دولة فلسطين
مكتب رئيس الوزراء

United Nations Population Fund
State of Palestine

LAUNCH OF:

"PALESTINE 2030 – DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT"

Joint Press Release

Ramallah, Monday, 5 December 2016: Under the auspices of the Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Rami Hamdallah, the National Population Committee and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of Palestine country office, with financial support from the office of Special Coordinator (UNSCO), launched a study entitled: **"PALESTINE 2030 – DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT".** This study is considered to be the first report ever, in Palestine, to provide evidence and understanding of the linkages between population dynamics and development and where Palestine stands in terms of demographic transition.

The study underscores the demographic impact on key sectors such as health, education and the labor market and how population dynamics play a powerful role in development and, therefore, must be factored into planning and policy decision.

The study indicates the doubling of the population in State of Palestine from 4.8 now to 6.9 in 2030 and to 9.5 million in 2050. The future demographic trends and expected change in age structure will witness a high increase in the working age population (15-64) with decrease in the dependent population. The large population of young people is about to reach working age, opens a demographic opportunity for Palestine; an opportunity for boosting economic growth, provided by educated, motivated, young work force.

On the other hand, it will affect the availability of resources for development and increase demand for public services. **By 2030,** the labor force will grow from 1.3 million to 2.3 million in 2030. An annual average of 72,000 new jobs need to be created. In the education sector, two million students will be enrolled in schools, with 1650 new schools required to meet demand. In the health sector, almost 35 new hospitals and 350 new primary health care centers are required to respond to growing population demand.

The key challenge to achieving demographic gain is the ongoing Israeli occupation and the severe restrictions on the movement of both people and goods, which leaves Palestine with limited capacities for growth. Ending the occupation and establishing an independent, sovereign, democratic Palestinian state with full control over its territory, resources and its own development trajectory is central to achieving sustainable development.

To access the full report please visit the website: http://palestine.unfpa.org/