

S T A T U S
OF
PALESTINIAN CHILD IN AND OUTSIDE
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Prepared by

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**This study is based on information gathered from a variety of United Nations and other sources (References are quoted in the main text). The views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

(PALESTINIAN CHILD STUDY)

INTRODUCTION:

In view of the fact that children do not live in isolation from the society to which they belong, the problems they face are usually many sided and their impact is felt in several facets of national life. It is therefore intuitive to state that the problems facing the Palestinian children are partly associated with the basic problems of the society to which they belong, that is illiteracy of parents, poverty and social barriers, and partly the resultant of the environmental hazards to which they have been and still exposed, in particular those living in camps of under occupation who are surviving unfavourable conditions regarding housing, access to education and health and above all their feeling of insecurity due to not belonging to a recognized international community.

Feeling the aggravated situation of the Palestinian child, the issue has been the focus of discussions in the UN General Assembly as well as the Arab League in several occasions the latest of which was the Arab Child Conference held in Tunis in April 1980 and attended by Arab Ministers of Health, which issued a resolution calling on UNICEF to assist in undertaking of an action oriented study on the status of the Palestinian Child in and outside the occupied territories with the emphasis on recommendations for implementation regarding its total development. This action however corresponds with the precedent established in the UN and its bodies e.g. ECOSOC Resolution 2026 of 1976 and 2100 of 1977, calling on all UN bodies to initiate programmes of assistance to the Palestinian People. It is also relevant to mention that the UNICEF Executive Board in its 1980 session has approved assistance to Palestinian children in Occupied Territories and in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

PURPOSE OF STUDY:

With the fact that the assessment of the status of children is considered a basic requisite for development planning towards their well-being, this study will be aimed at:

- - Review and analysis of the situation of the Palestinian child.
- - Identification of their basic needs.
- - Proposals for proper strategies to meet such needs.

SCOPE OF STUDY:

The term "child" is commonly used to describe an age group in society; it is therefore appropriate to define the child group for this study as 0 - 15 years, which group that marks a transitional stage for the individual towards adulthood.

In view of the fact that children do not live in isolation from the society to which they belong, the problems they face are usually many sided and their impact is felt in several sectors of national life. A generalized approach of analysis is therefore to be adopted in which a detailed analysis will be made of the contexts within which such needs are structured and which give them particular features and dimensions.

These contexts may be categorized under the following major headings with sole reference to the Palestinian People in and outside the Occupied Territories:

- a - Historical perspective
- b - Geographical ecology
- c - Demographic features
- d - Economic status
- e - Status and education
- f - Health conditions
- g - Nutritional status
- h - Water supply and sanitation
- i - Features of social development
- j - Recommendations.

FACT FINDING:

For the purpose of fact finding, various Palestinian focal persons and institutions were contacted for relevant material in the form of statistics, reports, studies, plans and policies.

Relevant institutions dealing with services for Palestinian people in host countries were also visited (See Annex I.).

Primary data was also obtained through field observations, individual contacts and group discussions. Sources of such comprise two categories of people:

- i) Those with wide knowledge and experience pertaining to child development i.e. professionals in different disciplines of social development;
- ii) Influential people with authority for planning and implementing programmes. This category includes focal persons in Palestinian Institutions or the Institutions dealing with Palestinian services in the host countries. Contacts with them centred around the following:
 - Exchanging views concerning the already existing social development strategies for Palestinian children.
 - Seeking their cooperation in the present study as a step for their commitment to make use of the findings as much feasible.
 - Utilizing their points of view in making recommendations to facilitate their efforts in implementation.

FIELD TRIPS:

To complement fact finding activities, two field trips each of three weeks duration were undertaken to Syria and Jordan with the purpose of soliciting assistance of the co-ordinators of Palestinian services for data compilation.

With respect to the Occupied Territories, the writer expresses regret for not being able to undertake a visit. This should not however give the impression of neglecting that part, as most of the necessary information has been obtained in the form of documentations prepared by U.N. agencies, International missions and specialists in various disciplines.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

Based on the 1975 census of Palestinians undertaken by ECWA with a financial assistance from UNFPA, an estimated population of 3.2 million was reached.

Of the total Palestinians, about 51.4% were registered with UNRWA of which 37% were staying in 61 camps distributed in the East and West Banks of Jordan, Gaza strip, Lebanon and Syria. The latest information available, indicated that the Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA and living in and outside the camps approximate 1.6 million.

Crude birth rate is estimated around 46 per 1000 population as against an estimated crude death rate of 12. Annual rate of population growth accounts for 3.5%.

Palestinian population is characterized as being young, with 45 - 48% lying below 15 years of age. The preponderance of the young age brackets is associated with the high fertility (around 8) among Palestinians coupled with a down ward trend in infant and child mortality.

Those lying in the age group 15 - 29 accounted for 29% compared to a percentage of 12 in the age bracket 30 - 44. The very fast decrease in these two age brackets may suggest an emigratory mobility of middle age population.

The urban/rural composition of Palestinians indicates the agglomeration of 68% of the West Bank population in rural areas compared to a corresponding percentage of 8.8 in villages in Gaza.

The sex ratio (female/male) tends to be in favour of males in the West Bank i.e. 99.6, where as in Gaza the reciprocal is observed, thus evidencing a tendency towards emigration among male adults irrespective of the reasons that may be suspected.

PRIORITY NEEDS OF PALESTINIAN CHILD:

Taking into consideration the multitude of problems facing the Palestinian child and the principal interest in the socio-cultural pattern of his growth and development, a selective approach will be embarked on for identifying the priority needs that may be dealt with through action oriented development strategies. Among such priorities are the following:

INFANT MORTALITY (IMR)

Based on 1967 census in the West Bank, three estimates of IMR were given: the original (158), the adjusted (152) and the evaluated (153) and for Gaza strip respective rates of 168, 162 and 167 were reported. Meanwhile the official estimates of the Central Bureau of Statistics/Israel in 1974 did indicate a rate of 132 for each of the two territories.

Irrespective of the precision of the estimates already mentioned, the rates are still far higher than the levels, not only in the developed countries but also in some of the developing countries, thus enforcing the need for upgrading and extending the pre-natal, delivery and post natal services in the two territories. This is to be supplemented however by activating the immunization programme so that the major killers of infants will be put under control.

The age differential of IMR suggests that about 9% of infant deaths occur among neonatals as against 12% for those aged 1-2 months, 10% for those aged 2-6 months and 20% among infants aged 6-11 months. It is evident from the pattern of distribution that the first six months of infants' life are critical as the infants need proper care in the form of immunization, hygienic feeding practices and proper cleanliness. Any positive intervention on these fronts will eventually bring down the level of IMR.

CHILD MORTALITY:

Reporting of deaths in general and of those of young children in particular is susceptible to deficiency among the Palestinian People like any other developing country.

Apart from the possible administrative neglect, there are specific reasons for the UNRWA supported families not to report cases of death so as to avoid losing rations of the deceased.

The child population 0-14 years constitutes about 45% of the Palestinian people in and outside the Occupied Territories of which the females account for 47%.

Going back to 1965, about 16.7% of total reported deaths in the West Bank occurred in the age group 1-4 as against percentages of 2.6 and 1.1 for those aged 5-9 and 10-14 years respectively.

The age specific death rates accounted for 211, 12.1 and 5.1 per 10,000 population in the referred to age groups respectively, thus suggesting the fact that with progress in age child mortality follows a decreasing pattern. The relatively high mortality rate in the age group 1-4 may be indicative of a probable association between mortality and factors such as improper feeding and weaning practices, defaulting immunization, low level of health education or possible problems relevant to adequacy and accessibility to health services.

Based on 1967 census, the child mortality (0-5 years) for both the West Bank and Gaza strip fluctuated in a range of 207-224 per 1000 live births, however, through adjustments of errors in rounding ages the figures ended to be as high as 198-214. Further estimates of the Bureau of Statistics/Israel in 1974 indicated a child mortality of 213 per 1000 population at risk below 5 years of age.

Through extrapolating the pattern of child mortality in Jordan to the West Bank and Gaza strip, it can be inferred that the principal killers of children are the infective and parasitic diseases in particular enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases and measles, succeeded by diseases of respiratory and circulatory systems and accidents.

As most of these diseases are often the aftermath of other diseases or infections, such as measles and whooping cough especially for those aged 0-5, the incidence of which is associated with factors of inadequate environmental health and sanitation, impure drinking water, improper feeding and weaning practices, ignorance as well as frequent exposure of children to environmental hazards, any improvement in these directions will eventually contribute to lowering the level of child mortality.

ILLITERACY:

Based on 1961 census about 67% of the West Bank population over 15 years of age were illiterate whereas in 1967 and 1975 the rate dropped sharply to 55.7 and 37.1 respectively.

A similar trend was noted in Gaza strip where the illiteracy rate underwent a significant decrease from about 57% in 1967 to about 39% in 1975.

The sex differential of illiteracy rates suggests higher level for females than males. In the West Bank, illiterate females in 1961 accounted for about 84.2% of female population over 15 years of age whereas in 1967 and 1975 corresponding rates of 74.3 and 52.9 were recorded. Taking into consideration the fact that the majority of the territory's population is rural a sense can be made that there has been recently a tendency towards minimizing restrictions imposed by the traditional rural systems on female education.

A similar trend has been observed in Gaza strip where the female illiteracy rate dropped significantly from 73.1% to 51% over the period 1967-1975.

With respect to male population, the rate declined sharply from 47% in 1961 to 36.8% in 1967 and further to 20.2% in 1975 in the West Bank, and in Gaza strip rates dropped from 39.6 in 1967 to 25.2 in 1975.

In investigating the main causes of illiteracy in the West Bank a study conducted in Ramallah District in 1977/76 revealed that 17.4% of total illiterates were due to financial reasons, 26.5% of total illiterate females were due to restrictions imposed by social values on female education, 32.6% of total illiterates were due to absence of schools in certain villages and 8.6% of total illiterate females being due to early marriages.

With the fact that the illiteracy rates in both territories and in particular among the female population are relatively high, attention needs be focussed on strengthening of and expanding in literacy centres (presently 146), community development centres, women's clubs and K.Gs as such centres would act as a forum for combating illiteracy as well as getting females engaged in productive and income generating activities.

PRESCHOOL CHILD:

Palestinians are no exception to the People in the developing world in having limited number of nursery and preschool facilities for the child in the 1-4 years interval. Pre-school education is almost a neglected area in national planning. Neither the government nor the UNRWA/UNESCO educational system offer preschool facilities such as nurseries and kindergartens. Hence pre-primary education is left to private institutions and voluntary organizations.

With the fact that enrolment in most of the K.Gs and nurseries is against fees, it is intuitive that such facilities are mostly confined to a small segment of the preschool age population whose parents can afford the payment of fees.

The pre-school age Palestinians account for about 13% of the total Palestinian People in an outside the Occupied Territories.

In the West Bank total kindergartens approximated 120 in 1977/78 with a capacity of 213 classes. Total enrolment accounted for 10553 children giving an enrolment ratio of about 8%. In Gaza strip, preschool education is catered by 33 K.Gs. With a capacity of 98 classes absorbing about 3264 children i.e. an enrolment ration of 5%.

Taking into consideration the relatively big household size of the Palestinian people and the high costs of living, the demand for increased female participation in work get heightened. This is more felt in the case where the male provider of family income is absent either as a result of employment elsewhere, emigration or imprisonment. The gravity of this situation is further accentuated by the fact that the homes of the majority of Palestinians are lacking in those facilities which could compensate, at least, in part for the absence of preschool education. Consequently the need provokes for expanding in K.Gs. and nurseries as well as trained personnel to provide the children of dwellers of camps with an opportunity to escape from the hardships of camp life and to prepare them, along with other Palestinian children living elsewhere, to enjoy easy access to primary education. This is to be supplemented however with offering vocational training programmes to the working mothers who are compelled to leave their children in nurseries and K.Gs.

SCHOOL DROP-OUTS:

This is an issue that is considered of prime concern to Palestinian educators. Students dropping out during primary education are not prepared educationally for either self or community development. This is in addition to adding the number of the ignorant, illiterate and unskilled labour force.

In following the educational ladder of students in the primary cycle in government schools in the West Bank over the period 1968-1974, it was found that about 21% of total student enrolment drop out prior to completion of primary cycle.

The sex differential of drop-outs indicates a variation in the rate for male students from 2.1% to 4 at the primary level, while it ranges from 5.2% to 11.1% at the preparatory level. On the other hand, the drop-out rate for females at the primary level varies between 4 to 7% as against a range of 7.1 to 14.2% at the preparatory level. The pattern of drop-outs for both sexes follows an uprising trend with progress in age.

Drop-outs in UNRWA schools in Gaza ranked higher than those in the West Bank. In both territories highest drop-outs were noted in the 6th primary class (6.1% for West Bank, 10.9% for Gaza), followed by the 5th primary where rates of 4% for the West Bank and 4.1% for Gaza were recorded in 1980/81.

The sex differential of drop-outs indicates that over the first three years of primary schooling rates tended to be higher for males than females in the West Bank whereas in Gaza strip the reciprocal was noted. In both territories drop-outs among female students were higher than those of males in the 4th and 5th primary where as in the 6th primary class the opposite has been reproted.

In UNRWA schools in Lebanon, 9% of total primary enrolment drop-outs prior to completion of the primary cycle. At the preparatory level, 52.4% of total enrolment quit schools before completing the preparatory cycle.

With the fact that there may be major precursors for school drop-outs among Palestinian students in and outside the Occupied Territories, the knowledge of most is still vague, the need implies the undertaking of a study on school drop-outs in the compulsory cycle i.e. primary and preparatory, with the purpose of identifying the major determinants of such a problem. Meanwhile efforts should be made to eliminate child labour through carrying out a number of prior steps in the form of raising the family income, introduction of work experience and skill development in the schools curriculum, and effective implementation of compulsory education of children.

DISABLED CHILD:

Irrespective of the meagre data available on the size and cause of disability among Palestinian children, it is understood from the data that the major causes of disability may be hearing defects, blindness and amputated extremities. Reported disability cases approximated 463 in the Occupied Territories to which a total of 23 voluntary organizations are catering services.

The vagueness of disability problem in terms of prevalence and cause provokes the need for undertaking a study on the disabled child in the Occupied Territories as well as in the refugee camps in the host countries, with the purpose of assessing the magnitude of the problem and the factors of association with the disability of the child.

The findings of such a study will determine the type and size of assistance needed in this direction.

Immunization:

The Palestinians are no exception to the developing world in experiencing frequent outbreaks of infantile and childhood diseases. As most of these diseases are preventable it was felt necessary to initiate immunization activities. Accordingly an expanded programme of immunization was started in the Occupied Territories some time in the seventies.

Immunization against tuberculosis, diphtheria pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles is given to children according to a prescribed schedule. Most frequently children complete vaccinations prior to their third birth day.

Immunization activities in the Occupied Territories and the three main host countries (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon) are carried out by government and UNRWA health centres, MCH centres and sometimes clinics.

In investigating the coverage of immunization, efforts were hampered due to inaccessibility to data on the target population. However data reported in 1980 by UNRWA suggest that, in the territories, total children given three doses of polio vaccine and D.P.T. approximated 30328 and 14508 respectively. With respect to those vaccinated against measles and tuberculosis, they accounted for 18138 and 34301 respectively.

Given the fact that children up to three years of age are considered by UNRWA as target population for immunization and following a mathematical exercise a rough estimate of 35965 Palestinian refugee children in both territories was reached. Based on this estimate, the figures for 1980 indicate the following coverage: D.P.T 40%, Polio 84%, measles 50.4%, and B.C.G. 95%. However these figures need to be treated with caution.

With the relatively low coverage of immunization and the frequent incidence of preventable diseases among the Palestinian children, it is felt

that immunization activities need to be enhanced and extended to reach full coverage of the target population as well as the defaulters from previous years.

In order that the implementation of the E.P.I. in the Occupied Territories be more successful and properly directed, the need provokes for the undertaking of an evaluative study that will clarify issues pertaining to coverage, base-line-data, the potency of vaccines and the quality and management of cold chain. However, this should not give the impression of depreciating the efforts made so far in the area of immunization, as such efforts have no doubt exerted a positive impact on curtailing the incidence of the preventable diseases among Palestinian children.

Rehydration:

Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases are considered a leading cause of infant and child morbidity and mortality in the Occupied Territories as well as the host countries.

Although early detection and effective treatment of diarrhoea has been in practice in both government and UNRWA health infrastructure, the disease incidence continues to pose a threat to infants and children. Therefore, attention needs to be focused on the improvement of environmental health, water and sanitation being closely related with the disease outbreaks. This is to be supplemented with the enhancement of health education to mothers in areas pertaining to personal hygiene and feeding practices of infants and children.

Given the fact that most of the new medical graduates and nurses assigned to work in the health centres and clinics rarely have received appropriate training on the clinical experience in oral rehydration, parental I.V. insertions, intensive courses of training of 2 to 3 weeks may be organized for them with emphasis on ORS treatment and other rehydration activities.

Vocational Education:

As stated in several sources, Palestinian students in the field of vocational education are estimated at 8500 in and outside the Occupied Territories, that is 7% of enrollees at the secondary level. It is also estimated that on the average, about 2000 Palestinian students graduate annually from vocational schools as against a total of 25000 graduates in general secondary education.

The ratio of 7% is in no doubt far below those observed in developed countries (25-62%) and some Arab countries (8.1-21.4%), a fact that is indicative of the low attention being paid to vocational education of Palestinian people.

There is thus a seriously felt need for a long term plan that will incorporate proper strategies for upgrading the existing vocational institutes, expanding in establishing new ones, and motivating students towards this field of education. This is to be supplemented however by an identification of priority areas on which curriculae and programmes of vocational training should focus in order to develop Palestinian manpower for employment in and outside the Occupied Territories. In line with this some forecasting of the capacity of the economic system should also be made to absorb batches of vocational trainees. Equally important is the emphasis on facilitating women's access to vocational education corresponding to their requirements in different areas of specialization, taking into account job opportunities. Additional training courses are also needed for non refugee Palestinians to enable them to secure employment

Breast Feeding:

While there are no data available on breast feeding, the frequent incidence of enteritis, other diarrhoeal diseases, and nutritional deficiencies among Palestinian children does suspect the early cessation of breast feeding.

With the similarities between Palestinian people and other people in countries of the Near East, the presence of considerable differences in feeding practices for children under two years of age between rural and urban areas of the Occupied Territories can be assumed.

Children in rural areas and less privileged urban areas are exclusively breast fed longer and completely weaned at a later age than the urban children, a fact that is related to the influence of traditional values and religion in the former areas.

Results of nutrition surveys in the Occupied Territories and host countries suggest a direct association between the highest prevalence of malnutrition and early cessation of breast feeding. Cessation of breast feeding in children 6 to 11 months of age was found to be associated with wasting as was the delayed introduction of supplemental feeding.

Particular attention needs to be focused therefore on promoting breast feeding in MCH care, nutrition and other health oriented programmes. Meanwhile prolonged breast feeding and the timely introduction of supplementary feeding suitable to local needs should be emphasized.

Drinking water:

Though no data are available on the coverage of Palestinian people with safe drinking water, the relatively high incidence of waterborne diseases among infants and children poses a query regarding the qualitative and quantitative nature of water supply mainly in deprived rural areas.

It is therefore of prime importance to expand in water supply schemes to cover the needy population in rural areas and refugee camps in the Occupied Territories. This is however to be supplemented with frequent control of the quality of drinking water.

Child Labour:

Employment of children below 14 years of age is not sanctioned by normal labour legislations. However, with the uprising trend in costs of living and the relatively big household size, children below 14 find themselves obliged to seek employment somewhere to help support their parents in meeting family expenses.

With the positive correlation between child labour and high school drop-outs among Palestinian children, the issue of child labour has been of prime concern to Palestinian planners. This was interpreted with the recent move towards research studies in this direction, the latest of which was a study undertaken by ILO on child labour in the Occupied Territories, the findings of which may be subject to deliberations in ILO General Assembly meetings.

Since poverty may be the main reason for child labour, efforts should be made therefore to increase the family income through income generating projects and introduction of work experience and skill development in the school curriculae. Compulsory education can be effective in decreasing child labour provided the presence of a school curriculum that attracts and motivates children through useful work-oriented training courses. Equally important is the elimination of child labour.

With the vagueness still prevailing regarding Palestinian child labour in host countries, a study is needed to be conducted to determine the size of this problem and its implications on the child's health, education and social development.

Recommendations:

Health

- Given the fact that preventable diseases are major contributors to infant and child mortality and the frequent incidence of these diseases among Palestinian children, it is felt that immunization activities need to be enhanced and extended to fully cover the target population so that such diseases will be put under control.
- In order to insure successful implementation of immunization programmes of the Palestinian children, an evaluative study needs to be undertaken to clarify issues pertaining to coverage, base-line-data, the potency of vaccine and the quality and management of cold chain.
- The relatively high infant mortality rates dictate the need for improvement and extension of the pre-natal, delivery and post-natal services. Adequacy and quality of MCH services need to be emphasized in national health planning.
- The frequent incidence of fecally transmitted and water borne diseases among infants and children calls for urgent attention to be placed on the improvement of environmental health, sanitation, and water mainly in deprived rural areas as in refugee camps.
- With the correlation between the incidence of infantile diseases and the mother's unawareness of proper rearing and feeding practices, emphasis needs to be placed on promoting health education activities within the infra structure of MCH services.
- In the field of health manpower development, support needs to be extended in the education and training of health personnel at all levels.
- Training institutions for paramedical personnel, in particular, nurses and midwives, should be established or strengthened with necessary support in terms of technical expertise and post-graduate fellowships.
- With the evident shortage in physicians in the Occupied Territories, the issue of establishing a medical school calls for prime consideration, however its level or priority and feasibility should first be carefully studied.

- There seems to be a general agreement on the needs to strengthen various specialized services, in particular, in the Occupied Territories, such as Paediatrics, care of premature, radio therapy, cardiology, neuro-surgery, pathology, mental health etc. A fellowship programme in such areas could be extended.

Education:

- With the fact that the level of illiteracy among Palestinians in and outside the Occupied Territories is relatively high, in particular among females, attention needs to be focused on strengthening of and expanding in literacy centres, community development centres, women's clubs and day care centres, as such centres would act as a forum for combating illiteracy in addition to getting females engaged in productive and income generating activities. This is to be supplemented with removing or minimizing traditional restrictions on female education.
- The uprising trend in school dropouts among Palestinian children in and outside the Occupied Territories needs to be given prime concern by educational planners. A study needs to be undertaken to identify the major precursors for school dropouts among children. Meanwhile efforts should be made to eliminate child labour which is suspected to be the main determinant of school dropouts. However prior steps need to be undertaken in the form of raising the family income, introduction of work experience and skill development in the schools curriculae coupled with effective implementation of compulsory education of children.
- In view of the importance of the all-round development of the pre-school child, the delivery and quality of existing care services need to be strengthened in the form of upgrading and expansion in K.Gs. and nurseries together with providing the necessary athletic tools, toys, audio visual aids and trained staff. Though children of working mothers and children in camps are the most needy, coverage of all the disadvantaged pre-schoolers by these services is an urgent need in view of the multiple pay-offs from it for the child, its older siblings and its mother.
- In the light of the vagueness of disability problem among Palestinian children in both prevalence and cause, a study needs to be undertaken on the disabled child in the Occupied Territories as well as in refugee camps in host countries with the aim of assessing the size and determinants of disability. The findings of such a study will determine the type and size of assistance needed in this direction.

- Taking into consideration the relatively low enrolment of Palestinian children in vocational education a need is seriously felt for a long term educational plan that will incorporate proper strategies for upgrading the existing vocational centres in and outside the Occupied Territories, expanding in establishing new ones, and motivating students towards this field of education. This is to be supplemented however by an identification of priority areas on which curriculae and programmes of vocational training should focus in order to meet the needs for manpower in labour market in and outside the Occupied Territories.

In line with this, some forecasting of the capacity of the economic system to absorb batches of vocational trainees should also be made. Equally important is the facility of women's access to vocational education in conformity with their requirements in different areas of specialization, taking into account job opportunities. Additional courses of training for non-refugee Palestinians are needed to help them secure employment.

- In view of the fact that schools and institutions at all levels in the Occupied Territories are facing shortage in teachers, room space, libraries, laboratories audio visual aids and most often text books, it is felt that necessary steps need to be taken to meet the various needs of such institutions.

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I. GENERAL

World interest in child development is traced back to 1959 in which a Universal Declaration stipulating its rights was issued. The three decades since then did not witness significant change in conditions of children in most of the developing and least developing countries and in many cases such conditions even worsened.

With the proclamation of the IYC, 1979, public awareness all over the world was again motivated towards child development, being one of the most tragic and less publicized issues in our societies. Among the peoples of the world where such awareness was greatly felt were the Palestinian People who enjoy a relatively high proportion of child population mostly confronting unfavourable conditions and serious living hazards mainly those living in camps or under occupation with feelings of insecurity due to not belonging to an established international community.

Feeling the aggravated situation of the Palestinian child, the issue has been the focus of discussions in the UN General Assembly as well as the Arab League in several occasions the latest of which was the Arab Child Conference held in Tunis in April 1980 and attended by Arab Ministers of Health, which issued a resolution calling on UNICEF to assist in undertaking of an action oriented study on the situation of the Palestinian child with the emphasis on recommendations for implementation regarding its total development. This action corresponds with the precedent established in the UN and its bodies e.g. ECOSOC Resolution 2026 of 1976 and 2100 of 1977, calling on all UN bodies to initiate programmes of assistance to the Palestinian people. It is relevant to note that the UNICEF Executive Board in its 1980 session approved assistance to Palestinian children in Occupied Territories as well as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

II. PURPOSE OF STUDY:

The generally unstable living conditions of the Palestinian people have exerted adverse effects on the socio-cultural pattern of their children's growth and development especially those living in camps and those under occupation, who are facing unfavourable circumstances regarding housing conditions, access to education, environmental sanitation and disruption of the family.

With the fact that the assessment of the status of children is considered a basic requisite for development planning towards their well being, this study will be aimed at:

- Review and analysis of the situation of the Palestinian child.
- Identification of their basic needs,
- Proposals for proper strategies to meet such needs.

III. DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

The term 'child' is commonly used to describe an age group in society; it is therefore appropriate to define the child group for this study as 0-15 years. This age group marks a transitional stage for the individual towards adulthood.

(1)

According to Dr. Piaget, the child passes through four stages of cognitive development namely the sensori motor, pre-operational, concrete operational and formal operation.

The first two years of life constitute the sensori motor stage where the child starts from objects it can sense and develops images of them.

During the second stage (pre-operational), from two to six or seven years, the child can classify things and understand some causal relationships and number of concepts.

Reaching the concrete operational stage, seven to eleven years, the child begins to use several logical operations: conservation, transitivity and reversibility.

In the last stage, that of formal operation, the child accedes to abstract reasoning and knowledge and uses symbols.

All through the first two stages, the home environment plays a determinant role in cognitive development: things and people surrounding the child will limit and/or expand his knowledge. The last two stages, education - both informal and formal - is the decisive factor. The interrelationship between all stages provokes the need for maintaining sound interaction between the home and school environment, as the improper care and attention to the children at home and schools will eventually exert adverse effects on their adult life.

IV. INITIAL PLANNING:

a) Meetings:

With the intention of establishing sound footings for the writer's assignment, a series of meetings and interviews were held with Dr. F. Remy, the Regional Director and the associated UNICEF staff in Beirut, and matters relevant to the purposes of the assignment were discussed. Among the issues brought forward were the reliability, incomplete coverage and accessibility to data on Palestinian children, being of major importance for the preparation of this study.

(1) J. Piaget, Psychology of Intelligence, 1950 - New York

As generally agreed on, most of the available data seem to raise queries regarding reliability and coverage, thus provoking the need for a careful review of the data available with an effort to identify the data which might be of major use in pinpointing the main problems affecting the wellbeing of the Palestinian children.

Taking into consideration the principal interest of UNICEF in the total development of children, a thorough analysis will be made of the situation of the target population group with the aim of pointing out the priority problems of socially-oriented nature that will be feasible for solution through relevant action oriented projects or programmes.

b) Fact Finding:

For the purpose of fact finding, various Palestinian focal persons and institutions were contacted for relevant material in the form of statistics, reports, studies, plans and policies.

Relevant institutions dealing with services for Palestinian people in host countries were also visited (See Annex I.).

Primary data was also obtained through field observations, individual contacts and group discussions. Sources of such comprise two categories of people:

- i) Those with wide knowledge and experience pertaining to child development i.e. professionals in different disciplines of social development.
- ii) Influential people with authority for planning and implementing programmes. This category includes focal persons in Palestinian Institutions or the Institutions dealing with Palestinian services in the host countries. Contacts with them centred around the following:
 - Exchanging views concerning the already existing social development strategies for Palestinian children.
 - Seeking their co-operation in the present study as a step for their commitment to make use of the findings as much feasible.
 - Utilizing their points of view in making recommendations to facilitate their efforts in implementation.

c) Field Trips:

To complement fact finding activities, two field trips each of three weeks duration were undertaken to Syria and Jordan with the purpose of soliciting assistance of the coordinators of Palestinian services for data compilation.

With respect to the Occupied Territories, ~~the writer expresses regret~~ for not being able to undertake a visit. This should not however give the impression of neglecting that part, as most of the necessary information has been obtained in the form of documentations prepared by U.N. agencies, International missions and specialists in various disciplines.

V. SCOPE OF STUDY:

In view of the fact that children do not live in isolation from the society to which they belong, the problems they face are usually many sided and their impact is felt in several sectors of national life. A generalized approach of analysis is therefore to be adopted in which a detailed analysis will be made of the contexts within which such needs are structured and which give them particular features and dimensions.

These contexts may be categorized under the following major headings with sole reference to the Palestinian people:

- a- Historical perspective.
- b- Geographical Ecology.
- c- Demographic features.
- d- Economic status.
- e- Status of Education.
- f- Health conditions
- g- Nutritional status.
- h- Water supply and sanitation.
- i- Features of social development
- j- Recommendations.

