

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



Changed Working Practices and Pivots Post COVID-19

Special Meeting of the UNCEBTS
The impact of COVID-19 on
Business and Trade Statistics

16-18 June, 2020

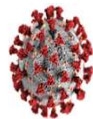
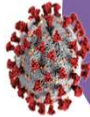
Background



Emergency in Palestine

March 5th, 2020

Palestine
Declares
Coronavirus
Emergency



April 3rd, 2020



Palestine
Extends
State of
Emergency

stay
home

May 5th, 2020

Palestinian
President
Renews
State of
Emergency

Background



COVID-19

PCBS had been working to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Palestine through 3 main dimensions:



Utilize the current relevant data on measuring the impact on the current situation



PCBS has conducted two rounds of economic forecasts comparing between economic indicators of 2019 with the baseline and the COVID-19 case taking into consideration a number of scenarios






Larger survey started recently after the emergency state is over and traditional data collection is possible to measure the impact on Households & Establishments.

Background

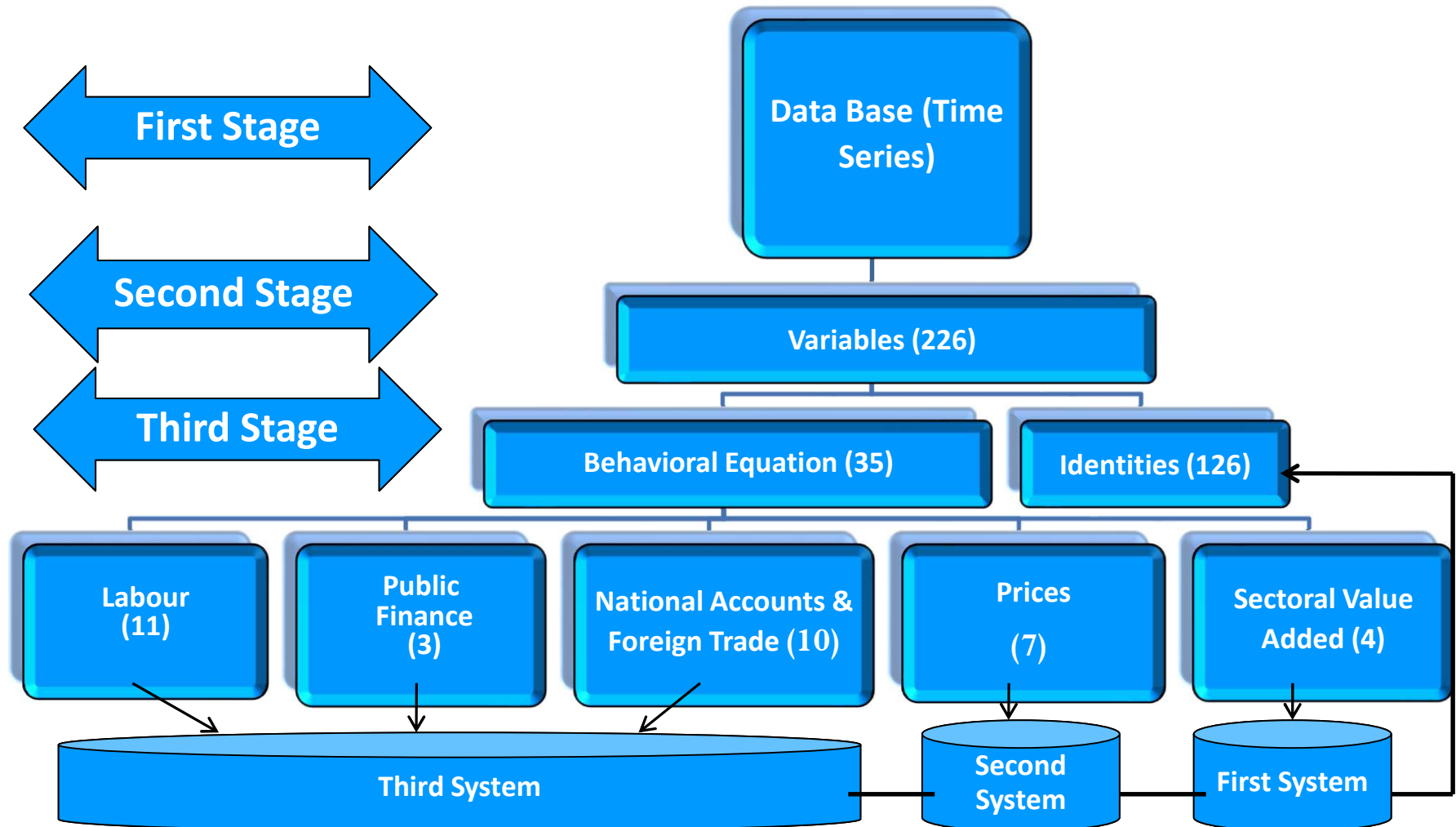


COVID-19

-  **Close Communication at the national, regional and international stakeholders.**
-  **Strong leadership and motivated staff were a source of success**
-  **Learning from best practices**

Structure of the Economic Model

COVID-19



PCBS Response to the Corona Crises: COVID-19

A. Operational Level: *Working Arrangements*

- PCBS started with the formulation of an emergency team to ensure following upon the statistical work in terms of the technical, administrative and technological aspects.
