##### H.E. Dr. Awad, Highlights the Situation of the Palestinian Women on the Eve of the International Women's Day, 08/03/2020

**H.E. Dr. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), on Thursday 05/03/2020, highlighted the situation of the Palestinian women on the eve of the International Women's Day, 08/03/2020**

**Women represent half of the Palestinian society**

The population in Palestine estimated 5.10 million in mid 2020, including 2.59 million males (51%) and 2.51 million females (49%), whereas the sex ratio stood at 103.4; meaning that there are 103 males for every 100 females.

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| **Both Sexes** | **Females** | **Males** | **Region** |
| **5,101,152** | **2,507,511** | **2,593,641** | **Palestine** |
| 3,053,183 | 1,497,442 | 1,555,741 | West Bank |
| 2,047,969 | 1,010,069 | 1,037,900 | Gaza Strip |

**More than one-tenth of the Palestinian households are headed by women**

Data of Labour Force Survey 2019 showed that the percentage of households headed by women in Palestine was 11% (12% in the West Bank and 9% in Gaza Strip)**.**

**Significant decrease in the percentage of early marriage in Palestine**

There is a decline in the percentage of early marriage (for those under the age of 18) for both sexes, where it reached 20% of the females’ registered marriages in 2018 (19% in the West Bank and 21% in Gaza Strip) out of total number of females registered marriages in the same year compared with 24% in 2010, while the percentage was 1% of males’ registered marriages of out of total number of males registered marriages in the same year, compared to 2% in 2010.

**About two thirds of women (18 years and above) are married**

According to the Labour Force Survey 2019, the percentage of married women out of the total number of women aged 18 years and above was 66%, 26% never married, 6% widows and 2% divorced.

**Significant decrease in the illiteracy rates among women**

Despite the decline in illiteracy rate among women over the past decade, the gap still for men, where the illiteracy rate among women was 4% compared to 1% among men according to the labour force Survey 2019.

**Illiteracy rates for men and women population aged 15 years and above, 2015-2019**

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**High enrollment rates of females in secondary stage and higher education**

Data of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, for the scholastic year 2018/2019, showed that male enrollment in secondary stage1 was 71%, compared to female enrollment, which was 91%. As for the percentage of female students enrolled in the Palestinian higher education institutions reached 60% out of the total number of students enrolled in institutions of higher education.

**Percentage of females who use Internet is lower than males**

Data of the Household Survey on Information and Communications Technology 2019 indicated that the percentage of individuals (10 years and above) who use Internet reached 72% of males compared to 69% of females. Moreover, the percentage of males who use social or vocational networks reached 88% compared to 84% for females.

Furthermore, the percentage of households headed by a man and own a mobile phone reached 99% compared to 88% of the households headed by a woman. Also, the percentage of households that one of its members owns a smart phone reached 89% of households headed by a man compared with 62% of households headed by a woman. In addition, the percentage of households headed by a man and own a computer (Desktop, laptop or tablet) reached 35% compared to 19% of households headed by a woman.

**A gap in the participation rate in the labour force and average daily wage between women and men**

Big gap of participation between women and men in the labour force during 2015 and 2019; where is the womn’s participation still relatively low compared to men's participation. The women’s participation rate in the labour force reached 18% out of total women at work age during 2019. This percentage was the same for the year 2015; knowing that the percentage of men's participation in labour force reached 70% in 2019. There was also a gap in the average daily wages between women and men (the average daily wage for women was 98 NIS compared to 102 NIS for men).

**Labour force participation rate of women and men (15 years and above) in Palestine, 2015- 2019**

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**The gap in labour force participation between women and men (15 years and above) with disabilities is deepening**

According to the Labour Force Survey 2019 data, participation rate of women with disabilities in labour force in Palestine was only 4% of the total women with disabilities compared to 24% of the total men with disabilities.

**Labour force participation rate of women and men with disabilities (15 years and above) by region, 2019**

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**Youth in the age group (19–29 years) who hold Intermediate diploma and Above, suffer the most from unemployment**

Unemployment rate among youth graduates of those who hold Intermediate diploma and above reached 52% (68% of females compared with 35% of males). The unemployment rate among participated women in the labour force was 41% compared to 21% among men in 2019.

**About one third of employees in the private sector get paid less than the minimum average wages (1,450 NIS) per month in Palestine.**

Data of the Labour Force Survey 2019 indicated that about 29% of male employees in the private sector get paid less than the minimum average wages (1,450 NIS) per month compared to 35% of female employees.

**One fourth of female employees in the private sector work without an employment contract**

25% of the female employees hired in the private sector work without an employment contract, and 49% of them get a contribution in financing retirement/end of service package. However, less than half of female employees in the private sector (48%) get a paid maternity leave for year 2019.

**Gaza governorate witnessed the highest level of violence against currently or ever married women**

Data of Violence Survey 2019, showed that Hebron governorate is one of the highest governorates with the prevalence of violence by the husbands against currently or ever married women (18-64 years). Thus, this percentage reached 37%, followed by Jenin governorate with a percentage of 27% and the least governorate with the prevalence of violence is Jerusalem governorate with a percentage of 11%. On the level of Gaza Strip governorates, Khan Yunis and Gazagovernorates had the highest prevalence of violence by husbands against currently or ever married women. Hence, the two percentages reached 41% and 40%, respectively, while Dier Al-Balah governorate had the least prevalence of violence by the husbands with a percentage of 30%.

**Prevalence of Violence against currently married or ever married women (18-64) years by husbands by Governorate, 2019**

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**A humble participation of women in decision making positions**

According to 2019 data, the participation of women in decision making positions is still limited comparing to men's. These data showed that 5% of the Palestinian Central Council members, 11% of the Palestinian National Council members and 14% of the Council of Ministers members are women. Also, 11% is the percentage of the active women ambassadors in the Diplomatic Service. Moreover, there is one woman holds the position of Ramallah and Al-Bireh governor out of 16 governors.

According to the General Personnel Council data up to February 2020, the percentage of women's participation in the civil sector reached 44% of the total employees in the public sector. The gap is reflected when talking about those who hold the rank of Director General and higher, where this percentage reached 13% of women compared with 87% of men.