

**Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics**


**DISABILITY STATISTICS IN  
PALESTINE FROM MDGS TO  
SDGS**

**Rami Al-Dibs**

# Introduction



- People with disabilities are a particular matter of concern, often facing discrimination and barriers that restrict them from participating in the society on an equal basis.
- WHO estimates that about one billion people worldwide live with disability or impairment, of whom nearly 200 million experience considerable difficulties in functioning (about 130,000 of them are living in Palestine).

- 
- Due to the lack of services available to them and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives, people with disabilities have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

# Objectives



- The aim of this study is to describe the status of disability statistics in Palestine since 1997 and during MDGs era, and to assess the plans, the benefits and the main challenges for the coming 15 years (the SDGs era).

# Method



- Focus on the development of disability statistics during the past years in Palestine based on the statistics released by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).
- Discuss the future plans on how disability statistics will be included in PCBS household surveys to meet the SDGs.

# Disability Statistics



- ❑ Disability statistics has been known as a matter of counting people who fall into specific groups in order to determine who qualifies for benefits.
- ❑ Can provide an information on the full lived of persons with disabilities ranging from difficulties in participating activities, and barriers they face in their lives.

# Disability definition



- Disability considered as a complex, evolving and multi-dimensional concept, it impact on people's lives in many aspects.
- For example, mobility and the use of transport equipment; access to buildings; participation in education and training, the labour market; social contacts and economic independence.

# Disability definition



- The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) defines disability as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions.
- Disability is the interaction between individuals with a health condition (e.g. cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and depression) and personal and environmental factors (e.g. negative attitudes, inaccessible transportation and public buildings, and limited social supports).



# Disability definition



- **Disabled person define** as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

# Disability and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- In 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to the end of their term.
- Persons with disabilities are not explicitly cited in the MDGs, they are not included clearly in any of the 8 Goals and the accompanying Targets and Indicators.
- lack of explicit inclusion of disability in the MDGs, and the monitoring and evaluation tools designed to measure the progress towards achievement of these goals, is a missed opportunity.

# Disability and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Understanding the fact that persons with disabilities need the same opportunities for poverty-reduction available to all other members of society.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, clearly defining the rights of persons with disabilities as an issue of *human rights* and calling upon the global community to ensure these human rights.

# Disability and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- To understand the disability, governments around the world are now starting to identify how many people with disabilities live in their communities.
- Palestine starting enumerating the number of disabled people since 1997, (the first census).

# Disability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda.
- To ensure its success, the Agenda must remain of the people, by the people and for the people.
- The implementation of the Agenda is a roadmap to a better future for humanity and our planet, all of us are responsible for ensuring that the journey is successful and its gains sustainable.

# Disability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- While the persons with disabilities were not included in the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda includes persons with disabilities.
- 7 targets in 4 goals of SDGs are explicit references to Persons with Disabilities: education (2), employment (1), reducing inequalities (1), inclusive cities (2), and partnerships for the goals(1).

# Status of disability statistics in Palestine



- PCBS is keen to produce statistics on various fields including disability as one of the important topics that meet the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

# Status of disability statistics in Palestine

## First era: Before MDGs:

### The first Palestinian Census, 1997:

- **Definition:** person suffering from a clear and evident weakness in performing certain activities due to continuous difficulties emanating from a physical, mental or health state that lasted for more than six months.
- WHO scale was used to determine severe or can't at all disability.



Does (person) have disability	Answers	Data disaggregated by
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seeing disability</li> <li>2. Hearing disability</li> <li>3. Speaking disability?</li> <li>4. Hearing and Speaking disability?</li> <li>5. Mobility disability?</li> <li>6. Mental disability?</li> <li>7. Mental and Mobility disability?</li> <li>8. Multiple disability?</li> <li>9. Grasping disability?</li> <li>10. Other disability?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YES</li> <li>2. NO</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Region (West Bank, Gaza Strip)</li> <li>2. Government</li> <li>3. Sex</li> <li>4. Age</li> <li>5. Marital Status</li> <li>6. Cause</li> <li>7. Education</li> <li>8. Economic status</li> </ol>

**Disability Prevalence:** 1.8% of the Palestinians were disabled, of which 1.9% in the West Bank and 1.6% in Gaza Strip.

## **Second era: During MDGs: 2000 - 2015**



- PCBS produced statistics on disability following international recommendation tools as short and extended questions recommended by Washington group .
- Disability was included in several household surveys.
- A specialized household survey has been conducted in 2011 that collected information on disabled persons.


# Status of disability statistics in Palestine

## The Demographic and Health Survey 2004:

- **Definition:** person suffering from a clear and evident weakness in performing certain activities due to continuous difficulties emanating from a physical, mental or health state that lasted for more than six months.
- One domain was record for each person.

