



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of Palestinian Households (3rd Round: July - August, 2001)

Press Conference on the Survey Results

September, 2001

September, 2001.
All Rights Reserved

Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2001. *Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of Palestinian Households (3rd Round: July-August, 2001)*
Ramallah-Palestine

All correspondence should be directed to:
The Dissemination and Documentation Department / Division of User Services

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
P.O.Box 1647 Ramallah, Palestine.

Tel: 970-2 2406340
E-mail: diwan@pcbs.pna.org

Fax: 970-2 2406343
Web-site: <http://www.pcbs.org>

List of Contents

- 1. Press Release**
- 2. Concepts and Definitions**
- 3. Summary Tables**

Notice to users of this report

PCBS would like to indicate to users of this report that classification of households according to their positions below or above poverty line is being determined on the basis of the information revealed by households about their income. PCBS warns against using this classification as a final one.

In fact, professional determination of poverty line and poverty prevalence is usually based on detailed studies about households' consumption and expenditure over an extended period of time using special methodologies and household surveys.

PCBS would like to inform that rigorous consumption and expenditure survey is currently underway to assess the standard of living of Palestinian households.

Press Release

Main Findings of the Survey on the Impact of Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of the Palestinian Households

"More than two million Palestinians still live below the poverty line, and about half of the Palestinian Households lost more than 50% of their usual income"

PCBS conducted the third round of the survey on the impact of Israeli measures on the economic conditions of the Palestinian households. Data collection took place during the period 14/7/2001 – 23/8/2001.

The main objective of the survey is to continue monitoring the economic conditions of the Palestinian households and their standards of living as the Israeli measures continued against the PNA and the Palestinian People.

This round of the survey is based on a random sample of 3,227 households, of which 2,614 households completed the interview. The completed interviews are distributed by region as 1,539 in the West Bank and 1,075 in Gaza Strip.

Household's income:

Results indicate that 14.0% (73,000) of the households reported that they lost their sources of usual income during Al-Aqsa Intifada, of which 10.1% (35,000 households) in the West Bank and 21.9% (38,000 households) in Gaza Strip. About 47.7% (44.2% in the West Bank and 56.4% in Gaza Strip) of the households reported that they lost more than 50% of their usual income during Al-Aqsa Intifada compared to 47.4% in the May-June round, and 49.2% in March round.

According to survey results, the median monthly usual income has decreased from 2,500 NIS before the Intifada to 1,500 NIS during July-August 2001, whereas the median income during May-June 2001 was 1,300 NIS, and during March round was 1,200 NIS. This decrease varies by region, the median monthly usual income decreased in the West Bank from 3,000 NIS to 1,700 NIS, while in Gaza Strip it decreased from 1,944 NIS to 900 NIS. Comparing this result to the estimated poverty line for the year 2001 (1,642 NIS for a household composed of two adults and four children), 60.8% of the Palestinian households (2,025,000 individuals) are expected to be living below the poverty line. This percentage reached 50.5% in the West Bank against 81.5% in Gaza Strip.

Problems to access to Health resources

About 58.7% of the households in the Palestinian Territory reported that they have faced problems to access health resources because they are not able to pay the treatment costs (47.9% in the West Bank and 80.6% in Gaza Strip), 43.4% of households have faced problems because the medical cadre was not able to reach the health center (28.3% in the West Bank and 73.9% in Gaza Strip), and 43.3% of the households reported that they have faced problems to access to health resources due to the Israeli closure (33.9% in the West Bank and 62.5% in Gaza Strip).

Humanitarian Aids

Results indicate that the percentage of interviewed households reported that they received humanitarian assistance during Alaqsa Intifada, decreased from 57.0% in May-June round to 53.3% in July-August 2001 round, with a significant difference between the West Bank and Gaza Strip (43.2% and 76.7% respectively). On the other hand, 73.4% of the households reported that they need assistance, of which 67.3% in the West Bank and 85.6% in Gaza Strip.

