the Palestinian population in 1948 living in 1,300 Palestinian towns and villages) were driven out of their homeland to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, neighboring Arab countries and the remaining countries of the world. In addition, thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their homes but stayed within the Israeli controlled 1948 Territory. According to documented data, Israelis controlled 774 towns and villages and destroyed 531 Palestinian towns and villages during the Nakba. The atrocities of Israeli forces also included more than 70 massacres during Nakba in which 15,000 Palestinians were killed.

The demographic reality: Palestinians have doubled 8 times after 62 years from Nakba

Statistics show that the total number of Palestinian population in 1948 was 1.4 million and estimated to approximately 10.9 million by the end of 2009. This indicates that the number of Palestinians worldwide has multiplied 8 times since the Nakba in its 62nd anniversary.

Statistics show that the total number of Palestinians living in historic Palestine (between Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea) by end of 2009 totaled 5.2 million compared to 5.6 Jews. It is also expected that the Palestinian and Jewish population in historic Palestine will be equal and reach 6.2 million for each at end of the year 2015 providing that growth rates remain current. It is also expected that the number of Palestinians will reach 7.1 million compared to 6.8 million Jews at the end of the year 2020.

Statistical data also shows that refugees in the Palestinian Territory constitute 45.0% of the total Palestinian population in the Palestinian Territory. UNRWA's records at mid 2009 showed that the number of registered Palestinian refugees totaled 4.7 million, constituting 43.4% of the total Palestinian population worldwide; distributed as 41.7% living in Jordan, 9.9% in Syria, 9.0% in Lebanon, 16.3% in the West Bank, and 23.1% in Gaza Strip. About 29.4% of Palestinian registered refugees live in the 58 refugee camps, of which 10 are in Jordan, 9 in Syria, 12 in Lebanon, 19 in the West Bank, and 8 in Gaza Strip.

These estimates represent the minimum number of Palestinian refugees, given the presence of non- registered refugees. These estimates also do not include Palestinians who were displaced between 1949 and 1967 war "according to UNRWA's definition" and do not include the non refugees who left or were forced to leave as a result of the war in 1967.

The estimate of the number of Palestinians who remained in their homeland in the 1948 territories after the Nakba was 154,000 persons, compared with 1.25 million persons on the 62nd anniversary of the Nakba. The sex ratio is 103.6 males per 100 females, and the percentage of persons aged less than 15 years is 40.6% of Palestinian population in the 1948 land, compared with 3.2% aged 65 years and over based on available statistics about Palestinian living in Israel in 2007. This shows that the composition of Palestinians in 1948 territory is young as a natural extension of the Palestinian society as a whole.

The number of the Palestinians in the Palestinian Territory was estimated at 4.0 million at the end of 2009, of whom 2.5 millions in the West Bank and 1.5 millions in Gaza Strip. The number of Palestinians in Jerusalem governorate was at end of 2009 about 379 thousand, 62.1% of them live in those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed forcefully by Israel in 1967.

The fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory is high compared to other countries. The total fertility rate in 2007 was 4.6 births (4.1 births in the West Bank and 5.3 births in Gaza Strip).

Population density: The Nakba has made Gaza Strip the most crowded place in the World

The population density in the Palestinian Territory at end of 2009 reached 663 individuals/km² of which 439 individuals/km² in the West Bank and 4,140 individuals/km² in Gaza Strip. In Israel, the population density reached 350 individuals/km² of Arabs and Jews in 2009.

Settlements: Most settlers live in Jerusalem to make it judaize

The number of Israeli settlements and military bases in the West Bank totaled 440 at the end of 2008. Most of settlements are located in Jerusalem governorate; while the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank totaled 500,670. Data show that 261,885 (32.3%) of settlers live in Jerusalem governorate of whom 198,458 live in east Jerusalem. Statistics show that 17.2% of the total settlers live in the West Bank, while the percentage of settlers in Jerusalem governorate amounted to 41% of the total population in that governorate.

The Expansion and Annexation wall swallows about 15% of the West Bank area

As a continuation of the policy of expansion by the Israeli occupation, hundreds of thousands of dunums of land in the West Bank had been confiscated from its Palestinian owners to build the Israeli annexation and expansion wall. The total isolated and besieged area of the Palestinian Territory between the wall and the Green Line (except for those part of Jerusalem governorate which were annexed by Israel in 1967) about 555 km², representing about 9.8% of the West Bank. While the area east of the wall and surrounded by partially or fully completed wall is about 191.0 km², representing about 3.4% of the West Bank.

