



Youth & Children

- **Children** (0-14 years) represent 38.9% of the Palestinian population (WB: 36.6%, GS: 42.6%) (PCBS & National Population Committee, *International Population Day*, 11 July 2017).
- **Youth** (15-29 years) represented 30% of the total population: 36% of them in the 15-19 age group and 64% in the 20-29 age group. The **sex ratio** among youth is 104 males to 100 females (PCBS, *International Youth Day*, 12/08/2017, August 2017).
- In 2015/16, 56.1% of preschool children were enrolled in **early childhood education** (PCBS, *The Status of the Rights of Palestinian Children 2016*, April 2017).
- In 2016, 38% of the youth (15-29 years), were **enrolled in education**: 82% of the 15-17 years age group, 45% of the 18-22 years old ones, and 8% of those 23-29 years. The **dropout rate** was 34% (42% for males, 27% for females) (PCBS, *International Youth Day*, 12/08/2017, August 2017). Main reasons for dropouts were failed examinations (20%) and lack of interest in education (36.6%) due to non-existing job perspectives (PCBS-ILO announce the results of school-to-work transition survey 2015, 5 October 2016).
- Some 51.5% of youth (15-29 years) have at most **completed basic education**, while 21.9% had **not completed any** level and 22.3% had **completed tertiary** level education (up from 19.7% in 2013) (PCBS-ILO announce the results of school-to-work transition survey 2015, 5 October 2016).
- In 2015, 19.6% of **youth** (15-29 years) participated in some kind of **volunteer work**, 6.3% were members in **sports clubs** and 3% in civil, **cultural or other associations**, whereby the participation of females was significantly lower than that of males (PCBS, *Palestinian Youth Survey 2015*, Feb. 2016).
- In August 2016, the Knesset amended the **Israeli Youth Law** to allow for children aged 12-14 to be sentenced for “specific serious crimes”, obviously targeting Palestinian children. At the end of August 2017, **331 Palestinian minors** were held in **Israeli prisons** as security detainees and prisoners, including 2 administrative detainees, while another 8 minors were held in Israel Prison Service facilities for being in Israel illegally (<http://www.btselem.org/statistics>).
- Detained Palestinian children are being **abused** by Israeli forces, “routinely” **interrogated** without the presence of their parents, subjected to unnecessary force in the arrest and detention, and held in unsafe conditions (HRW, *Palestine: Israeli Police Abusing Detained Children*. April 11, 2016).



- In 2015, 1,481 children were referred to **behavior control units** in the West Bank and 160 children were admitted to the Ministry of Social Development's Dar Al-Amal Institution for Rehabilitation and Protection (PCBS, *Press Release on International Children's Day*, 20 November 2016).
- **Chronic malnutrition** affects 7.4% of children between 6-59 months (WFP Palestine Country Brief 9/2017).
- In **Gaza**, over 200,000 children are still in need of **psychosocial support**; of these, only 19% received the necessary services in the first half of 2017 due to lack of funds (UNICEF, in OCHA, *The Humanitarian Bulletin*, August 2017).

■ **Work and Employment**

- In 2016, the percentage of working children was 1.7% for the age group 10-14 years and 7.8% for the age group 15-17 years. Of these 17% (10-14 years) and 31% (15-17) respectively were not enrolled in education (PCBS, *The Status of the Rights of Palestinian Children 2016*, April 2017).
- **Most** of the working children (10-17 years) **worked** in trade/restaurants/hotels (35.8%), agriculture/forestry/fishing (23%), or mining/queries/transformational industry (19.8%) (*Ibid.*).
- The main **reason for child labor** is low economic status of the household. In mid-2017, 3.1% of the **10-17** years old were employed (WB: 4.2%, GS: 1.5%) (PCBS, *Labor Force Survey Report Series*, Q2-2017).
- In mid-2017, the **unemployment** rate of **youth** (15-29 years) had reached 50%. The highest unemployment was with 46.3% among 20-24 year olds (WB: 32.9%, GS: 67.4%) and particularly concerning youth who had not completed school. Unemployment among **youth graduates** stood at 53% (PCBS, *International Youth Day*, 12/08/2017, August 2017). The main reasons for not working were **unavailable** jobs (76.4%) or jobs **not matching qualifications** and experience (9.6%) (PCBS, *Palestinian Youth Survey 2015*, Feb. 2016).