About 67.8% of the households receiving humanitarian aid reported that the total amount of assistance received was less than U.S. \$25 compared to 67.1% during May-June round, 72.7% less than U.S. \$50 compared to 76.8% in May-June round, 80.2% less than \$100 compared to 86.4% in May-June round, while 19.8% received assistance of \$100 or more compared to 13.6% in May-June round.

Concerning the frequency of providing assistance for households, UNRWA is still occupying the highest rank, 49.8% compared to 63.6% in May-June, followed by the assistance provided by labourers associations 22.7%, relatives, friends, neighbors, or charitable persons by 14.5%, then the charitable associations 3.1%. It is noticed that there is a noticeable decrease in the contribution of the aid providers between the second round and the third round except relatives, friends, neighbors, or charitable persons whom increased their assistance from 6.8% in May- June to 14.5% in July-August.

The results reveal that 53.4% of the assistance are in the form of food supplies, 20.4% are in cash, compared to 73.7% and 15.4% for the food and cash respectively in May-June round.

The results indicate that 2.8% of the households usually receive financial assistance from relatives abroad, and the same percentage (2.8%) indicated that they have received such assistance during the Intifada.

Priority Needs of Households

The results reveal that the percentage of households first priority needs show a decrease in the expressed households priorities compared to May-June 2001 round. The need for food as a first priority decreased from 11.1% in May-June 2001 to 9.4% in June-August 2001 (the decrease rate is 15.3%), the money need from 36.8% to 36.3% (the decrease rate is 1.3%), finding a job from 20.1% to 18.1% (the decrease rate is 10.0%), security needs from 6.6% to 5.5% (the decrease rate is 16.7%). However, it is noticed that the need for money (36.3%) and finding a job (18.1%) as first priorities are still the highest despite of the decrease compared to the in May-June round

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.

**Basic Changes In the Indicators of Living Standards and Humanitarian
Aid - Palestinian Territory**

Indicators	March 2001	May-June 2001	July-August 2001
The Impact of the Current Situation on the Household's Income:			
Percentage of Households bellow poverty line*	64.2	64.9	60.8
Percentage of Households lost their income during Intifada	10.7	14.2	14.0
The median amount of money that a Household need to satisfy its basic needs (NIS)	1800	1500	1500
The median of Household's income before Intifada (NIS)	2300	2500	2500
The median of Household's income during 2001(NIS)	1200	1300	1400
Percentage of Households lost more than half of their income during the last six months	49.2	47.4	47.7
Assistance			
Percentage of Households who usually receive remittances from abroad	3.2	3.5	2.8
Out of Households usually receive remittances from abroad, the percentage of Households who reported receiving remittances during Intifada	2.7	2.9	2.8
Percentage of Households who received remittance in the last month	-	2.2	2.0
Percentage of Households who received humanitarian aid during Intifada	48.1	57.0	53.3
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance, although did not receive it	30.8	34.0	24.7
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance	-	79.1	73.4
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 25 US\$	59.1	67.1	67.8
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 50 US\$	84.9	76.8	72.7
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 100 US\$	87.7	86.4	80.2
Percentage of Households who received assistance of 100 US\$ or more	12.3	13.6	19.8
Median of total in-kind assistance in US\$	\$17	\$15	\$15
Median of total in-cash assistance in US\$	\$146	\$146	\$244
Source of Humanitarian Aid			
Frequency of providing assistance by UNRWA (%)	60.4	63.6	49.8
Frequency of providing assistance by Ministry of Social Affairs (%)	4.6	1.5	1.6
Frequency of providing assistance by Charity Institutions (%)	5.3	4.1	3.1
Frequency of providing assistance by Relatives, Friends, Neighbours, or charitable persons.	-	6.8	14.5
Frequency of providing assistance by Labourers Associations	-	-	22.7