About 29% of the West Bank, mainly in the Jordan valley, is considered as restricted area; while 3.5% of the West Bank has been confiscated for settlements and bypass roads.

Israeli occupation established a buffer zone along the border of the Gaza Strip of a width exceeding 1,500 m along the eastern border of the Gaza Strip that amounts to about 58 km. This buffer zone swallows 87 km² of the total area of the Gaza Strip, and that means the Israeli occupation still

controls 24% of the Gaza Strip, which already suffers from the highest population density in the world.

Water in the Palestinian Territory: Realities and challenges

Preliminary data from the Palestinian Water Authority for the year 2009 showed that the amount of water purchased for domestic use from the Israeli Water Company (Mekorot) amounted to 47.4 million m³ in the West Bank. Data shows that the quantity of water purchased from the Israeli Water Company (Mekorot) increased over during the period 2005-2009 with 38.4 to 47.4 million. This reflects the increasing need of water for the Palestinian population in the light of the steady rise in the population and the control of water sources by the Israelis.

The annual available water quantity in the Palestinian Territory was 308.7 million m³ in 2008. Data also show that the quantity of water supplied for domestic use in the Palestinian Territory in 2008 was 185.5 million m³ distributed as 96.5 million m³ for the West Bank and 89.0 for the Gaza Strip. The daily allocation per capita of the supplied water for domestic use in the Palestinian Territory was 132.9 (liter/capita/day) of which the lowest was recorded in Jenin governorate at 45.5 (liter/capita/day).

The percentage of Palestinian households that live in housing units connected to public water network reached 88.4% in 2009 distributed as 84.5% in the West Bank and 95.8% in the Gaza Strip; while in 1999 the percentage of households that live in housing units connected to public water network was 84.8%. In addition, the percentage of households that depend on home-water wells reached 5.7% in 2009. About 48.1% of households in the Palestinian Territory consider available water as of good quality with significant variations between the West Bank (72.2%), and the Gaza Strip (6.8%). On the other hand, 28.2% of Palestinian households consider water as of bad quality because of the high salinity in the water and wastewater.

The monthly average consumption of water by economic establishments in the Palestinian Territory in 2009 reached 3,071 thousand m³, distributed as 1,664 thousand m³ in the West Bank and 1,407 thousand m³ in the Gaza Strip. The percentage of economic establishments that rely on the public water network as main source of water amounted 92.0% in 2009 compared with 87.5% in 2008; while it reached 92.7% in the West Bank and 90.6% in the Gaza Strip.

The monthly average consumption of water by health care centers in the Palestinian Territory in 2009 amounted to 208.0 thousand m³ distributed as 132.9 thousand m³ in the West Bank and 75.1 thousand m³ in the Gaza Strip. The results show an increase by 18.5% in the monthly average consumption of water compared with year 2008 where it was 175.5 thousand m³.

The percentage of health care centers that rely on the public water network as main source of water amounted 96.6% in 2009; whereas it reached 96.1% in the West Bank and 98.9% in the Gaza Strip.

Continuous struggle to liberate the land and build the state

Martyrs

The number of the al Aqsa Intifada martyrs between September 29th 2000 and December 31st 2009 reached 7,235 including 6,695 males and 540 females. The number of martyrs in the West Bank reached 2,183 including 2,059 males and 124 females. The number of martyrs in the Gaza Strip reached 5,015 including 4,601 males and 414 females. The rest of the martyrs are from the 1948' area and outside the Palestinian Territory. The year 2009 was the bloodiest year with 1,219 Palestinian martyrs followed by 2002 with 1,192 martyrs.

The health situation: Slow growth in health human resources

Statistics in 2008 showed that the number of physicians in the West bank registered in the physicians' union reached 2,941 with a rate of 8 physicians per 10,000 of the population. In comparison, the estimated number of physicians in the Gaza Strip registered in the physicians' union amounted to 4,375 in 2008 with a rate of 30 physicians per 10,000 of the population. On the other hand, data for 2008 show that there were 1.5 nurses per 1,000 of the population in the West bank compared to 2.7 nurses in the Gaza Strip. Regarding hospitals, the number of operational hospitals in 2008 in the Palestinian Territory reached 76 distributed as 52 hospitals in the West Bank and 24 in the Gaza Strip. Regarding the distribution of hospitals by type, there were 24 governmental hospitals, 25 as non-government, 24 private, 2 hospitals run by security institutions, and one run by UNRWA.

The number of hospital beds reached 4,929 with a rate of 1.3 bed per 1,000 of the population distributed as 2,972 beds in the West Bank and 1,957 in the Gaza Strip. The number of preliminary health care centers reached 538 in the West Bank in the year 2008 while it reached 133 center in the Gaza Strip in 2007.

