Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

Press Release by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) on Eve of Arab Housing Day Titled:

Urban planning guarantees Sustainable Development of Urban Areas in Palestine 2016

The Council of Arab Housing and Reconstruction at its eightieth meeting at the League of Arab States, decided the subject of the Year Award 2016 to be " Urban Planning guarantees sustainable development of urban areas," and to be dedicated for the best scientific research in the field of housing and urban development.

The Council of Arab Housing and Reconstruction Ministers, within the framework of the League of Arab States, declared the first Monday of October every year as Arab Housing Day.

On Arab Housing Day, PCBS presents the main indicators for housing and housing conditions in Palestine, as related to Urban Planning.

74% of the Palestinians are Urban

Population of Palestine reached 4.82 million people in mid 2016, 73.9% in urban areas while 16.6% in rural areas and 9.5% in refugee camps. Population density was estimated at 800 persons /km ^{2} in 2016

55% of local authorities had an approved structural plan

The results of the Local Communities Survey 2015 showed that there were 407 local authorities in Palestine: 374 in the West Bank, and 33 local authorities in Gaza Strip. They were distributed into 128 municipalities, 242 village councils, 10 local councils and 27 camps. The results of Local Communities Survey 2015, indicated that there are 225 local authorities had approved structural plans, while 160 local authorities had their structural plans under preparation.

81% of households in Palestine are living in owned housing units

The Housing Conditions Survey 2015 indicated that 80.9% of households in Palestine live in owned housing units, with 81.4% in urban areas and 83.0% in rural areas, while 73.0% of households in camps live in owned housing units

In addition, 7.8% of households live in rented housing units, (9.0% in urban, 3.8% in rural and 6.4% of households in camps)

1.7 Persons per Room in Housing Unit

The results showed that the average housing density in Palestine in 2015 was 1.7 persons per room: 1.7 in urban areas, 1.6 in the rural areas and 1.9 in refugee camps. Around 13.2% of households in Palestine live in housing units with three persons or more per room: 12.8% of households in urban areas, 10.9% in rural areas and 21.1% in refugee camps.

In 2015 the average number of rooms per housing unit in Palestine was 3.4 and average area of housing unit was 126.2 (m^2)

95% of Palestinian Households have access to an improved water source

The results of 2015 showed that 94.9% of households in Palestine live in housing units with access to an improved water source according to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) definition, which include public network and domestic well.

54% of Palestinian Households living in housing units connected to wastewater networks

During 2015, data indicated that 53.9% of households in Palestine used wastewater networks to dispose their wastewater, while 31.8% of households used porous cesspits.