* Standard Household Size is Two Adults and Four Children

Indicators	March 2001	May-June 2001	July-August 2001
Frequency of providing assistance by other resources	29.7	24.0	8.3
Problems to access to health resources			
Not able to pay treatment costs	64.4	-	58.7
The medical cadre was not able to reach the health center	57.9	-	43.4
Israeli closure	52.3	-	43.3
Median Value of Assistance in US\$ by Source			
UNRWA	\$17	\$15	\$15
Ministry of Social Affairs	\$17	\$24	\$24
Charity Institutions	\$24	\$24	\$24
Relatives	-	\$298	\$366
Types of Humanitarian Aid			
Food assistance received by Households as a percentage of over all assistance	78.7	73.7	53.4
In-cash assistance received by Households as a percentage of overall assistance	20.5	15.4	20.4
First Priority Needs of the Households			
Percentage of Households who indicated that food is their first priority	30.9	11.1	9.4
Percentage of Households who indicated that money is their first priority	32.6	36.8	36.3
Percentage of Households who indicated that finding jobs is their first priority	14.9	20.1	18.1
Percentage of Households who indicated that security is their first priority	4.2	6.6	5.5

-: No Data is Available

**Basic Changes In the Indicators of Living Standards and Humanitarian
Aid -West Bank**

Indicators	March 2001	May-June 2001	July-August 2001
The Impact of the Current Situation on the Household's Income:			
Percentage of Households bellow poverty line*	55.7	56.6	50.5
Percentage of Households lost their income during Intifada	10.3	9.6	10.1
The median amount of money that a Household need to satisfy its basic needs (NIS)	2000	2000	2000
The median of Household's income before Intifada (NIS)	2600	3000	3000
The median of Household's income during 2001(NIS)	1500	1500	1600
Percentage of Households lost more than half of their income during the last six months	47.7	43.1	44.2
Assistance			
Percentage of Households who usually receive remittances from abroad	4.5	4.9	3.8
Out of Households usually receive remittances from abroad, the percentage of Households who reported receiving remittances during Intifada	3.8	4.0	3.9
Percentage of Households who received remittance in the last month	-	3.1	2.8
Percentage of Households who received humanitarian aid during Intifada	35.1	48.9	43.2
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance, although did not receive it	37.6	43.3	28.7
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance	-	74.9	67.3
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 25 US\$	40.0	30.3	28.7
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 50 US\$	85.6	53.3	45.7
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 100 US\$	89.5	79.3	73.4
Percentage of Households who received assistance of 100 US\$ or more	10.5	20.7	26.6
Median of total in-kind assistance in US\$	\$24	\$37	\$24
Median of total in-cash assistance in US\$	\$37	\$146	\$488
Source of Humanitarian Aid			
Frequency of providing assistance by UNRWA (%)	40.2	30.1	35.7
Frequency of providing assistance by Ministry of Social Affairs (%)	4.7	2.6	3.0
Frequency of providing assistance by Charity Institutions (%)	5.2	4.3	4.8
Frequency of providing assistance by Relatives, Friends, Neighbours, or charitable persons.	-	16.6	20.8

* Standard Household Size is Two Adults and Four Children

Indicators	March 2001	May-June 2001	July-August 2001
Frequency of providing assistance by Labourers Associations	-	-	7.7
Frequency of providing assistance by other resources	49.9	46.4	28.0
Problems to access to health resources			
Not able to pay treatment costs	50.0	-	47.9
The medical cadre was not able to reach the health center	48.1	-	28.3
Israeli closure	53.3	-	33.9
Median Value of Assistance in US\$ by Source			
UNRWA	\$37	\$73	\$73
Ministry of Social Affairs	\$24	\$24	\$24
Charity Institutions	\$24	\$24	\$24
Relatives	-	\$379	\$732
Types of Humanitarian Aid			
Food assistance received by Households as a percentage of over all assistance	67.8	45.3	35.8
In-cash assistance received by Households as a percentage of overall assistance	30.1	25.7	27.4
First Priority Needs of the Households			
Percentage of Households who indicated that food is their first priority	39.5	11.1	8.4
Percentage of Households who indicated that money is their first priority	21.6	34.2	28.9
Percentage of Households who indicated that finding jobs is their first priority	13.1	21.1	20.1
Percentage of Households who indicated that security is their first priority	5.0	2.5	4.8

