



**State of Palestine  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**Impact of COVID - 19 Pandemic (Coronavirus) on  
the Socio-economic Conditions of Palestinian  
Households Survey (March-May), 2020**

**"User Manual"**

**April, 2021**

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## **Definitions and Explanations**

### **Locality:**

A permanently inhabited place, which has an independent municipal administration or a permanently inhabited separated place not included within the formal boundaries of another locality and not having an independent administrative authority.

### **Household:**

One person or a group of persons with or without a household relationship, who live in the same housing unit, share meals and make joint provision of food and other essentials of living.

### **Head of Household:**

The person who usually lives with the household and is recognized as head of household by its other members. Often he/she is the main decision maker and is responsible for financial support and welfare of the household.

### **Sex:**

It classifies into male or female.

### **Age in completed years:**

The completed age in years of the person enumerated, which is the difference between the date of birth and the survey reference period.

### **Refugee Status:**

This status relates to the Palestinians who were forced to leave their land in Palestine which occupied by Israel in 1948. It applies to their male sons and grandchildren.

### **Work:**

All activities performed by persons in order to gain profit or wage either monthly wage, weekly, daily, on piece for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind. One hour or more of such activity constitutes work. Work also includes unpaid activity on a family farm or business.

### **Employed:**

Persons aged 15 years and over who were work at least one hour during the reference period, or who were not at work during the reference period, but held a job or owned business from which they were temporarily absent (because of illness, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason) he\ she was employer, self employed, wage employed, unpaid family member or other. The employed person is normally classified in one of two categories according to the number of weekly work hours, i.e. 1–14 work hours and 15 work hours and above. Also the absence due to sick leave, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason considered employed from 1-14 hours.

### **Economic activity:**

Referring to a process consisting of actions and activities carried out by a certain entity that uses labour, capital, goods and services to produce specific products (goods and services). In addition to that, the main economic activity refers to the main work of the enterprise based on

the (ISIC) and that contribute by the large proportion of the value added, whenever more than one activity exist in the enterprise.

**Income:**

Cash or in kind revenues for individual or household within a period of time; could be a week or a month or a year.

**Household Expenditure:**

It refers to the amount of cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes, and the value of goods and services payments or part of payments received from the employer, and cash expenditure spent as taxes (non-commercial or non-industrial), Zakat, Insurance, gifts, contributions, interests on debts and other non-consumption items.

**Household's Main Income Earner:**

He is a member of the household and maybe the head of the household, and he is the one who contributes the largest part of the household's income and is the one who covers most of the family's expenses.

**Area C:**

It is an Oslo II administrative division of the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem). The Palestinian government is responsible for medical and educational services to Palestinians in Area C and it is totally under Israeli control over security, administration. Results presented in this report on area C covered 96 localities which considered as totally C.

**Jerusalem J1:**

Includes that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of West Bank in 1967. This part includes the following localities: Kafr 'Aqab, Beit Hanina, Shu'fat Camp, Shu'fat, Al 'Isawiya, Sheikh Jarrah, Wadi al Joz, Bab as Sahira, As Suwwana, At Tur, Jerusalem (Al Quds), Ash Shayyah, Ras al 'Amud, Silwan, Ath Thuri, Jabal al Mukabbir, As Sawahira al Gharbiya, Beit Safafa, Sharafat, Sur Bahir, Umm Tuba.

**Jerusalem J2:**

Includes the Remaining parts of Jerusalem governorate, namely: (Rafat, Mikhmas, Qalandiya Camp, Qalandiya, Beit Duqqu, Jaba', Al Judeira, Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed, Beit A'nan, Al Jib, Bir Nabala, Beit Ijza, Al Qubeiba, Kharayib Umm al Lahim, Biddu, An Nabi Samwil, Hizma, Beit Hanina al Balad, Qatanna, Beit Surik, Beit Iksa, A'nata, Al Ka'abina (Tajammu' Badawi), Az Za'ayyem, Al 'Eizariya, Abu Dis, A'rab al Jahalin (Salamat), As Sawahira ash Sharqiya, Ash Sheikh Sa'd).

**Lockdown Period:**

It is the period in which the Palestinian government declared a state of lockdown in all aspects of life in Palestine, which is the period from 05/03/2020 to 25/05/2020.

### **Survey Questionnaire**

One of the main survey tools is the questionnaire; the survey questionnaire was designed according to the International recommendations with preserving the Palestinian society's specificities.

It also fulfills the technical specifications for the fieldwork phase, processing, and analysis phase. It includes the most important variables about the phenomena related to the

pandemic's impact on the social and economic conditions of Palestinian families. At the same time, it comes to meet the national, regional, and international needs for data on the pandemic's impact in Palestine.

