



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 – May 2022

| Topic | Indicator | (%) |
|--|--|-----|
| Education | Children (6-15 years) attending school | 96 |
| | Children (6-15 years) attended school and left | 3 |
| | Children (6-15 years) never attended school | 1 |
| Employment | Out of labour force (16+ years – female) | 88 |
| | Out of labour force (16+ years – male) | 39 |
| | Unemployed (16+ years – female) | 8 |
| | Unemployed (16+ years – male) | 31 |
| | Employed (16+ years – female) | 4 |
| | Employed (16+ years – male) | 30 |
| Employed - contractual status | No contract | 35 |
| | Verbal agreement | 33 |
| | Collective agreement | 1 |
| | Written contract – indefinite period | 20 |
| | Written contract – fixed period | 11 |
| Employment – working hours per week | Employed – 1-14 hours per week | 37 |
| | Employed – 15-34 hours per week | 22 |
| | Employed – 35+ hours per week | 41 |
| Employment – number of months in last 12 months | Employed – less than 9 months | 59 |
| | Employed – 9-11 months | 7 |
| | Employed – 12 months | 34 |
| Employment injuries | Suffered employment related injuries during last 12 months | 9 |
| House tenure | Owned | 84 |
| | Rented | 7 |
| | Other housing arrangements | 9 |
| | Average no. of rooms (excl. kitchen, bath etc.) | 3 |
| | Average no. of only bedrooms | 2 |
| | Average family size | 5 |



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| Migration | Any family member has migrated outside Gaza since 2015 and not returned | 2 |
| | Any family member has ever thought of migrating outside Gaza | 20 |
| | Any family member has started serious emigration procedures | 7 |
| Transfers | Receiving remittance from relatives | 4 |
| Debt | Debt taken in past 3 months | 66 |
| Poverty (self-estimation) | Extremely poor | 30 |
| | Poor | 40 |
| | Moderate | 29 |
| | Rich | 1 |
| Poverty (consumption-based) | Living below the national poverty line | 82 |
| Consumption (proportion spent on indicated item out of total expenditures – main expenditure items) | Food | 26 |
| | Housing | 3 |
| | Medical care | 7 |
| | Electricity/fuels | 5 |
| | Transportation | 5 |
| Average monthly total household expenditure | | ILS 2,247 |
| Food security (in last 7 days) | Refrained from consuming expensive products | 90 |
| | Purchased leftovers from the market | 83 |
| | Reduced number of meals for all family members | 79 |
| | Reduced quantity of food in each meal for all family members | 74 |
| | Reduced quantity of food by adults in favour of children | 63 |
| | Borrowed food/sought assistance from family | 60 |



Survey Methodology

UNRWA has conducted the second round of its high frequency survey to monitor the socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip. As in the first round, 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 17 May and 26 May 2022 by 60 UNRWA relief workers. Out of the 800 selected households, 213 could not be reached or refused to be interviewed, yielding a final sample of 587 households.

The 587 interviewed households consist of 2,920 individuals, of whom 1,492 males and 1,428 females. About 48 per cent are under 19 years, 6 per cent are aged 60 years and above, and the remaining 46 per cent are in the age range 20-59 years

Key Findings

Poverty

A total of 82 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.

A total of 30 per cent of families described themselves as “extremely poor”, 40 per cent as “poor,” 29 per cent as “moderate,” and only 1 per cent as “rich.”

Consumption

The reported proportion of expenditures on food items remains the single largest expenditure item with 26 per cent of total expenditures being spent on food. This 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 items are almost equally distributed across the following various items: housing expenditures, medical care, electricity and fuels as well as transportation that all reflecting between 3 to 7 per cent each of total household expenditures.

Food security

A total of 79 per cent of families have reduced the number of meals consumed within the 7 days preceding the survey and 74 per cent of families have reduced the quantity of food within meals. A total of 83 per cent of households purchased leftovers from the market and 60 per cent reported seeking assistance or borrowing foods from relatives.



Debt and Remittances

A total of 66 per cent of families reported having taken debts within the last 3 months. Only 4 per cent of families reported having received remittances from relatives.

Migration

A total of 2 per cent of families reported having a family member who has migrated outside Gaza since 2015 and has not returned. A total of 20 per cent of families reported having a family member who has ever thought of migrating outside Gaza, with 7 per cent of households having started serious emigration procedures for at least one family member.

Housing

A total of 84 per cent of families reported owning their habitat. With the average family size being 5 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 96 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 3 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 4 per cent indicating being employed. Only 8 per cent of females above the age of 16 years reported looking for a job opportunity and not finding one (“unemployed”).

In contrast, 39 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 30 per cent being employed and 31 per cent reporting being unemployed.

Duration of employment over the past 12 months was less than 9 months for 59 per cent of employees, 7 per cent of employees worked for 9-11 months and 34 per cent of employees had employment for the full 12 months.

As for the hours worked per week, 37 per cent worked 1-14 hours, 22 per cent worked 15-34 hours and 41 per cent worked for more than 35 hours. A total of 9 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 has dropped from 40 per cent in 2021 to 31 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).