VI. STUDY FRAMEWORK:

a) National Setting

i- Historical Perspective:

It is well recognized that any attempt towards assessing the needs of Palestinian children should be made in light of the prevailing socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people which need also to be reviewed within the context of historical perspective. It is in this perspective that the priority given to problems concerning the young age groups takes on major importance.

Prior to 1917, Palestine was administered as a part of the Ottoman Empire and was comprised in three administrative areas: the Mutasarrifiyeh of Jerusalem, responsible directly to Constantinople, and the two Mutasarrifiyehs of Acre and Nablus, which were part of the larger wilayah of Beirut.

All through the period 1917-1948, the country fell under the British Mandate. However it assumed its own political and economic organization. Its economy manifested some elements of an integrated system among which a single administrative structure, a relatively good system of transportation and communication both internally and externally, a common currency, a common tax system and a flourishing international trade. The variety of the country's topography and climate contributed to the production of a wide range of crops, thus bringing the country to self sufficiency in agricultural foodstuffs to the extent of about 65%. As stated in several textbooks the country's gross national product per capita ranked among the highest in the region and so its educational level.

Since 1948 onwards, the Palestinian people have been exposed to tragic circumstances ending in their dispersion losing both home and means of livelihood. The historical features of this dispersion bring to our attention five major events:

- The events of 1948 which resulted in the displacement of nearly three-quarters of a million palestinians who fled to take refuge either in the West Bank or Gaza strip or in neighbouring Arab countries mainly Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and other countries further afield.
- The June 1967 war ended in the military occupation of both the West Bank and Gaza strip, thus displacing more than half a million, some of them for the second time, who took refuge in neighbouring Arab countries, particularly Jordan.
- The October 1973 war further complicated the economic and social life of the Palestinian people.
- The tragic Civil war in Lebanon inflicted serious destruction not only on Lebanon but also on the Palestinians living there.
- The events in March 1978 and aftermath resulted in the temporary displacement of thousands of residents from South Lebanon, including more than sixty thousand Palestinians whose dwellings were either destroyed or damaged.

ii- International Aid:

Following the events of 1948, an urgent aid in the form of food, tents and medical care was provided by international voluntary agencies to the Palestinians who took refuge in the neighbouring countries. This was succeeded by the establishment of UNRWA in 1950 by the UN General Assembly as a temporary undertaking but soon became a regular feature of life for these people and thus continued so, for the last three decades.

iii- Impact of Dispersion on the Palestinian People:

The complications associated with dispersion of the Palestinian people should not be underestimated. The loss of home and means of livelihood create insurmountable hardships whose magnitude is not easy to assess.

Confronted with the various hardships, the prime concern of the Palestinians has been to enhance the social development of their scattered people, through emphasis on educational attainment and the development of social services. Institutions, relevant to the various fields of health, education, community development and small scale industries, have been initiated by local community organizations or by the official Palestinian Unions and Institutions, thus demonstrating a relatively well developed social awareness and efficiency in the administration of their social services.

Although without a country of their own, the Palestinians residing in the host countries have shown good performance in most sectors in which they work. Their expertise in education and social development have no doubt contributed to the socio-cultural and economic growth of the host countries. But, whatever their achievement, they are still greatly dependent upon the cooperation and understanding of their hosts.

b) Ecology of the Palestinian People:

Following their dispersion, the Palestinian People at present find themselves half under occupation, half displaced or scattered. For purposes of social development they may be classified in three categories:

- The 1.84 million registered with UNRWA of which 850,000 receive UNRWA benefits such as education (mainly primary and preparatory), social and minimal health services; in addition to some assistance from UNICEF and WHO.

- The large number of those displaced or in forced exile with resident status in host countries and assume sharing responsibility with Governments of host countries for their education, health and social development.
- Those under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza strip who are obliged to reorient their economic life in the light of the loss of both the traditional markets and the control of their systems of transportation and communication and had thus become totally dependent on the economic policies of the occupying power.

c) Geographical Setting:

With the forced change in home residence of the majority of Palestinians which was a byproduct of the events of 1948 and aftermath, the discussion in this section will be confined to the Occupied Territories which is still the home residence of about one and a half million Palestinians.

The two territories with largest agglomeration of Palestinian People are the West Bank and Gaza strip with the former being larger and economically more important.

The West Bank stretches on an area of approximately 5500 sq.km mostly semi arid hills west of the Jordan river. The area has common borders with mandated Palestine (North, West and South) and Jordan on the East with no outlet to the sea. Prior to 1948, its main connexions with international markets were through the Mediterranean Ports of Jaffa and Haifa which are less than 100 km. away from the main population centres.

The area is divided by the Jerusalem corridor into a large northern bulge which is roughly the series of Nablus Mountains and a smaller southern section which is the Jerusalem and Hebron Mountains

Structurally, the Nablus mountains consist of two main parts; an eastern anticlinal one built up of cretaceous formations, and a synclinal western one mainly of Eocene origin. Characteristically, the highest elevations are observed in the latter part where the twin mountains of Ebal and Gerrim attain heights of 3083 ft. and 2890 ft. respectively. Northward, approaching the valleys of Beth-Shean and Jezreel respectively, elevations become progressively lower i.e. about 1300 ft. above sea level.

The shorter distance between these mountains and the sea with no intervening foothill region, the many and broad valley openings, and the slight depression in the Rift Valley bordering it to the East characterized almost all of the area with a mediterranean climate with the exception of a narrow belt adjacent to the Jordan Rift where semi arid conditions still prevail. The area receives precipitation at an annual average of 28-36 inches and enjoys a rather continuous soil cover (terra rossa and rendizine).

The Jerusalem and Hebron mountains consist structurally of two consecutive large anticlinoria whose axes run almost meridionally. Built up of limestone and dolomite strata with chalky and marly intercalations, the mountains main topographical features are an almost continuous watershed zone and the many interfluves extending mainly westward. The wilderness of these mountains is manifested in the wide expanses of bare rocks, numerous scattered boulders and scree and small valleys carved in the hill slopes that are usually dry and barren with numerous caves and underground drainage.

From the orographic point of view, three parts of these mountains are distinguished, Hebron mountains, Jerusalem mountains and Ramallah mountains.

The Hebron mountains rise steeply from the Beersheba Basin to heights of about 2600 ft. culminating in summits near Halhul that rise to 3300 ft. Morphologically, the southern part of the Hebron mountains consist of two main ridges. An eastern higher one is named after one of the villages i.e. Samuà Range, which marks the separation between the dry valleys descending into the Dead sea Rift and the southern and western ones that drain in the Mediterranean. A western ridge is named after the village Dura. Also characteristic of these mountains are several topographic depressions, the largest of which, the valley of Baracheh which is distinguished by an abundant spring. Near Hebron the two ridges merge to form a single watershed zone extending over the entire length of the Jerusalem and Hebron mountains.

Climatically, the Hebron mountains represent a transition zone from semi arid to Mediterranean conditions. Whereas at the Al Thahiriya, the southern most village along the main highway the annual average rainfall approaches about 12 inches in Hebron and 28 inches in the region of the highest elevations where frequent snowfall is noticed. Accordingly the larger part of the soil cover is terra rossa.

The Jerusalem mountains are about 500 ft. lower on the average than the Hebron and Ramallah mountains and form a wide saddle - like region between the latter sections. The highest elevation is observed at al Nabi Samwil (2870 ft.). The topographical feature somewhat facilitates the ascent from the coastal plains to the watershed regions and the descent into the Rift valley in particular, Jericho, the most important city of the valley region throughout history.

The Jerusalem mountains are also intensively dissected into the interfluvial ridges, one of which is Mount of Olives, Mount Scopus, immediately east of Jerusalem which forms a conspicuous border with the Jerusalem Desert. Annual average rainfall attains a maximum of 32 inches.

As for the Ramallah mountains, they cover an area similar in size to that of the Jerusalem mountains with summit heights exceeding 3300 ft. (Baal Hazor Mountain 3332 ft.). One of their most important characteristics is that the watershed attains considerable width there.

The desert adjacent to Hebron and Jerusalem represents a northward extension of the arid Negev land. Genetically it belongs to the orographic types of deserts due to its situation on the lee ward side of the massive and high mountains of Jerusalem and Hebron mountains which intercept the rain bearing winds. This effect is made more pronounced by the steepness of the eastern flank of the Jerusalem Hebron anticlinoria toward the Dead Sea Jordan Rift Valley about 1000-1300 ft. below sea level. Actually only the lower portions of this flank are arid with precipitation varying between 4-6 inches per annum.

The desert adjacent to Nablus mountains comprises the eastern flank of the mountains up to the wide valley of Wadi Fariaa and the spur of Qerem Sartaba protruding into the Jordan Rift valley. The desert is composed predominantly of chalky formations and receives only 12 inches annually six miles east of the hill tops and a mere 2-4 inches of rain are measured near the Dead Sea shore escarpment.

As for the Gaza strip, it lies in the southern coastal plains of Mandated Palestine separated from the Mediterranean by a relatively narrow belt of sand dunes with a width averaging 2 miles. The area receives an annual rainfall of somewhat less than 16 inches. Due to its proximity to the desert area, the soils are composed mostly of wind-borne loess probably redistributed by surface flow and exhibit many intermixing gradations with sands.

d) Administrative Structure

Prior to the Israeli occupation of 1967, the West Bank was part of Jordan and Gaza strip was administered by the Egyptian Government.

The chief administrator in the strip was the Governor who reports to the Ministry of Interior. He was assisted by a number of heads of departments and offices dealing with services among which were education, health, social welfare, agriculture and industry.

In addition to the various government offices and departments covering the various social and economic activities, there were four municipal and six village councils in the strip whose members were elected by the people living in their respective areas. Acting as local government machinery, these bodies were directing services dealing with water supply, sanitation and municipal and village development.

A similar administrative structure existed in the West Bank which was divided into three mutasarrifiyas (Districts) namely Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron, each headed by a mutasarrif who reports to the Ministry of Interior. The districts were further divided into a number of kadas (subdistricts) and Nahiyas the heads of which report to the Mutasarrif in the respective area.

Facilities and services in various fields were exercised through well established government machinery and departments located within each administrative unit.

The local government comprised a total of 26 municipalities and 106 village councils, with mayors and councils elected once every four years by the people living in their respective areas. Smaller villages were looked after by a Mukhtar, a village headman, in cooperation with the heads of families.

Among the main functions of the local government were to organize, supervise, and control services dealing with water supply, sanitation, upkeep of local institutions, such as public libraries, gardens, monuments, and museums, municipal development - internal roads, public buildings and so forth.

The councils received annual budgetary allocations from the Jordanian Government to be spent, by such local bodies on city and village improvements and the provision of certain public services.

Following June 1967, Government institutions in both territories continued to be considered as such and the municipal and village councils continued to function, but under the administration of the Occupying Authorities who determine the basic policy through the Ministerial Committee for security and Areas. The Committee is headed by the Prime Minister with membership of the Minister of Defence and other concerned ministers.

Basic policy of the Occupying Authorities is exercised through two inter-ministerial committees: The Committee for coordinated Activities in the Areas which deals with matters of policies and security, and The Committee of Directors-General for Economic Affairs, responsible for carrying out economic and civil policy.

Each administered area has a military governor entitled Regional Commander, responsible for all activities, civil and military, in his area with a headquarters and staff structured for the discharge of that responsibility.

Within each Regional Command, regular army officers direct departments for economic and service tasks. Each of them is assisted by civilian staff officers seconded from relevant ministries. Thus, working under the supervision of the Director of the Regional Department for Economic Affairs are civilian personnel representing the Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, and the Treasury. In the Regional Department for Services are civilian personnel from the ministries of Social Welfare, Health and Religious Affairs. The staff of each Regional Commander also includes a legal advisor and advisor for Arab affairs.

Each Regional Command is divided into districts, each of which is run by a District Commander responsible for the practical conduct of civil and security affairs. The District Commander's staff has two branches:

The Civil, responsible for administration, licensing and carrying out of directives from the staff officers of the respective Regional Command.

The Military, charged with the maintenance of order and security.

Though there has been recently a shift towards civil administration in the Occupied Territories for which Civil administrators have been appointed, the spirit of military administration still prevails.

In spite of the military occupation, the Government of Jordan has continued payments of salaries and pensions of those categories of staff who were on the Government payroll before June 1967. Financing for certain development projects has also been made available for both territories municipal and village councils subject to prior approval by the Occupying Authorities.

Though it was expected that the Occupying Authorities would administer the area according to Jordanian and Egyptian laws, the area has often been administered by a combination of conflicting legal systems including: emergency laws dating from the British Mandate, Israeli law, military and security law, and Jordanian law. Accordingly citizens of the occupied territories, often do not know which legal system they will encounter at any given time, a situation that causes insecurity.

e) Demographic Characteristics:

A major constraint encountered in compiling data on the Palestinian People is that information is most often inaccurate, incomplete or non-existent, where such data are available, the writer encountered enough variants, depending upon the source, to impose a sense of caution.

Irrespective of cause, information on Palestinian population is essential if operational programming and control are to be meaningful. Accordingly, the ECWA in consultation with the PLO, which is a full member of the former, prepared a project document and sought the assistance of UNFPA for funding the preliminary arrangements for a census of Palestinian Population with ECWA as the Executing Agency. A grant of \$100,000.- was provided for this purpose.

The census was initiated in 1975 and an estimated population of 3.2 million was accorded. Of the total Palestinians 50% agglomerate in Pre - 1948 Palestine, 35% in East Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and about 15% in other countries further afield. (see Table 1).

Of the total Palestinians estimated in 1975, about 51.4% were registered with UNRWA of which 37% were staying in 61 camps distributed in the East and West Banks, Gaza strip, Lebanon and Syria. The latest information available, showed that the Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA and living inside and outside the camps approximate 1.6 million. (see Table 2).

Population Growth:

Based on a study undertaken by Najib Issa on the Demographic Situation of the Palestinian Population the total Palestinian Population increased sharply from 1.44 million in 1948 to 3.22 million in 1975 with an average annual rate of growth of 3%.

As reflected in Table 3, the crude birth rate fluctuated between 46-48 per 1000 over the period 1949-1975 whereas the crude death rate underwent a significant decrease from 21-12 per 1000 during the same period.

During the fifties, the Palestinian population grew at a slow rate (2.5%), as high mortality rates curtailed the rise in birth rates. Over the period 1965-1975, the crude death rate decreased from 17 to 12 with a corresponding increase in population growth rate from 3.1 to 3.5% annually.

As to future population estimates, it is envisaged that towards the year 2000, the Palestinian population will approximate 6.6 million.

Age Composition:

Palestinian Population is characterized as being young. Those below 15 years of age constitute between 45-48% of total Palestinians in the Occupied Territories whereas among the Palestinians in the host countries such a percentage ranges between 33.8 as noted in Egypt and 53 as is the case with Kuwait. (see Tables 4-14). The evident preponderance of the young age brackets is associated with the high fertility (around 8) among Palestinians coupled with the substantial drop in infant and child mortality.

Of the total Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, about 29% lie in the age group 15-29 as against a percentage of 12 in the age bracket 30-44. The very fast decrease in these two age brackets may be attributed to an increase in emigration.

For the Palestinians in host countries, the corresponding percentages, for the age group 15-29, fluctuated between 21.7 as noted in Kuwait and 38.3 as is the case with Egypt, where as in the age group 30-44, the percentages ranged between 12.5 as reflected in Lebanon and 22.1 as noticed in United Arab Emirates.

Urban/Rural Composition

Excluding the West Bank and Gaza strip, no information is available on the urban/rural distribution of Palestinian People. However, if we take into consideration that about 2.7 million Palestinians are presently residing in Arab and non Arab countries of which around 0.7 million live in camps while the rest having their residence in urban centres, it can be generally stated that at least 60% of the total Palestinians live in urban areas.

Based on September 1967 census, about 68% of the West Bank population live in scattered villages, most being small with a population varying between 50-5000 persons, and 32% live in urban localities.

1948 refugees constitute a minority of about 20% of total Population. The population density approaches 120 per sq.km.

In Gaza strip, about 8.8% of the population live in villages, 42.8% in concentrations of more than 10,000 persons urban localities (all and 48.4% in refugee camps inside and outside urban localities. The strip is highly populated averaging about 1000 persons per sq. km. Families of 1948 refugees represent the majority of the strip's population.

g) Sex Composition:

Sex ratio is referred to, in this context, as the number of females per 100 males. The ratio is usually susceptible to factors of migration, under enumeration of females in censuses, maternal mortality and negligence or indifference to the female child as it occurs in the primitive and tribal society.

As can be noticed from tables 4-14, the sex ratio for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories accounted for 99.4:100 (female/male) in 1979, while for those residing in host countries the ratio approximated 90.6:100.

In the Occupied Territories, the ratio tended to be in favour of males as is the case with the West Bank and the pre 1948 Palestine where respective ratios of 99.6 and 97.3 are observed. With respect to Gaza strip, the ratio amounted to 101.5:100, thus indicating a substantial male emigration either on forced exile or seeking work opportunities abroad.

h) Household Size:

Palestinians, like any other people in the developing world enjoy a relatively large household size, a feature that is associated with the high fertility on one hand and the trend towards extended type of families on the other.

Though the data available on household size are meagre, certain broad trends are discernible and need to be taken account of.

In the West Bank, about 20% of the dwellings have only one room and 30% two rooms. The average household size approximates seven persons. A total of 22,000 families each of 6 to 11 persons live in one-room dwellings as against 40,000 of the same size living in two-room dwellings with average occupancy of 3.2 persons per room.

In Gaza strip, housing conditions seem to be worse than in the West Bank as the population density is much higher in the former and the physical environment is not spacious. The average household size fluctuates between 8 to 10 persons. This is in addition to the fact that the majority of the population lives in UNRWA camps each with a population exceeding 10,000.

UNRWA camps in general seem to face a number of housing problems including: overcrowding to the extent that two families share the same housing unit, inability to expand housing units vertically or horizontally, ageing of the present units, and poor communication networks and sanitary infra structure. Household size in camps varies in a range of 6-9 persons.

With regard to urban/rural differential, no data are available on household size in the Occupied Territories, however it can be generally stated that families in rural areas are of bigger size than the urban, as the fertility marks higher for the former than the latter.

As most of the dwellings in the Occupied Territories do not have space for children to play, they are left most often to roam the streets or play elsewhere, thus increasing their exposure to external hazards.

Similarly, the high occupancy of dwellings is usually associated with health hazards especially to children in case of an outbreak of an infectious disease, as the probability for cross infection in such environments will rank high.

In addition, such dwellings do not provide suitable atmosphere for children attending schools to prepare for their home assignments.

From the economic point of view, the bigger the household is, the lower the percapita family income, expenditure and consumption will be. Concurrently, the per capita food calories/^{intake} especially for children in such households may fall behind the required level, thus increasing the risk for nutritional deficiencies among children.

1) Migration:

The striking feature in the demography of Palestinian People in the last few decades has been high emigratory mobility, both gross and net.

Following the events of 1948, the economic and social life of the Palestinian People was significantly disrupted. About three quarters of a million fled as refugees either to the West Bank or Gaza strip or to the neighbouring Arab countries, mainly Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and other countries further afield.

During the late fifties and early sixties, there was a considerable out-migration from both the West Bank and Gaza strip for economic motives. Some of this migration was permanent but a greater part was essentially temporary, consisting mainly of young men who went to find work in the East Bank or in the oil-producing countries of the Middle East.

As a consequence of 1967 war, another spate of departures occurred, involving inter-alia wives and children of men who were already working outside the occupied territories. During the two years after war, a good number of Palestinians felt obliged under certain circumstances to leave the occupied territories. However as the 1960's recede in time and the migration balance remains rather small the deficient groups move upwards in the age-pyramid while a normalization occurs in the younger adult ages which are being occupied by cohorts less disturbed by the unsettling influences.

j) Population by Economic Activity

The age limit for being economically active is normally 14 years and above. However, with the uprising trend in costs of living and the relatively big household size, children below 14 find themselves obliged to seek employment somewhere to assist parents in meeting family expenses.

In the light of the status of dispersion of the Palestinian People and the non comparability of data available on economic activity, analysis in this section will be confined to the occupied territories (West Bank and Gaza strip) with some reference to Palestinians in host countries.

Palestinians over 14 years of age in the Occupied Territories approximated 641.6 thousands in 1979 of which around 33.3% were economically active thus evidencing an increase as compared to a corresponding percentage of 30 in 1968. (See table 15)

Correspondingly, the rate for economically active males increased from 57% in 1968 to 60% in 1979. For females, the rate increased slightly, over the period of comparison, from 7.6% to 8.6%.

Of the population economically active in 1971, 34% were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, 14% in industry, 14.6% in construction, 13.4% in commerce, restaurants and hotels, and 14.4% engaged in public and community services.

In 1979, engagement in agriculture shrunk significantly and a percentage of 23.4 was recorded, thus reflecting a shift from agriculture to other sectors. On the other hand an increase was evidenced in those engaged in construction and industry where percentages of 23 and 18.9 were noted. (See table 16).

Among the major activities of females in 1979 were public and community services (24% of total active females), agriculture (18.3%), industries (15.1%) and commerce, hotels and restaurants (3.2%). It is worth noting that this pattern of distribution seems to be similar to that of Egypt and Jordan.

For males, the main economic activities were construction (26.1%), industry (19.5%), agriculture (18.8%), commerce, restaurants and hotels (14.1%) and public and community services (10.8%). See table 17

Concerning Palestinians in host countries, it is estimated that about 39.2% of those aged 14 years and above are economically active. (see table 18). However the rates vary from one country to another, marking high in United Arab Emirates (65.3%), Saudi Arabia 50%), and Kuwait (49%). In the rest of host countries the rates were observed to be 46% in East Bank of Jordan, 32.3% in Syria, 30.9% in Lebanon, 31.1% in Iraq and 22.2% in Egypt.

With the exception to Jordan, where agriculture is the main activity, the bulk of Palestinians who are economically active in other host countries is engaged in community, social and personal services, construction and manufacturing.

f) Vital Indicators

i) Natality

Palestinians are no exception to the People in the developing World are enjoying a relatively high natality and fertility. As revealed by the Jordanian census of 1961, the birth rate in the West Bank approximated 46 per 1000 population against an average of 8 live births per ever married woman aged 45-49.

Starting 1967, a census was undertaken by the occupying authority. Since then, the crude birth rates and total fertility rates for both the West Bank and Gaza strip were based on reported births and on the available estimates for the annual average population.
(See table 19).

The data presented in the table suggest high levels of natality. For the West Bank birth rates fluctuated between 43.2 and 46.4 over the period 1968-1975 where as in Gaza strip the rates varied in a range of 43.1 - 50.2 over the same period. The non stability in the birth rates is indicative of possible under reporting of births or interruptions in family planning activities where exist. However in a population similar to that of a developing country, it is a priori likely that some of the births where the child dies within a short time, fail to be notified.

The sex differential of births in both the West Bank and Gaza strip tends to be in favour of males with a sex ratio varying between 103 and 112 over the period 1968 to 1979.
(See tables 20 (a) and (b)).

The Urban/Rural distribution of natality suggests higher rates for rural than urban as demonstrated in tables 21 a, & b. This evidences the direct association between education and low fertility as reflected in the urban areas where mothers are better educated and more willing to practice family planning than those in rural areas.

For the Palestinians registered with UNRWA, the birth rates fluctuated in a range of 26 - 40 as can be noticed in table 22. The relatively low birth rates evidence the probability for underreporting mainly in respect of infants born and die within a short time. It also gives a possible judgement of high neonatal mortality which may be due to the unfavourable health conditions associated with camps living.

Concerning the other Palestinians residing in host countries no information is available on natality, however through extrapolating crude birth rates for the host countries to the resident Palestinians, it can be stated that the natality among the Palestinians may reach the vicinity of 45 and above per 1000 population.

ii) Fertility

Based on 1961 Jordanian census, the average live births per married woman aged 45-49 in the West Bank amounted to 8.

With the occupation of the West Bank in 1967, the occupying authorities conducted a census on which later estimates for fertility were based.

As presented in table 19, total fertility among the Palestinian People appear to be relatively high averaging between 7 to 8 in the West Bank and Gaza strip with a tendency towards being constant over the period 1968-1975.

Regarding the age-specific fertility rates underlying the total fertility rates with their rather constant level, it is interesting to observe in both areas, two consistent and opposing trends have been evident that have virtually balanced each other: 1) rising rates for women aged up to 19 and 20-24 years in conformance with the tendency of the marriage market towards normality and through the reunion in and outside the areas of married couples, 2) decreasing rates for women aged 35-39 years upwards which are to certain extent interrelated with the gradual shift to these ages of groups affected by a particularly high excess of women (taking into consideration the usual age differentials between couples).

(See table 23).

In fact the high level of fertility is somewhat remarkable due to the persistent sex imbalance in the most fertile ages among the population, a fact that may be related to the mobility of male adults especially in the case of Gaza strip where the females are outnumbering males.

With the nonavailability of information on the determinants of fertility, efforts for exploring their effects were hampered, however it can be generally stated that ethnic groups and education may be of major contribution towards lowering fertility.
*The Christians and women with 9 or more years of schooling may deviate from the general pattern of high fertility.

For the Palestinians residing outside the occupied territories, no information is available on fertility with the exception to those residing in camps in Syria and Lebanon where the fertility rate fluctuates between 7-8
(See table 23).

iii) Mortality

Data on mortality are considered of pivotal importance for the assessment of health status in any country. Any positive intervention in health conditions will no doubt bring down mortality to a lower level.

The Palestinians are no exception to the peoples in the developing world in having their mortality statistics under estimated, a fact that is associated with the high tendency for non reporting of deaths mainly in the rural areas as well as among dwellers of camps. However the available data do reflect broad trends which are discernible and need to be taken account of.

Going back to 1965, the crude death rate reported in the West Bank approximated 6.4 per thousand, a rate that is highly underestimated in the light of the probability for substantial under reporting of deaths especially among infants in rural areas and among the UNRWA supported families who refrain from reporting deaths so as not to lose the rations of the deceased. *

In 1968, the crude death rate was estimated at 21.5 as against a rate of 13.1 in 1979, thus reflecting a downward trend that may be indicative of a positive change in people's awareness of the proper health and sanitation associated with their readiness to seek health and medical care, in case of health hazards, irrespective of the costs to be incurred. This justification conforms with the uprising trend in per capita income of the people in the West Bank as a result of the flourishing labour market in and outside the area.

..21/..

* : Multiplicity study of Births in the Administered Areas, 1974, Jerusalem.

Concerning Gaza strip, the crude death rate was estimated at 22.8 in 1968 as against a rate of 15 reported in 1979. The declining trend observed in the death rates is also suggestive of an increase in per capita health expenditure associated with preparedness of the people to seek health and medical services in case of health problems irrespective of the costs required.

As no information is available on the various determinants of mortality in the Occupied Territories, intention to seek further investigation of such determinants was interrupted. Moreover depending on statistical data available on the West Bank prior to the occupation the following observations may be considered but with caution:

Deaths by sex differential did show in 1965 slight variation with death rate of 6.5 for females as against 6.2 for males.

A break down of deaths by age differential suggests that 38.4% occurred below one year of age as against 16.7% for those aged 1-4, 2.6% in the age group 5-9, 1.1% in the age group 10-14, 7.7% for those aged 15-44, and 8.1% occurring in the age group 45-64. Irrespective of the suspected under reporting especially for infants, this pattern of death distribution draws our attention to two critical ages i.e infants and children 1-4 thus imposing the need for improvement of hygiene, sanitation, feeding and weaning practices. This is to be supplemented however by keeping regularity in vaccination and medical checkups of infants and children.
(See table 24).

The urban rural distribution of deaths indicates slightly higher rates for the former than the latter, thus leaving ground for suspicion of the reporting system in the rural areas as well as the camps.
(See table 25).

In investigating the causes of death, an extrapolation of the pattern of disease mortality of Jordan as a whole to the West Bank population indicates that about 21.2% of total deaths in 1965 were due to ill defined symptoms and conditions, thus enforcing the necessity for improvement and upgrading the diagnostic facilities in that area. Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 21.2% as against 14.7% for digestive diseases, 13% for diseases of the circulatory system, 5.1% for accidents, and 4.5% for infective and parasitic diseases, diseases peculiar to infancy 8.6%. (See table 26). Of the deaths due to infective and parasitic diseases, measles accounted for 42.3% as against 29.7% for

T.B, 3.4% for dysentery, 3% for typhoid and 3% for diphtheria. This pattern of distribution suggests the necessity for expanding and strengthening immunization activities so that better control of preventable diseases is reached.

Concerning the Palestinians outside the Occupied Territories no specific information is available on mortality with the exception to those residing in camps in Syria and Lebanon where crude death rates varied between 1.5 and 6.4. The sex differential of these rates reflect higher rates for males than females, a fact that is related to high exposure of males to environmental hazards. (See table 27).

The age differential of deaths among Palestinians dwelling in camps in Lebanon shows that about 37.2% of total deaths occurred among children aged 0-4 as against 2.8% for those aged 5-14, 21.8% in the age group 15-44, 14% for those aged 45-64 and 24.2% occurring in the age group 65 plus. It is evident from the above pattern of distribution that the highest mortality is noted among children 0-4, thus calling for more efforts towards the improvement of prenatal, delivery and post natal care in terms of quality and coverage. Special emphasis is to be placed on activating immunization programs so that preventable diseases will be put under control. This is to be supplemented by the improvement in the data base as well as the study in depth of the major determinants of child mortality. (See table 28).

iv) Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

IMR is an important yardstick of child development. A high IMR is normally an indicative of poor health status in any country. The rate is also susceptible to a number of factors among which are the availability and accessibility to health services, socio-economic conditions of household and literacy level of parents. Moreover the measurement of the rate is subject to errors which are usually associated with the non-reliability and non completeness of data reporting. As both features are likely to be frequent among the Palestinian People like any other developing country, the figures used in this section need to be considered with caution. However, certain trends may be inferred that need to be taken into account.