Does (person) have disability	Answers	Data disaggregated by
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seeing disability</li> <li>2. Hearing disability</li> <li>3. Speech disability?</li> <li>4. Hearing and Speech disability?</li> <li>5. Physical disability?</li> <li>6. Gripping of fingers?</li> <li>7. Mental disability?</li> <li>8. Mental disability?</li> <li>9. Mental and Physical disability?</li> <li>10. Multiple disability?</li> <li>11. Other disability?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YES</li> <li>2. NO</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Region (West Bank, Gaza Strip)</li> <li>2. Locality Type (Urban, Rural, Camps)</li> <li>3. Government</li> <li>4. Sex</li> <li>5. Age</li> <li>6. Marital Status</li> <li>7. Cause</li> <li>8. Education</li> <li>9. Economic status</li> </ol>

**Disability Prevalence:** 1.7% of the Palestinians were disabled, of which 1.7% in the West Bank and 1.6% in Gaza Strip.



Perhaps the definition used in the Demographic and Health Survey 2004 to measure prevalence of disabilities was not successful in screening the prevalence of disabilities.

Since the definition used for measuring the prevalence of disabilities in the Palestinian Territory does not allow measuring the size of the phenomenon precisely, it would be recommended to use a wider definition to prevalence of disabilities in the Palestinian society and attempt to implement the new categories of disability published by WHO.

## Palestinian Family Health Survey, 2006:



- **Definition:** any physical, psychological or mental impairment, which has a long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal daily activities compared to a normal person in the same age and situation.
- A screening question was used then asked about type of disability.
- Disabled person whom suffer from severe and moderate disability.
- Following Washington group and WHO recommendations.

Does (person) have disability	Answers	Data disaggregated by
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vision disability</li> <li>2. Hearing disability</li> <li>3. Understanding and communication disability?</li> <li>4. Movement disability?</li> <li>5. Self-care disability?</li> <li>6. dealing with others disability?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, severe</li> <li>2. Yes, moderate</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Region (West Bank, Gaza Strip)</li> <li>2. Locality Type (Urban, Rural, Camps)</li> <li>3. Government</li> <li>4. Sex</li> <li>5. Age</li> <li>6. Marital Status</li> <li>7. Cause</li> <li>8. Education</li> <li>9. Economic status</li> </ol>

**Disability Prevalence:** 2.7% of the Palestinians were disabled, of which 2.9% in the West Bank and 2.3% in Gaza Strip.

## The second Palestinian Census 2007:



- **Definition:** person suffering from a clear and evident weakness in performing certain activities due to continuous difficulties emanating from a physical, mental or health state that lasted for more than six months.
- Prevalence of disability in the Palestinian Society was measured, using Washington group domains.
- Disabled person whom suffer from A lot of difficulty or Cannot at all .



Does (person) have difficulty	Answers	Data disaggregated by
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vision disability even if wearing glasses?</li> <li>2. Hearing disability even if using a hearing aid</li> <li>3. Communication disability?</li> <li>4. remembering and concentrating disability?</li> <li>5. walking or climbing steps?</li> <li>6. Self-care disability?</li> <li>7. dealing with others disability?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Some difficulty</b></li> <li>2. <b>A lot of difficulty</b></li> <li>3. <b>Cannot at all</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Region (West Bank, Gaza Strip)</li> <li>2. Locality Type (Urban, Rural, Camps)</li> <li>3. Government</li> <li>4. Sex</li> <li>5. Age</li> <li>6. Marital Status</li> <li>7. Cause</li> <li>8. Education</li> <li>9. Economic status</li> </ol>

**Disability Prevalence:** 3% of the Palestinians were disabled.

# Disability Survey 2011:



- **collected information on disabled persons:**
- Specialized survey, using WG domains .
- Individuals with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- Such survey has focused on the respondents in terms of difficulties/disabilities that they have and their needs (needed adaptations) by each disability.
- Covered all geographical areas including West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

## Third era: SDGs



- PCBS intend to produce statistics on disability following international recommendation tools as short and extended questions recommended by Washington group to follow SDGs.
- Disability will be included in several household surveys to achieve the SDGs targets.

## Third era: SDGs



- In 2016 PCBS used WG short sets in the labour force survey and PECS.
- In 2017 – the third Palestinian survey also the short set will be including in the census questionnaire.
- 2018 PCBS intend to conduct MICS6 and the UNICEF module of child disability will be used.

# Summary



- Individuals with disability in Palestine have suffered over the past years because of the lack of interest which is the result of the gap between the available data and what is real and realistic
- PCBS is keen to produce statistics on various fields including disability as one of the important topics that meet the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.

# Summary

- Comparison of disability indicators with Census- 1997 findings and the Health Surveys 2004, 2006, 2011 and census 2007, was difficult and even impossible due to variations of the concepts of disability and difficulty.
- including people with disabilities in the universal health coverage (UHC) and the SDGs, will provides more idea about this sector to strengthening the collection of relevant and internationally comparable data on disability and support research on disabled persons to meet their needs.