- All statisticians and PCBS staff are working from home via the email and social media such as whatsapp.

B. Technical Level: *Data Solutions and Responding to new users' needs*

- Conducting estimates regarding the expected losses and submitting them to the government, Using **econometrical** time series Model
- PCBS has worked with the Ministries on measuring losses, the impact of the crises
- Continuing data collection of prices surveys via the phone .
- Studying the statistical activities of the work plan for this year



PCBS Response to the Corona Crises: COVID-19

C. Networking Level

- Discussing ideas on with UN Partners and World Bank.
- Holding meetings with local and international partners
- PCBS is coordinated with the World Bank to work on **Economic Impact of Covid 19: Business Pulse Survey**

D. Communication Level

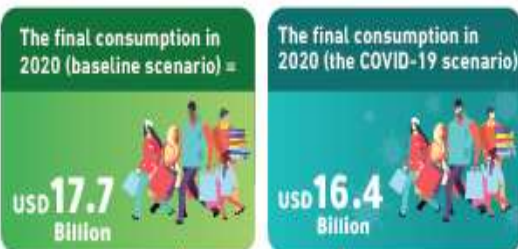
- An internal team was formed to maximize efforts and coordinate on relevant messages
A press release was published under the title “**PCBS will continue carrying out its mission and statistical message during the emergency**”.
- PCBS toll free and landline were connected with of PBCS staff.
- All press releases on statistical data were disseminated on their due dates
- Providing several data via the phone or email
- Coordinating with many audio-visual mass media.
- Coordinate with all local partners to support them with all data needs.

Economic Forecasts* in Palestine for the Year 2020, in light of the Current COVID-19 Pandemic

Impact on GDP:

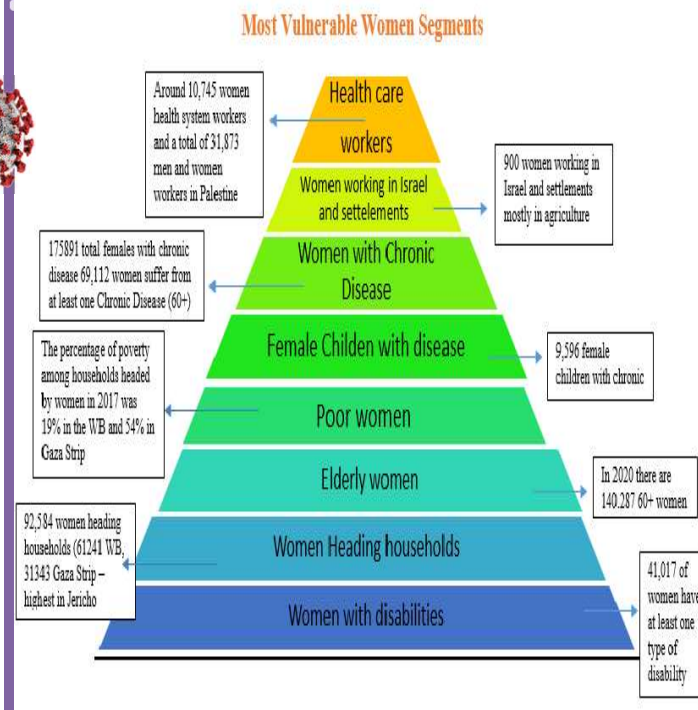


Impact on Final Consumption



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

A Summary of Statistical Indicators on Women in Palestine during the Covid19 Crises



Value Added of Agriculture:

The decline of the value added of the agricultural activity in 2020 (COVID-19) =

14.7% compared to 2019



Value Added of Industrial Activity:

The decline of value added of the industrial activity in 2020 (COVID-19) =

18.4% compared to 2019



Value Added of Construction Activity:

The decline of value added of the construction activity in 2020 (COVID-19) =

20.6% compared to 2019



Value Added of Services Activity:

The decline of value added of services activity in 2020 (COVID-19) =

11.4% compared to 2019



Losses of USD 4 million per week in the transportation sector

Losses of USD 1,155 million in the revenues of internal tourism

* Note: These forecasts were made on the assumption that:

- The impact of the COVID-19 crisis continues for 3 months starting from the beginning of March up to the end May 2020 and the gradual resumption of economic activities after the end of May.
- The government's decree of closure for all businesses, excluding health facilities, medical staff, pharmacies, bakeries and groceries, is renewed to include the period till end of May.
- The sharp decline in the number of Palestinian workers in Israel, especially during April and May 2020.
- The sharp decline in tax collection whether domestic taxes or clearance taxes.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Working arrangements

- The ICT solutions are the main support for continuing producing the traditional and new demands of users. Such as using conference applications, social media, emails, as well as internet, PCs and laptops availability.
- The availability of contact persons (focal points) in ministries was helpful.
- One of the main challenges was the unavailability of systems for securing data and information exchange
- Managing data collection system (CATI) was very important, but the availability of mobile phone numbers was a key issue, especially in the SBR

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Data Solutions and Responding to new users' needs.

- Managing data collection system (CATI) was very important, but the availability of mobile phone numbers was a key issue, especially in the SBR.
- The capacity building in those types of data collection tools was efficient in order to convert the work directly.
- One of the main data sources was the administrative records, due to the closure, the automated work should have been available.
- The main new users' demands were the losses by sector and to estimate the economic impact. The Econometric time series model was the best way to have innovative solutions in order to provide real-time data relevant to the users (government, international, org.). It integrates data from different sources, to ensure data quality and to inform users with the current situation depending on the government measurements.
- The SBR and Establishments Census were important data sources to provide the users with statistics by governorate.
- Weekly prices for the main goods of CPI basket was published.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Communication

- From the beginning of the crisis, PCBS contacted all the Governors, government and international organizations, chambers... etc, to see what they are working on, what their needs are, what they need in order to recover after the crisis ends....
- The results were great. We prepared a list of indicators by governorate and sector.
- International org. used PCBS' estimations for the main indicators.
- Developing a survey on establishments

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Role of NSOs

- One of the main roles that was finding a solution to estimate the losses and the impact before collecting real data. The econometric model was the best way to produce such data.
- The initiatives : NSO's should be proactive to talk with partners

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Partnerships

- Palestine has the **national statistical system** that helped in answering all needs.

Long-term economic effects on funding statistics/data:

In 2020, PCBS postponed the Agriculture Census to collect the data for the main census in October 2021 instead of October 2020 due to the funding priorities of the government and the donors

Thanks,,,