Respiratory system infections as the main cause of infant mortality in the West Bank, Prenatal conditions constitute the main cause of mortality among under five years children, and heart diseases are the main cause for mortality among the elderly (60 years and above).

Data show that the improvement in the indicators of the health situation of Palestinians is slow with no progress in limiting infant or under-5 mortality in the past decade. According to report by UNICEF, Palestine occupies the 95th place in the world with respect to limiting infant mortality. The rate of limiting such mortality reached 29.0% of the required rate since 1990.

According to the Ministry of Health-2008, Respiratory system infections constitutes the main causes of infant mortality in the West Bank with 28.8% of total infant mortality followed by infant mortality classified as congenital anomalies with 16.8%. The main leading causes of deaths among children under five years in the West Bank is classified as conditions in the prenatal period with 43.7%.

Heart diseases are the main cause of mortality among elderly (60 years of age and over) at 30.2% of total mortalities in the West bank.

Agriculture: Israeli measures extend to trees, stones and animals

Statistics showed that the number of Horticultural trees destroyed as a result to the annexation and expansion wall till December 31, 2009 in the Palestinian Territory reached about 424,194 trees. The destroyed area of greenhouses was 230 dunums; whereas destroyed vegetable areas amounted to 3,516 dunums, and 4,538 dunums of field crops. Statistics also revealed that 471 wells with their equipment were destroyed in addition to 3,864 dunums of irrigation networks, 40 irrigation pools and pipelines, 3 agricultural stores and 14 of animal barns and stables.

The results showed that 1,854 thousand dunums were cultivated in the Palestinian Territory during the agricultural year 2007/2008, of which 91.4% were in the West Bank and 8.6% in Gaza Strip. Fruit trees constituted the largest of the cultivated area in the Palestinian Territory with 63.2%; while vegetables and field crops comprised 10.1% and 26.7% of the cultivated areas respectively. In

Gaza Strip 72.0% of the cultivated area rely on irrigation, compared with only 8.7% for the West Bank.

Housing conditions: Increasing number of destroyed housing units by the Israeli occupation, and Palestinians live in crowded housing units

The Israeli occupation forces have destroyed 23,100 housing unit in the Palestinian Territory during 1967 and May 2009 as part of its systematic deportation and destruction policy against the Palestinians. About 13,400 housing units had been destroyed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israelis during the period year 2000 and May 2009. These figures do not include 4,100 completely damaged housing units and 17,000 partially destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli aggression in December, 2008 according to a study issued by the Department of National and International Relations of the PLO.

The data indicate that the average number of persons per room in housing units in the camps was 1.8 persons in 2009, while 13.6% of the households in the camps in the Palestinian Territory live in housing units with a housing density of 3 or more persons per room, distributed as 14.6% in camps of the West Bank and in 11.5% in the Gaza Strip.

Labor market, 2009

The participation rate in the labour force in the Palestinian Territory in 2009 reached 41.6% (39.5% among refugees and 43.0% among non-refugees). The participation rate in the West Bank reached 43.8% (42.3% among refugees and 44.3% among non-refugees) compared to 37.6% in Gaza Strip (37.2% among refugees and 38.3% among non-refugees).

The unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory reached 24.5% (29.5% among refugees and 21.5% among non-refugees). The unemployment rate in the West Bank was 17.8% (21.3% among refugees and 16.5% among non-refugees) compared to 38.6% in Gaza Strip (36.9% among refugees and 41.5% among non-refugees).

The service sector is considered the largest employment sector for refugees in the West Bank at 36.4% followed by trade sector at 21.9%. While in Gaza Strip, the service sector employs 70.0% and the trade sector employs 15.6%.

The average daily wage in the Palestinian Territory is 91.3 NIS (82.3 NIS for refugees and 96.0 NIS for non-refugees). In the West Bank, the average daily wage is 99.3 NIS (94.1 NIS for refugees and 101.4 NIS for non-refugees). On the other hand, in Gaza Strip, was 62.7 NIS (66.1 NIS for refugees and NIS 56.4 for non-refugees).

Education: Palestinians invest in education as a strategic option

According to the Education Survey for the scholastic year 2008/2009, statistics indicated that the number of schools in the Palestinian Territory was 2,488 schools (1,848 in the West Bank and 640 in the Gaza Strip); distributed by supervising authority as follows: 1,871 governmental schools, 315 UNRWA schools, and 302 private schools.