### Data Set Linkage

File Name	Content	Key variable
Final Main data -A	From Part 4 (Labor Force) to Part 7 (Social Protection)	FAMILY ID (ID00)
Individual data - A	Part 3: Roster	FAMILY ID (ID00)

### Target Population

All households who are normally residing in the State of Palestine in 2020.

### Sampling and Frame

#### Sampling Frame

The list of households who responded in 2018 from the Socio-Economic Conditions Survey (9,926 households) is a representative sample. Each enumeration area consists of buildings and housing units with an average of about 150 households. These enumeration areas are used as primary sampling units (PSUs) in the first sampling selection stage.

#### Sample size

The sample size was 9,926 households.

Distribution of the Survey Sample by Governorate					
Governorate	Sample		Governorate	Sample	
	No.	(%)		No.	(%)
Jenin	682	6.9	Jerusalem J1	236	2.4
Tubas & Northern Valleys	252	2.5	Bethlehem	487	4.9
Tulkarm	414	4.2	Hebron	1,318	13.3
Nablus	871	8.8	North Gaza	808	8.1
Qalqiliya	274	2.8	Gaza	1,196	12.0
Salfit	264	2.7	Dier Al-Balah	577	5.8
Ramallah & Al-Bireh	656	6.6	Khan Yunis	905	9.1
Jericho & AL Aghwar	200	2.0	Rafah	542	5.4
Jerusalem J2	244	2.5	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,926</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Sample Design

Two-stage stratified cluster sample

**Stage 1:** Sample of enumeration area from the Socio-Economic Conditions Survey 2018

**Stage 2:** Sample of a household from responsive households Socio-Economic Conditions Survey 2018.

### **The Sample Strata**

The community has been divided into homogeneous strata as follows:

1. Governorate (16 Governorates)
2. Locality type (Urban, Rural, Refugee Camp)

### **Publishing level**

1. Governorate (16 Governorates)
2. Locality type (Urban, Rural, Refugee Camp)
3. Residency in Area C.
4. Characteristics of the Household's Main Income Earner (Sex, Age, Refugee Status)

### **Weighting Calculation**

The weight of statistical units (sampling unit) in the sample is defined as the mathematical inverse of the selection probability, where the sample of the survey is a two-stage stratified cluster sample. In the first stage, we calculated the weight of enumeration areas depending on the probability of each enumeration area (a systematic random sample). Then, in the second stage, we calculated the weight of households in each enumeration area. Initial households' weights resulted from the product of the weight of the first stage and weight of the second stage, while final households' weights were obtained after adjustment of initial weights with the result of the interview and the level of design strata (governorate, locality type); thus, we get the final households' weights.

### **Variance Calculation**

The variance was calculated for the most important indicators; the variance table is attached to the final report. There is no problem in disseminating results at the national level and the level of governorates of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### **Reference Date**

Reference Date the reference time for the data was the lockdown period extending from the fifth of March to the twenty-fifth of May 2020.

### **Data collection**

#### **Field Operations**

- The sample size was 9,926 households distributed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The data collection process was implemented through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI), which is one of the surveys techniques implemented over the phone, where the researcher interviewed with the respondent through a telephone dialogue, and the interview was managed via an application uploaded to the PC tablet device that reflects the survey's questionnaire. This application is designed to collect data over the phone, as it is effective, flexible, and has accelerated data collection process and data processing.

#### **1. Fieldworkers Selection**

- All interviewers were selected among those who had previously worked with PCBS surveys, from the cities of Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Beitunia in West Bank, and those who worked from Gaza city in Gaza Strip, such interviewers are holders of university degrees.
- The interviewers were called upon following the survey requirements. The work team was invited to attend a training course to explain this survey's objectives and the questionnaire.

## 2. Training and Hiring

- All materials and instructions have been prepared and included in the training manual and are required to work with them in all stages of work, whether collecting data, checking it and making sure of its logic.
- The training halls were well prepared and contained microphones and Wi-Fi.
- The Gaza Strip team was trained through video conference technology and in conjunction with West Bank team.
- Trainers from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics trained the team.
- The training was in two phases for three days in each phase, the first was from 07/06/2020 until 06/09/2020, and the second phase was from 06/28/2020 until 06/30/2020.
- The number of trainees was 28 in West Bank and 28 in Gaza Strip.
- A theoretical training was given on the importance, concepts and mechanism of completing the questionnaire, and practical training on using the tablet device, making a phone call and using the application to complete the questionnaire.

## 3. Data Collection

- Data were collected using CATI technology and for a large sample size.
- Data collection began on 06/15/2020 and ended on 07/30/2020.