-: No Data is Available

Basic Changes In the Indicators of Living Standards and Humanitarian Aid - Gaza Strip

Indicators	March 2001	May-June 2001	July-August 2001
The Impact of the Current Situation on the Household's Income:			
Percentage of Households bellow poverty line*	81.4	79.9	81.5
Percentage of Households lost their income during Intifada	11.5	22.5	21.9
The median amount of money that a Household need to satisfy its basic needs (NIS)	1500	1200	1200
The median of Household's income before Intifada (NIS)	1800	1900	1944
The median of Household's income during 2001(NIS)	900	1000	900
Percentage of Households lost more than half of their income during the last six months	52.0	56.5	56.5
Assistance			
Percentage of Households who received humanitarian aid during Intifada	71.0	71.7	76.7
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance, although did not receive it	18.9	24.5	16.7
Percentage of Households who indicated their need for assistance	-	86.7	85.6
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 25 US\$	73.2	88.8	81.5
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 50 US\$	84.5	90.6	82.1
Percentage of Households who received assistance less than 100 US\$	86.3	90.6	82.5
Percentage of Households who received assistance of 100 US\$ or more	13.7	9.4	17.5
Median of total in-kind assistance in US\$	\$17	\$15	\$15
Median of total in-cash assistance in US\$	\$146	\$146	\$244
Source of Humanitarian Aid			
Frequency of providing assistance by UNRWA (%)	72.4	83.3	54.8
Frequency of providing assistance by Ministry of Social Affairs (%)	4.4	0.9	1.1
Frequency of providing assistance by Charity Institutions (%)	5.3	3.9	2.5
Frequency of providing assistance by Relatives, Friends, Neighbours, or charitable persons.	-	2.4	12.3
Frequency of providing assistance by Labourers Associations	-	-	28.0
Frequency of providing assistance by other resources	17.9	9.5	1.3

* Standard Household Size is Two Adults and Four Children

Indicators	March 2001	May-June 2001	July-August 2001
Problems to access to health resources			
Not able to pay treatment costs	89.8	-	80.6
The medical cadre was not able to reach the health center	75.2	-	73.9
Israeli closure	50.6	-	62.5
Median Value of Assistance in US\$ by Source			
UNRWA	\$17	\$15	\$15
Ministry of Social Affairs	\$15	\$14	\$24
Charity Institutions	\$24	\$22	\$15
Relatives	-	\$27	\$244
Types of Humanitarian Aid			
Food assistance received by Households as a percentage of over all assistance	85.2	90.4	59.5
In-cash assistance received by Households as a percentage of overall assistance	14.7	9.4	17.8
First Priority Needs of the Households			
Percentage of Households who indicated that food is their first priority	15.7	11.0	11.4
Percentage of Households who indicated that money is their first priority	52.0	41.4	51.1
Percentage of Households who indicated that finding jobs is their first priority	18.0	18.4	14.0
Percentage of Households who indicated that security is their first priority	2.8	14.1	6.8

-: No Data is Available

Table 1: Percentage of Households Living Below the Estimated Poverty Line for the Year 2001 by Type of Locality

Locality Type	Below Poverty Line (%)	Above Poverty Line (%)	Total
Urban	54.7	45.3	100
Rural	65.4	34.6	100
Refugee Camp	75.1	24.9	100

Table 2: Percentage of Households Living Below the Estimated Poverty Line for the Year 2001 by Region