The number of students in these schools was 1.1 million, of whom 555,000 were males and 555,000 females. Regarding distribution of students by supervising authorities, there were 772,000 enrolled

in governmental schools, 255,000 enrolled in UNRWA schools, and 82,000 enrolled in private schools. The number of school teachers was 27,893 of whom 11,680 males and 16,213 females.

The illiteracy rate among Palestinians aged 15 years and above in 2009 was 5.6% distributed as 2.6% for males and 8.7% for females.

Regarding higher education in the Palestinian Territory, there are 11 universities and 13 university colleges offering programs leading to the bachelor degree: 3 universities and 4 university colleges are in Gaza Strip, and 8 universities and 9 university colleges are in the West Bank. There are 19 intermediate community colleges; 14 in the West Bank and 5 in Gaza Strip.

Macroeconomics: Decline in prices during 2009

Average prices for 2009 in the Palestinian Territory increased by 2.75% compared with 2008, distributed as 0.57% in the West Bank and 4.42% in the Gaza Strip. In comparison with the base year in 2004, the average prices in the Palestinian Territory increased by 24.34% distributed as 21.52% in the West Bank and 29.57% in the Gaza Strip.

The year 2009 witnessed drop in prices in comparison with the high rise during the second half of 2007 and during 2008 due to world's high prices of fuel and wheat as well as Israeli siege and closure of crossings.

The Palestinian National Accounts at constant prices for 2009 indicated that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was US \$ 5,147.2 million, and the per capita share of GDP reached \$1,389.9. The GDP rose in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the activities of social, community and personal services (24.8%), construction activity (21.8%), the activity of restaurants, hotels, public administration (10.6%), and defense (8.6%) compared with 2008. Data does not include that part of Jerusalem that was annexed by Israel in 1967.

The Palestinian economy is service oriented due to the decline in the contribution of production-related economic activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction. The findings show that the contribution of agriculture activity decreased from 10.9% during 1999 to 4.8% in 2009. On the other hand, the contribution of manufacturing activity was 14.8% in 1999, then witnessed fluctuation during the past years and reached again 14.8% in 2009. The contribution of the construction activity decreased from 11.2% in 1999 to 7.4% in 2009. On the other hand, the contribution of service activity increased from 20.7% in 1999 to 23.7% during 2009; and the transport activity increased from 3.9% in 1999 to 8.7% in 2009.

Trade: Restrictions on border crossings and very limited Palestinian exports with the outside world

Data indicates low value of imports and exports, especially with Gaza Strip because of the Israeli imposed siege since mid-2007. The value of imported goods in 2009 totaled U.S.\$ 3,466.2 million; while the value of imported services for the same year totaled U.S.\$ 558.4 million. As a result, the net goods trade balance recorded a deficit of U.S.\$ 2,907.7 million in 2008. Regarding exports, only 12% of Palestinian exports were with external world and the rest was with Israel due to Israeli restrictions imposed on Palestinian exports especially from Gaza Strip.

Economic Establishments: Challenging the siege

The final results of the Population, Housing, and Establishment Census-2007 showed that the number of economic establishments in the Palestinian Territory between October 20th 2007 and November 10th 2007 totals 132,874 establishments of which 94,205 establishments in the West Bank and 38,669 establishments in Gaza Strip. There is 109,686 operating establishments in the Palestinian Territory covering the private sector, NGOs sector, and the government companies. These establishments employ 296,965 person. The figures do not include those parts of Jerusalem governorate which were annexed by Israel in 1967.

Information Society

The percentage of households that have a computer in the Palestinian Territory is 49.2%, of which 51.1% in the West Bank and 45.6% in Gaza Strip, compared with 26.4% in 2004.

As for Internet connection, the results showed that 28.5% of households in the Palestinian Territory have an Internet connection, of which 27.2% in the West Bank and 30.9% in Gaza Strip, compared with 9.2% in 2004.

The percentage of households that have TV dish in the Palestinian Territory is 92.0%, of which 92.4% in the West Bank and 91.2% in Gaza Strip, compared with 74.4% in 2004.

The results also indicated that 47.5% of households in the Palestinian Territory have a phone line, of which 51.4% in the West Bank and 40.0% in Gaza Strip, compared with 40.8% in 2004. Data showed that 92.4% of households have a mobile phone in the Palestinian Territory, of which 91.9% in the West Bank and 93.2% in Gaza Strip, compared with 72.8% in 2004.

Statistics showed that the number of researchers in research and development in the West Bank was 992, of whom 765 were males and 227 were females. The number of researchers in the year 2008 according to the definition of Full-Time Equivalent (90.0% of the total number of working hours in the year on research and development) reached 363.