## 4. Field Editing and Supervising

- The data collection process was carried out in communication rooms that were equipped to suit the new technology (CATI), and field coordination was carried out according to the previously prepared plan, were instructions, forms, and tools necessary for communicating with households and complete the questionnaires.
- Working in communication rooms on PC-tablets was carried out by establishing all automated editing rules and the office editing on the program to cover all the required controls according to the specified criteria.
- There was a presence in the project coordinator's communication rooms and the project management to check the editing of questionnaires and work progress of fieldworkers.

## Response Rates

The survey sample consists of about 9,926 households of which 8,709 households completed the interview and partially completed it. The response rate in Palestine after deleting over converge cases reached 93.6% (90.4% in West Bank, and 98.0% in Gaza Strip).

Table 2: Distribution of Response and Non-Response Cases						
Response, Non-Response and Over Converge Cases	Palestine		West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
<b>Response Cases</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>4,862</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>3,847</b>	<b>98.0</b>
Household completed	8,621	92.6	4,793	89.1	3,828	97.6
Household partially completed	88	1.0	69	1.3	19	0.4
<b>Non-Response Cases</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Other	177	1.9	157	2.9	20	0.5
Refused to cooperate	419	4.5	362	6.7	57	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,305</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,381</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Over Converge Cases</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0.03</b>

Table 2: Distribution of Response and Non-Response Cases						
Response, Non-Response and Over Converse Cases	Palestine		West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
We couldn't get to the household.	621	6.3	517	8.8	104	0.03
<b>Total Sample Size</b>	<b>9,926</b>		<b>5,898</b>		<b>4,028</b>	

## Data Quality

### Accuracy

The data accuracy-test includes multiple aspects of the survey, most notably sampling errors and non-sampling errors that occur due to the staff and survey tools, as well as survey response rates and their most important impact on estimates. This section includes the following:

#### 1. Sampling Errors

Data of this survey are affected by sampling errors due to the use of the sample and incomplete enumeration. Therefore, certain differences are expected in comparison with the real values obtained through censuses, some indicators such as the average size of the household, the composition of the household, the gender of the head of the household were calculated from this survey and compared with the census data, and the differences were very few. The variance was calculated for the most important indicators; the variance table is attached to the final report. There is no problem in disseminating results at the national level and the level of governorates of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

#### 2. Non-Sampling Errors

Non-statistical errors are possible at all stages of the project, during data collection or processing. Such errors are referred to as non-response errors, response errors, interviewing errors and data entry errors. To avoid errors and reduce their effects, strenuous efforts were made to train the fieldworkers intensively. They were trained on how to carry out the interview through a dial-up connection with the household, what to discuss and what to avoid, as well as practical and theoretical training during the training course.

## Derived Variables

From the Derived variables:

1. Region: It has been divided to a West Bank and Gaza Strip.
2. Locality type: It has been divided to a Urban, Rural and Refugee Camp.
3. Residency in Area C: It has been divided to Yes and No.

## Data Processing

CATI technology was used in data collection, so the data processing stage began with the beginning of the data collection process, and it included the following phases:

#### 1. Programming Phase

- The IT staff at PCBS prepared the data collection application.

- IT staff tested the application with the project director. All comments and updates were implemented, skips between questions, and some verification rules were also tested, a final version of the application was provided on time.

## **2. Verification Phase**

- All verifications and consistency checks were applied to PC-Tablet applications. An error message pops up when entering a wrong value and some error messages show up in red for sensitive questions.
- Daily, data were checked to ensure that there are no errors, and feedback was made to the fieldworkers through the coordinator.

## **3. Data processing requirements**

- PC-Tablets: In general, PC-tablets were user friendly and familiar. During training, every interviewer was trained on a PC-tablet for their use
- Data Collection Application (Survey Solution): The application was well designed and had a user-friendly interface. Nevertheless, a programmer needed to be available when an error occurred by any supervisors and interviewers.
- Internet Connection (Wi-Fi): During the training, an internet connection was available for trainers and trainees.
- During Data Collection, SIM cards with internet connection were provided for each PC-tablet by Jawwal Company during the data collection process.
- Administration Website: The website was friendly designed and easy to use, as it shows totals of the completed questionnaire by interviewers.
- Fieldwork coordinators were provided with a Windows tablet device for daily review and follow-up on fieldworkers.

## **4. Data Cleaning**

After completing the input and auditing phase, the data was cleaned by conducting internal checks for the answers and ensuring that there were no answers outside the range.

Comprehensive audit rules were conducted using the (SPSS) program to extract lists of errors and inconsistencies of data and ensure that they are examined and modified through communication with the households, and a file was prepared Final data for scheduling and publishing.

## **5. Tabulation**

After finish checking and cleaning any data errors, tabulation was prepared to extract the data results tables in abundance to the previous list for this purpose.