



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

Relief and Social Services Department

Socio-economic Situation of Palestine Refugees in the Gaza Strip

Crisis Monitoring Report – High Frequency Survey Results – December 2022

Topic	Indicator	(%)
Education	Children (6-15 years) attending school	98
	Children (6-15 years) attended school and left	1
	Children never attended school	1
Employment	Out of labour force (16+ years - female)	93
	Out of labour force (16+ years - male)	40
	Employed (16+ years – female)	2
	Employed (16+ years – male)	31
	Unemployed (16+ years – female)	5
	Unemployed (16+ years – male)	29
Employed - contractual status	Verbal agreement	25
	Collective agreement	2
	No contract	40
	Written contract – indefinite period	19
	Written contract – fixed period	14
	Employed - working hours per week (1-14 hrs)	45
	Employed - working hours per week (15-34 hrs)	28
	Employed - working hours per week (35 hrs +)	27
Employment – number of months in last 12 months	Employed – less than 9 months	68
	Employed – 9-11 months	7
	Employed – 12 months	25
Employment injuries	Employed – suffered employment related injuries during last 12 months	5
House tenure	Owned	82
	Rented	7
	Other housing arrangements	11
	Average no. of rooms (excl. kitchen, bath etc.)	3
	Average no. of only bedrooms	2
	Average family size	4



Migration	Any family member has migrated outside Gaza since 2015 and has not returned	1
	Any family member has ever thought of migrating outside Lebanon	21
	Any family member has started serious emigration procedures	6
Transfers	Receiving remittance from relatives	3
Debt	Debt taken in past 3 months	64
Poverty (self-estimation)	Extremely poor	23
	Poor	45
	Moderate	32
	Rich	0
Poverty (consumption-based)	Living below the national poverty line	81
Consumption (proportion spent on indicated item out of total expenditures – main expenditure items)	Food	33
	Housing	3
	House needs	6
	Medical care	5
	Communication	1
	Electricity/fuels	10
	Transportation	2
	Durable goods	1
Average monthly total household expenditure		NIS 1,770
Food security (in last 7 days)	Refrained from consuming expensive products and reverted to alternatives	88
	Purchased leftovers from the market	85
	Reduced number of meals for all family members	77
	Reduced quantity of food in each meal for all family members	76
	Borrowed food/sought assistance from family	59
	Reduced quantity of food by adults in favour of children	58



Survey Methodology

UNRWA has conducted the third round of its high frequency survey to monitor the socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip. As in the previous rounds, the survey sample was designed to provide representative estimates for a set of key indicators, such as poverty, consumption, food security, debts and remittances, housing, school attendance and employment.

A total of 800 households were randomly selected from UNRWA registration database. Data collection took place between 14 November and 13 December 2022 by 51 UNRWA relief workers. Out of the 800 selected households, 314 could not be reached or refused to be interviewed, yielding a final sample of 486 households.

The 486 interviewed households consist of 2,097 individuals, of whom 1,093 males and 1,004 females. About 47 per cent are under 19 years, 6 per cent are aged 60 years and above, and the remaining 47 per cent are in the age range 20-59 years.

Key Findings

Since the previous survey in March 2022, the share of total monthly expenditures spent on food significantly increased from 26 per cent to 33 per cent and expenditures on electricity/fuels doubled to 10 per cent. At the same time, average monthly household expenditures significantly decreased from NIS 2,247 in March to NIS 1,770 in December 2022. Full term employment reduced from 34 per cent to 25 per cent and the percentage of employees working for 35 hours and more reduced from 41 per cent in March 2022 to 25 per cent in December.

Poverty

A total of 81 per cent of individuals live below the national poverty line as calculated by the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2011 and adjusted for inflation for 2022, which remains at the same level as in the previous survey.

A total of 23 per cent of families described themselves as “extremely poor”, 45 per cent as “poor” and 32 per cent as “moderately poor”.

Consumption

Average monthly household expenditures significantly decreased from NIS 2,247 in March to NIS 1,770 in December 2022. The reported proportion of expenditures on food items remains the single largest expenditure item with 33 per cent of total expenditures being spent on food, representing a significant increase from 26 per cent in March 2012. It is a comparatively large amount in relation to other expenditure items indicating distress within



families to manage household budgets and secure food intake. The second largest expenditure item is for electricity/ fuels, which doubled to 10 per cent since the previous survey. The remaining items are between 1 and 6 per cent of total household expenditures distributed across housing, medical care, transportation and durable goods.

Food security

Food insecurity remains stable at very high levels. A total of 77 per cent of families have reduced the number of meals consumed within the 7 days preceding the survey and 76 per cent of families have reduced the quantity of food within meals. A total of 85 per cent of households purchased leftovers from the market and 59 per cent reported seeking assistance or borrowing foods from relatives.

Debt and Remittances

A total of 64 per cent of families reported having taken debts within the last 3 months. Only 3 per cent of families reported having received remittances from relatives.

Migration

One per cent of families reported having a family member who has migrated outside Gaza since 2015 and has not returned. Twenty-one per cent of families reported having a family member who has thought of migrating outside Gaza, with 6 per cent of households having started serious emigration procedures for at least one family member.

Housing

A total of 82 per cent of families reported owning their habitat. With the average family size being 4 persons, families are inhabiting on average 3 rooms (excluding kitchen, bathroom etc.), and the average number of bedrooms is 2 per family.

School attendance

School attendance is considered high with a total of 98 per cent of children aged 6-15 years attending school. About 1 per cent of children in this age group were reported as never having attended school and 1 per cent were reported having been enrolled but left school at some point in time.

Employment

The participation of females above the age of 16 years in the labour force is very low with only 2 per cent indicating being employed. Only 5 per cent of females above the age of 16 years reported looking for a job opportunity and not finding one (unemployed).



In contrast, 40 per cent of males above the age of 16 years reported being out of the labour force (neither looking for work nor being employed), with 31 per cent being employed and 29 per cent reporting being unemployed.

There has been some deterioration in employment stability and trends indicate a tightening of employment opportunities. While in March 2022 a total of 34 per cent of the employed reported being so for 12 months, it was only 25 per cent in December. Reflecting the same trend, in March a total of 59 per cent reported being employed for only 9 months over the previous year. This figure increased to 68 per cent by December 2022.

As for the hours worked per week, 45 per cent worked 1-14 hours and 22 per cent worked 15-34 hours. Employment for 35 hours and more significantly reduced from 41 per cent in March 2022 to 25 per cent. A total of 5 per cent of employed reported employment related injuries sustained in the past 12 months.

The percentage of the employed who hold a written contract for either an indefinite or a fixed period remained low at 33 per cent, whereas the remainder hold either no contract or are employed based on a verbal agreement.

This report was prepared in technical partnership with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).