

*Gender perspective within official Palestinian Statistics
Census 2007*

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Since its establishment in 1993, the Palestinian central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) endeavors through its strategic plans as the main institution for the official statistics for Palestine to cover all statistical domains; Social, economic and area statistics and provide up-to-date data on these domains in accordance with international statistical community concepts and methodologies of data collection, analyzing and dissemination of statistical data through its main statistical activities; conducting Censuses, Household surveys and administrative records data of different statistical data providers.

PCBS within its core statistical system has created special programs to provide data for vulnerable groups (child, women, disabled, youth and elderly), As PCBS realize the importance role of women in the development process has created man and woman program to provide data about gender issues and the gaps between man and woman in all aspect of socio-economic life, and as a strategic policy PCBS emphasizes including gender perspectives in all its statistical activities; where gender program have to approve considering all needed gender issues in any new statistical activity, as well as PCBS disseminate all its statistical outputs disaggregated by gender; mainly census results and household surveys.

Gender program at PCBS plans its activities to implement the previous mentioned policy through its annual plan by making use of the available data of conducted censuses of 1997, 2007 and household surveys (labor force, demographic and health, consumption and expenditure, crime and victimization, informal sector, youth, culture and education and other related socio-economic subjects to produce analytical and descriptive reports describing man and women in figures, in addition to implementing special gender statistical activities as recommended by the international community and Beijing conference recommendations, for fulfilling such recommendations PCBS adopted several statistical activities in the short and mid term and strategic plans since its establishment, these activities was conducting possession survey, violence survey, time use survey.

The latest huge statistical activity PCBS has conducted was the Population, Housing and Establishment census, where PCBS from the early beginning of census different stages (Planning, designing questionnaires, Publicity campaigns, Implementation stages and analysis plans) emphasizes gender perspective issues.

Census 2007 covers population and housing census, buildings census and establishment census, during the implementation of different stages of the census the following measures has been considered to guarantee including gender perspective issues:

the census questionnaires design considered gender issues (content, concepts and dissemination), a separate sex question is included to give equal opportunity of disseminating results of the different topics the census is covering to disaggregated by gender, while stating and determining the concepts and definitions of the census, these was stated in words that gives equal opportunity for both sexes to answer or to be a part of the answer, for example "Who is the head of household (male or female), educational attainment, Labor and mainly unpaid family work of woman, woman work limited to housework, occupation and many other variables and indicators. The question related directly to the number of household members was distributed directly to males and females such as tourism questions, kindergarten, fertility questions as well as the mortality questions, deaths and maternal deaths.

The household questionnaire includes 94 questions for both sexes covering the following issues:

- Socio-demographic issues: relation to the head of household, age, sex, nationality, religion, internal migration, marital status, age at marriage, duration of marriage, births, deaths, health insurance, and number of nuclear households.

- Disability (difficulties) and its cause (seeing, hearing, movement, communication and understanding and recognition, according to ICF and Washington group recommendations.
- Education that covers illiteracy, attainment, levels, specialty, place of study, enrolled in kindergartens, and using computer.
- Labor force covers unemployment, employed, occupation, economic activity, place of work, and labor status.
- Housing condition covers type of housing unit, number of rooms, connection to public networks (water, sewage and electricity), used energy for cooking and heating, and methods of waste disposal.
- Availability of durable goods (car, fridge, central heating, TV, computer, satellite,...etc.
- Information technology that covers number of internet lines, number of internet users, number of cellular phones and phones in addition to the number of computers.
- Internal and external tourism question for individuals of both sexes.
- Agricultural holdings of all types for both sexes.

Its worth mentioning that all individual indicators can be provided for both sexes except users of internet.

PCBS also considered gender perspective issues during the planning stage, where several meetings and workshops was organized with the different centers and institutions interested and engaged directly with woman affairs and mainly the ministry of woman affairs. The working team of the preparatory stage was represented by 50% of females.

All gender issues was considered according to the international recommendations.

PCBS focuses too much during the different stages of the census on the publicity campaign, gender dimension was also assured during the campaign as the females constitute almost half of the total population and the majority of interviewee will be females, and also targeting woman in the campaign as of their effective role the refusal and response rates and targeting them will minimize the refusal rate, by the case the campaign targeted both males and females, a close collaboration with woman affairs institutions in designing the campaign and participation in the publicity campaign materials and activities, all publicity committees at the lowest geographic level was represented by activist females of the different institutions.

Its worth mentioning the PCBS during the design stage of the different tools (questionnaires, and plans) considered gender issues through the following measures:

- Designing the questionnaires and its content.
- Employing data processing and publicity campaign staff.
- Criterion of selection of field work staff mainly enumerators to be females as the Palestinian culture accept female interviewers than males.
- Supervisors was preferred to be males as they will work hard in a widespread risky remote areas close to Israeli settlements and military posts, for such situation it was preferred to employ males for avoiding females such risks.

During the implementation stage the employed staff in the different stages was 9512 worked for one month to seven months, the following percentages reflect considering gender dimension:

- 53% of the total employed staff was females.
- 20% of the top management of the census staff was females.
- 55% of the enumerators was females.
- 46% of the fieldwork supervisors was females

- 57% of editing and coding staff was females
- 58% of data entry staff was females.

PCBS put forward its plans of analysis and dissemination and considered gender within these plans as follows:

- 70 statistical reports (national, region and governorate levels) includes data disaggregated by sex where its applicable.
- 16 analytical reports of special topics include gender perspective issues
- Comparative analytical report on gender (woman empowerment between two censuses 1997 and 2007)
- Raw data file for public use including the sex variable for interested in in-depth detailed analysis.

The above description on including gender perspective issues in the census 2007 is followed quite the same during conducting the household surveys, in addition PCBS disseminate all statistical finding on the web disaggregated by gender and moreover PCBS works closely and jointly with the women affairs institution through forming a national steering committee to follow up the progress of work and advice for future steps, as well as conducting joint work with these institution in doing research papers, analytical reports and conducting special surveys for these institution according to their mandate.