Going back to 1965, reported infant mortality in the West Bank approximated 55 per 1000 live births, a rate that yields to query in the light of the tendency towards under reporting of infant deaths especially in rural areas as well as among dwellers of camps.

The 1967 census of the Occupying Authority gave three estimates of infant mortality in the West Bank: the original (158), the adjusted (152) and the evaluated (153), and for Gaza strip respective rates of 168, 162, and 147 were reported. Following population surveys in 1969 and 1971 infant mortality was estimated at 72 and 68 for the West Bank, and 67,65 for Gaza Strip. Based on fertility survey in 1973, further estimates of 70 and 75 were given for the West Bank and Gaza strip respectively. Meanwhile the official estimates of the Occupying Authorities in 1974 did indicate a rate of 132 for each of the two territories.

Irrespective of the precision of the estimates already mentioned, the rates are still far higher than the levels not only in the developed countries but also in some of the developing countries, thus enforcing the need for improvement and upgrading of the prenatal, delivery and post natal services. This is to be supplemented however by activating the immunization programme so that the major killers of infants will be put under control.

Infant mortality by sex is a key indicator of the practices of the value systems and parental care provided to infants of either sex. As shown in table 29, infant mortality rate in the West Bank in 1965 ranked higher for females than males, thus indicating a probable neglect of female child mainly in rural areas the population of which constituted the majority of the territory's population (71%).

A break up of IMR by age differential suggested that 17.5% of total infant deaths reported in 1965 in the West Bank occurred among the neonatals (less than 4 weeks), as against 6% in age group one to two months, 51.3% for those aged 2-6 months, and 25.2% for those aged 6 months to less than one year. It is evident from the pattern of distribution that the first six months of infant's life are critical as the infants need continuous care in the form of immunization, hygienic feeding practices and proper cleanliness. Any positive intervention in these areas will automatically curtail the level of IMR. (See table 30).

In 1974, the Occupying Authorities undertook a field check to follow-up after the notified births in the West Bank. The findings of this check conform to some extent with the pattern of distribution of infant deaths already described. About 9% of infant deaths occurred among neonatals as against 12% for those aged between 1-2 months, 60% for those 2-6 months, and 20% among infants aged 6-11 months. (See table 31).

The distorted age distribution of the deceased infants may be indicative of the fact that the notified births lacked substantial proportion of the specific cases where the infant died in the first 3 months of life mainly in the first month. On the other hand, the bulge noted in infants deceased at the age of 3 months (i.e. 3-4 months) may suggest that some earlier deaths got misplaced in this category. However it can be assumed that deaths in the first three months of life should have accounted for at least half of the infant deaths. Following an upward correction by adding an estimate of the number of deaths lacking from the first three months of life both to the total infant deaths and the total newborns, the infant mortality rate of the villages covered by the field check might have reached about 110 per 1000 live births.

Concerning the urban/rural distribution of infant mortality in the West Bank no information is available with the exception to the field check already mentioned, according to which infant mortality ranked high in small villages. This however conforms with the fact that health conditions are worse. With regard to the UNRWA camps outside urban localities in the West Bank, which are rather small and where living conditions are particularly bad, they were excluded from the field check. Similarly urban localities were also excluded. Nevertheless these localities have better health services and hence are credited with better health conditions than the villages and the camps.

In respect of the main causes of infant deaths, no specific information on the Occupied Territories has been within access to the writer. However through extrapolation of the main causes of infant deaths in Jordan to the Occupied Territories, one can draw inference on the main killers of infants in such area. Among these are enteritis and diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory diseases, heart diseases, congenital anomalies and measles. As most of these diseases are often the aftermath of other diseases or infections, such as measles, whooping cough and gastro enteritis, the incidence of which is closely linked with inadequate environmental sanitation, poor personal hygiene, low level of health education, cessation of breast feeding at an early age and immunization, any positive intervention in these aspects will eventually bring down the level of IMR.

In the absence of specific information on infant mortality among Palestinians in Host Countries, efforts to assess the magnitude of IMR were stuck. Meanwhile the writer made use of the limited information gathered on dwellers of camps in Lebanon. Based on such information, IMR was estimated at 32.8, a rate that might leave an element of doubt in the light of the tendency

among UNRWA supported families for non reporting of the deceased so that their rations will not be ceased. In disaggregating the rate by sex differential, IMR for females approximated 37.3 where as for males the rate amounted to 28.4, thus reflecting a sign of probable neglect of the female infants.

(See table 32).

Irrespective of the precision of such rates, the level still ranks high, thus calling for special attention to infants in the form of upgrading prenatal, delivery and post natal services. However, this is to be supplemented by prolonging breast feeding process as well as keeping tract of regular immunization of infants so that the paramount infant killers will be put under control. Efforts should also be extended towards improvement of the data base so as to facilitate assessing the magnitude of infant mortality and to study in depth the major determinants of mortality.

v) Child Mortality

Reporting of deaths in general and of those of young children in particular is susceptible to deficiency among the Palestinian People like any other developing country.

Apart from the possible administrative neglect, there are specific reasons for the UNRWA supported families not to report cases of death so as to avoid losing rations of the deceased.

The child population 0-14 years constitute about 45% of the Palestinian People in and outside the Occupied Territories of which the females form around 47%. The sex differential of the child population reflects normality as it is usual to find a majority of males in early childhood because statically speaking more boys are born than girls. Subsequently, if reporting procedures were regular and complete mortality among male children should rank higher than that of females.

Going back to 1965, about 16.7% of total deaths in the West Bank occurred in the age group 1-4 as against percentages of 2.6 and 1.1 for those aged 5-9 and 10-14 respectively. (See table 33).

The age specific death rates accounted for 211, 12.1 and 5.1 per 10,000 population in the referred to age groups respectively.

Based on 1967 census of the Occupying Authorities, the child mortality (0-5) for both the West Bank and Gaza strip fluctuated in a range of 207-224 per 1000 live births, however through adjustments of errors in rounding ages the figures were as high as 198-214. Further estimates in 1974 indicated a child mortality rate of 213 per 1000 population at risk below 5 years of age.

In exploring the various determinants of child mortality, efforts were interrupted due to the non availability of respective data. However through analysing the data available on the West Bank in 1965, prior to occupation, the following reasonings have been reached. Though there seems to be some agreement between such reasonings and the findings of both the 1967 census and the 1974 multiplicity study conducted by the Occupying Authorities, the figures used hereunder should be treated with caution:

Child mortality appears to be higher for females than males as reflected in table 33, thus indicating a probable neglect of female child mainly in rural areas where the population does not only constitute a majority but enjoys social values which give preference to male child.

For both sexes the rates were significantly higher in the age group 0-4, a phenomenon that is likely to be associated with factors such as improper feeding and weaning practices, defaulting immunization, impure drinking water, low level of health education, probable apathy to the child, and inadequacy or inaccessibility to health services. Nevertheless the rates did follow a downward trend with progress in age for both sexes.

Though information on urban/rural differential has not been within access to the writer, educational guesses do show that child mortality ranks higher for rural than urban, a hypothesis that may be interrelated with factors in the form of inadequacy of environmental health and sanitation, unhygienic feeding and weaning practices, unsafe drinking water as well as defaulting immunization. Any positive intervention in these aspects will intuitively lower the level of child mortality.

With respect to the main causes of child mortality, no specific information is available, however through extrapolating the pattern of child mortality in Jordan to the West Bank population, it can be inferred that the main killers of children are the infective and parasitic diseases with special reference to enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases and measles, succeeded by diseases of respiratory and circulatory systems and accidents.

As most of these diseases are often the aftermath of other diseases or infections, such as measles and whooping cough especially for those aged 0-4, the incidence of which is associated with environmental hazards and factors already referred to, any improvement in these directions will no doubt exert a positive influence on lowering the level of child mortality.

Deaths due to ill defined symptoms and conditions are likely to form a good percentage of total deaths. This provokes the need for special attention towards extending and improving diagnostic procedures in the various hospitals, health units and clinics. This is however to be supplemented with occasional guidance and advice by health authorities to medical doctors for laying prime importance on disease diagnosis.

Concerning Palestinians outside the Occupied Territories, no specific data are available on child mortality with the exception to some information gathered on those dwelling camps in Lebanon.

Based on this information, age specific mortality rate for the age group 0-4 approximated 86.3 per 10,000 population at risk as against rates of 2.3 and 3.9 for those aged 5-9 and 10-14 respectively (see table 34). The low level of the rates did indicate the tendency for non reporting in camps so as ratios of the deceased would not be cut. Irrespective of the precision of the rates, they are still high mainly among children 0-4, thus provoking the need for improving and upgrading the prenatal, delivery and postnatal services in camps. This is to be supplemented however with strengthening immunization activities and prolonging breast feeding practices.

With respect to sex differential of child mortality, it is evident from the previous table that rates for females rank higher than males, a fact that may evidence the probable neglect of female child.

g- Economic Features:

With exception ^{of} to the Occupied Territories, no specific information is available on the economic features of the Palestinians in host countries as these are embodied in the over all economic setup of the countries concerned. Subsequently the analysis in this section will focus on the Occupied Territories with some reference to the Palestinians in host countries to the extent the available information could permit.

a) Developments between 1948-1967:

i- West Bank:

The economic consequences of the 1948 war, were severe for the West Bank. Aside from losing its primary domestic market and source of supply for a variety of products, the territory lost access to Haifa and other ports on the Mediterranean. This is added to the loss of jobs for thousands of natives who used to work in cities which became part of the territory of the Occupying Power. Hundreds of villagers also lost productive land which remained on the opposite side of the 1949 Armistice Line. The situation was more serious with the influx of Palestinian refugees, thus doubling the West Bank's population and further straining its already disrupted economy.

Facing such a situation, the West Bank has had to totally reorient its economic ties. Only through Jordan could all economic transactions with the rest of the world took place. Dependence became a reality when the West Bank was annexed to Jordan in 1950.

In spite of the territory's lack of natural resources, limited agricultural potential, primitive industrial base and the existence of a destitute refugee population, it benefited to a certain extent from the Jordan's high rate of economic growth averaging 10% per annum over the period 1950-1967. Its per capita income per annum jumped from \$90 to \$200. In addition, the West Bank achieved a modest growth industry and a substantial increase in agricultural produce. Further, the UN assistance somewhat eased the plight of the Palestinian refugees in providing shelter and food rations.

Nevertheless, the territory still had unresolved economic problems, the main among which was a high rate of open unemployment. Agriculture being the predominant sector of the territory's

economy, it provided jobs for almost half of the labour force of 150,000. With the fact that almost all the cultivable land was already being farmed in 1948, it had been difficult to absorb the refugees in this sector. Notwithstanding the expansion in jobs and established factories which barely kept pace with natural population growth.

The level of unemployment in the West Bank was not worse only because thousands of refugees, as well as natives migrated to the East Bank, the Gulf States and further afield in search for jobs. Income from labour in the East Bank and from remittances of West Bankers abroad constituted an important source of income growth. As shown in table 35, the remittances amounted to 6.4 million dinars i.e. 11.8% of the West Bank's gross domestic product.

The sectoral distribution of gross domestic product as revealed in table 36, is in most respects similar to that of any developing country. Industry accounted for less than 7% of output as against 24% for agriculture. The heavy preponderance of the services sector appears to be unusual.

The relative importance of the service sector is probably related to a number of factors demonstrated by the balance of payments figures set in previous table. This sector generated the major credit item in the current account mainly through income from tourism as the West Bank assumed the center of the Jordan tourist trade not only for tourists from overseas but for Middle East tourists who were attracted by the pleasant climate and environment of such places as Ramallah. Tourist income added to a combination of governmental subventions including UNRWA, capital inflows and private transfers supported the economy in maintaining a huge deficit in commodity trade. The Jordanian balance of payments was also supported by considerable aid flows in this period. This means that the West Bank was consuming far more commodities than what was locally produced. The result was a relatively large service sector and much minor contribution of commodity production to GDP than is typical for an economy at that income level.

As evidenced from the previous tables, the main external connections of the economy of the West Bank prior to 1967, were through services sector mainly tourism, public financial transfers including UNRWA, and private transfers from residents working abroad. With regard to commodity exports, they were a relatively of minor influence on the balance of payments and a fortiori an even less important element of total product.

Exports from the West Bank amounted to 1.9 million dinars compared to a GDP of 54.5 million dinars. Such exports were derived from fruit, quarry and olive oil products. Agricultural exports constituted a little less than 11% of the sales of agriculture and the food processing industries.

ii- Gaza Strip:

Prior to 1948, the town of Gaza was a significant commercial center and port serving south of Palestine Mandate. The harbour exercised a modest volume of export/import trade. The town's whole sale and retail markets played an important role in the country's agricultural marketing system added to the flourishing of a number of workshops including traditional crafts as pottery and weaving.

As a result of 1948 crisis, the strip fell under Egyptian administration until 1967.

Separated from its hinterland, isolated from Egypt by the barren, largely uninhabited Sinai Peninsula and lacking natural resources except for the limited underground water supplies, the strip had to reorient its economy in a flood of unfavourable conditions. Economic situation was also aggravated by the influx of 150,000 refugees from Southern Palestine, thus tripling the population at a time when the basis for local economic activity had been undermined.

Though UNRWA assistance has to some extent eased the plight of the refugees, their situation remained grim in the light of the inability of the local economy to absorb them in productive employment. Concurrently they failed even to experience the limited improvement in living standards enjoyed by some refugees in the West Bank. Added to the relatively high rate of population growth the situation even worsened. By 1967 the strip's population approximated 400,000, meanwhile emigration was not as important as in the West Bank and accordingly remittances from abroad were very meagre.

As reflected in table 37 , the backbone of the strip's economy over the period 1948-1967 was agriculture accounting for one third of all employment and production and for more than 90% of all exports.

Citrus fruits constituted the main crop as well as the major foreign exchange earner. Dates were also exported. Among other crops were barely, wheat, melons and vegetables whose production was insufficient to meet local demand. Fish, poultry and milk production was adequate for meeting local consumption, however processed dairy products and meat had to be imported.

Among other main sectors were trade and services, the contribution of which ranked second to agriculture. A special characteristic of the strip's commerce was the development of an entrepôt and smuggling trade with Egypt. With the low level of customs duties in the strip as compared to Egypt, imported goods mainly items of luxury were generally inexpensive. This opened free way for an influx of Egyptian tourist shoppers during the sixties in the strip whose merchants also benefited from smuggling imports into Egypt.

Others contributing factors to the development of an extensive service sector were the presence of all military and civilian personnel including the Egyptian army, the local army, as well as U.N. Emergency forces and UNRWA which employed a huge staff for running its 8 camps, schools and medical clinics. The presence of all these encouraged the proliferation of personal service occupations.

In comparison to the other economic sectors, industry was undeveloped consisting exclusively of minor workshops with weaving of textiles and carpets as being the major manufacturing enterprise. Non traditional business up to 1967 encompassed beverage bottling plants and citrus packing cells. Unemployment and underemployment ranked high and the per capita income per annum did not go beyond \$125 by 1967, a level which is lower than its equivalent in the West Bank.

Development after 1967

There is no doubt that the 1967 war has severely disrupted the economy of the West Bank and Gaza strip and altered fundamentally both the structure of the economy and economic ties with neighbouring countries.

In the strip, the disappearance of Egyptian tourist influx caused a set back to trade, service and handicrafts sector dependent upon it. Similarly local income derived from servicing troops was eliminated. Concurrent repercussions were manifested in severe

unemployment and closure of workshops and stores as well as some emigration of economically active male adults. All in total brought general stagnation to the strip's economy.

With respect to the West Bank, the economic situation got serious. During and immediately after war, nearly a quarter of a million Palestinians fled to the East Bank including thousands of refugees, who had been receiving remittances in foreign exchange from abroad, and several skilled workers. This considerable population loss exerted an adverse effect on various sectors of the economy. Agriculture, however was least affected except for the Jordan valley where families stay at farms. Banks were closed, thus disrupting businesses depending on bank services.

Added to this situation, three early basic decisions were taken by the Occupying Power which significantly shaped subsequent economic developments in both territories: the official annexation of Arab East Jerusalem, the open bridges between the East and West Banks and the promotion of open borders between the two territories and the territory of the Occupying Power.

1) Annexation of East Jerusalem:

Immediately after the 1967 war, the Occupying Power officially annexed East Jerusalem and to solidify its control, it promoted immigration of its people into the city,

By 1975 more than 6000 Arab Palestinians had been evicted after being offered some compensation to the destruction of their homes. This is added to the destruction of hundreds of Palestinian houses and removal of more than 4000 Palestinian natives who used to live close to the Wailing Wall the environs of which were subject to reconstruction.

The immediate economic effect of the annexation was to change the fiscal status of the Palestinian natives who became subject to the Occupying Power taxes and economic administration. Never the less, the Jerusalem Palestinians were not economically isolated, as businesses and families continued to maintain their economic ties not only with the rest of the West Bank but with East Bank as well. However feeling of insecurity is likely to prevail among Palestinian natives due to continuous fear of confiscation of land or property.

ii) Open Bridges:

With the aim of ensuring a market for the West Bank agricultural products, the Occupying Power decided to keep the Jordan River Bridges selectively open for trade between the two Banks.

*Three justifications were raised by the Occupying Power for taking this decision: the time coincidence between the Military Occupation and summer harvest season in the West Bank, the worries of the Occupying Power that entry of the West Bank agricultural produce into their markets would bring down prices of similar produce to a level not acceptable by their policy makers who respond to domestic agricultural interests, and the interest of the Occupying Power in the continuity of inflow of foreign exchange through visitors coming to the West Bank to spend vacations with their families.

For Jordan, continued imports from the West Bank served partly in meeting the local demand for foods which otherwise would have had to be imported, plus some produce for export such as olive oil.

In view of the above stated economic considerations, both Jordan and the Occupying Power were motivated to permit the resumption of agricultural trade between the two Banks of the River, a trade that also incorporated trans-shipment of Gaza citrus to the East Bank and other Arab Markets.

In contrast to agriculture, trade in industrial goods was more seriously disrupted.

Initially, the Occupying Power levied custom duties on all goods imported by the West Bank from the East Bank. In 1968, however, duty free imports were sanctioned for some agricultural goods including barley, wheat, nuts and spices, licenses and duties were requested with respect to other goods. On the part of Jordan, it primarily allowed the imports of industrial commodities from the West Bank. However, with the difficulty to judge whether such goods were originated in the West Bank or the Occupying Power factories, Jordan placed restrictions on industrial imports from the West Bank to comply with Arab boycott prohibitions on trade with the Occupying Power.

* Van Arkadie, Brian, Benefit and Burdens, A report of the West Bank and Gaza strip, Economics since 1967, New York, 1977. ..34/..

The open bridges policy facilitated the maintenance of a complex network of monetary and fiscal connections between the West and East Banks. Concurrently the Jordan dinar continued to circulate as a legal currency in the West Bank in addition to that of the Occupying Power.

It also facilitated the inflow of continuous payment of payrolls by the Government of Jordan to many of its former officials in the West Bank in addition to the periodic loans made available to the territory's municipalities.

iii) Promotion of Open Borders:

The third major step taken by the Occupying Power in the years following 1967 war was to promote selectively economic ties between its territory and both the West Bank and Gaza strip. *Two justifications were behind this step: the need for the two territories as markets for its products and the need for the territories' people as a labour force to do work for which there are not enough natives or which the natives of the Occupying Power are unwilling to do.

For this purpose the Occupying Power in 1968 linked up the transportations, communications and utilities infrastructures of the West Bank and Gaza strip with those of its territory. In that same year it started issuing work permits to natives of the West Bank and Gaza strip to work in its territory, commuting daily from their normal places of residence. Similarly business firms of the Occupying Power were granted permission to place subcontracting work with firms and individuals in the West Bank and Gaza strip. By the end of 1968, 7 labour exchanges were setup in the West Bank with another five in Gaza, and by 1975 such offices increased to 24 in the former and 12 in the latter.

As a result of the above stated measures, flow of commodities from both territories into that of the Occupying Power was generated through a considerable purchase of goods by natives of the latter visiting the territories, in many cases gaining access to a variety of Palestinian artifacts and other commodities not previously readily available in the Occupying Power Economy. However movement of competitive agricultural produce of the two territories into the markets of the Occupying Power was restricted.

* Bull, Vivian A., The West Bank, Is it viable, Lexington Books, London.
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On the other hand, movement of Palestinian workers into the territory of the Occupying Power was extended and their number increased year after year, thus dramatically decreasing the level of unemployment in the West Bank from 13% in 1968 to 0.9% in 1974 and in Gaza from 43% to approximately 1%. However, this should not give the impression that the decrease in unemployment in the territories has been due to advancements in the territory's economies as it may be due to increased employment within the economy of the Occupying Power. Developments on these issues will be tackled in the section that follows.

C) Major Characteristics of the Territories Economy Since 1968

i- Gross National Product:

The striking feature of the economy of the West Bank and Gaza strip over the period under review was its rapid growth. GNP at* constant prices increased at an annual average of 12% as against a growth in per capita income averaging 10% per annum. Over the same period, private consumption per capita in each of the two territories grew at an average of about 8% per annum. (See table).

The rapid and uninterrupted growth of the territories' economy may be ascribed to the close links between theirs and the economy of the Occupying Power. Interaction between both economies bilateral trade in goods and services increased as did the mobility of productive factors and in particular labour from the territories. More than one third of the increase in the territories GNP is attributed to factor payments from abroad i.e. income from labour in the Occupying Power business. Based on a more modest estimate, the rate of growth has approximated about 9% per annum as a proportion of GNP as against 6-7% in per capita income.

*In the West Bank, real GNP has grown by an impressive amount since 1967: 24% from 68-69, 15% from 69 to 70, 18% from 70 to 71 and by approximately 28% from 71 to 1972. The GNP, at constant prices rose in 1978 and 1979 by 7% per annum - a similar rise to that in 1977 and 1978.

* Israel Central Bureau of statistics. Administered Territories statistics Quarterly, vol. X 1-2, pp 77-80, 1980, Jerusalem, ..36/..

In Gaza strip, GNP at constant prices grew in 1978 and 1979 by 8-9 percent per annum, compared to an annual rise of 5-6 percent in 1977 and 1978.

ii- Sectoral Development:

a) Agriculture:

West Bank: Agriculture continues to be the major sector of the West Bank economy and is largely dependent on rainfall irrigation. The cultivable area in 1967-1968 was estimated at 261,420 ha., thus constituting about 47% of the total area of the West Bank. With the establishment of settlements of the Occupying Power in the West Bank, thus occupying an area of about 35000 ha. by the end of December 1978, the cultivable land in the West Bank dropped to 202,000 ha. by 1974 and further to less than 200,000 in the late seventies. Furthermore, large areas have been put out of production for security justifications. An additional contributor to the decline in land under cultivation is the dwindling profitability of the dry farming in the hilly slopes of the West Bank.

The annual rainfall exceeds 300 mm., with the exception to the Jordan valley which receives less precipitation. Irrigated land approximated 8100 ha., i.e. 4% of the cultivable land. Free utilization of underground water is reported to be more and more difficult and hence becoming a problem for citrus cultivators and irrigated vegetable farming.

An analysis of the impact of agriculture in the formation of GDP in the West Bank over the period 1968-1979 indicates a downward trend in contribution from about 36% in 1968 to 31% in 1979.

The labour force, involved in agriculture, underwent a sharp decline from 44 thousands in 1968/69 to 31 in 1975/76 and 29 in 1979. The shrinkage observed is due to three factors: lack of adequate marketing facilities for some agricultural products, lack of financing for investment in land and farming and the high wages in the economy of the occupying power which motivated workers from the West Bank to seek lucrative work opportunities in that economy.

As for income from agricultural produce in the territory, it was derived, 67% from crops and 33% from livestock, and forestry which contributed to less than 1% in 1976/77 (See table 38).

Vegetation and fruits (including olives) contributed to 59.2% while field crops mostly wheat and barely accounted for 11.1% of the crops income.

Since 1967, the field crops in general, cereals, grain, legumes, and sesame have undergone a significant reduction in output because of shrinkage in the total acreage, meanwhile grains productivity has increased: 2200 kg/ha for wheat and 2600 kg/ha for barely in 1974/75.

With respect to the area under vegetable cultivation, it has decreased, however great expansion has occurred in vegetable production under plastic cover: 450 ha. in 1977. However, much remains to be done in this direction being promising in future.

While vegetable growing has considerably expanded, acreage under water melons has dropped to about fifth of its previous size. Recent statistics indicate that water melon crop, traditionally important in West Bank agriculture, has suffered a 90% reduction as compared to former levels (from 36000 tons in 67/68 to 4500), the purpose behind this decline is to prevent entry of West Bank water melon into the markets of the Occupying Power to avoid competition with its water melon grown in the Najef, an area which has been developed for melon production.

With respect to olives, it is considered the largest crop in the West Bank, utilizing more than 50000 ha. The crop's share in agricultural income varies from year to year as reflected in table 38.

Similar to most Mediterranean regions growing olives, the West Bank lacks modern modern technology in olive production. New techniques aiming at increasing production and quality should be introduced: rejuvenation of old trees, irrigation, fertilization, plant protection, mechanization of harvesting etc.

In 1974 there were about half a million sheep and goats. Cows and sheep herd decreased over the period 1970-74: due partly to limited pasture areas and partly to increasing costs of fodder as well as high labour costs. Nevertheless meat products increased from 10.3 thousand tons in 1967/68 to 19.2 in 1976/77. Similarly eggs production rose from 25 to 40 million egg over the same period.

Regarding forestry, it contributed to less than one percent of the agricultural income in 1979. Reforestation may be envisaged to replace old olive trees in the hilly slopes and tops of mountains.

Gaza Strip

Agriculture represents the major sector in the strip's economy. Its contribution to GDP accounted for about 22% in 1979, thus indicating a decrease as compared to 27% in 1966.

Labourers absorbed by this sector dropped in number from about 12000 in 1968 to 9600 in 1979 ie. in ratios from 26% to 21.1% of total labour force. The observed decrease in the labour force is due to a number of factors including: inadequate marketing facilities for some agricultural products, lack of financing for investment in both land and farming, and the relatively high wages in the economy of the Occupying Power which motivated agricultural labour force to seek lucrative work opportunities there.

Analysis of agricultural income in 1976/77 suggests that 77.7% was derived from crops as compared to 21.8% from livestock and 0.5% from forestry. Of the crops output citrus fruit share amounted to 73.6% as against 13.1% for field crops. See table 39

The data presented in the previous table did reveal that there had been a substantial expansion in citrus production over the period 1967/1977 where the output increased from 91000 to 232300 tons. However citrus plantation needs to be watched as it is susceptible to problems of protection, scarcity in water, and absence of credit facilities as well as marketing services. The planting of orchards suggests a shift to agricultural system that require less labour than production of field crops.

Output from live stock and products also increased over the period; meat from 1700 to 4300 tons, milk from 6800 to 11700 tons, fish from 3700 to 5100, and eggs from 10 million to 35 million.

A similar growth was noticed in vegetables produce from 31800 to 54900, however melon products decreased sharply from 12500 to 3700 tons.

b - Industry:

Contribution of this sector to GNP in West Bank and Gaza declined from 7 to 6% over the period 1968-1973.

In 1978 and 1979, the product of industry including olive presses in the West Bank rose by 6-7% per annum compared to an increase of 2% per annum in 1977 and 1978. On the other hand, the product of this sector at constant prices, rose by 10% per annum in 1978 and 1979 in Gaza.

The labour force in industry in both territories expanded from about 18000 in 1968 to around 23000 in 1979. As a proportion to total employment, 14% were engaged in industry in 1968 compared to 16.8 in 1979.

The main activities in this sector encompassed textiles and clothing employing about 24.1% of total labour engaged in industry, foodprocessing, beverages and tobacco 16%, wood and its products 12.8%, rubber and plastic products 7.7% and leather and its products employing about 7.6%.

Compared to 1967, only few industries have been added, among the more important of which are pharmaceutical plants and paint mixing factories. A third project for a cement plant in Hebron is presently under execution. Except for these, no major industries owned by Palestinians have been established since 1967. This situation may be due to the strong competition by the heavily protected industry of the Occupying Power, to which the territories have been exposed since 1967, and of the uncertainty of the future. Traditional industries like textiles, food processing and small workshops are also affected by competition of the Occupying Power and face further difficulties because of a lack of investment.

Balance of Trade:

Prior to 1967 both the West Bank and Gaza strip used to face a big trade deficit with imports exceeding exports. Principally the main exports of both territories were agricultural commodities including processed products, where as a big portion of their needs in manufactured products were imported.

Among the main exports of the West Bank were fruits, olive oil based soap and quarry stones with East Jordan being the main importer. For Gaza, the major export items were citrus fruits and, in a less significant volume, dates with Eastern Europe and United Kingdom being the main importer.

Since 1967, there has been a striking reorientation in trade flow and a substantial growth in the volume of trade for both territories, nevertheless the basic trade deficit continued to be on the scene.

As reflected in table 40 , about 64% of exports of the territories went to the Occupying Power in 1979, as against 88% of the territory's imports being provided by the Occupying Power. On the other hand, Jordan provided a market for 32% of the territories' exports and only 1% of its imports. This low level of imports may be due to the high duties imposed by the Occupying Power on imports from Jordan to the territories. Hence the deficit in the balance of trade of the West Bank with the Occupying Power is likely to be met by its surplus with Jordan and to some extent through remittances from abroad.

The data presented in table 41 , gives a clear picture of the development of the balance of trade of the territories over the period 1968-1979. The flow of trade to the territories underwent a significant increase over the period. Imports from the Occupying Power jumped from 189 m.IL in 1968 to 12331 m. IL in 1979, compared to a rise in exports from 55 m.IL to 4368 over the period under review. The deficit evident in the balance of trade went up sharply from 134 m.IL in 1968 to 7963.6 in 1979.

