

## **In the Occasion of the International Literacy day, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics:**

**In spite of the decrease in Illiteracy rate by 58.6% in the past eleven years, still there are 137 thousand adult illiterate in the Palestinian Territory, 78% of them are females**

- The illiteracy rates among individuals 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory decreased in the period 1995-2006 from 15.7% to 6.5%. However, it decreased among males from 8.5% in 1995 to 2.9% in 2006, and among females it decreased from 23.0% to 10.2% for the same period.
- The illiteracy rates among individuals 15 years and over in urban localities decreased from 12.8% in 1995 to 5.3% in year 2006, in rural localities it decreased from 18.4% to 8.9%, and in the refugee camps it decreased from 15.5% to 6.4% in the same period. Where as in 2006, the illiteracy rates among males in the urban, rural and refugee camps are 2.6%, 3.5% and 2.6% respectively, and among females it is 8.2% in the urban, 14.4% in the rural areas, and 10.0% in the refugee camps
- The highest illiteracy rate is found among the individuals 65 years and over in comparison with other age groups (58.2%), and it is the lowest among individuals aged 15-24 years (0.9%).
- The highest illiteracy rate among individuals 15 years and over in 2006 is in Tubas Area (10.3%), followed by Rafah governorate (8.2%), and the lowest rate is in Gaza governorate (4.7%), while Tulkarm governorate the second lowest (5.5%).
- In the Palestinian Territory, there are 136,894 illiterate persons in the age group 15 years and over in 2006, there off 90,171 are in the West Bank and 46,723 in Gaza Strip. They are distributed by sex as follows: 30,243 males and 106,651 females, and by type of locality they are distributed as follows: 63,053 in urban areas, 53,567 in rural areas and 20,274 in refugee camps.
- In the scholastic year 2005/2006, there were 2,277 school, 24 universities and university colleges, and 19 community colleges in the Palestinian Territory, with 1,217,113 students enrolled in these institutions composing 32.4% of the total population in mid year 2005. They are distributed by educational stage as follows: 944,713 students in the basic stage, 122,776 students in the secondary stage and 149,624 in the higher education institutions.