



## 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 – November 2021

Topic	Indicator	(%)
<b>Education</b>	Children (6-15 years) attending school	97
	Children (6-15 years) attended school and left	2
	Children never attended school	1
<b>Employment</b>	Out of labour force (16+ years – female)	87
	Out of labour force (16+ years – male)	42
	Unemployed (16+ years – female)	9
	Unemployed (16+ years – male)	29
	Employed (16+ years – female)	4
	Employed (16+ years – male)	29
<b>Employed - contractual status</b>	Verbal agreement	31
	No contract	29
	Written contract – indefinite period	26
	Written contract – fixed period	14
<b>Employment – working hours per week</b>	Employed – 1-14 hours per week	30
	Employed – 15-34 hours per week	28
	Employed – 35+ hours per week	42
<b>Employment – number of months in last 12 months</b>	Employed – less than 9 months	55
	Employed – 9-11 months	6
	Employed – 12 months	39
<b>Employment injuries</b>	Employed – suffered employment related injuries during last 12 months	9
<b>House tenure</b>	Owned	83
	Rented	8
	For free	8
	Other housing arrangements	1
	Average no. of rooms (excl. kitchen, bath etc.)	3
	Average no. of only bedrooms	2
	Average family size	5
<b>Migration</b>	Any family member has migrated outside Gaza since 2015 and has not returned	2



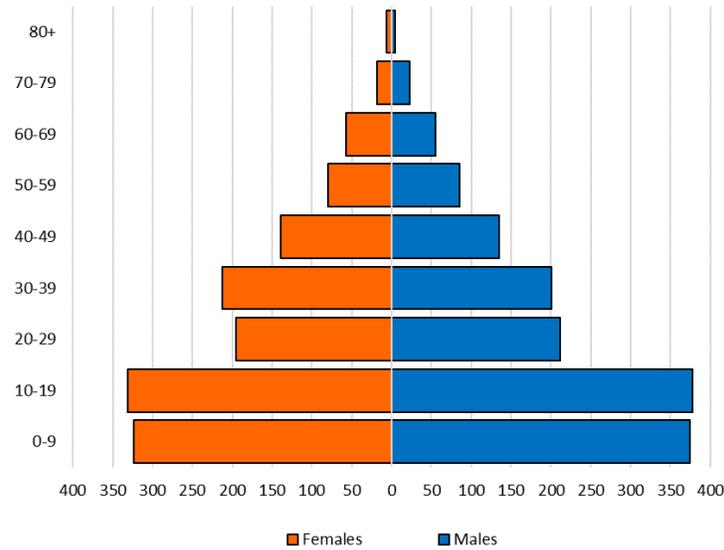
	Any family member has ever thought of migrating outside Gaza	27
	Any family member has started serious emigration procedures	8
<b>Transfers</b>	Receiving remittance from relatives	3
<b>Debt</b>	Debt taken in past 3 months	77
<b>Poverty (self-estimation)</b>	Extremely poor	33
	Poor	37
	Moderate	29
	Rich	1
<b>Poverty Headcount</b>	Living below the national poverty line	81.5
<b>Consumption (proportion spent on indicated item out of total expenditures – main expenditure items)</b>	Food	32
	Housing	6
	Medical care	6
	Electricity/fuels	6
	Transportation	6
<b>Average monthly total household expenditure</b>		ILS 1,920
<b>Food security (in last 7 days)</b>	Refrained from consuming expensive products and reverted to alternatives	93
	Purchased leftovers from the market	85
	Reduced number of meals for all family members	78
	Reduced quantity of food in each meal for all family members	78
	Reduced quantity of food by adults in favour of children	64
	Borrowed food/sought assistance from family	60

### Survey Methodology

UNRWA has started a series of high frequency surveys to monitor the socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip. The survey sample was designed to provide representative estimates for a set of key indicators, such as poverty, household consumption, food security, debts and remittances, migration, housing, school attendance and employment.

A total of 688 households were randomly selected from UNRWA registration database. Data collection took place between 20 October and 16 November 2021 by 29 UNRWA relief workers. Out of the 688 selected households, 166 could not be reached or refused to be interviewed, yielding a final sample of 522 households.

The 522 interviewed households consist of 2,829 individuals, of whom 1,466 males and 1,362 females. About 50 per cent are under 19 years, 6 per cent are aged 60 years and above, and the remaining 44 per cent are in the age range 20-59 years (see below sex and age structure of assessed population).



## Key Findings

### 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 2021.

A total of 33 per cent of families described themselves as “extremely poor”, 37 per cent as “poor,” 29 per cent as “moderate,” and only 1 per cent as “rich.”

### Household consumption

The reported proportion of expenditures on food items is the single largest expenditure item with 32 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 equally distributed across the following various items: housing expenditures, medical care, electricity and fuels as well as transportation that all reflect 6 per cent each of total household expenditures.

### Food security

Within the 7 days preceding the survey, a total of 93 per cent of families have refrained from consuming expensive products and reverted to alternatives, and 84 per cent purchased leftover from the market. About 78 per cent reduced the number of meals, and the same percentage reduced the quantity of food within meals. About 60 per cent reported seeking assistance or borrowing food from relatives.



## Debt and Remittances

A total of 77 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

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 27 per cent of families reported having a family member who has ever thought of migrating outside Gaza, with 8 per cent of households having started serious emigration procedures for at least one family member.

## Housing

A total of 83 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 97 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 2 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 9 per cent of females above the age of 16 years reported looking for a job opportunity and not finding one (“unemployed”).

In contrast, 42 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 29 per cent being employed and 29 per cent reporting being unemployed.

Duration of employment over the past 12 months was less than 9 months for 55 per cent of employees, 6 per cent of employees worked for 9-11 months and 39 per cent of employees had employment for the full 12 months.

As for the hours worked per week, 30 per cent worked 1-14 hours, 28 per cent worked 15-34 hours and 42 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.

Only 40 per cent of the employed hold a written contract for either an indefinite or a fixed period, 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).