On the other hand, there appears to be a surplus in trade with Jordan approaching 2058 m.IL. in 1979 compared to 36 in 1968. Most of exports to Jordan are agricultural commodities, citrus, other fruits, vegetables, olive oil, dairy products and soap.

It is worth to note that with the restrictions imposed by the Occupying Power on the exports of many agricultural products of the territories because of their competitiveness with its agricultural produce, farmers in the territories were motivated to grow products needed for the markets of the Occupying Power or for re-export. This explains, why the Arab markets, which absorbed 48% of all agricultural produce of the territories in 1969, absorbed only 37.9% in 1974. The share of the markets of the Occupying Power of these exports rose from 18.4% in 1969 to 36.6% in 1973.

Industrial exports from the territories to the markets of the Occupying Power have been growing rapidly from nearly 145 m.IL in 1972 to about 3435 m.IL in 1979, consisting mainly of commodities relevant to clothing and textiles, furniture, wood products and construction material. The data however did not give any differentiation between goods produced by enterprises owned by Palestinians and those produced by industrial estates owned by the Occupying Power.

Based on 1975 statistics of the Occupying Power, exports in the value of approximately US\$.366 m., representing about 16% of exports of the Occupying Power, went to the territories as against US\$.15 m. (2.6% of the exports of the Occupying Power) in 1967.

The United States, second largest trading partner of the Occupying Power, absorbed exports, amounting in value to US\$.341 in 1975, of total exports of the latter. Only the nine countries of the European Economic Community together absorbed in 1975 a larger share of the exports of the Occupying Power than the territories with an amount of US\$.725 m.

Two features are particularly problematic in the trade between the territories and the Occupying Power. The first is that the Palestinians in the territories are subject to external tariff of the Occupying Power in the purchase of products basically imported from third countries through the Occupying Power, and are obliged to purchase produced commodities of the Occupying Power at an equally high cost due to their heavy production. The second is that earnings from the custom duties and industrial benefits from protective measures and exclusive market access to the territories accrue to the Occupying Power, with the consequent disadvantages to the Palestinians.

Construction:

The contribution of this sector to GDP in the West Bank amounted to 5.8% in 1965 as against 11.8% in 1976. In Gaza strip the share of the sector in GDP approximated 4.8% in 1966.

During the years 1978 and 1979, there was a notable rise of 9-10 percent per annum in the product of the construction branch in the West Bank where as in 1977 and 1978 an increase of 7% per annum was observed. Similarly in Gaza strip, there was a relatively higher increase in 1978 and 1979 in the product of construction (15% annum).

Of the total labour force in the territories about 9.7 percent were absorbed in construction in 1968 as against a percentage of 9.3 in 1979.

As noticed in table , there has been a downward trend in the sector's labour force in the West Bank over the period 1969-1974, thus reflecting a notable decrease in housing activity. A gradual increase however was observed since 1975, nevertheless, it is likely to be insufficient to meet the housing needs of the residents.

Similarly in Gaza strip, there has been a sharp decrease in construction activities over the period 1969-1976 where the labour force dropped from 10% to 4.6% of total labour force, thus indicating a serious shrinkage in construction activities in the strip. However, starting 1977 and on, an uprising trend began to show.

The shrinkage observed in construction activities in the territories may be indicative of short supply in building materials, with the exception of quarry stone, as such materials must be imported from outside the region at very high cost. This holds true in the case of steel rods, metal frames and cement, though a factory for the latter is under execution. Additional constraints on building activity emanated from the establishment of more than 80 settlements of the Occupying Power in both territories. Further, the employment of construction workers by the Occupying Power has oriented the labour force away from development in their own territories. The situation got more aggravated with the successive acts of house destructions, land confiscation or expropriation implemented by the Occupying Power.

Price Indices:

As reflected in table 42 , prices of consumable goods in the territories followed an uprising trend over the period 1968-1979. The general price index in the West Bank increased by 79.9% in 1973 (base year-1968/69-100%) as against a sharp rise by 1518.8% in 1979. Similarly in Gaza strip, the index grew by 40.3% in 1973 compared to a sharp increase by 1724.7% in 1979.

With respect to the Occupying Power, the index increased by 60.9% in 1973 where as in 1979 a sharp rise by 1386.1% was observed, thus indicating that consumer prices in the territories rose faster than those of the Occupying Power.

As pointed in table 42 , consumer prices in the West Bank tended to rise faster for items of vegetables and fruit, food, transport and clothings with respective rates of increase of 317.1%, 313.9%, 312.5% and 308.4% in 1979, compared to 1976 as base year (100%). For health, prices increased by 252.9% as against rates of increase by 256%, 256%, 206.7% for furniture, household maintenance and education respectively.

On the other hand, price indices in Gaza strip increased faster for items of health, transport and vegetables and fruits with respective rates of increase by 361.4%, 318%, and 302.7% in 1979 compared to 1976 as base year (100%). For food, prices increased by 271.8% as against rates of increase by 271.4%, 225.1%, 207.8%, and 207.4% for household maintenance, clothing, education, and furniture respectively.

Taking into consideration the fact that national income is not uniformly distributed among residents of the territories, a situation that is typical of a developing country, it is intuitive to observe a huge number of families lying in low income brackets mainly in rural areas and in refugee camps. With the assumption that food consumption exhausts between 50-60% of the family income, a relatively small portion of the family income in the territories will be left to cover other needs and services. The situation may appear serious in the case of big households and households with only the parent is the wage earner.

Therefore the need provokes for a focus on income generating projects for supporting families in low income brackets in the territories. Such projects may take the form of sewing, knitting, food processing, gardening, animal husbandary and poultry breeding.

h- Education:

Education at all levels has been given prime concern by the Palestinian People both in and outside the Occupied Territories. As revealed in several sources, this people ranks among the highest in the Arab Region in educational attainment.

The achievements made in this area, may be ascribed to the people's belief in the value of education as the best tool for development and self fulfilment following the loss of Home and means of livelihood. For most Palestinians, education is considered a status symbol and a source of dignity and social prestige.

A brief resumé of achievements made in education is presented hereunder:

✓ i- Literacy:

As the data available on literacy is not disaggregated as to the various differentials, efforts to study the determinants of literacy were hampered. However, the general implication of the data did give clear evidence of considerable improvement in the level of literacy among the Palestinian People.

Based on 1961 Jordanian census, about 67% of Palestinians over 15 years of age in the West Bank were illiterate where as in 1967 and 1975 the rate dropped sharply to 55.7 and 37.1 respectively.

A similar trend was witnessed in Gaza Strip where the illiteracy rate underwent a significant decrease from about 57% in 1967 to about 39% in 1975.

A breakdown of these rates by sex differential suggests higher level for females than males. In the West Bank illiterate females in 1961 accounted for 84.2% of female population over 15 years of age whereas in 1967 and 1975 corresponding rates of 74.3 and 52.9 were recorded. Taking into consideration the fact that the majority of the territory's population are rural a sense can be made that there has been recently a tendency towards minimizing restrictions imposed by the traditional rural systems on female education.

A similar trend has been observed in Gaza Strip where the female illiteracy rate underwent a significant decrease from 73.1% to 51% over the period 1967-1975.

With respect to male population, the rate dropped sharply from 47% in 1961 to 36.8 in 1967 and further to 20.2 in 1975 in the West Bank, and in Gaza Strip rates dropped from 39.6 in 1967 to 25.2 in 1975.

Illiteracy rates governorate wise shown in table 44 reflected significant variation in a range of 63 as is the case with Jerusalem Governorate to 76.5% as noted in Hebron in 1961. The criticality of the variation gets evident when taking the sex composition into consideration. In Hebron and Nablus where the rural population constituted a majority, female illiteracy rates in 1961 were recorded at 90.9% and 86.7% respectively. In two subsequent studies in 1971 and 1976/77 female illiteracy ranked higher than that for males and in most of the villages covered by the studies, more than 50% of the female population over 15 years of age were noted to be illiterate. See tables 45 , 46

In investigating the main causes of illiteracy in the West Bank, the study conducted in Ramallah District revealed that 17.4% of total illiterates were due to economic reasons, 26.5% of total illiterate females were due to restrictions imposed by social values on female education, 32.6% of total illiterates were due to absence of schools in certain villages and 8.6% of total illiterate females being due to early marriages.

In the process of combating illiteracy, a supreme committee representing the various Palestinian Unions, institutions and voluntary agencies in the two territories was formed in 1976 and a total of 146 centres were established to absorb about 5700 people. It is hoped that the level of illiteracy will be brought down in the near future.

With respect to the Palestinian People outside the Occupied Territories, illiteracy rates fluctuated between 5.5% as observed among Palestinians in U.A.E. and upper twenties as is the case with Jordan and Lebanon. However illiteracy for females ranks higher than males, thus evidencing the effect of traditional restrictions on female education but not to the extent experienced in the Occupied territories. See table 47.

The female illiteracy rates reflect variations between 11.2% as noted among Palestinians in U.A.E. and upper thirties as reflected in Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. For males, the rates fluctuated between 2.7% as is the case with U.A.E and 18% as evidenced in Jordan.

In an attempt to assess the magnitude of illiteracy among Palestinians in Lebanon, a committee of experts was entrusted to collect the necessary base-line-data that will be helpful in setting an intensive programme for curtailing illiteracy. Based on the estimates of the committee, illiterates approximate 28,000 of which 40% are males. Of the total illiterates 4.6% are children aged 9-12 years, 12.5% aged 13-16 and 82.9% are adults aged 17-45. Those who are able to read or write only their names constitute about 54.6% of total illiterates. See table 48.

Upon the assessment of the illiteracy problem an intensive programme for a mass campaign against illiteracy was prepared and planned for implementation all through the period 1982-1986. The campaign will be undertaken in stages through a total of 850 classes that will be established to absorb almost all illiterates who will be taught how to read and write in addition to simple arithmetic and general education.

ii- Formal Education:

Education for Palestinians in and outside the Occupied Territories encompasses four stages: primary, preparatory, secondary and university. The first two stages constitute the compulsory cycle which covers nine years of schooling of which six are primary. The secondary stage extends for three years after completion of the compulsory cycle..

With respect to university education it lasts for at least four academic years after passing the General Secondary Certificate Examination. In 1969 Palestinian University students approximated 33,000 and in 1974 a figure of the order of 70,000 was reported.

In the West Bank, education underwent a considerable expansion with educational institutions rising from 821 in 1967/68 to 988 in 1978/79. (See table 49). A corresponding increase was also witnessed in numbers of classes from 4402 to 7249 over the period under review. Of the total educational institutions 78% are government, 13.6% belonged to private organizations and 8.4% to UNRWA.

With regard to student enrolment at all educational institutions a rise from 142216 to 247412 was noted over the period 1967-1979.

In Gaza Strip, similar expansion was witnessed in education with total institutions increasing from 166 to 291 during the period 1969-1979, a rise that was associated with an increase in number of classes from 1746 to 3624. A corresponding increase was also noted in student enrolment in all educational institutions from 105644 in 1969/70 to 147774 in 1978/79. (See table 50).

a) Primary Education:

It is compulsory, almost free and sometimes co-educational. It extends normally for six years starting with age six.

In the West Bank and Gaza as well as in main host countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria) primary education is catered by government, private and UNRWA schools. In the rest of host countries it is catered by government and private schools.

*In the West Bank total enrolment at primary level approximated 184,461 in 1980/81 of which females constituted 46.8%. Students enrolled in government schools accounted for nearly 75% as against 16.8% in UNRWA schools and 8.2% in private schools. See table 51

As reflected in table 52 , total primary schools in 1977/78 was 840 of which 688 belonged to government, 87 to UNRWA and 65 to private organizations.

Enrolment rate at primary level is estimated to be in the vicinity of 90%.

With respect to pupil/class ratio the above table indicates it being in the order of 34, a figure that is higher than the normal average i.e. 25, thus evidencing the need for expansion in educational institutions.

In Gaza strip, total enrolment at the primary level approximated 90523 in 1977/78 of which the females constituted 45%. Of the total enrolment 57.5 is catered by UNRWA schools, 42.2% by government and less than one percent by Private institutions. As shown in table 53 , total primary schools in 1977/78 approached 195 of which 81 belonged to government, 109 to UNRWA and 5 to private institutions.

Enrolment rate at primary level is estimated to be in the vicinity of 90%.

With regard to pupil/class ratio the above table states that it is the order of 43, a figure that ranks higher than the normal average i.e. 25,

* Division of Statistics, Ministry of Education. Jordan.

thus provoking the need for more expansion in primary schools to absorb the huge number of students.

b) Preparatory Education:

Preparatory education is compulsory. It extends for three years after six years of primary schooling. It is almost free and sometimes co-educational. In the West Bank and Gaza as well as the three main host countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria) preparatory education is catered by government, UNRWA and private schools. In the other host countries, it is catered by government and private institutions.

In the West Bank, total enrolment at the preparatory level in 1980/81 approximated 61380 of which the female students accounted for 42.8%. Students catered by government schools represented about 73.3% as against 18.1% by UNRWA schools and 8.6% by private institutions. See table 51

As shown in table 54 , preparatory schools totalled 432 in 1977/78 with 1577 classes. Of the total schools 335 belonged to government, 57 to UNRWA and 40 to private sector. Student/class ratio was reported in the order of 32, a figure that exceeds the normal i.e. 20. The ratio in government schools accounted for 32.5 as against respective ratios of 35.2 and 21.6 for UNRWA and private schools. This suggests the necessity for more expansion in preparatory schools in both government and UNRWA educational programmes.

With respect to Gaza Strip, total enrolment at the preparatory level in 1977/78 reached 31484 of which the female students formed about 43%. Students attending government schools represented about 33.3% whereas those catered by UNRWA and private schools accounted respectively for 66.3% and 0.4%.

As noted in table 54 , preparatory schools approximated 79 in 1977/78. The schools encompassed about 739 classes. Of the total schools 32 belonged to government, 46 to UNRWA and one to private organization. Student/class ratio was reported to be 38 in government schools, 45.4 in UNRWA schools and 43.3 in private institution, ratios which surpass the normal level i.e. 20. This evidences the need for expansion in the construction of preparatory schools in Gaza to adequately absorb the preparatory student population in the strip.

iii- School Drop-outs:

This is an issue that is considered of prime concern to educators in the Occupied Territories. Students dropping out during primary education are not prepared educationally for either self or community development. This is in addition to adding the number of the ignorant, illiterate and unskilled labour force.

In following the mobility of students in the primary cycle in government schools in the West Bank over the period 1968-1974, it was found that about 21% of total students enrolled, drop out prior to completion of primary cycle. See table 55.

The sex differential of dropouts indicates a variation in the rate for male students from 2.1% to 4 at the primary level, while it ranges from 5.2% to 11.1% at the preparatory level. On the other hand, the drop-out rate for females at the primary level varies between 4 to 7% as against a range of 7.1 to 14.2% at the preparatory level. See table 55. The pattern of drop-out for both sexes follows an uprising trend with progress in age.

Over the period under review, the drop-out rates in the compulsory cycle (primary and preparatory) in the West Bank progressed in a sequential manner, starting with 1.9% through 1.88% to 2.5% with an average of 2.7%. Compared with the basal year 1968/69 the rate of drop-out increased 32.1% times over the seven year period.

In comparing the drop-out rate in the West Bank with that of the East Bank with that of the East Bank, table 56 evidences an increase from 4.1% in 1967/68 to 4.9% in 1973/74 in the latter, a rate that is lower than the increment in drop-out rate in the West Bank over the same period.

As reflected in table 57, drop outs in UNRWA schools in Gaza ranked higher than those in the West Bank. In both territories highest dropouts were noted in the 6th primary class (6.1% for West Bank, 10.9% for Gaza), followed by the fifth primary class where rates of 4% for the West Bank and 4.1% for Gaza were recorded in 1980/81.

The sex differential of dropouts indicates that over the first three years of the primary cycle rates were higher for males than females in the West Bank whereas in Gaza strip the reciprocal has

been noted. In both territories dropouts among female students were higher than those of males in the 4th and fifth primary whereas in the sixth primary class the opposite has been reported.

At the preparatory level, dropouts ranked higher for males than females in the West Bank whereas in Gaza the reciprocal has been observed. See table 58

With the fact that there may be major precursors for school dropouts in the Occupied Territories, the knowledge of most is still vague, the need implies the undertaking of a study on school dropouts in the compulsory cycle with the purpose of identifying the major determinants of such a problem. The findings of the study will eventually be useful in laying down the proper development strategies that will contribute to curtailing the level of school dropouts in the Occupied Territories.

In a study conducted on education in the West Bank government schools over the period 1968-1977, it was pointed out that dropouts among males increased with progress in age. These dropouts are partly absorbed by the factories of the Occupying Power and partly in the West Bank agriculture or construction sectors. The older the child the more he gets tempted to leave school and work to earn money. In respect of females, some of them quit school to work, but mostly they dropout from school to get married at an early age or even to help their mothers at home.

A further development on school dropouts in the Occupied Territories was made by ECWA in its Social Programmes and Data in the ECWA Region in 1980. The report concludes that students attending various levels of schooling are often compelled to dropout of school in order to supplement the family income as a result of the absence or loss of the father, the separation of families and the high rate of inflation. In addition, in 1976/77 the Occupying Power issued a decree that students who have been arrested or imprisoned should not be re-admitted to school without the approval of the military governor.

Secondary Education:

The secondary cycle consists of three years of schooling following the completion of the preparatory level. Starting with the second secondary, students are splitted in two groups, the academic and the vocational specializations. The academic is subdivided into two streams, science and arts, while the vocational schools comprise specializations in agriculture, commercial, industrial, women's vocational schools or other vocational centers.

Secondary education is catered by government and private schools.

In the West Bank, total enrolment at the secondary level in 1980/81 reached 39951 of which the females constituted 39.3% . Of the total enrolment, 83.6% are catered by government schools as against 16.4% by private institutions. As reflected in table 59 , number of secondary schools reached 182 in 1977/78 absorbing about 888 classes. Schools belonging to government approximated 149 as against 31 private and 2 UNRWA. Student/class ratio was estimated around 32.7 with variations between 35.4 for government schools and 24.3 for private institutions. The level of the ratio in government schools ranks higher than the normal i.e. 25, thus suggesting the necessity for expansion in secondary schools to achieve normal accommodation of secondary student population.

With respect to Gaza, student enrolment at the secondary level approximated 15490 in 1977/78 of which the females accounted for 42.5%. Of the total enrolment, 92% are catered by government schools, 4.8% by private and 3.2% by UNRWA institutions. As shown in table 60 , number of secondary schools totalled 31 with a capacity of 400 classes. Of the total schools, 28 belonged to government, one to UNRWA and two to private institutions. The student/class ratio approximated 39.2 in government schools, 24 in UNRWA and 46.6 in private institutions. The level of the ratios dictates the need for constructing more secondary schools to achieve the normal class accommodation i.e. 25 students per class.

Students in the third secondary class in both the West Bank and Gaza strip sit for the General Secondary Certificate Examination. It is estimated that on the average between 9 to 10 thousands graduate annually in both territories. In 1977/78 total graduates approximated 9901 of which the females constituted around one third.

Post Secondary Education:

Education following secondary level proceeds either through a two-year programme i.e. technical, vocational and teachers training institutes or through university programme of at least four-year duration.

In the West Bank, total enrolment at institutes reached 1774 in 1980/81 of which the females represented about 54%. Of the total enrolment 37% are catered by government institutes, 55.5% by UNRWA and 7.5% by private institutes.

Pre-service teacher training is offered by two UNRWA/UNESCO centres and three government institutes in the West Bank. Total enrolment at these institutes approximated 1233 in 1980/81 of which the females constituted 43.2%. Students attending government institutes accounted for 48% of total enrolment as against 52% catered by UNRWA institutes.

In addition there are three vocational and technical institutes operating in the West Bank, two of which are catered by UNRWA. Total enrolment at these institutes in 1980/81 approached 836 of which the females constituted 41.3%

In Gaza strip, pre service teacher training is conducted in 4 institutes of which three are catered by government. Total enrolment at these institutes reached 640 in 1977/78 of which 84% enrolled in government institutes. In addition there is a vocational training centre catered by UNRWA with enrolment reaching 571 in 1980/81.

With regard to university education, it is processed through five institutions in both territories. They are: Najah University in Nablus, Birzeit University north Ramallah, Bethlehem University, the Islamic College in Hebron and the Religious College in Gaza. Except for Birzeit College all the other universities were established after 1967 occupation.

Al Najah University was started in 1977-78 with the Faculties of science. Arts and Education. Students enrolled in 1979/80 were 1574 (61.6% males, 38.4% females). Enrolment at the institutes attached to the university approximated 299 in the same year of which

236 were females. Plans are being made to ensure an enrolment of 3000 students in 1980-81. Furthermore, the university plans to introduce during the forthcoming ten years all faculties, academic and technical which would contribute in meeting the needs of Palestinian students in the two territories.

Birzeit university comprises a Faculty of Arts and of Sciences, although the limited financial means at the disposal of the university have precluded a rapid development of the latter. The total enrolment in 1979/1980 reached 1392 of which 39.3% were females. Preparations are under way for the establishment of a Faculty of Engineering, heretofore, Palestinian students were compelled to pursue this field of study elsewhere.

Bethlehem university was started in October 1973 under the auspices of the Christian Order of Brothers - the Frere. The university encompasses a Faculty of Arts, of Sciences, and of Business Administration. Attached to it there are the Institute of Hotel Management, Teacher's College and School of Nursing. Total enrolment in 1979/1980 reached 809 of which 49 were enrolled in the institutes attached to the university. Of the total enrolment, the females accounted for 41.4%.

The Islamic Institute, Al-Azhar, in Gaza, was upgraded in 1978 to be the first university in Gaza strip. Three faculties have been introduced and the total enrolment approximated 301 in 1979/80.

Major Constraints in Education in the Occupied Territories:

Obstacles facing the development of education in occupied Territories are becoming more complicated as time goes by. Schools and institutions at all levels suffer from shortage in teachers, class-rooms, libraries, laboratories, science material, audio visual aids, text books and playgrounds. For example, 31 schools in Gaza are reported to lack the scientific instruments and laboratories necessary for study and experimentation. In one * study, it was noted that libraries were available in 51 out of 99

* Nasru. F.S. Education in the West Bank Government schools, 1968/69 - 1976/77, Bir Zeit University Documentation and Research office, July 1977, p.33.

government secondary schools in the West Bank but no library was available in any compulsory school. Similarly most of schools in the territory lack laboratories and only 47 rooms in all of the secondary schools were used as laboratories.

Among the other constraints pointed out in several sources were the absence of educational plans to meet the needs for socio-economic development; vagueness of priority areas to which curriculae and programmes should be geared to develop Palestinian manpower for employment within the two territories; absence of projections of the capacity of the economic system to absorb higher education graduates; import restrictions of educational material, reference books and publications in general, and the difficulties encountered in the recruitment of well-qualified university teachers given the conditions in which they have to work.

Evidences of further constraints are quoted as follows:

- The (1) Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA stated that UNRWA schools during 1979/80 operated satisfactorily except for some disturbances and tension resulting from the effects of occupation.
- Dealing with the educational conditions in the territories the (2) Report of the Group of Experts noted that "it would appear that the occupying authorities, through their actions, have created and sustained a feeling of insecurity among teachers and students in all educational institutions. The experts were told of constant harassment of students and staff. These harassments took the form of frequent arrests, beatings, administrative detentions and closure of schools. Sometimes teachers and students were transferred to remote rural areas. Practical training for student teachers in the schools of the West Bank and the Gaza strip was often disallowed.

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- 1) Report of the Commissioner-General, pp 15-16
 - 2) United Nations General Assembly, Thirty-fifth session, Living conditions of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Arab Territories; Report of the Secretary-General, Annex 1, Report of the Group of Experts on the Social and Economic Impact of the Israeli occupation on the Living conditions of the Palestinian People in the occupied Arab Territories (New York, 1980 (A/35/533).

The Occupying Authorities justified these actions on grounds of security and maintenance of the law and order.

- According to a UNESCO Report, "the Israeli authorities began to print expurgated and amended versions of the existing Jordanian textbooks used in the West Bank before the occupation. The list of titles reprinted by the Israeli authorities for use in West Bank government schools shows that a number of geography and civic books and the school atlas prescribed in the Jordan curriculum have been dropped. The texts themselves are often identical, although several books have phrases, paragraphs or complete chapters suppressed. In a few instances, that have been replaced by new texts..."
- The military order No. 854 issued by the occupying authorities on July 1980 places the occupying power in a position of granting permits to universities and of withdrawing them. Accordingly, the present universities of the West Bank are granted temporary permits as of July, 1980, a fact that may threaten their existence and could result in their closure.

Education of Palestinians in Host Countries:

In the main host countries (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon) education for the Palestinians is provided through government, UNRWA and private schools. Secondary and high education are catered by government and private institutions. In the other countries of Palestinian residence education is sought through government and private schools.

As reflected in table 61, Palestinian students enrolled at the primary level in 1979/80 approximated 215561 in Jordan, 40133 in Syria, 36331 in Kuwait 19504 in Saudi Arabia, 22140 in Lebanon and some 13,000 in the rest of Arab countries. Of the total enrolment in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon UNRWA schools catered for 47.2%, 80.2%, and 91% respectively.

At the preparatory level student enrolment totalled 74165 in Jordan, 23438 in Kuwait, 15053 in Syria, 10078 in Lebanon, 4614 in Saudi Arabia and some 5000 in the other Arab countries. Of the total Palestinian students enrolled at this level, 48.4% is catered by UNRWA schools in Jordan, as against 88.4% in Syria and about 90% in Lebanon.

With respect to enrolment at the secondary level, students enrolled in Jordan approximated 41380 where as in Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia respective figures of 6598, 13713, 1395 and 2361 were reported.

As for university education no data are available on Palestinian students attending universities. However table 62 shows comparative statistics on UNRWA university scholarships holders over the years 1968/69 to 1980/81. As shown in the table, there has been a sequential decrease in number of UNRWA scholarships from 1244 in 1968/69 to 365 in 1980/81. Including the 1981 graduates, the cumulative total of university graduates awarded UNRWA scholarships since 1955 now stands at 2757.

Concerning Pre-service teacher training, it is offered to Palestinian trainees by 4 UNRWA/UNESCO centres in addition to possibilities for enrolment in the existing private and government centres in and outside the Occupied Territories. Refugee students catered by UNRWA/UNESCO centres in 1980/81 approximated 1327 of which 656 are females. At the end of 1981 training year, 639 trainees graduated from these centres 308 of which in the occupied territories, 273 in Jordan and 58 in Lebanon. The cumulative total of graduates since 1957 from UNRWA's pre-service teacher training centres now stands at 9794. With regard to Palestinian trainees in the government and private pre-service teacher training centres no information seems to be available. See table 63.

In addition to the pre-service teacher training services the UNRWA/UNESCO Institute of Education, in close co-ordination with the Field Education Departments and Education Development centres, provides in-service training for various categories of UNRWA/UNESCO staff, through correspondence lessons, weekly seminars, summer vacation courses, tutorial guidance and audio visual and closed circuit television material. Total enrolment of in-service teacher training students approximated 905 in 1980/81 of which 309 in the occupied territories, 233 in Syria, 215 in Jordan and 148 in Lebanon.

It is relevant to mention that the Institute has been and still facing problems of financing and shortage of staff, the solution of which needs be given prime concern. (1)

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- (1) UNRWA/UNESCO Dept. of Education,
Institute of Education; Present situation
and Prospects after 1978,
Amman, Nov. 1978, p.44.

School Drop-outs Among Palestinian children in Host countries

In extrapolating the pattern of school drop-outs in Jordan to the Palestinian students enrolled in the various educational institutions in same country it can be stated that out of total enrollment at the primary level about 18% of female students and 16.6% of male students drop-out prior to completing the 6th primary grade. Similarly out of total enrolment at the preparatory level 28.6% drop-out before completing the 3rd preparatory grade with a sex ratio of 29% for male students and 28.2% for female students.

* Out of Palestinian student enrolment at the primary level in UNRWA schools in Syria around 15.4% drops out of school prior to completing the primary education.

* School drop-outs among Palestinian students in Lebanon seems to be critical. The available data indicate that out of total student enrolment at the primary level about 9% drops out before finishing the 6th primary as against ratios of 52.4% for the preparatory and about 71% for the secondary level of education. See table 64.

The obvious high level of school drop-out among Palestinian children provokes the need for urgent attention to be paid to eliminate child labour which seems to be the main motive for quitting education. However prior steps need to be taken in the form of raising the family income and introduction of work experience and skill development in the school curriculum, a step that may encourage students to stay in schooling.

As most of the determinants of school drop-out are still vague, efforts should also be made to undertake a study with the purpose of assessing the magnitude of the problem and identifying the various determinants of school drop-out. The findings of the study will no doubt be quite helpful in laying down the proper development strategies that will bring the level of school drop-outs to a lower level.

Educational Constraints in Host Countries:

Among the major constraints facing the education of Palestinians, in particular UNRWA schools, is the shortage in qualified teachers mainly in Syria where salaries of UNRWA teachers are not competitive with government salary scales and other fringe benefits. As communicated to the writer, about 10% of UNRWA teachers in 1981 in Syria have resigned to work either with government or seek employment in Saudi Arabia or the Gulf States.

* N. Qorah, Education of Palestinians, present status and constraints, 1975, Beirut. ..58/..

Constraints in the form of shortage in laboratory equipment, audio visual aids, educational material were also reported.

Similarly a good number of UNRWA schools in particular old buildings need to be renovated and regularly maintained, problems relevant to room space and sanitary facilities in UNRWA schools were most often communicated to or observed by the writer.