Region	Below Poverty Line (%)	Above Poverty Line (%)	Total
Palestinian Territory	60.8	39.2	100
West bank	50.5	49.5	100
Gaza Strip	81.5	18.5	100

Table 3: Percentage of Households Whose Income Decreased by Amount of Decrease and Type of locality

Locality Type	Amount of Decrease			
	(0-24)%	(25-49)%	(50-74)%	75%+
Urban	25.7	29.6	19.1	25.6
Rural	15.6	32.9	22.6	28.9
Refugee Camp	29.4	20.4	18.9	31.3
Total	22.8	29.6	20.3	27.4

Table 4: Percentage of Households by Changing Nutrition Behavior During Alaqsa Intifada – Palestinian Territory

Indicators	Decreased	No Change	Increased
Quantity of Food	38.1	57.3	4.7
Quality of Food	55.7	44.1	0.1
Quantity of monthly consumed meat (meat, chicken, fish).	62.3	37.7	0.0
Quantity of Fruit	62.2	37.8	0.0
Quantity of milk and milk products	47.9	51.4	0.7

Table 5: Percentage of Households by Changing Nutrition Behavior During Alaqsa Intifada – West Bank

Indicators	Decreased	No Change	Increased
Quantity of Food	39.9	53.5	6.6
Quality of Food	56.4	43.4	0.2
Quantity of monthly consumed meat (meat, chicken, fish).	58.9	41.1	0.0
Quantity of Fruit	57.2	42.7	0.1
Quantity of milk and milk products	45.3	53.7	1.0

Table 6: Percentage of Households by Changing Nutrition Behavior During Alaqsa Intifada – Gaza Strip

Indicators	Decreased	No Change	Increased
Quantity of Food	34.3	64.9	0.8
Quality of Food	54.5	45.5	0.0
Quantity of monthly consumed meat (meat, chicken, fish).	69.2	30.8	0.0
Quantity of Fruit	72.2	27.8	0.0
Quantity of milk and milk products	53.2	46.8	0.0

Table 7: Percentage of Households by Opinion of Boycotting Israeli Products by Availability of Other Alternative Products

Household Opinion	Alternatives			
	Local	Arabic	Foreign	No Alternative
Totally disagree	1.9	1.8	2.7	7.9
Disagree	3.2	4.3	26.4	49.2
Don't Know	1.1	1.6	6.9	13.9
Agree	41.1	74.9	49.1	24.5
Totally agree	52.8	17.4	14.9	4.6
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 8: Percentage of Households by Boycotting Israeli Products and Region

Region	Level of boycotting			Total
	Total	Partial	Did not boycott	
Palestinian Territory	31.9	51.8	16.3	100
West Bank	26.7	71.4	2.0	100
Gaza Strip	30.2	58.2	11.6	100

Table 9: Percentage Distribution of Households by the Most Important Need of the Locality - Palestinian Territory

Locality Need	Before Alaqsa Intifada	During Alaqsa Intifada
Job Creation	13.9	67.7
Food Assistance	11.0	13.8
Health Services	13.8	4.6
Educational Services	4.6	2.1
Development of Infrastructure	55.3	10.5
Others	1.4	1.3
Total	100	100

Table 10: Percentage of Households by the Most Important Need of the Locality -West Bank

Locality Need	Before Alaqsa Intifada	During Alaqsa Intifada
Job Creation	14.6	68.8
Food Assistance	3.0	6.7
Health Services	17.1	6.2
Educational Services	4.5	1.8
Development of Infrastructure	58.7	14.6
Others	2.1	1.9
Total	100	100

Table 11: Percentage of Households by the Most Important Need of the Locality - Gaza Strip

Locality Need	Before Alaqsa Intifada	During Alaqsa Intifada
Job Creation	12.5	65.7
Food Assistance	27.2	28.1
Health Services	7.1	1.4
Educational Services	4.9	2.7
Development of Infrastructure	48.4	2.2
Others	0.0	0.0
Total	100	100