



State of Palestine

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

On the Occasion of the International Youth Day, 12/08/2026

The Youth of Palestine: Different Contexts, Common Aspirations



The world celebrates International Youth Day 2026, which this year comes under the theme "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations," emphasizing that the young people, regardless of their environments and circumstances, share common aspirations for dignity, opportunity, meaningful participation, decent work, quality education, and a sustainable future.

In Palestine, this theme takes on a particular significance given the exceptional circumstances faced by the Palestinian youth as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation and aggression against Gaza Strip, and the escalating violations in the West Bank, with their profound impact on all aspects of their lives. Despite these challenges, the Palestinian youth continue to play their role as an active force in society and a fundamental pillar of resilience, development, and reconstruction.

5.56 million

Palestinian population at the end of 2025 in state of Palestine

1.2 million

Young men and women aged 18–29 in state of Palestine

21%

Percentage of young people in the total population in state of Palestine



Opportunities...

The Youth are a Demographic Asset Requiring Investment

The Palestinian youth represent the nation's greatest asset and its most important human capital. Their high percentage of the total population presents a demographic opportunity that can accelerate development if the appropriate environment is secured to invest their energies.

731,764



Young men and women in the West Bank at the end of 2025
22% of total population in the West Bank

444,000



Young men and women in the Gaza Strip at the end of 2025
21% of total population in the Gaza Strip

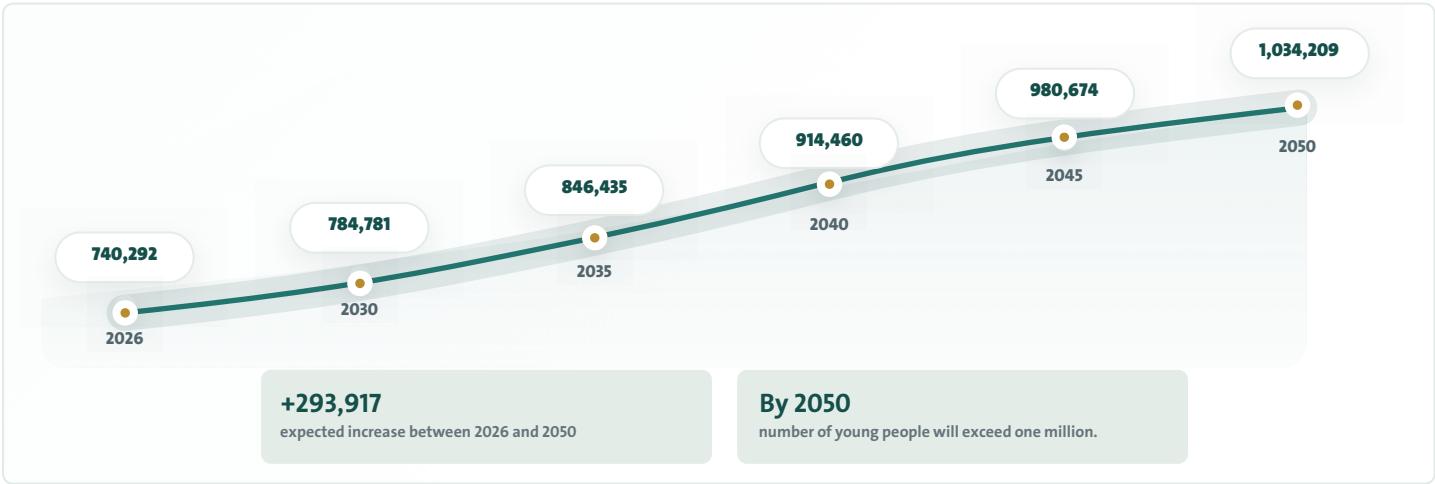
1,034,209



Projected number of young people in the West Bank by 2050
20% of total population in the West Bank



Projected Number of Young People in the West Bank – Selected Years



Dignity... the Palestinian Youth Pay the Price of Aggression and Cling to their Right to Life

The youth group represents one of the most important pillars of Palestinian development, it has been among the most affected by the ongoing Israeli aggression since October 7th, 2023

73,386+

Palestinians have been martyred in Gaza Strip
24% of the total number of martyrs.



%26

Percentage of young men among male martyrs in the Gaza Strip



1,183

Palestinians have been martyred in the West Bank
71% of them were under the age of 30



%22

Percentage of young women among female martyrs in the Gaza Strip



The unprecedented challenges facing Palestinian youth have affected their fundamental rights to life, dignity, and security.

The impact of the aggression has extended beyond the loss of life to include forced displacement, loss of homes, disruption of education, declining employment opportunities, and increasing levels of psychological and social distress.



Active Participation: The Palestinian Youth are Partners in Development and Digital Transformation

Active participation is one of the most important aspirations of the young people. It is no longer limited to community involvement and decision-making, but now also includes integration into the digital economy, leveraging technology, and accessing knowledge and innovation.

Technology Use Among Youth Aged 18-29



Source: Labor Force Survey, First Quarter 2026

The indicators show that Palestinian youth have a strong digital foundation that can serve as a driver for development and the digital economy. However, maximizing the benefits of this foundation requires investment in digital skills, expanding opportunities for entrepreneurship and technological innovation, and ensuring safe and sustainable digital infrastructure. This would enable young people to transform their high levels of technology use into productive and development-oriented opportunities.