Pre-School Education:

Palestinians are no exception to other peoples in the developing world in having limited number of educational facilities for pre-school children (age 1-4 years). Pre-primary education is almost a neglected area in national planning. Neither the government nor UNRWA/UNESCO educational system offers pre-school facilities such as kindergartens and nurseries. Hence, pre-primary education is left to private institutions and voluntary organizations. Women's associations and religious societies have opened kindergartens or nurseries in the refugee camps as well as in the villages and cities. With the fact that enrolment in most of the K.Gs and nurseries is against fees, it is intuitive that such facilities are most often confined to a minor segment of the pre-school age population whose parents can afford payment of prescribed enrolment fees.

The pre-school age Palestinians account for about 13% of total Palestinian People in and outside the Occupied Territories.

In the West Bank total K.Gs approximated 120 in 1977/78 absorbing 213 classes. Total enrolment in 1980/81 reached 10553 children giving an enrolment ratio of about 8%. In Gaza, pre-school education is catered by 33 K.Gs with a capacity of 98 classes. Children enrolled in 1977/78 approximated 3264, that is, an enrolment ratio of 5%. See table 65

Of the total preschoolers enrolled in both territories the females constituted about 48%

As for the host countries, preschool education for Palestinian children is mostly catered by private K.Gs. The data available suggest the presence of 48 K.Gs in Lebanon, 44 of which are affiliated with Palestinian Organizations and Unions, with enrolment approximating 3000 children. In Syria a total of 11 K.Gs are operated by Palestinian Unions and organizations and catering for more than 1200 children. Pre-school enrolments in the other host countries reach 7621 in Jordan, 4203 in Kuwait, 1417 in Saudi Arabia, 554 in U.A.E and 79 in Bahrain. In Jordan, however, of the total K.Gs 4 are operated in camps and sponsored by a voluntary national fund association. See table 66.

Taking into consideration the relatively big household size of the Palestinian people and the high costs of living, the demand for increased female participation in work gets heightened. This is more felt in the case where the male sponsor of family income is absent either as a result of employment elsewhere, emigration or imprisonment. The gravity of this situation is further accentuated by the reality that the homes of the majority of Palestinians are lacking in those facilities which could compensate, at least, in part for the absence of preschool education.

Consequently, the need provokes for expanding in K.Gs and nurseries together with providing the necessary equipment, audio visual aids and trained staff so that the children of dwellers in camps will be given an opportunity to escape from the hardships of camp life and be prepared along with other Palestinian children living elsewhere to enjoy easy access to primary education. This is to be supplemented however with offering vocational training programmes to the working mothers who are compelled to leave their children in nurseries and K.Gs. In this respect it is relevant to mention that there has been a recent move by all Palestinian Organizations supervising K.Gs. in Lebanon towards standardization of the curriculum to be applied in all K.Gs., upgrading the existing K.Gs in terms of room spacing, playgrounds, children toys, athletic tools, and trained personnel. A comprehensive plan for preschool education is under way.

Vocational Education:

Vocational education encompasses courses of training relevant to occupational preparation of students in areas such as industry, commerce agriculture and nursing. This field of education is conducted at two levels: secondary and post-secondary.

A pre-requisite for enrolment at the secondary level is the successful completion of preparatory cycle where as at the post-secondary level eligibility for enrolment is conditional with passing the General Secondary Certificate Examination (Scientific Stream).

Vocational education for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza strip and in the three main host countries (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon) is catered by government, private and UNRWA institutions. With regard to Palestinians in the other host countries such education is sought through government and private institutions.

During school year 1979-1980, 3392 Palestinian trainees including 528 girls were enrolled in vocational, commercial and technical courses offered at the seven vocational training centres of UNRWA. An additional 53 trainees were sponsored in private institutions.

Of the 3392 trainees, 750 are in the West Bank, 533 in Gaza strip, 956 in Jordan, 477 in Syria and 676 in Lebanon.

In 1979/80, 1662 trainees graduated from UNRWA centres, giving a cumulative total of 24419 since the inception of the vocational and technical training programme in 1953.

Based on statistics of the Ministry of Education in Jordan, schools in the West Bank in 1980/81 approximated 36 in commerce (all catered by private institutions), 1502 in industry of which 55.8% are catered by government institutions. At the post-secondary level, students enrolled in vocational education totalled 409 of which 345 are girls attending UNRWA Women's Training Centre in Ramallah.

As stated in various sources, Palestinian students in the field of vocational education are estimated to be around 8500 in and outside the occupied territories, that is, 7% of enrollees at the secondary level. It is also estimated that on the average, about 2000 Palestinian students graduate annually from vocational schools as against a total of 25000 graduates in general secondary education. The ratio of 7% is in no doubt far below those observed in developed countries (25-62%) and some Arab countries (8.1-21.4%), a fact that is indicative of the low attention being paid to vocational education of Palestinian people.

There is thus a seriously felt need for a long term plan that will incorporate proper strategies for upgrading the existing vocational institutes, expanding in establishing new ones, and motivating students towards this field of education. This is to be supplemented however by an identification of priority areas on which curricula and programmes of vocational training should embark in order to develop Palestinian man power for employment in and outside the occupied territories. In line with this some forecasting of the capacity of the economic system to absorb batches of vocational trainees should also be made. On the other hand special emphasis needs also to be given to facilitate women's access to vocational education corresponding to their requirements in different areas of specialization, taking into account job opportunities. Additional training courses are needed for non-refugee Palestinians to enable them to secure employment.

It is relevant to mention a particular experience regarding vocational training outside the occupied territories, that of SAMED, an industrial production organization which operates some 33 workshops mainly in Lebanon, employing more than 4000 workers, whose needs, particularly in the field of training and skills upgrading were given special emphasis. Since its inception, SAMED has trained about 20,000 Palestinian workers mostly young adults of which the females constituted 60%.

Disabled Child:

Disabled children are defined as those who suffer from mental retardation, blindness, hearing defects, dumbness or physical impairment following a disease or an accident.

To date, uncertainty still prevails regarding the magnitude of this problem among Palestinian children as no complete or reliable data are available. However in a population surviving unfavourable conditions like Palestinians, a relatively considerable level of disability is to be expected.

Reported disability cases in the West Bank approximated 463 to which a total of 23 voluntary Palestinian organizations are catering services.

In Gaza strip, no data on disability are available, however the writer got informed through private sources that a voluntary organization affiliated to Swedish Free Churches is catering rehabilitative services to a good number of mentally retarded children.

✓ In Lebanon, the findings of a preliminary survey, conducted by UNRWA sometime in early eighties, did indicate the presence of 943 cases of disability among civilians in camps. Of the total disabled, 30.5% suffer from blindness, 10.1% from deafness and dumbness, 24.5% from mental retardation and 34.9% from physical impairment. In the absence of disaggregation of data by age groups, it was not possible to know the proportion of disabled children.

Among the military Palestinians total disabled approximated 909 cases of which the amputated extremities formed about one third as against 17.6% cases of paralysis, 6.2% mentally retarded, 8.9% blind, 1.7% congenital short extremities, and the rest being due to some other impairment.

With regard to the other host countries no information is available on cases of disability among Palestinians.

In line with the above, there seems to be some vagueness of disability problem among Palestinians in terms of both prevalence and cause, thus provoking the need for undertaking a study on the disabled child in the Occupied Territories as well as in the refugee camps in host countries with the purpose of assessing the size of and the factors of association with disability. The findings of such a study will determine the type and size of assistance needed in this direction.

Health Status:

Health services are delivered to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza through government, UNRWA and private network of health and medical care facilities. Prior to 1967 and for few years henceforth, such services were provided either free or against nominal charges. Starting early 1978, a new health insurance scheme was implemented, the participation in which was made obligatory for the territories' people who work in Israel and for civil servants, while being voluntary for others. Destitute patients and children up to 3 years of age continued to enjoy free medical care, Similarly preventive services were also maintained free.

With the interventions made at all levels of health infra structure since the fifties, some improvement was effected in the health and nutrition status of the Palestinians in the two territories. This was evidenced by the considerable decline in the crude death rate, from 21.5 in 1968 to 13.1 in 1979. Nevertheless, certain problems continued to be worth noting. Infant and child mortality rates still rank high compared with those prevailing in other parts of the world. The relatively high population growth continues to pose a demand for proper planning of health services mainly in respect of MCH and immunization programmes to cater services for the newborns.

Among other problems that need attention are nutritional deficiencies and gastro enteritis mainly among children and mostly in hot weather. Equally important are poliomyelitis and tuberculosis which continue to cause concern.

Given the paucity of health statistics efforts to analyse the health status of Palestinians in and outside the Occupied Territories were interrupted. In addition to the meagre data available, the writer has

to make use of other sources in the form of professional experience and educational guesses of knowledgeable persons. A resume of the major features of health status of Palestinians is presented hereunder:

Facilities:

Based on 1980 statistics (1) of the Ministry of Health in Jordan, inpatient medical care in the West Bank is catered by a total of 22 hospitals with a bed capacity of 1406 i.e. 17.7 beds per 10,000 population. Of the total hospitals, 10 with 938 beds are run by the government, one with 36 beds by UNRWA and the remaining 11 with 432 beds being run by the private sector.

Going back to 1967, total hospitals which were in operation in the West Bank approximated 27 with a bed capacity of 2045 i.e. 33.3 beds per 10,000 population.

As evident from the comparative statistics prior and after 1967 occupation, the health infrastructure in the West Bank did not develop. Due to a reorganization of hospital services and redistribution of responsibilities, 4 hospitals were closed by the Occupying Power, thus cutting down the number of government hospitals from 11 operating and 3 on the verge of operation in 1967 to 8 operational plus one hospital for mental diseases in 1980. This was associated with a drop in number of beds in such hospitals from 1023 in 1968 to 943 in 1975 and further to 970 in 1980.

In Gaza strip, the number of operational hospitals declined from 7 in 1967 to 6 in 1980 with a corresponding decrease in bed capacity from 955 to 890 thus lowering the bed/population ratio from 24.5 to 20.6 over the same period. The downward trend in the number of hospitals is due to the closure of two hospitals in the territory namely, Tal-al-Zuhoor and the Infectious Disease Hospital.

Of the total beds in government and UNRWA hospitals in the two territories 239 are operated for maternity and obstetrics and 211 beds for paediatrics.

Further to the hospitals there exists a network of health facilities in the form of health centres, rural clinics, MCH centres, laboratories and blood banks. As indicated in table 67, the number of health centres and rural clinics in the West Bank increased from 28 in 1967 to 131 in 1980 as against a rise in MCH centres from 22 to 54

over the same period. A similar increase was also noted in number of health laboratories from 7 to 12, in radiology centres from 3 to 6 and in pharmacies from 69 to 113 during the period under review. On the other hand, blood banks dropped in number from 4 to 1 and the two government dental clinics which were in operation in 1967 got closed.

In Gaza strip, there exists a total of 18 clinics, 18 MCH centres and 2 health laboratories.

In view of inaccessibility to data on the staffing pattern in all health facilities, it has been quite difficult to review the factor of equity in manpower distribution. However, a number of sources have indicated that the staffing situation is not satisfactory and inadequate to meet the growing needs of the population mainly in rural areas where most of the clinics are only visited once a week by a doctor.

Health Manpower:

Statistics issued by the Ministry of Health in Jordan, suggest that in the West Bank physicians have increased in number from 246, that is, one physician per 2690 people in 1967 to 296, that is one physician per 2690, in 1980 thus evidencing that the increase has fallen short of the requirements of population. As stated in more than one source, there are hundreds of physicians from the West Bank who happened to be on study outside the territory on the eve of 1967 war and due to restrictions on family reunions they were unable to return. In addition, there seems to be a tendency among physicians as well as other categories of medical and para medical personnel in the West Bank to leave the territory due either to problems relevant to social, financial and sometimes, familial conditions or the fact that working conditions are better elsewhere.

With respect to the other categories of health manpower, an increase was noted in qualified nurses in the West Bank from 115 in 1967 to 174 in 1980, in pharmacists from 90 to 135, and in assistant nurses from 342 to 459 whereas a sharp decrease was observed in number of health auxiliaries from 1030 in 1967 to 178 in 1980 thus suggesting a high brain drain which is associated with factors already stated.

Given the inaccessibility to data on health manpower in Gaza, analysis will be confined to those employed by UNRWA. Based on 1980 statistics, total physicians working with UNRWA in the strip approximated 27 as against 2 dentists, one pharmacist, 28 nurses and 29 midwives. With regard to health auxiliaries there are 52 assistant nurses, 6 laboratory technicians, 5 health education staff and 21 sanitation officers. As stated in more than one source, there appears to be a shortage in various categories of health manpower which is likely to be associated with the phenomenon of brain drain in health manpower in follow of higher payment and better working conditions elsewhere.

In the light of the rather inadequate and unsatisfactory health manpower situation in the two territories, the need dictates the preparation of a long term plan that will incorporate a forecast of manpower needs in various categories of health personnel with proper strategies to meet them. A priority area may be the expansion in the capacity of the existing nursing schools (4 for nurses and 5 for assistant nurses) to absorb annually between 200-250 trainees. Further attention needs to be focused on the training of paramedical personnel where the shortage is critical.

Health Services:

Health services are rendered in the form of inpatient and outpatient medical care, MCH, school health and sanitation, control of communicable diseases, laboratory tests, drug supply and control, and training.

Given the paucity of health statistics and the limited scope of the data being accessible, efforts to assess the health services in terms of both quality and quantity have been hampered. Towards this, a selective approach of analysis has been used with focus on the areas where adequate data is available.

a) Curative Services:

These services are provided through hospitals, polyclinics and clinics, run by government, UNRWA and private sectors.

Total admissions in government hospitals in the West Bank have followed an uprising trend since 1968 onwards. Irrespective of the significant cut in number of beds, admissions increased from 23593 in 1968 to 49305 in 1979, that is, more than two-fold.

Hospital deliveries rose from 5316 in 1973 to 10341 in 1979 i.e. 33% of total deliveries. A similar increase is observed in surgical operations from 6913 to 10653 over the same period. With regard to outpatients the number jumped from 63928 to 145003. Average bed occupancy increased from 71.4% in 1973 to 90.4% in 1979.

In the private hospitals in the West Bank total admissions increased from 12094 in 1973 to 14714 in 1979 as against an increase in outpatients from 12437 to 26975 over the same period. Hospital deliveries also rose from 2868 in 1973 to 3588 in 1979, that is, 11.4% of total deliveries in the territory. Surgical operations approximated 13750 in 1979, that is, an increase of 11% compared to 1973. Average bed occupancy fluctuated between 66.7% and 75.7% over the period under review.

As for UNRWA, it operates a hospital of 42 beds in the West Bank in addition to catering a total of 157 beds in private hospitals. Total admissions in 1980 approximated 10759 with an average bed occupancy of 89.4%.

In Gaza strip UNRWA caters services through a total of 555 beds of which 496 in government hospitals. Total admissions in 1980 approached 103796 with an average bed occupancy of 51% a level that is much lower than the normal level in general hospitals i.e. 75-80%, thus evidencing low utilization of inpatient medical care and high emphasis on ambulatory treatment.

On the other hand, total admissions in government hospitals in the strip increased from 31535 in 1973 to 51948 in 1979 with bed occupancy fluctuating between 66-76%. Hospital deliveries rose from 3416 in 1973 to 7541 in 1979 i.e. one third of total deliveries in the territory. Similarly, surgical operations jumped from 12398 to 13750 over the period under review. As for outpatient medical care, a sharp increase was observed from 754560 visits in 1973 to 483308 in 1979, a fact that is indicative of high emphasis on ambulatory treatment.

Morbidity

Morbidity is considered an important indicator of health status of any people. The higher the morbidity rates, the bigger is the space for poor health conditions, improper personal hygiene and inadequate environmental health and sanitation. Morbidity is also associated with socio-cultural practices, inadequate housing conditions and poverty.

Moreover, the measurement of morbidity rates is associated with errors. One such problem is the qualitative and quantitative nature of data reported which eventually affect the morbidity figures. Another problem may be of technical nature i.e. inadequate diagnostic facilities mainly in rural areas. A further problem may be relevant to the lack of interest on the part of medical practice to report data on morbidity.

As such problems are likely to show among Palestinians like any other people of a developing country, the figures used in this section do not reflect the actual situation and therefore should be treated with caution. However there are still certain broad trends which may be discernible and need to be taken account of.

Based on 1980 UNRWA statistics, the most prevalent communicable diseases among Palestinians in both the West Bank and Gaza are diarrhoeal diseases with a prevalence of 29448 cases of which 72.8% occurring among children 0-3 years of age, influenza with 16993 cases, conjunctivitis with 3558 cases, thus suggesting low hygienic status of children in camps, mumps with 2208 cases, chicken pox with 1209 cases, dysentery with 1634 cases, and infectious hepatitis with 425 cases.

With regard to diseases preventable by immunization, cases reported were 138 measles, 9 poliomyelitis in Gaza, 3 tetanus neonatorum in Gaza, and 78 pulmonary T.B. cases of which 74 were reported in Gaza.

As most of these diseases are interrelated with factors of immunization, personal hygiene, hygienic feeding practices, environmental sanitation and health education any intervention towards improvement in these areas will eventually bring down morbidity rates to lower levels.

Hospital morbidity:

Given the inaccessibility to data on hospital morbidity in the Occupied Territories, attempts to review the disease pattern of hospitalized patients were hampered. However, in extrapolating the disease pattern in hospitals in Jordan to that in the Occupied Territories, it may be inferred that the leading causes for hospitalization include diseases of the digestive system, respiratory system, accidents, poisonings and violence, diseases of the circulatory system, genito urinary system, infective and parasitic diseases and ill defined conditions.

Among the main causes for hospitalization of infants , may be enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases, diseases of the digestive system, respiratory system, diseases of avitaminoses and nutritional deficiencies, diseases of perinatal morbidity and mortality, accidents, poisonings and violence and congenital anomalies.

As most of these diseases are associated with factors in the form of personal hygiene, safe drinking water, health education, hygienic feeding practices, cessation of breast feeding and pre-natal and post-natal care, any positive intervention in these areas will eventually curtail morbidity among infants.

Immunization

The Palestinians are no exception to the people in the developing world in experiencing frequent outbreaks of infantile and children diseases. As most of these diseases are preventable it was felt necessary to embark on immunization activities. Accordingly an expanded programme of immunization was started sometime in the seventies. Immunization against tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, and measles are given according to a prescribed schedule. Most frequently children are to be fully vaccinated prior to their third birth day.

Immunization activities in the Occupied Territories are carried out by both government and UNRWA health centres, MCH centres and sometimes clinics.

In view of the fact that the only data available are those of UNRWA, analysis in this section will make use of such data while keeping in mind that the figures presented do not reflect the global status of immunization in the territories.

As shown in table 68 , children given 3 doses of polio vaccine and D.P.T approximated respectively 30328 and 14508. With respect to those vaccinated with measles and B.C.G they approached respectively totals of 18138 and 34301.

In investigating the coverage of vaccination, efforts were hampered as no data are available on the target population. However with the fact that children up to three years of age are considered as target population for vaccination by UNRWA and following a mathematical exercise a rough estimate of 35965 palestinian refugee children, in both territories, was reached.

Based on this estimate, the figures for 1980 indicate the following coverage: D.P.T 40%, polio 84%, measles 50.4%, and B.C.G 95%. However, these figures need to be treated with caution.

As reflected in the previous table, there appears to be a sense of defaulting in vaccination mainly in the West Bank, a fact that is evident in the figures for both D.P.T and polio. Those taking the 3rd dose for both vaccines cut number those taking the 2nd dose, thus indicating a tendency among mothers for not keeping up with the schedule of their children vaccination. This provokes the need for enhancing health education activities to orient mothers on the importance of vaccination and its taking by children in the proper time.

With the frequent incidence of certain preventable diseases among the Palestinian children, it is felt that immunization activities need also to be enhanced and extended to reach full coverage of the target population as well as the defaulters from previous years.

In order that the implementation of the E.P.I. in the Occupied Territories be more successful and properly directed, the need provokes for the undertaking of an evaluative study that will clarify issues pertaining to coverage, base-line-data, the potency of the vaccines and the quality and management of cold chain. However, this should not give the impression of depreciating the efforts made so far in the area of immunization, as such efforts have no doubt exerted a positive impact on curtailing the incidence of the preventable diseases among Palestinian children.

Maternal and Child Health:

These services are provided in the form of antenatal, delivery and post natal and care for children up to school age.

There exists a total of 72 MCH centres in both the West Bank and Gaza of which 33 are catered by UNRWA.

As the data available are not disaggregated as to urban/rural it appears difficult to assess the coverage of rural population with MCH services.

Based on 1980 UNRWA statistics, newly registered pregnant women in prenatal clinics in both territories approximated 18061 with average monthly attendance of 5928. Ante-natal home visits reached 365.

With respect to natal care services, deliveries registered totalled 18161 including 6279 home deliveries and 11882 deliveries conducted in camp maternity centres and hospital. Post-natal home visits amounted to 44344.

As for child health care, infants registered in UNRWA child health clinics in both territories amounted to 16755 with average monthly attendance 14607. Registered children aged 1-2 years accounted for 16683 with average bi-monthly attendance of 14116 whereas those registered in the age group 2-3 years approximated 1527 with average tri-monthly attendance of 12551. An important aspect of child health care is immunization both primary and booster the analysis of which has been dealt with in an earlier section.

With regard to MCH services for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories who are not catered by UNRWA, no data are available to assess the situation. However, with a relatively high infant and child mortality in both territories it can be inferred, though with caution, that the health status of the Palestinian population, in particular those living outside of the camps, is not satisfactory mainly for the high risk groups i.e. children and mothers. The Medical Association of the West Bank states* that infant mortality increased from 70.9 per thousand in 1973 to 73.8 in 1974 to 80.3 in

* Report of the Medical Association of the West Bank on Medical Institutions and staff, Jerusalem, 1978.

1975, in the particular area studied, covering 2500 births a year. The same study quotes Israeli statistics to the effect that overall infant mortality increased from 37 per thousand in 1974 to 39.5 in 1975.

Given the uprising trend in infant mortality, the need provokes for undertaking an evaluative study of MCH services in the Occupied Territories to determine gaps in the delivery of these services and identify priority areas for upgrading and extending MCH services to reach the under privileged population. This is to be supplemented however with a complete reorientation of the health policy towards an integration of preventive and curative activities at the various levels of health delivery system.

Rehydration:

As was discussed in earlier sections, enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases constitute a leading cause of morbidity and mortality of infants and preschoolers in the Occupied Territories accounting for a considerable portion of the deaths in the age group 0-4 years.

In combating such diseases, early and effective treatment of diarrhoea through oral rehydration was exercised in all UNRWA health centres as well as in the special rehydration/nutrition centres, where children with diarrhoea were also given a daily meal. The study of the effectiveness of oral rehydration therapy in Gaza continued under the supervision of WHO/EMRO and data were compiled and reported regularly. Malnutrition clinics, where children at risk or already malnourished received special attention and care, were functioning as part of the child health clinics in the West Bank. In Gaza, three such clinics are in operation.

Rehydration activities are also provided in government health centres and hospitals in the Occupied Territories. However no data are available on the extent or quality of such services.

With the frequent incidence of enteritis and diarrhoeal diseases mainly in summer, attention needs to be focused on the improvement of environmental life condition: water supply, sewerage, waste disposal, vector control of insects and rodents, and particularly basic sanitary measures. This is to be supplemented by enhancing health education of

mothers in areas pertaining to personal hygiene and feeding practices of infants and children.

Given the fact that most of the new medical graduates and nurses assigned to work in the health centres and clinics rarely have received appropriate training on the clinical experience in oral rehydration, parental or IV insertions, intensive courses of training of 2 to 3 weeks may be organized for them with emphasis on rehydration activities.

Health Status of Palestinians in Host Countries:

In Jordan, Palestinians are considered as Jordanian citizens, thus enjoying the same health benefits as all other citizens. In Syria, Palestinians not catered by UNRWA, enjoy the same access to Syrian health services as Syrian citizens. In addition, the Palestinian Red Crescent (PRC) operates a hospital in Damascus with a bed capacity of 80. Of the total beds, 15 are used for gynaecology and obstetrics and further 15 for paediatrics. The medical staff in the hospital comprises 32 physicians of whom 21 are specialists including 3 paediatricians and 2 gynaecologists. The nursing staff comprises 35 qualified nurses and 21 practical nurses.

In addition to the hospital in Damascus, a further hospital of 60 beds is presently under construction in Homs city.

The Palestinian Red Crescent also operates a Polyclinic with all medical specialties in Yarmouk camp and 12 clinics distributed in camps. Arrangements are also made to contract medical specialists from the private sector in Syria to perform operations for selected cases of Palestinian patients.

In Lebanon, the health needs of Palestinians not registered with UNRWA are catered mainly by PRC. Since its establishment in 1969, the PRC has founded nine hospitals with a capacity of 600 beds covering medicine and surgery. The PRC also caters a special center for the rehabilitation of the disabled, in the form of provision artificial limbs, physical therapy, and vocational training.

The PRC, has also established nursing and paramedical schools and even 3 schools for training young men and women in secretarial work and sewing arts. It operates a clinic in every camp and other specialised clinics and laboratories. Among the categories trained

in the paramedical school are nurses (males and females), assistant pharmacists, laboratory technicians and X-ray technicians.

In view of the non availability of consistent and complete data on the various health services, specific for Palestinians in host countries, the analysis in this section will make use of UNRWA statistics, the broad trends of which may be extrapolated to the general health status of Palestinians in host countries.

The basic health policy of UNRWA dictates the preservation of the health of the Palestinian refugees entrusted to its care, through the steady development of its programme of comprehensive and integrated health services with three main components: medical care, with strong emphasis on preventive medicine, environmental health and supplementary feeding.

Curative services are catered by 120 health centres and health points (100 UNRWA, government 18 and 2 voluntary agencies) covering refugees registered with the Agency whether living in or outside camps. See table 69

In addition, UNRWA operates a total of 92 specialist clinics, 25 dental clinics, three central public health laboratories in Amman, Gaza and Jerusalem, and 23 small clinical laboratories located at the Agency's main health centres which perform tests of a routine nature. All clinical laboratories except one are now fully equipped to perform biochemical tests. Elaborate laboratory investigations continued to be performed at eight government, university and/or private laboratories against fees, free of charge, or as a contribution by the host governments.

In-patient medical care is provided by securing facilities in government, local authority, university, voluntary agencies and privately owned hospitals and medical institutions. See table 70

UNRWA also administers a small cottage hospital in the West Bank (36 beds), 9 maternity centres with 71 beds mostly in Gaza, and 21 day-time rehydration/nutrition centres (229 cots) located throughout the area of its operations. In Gaza, it continued to administer jointly with the Public Health Department a tuberculosis hospital of 70 beds which caters services for both refugees and indigenous inhabitants.

Total physicians employed in UNRWA health services in the Fields as at end of 1980, approximated 147 as against 14 dentists, 5 pharmacists, 119 nurses, 54 midwives, 290 auxiliary nurses, 54 traditional midwives, 5 sanitation officers, 31 laboratory technicians and 22 health education staff.

See table 71

Curative Medical Care Services:

As stated in the 1980 report of the Director of Health in UNRWA, the number of medical consultations in the 120 UNRWA clinics increased in all fields over the previous year. There was also a rise in attendance for injections and dental treatment, but a decline for ordinary dressings, skin and eye treatments.

The 1460 beds available for UNRWA received a total admissions of 54126 in 1980 with 253104 patient days. The daily bed occupancy approximated 690.

Epidemiology and Control of Communicable Diseases:

Surveillance of selected diseases was maintained Agency-wide through periodic weekly returns from 82 UNRWA health centres and special investigations when indicated. The incidence for these diseases in 1980 is shown in table (71 a)

No cases of quarantinable diseases have been reported among the refugee population in all fields of the Agency's operations.

While the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases remained more or less the same as in 1979, that of typhoid and paratyphoid dropped from 85 to 41 cases, mainly in Syria and Lebanon. Measles declined from 1776 to 864 cases notified mainly from Lebanon (622 cases), and pertussis from 61 to 55 cases. On the other hand, poliomyelitis underwent an increase from 9 to 17 cases - nine from Gaza, five from Jordan and 3 from Syria -. A similar rise was also observed in infectious hepatitis from 324 to 793 cases. Incidence of conjunctivitis increased from 20868 to 23661 cases, and trachoma from 236 to 300 cases mainly in Jordan and Gaza. A further increase was also noted in influenza, from 19153 to 21388 cases mainly in the West Bank, Gaza and Syria. Five cases of cerebro spinal meningitis were notified same as last year. No cases of Malaria were reported during 1980. A slight decrease in the

number of newly detected cases of respiratory tuberculosis was noticed ie from 164 to 158, with the majority of cases reported from Gaza and Lebanon.

With the frequent incidence of diarrhoeal diseases, infectious hepatitis and conjunctivitis, it is felt that environmental health and sanitation activities need to be strengthened in the refugee camps mainly in hot weather. This is to be supplemented however with an expansion in health education activities and oral rehydration treatment.

Given the frequent incidence of preventable diseases, the need provokes for enhancing E.P.I. activities to secure high and sustained levels of coverage.

Maternal and Child Health Services:

Health protection of both the mother and child continued to be one of the major elements of the community health programme provided by UNRWA, with a number of local authorities and voluntary agencies supplementing the Agency's programme.

In the pre-natal clinics, 31222 women were registered for maternal care, which encompassed regular health supervision and the distribution of extra rations of milk and iron-folate tablets throughout pregnancy and the nursing period. Of the 30817 deliveries reported, nearly half were attended in the homes by UNRWA supervised dayas. However, a larger number of babies was delivered in hospitals mainly in urban areas, with the exception of Gaza where about one-third of the deliveries being conducted in the Agency's maternity centres. One maternal death was notified during the year. The still-birth rate approximated 9.6 per thousand reported total births.

The number of deliveries registered under UNRWA MCH programme roughly corresponds to a coverage of about 49%, assuming a birth rate of approximately 40 per 1000 of the eligible refugee population and an estimated total of nearly 63500 births during the year.

Planned parenthood services continued to be rendered in Gaza as a major part of the MCH programme. Supplies of contraceptives for the first year's operation were secured through the assistance of IPPF.

