

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

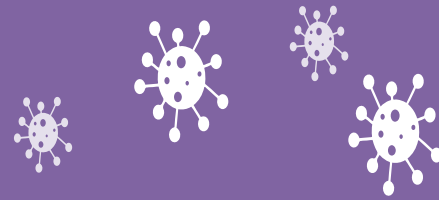


Changed working practices and pivot post- COVID

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
Declare
Coronavirus
Emergency

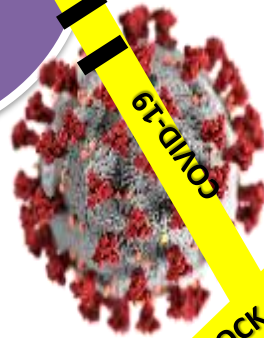
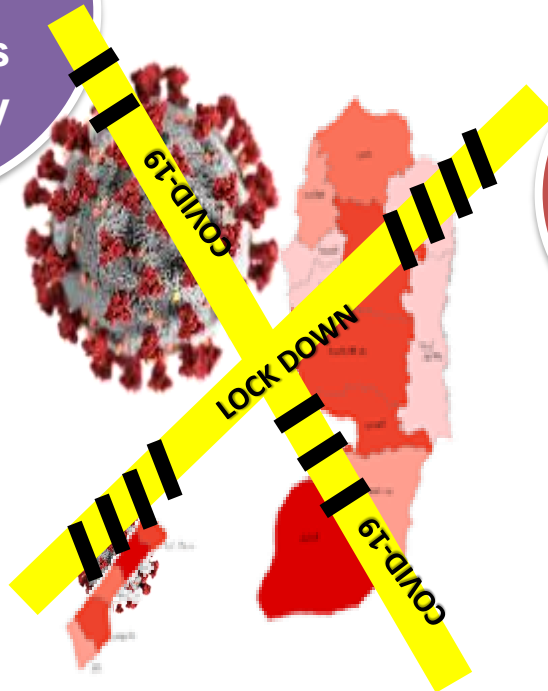
April 3rd, 2020

Palestine
Extends
State of
Emergency

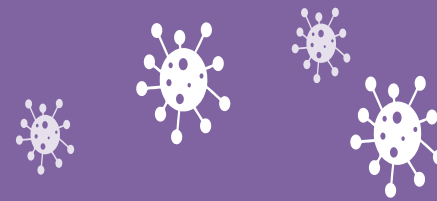
May 5th, 2020

Palestinian
President
Renews
State of
Emergency





stay
home



Background



COVID-19

-  **PCBS has been working to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Palestinian's' lives**
-  **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**
-  **A proper measurement of the impact of all aspects of lives is being prepared by PCBS in partnership with all partners and stakeholders**
-  **Larger survey started recently after the emergency state is over and traditional data collection is possible to measure the impact on establishments.**

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

Statistical Calendar 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
JANUARY						
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
FEBRUARY						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
MARCH						

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:



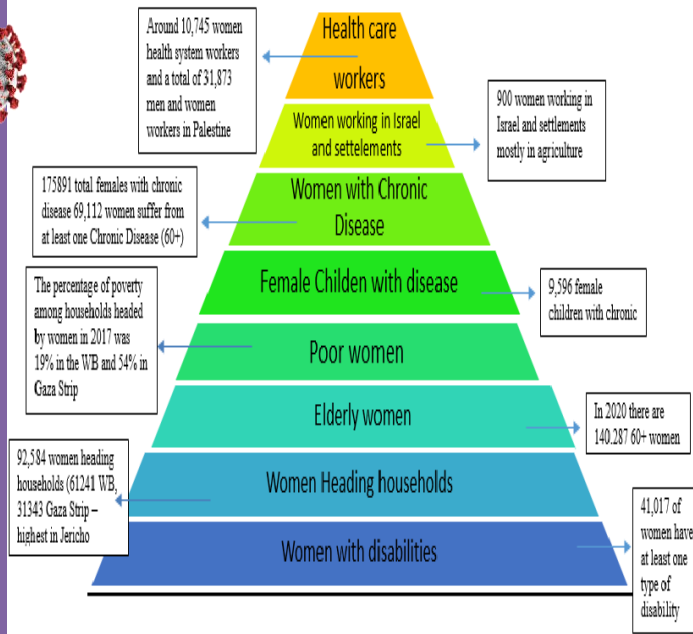
Impact on Final Consumption



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

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

Most Vulnerable Women Segments



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 was the main support to continue producing the traditional and new users demands. Such as using the meeting media, social media, emails, internet availability, PC's and laptops availability.
- The availability of contact persons (focal points) in ministries was helpful.
- Systems to secure the data and information exchange one of the main challenge. The system should be available
- The system of managing data collection (CATI) was very important, but the availability of MOBILE numbers is key issues, especially to be included in the SBR

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Data Solutions and Responding to new users' needs.

- The system of managing data collection (CATI) was very important, but the availability of MOBILE numbers is key issues, especially to be included in the SBR.
- The capacity building in these type of data collection tools was efficient to convert the work directly.
- One of the main data sources was the administrative records, due to the closure, the automated work should be available.
- The main new user demands was the losses by sector and to estimate the economic impact. The Econometric time series model was the best way to had innovative solutions to provide real-time data relevant to the users (government, international org.) it is integrate data from different sources, ensuring the quality of the data and informing the users the current situation depending on the government measurements.
- The SBR and establishment census was an important data source to provide the users with statistics by governorate.
- CPI in weekly basis.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Communication

- From the beginning of the crises, PCBS contact all the governances, government and international organizations, champers, ... to see what they are working, their needs, what they need after the crises for the recovery....
- The results was very great. We prepare a list of indicators by government and sector.
- The International org. used our estimations for the main indicators.
- Develop a survey for establishments

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Role of NSOs

- One of the main role was to find a solution to estimate the losses and the impact before collect a real data. The econometric model was the best way to produce these data.

Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Partnerships

- Palestine has the **national statistical system** that was very helpful in our responding to all needs.

Long-term economic effects on funding for statistics/data:

In 2020, PCBS postponed the agricultural census to next year due to the spending priorities of government and donors

Thanks