A strong digital infrastructure can serve as a catalyst for development and the digital economy.

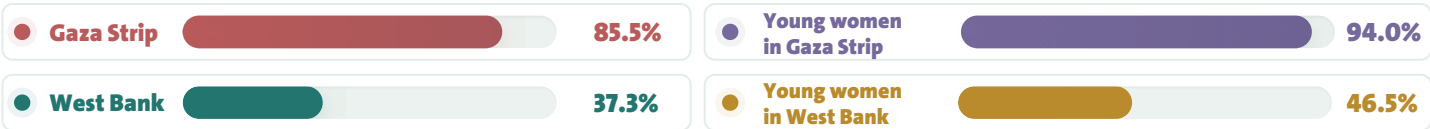
These indicators align with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5 on promoting the use of enabling technologies for women (5.b.1) and Goal 17 on promoting the use of information and communication technologies and capacity building in science, technology, and innovation (17.8.1).



Decent Work: Unemployment Remains the Biggest Challenge Facing the Palestinian Youth

Access to decent work is one of the most important aspirations of the Palestinian youth. However, data indicate that unemployment rates remain high, particularly in Gaza Strip, which limits their ability to achieve economic independence and contribute to development.

Unemployment Rate among Youth Aged 15-29 Participating in the Labor Force - 2025



Graduates and the job market

42.5%

Unemployment rate among young graduates with academic degrees

29.8%

Unemployment rate among vocational training graduates

52.7%

Female unemployment rate among graduates of academic disciplines

35.0%

Female unemployment rate among vocational training graduates



Unemployment represents one of the biggest challenges facing Palestinian youth, as it leads to a waste of human capital and limits their contribution to development, necessitating the adoption of urgent policies to create job opportunities.



These data underscore the need to realign educational outcomes with labor market needs, strengthen vocational and technical education and training, guide students toward in-demand specializations.



Quality Education...

Investing in Youth Despite the Challenges

Education remains one of the most important pillars of development in Palestinian society and has consistently represented the most sustainable investment in human capital and the enhancement of individual capabilities.



19

out of 100

Young people aged 18–29 hold a bachelor's degree or higher in the West Bank, 2025



25

out of 100

Young women aged 18–29 hold a bachelor's degree or higher in the West Bank, 2025



14

out of 100

Young men aged 18–29 hold a bachelor's degree or higher in the West Bank, 2025



Despite Palestine's success in building a strong educational foundation, lowering illiteracy rates, and raising academic achievement, the ongoing aggression threatens this accomplishment by targeting students and educational institutions.

Higher Education Losses Since 7 October 2023 until 7 July 2026

1,422

Students were martyred
1,383 in Gaza Strip and 39 in the West Bank.

3,350

Higher education students injured
3,067 in Gaza Strip and 283 in the West Bank

492+

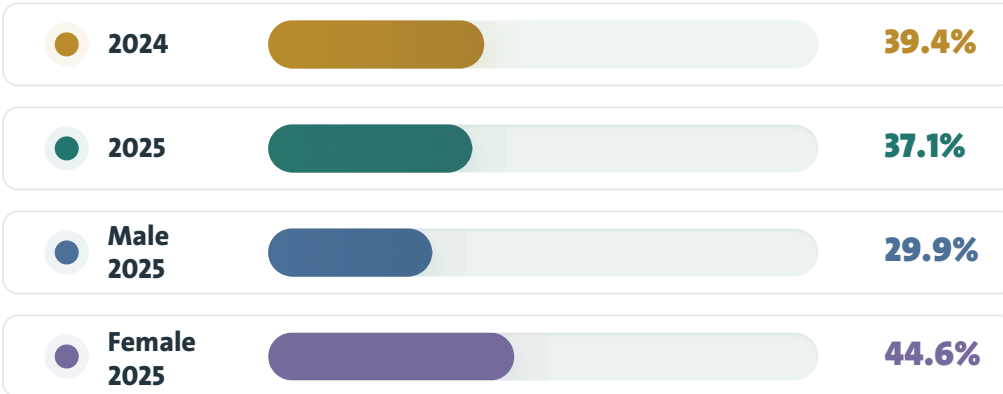
Students enrolled in West Bank universities were also detained



A Sustainable Future: Empowering the Youth is the Foundation of Development and Reconstruction

Achieving a sustainable future requires not only providing education and employment opportunities but also ensuring the continued integration of the young people into education, training, and the labor market.

Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) – West Bank



Required Empowerment Pathways

Safe environment

High-quality education

Vocational and technical training

Decent work

Entrepreneurial projects

Digital skills

Empowering young women

Economic recovery



The aspirations of Palestinian youth remain aligned with those of young people around the world: living with dignity, having equal opportunities, and participating actively in society.



The decline in the share of young people who are not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) is a positive indicator. However, the continued high rate, particularly among young women, highlights the need for more effective policies to integrate youth into education, training, and the labor market.

Investment in youth represents an investment in Palestine's future.

Investing in youth, protecting their rights, strengthening their resilience, and empowering them economically and socially are essential conditions for achieving sustainable development.

For More Information

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