For 101170 children up to three years of age, UNRWA MCH programme provided regular health supervision and immunization through a network of 83 child clinics. In addition milk in powder form was also distributed on a regular basis to children up to 3 years of age.

With the relatively high birth rate among the Palestinian refugees and the frequent incidence of preventable diseases in childhood, there seems to be a continuous need for planning for expansion in MCH services to meet the health needs of the new borns and mothers. However, this should not give the impression of depreciating the efforts made so far in the area of MCH, as such efforts have no doubt contributed to a decline in infant, child and maternal mortality.

School Health Services:

These services were rendered by health centres and school health teams to a total of 336256 children attending 635 UNRWA/UNESCO primary and preparatory schools. School entrance medical examinations were made to 45247 pupils. The necessary health care was provided by health centres and their referral activities, while malnourished children were referred for the daily cooked meal at the supplementary feeding centres. Campaigns for treatment of scabies and tinea, still prevalent among school children, were carried out in some of the fields. A high prevalence of dental caries was observed in school children of all ages. Early promotive dental care was extended to school children, to the level that limited facilities could permit, and oral hygiene was emphasized in the school health programme. However, much remains to be done in the area of sanitation in schools, as there exists a good number of schools where sanitary conditions need to be improved and well maintained.

Nutrition Status:

With nutrition being an important indicator of health, the issue of supplementary feeding has been considered of prime concern by government and UNRWA health delivery systems. Such services are directed towards the most vulnerable groups, namely infants, pre-school and elementary school children, pregnant and lactating women, non hospitalized T.B patients and medically selected hardship cases. The nutritional support programme encompasses the distribution of milk, extra dry rations and preparation of hot mid-day meals

Until the sixties, information on food and nutrition in the West Bank has been scant. In 1962, a nutrition survey was undertaken by the Inter-departmental Committee on Nutrition for National Defence, Washington, in collaboration with the Inter-department committee on nutrition for Jordan, with the purpose of identifying the priority needs of infants and pre-schoolers and providing the base-line-data which would be of major use in generating possible strategies to deal with the problems and needs so identified.

The findings of this survey revealed the presence of low levels of vitamin A and Riboflavin intake among the surveyed infants and pre-school children with confirmed deficiencies of these nutrients in certain groups. In addition, clinical cases of marasmus, pre-kwashiorkor and Kwashiorkor were also present with variations among provinces and between sexes.

Of the 1135 infants and preschool children surveyed in the West Bank, 2.2% suffered from marasmus as against 6% pre-kwashiorkor and 0.7% kwashiorkor. However a variation has been observed province wise. Prevalence of marasmus ranked highest in Hebron (3.3%) and lowest in Jerusalem (1.4%). Nablus province comes in between with a prevalence rate of 2.7%. Pre-kwashiorkor was most common in Hebron and Jerusalem provinces with respective prevalence rates of 7.3% and 7.1%, whereas in Nablus a rate of 4.3% was reported. With regard to kwashiorkor no cases were observed in Hebron province where as in Jerusalem and Nablus, respective rates of 0.8 and 0.8 were observed.

In breaking down the prevalence of these diseases by sex differential it was found that marasmus, pre-kwashiorkor and kwashiorkor is most common among females with respective rates of 3.1%, 7.5% and 1% against corresponding rates of 1.5%, 4.6% and 0.5% for male children. This suggests an evidence of a probable neglect of female child whose weaning age tends to be some 2-3 months earlier than that of male children. Kwashiorkor was found to be of low prevalence in both sexes as indicated by the rates already mentioned.

Realizing the significance of the problem of malnutrition among infants and children of Palestinians, both refugees and displaced, two further surveys have been undertaken; the first being conducted by the Ministry of Health of Jordan on refugees and displaced Palestinians in Baqâa and Jarash camps in 1968, and the second by UNRWA on Palestinian refugees in camps in the Occupied Territories in 1974-1975.

The findings of the first survey did indicate that 2% of male infants, in Jarash camp, suffer from marasmus as against a rate of 6.5% for females. While no cases of kwashiorkor were observed among male infants, the disease was found to affect 3.2% of female infants. Further, pre-kwashiorkor was most common among infants with prevalence rate of 16% for females as against a corresponding rate of 25% for males. This suggests an evidence of the magnitude of the problem of protein-calorie malnutrition as early as in this age group.

On the other hand, Bitot's spots were observed in 4% of male infants and 3% of females, where as acute conjunctivitis being noticed with high prevalence approaching 50% for males and 38.7% for females, thus indicating a very low hygienic status among infants. Angular lesions were found in 16.6% of male infants and 9.7% of females. While cheilosis was prevalent in 23% of males and 19% of females. Both findings suggest the presence of riboflavin deficiency among infants.

In children aged 1-6 years in Jarash camp, it was found that 2.6% of males and 0.8% of females were suffering from marasmus as against 0.6% of the former sex group and 1.6% of the latter suffering from Kwashiorkor and 10% and 14% respectively complaining of prekwashiorkor. Bitot's spots however were noted in 7% of males and 4% of females. Follicular hyperkeratosis was also observed in 12% of males and 14% of females. Angular lesions and cheilosis were most common in this age group. The former was found to affect 26.6% of males and 33% of females while for the latter, prevalence rate of 46% in both males and females was observed.

As for children aged 7-15 years in Jarash camp, Bitot's spots were seen in 12.7% of males and 36.6% of females. Angular lesions and cheilosis were most common in this age group with prevalence rates of 21.7% for males and 9.8% for females. While cheilosis was observed in 47.1% of males and 70.7% of females. Follicular hyperkeratosis was noted in 17.2% of both males and females.

Compared to Jarash camp, the clinical findings of malnutrition in Baqâa camp were less common.

Marasmus was found to affect about 2% of female infants whereas among male infants no cases of the disease were observed. Prekwashiorkor was noted in 1.3% of males and in 1.9% of females. Conjunctivitis was observed in 16.6% of males and 21.5% of female infants.

In the age group 1-6 years, marasmus was seen in 0.6% of females with no cases amongst males. Prekwashiorkor was observed in 1.3% of males and in 0.6% of females. Conjunctivitis was found in 6.9% of males and 8.6% of females whereas Bitot's spots were prevalent at 0.7% for males and 4% for females. Angular lesions and cheilosis were prevalent at respective rates of 24.1% and 31.7% for males as against respective rates of 20.9% and 28.4% for females.

Concerning children aged 7-15 years, Bitot's spots were noted in 11.6% of males and in 12.8% of females. Angular lesions and cheilosis were noted at a prevalence of 14.4% and 49.3% for males as against respective rates of 7% and 51.7% for females. Follicular hyperkeratosis was observed in 43.4% of males and 38.8% of females.

The nutrition survey conducted in 1974-1975 and completed in 1978 shows that the nutritional conditions of the refugees, on the whole is satisfactorily maintained at a level roughly comparable to the one enjoyed by the residents of the host countries of the same age-groups. However the findings give evidence of a mild or moderate form of protein energy malnutrition among a sizeable portion of the children up to 3 years of age, the highest prevalence rate being among children in their second year of life.

Based on 1980 UNRWA statistics, number of underweight Palestinian refugees children attending MCH clinics in all fields approximated 6921 of which 40% are infants, 43.8% children aged 1-2 years, and the rest being aged 2-3 years. Of the total underweight children about 58.5% are in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

The infants with 1st degree underweight formed 5.6% of total infants attending MCH clinics in all UNRWA fields as against 2.1% categorized as 2nd degree underweight and 0.4% as 3rd degree underweight. However, prevalence of underweight infants, ranked higher in respect of all degrees in the West Bank and Gaza compared to other fields. See table 72.

The children in 1-2 years age group categorized as 1st degree underweight accounted for 6% of children (same age group) attending MCH clinics in all UNRWA fields as against 2.4% classified as 2nd degree underweight and 0.2% as 3rd degree. However, highest prevalence of underweight children of all degrees, was noted in the West Bank and Gaza compared to other fields. See table 73

The children in 2-3 years age group reported to be 1st degree underweight constituted about 2.6% of children (same age group) attending MCH clinics in all UNRWA fields as against 0.9% marked as 2nd degree underweight but non reported as 3rd degree underweight. However, prevalence of underweight children, marked highest in Gaza strip compared to other fields. See table 74

With the definite presence of malnutrition among Palestinian children the need provokes for increasing and improving the quantity and quality of basic rations distributed monthly in a way that is compatible with the number of children per family. It is also felt that the distribution of milk is to be increased so that this substance will be more available to all inhabitants of the camps especially school children, pregnant and lactating women. Equally important is the fortification of flour distributed in the camps with iron, vitamin A powder, riboflavin and niacin. This is to be supplemented with the distribution of multi vitamin drops or tablets and iron to the infants above 4 months of age, preschool and school children, pregnant and lactating women.

Apart from the delivery of the nutrients, nutrition education regarding the special needs of mothers and children is also of vital importance if the Government and UNRWA is to combat malnutrition. Equally important, however, are developmental activities in the form of research, experimental and demonstration projects, which activities are needed to provide base-line data on the status, causes and patterns of nutrition with respect to children and mothers mainly in families with low income brackets.

It is also of pivotal importance to promote breast feeding in MCH care, nutrition and other health oriented programmes. Meanwhile prolonged breast feeding and the timely introduction of supplementary feeding suitable to local needs should be emphasized.

Water Supply and Sanitation:

Safe drinking water and proper sanitation are considered of major importance to human development. Their importance stems from their act as vectors in transmitting diseases mainly among infants and children. Further to this is the need for water for human consumption, agricultural expansion and as a source of energy.

With the absence of major water resources (i.e rivers and lakes) in the Occupied Territories coupled with the growing demand for water by the population which is increasing rapidly at an annual rate of 3.5%, the issue of water supply is becoming of prime concern to planners in the Occupied Territories.

Added to the evidence that a relatively high portion of morbidity and mortality cases among infants and children, mainly in deprived rural areas of the territories, is attributed to diseases interrelated to water and sanitation.

Water sources:

With the absence of data on Gaza strip, the analysis in this section will focus on water sources in the West Bank.

There are two sources of water in the West Bank: underground and rainfall.

Rainfall:

Precipitation is highly seasonal, being virtually confined to winter months with variability in amount.

In the western slopes of the series of mountains extending from north to south and over looking the Mediterranean, annual average of precipitation fluctuates between 800-650 mm. The part of the territory extending east to the Jordan valley receives an annual rainfall of nearly 200 mm. In the southern part of the West Bank, rainfall rarely exceeds 100 mm. per annum as is the case with Jericho, or 200 mm. as it is observed in the southern east part of Hebron.

As reflected in table 75 , 53% of the territory's area receives precipitation at an annual average of 400 or more millimetres. Compared to other countries in the Near East, where 79% of the area receives some 100 mm. rainfall per annum, the West Bank enjoys better status in respect of this water source.

Nevertheless, the seasonal variability in rainfall in the West Bank exerts adverse effects on the agricultural produce, thus causing financial loss to the rural population where agriculture is the main source of income. Added to this, the heavy loss of rainfall water in valleys where no dams are constructed.

Ground Water:

Ground water is a major source of water in the West Bank where the output of springs and wells currently in use covers most of the territory's water needs for domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes.

Total springs in the territory approximates 56 with an annual discharge averaging 54 million cubic metres.

Prior to 1967, total artesian wells in the West Bank approached 720 of which 340 are useable while the rest being dry, neglected or closed. Of the total wells, 185 exist in the coastal plain, 96 in Ghor area, and 10 in the southern part of the territory. Annual pumping of all these wells approximates 38 million cubic metres of which 53.2% from the coastal plain wells, 26.2% from Ghor wells and 13.3% from wells in the southern part of the territory.

*On the other hand, total artesian wells in Israeli settlements in Ghor area until 1978/79, approximated 17 with annual pumping averaging 14 million cubic metres.

*Average water consumption in the West Bank is estimated at 100 million c.m. per annum as against an average of 1720 m.c.m. in Israel. The total per capita water consumption in the territory approximates 142 c.m. compared to 537 c.m. in Israel. The average per capita domestic consumption in the West Bank is estimated at 13 c.m. as against a corresponding average of 86 in Israel.

With regard to water consumption in agriculture, it is estimated that 4% of cultivated land in the West Bank is irrigated i.e. 77 thousand donums.

Water Supply:

Provision of drinking water in urban centres in the Occupied Territories is the responsibility of municipalities which provide potable water to houses against prescribed fees. This is in addition to Public stand pipes which may be available in some urban centres for public use.

In the rural part of the territories, potable water is provided to households in large villages with population of 5000 or more. In small villages, households depend on private wells the water of which is collected from rainfall.

As reflected in table 76, 321 out of 429 villages in the West Bank are not covered by water systems as against 4 out of 21 in Gaza strip. With the fact that 68% of the West Bank population agglomerates in rural areas and with a cautious assumption of 400 inhabitants per village, an estimated population of 130,000 seems to be not covered by water supply systems. This forces the people to depend either on domestic wells where water is collected from rainfall or on any other water source irrespective of the water quality.

It is therefore, not strange to find that water borne diseases are highly prevalent among the people of the territory, in particular among infants and children.

Water supply in Palestinian refugee camps varies from one location to another. Based on 1980 UNRWA statistics, total refugees served by private water connections from municipal water schemes approximated 356 thousand of which around 188 thousand reside in the Occupied Territories. Those served by public water points approached 342 thousand of which about 100 thousand concentrate in the Occupied Territories.

Total annual average supply per capita per day was estimated at 17.2 litres with fluctuations in a range of 9.4 to 27 between areas of refugees' residence. The lowest of 9.4 was observed in Jordan.

Sanitation:

Though no data are available on sewage management in the Occupied Territories, it has been communicated to the writer through knowledgeable persons that existing sewage facilities are inadequate. A good number of urban centres as well as the rural areas are still not covered by sewers.

In urban centres with no sewers, sewage is disposed of in individual cess pools adjacent to the houses and so is the case in some large villages where municipal services exist.

In almost all villages sewage is disposed of in cesspits.

Most of the houses in urban centres as well as in large villages have toilet facilities with flushing.

Municipalities in the various urban centres in the two territories operate collection vehicles or trucks to collect garbage most often on daily basis.

With the relatively high incidence of enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases in the territories, and with the direct association between the occurrence of these diseases and the sanitary conditions of the people, it

can be inferred that environmental health and sanitation services in the two territories are both inadequate and unsatisfactory. This calls for attention to be placed on upgrading and extending these services so that the prevalence of water borne and fecally transmitted diseases will be curtailed.

With respect to Palestinian refugees in camps, UNRWA continues to provide basic community sanitation services in the form of potable water, sanitary disposal of wastes, drainage of storm water, latrine facilities and insect and rodent control.

*A total of 697122 refugees and displaced persons living in 61 camps benefited from the services which were reported to be maintained at a satisfactory level in all the camps.

Human solid wastes in camps are disposed of either in public or private latrine seats . Based on 1980 UNRWA statistics, public latrine seats installed in camps approximated 438 in Established camps and 60 in Emergency camps in all Fields of UNRWA operations. Population served by these latrines totalled 15610 (i.e. 2.9%) in Established camps and 2100 (i.e. 1.3%) in Emergency camps. Private latrines installed in dwellings in all UNRWA camps approximated 51137 in Established and 14892 in Emergency camps. The overall private latrine seats ratio per 100 persons served was estimated at 9.6 in Emergency camps as against 10 in Established camps.

Assuming that each public seat equals to six private latrines and following a simple mathematical exercise, it can be inferred that about 58% of refugees in Established camps are served by both public and private latrine facilities as against a coverage of 56% in Emergency camps.

With the relatively high prevalence of water borne and fecally transmitted diseases among refugee infants and children and with the direct association between these diseases and water and sanitation, attention needs to be focussed on upgrading and extending these services so that such diseases will be put under control.

* Annual Report of the Director of Health, 1980, UNRWA

Through endeavours to improve sanitation in the camps, community participation was sought and proven to be successful.

A self-help sewerage scheme for Ein-el-Hilweh camp in Lebanon is under execution and almost 50 percent of the planned work has been completed with a financial subsidy provided by UNRWA. Execution of a similar sewerage scheme for Bourj el-Barajneh camp (Lebanon) is unfortunately held up for want of building materials which UNRWA could not provide due to financial difficulties.

To ameliorate the problem of over-crowding, a number of additional shelters have been constructed by the refugees at Homs, Hama, Khan Dannoun and Khan Eshieh in Syria, while UNRWA is providing assistance in the development of drainage, water supply and other necessary facilities at the camp extensions.

A self-help scheme for upgrading animal slaughtering facilities at Amari, Kalandia and Jalazone camps in the West Bank is also ready for implementation.

A further camp improvement schemes which are relevant to mention are the two conjoint schemes for the provision of sewerage facilities and indoor taps to all refugee shelters at Amman New and Jabal el-Hussein camps in Jordan, financed by the host government.

Budgetary restraints have hampered a considerable improvement in the garbage collection and removal service. However, suitable contractual arrangements have been made with private truck owners for the removal of refuse from all five camps located in the Damascus area and three camps in the Jordan field. In the West Bank, the Municipality of Beithlehem has agreed to provide a refuse removal service for Dheisheh, Aida and Azzeh camps against reasonable charges. A similar arrangement was made at Jenin camp in the West Bank but free of charge, however UNRWA supplied the camp with trolleys to facilitate the work.

Rodent control activities have benefited five camps in Lebanon and two in Jordan where rat infestation had been a problem. In Syria and Gaza, the use of rodenticides is limited to UNRWA installations i.e. base warehouses, supplementary feeding centres etc.

Self-help Schemes to Augment Water Supply in Refugee Camps:

Through endeavours to improve the services in most of the camps, respective community participation was sought and proven to be successful. Assistance provided by UNRWA included building materials, technical and financial support. The programme initiated through self-help schemes comprises paving of alleys and streets, construction of surface drains, laying of sewers, improvement of animal slaughtering facilities and augmentation of water supplies. In 1980, the self-help schemes benefited 8 camps in Lebanon, 5 in Syria, 2 in Jordan, 11 in the West Bank and 7 in Gaza.

With the financial assistance of the Government of Jordan and active participation of the concerned community, the water supply has been expanded and indoor taps have been installed in all refugee shelters in Jalazone camp in the West Bank. The refugee community in Wavel camp in Lebanon has implemented a similar scheme with nominal aid from UNRWA. Water augmentation schemes involving drilling of deep wells and installation of water connections to refugee shelters have been completed at Nahr el-Bared and Ein el-Hilweh camps in Lebanon.

With the finance by Jordan Government, indoor taps were installed to all refugee shelters at Amman New and Jabal el-Hussein camps in Jordan. The Government of Jordan also implemented a water augmentation scheme at Suf camp where the shortage of water has been a chronic problem. In Syria, a programme for providing adequate water for UNRWA installations has already been finalized at three camps and work is in progress at a fourth. The General Authority for Palestine Arab Refugees is in the process of extending the municipal water supply system to sbeineh camp. In the Gaza strip, a regional water-supply scheme is being executed by the Occupying Authorities for three Middle camps, to install indoor taps to all shelters against payment of fee by the refugees.

Social Development:

Confronted with the various hardships associated with their dispersion since 1948 onwards, the prime concern of the Palestinians has been to enhance the social development of their scattered people through emphasis on educational attainment and the development of socially oriented services. Institutions relevant to the fields of health, education, community development and small scale industries, have been established by Palestinian local communities, unions and organizations, thus displaying a relatively well developed social awareness and good performance in the execution of their social services.

Although without a country of their own, the Palestinians residing in the host countries have demonstrated good performance in most sectors of their work. Their expertise in education and social development have no doubt exerted a positive effect on the socio-cultural and economic development of the countries of their residence. But whatever their achievement may be, they are still bound with the cooperation and understanding of their hosts.

Prior to 1967, municipalities in the West Bank and Gaza had budgets for health care, social and educational facilities. The budgetary allocations were utilized in expanding public libraries, upgrading public gardens, subsidizing the construction of schools and clinics where ever and whenever necessary. In addition the Government infra structure of social affairs in the Occupied Territories catered services in the form of assistance to the disabled, orphans and low income families. They also supervised existing social institutions i.e. K.Gs., day care centres, disabled homes, orphanages etc. This is in addition to some financial assistance to such institutions.

As government institutions were unable to cope with the increasing needs of the population, a number of private, non-governmental societies augmented their activities to provide training workshops and job opportunities, in addition to traditional social services. In the West Bank there are at present about 100 private social institutions as compared to 77 in 1967. There were 23 such institutions prior to 1948* .

From the 54 institutions established during the period 1948 to 1967, many multi-purpose centres emanated, encompassing K.Gs., nurseries, youth services, community development, small workshops, child health care, rehabilitation of the disabled, the aged, handicrafts, sewing, secretarial skills etc. Starting 1967 onwards, this trend of multi-purpose community centres continued but with major focus on community development and the facilities for small-scale training and employment possibilities for a society whose economy was inflationary and whose labour force was being utilized by the Occupying Power.

These social institutions are generally initiated and administered by Palestinian women. In compliance with the need for the women to work, training and production workshops in secretarial skills, child care, and income generating activities, i.e. sewing, knitting, home-economics etc. have been incorporated into the activities of the social institutions. One

* Ayne, Kaslon, The social Institutions in Occupied Territories, Planning Center, Social and Educational Division, Beirut, 1977.

society has several productive workshops employing about 700 women. To insure marketing for the various products, several local shops were established to sell needlework, weaving and handicraft produced by women. Embroidery centres provide women with the opportunity to make such items as Palestinian dresses, table cloths, purses, pillow cases etc.

Among other activities of multi-purpose centres are services for preschool children in the form of operating K.Gs and nurseries for both the refugees and the general population.

In response to the increasing number of orphans, various voluntary institutions emerged: traditional homes for orphans, or societies which supplement income of orphans' families by regular allowances for the child. As stated in various sources, existing orphans' homes need assistance in various forms including educational assistance. The personnel working in these institutions need to be trained in child care and psychological guidance. Orphaned children need also to be given priority in the granting of scholarships for higher education and opportunities for vocational education as well. Care for the disabled and handicapped is also provided by private societies. Assistance in the form of equipment and training of health personnel and educators may be thought of.

Youth activities and clubs are also part of the social institution structure where different facilities are provided to the young who constitute about 40% of the population. With the major role such centers could play in reducing school dropouts among children, opportunities in training for jobs need to be enhanced. This may call for the need for some assistance to youth clubs in the form of technical and material equipment.

With respect to Palestinians in host countries, numerous social institutions have been established. In Lebanon there are more than twenty such institutions; many have branches in other Arab countries, and a few have branches in the Occupied Territories.

Among these institutions SAMED, the General Union of Palestinian Women, and the Palestinian Red Crescent are the most active. The General Union of Palestinian Women has operated 13 K.Gs. and two orphans' centres in Lebanon. Occasional training courses for the personnel of these institutions are provided. Other women's organizations have established 17 K.Gs and nurseries catering services to about 8000 preschoolers.

Irrespective of the various inputs in the sector of social development, there appears to be a number of problems which need to be continuously watched. As most of these problems have been discussed in the earlier chapters, the following analysis will be confined to a major social problem relevant to children, that is child labour.

Child Labour:

Employment of children below 14 years of age is generally not sanctioned by labour legislations. However, with the uprising trend in costs of living and the relatively big household size, children find themselves obliged to seek employment somewhere to help support their parents in meeting family expenses.

With the positive correlation between child labour and high school drop-outs among Palestinian children, the issue of child labour has been of prime concern to Palestinian planners. This was interpreted with the recent move towards research studies in this direction, the latest of which was a study conducted by ILO on child labour in the Occupied Territories, the findings of which will give a sound ground for possible strategies to be implemented towards curtailing child labour.

As the findings of the ILO study have not been within access to the writer, efforts to elaborate on the various determinants of child labour among Palestinian children were hampered. Therefore, the writer sees that more elaboration needs to be made on this issue in view of the high school drop-outs observed among Palestinian children not only in the Occupied Territories but in host countries as well.

Since poverty may be the main reason for child labour, efforts should be made therefore to raise family income through income generating projects and introduction of work experience and skill development in the school curriculae. Compulsory education can be effective in decreasing child labour provided the presence of a school curriculum that attracts and motivates children through useful work-oriented training courses. Equally important is the elimination of child labour.

With the vagueness still prevailing regarding Palestinian child labour in host countries, a study is needed to be undertaken to determine the size of this problem and its implications on the child's health, education and social well being.

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TABLE 1
Palestinian Population
by Area of Residence at the end of 1975

Country or Area	Number (000)	Percent
Israel	436	13.57
Gaza	395	12.29
West Bank	775.4	24.12
In Pre-1948 Palestine	1606.4	50
East Jordan	641.7	19.96
Syria	183.2	5.70
Lebanon	285	8.86
In main three Arab Host countries	1109.9	35
Kuwait	204	6.35
Others	295	9.17
In Other Arab and Non Arab Countries	499	15
TOTAL	3,215.3	100

Source: Issa, Najib, "La situation Demographique du peuple Palestinien".
ECWA, Beirut, 1979.

TABLE 2
Distribution of the Palestinian Refugees by
Areas of Residence as at 30.6.80

Country or Area	UNRWA Registered Refugees		TOTAL Number
	In Camps	Outside Camps	
Gaza	183,178	126,989	310,167
West Bank	74,022	177,761	251,783
East Bank	176,773	468,711	645,484
Lebanon	91,814	101,721	193,535
Syria	59,167	126,473	185,640
Total	584,954	1,001,655	1,586,609

Source. UNRWA, Annual Report of the Director of Health, 1980.

TABLE 3

Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate, and Natural Average Annual
Growth Rate Among Palestinian Population 1949-1975 (Per 1000 pop.)

Year	Natural Growth Rate	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate
1949-1955	25	46	21
1965-1970	31	48	17
1971-1975	35	47	12

Source. Issa, Najib, "La situation Demographique due Peuple
Palestinien," ECWA, Beirut 1979.

Table 4

Palestinian Arabs by Age Groups and
Sex (000) in Gaza Strip
in 1979

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 4	44.1	20.5	40.9	18.8	85.0	19.7
5- 9	33.9	15.8	30.6	14.1	64.0	14.8
10-14	26.9	12.5	24.7	11.3	51.6	11.9
15-19	28.4	13.2	25.5	11.7	54.0	12.5
20-24	22.7	10.6	20.3	9.3	43.0	9.9
25-29	13.8	6.4	14.7	6.8	28.5	6.6
30-34	8.2	3.8	12.6	5.8	20.8	4.8
35-39	5.8	2.7	10.4	4.8	16.2	3.8
40-44	5.8	2.7	9.2	4.2	15.0	3.5
45-49	6.4	3.0	8.8	4.0	15.2	3.5
50-54	5.8	2.7	6.9	3.2	12.7	3.0
55-59	4.4	2	4.4	2.0	8.8	2.0
60-64	2.9	1.4	2.9	1.3	5.8	1.3
65-69	1.9	0.9	2.0	0.9	3.9	0.9
70-74	1.9	0.9	2.4	1.1	4.3	1.0
75 plus	1.9	0.9	1.6	0.7	3.5	0.8
Total	214.7	100.0	217.9	100.0	432.6	100.0

Table 5

Palestinian Arabs by Age Groups and
Sex (000) (Pre 1948 Palestine)
in 1979

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 1	9.9	3.8	9.4	3.7	19.3	3.8
1- 4	37.9	14.6	36.3	14.4	74.2	14.5
5- 9	42.7	16.4	40.4	16.0	83.1	16.3
10-14	35.9	13.9	33	13.1	68.9	13.5
15-19	31.0	12.0	28.9	11.5	59.9	11.7
20-24	23.2	9.0	22.5	8.9	45.7	8.9
25-29	17.4	6.7	17.8	7.1	35.2	6.9
30-34	12.5	4.8	12.9	5.1	25.4	5.0
35-39	11.3	4.3	11.4	4.5	22.7	4.4
40-44	9.3	3.6	9.1	3.6	18.4	3.6
50-54	5.5	2.1	5.9	2.4	11.4	2.2
55-59	4.3	1.7	4.8	1.9	9.1	1.8
60-64	2.8	1.1	3.2	1.3	6.0	1.2
65-69	2.8	1.1	3.0	1.2	5.8	1.1
70-74	2.0	0.8	2.6	1.0	4.6	0.9
75 plus	3.4	1.3	3.2	1.3	6.6	1.3
Total	259.2	100.0	252.0	100.0	511.2	100.0

Table 6

Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups
(000) in Jordan in 1979

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 4	108.6	19.3	98.6	19.2	207.2	19.3
5- 9	99.6	17.7	89.4	17.4	189.0	17.6
10-14	84.4	15.0	75.5	14.7	159.9	14.9
15-19	64.1	11.4	54.0	10.5	118.1	11.0
20-24	39.4	7.0	39.0	7.6	78.4	7.2
25-29	26.4	4.7	28.2	5.5	54.6	5.1
30-34	27.0	4.8	25.2	4.9	52.2	4.8
35-39	25.3	4.5	23.1	4.5	48.4	4.5
40-44	21.9	3.9	22.1	4.3	44.0	4.1
45-49	18.0	3.2	15.9	3.1	33.9	3.1
50-54	14.6	2.6	11.3	2.2	25.9	2.4
55-59	9.6	1.7	9.3	1.8	18.9	1.8
60-64	8.4	1.5	7.2	1.4	15.6	1.4
65 plus	15.2	2.7	14.9	2.9	30.1	2.8
Total	562.5	100.0	513.7	100.0	1076.2	100.0

Table 7

**Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups (000)
in Syria in 1979**

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 1	3.9	3.3	4.1	3.6	8.0	3.4
1- 4	17.3	14.6	16.5	14.5	33.8	14.6
5- 9	20.7	17.4	19.5	17.2	40.2	17.3
10-14	16.7	14.1	16.0	14.1	32.7	14.1
15-19	12.3	10.4	11.7	10.3	24.0	10.3
20-24	9.3	7.8	8.5	7.5	17.8	7.7
25-29	8.3	7.0	7.2	6.3	15.5	6.7
30-34	6.6	5.6	6.1	5.4	12.7	5.5
35-39	5.2	4.4	5.2	4.6	10.4	4.5
40-44	4.2	3.5	4.1	3.6	8.3	3.6
45-49	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.1	7.2	3.1
50-54	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.3	5.1	2.2
55-59	2.3	1.9	2.2	1.9	4.5	1.9
60-64	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.8	3.9	1.7
65-69	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.3	2.9	1.2
70-74	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.1	2.3	1.0
75 plus	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.4	2.9	1.3
Total	118.7	100.0	113.5	100.0	232.2	100.0

Table 8

Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups

IRAQ, 1980

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 1	342		316		658	3.3
1- 4	1145		1069		2214	11.1
5- 9	1372		1301		2673	13.4
10-14	1389		1264		2653	13.3
15-19	1315		1158		2473	12.4
20-24	1606		947		2553	12.8
25-29	865		591		1456	7.3
30-34	767		589		1356	6.8
35-39	566		411		977	4.9
40-44	472		386		858	4.3
45-49	379		299		678	3.4
50-54	237		202		439	2.2
55-59	156		143		299	1.5
60-64	99		100		199	1.0
65-69	72		88		160	0.8
70-74	53		67		120	0.6
75-79	37		43		80	0.4
80-84	25		15		40	0.2
85 plus	4		16		20	0.1
Non Stated	26		14		40	0.2
Total	10927		9019		19946	100.0

Table 9

Palestinian Arabs by Age Groups and Sex
(Palestinian Camps) Lebanon, 1980

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 4	4937		4708		9645	14.1
5- 9	5298		5030		10328	15.1
10-14	6044		5640		11684	17.1
15-19	5013		4955		9968	14.6
20-24	2735		2997		5732	8.4
25-29	1654		1830		3484	5.1
30-34	1438		1631		3069	4.5
35-39	1277		1594		2871	4.2
40-44	1226		1383		2609	3.8
45-49	995		1100		2095	3.1
50-54	948		974		1922	2.8
55-59	607		663		1270	1.9
60-64	551		542		1093	1.6
65-69	385		392		777	1.2
70 plus	844		868		1712	2.5
Total	33952		34307		68259	100.0

Table 10

**Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups
Kuwait, 1975**

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 4	25819		24406		50221	25.9
5- 9	16663		15806		32469	16.7
10-14	11102		9149		20251	10.4
15-19	6143		8196		14339	7.4
20-24	4791		7618		12049	6.4
25-29	7850		7424		15274	7.9
30-34	10359		7363		17722	9.1
35-39	7336		4453		11789	6.1
40-44	5985		2521		8506	4.4
45-49	3206		1221		4427	2.3
50-54	1473		847		2320	1.2
55-59	737		605		1342	0.7
60-64	421		765		1186	0.6
65-69	192		465		657	0.4
70-74	127		437		564	0.3
75-79	65		168		233	0.1
80-84	54		84		138	0.1
85 plus	36		53		89	
Non Stated	21		9		30	
Total	102380		91586		193966	100.0

Table 11

**Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups
Saudi Arabia, 1974**

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 1	1789		1562		3351	4.1
1- 4	7546		7072		14618	18
5- 9	7386		6861		14274	17.6
10-14	4620		4093		8713	10.7
15-19	2080		2597		4677	5.8
20-24	2186		3976		6162	7.6
25-29	4505		4533		9038	11.1
30-34	5799		2567		8366	10.3
35-39	3459		1526		4985	6.1
40-44	2019		820		2839	3.5
45-49	1138		415		1553	1.9
50-54	759		305		1064	1.3
55-59	326		162		488	0.6
60-64	291		213		504	1.4
65 plus	384		351		735	1.4
Non Stated	5		4		9	1.4
Total	44292		37057		81349	100.0

Table 12

Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups
United Arab Emirates, 1975

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 4	2805		2739		5544	20.6
5- 9	1634		1493		3127	11.6
10-14	951		863		1814	6.7
15-19	788		728		1516	5.6
20-24	2055		1350		3405	12.6
25-29	3071		1446		4517	16.8
30-34	2572		718		3290	12.2
35-39	1481		344		1825	6.8
40-44	671		152		823	3.1
45-49	396		96		492	1.8
50-54	191		76		267	1
55-59	73		53		126)	
60-64	39		42		81)	
65-69	17		46		63)	
70-74	17		29		46)	1.2
75 plus	16		13		29)	
Non)	
Stated	2		-		2)	
Total	16779		10188		26967	100.0

Table 13

**Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Age Groups
Egypt, 1976**

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 1	291		264		555	1.9
1- 4	1411		1274		2685	9.2
5- 9	1544		1463		3007	10.3
10-14	1882		1732		3614	12.4
15-19	1724		1249		2973	10.2
20-24	4289		1656		5945	20.4
25-29	1482		773		2255	7.7
30-34	1183		822		2005	6.9
35-39	938		651		1589	5.5
40-44	705		531		1236	4.2
45-49	506		335		841	2.9
50-54	403		297		700	2.4
55-59	208		167		375	1.3
60-64	213		188		401)	
65-69	106		109		215)	
70-74	98		111		209)	
75 plus	317		235		552)	4.7
Non Stated	3		4		7)	
Total	17303		11861		29164	100.0

Table 14

Palestinian Arabs by Age Groups (000)
West Bank 1979

Age Groups	M a l e s		F e m a l e s		T o t a l	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0- 4	75.5	18.7	68.7	17.1	144.2	17.9
5- 9	62.4	15.4	56	13.9	118.4	14.7
10-14	53.5	13.2	47.5	11.8	101.0	12.5
15-19	57.3	14.2	51	12.7	108.3	13.4
20-24	41.6	10.3	38.2	9.5	79.8	9.9
25-29	21.3	5.3	23.1	5.7	44.4	5.5
30-34	14.2	3.5	19.1	4.7	33.3	4.1
35-39	13.1	3.2	18.1	4.5	31.2	3.9
40-44	12.1	3.0	17.4	4.3	29.5	3.7
45-49	11.9	2.9	16.6	4.1	28.5	3.5
50-54	10.9	2.7	14.0	3.5	24.9	3.1
55-59	8.3	2.1	.0	2.5	18.3	2.3
60-64	6.2	1.5	6.8	1.7	13.0	1.6
65-69	5.1	1.3	5.1	1.3	10.2	1.3
70-74	5.1	1.3	6.4	1.6	11.5	1.4
75 plus	5.4	1.4	4.3	1.1	9.7	1.2
Total	403.9	100.0	402.3	100.0	806.2	100.0

TABLE 15

Palestinians Economically Active by Sex in the Occupied
Territories (14 years+)(in 000's) 1968-1979

Year	Males	Females	Total
1968	126.2	20.5	146.7
1971	154.8	26.7	181.5
1972	167.6	23.6	191.2
1973	172.5	23.8	196.3
1974	180.7	31.8	212.5
1975	177.3	29.2	206.5
1976	177.9	29.7	207.6
1977	177.4	28.8	206.2
1978	183.0	30.6	213.6
1979	185.2	28.7	213.9

Source: PLO, Central Bureau of Statistics, Palestinian
Statistical Abstract 1981, Damascus, Syria

TABLE 16

Percent by Economic Sector and Place of Work of Employed Persons from the
West Bank, The Gaza Strip and North Sinai 1968-1979

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
<u>In Israel</u>												
Agriculture	20	17	24.4	22.3	23.1	19.3	19.1	14.3	15.4	16.2	16.8	14.8
Industry	20	17	11.6	14.8	17.1	18.1	17.5	18.4	19.7	21.3	22.2	22.8
Construction	40	42	54.3	52.3	49.5	51.7	52.5	54.4	50.3	45.3	44.8	46.2
Other	20	24	9.7	10.6	10.3	10.9	10.9	12.9	14.6	17.2	16.2	16.2
Total Number	5000	12000	20600	33800	52400	61300	68700	66300	64800	62900	68200	74100
<u>West Bank & Gaza</u>												
Agriculture	35	42	38.7	36.8	33.5	31.3	33.8	31.8	31.4	30.5	29.8	28
Industry	14	13	13.8	13.8	13.9	15.1	14	14.5	14.4	14.2	15.2	16.8
Construction	10	9	8.4	5.6	6.2	6.4	6.2	7.3	8.2	9.1	9.5	10.1
Other	41	36	39.1	43.8	46.4	47.2	46	46.4	46	46.2	45.5	45.1
Total Number	130000	151000	152700	142700	136300	133400	141300	138600	140900	141500	142700	138000
<u>Gaza strip and North Sinai</u>												
Agriculture	26	33	31.6	31.1	24.8	25.7	24.8	26.3	26.5	25.1	21.1	21.1
Industry	15	14	12.1	12.2	12.6	12.7	12.2	12	13.5	12.5	15.4	18.2
Construction	9	10	8.5	4.6	4.1	3.9	4.1	5.1	4.6	6.7	7	7
Other	50	43	47.8	52.1	58.5	57.7	58.9	56.6	55.4	55.7	56.5	53.7
Total Number	46000	51000	52900	51500	46000	45600	46700	46700	48300	49500	48700	45500

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1980

TABLE 17

Employed Palestinians of Occupied Territories by Economic
Activity and Sex (000) in 1979

Sex	Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	Industry (min- ing and Manu- facturing)	Construction (Building & Public Works	Commerce Restaurants and Hotels	Transport, Storage & Communica- tion	Public and Community Services	Others	Total
Males	34.6	35.8	48.0	26.0	10.8	19.8	9.2	184.0
Females	5.2	4.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	6.8	0.6	28.4
Total	39.8	40.1	48.3	26.9	10.9	26.6	9.8	212.4

Source: PLO, Palestinian Statistical Abstract 1981, Central Bureau of Statistics, Damascus, Syria

TABLE 18

Palestinians in Host Countries by Economic Activity in 1979 (percentages)

Sector	Jordan	Syria	Lebanon	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates	Egypt	Iraq
Agriculture	66	7.9	10.7	2.2	3.4	N.A.	4.5	
Industry	5	20.7	13.9	22.7	9.0	5.5	8.7	
Construction	2.3	17.9	24.4	10.8	11.3	23.2	4.8	
Trade	6.7	11.2	11.7	15.1	7.3	10.0	20.0	
Transport, Storage	3.7	5.5	N.A.	6.5	N.A.	4.0	12.1	
Community, Social and Personal Services	14.2	27.3	31.0	36.1	56.8	45.9	32.1	
Others	2.1	9.5	8.3	6.6	12.2	11.4	17.8	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Source: Calculations are based on data extracted from Palestinian Statistical Abstract, 1981,
Central Bureau of Statistics, Damascus, Syria

TABLE 19

Crude Birth Rates and Total Fertility Rates
in the Administered Areas by Year of Occurrence 1968-1975

Year	West Bank		Gaza & North Sinai	
	Crude Birth Rate	Total Fertility Rate	Crude Birth Rate	Total Fertility Rate
1968	44.4	7.6	43.1	7.0
1969	43.2	7.4	46.6	7.5
1970	44.1	7.3	43.9	6.9
1971	46.2	7.3	47.1	6.9
1972	46.3	7.5	48.3	7.1
1973	45.7	7.4	48.7	7.2
1974	46.4	7.4	50.2	7.5
1975	45.8	7.1	50.0	7.0

Source: Multiplicity Study of Births in the Administered Areas 1974,
Jerusalem.

TABLE 20 (a)

Live Births of Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Sex Ratio at Birth
(West Bank), 1968 - 1979

Years	Sex Ratio at Birth	Total	Females	Males
1968	108.4	25650	12308	13342
1969	111.9	25551	12058	13493
1970	108.6	26455	12681	13774
1971	108.9	28263	13528	14735
1972	107.5	28819	13888	14931
1973	109.1	29284	14005	15279
1974	107.2	29868	14415	15453
1975	108.6	30522	14632	15890
1976	106.8	31769	15364	16405
1977	108.5	31297	15010	16287
1978	107.0	30445	14705	15740
1979	105.4	31473	15327	16146

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Volumes of respective years,
Central Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem.

TABLE 20 (b)

Live Births of Palestinian Arabs by Sex and Sex Ratio
at Birth (Gaza Strip), 1968, 1970, 1979

Year	Sex Ratio at Birth	Total	Females	Males
1968	107.1	15503	7485	8018
1970	106.6	15985	7738	8247
1971	106.5	17505	8479	9026
1972	108.7	18342	8787	9555
1973	109.2	19552	9346	10206
1974	107.1	21084	10181	10903
1975	106.9	21626	10452	11174
1976	106.1	22400	10870	11530
1977	106.9	22006	10633	11373
1978	105.1	22784	11108	11676
1979	103.1	22601	11126	11475

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Volumes of respective
years Central Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem

Table 21 (a)

Live Births of Palestinian Arabs in Urban and
Rural (West Bank), 1968-1979

Years	Urban Births Percentage	Total	Not Known	Rural	Urban
1968	24.3	25650	229	19256	6165
1969	25.4	25551	107	18982	6462
1970	24.7	26455	45	19898	6512
1971	25.5	28263	30	21044	7189
1972	24.4	28819	15	21785	7019
1973	24.1	29284	12	22207	7065
1974	23.9	29868	24	22702	7142
1975	25.4	30522	17	22765	7740
1976	28.2	31769	68	22760	8941
1977	28.2	31297	116	22381	8800
1978	29.2	30445	126	21433	8886
1979	29.7	31473	114	27005	9354

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Volumes of respective
years, Central Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem.

TABLE 21 (b)

Live Births of Palestinian Arabs in Urban and Rural
(Gaza Strip), 1968 - 1979

Years	Urban Births Percentage	Total	Not Known	Rural	Urban
1968	93.5	15503	18	1014	14471
1970	89.8	15985	-	1627	14358
1971	89.8	17505	20	1785	15700
1972	90.1	18342	21	1821	16500
1973	90.3	19552	326	1863	17363
1974	89.0	21084	37	2324	18723
1975	87.9	21626	-	2610	19016
1976	89.0	22400	44	2464	19892
1977	89.3	22006	160	2342	19504
1978	89.3	22784	-	2428	20356
1979	87.8	22601	44	2716	19841

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Volumes of respective years, Central Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem.

TABLE 22

Live Births and Deaths of the Registered Palestinian Arab at UNRWA
1968 - 1980

Years	Natural Increase %	Deaths	Live Births
1968	...	7855	29286
1969	22.56	9866	41555
1970	21.61	9220	38661
1971	30.13	7531	50466
1972	26.21	7265	45746
1973	22.60	10930	45186
1974	27.88	18634	62083
1975	30.97	10125	59807
1975	21.74	8610	44564
1977	22.95	7888	46311
1978	29.76	8361	59083
1979	26.34	8076	54569
1980	22.60	7372	48382

Source: Annual Reports of the Director-General of UNRWA in the
Near East (Reports of respective years)

TABLE 23

Births in the Administered Areas
(West Bank and Gaza Strip) by sex
and age of mother (%) 1974

<u>Age of Mother</u>	<u>% of Births</u>
Below 20	16.7
20 - 24	24.4
25 - 29	23.8
30 - 34	16.5
35 - 39	13.6
40 - 44	4.0
45+	0.9

Source: Multiplicity Study of Births in the Administered Areas
(1974), Jerusalem.

TABLE 24

Cases of Death Reported in the
West Bank by age and sex in 1965

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
0 - 1	1037	1276	2313
1 - 4	409	598	1007
5 - 9	80	74	154
10-14	37	31	68
15-44	226	206	467
45-64	299	189	488
65+	791	775	1566
Total	2879	3149	6028

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Report 1958-1965, Amman, Jordan.

TABLE 25

Cases of Death Reported in The
West Bank by Urban/Rural in 1965

Location	Deaths	
	Number	%
Urban	1932	32.1
Rural	4096	67.9

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Report 1958-1965,
Amman, Jordan.

TABLE 26

Deaths Reported in Jordan in 1965 by
Sex and Leading Cause

Disease	Number of Deaths			%
	Males	Females	Total	
Diseases of Respiratory System	1052	1207	2259	21.2
Diseases of Digestive System	700	866	1566	14.7
Diseases of Circulatory System	776	614	1390	13.0
Senility and ill Defined Conditions	1017	965	1982	18.6
Diseases Peculiar to infancy and immaturity, unqualified	482	436	918	8.6
Infections of the new born	154	170	324	3.0
Accidents, poisonings and violence	335	205	540	5.1
Neoplasms	135	104	239	2.2
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	236	240	476	4.5
Other Diseases (Residual)	486	499	985	20.1
Total	5373	5306	10679	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Report 1958-1965, Amman, Jordan

TABLE 27

Death Rates by Sex Among Palestinians Dwelling
in Lebanon and Syria (Per 1000 pop.)

Camp	Males	Females	Total
Damour	2.6	2.8	2.7
Shatela	5.9	5.3	5.6
Nahr Al Barid	5.3	4.5	4.9
Burj Al Barajneh	2.4	0.7	1.6
Mar Elias	13.7	-	6.4
Sabra	2.2	0.6	1.5
Al Jaleel	5.8	2.0	3.9
Ein Al Hilwa	3.7	2.6	3.2
Mieh Mieh	5.1	2.1	3.6
Baddawi	8.1	3.1	5.5
Khan Dannoun	6.4	2.0	3.1

Source : Statistical Surveys, PLO, Central Statistical Bureau,
Damascus, Syria

TABLE 28

Deaths in Palestinian Camps in Syria and
Lebanon by Age Groups

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	%
0-4	37	43	80	37.2
5-14	4	2	6	2.8
15-44	40	7	47	21.8
45-64	20	10	30	14.0
65+	34	18	52	24.2
TOTAL	135	80	215	100

Source: Statistical surveys in Palestinian Camps in Syria and Lebanon,
PLO Central statistical Bureau, Damascus, Syria.

TABLE 29

Infant Death by Sex Reported in West Bank in 1965

Sex	Number	Live Births	IMR
Males	1037	21945	47.3
Females	1276	20114	63.4
TOTAL	2313	42059	55

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Report 1958-1965, Amman, Jordan.

TABLE 30

Infant Deaths by Age Reported in West Bank in 1965

Age in Months	Number	%
Less than 4 weeks	417	17.5
1	142	6
2	303	51.3
3	275	
4	245	
5	203	
6	196	
7	132	25.2
8	161	
9	96	
10	84	
11	127	
TOTAL	2381	100

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Report, 1958-1965, Amman, Jordan.

TABLE 31

Infant Deaths by Age in West Bank
~~As Reported Through Field Check in 1974~~

Age at Death Months	Number	Percent
0	6	9
1	8	12
2	9	13
3	19	28
4	9	13
5	4	6
6-8	11	16
9-11	3	4
TOTAL	69	100

Source: Multiplicity Study in Administered Areas, 1974, Jerusalem.

TABLE 32

Infant Deaths Among Palestinian Arabs Dwelling in
Camps in Lebanon by Age and Sex in 1980

Age Group in Months	(1) Males	Females	Total
Less than 1	17	29	46
1	-	-	-
2	2	-	2
3	2	3	5
4	2	1	3
5	1	-	1
6	2	1	3
7	-	1	1
8	-	1	1
9	2	-	2
10	-	-	-
11	-	-	-
TOTAL	28	36	64

(1) Live birth males = 986

Live birth females = 966

Source: Surveys in Camps in Syria and Lebanon, PLO, Central statistical
Bureau, Damascus, Syria.

TABLE 33

Child Mortality by Age and Sex in the
West Bank in 1965

Age Group	Males			Females		
	No. of Deaths	No. of population	*Age specific Death Rate	No. of Deaths	No. of population	*Age specific Death Rate
0-4	1446	82791	174.7	1874	74587	251.2
5-9	80	67638	11.8	74	59020	12.5
10-14	37	73077	5.1	31	61616	5
TOTAL	1563	223506	70	1979	195223	10.1

* Age specific death rate per 10000 population.

TABLE 34

Child Mortality by Age and Sex
reported among Palestinians
dwelling in camps in
Lebanon as per 1984

Age Group	M a l e s			F e m a l e s		
	No. of deaths	Population	Death rate per 10000	No. of deaths	Population	Death rate
0-4	31	4188	74	40	4042	99
5-9	2	4546	4.4	-	4327	-
10-14	2	5269	3.8	2	4927	4.1
Total	35	14003	25	42	13296	31.6

Source: Statistical Surveys in refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria

TABLE 35

Balance of Payments for the West Bank,
1965 in 000 J.Ds.

	Credit	Debit	Net
Current Account	13,329	24,882	-11,553
Goods*	1,937	23,595	-21,658
Services	11,392	1,287	10,105
Jordan Government	11,151	11,151	--
Purchases in West Bank	9,303	-	9,303
Current payments to households	265	-	265
Debit balance of local Authorities			
in the West Bank	183	-	183
Jordanian income from West			
Bank (taxes etc)	-	8,511	- 8,511
Posting and finance accounts	1,400	-	1,400
Net government capital account	-	2,640	-2,640
Transfer payments	10,045	-	10,045
From Jordanians abroad	6,398	-	6,398
From ministry of Social Welfare and Employment	3,647	-	3,647
Capital movements, Net errors and omissions	1,508	-	1,508
TOTAL	36,033	36,033	-

* Imported goods are CIF values (cost, insurance and freight charges included) exported goods are free on board.

Source: Van Arkadie, Brian, Benefit and Burdens, New York.

TABLE 36

Gross Domestic Product by Sectors in West

Bank, 1965 (000's J.Ds.)

Sector	000 Dinars	%	% of West Bank Contribution to GNP Jordan
Agriculture	12998	23.9	38
Industry	3576	6.6	26
Quarrying	646	1.2	26
Construction	3147	5.8	40
Electricity & Water	587	1.1	35
Transportation	3229	5.9	26
Trade	12574	23.1	40
Banking and Finance	844	1.5	40
Home ownership	4276	7.8	40
Public services & Security	7492	13.7	35
Other services	5132	9.4	40
TOTAL	54501	100	36

Source: Van Arkadie, Brian, Benefit and Burdens: A report on the West Bank and Gaza Strip Economies Since 1967, New York.

TABLE 37

Sources of Income in Gaza Strip, 1966

Gross Domestic Output by Sector	Million Egyptian Pds.	Percent
Agriculture & fishing	5.5	26.2
Industry	0.7	3.3
Trade & personal services	4.3	20.5
Transport	0.5	2.4
Administration and Public services	4.0	19.0
Building and Public Construction	1.0	4.8
TOTAL	16.0	76.2
<u>Transfers from abroad</u>		
UNRWA & other Public transfers	4.0	19.0
Remittances from relatives abroad	1.0	4.8
TOTAL	5.0	23.8
Grand Total	21	100

Source: Van Arkadie, Brian, Benefit and Burdens, New York.

TABLE 38

Growth in Agricultural Output in West Bank

Value in millions of Israeli Pds.

	1967/68	1971/72	1972/73	73/74	74/75	75/76	76/77
Total Output	135	347.1	399.5	885	899.6	1535.1	1681.3
Crops - Total	87.9	233.3	253.9	654.6	558.5	1058.7	1126.9
Field crops	11	37.2	48.7	95.4	99.8	118.2	123.2
Vegetables	19.5	54.4	60.9	128.4	182.2	270.4	353.2
Melons & Pumpkins	6	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.8	3.4	9.7
Olives	19.6	73.5	52.5	308	60	300	136
Citrus Fruits	10.5	18.1	27.1	34.4	65.8	144.7	173.5
Other Fruits	21.3	48.6	63.2	86.2	147.9	222.0	322.8
Livestock and live- stock products	45	110.5	142.5	226.9	336.1	469.9	554.4
Meat	25.1	70.1	90.2	145.2	204.8	314.9	351.4
Milk	15.7	32.5	43.1	69.7	113.1	133	173.5
Eggs	3.2	7	7.2	9.9	16	19	26
Miscellaneous	1	1.9	2	2.1	2.2	3	3.5
Fish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments in fo- restry and new fruit plantations	2.1	3.3	3.1	3.5	5	6.5	8.5
Purchased Inputs	21.4	42.9	63.5	90.1	186.9	292.2	353.3
Income generating in Agriculture	113.6	307.1	336	794.9	712.7	1242.9	1328
<u>Quantity in '000 Tons</u>							
Field Crops	23.5	55.3	43.3	63.9	38.3	34.9	41.8
Vegetables	60	103.1	93.4	136.3	139.9	147.3	149.4
Melons & Pumpkins	36	8	3.3	4.2	3.6	4.5	8.9
Olives	28	70	21	110	10.0	50.0	17.0
Citrus Fruits	30	47.6	58.6	61.5	63.8	74.1	76.1
Other Fruits	47.9	56.5	58.9	69	78.1	76.6	78.8
Meat	10.3	18.7	20.9	20	20.3	22.4	19.2
Milk	30.3	43.8	44.3	44.7	46	41.5	39.6
Eggs (million)	25	30	38	38	38	38.0	40.0
Fish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1977.

TABLE 39

Growth in Agricultural Output in the Gaza Strip

Values in Million £.£.

	1967/68	1971/72	72/73	73/74	74/75	75/76	76/77
Total Output	53.3	149.5	192.2	278.6	434.9	691.5	935.3
Crops-total	41.3	113.8	140.9	210.3	320.0	532.3	726.8
Field Crops	0.3	1.3	1.7	3.0	4.4	6.3	7.8
Vegetables							
Potatoes	9.3	16.9	20.6	27.7	44.4	68.8	95
Melons & Pumpkins	2.5	2.5	3.4	4.0	7.3	10.3	7.9
Citrus	21.6	75.6	92	143.7	223.9	383.8	534.2
Other Fruit (inc. Olives)	7.6	17.5	23.2	31.9	40	63.1	81.9
Live Stock & Live. St. products	10.9	33.9	49.5	66.5	111.6	154.1	203.4
Meat	3.6	12.7	17.3	23.6	34.2	47.5	64.1
Milk	3.3	7.3	12.2	16.7	29.1	41.8	53.5
Fish	2.7	9.8	14.6	19.4	31.8	45.9	60.9
Eggs	1.1	3.8	4.9	5.8	13.4	16.2	21
Miscellaneous	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.0	3.1	2.7	3.9
Investment in forest- ry & new fruit plantations	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.8	3.3	5.1	5.1
Purchased inputs	17	42.1	61.8	76.7	138.3	206.9	250.6
Income originating in agriculture	36.3	105.5	128.9	201.9	296.6	484.6	684.7
<u>Quantity in 000 Tons</u>							
Field Crops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vegetables	31.8	38.9	42.5	38.1	46	48	54.9
Melons & Pumpkins	12.5	4.6	5.0	6.1	4.7	3	3.7
Citrus	91	178	205.2	211.9	201.4	243.7	232.3
Other Fruit	19	26.3	21.4	26.4	25.2	20.9	19.7
Meat	1.7	3	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.4	4.3
Milk	6.8	9.7	11.2	11.7	12.8	12.8	11.7
Fish	3.7	4.2	4.6	3.5	4.3	4.7	5.1
Eggs (million)	10	24	30	30	32.0	32.4	35

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel 1977.

TABLE 40

Imports/Exports and Foreign Trade Balance West Bank and
Gaza (1977-1979) (1 L Million)

	Gaza Strip			West Bank		
	1979	1978	1977	1979	1978	1977
Grand Total	5167.4	3469.9	2478.0	8844.3	4406.2	2809.8
<u>From Israel</u>						
Agricultural Produce	683.4	447.7	343.3	1178.9	638.1	431.2
Industrial Products	4007.0	2694.7	1958.2	6462.1	3175.1	2094.9
Total	4690.4	3142.4	2301.5	7640.9	3813.2	2526.1
<u>From Jordan</u>						
Agricultural Produce	-	-	-	10.1	5.5	2.9
Industrial Products	-	-	0.1	117.2	82	45.8
Total	-	-	0.1	127.3	87.5	48.7
<u>From other countries</u>						
Agriculture Produce	72.1	35.9	84.9	90.5	24.1	70.7
Industrial	404.9	284.6	91.5	985.6	481.4	164.3
Total	477	320.5	176.4	1076.1	505.5	235.0
<u>Exports</u>						
Grand Total	3077.7	2125.5	1387.7	3726.4	2435.8	1250.9
<u>To Israel</u>						
Agricultural	464.9	300.7	181.7	468.1	292.4	166.7
Industrial	1611.4	1098.9	653.8	1823.3	1035	610.7
Total	2076.3	1399.6	835.5	2291.4	1327.4	777.4
<u>To Jordan</u>						
Agricultural	775.2	574.4	421.5	523.9	442.6	224
Industrial	-	0.9	0.5	886	642.4	238.7
Total	775.2	575.3	422	1409.9	1085	462.7
<u>To other countries</u>						
Agriculture	226.2	150.6	130.2	-	-	-
Industrial	-	-	-	25.1	23.4	10.8
Total	226.2	150.6	130.2	25.1	23.4	10.8

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1979.

TABLE 41

Excess of Imports Over Exports West Bank
and Gaza Strip 1968-1979

Destination	West Bank					Gaza				
	1968	1973	1977	1978	1979	1968	1973	1977	1978	1979
Trade with Israel	92	322	1748.7	2485.8	5349.5	42	214.4	1466	1742.8	2614.1
Trade with Jordan	-32	-49.7	-414	-997.5	-1282.6	-4	-18.8	-421.9	-575.3	-775.2
Trade with other countries	19	40.8	224.2	482.1	1051	4	-25.9	46.2	169.9	250.8
TOTAL	79	313.1	1558.9	1970.4	5117.9	42	169.3	1090.3	1337.4	2089.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Respective Years.

TABLE 42

Consumer Price Index in the West Bank, Gaza
and Israel 1973-1979

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
<u>All Commodities</u>							
West Bank	179.9	256.5	367.4	470.5	640.0	962.7	1618.8
Gaza Strip and North Sinai	190.3	294.3	452.7	533.8	741.1	1058.6	1824.7
Israel	160.9	224.8	313.1	411.2	553.5	833.5	1486.1
<u>Food Stuff</u>							
West Bank	180.5	276.7	401.5	468.5	647.8	991.4	1694.9
Gaza & North Sinai	181.1	301.0	477.3	545.5	705.9	1022.4	1818.8

Source: SAMED, vol. 5 No. 35, December 1981, p.p. 67, Beirut

TABLE 43

Consumer Price Index by Main Group in the Occupied
Territories 1977-1979

Main Group	1979 Base Jan 1976 = 100	1978 Base Jan 1976 = 100	1977 Base Jan 1976 = 100	1976 Base July 68-June 69 = 100	1974 Base July 68-June 69 = 100	1973 Base July 68-June 69 = 100
General Index	*W 395.3	235.1	156.3	114.9	367.4	179.9
	G 373	216	151.5	113.2	452.7	190.3
Index Excluding Vegetables & Fruits	W 392.6	234.9	155.3	115.2	365.9	173.2
	G 368.1	213.5	147.7	112.7	451	179.9
Vegetables & Fruit	W 417.1	238.1	164.2	112.9	438.3	228.5
	G 402.7	233.7	174.2	115.9	460.8	240.5
Food	W 413.9	242.1	158.2	114.4	401.5	180.5
	G 371.8	209	144.3	111.5	477.3	181.1
Household Main- tenance	W 356	203.8	146.2	113.6	424.7	175
	G 371.4	210	150.8	118	603.7	195.3
Furniture	**W 356	229.4	153.4	115.7	-	-
	G 307.4	197.4	136	108.6	-	-
Clothing & foot- wear	W 408.4	236.4	150.6	115.3	309.7	182.3
	G 325.1	201	145	109.7	321.1	191.3
Transport	W 412.5	244.7	143.3	117.2	294	152.1
	G 418	238.9	160.6	115.3	374.2	151.7
Health	W 352.9	230.9	155.2	119.8	301.8	173.4
	G 461.4	261.4	158.3	113.4	279.4	139.6
Education & Culture	W 306.7	212.4	150.2	112.3	251.2	136.1
	G 307.8	203.2	138.6	108.9	252.9	124.6
Other Services & Misc.	W 397	234	153	116.6	261	155.0
	G 386.3	236.5	164.5	118.4	319.8	158.7

* W = West Bank

G = Gaza

** Until 1975 furniture was included in household maintenance

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel 1976.

TABLE 44

Illiteracy in West Bank by Sex and Districts
in 1961 (15 years +) in Percentages

District	Males	Females	Total
Hebron	60.5	90.9	76.5
Jerusalem	45.1	79.6	63.0
Nablus	44.5	86.7	66.4

Source: 1961 Jordanian Census

TABLE 45

Illiteracy in Five Villages in Tulkarm District in
the West Bank by Sex Distribution in 1971 (15 years)

Percentage

Village	Males	Females	Total
Anabta	24.5	63.7	44.9
Zeita	39.6	75.2	59.2
Jayyous	36.1	73.8	54.7
Kufr El Deek	33.5	83.0	59.4
Habla	34.6	88.9	61.2

Source: Hiyam Abu Ghazaleh, Illiteracy in the West Bank, causes and solutions, p. 7, 1979, Birzeit University

TABLE 46

Illiteracy in Ramallah City and Villages Around
in the West Bank by Sex in 1976/77 (15 years $\frac{1}{2}$) (Percentage)

City or Village	% Sample to population	Illiteracy		Total
		Males	Females	
Ramallah	30	20.6	28.0	24.6
Birzeit	31	19.6	36.7	28.4
Jafna	21	15.1	25.6	20.6
Kuber	50	30.8	57.5	44.2
Abou Qash	41	32	41.8	36.9
Jalason Camp	39	22.3	44.9	33.1
Kharas	72	37.1	50.5	43.6

Source: Hiyam Abou Ghazaleh, Illiteracy in the West Bank, causes and solutions, p. 7, 1979, Birzeit University.

TABLE 47

Illiteracy Among Palestinians by Sex and Host
Country (10 years +) in 1975-1979

Host Country	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Jordan	18376	18	39832	40	58208	29
Syria	6845	9.5	21738	32.3	28583	20.5
Lebanon	3656	15.4	8907	36.3	12563	26
Kuwait	3474	5.8	16605	32.3	20079	18
Iraq	528	6.5	1478	23.3	2006	14
Egypt	1072	7.6	2518	28.4	3590	15.7
Saudi Arabia	1730	6.3	3841	17.8	5571	11.3
U.A.E.	336	2.7	664	11.2	1000	5.5

Source: Palestinain Statistical Abstract, Central Statistical
Bureau, PLO, Damascus

TABLE 48

Illiteracy Among Palestinians Living in Camps in
Lebanon by Sex and Age Group in 1980

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
9-12	550	750	1300
13-16	1550	1950	3500
17-45	9100	14100	23200
Total	11200	16800	28000

Source: Palestinian Comprehensive Plan for Iradicating
Illiteracy, p. 21, Department of Education, PLO,
Beirut

TABLE 49

Educational Institutions*, Classes and Pupils
(West Bank), 1967/68-1978/79

Years	Number of Pupils	Number of Classes	Number of Institutions
1967/68	142216	4402	821
1968/69	162750	4737	848
1969/70	177738	5231	880
1970/71	188121	5554	894
1971/72	196161	5962	928
1972/73	202556	6330	956
1973/74	207729	6543	970
1974/75	213684	6600	971
1975/76	229062	6921	995
1976/77	230736	6916	1000
1977/78	240009	7152	990
1978/79	247412	7249	988

* Includes institutes, schools and kindergartens

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Respective years.

TABLE 50

Educational Institutions, Classes and Pupils
(Gaza Strip), 1967/68-1978/79

Years	Number of Pupils	Number of Classes	Number of Institutions
1967/68	80050	1746	166
1968/69	100514	2072	190
1969/70	105644	2192	194
1970/71	112222	2375	234
1971/72	117088	2550	235
1972/73	119192	2678	243
1973/74	123556	3043	275
1974/75	129009	3169	282
1975/76	139941	3436	304
1976/77	136873	3239	270
1977/78	141401	3379	279
1978/79	147774	3624	291

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, Respective years.

TABLE 51

Student Enrollment in Primary, Preparatory and Secondary Cycles by Sex and
Supervising Authority in the West Bank in 1980/81

Cycle	Government			UNRWA			Private			Total
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
Primary	138177	74600	63577	30897	15048	15849	15387	8501	6886	184461
Preparatory	44963	26548	18415	11120	5583	5537	5297	2990	2307	61380
Secondary	33414	19961	13453	195	195	-	6537	4288	2249	40146

Source : Division of Statistics, Ministry of Education, Amman

TABLE 52

Primary Schools and Student Enrollment by
Sex in the West Bank and Gaza in 1977/78

Location	No. of Schools	No. of Classes	Males	Females	Total
West Bank	(1) 840	4430	81139	69443	150582
Gaza	(2) 195	2119	49847	40676	90523

(1) of the 840 schools, 688 belonged to Government, 87 to UNRWA and 65 to private.

(2) of the 195 schools 109 belonged to UNRWA, 81 to Government and 5 to private.

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, PLO, Damascus

TABLE 53

Students, Schools and Classes in Primary Cycle in West Bank and Gaza by
Supervising Authority in 1977/78

	Total			Government			UNRWA			Private		
	Schools	Classes	Students	Schools	Classes	Students	Schools	Classes	Students	Schools	Classes	Students
West Bank	840	4430	150582	688	3508	118604	87	661	24833	65	261	7145
Gaza	195	2119	90523	81	985	38267	109	1127	52033	5	7	223

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, PLO, Damascus

TABLE 54

Students, Schools, Classes in Preparatory Cycle in West Bank and Gaza by
Supervising Authority in 1977/78

Location	Total			Government			UNRWA			Private		
	Schools	Classes	Students	Schools	Classes	Students	Schools	Classes	Students	Schools	Classes	Students
West Bank	432	1577	50698	335	1207	39241	57	255	8977	40	115	2480
Gaza	79	739	31484	32	276	10489	46	460	20865	1	3	130

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, PLO, Damascus

TABLE 54 (a)

Preparatory Schools and Student Enrollment
by Sex in the West Bank and Gaza in 1977/1978

Location	No. of Schools	No. of Classes	Males	Females	Total
West Bank	(1) 432	1577	30294	20404	50698
Gaza	(2) 79	739	17948	13536	31484

(1) Distributed as follows: 335 Government, 57 UNRWA and 40 private

(2) Distributed as follows: 32 Government, 46 UNRWA and 1 private

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics/PLO, Damascus

TABLE 55

West Bank Drop-out Comparison Between a) the Elementary
& Preparatory Levels; and b) the Compulsory Cycle
1968/69-1974/75

Distribution of drop-outs	1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Males</u>							
Elementary	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.8
Preparatory	2.9	3.8	3.8	4.2	5.1	3.0	3.4
<u>Females</u>							
Elementary	2.2	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.5
Preparatory	3.9	3.0	3.1	4.1	3.5	2.9	4.8
<u>Male/Female</u>							
Elementary	$\frac{1.2}{2.2}$	$\frac{1.3}{1.8}$	$\frac{1.2}{1.7}$	$\frac{1.5}{2.0}$	$\frac{1.4}{2.0}$	$\frac{1.3}{2.1}$	$\frac{1.8}{2.5}$
Preparatory	$\frac{2.9}{3.9}$	$\frac{3.8}{3.0}$	$\frac{3.8}{3.1}$	$\frac{4.2}{4.1}$	$\frac{5.1}{3.5}$	$\frac{3.0}{2.9}$	$\frac{3.4}{4.8}$
<u>Male/Female</u>	$\frac{2.1}{2.4}$	$\frac{1.8}{2.0}$	$\frac{1.8}{1.9}$	$\frac{2.1}{2.3}$	$\frac{2.2}{2.2}$	$\frac{1.6}{2.2}$	$\frac{2.2}{3.0}$

Source: F.S. Nasru, Education in the West Bank Government Schools,
1968-1977, Birzeit University, Documentation and Research Office,
p. 77, July 1977.

TABLE 56

Comparative Data on Rate of Dropping-Out as Compared with
Growth in Rate of Enrollment in Both Banks, 1968/69-1974/75

Educational Level	West Bank				East Bank			
	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Elementary</u>								
(a) total	29.54	4.22	32.5	4.64	70.06	10.00	11.92	1.70
(b) male	20.71	2.96	48.36	6.9	59.38	8.48	51.22	7.32
(c) female	43.38	6.20	15.0	2.14	84.79	12.11	-14.06	-2.01
<u>Preparatory</u>								
(a) total	66.48	9.50	18.75	2.68	89.54	12.79	13.25	1.89
(b) males	52.28	7.47	15.02	2.15	65.87	9.41	52.13	7.45
(c) female	103.49	14.78	22.59	3.23	140.50	20.07	-27.99	-4.00
<u>Compulsory</u>								
(a) total	36.37	5.19	32.11	4.59	72.84	10.40	16.19	2.31
(b) male	27.40	3.91	38.36	5.48	60.74	8.68	53.18	7.60
(c) female	51.74	7.39	21.31	3.04	90.90	12.99	-14.19	2.03

Symbols: (a) enrollment growth over 7 years
 (b) annual growth in rate of enrollment
 (c) drop-out growth over 7 years
 (d) annual growth in rate of drop-outs

Source: F. Nasru, Education in the West Bank Government Schools,
 1968-1977, Bitzeit University, Documentation and Research
 Office, p. 80, July 1977.

II. ELEMENTARY
UNRWA-UNESCO

TABL 57

Drop Out (a) Rates, Distributed by Grade and Sex

1980-'81

Country	1st Elem.		2nd Elem.		3rd Elem.		4th Elem.		5th Elem.		6th Elem.		Total	
	Pupil	%	Pupil	%	Pupil	%	Pupil	%	Pupil	%	Pupil	%	Pupil	%
<u>Jordan</u>														
Boys	473	5.5	106	1.2	68	0.8	120	1.4	160	1.9	196	2.5	1123	2.2
Girls	467	5.4	230	2.8	171	2.3	275	3.5	197	2.6	503	7.3	1843	3.9
Total	940	5.5	336	2.0	239	1.5	395	2.4	357	2.2	699	4.8	2966	3.1
<u>West Bank</u>														
Boys	75	3.4	86	3.8	77	3.6	40	1.7	72	3.3	151	7.8	501	3.8
Girls	63	2.5	35	1.4	2	0.1	69	2.6	114	4.6	100	4.6	383	2.6
Total	138	2.9	121	2.6	79	1.8	109	2.2	186	4.0	251	6.1	884	3.2
<u>Gaza</u>														
Boys	139	2.5	35	0.7	57	1.2	113	2.5	151	3.2	563	12.2	1058	3.6
Girls	181	3.4	177	4.9	64	1.5	108	2.6	208	5.1	339	9.3	1077	4.2
Total	320	2.9	212	2.3	121	1.3	221	2.6	359	4.1	902	10.9	2135	3.9
<u>Lebanon</u>														
Boys	185	9.2	134	6.3	108	4.4	160	6.4	338	14.8	324	17.5	1249	9.5
Girls	-	-	117	5.7	1	-	119	5.2	390	18.3	206	11.5	833	6.8
Total	185	4.9	251	6.0	109	2.3	279	5.8	728	16.5	530	14.5	2082	8.2
<u>Syria</u>														
Boys	61	2.1	37	1.3	-	-	80	2.8	47	1.8	113	4.6	338	2.0
Girls	92	3.2	20	0.7	51	1.9	75	2.9	71	3.0	160	7.6	469	3.0
Total	153	2.7	57	1.0	51	0.9	155	2.8	118	2.3	273	5.9	807	2.5
<u>All Countries</u>														
Boys	933	4.4	398	1.9	310	1.5	513	2.5	768	3.8	1347	7.2	4269	3.5
Girls	803	3.8	579	2.9	289	1.5	646	3.3	980	5.2	1308	7.9	4605	4.0
Grand Total	1736	4.1	977	2.4	599	1.5	1159	2.9	1748	4.5	2655	7.5	8874	3.7

(a) Between October 1979 and October 1980.

TABLE 58

PREPARATORY
UNRWA-UNESCODrop-Out ^(a) Rates Distributed by Grade
and Sex 1980-'81

Country	I Prep.		II Prep.		III Prep.		Total	
	Pupils	%	Pupils	%	Pupils	%	Pupils	%
<u>Jordan</u>								
Boys	645	8.9	593	9.4	-	-	1238	9.1
Girls	508	8.1	440	7.9	-	-	948	8.0
Total	1153	8.5	1033	8.7	-	-	2186	8.6
<u>West Bank</u>								
Boys	230	11.4	236	13.3	-	-	466	12.3
Girls	95	4.8	190	10.6	-	-	285	7.5
Total	325	8.1	426	12.0	-	-	751	9.9
<u>Gaza</u>								
Boys	222	5.7	344	9.4	-	-	566	7.5
Girls	206	5.7	348	10.9	-	-	554	8.1
Total	428	5.7	692	10.1	-	-	1120	7.8
<u>Lebanon</u>								
Boys	315	18.0	280	20.2	250	23.4	845	20.1
Girls	249	14.5	234	16.5	246	20.4	729	16.8
Total	564	16.3	514	18.3	496	21.8	1574	18.4
<u>Syria</u>								
Boys	241	9.3	233	10.1	-	-	474	9.6
Girls	160	7.3	179	9.1	-	-	339	8.1
Total	401	8.4	412	9.6	-	-	813	8.9
<u>All Countries</u>								
Boys	1653	9.4	1686	10.9	250	23.4	3589	10.6
Girls	1218	7.7	1391	10.0	246	20.4	2855	9.2
Total	2871	8.6	3077	10.5	496	21.8	6444	9.9

(a) Between October 1979 and October 1980.

Table 59

Students, Schools and Classes in the
Secondary Cycle in the West Bank
in 1977/1978

Items	Government	Private	UNRWA	Total
Students	24326	3940	747	29013
Schools	149	31	2	182
Classes	688	162	38	888

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, PLO, Damascus.

Table 60

Students, Schools and Classes
in the Secondary Cycle in Gaza
Strip in 1977/78

Items	Government	Private	UNRWA	TOTAL
Students	14237	746	507	15490
Schools	28	2	1	31
Classes	363	16	21	400

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, PLO, Damascus

TABLE 61

No. of Palestinian Students
in Primary, Preparatory and Secondary
Cycles outside the Occupied Territories (1977/78)

Location	No. of students Primary	Preparatory	Secondary
Qatar	3277	1104	702
U.A.E.	3780	1085	517
Saudi Arabia	19504	4614	2361
Libya	3467	762	291
Kuwait	36331	23438	13713
Lebanon	25502 ⁽¹⁾	10078	1395
Syria	40133	15053	6598
Jordan	215561	74165	41380
Bahrain	229	91	97
Oman	88	2	4
Iraq	3667	3740	392

(1) UNRWA

Source: Palestinian Statistical Abstract, PLO, Central
Bureau of Statistics, Damascus.

TABLE 62

Comparative Statistics of UNRWA University Scholarship
Holders 1969-1981

School Year	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza	Lebanon	Syria	Total
1968-'69	333	124	384	169	234	1244
1969-'70	309	141	288	142	208	1088
1970-'71	274	119	183	117	179	872
1971-'72	238	98	138	82	131	687
1972-'73	158	64	82	59	92	455
1973-'74	134	51	66	36	83	370
1974-'75	107	51	71	32	70	331
1975-'76	97	44	75	33	72	321
1976-'77	103	41	75	28	79	326
1977-'78	103	38	75	39	84	339
1978-'79	112	44	80	34	81	351
1979-'80	112	46	81	25	90	354
1980-'81	114	42	77	34	98	365

Source: Statistical Year Book, 1980, 81 UNRWA - UNESCO, Department of Education. No. 17, pp. 117

TABLE 63

Comparative statistics of graduates from
UNRWA Pre-Service Teacher Training
Institutes 1957 - 1981

Year	No. of Graduates	Year	No. of Graduates
1957	20	1968	418
1958	—	1969	721
1959	11	1970	431
1960	25	1971	629
1961	19	1972	424
1962	145	1973	577
1963	146	1974	561
1964	264	1975	614
1965	459	1976	546
1966	460	1977	542
1967	364	1978	603
		1979	590
		1980	586
		1981	639
Grand Total			9794

Source: Statistical Year-book 1980,81, UNRWA UNESCO

Table 64

School Drop-outs in Preparatory
Cycle in UNRWA Schools
in Lebanon

	<u>1st Preparatory</u>			<u>4th Preparatory</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1968/69	1602	882	2484			
1971/72				671	510	1181

Table 64 (a)

School Drop-outs Among Palestinian
Secondary Students in Government
and Private Schools

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Schools</u>	<u>1st Secondary</u>			<u>3rd Secondary</u>		
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1969/70	Govt.	47	25	72			
	Private	550	206	756			
1971/72	Govt.				68	15	83
	Private				92	15	107

Source: Qorah, N. , Education of Palestinians, Status and Constraints,
1975, Beirut, Lebanon

Table 65

No. of Kindergartens, Classes and
Pupils in the West Bank and
Gaza in 1977/78

Location	No. of K.Gs	No. of Classes	No. of Pupils		
			Males	Females	Total
West Bank	120	213	4221	3843	8064
Gaza	33	98	1790	1474	3264
Total	153	311	6011	5317	11328

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, PLO, Damascus, Syria

Table 66

No. of K.Gs and enrolment in and outside
the Occupied Territories

Location	No. of K.Gs	No. of classes	No. of Pupils		
			Males	Females	Total
West Bank	120	213	5428	5125	10553
Gaza	33	98	1790	1474	3264
Jordan			4296	3325	7621
Lebanon	46	111	N.A	N.A	2862
Syria	11		N.A.	N.A.	2000
Kuwait			2430	1773	4203
Saudi Arabia			803	614	1417
U.A.E			291	263	554
Bahrain			42	37	79
Total					32553

Source: Palestinian Statistical Abstract, PLO, Central Bureau
of Statistics, Damascus.

Table 67

Health Establishments in
West Bank
1967 / 1980

Category	1967	1980
Rural Health Centres and Clinics	78	140
Gov't Dental clinics	2	-
MCH Centres	22	54
Laboratories	7	12
Blood Banks	4	1
Radiology Centres	3	6
Pharmacies	69	113

Source: Directorate of Planning, Ministry of Health, Jordan.

TABLE 68

Expanded Programme of Immunization, UNRWA as at
30/6/1980

	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza	Lebanon	Syria	All Fields
1. <u>Triple vaccine (DPT)</u>						
i. First doses	14,765	4,667	14,686	4,583	4,996	43,697
ii. Second doses	14,105	4,519	13,854	4,141	5,014	41,853
iii. Third doses	13,470	7,747	12,208	4,138	4,554	42,117
iv. Booster doses	10,153	4,447	10,061	2,271	3,369	30,301
2. <u>Diphtheria/Tetanus</u>						
Booster doses	17,132	5,144	9,954	5,019	3,913	40,762
3. <u>T.A.B. vaccine</u>						
i. First doses	0	0	0	0	10,937	10,937
ii. Second doses	0	0	0	0	5,405	5,405
iii. Booster						
Pre-school	0	0	0	0	6,412	6,412
School	0	0	0	0	9,366	9,366
4. <u>Smallpox vaccination</u>						
i. Primary	4,167	230	6,917	613	2	11,929
ii. Revaccination-Schools	0	2,122	0	0	0	2,122
5. <u>Poliomelitis virus vaccine (oral)</u>						
i. First doses	15,225	6,119	11,225	4,711	5,195	42,475
ii. Second doses	14,529	6,150	14,769	4,391	5,215	45,054
iii. Third/Fourth doses	13,565	13,183	17,145	4,610	4,482	52,985
iv. Booster doses						
- I	9,926	4,703	11,967	2,360	3,292	32,248
- II	2,551	3,900	6,798	303	882	14,434
6. <u>B.C.C. immunization*</u>						
Primary	12,826	7,299	27,002	8,870	11,278	67,275
Booster I	0	4,426	5,380	2,508	1,362	13,676
Booster II	0	0	0	3,224	15	3,239
7. <u>Other Immunizations</u>						
Measles (attenuated)	13,012	6,505	11,633	3,104	4,829	39,083
Pertussis (plain)	64	0	936	0	2,101	3,101

* These figures exclude the numbers reported under 'Tuberculosis Control'.

TABLE 69

Health Centres and Health Points in UNRWA in 1980

	UNRWA	Government	Voluntary Agencies	All Fields
Jordan	16	0	0	16
West Bank	32	0	1	33
Gaza	9	18	0	27
Lebanon	22	0	1	23
Syria	21	0	0	21
Total	100	18	2	120

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health of UNRWA
1980

TABLE 70

Hospitals and Beds Available to UNRWA in 1980

	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza	Lebanon	Syria	Total
1. No. of Hospitals						
Government	9	1	5*	0	0	15
Private	3	5	0	12	6	26
UNRWA	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	12	7	5	12	6	42
*. No. of Beds						
General	175	127	339	128	73	842
Paediatrics	18	40	96	0	0	154
Maternity	25	32	119	0	6	182
Tuberculosis	5	0	35	14	0	54
Mental	36	75	0	117	0	228
Total	259	274	589	259	79	1,460

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health of UNRWA 1980

TABLE 71

Professional Health Manpower in UNRWA As at 31/12/1980

	HQ	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza	Lebanon	Syria	Total
Doctors	5	42	26	27	24	23	147
Dentists	0	4	2	2	3	3	14
Pharmacists	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
Nurses	1	24	27	28	21	19	120
Midwives	0	2	9	29	10	4	54
Auxiliary Nurses	0	86	64	52	46	42	290
Traditional Midwives	0	32	22	0	0	0	54
Sanitation Officers	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Laboratory Technicians	0	11	5	6	3	6	31
Health Education Staff	1	5	4	5	4	4	23

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health of UNRWA 1980

TABLE 71 (a)

(a) Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases Among Refugees:

	<u>Jordan</u>	<u>West Bank</u>	<u>Gaza</u>	<u>Lebanon</u>	<u>Syria</u>	<u>All Fields</u>
<u>Population*</u>	645,484	251,783	310,167	193,535	185,640	1,586,609
Brucellosis	0	8	0	0	0	8
Chickenpox	776	943	266	1,804	837	4,626
Conjunctivitis	10,077	1,598	1,960	4,404	5,622	23,661
Diarrhoeal di-						
seases:						
(0-3 years)	30,893	11,224	10,203	12,733	14,216	79,269
(over 3 years NOS)	12,262	5,169	2,852	5,306	7,176	32,765
Dysentery						
(Amoebic and Bac.)	549	526	1,108	839	868	3,890
Enteric group						
fevers	0	0	1	12	28	41
Gonorrhoea	0	0	0	2	0	2
Infectious he-						
patitis	156	316	109	53	159	793
Influenza	931	10,096	6,897	209	3,255	21,388
Leishmaniasis						
(cutaneous)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Measels	74	79	59	622	30	864
Meningitis	1	0	4	0	0	5
(cerebrospinal)						
Mumps	949	855	1,353	604	852	4,613
Pertussis	15	0	1	28	11	55
Poliomyelitis	5	0	9	0	3	17
Scarlet fever	3	0	0	0	1	4
Tetanus neonatorum	0	0	3	0	0	3
Trachoma	127	12	125	1	35	300
Tuberculosis	16	4	74	63	1	158
(respiratory)						

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health, UNRWA, 1980

TABLE 72

Percentage of Underweight Infants 0-1 Year Registered
in Child Health Clinics, UNRWA in 1980

	Percentage According to Degree			
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	1st., 2nd. and 3rd.
Jordan	5.3	1.9	0.2	7.4
West Bank	5.6	2.4	0.5	8.5
Gaza	7.1	2.9	0.6	10.6
Lebanon	3.3	0.7	0.2	4.2
Syria	3.0	1.2	0.2	4.4
End of 1980	5.6	2.1	0.4	8.1
End of 1979	6.2	2.6	0.5	9.3

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health of UNRWA 1980

TABLE 73

Percentage of Underweight Children in 1-2 Years
Group Registered in UNRWA Child Health Clinics in 1980

	Percentage According to Degree			
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	1st., 2nd. and 3rd.
Jordan	5.6	1.8	0.2	7.6
West Bank	4.6	1.9	0.2	6.7
Gaza	8.2	3.7	0.4	12.3
Lebanon	3.0	0.8	0.2	4.0
Syria	5.0	1.9	0.1	7.0
End of 1980	6.0	2.4	0.2	8.6
End of 1979	6.6	2.8	0.2	9.6

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health of UNRWA 1980

TABLE 74

Percentage of Underweight Children in 2-3 Years Age
Group Registered in UNRWA Child Health Clinics in
1980

	Percentage According to Degree			
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	1st., 2nd. and 3rd.
Jordan	2.9	0.7	0.0	3.6
West Bank	0.9	0.2	0.0	1.1
Gaza	3.6	1.7	0.1	5.4
Lebanon	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6
Syria	3.0	0.7	0.0	3.7
End of 1980	2.6	0.9	0.0	3.5
End of 1979	2.7	0.9	0.1	3.7

Source: Annual Report of the Director of Health of UNRWA 1980

TABLE 75

Rainfall in Millimetres
in the West Bank

Rainfall in Millimetres	% Area
Less than 250	22%
250-300	10%
300-400	15%
400-500	10%
500-600	22%
600 plus	21%

Source: Water Resources and Policies in the West Bank,
Palestinian National Fund.

Table 76

Villages With No Water Supply
System in the West Bank
and Gaza

District	Total Village in the District	Villages with no water supply system
Jerusalem	32	21
Ramallah	70	38
Beithlehem	32	22
Hebron	60	40
Nablus	124	114
Tulkarm	46	23
Jenine	64	53
Total for West Bank	429	321
Gaza Strip	21	4
Grand Total	450	325

Source: SAMED, Vol. 5, No. 37 Feb. 1982, pp. 38, Beirut.

Annex I

Official Contacts

Destination

Jordan:

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Social Development

Ministry of Occupied Territory

UNDP

*UNRWA

Education Department

Health Department

Social Affairs Department

Refugee camps / Amman

Medical Association in Jordan

Voluntary National Arab Fund Society (K.Gs)

President of BirZeit University

Focal Palestinians

University of Jordan

Syria

Ministry of Health

Department of Palestinian Refugees Affairs

UNRWA Department of Education
and Health

UNDP

Palestinian Red Crescent

Palestinian National Fund

Officials contacted

Undersecretary & Department
of statistics

Undersecretary and Directorate
of Planning

Undersecretary and Officials
dealing with women & children
Undersecretary

Various

Various officials

Various officials

Various officials

Secretary

Director

Dr. Hanna Naser

Dr. Yahya Wahbeh

Dr. Elias Saliba

Mr. Jawad Saleh

Dr. Adawiya Alami

Community Health

International Dept.

Director & Officials relevant

Relevant officials

Resident Representative

Various Officials

President

Department of Education/PLO
Department of Social Affairs

**Institution of the Land/PLO

Central Statistical Bureau/PLO

Yarmouk camp

Director
Director and other
officials
Director, and Library
for sources
Dr. Kathem Haydar and
other relevant officials
Observatory visit

Lebanon

International Department/PLO
SAMED

Department of Research on Palestinians
Department of Education
Palestinian Women Unions
K.Gs
Palestinian Red Crescent
Burj el-Barajneh camp
ECWA
Other U.N Agencies

Mrs. Nabila Brair
Dr. G. Malheis and relevant
staff
Various
Mr. Nabil Badran
Various
Various
Dr. S. Dajani
Observatory visit
Relevant persons
Whenever applicable

* The writer visited 5 UNRWA schools in Amman and Ghor area in addition to visits to Al Wehdad and Al Baqâa camp.

** The writer spent 5 days before and afternoons in the Library of the Institution of Land in Damascus looking for sources on the Occupied Territories.