State of Palestine
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
& The National Population Committee

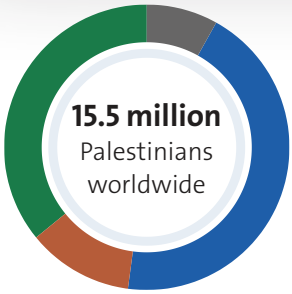
Conditions of the Palestinian Population

World Population Day, 11/07/2026

While the world celebrates World Population Day to highlight development plans and social justice, Palestinian society lives under exceptional circumstances, battered by the machinery of demolition, forced displacement, and systematic exodus. The comprehensive destruction of the foundations of daily life in Palestine has shifted the demographic debate from its traditional focus on growth and fertility rates to a direct confrontation with the requirements of survival and resilience. Securing food, health, education, and protecting the family structure have become essential prerequisites for discussing population stability or sustainable development paths

Million Palestinians 15.5

By the end of 2025



- **5.56 Million** in the State of Palestine
- **1.86 Million** in the 1948 territories
- **6.82 Million** in Arab countries
- **1.26 Million** in other countries

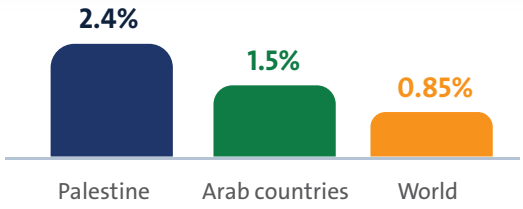
These estimates confirm the continued demographic expansion of the Palestinian people both inside and outside Palestine. Approximately two-thirds of the Palestinians live in the diaspora, while about one-third reside in the State of Palestine and the 1948 territories, reflecting the ongoing impact of displacement and forced migration on the distribution of the Palestinian population.

A young society despite the tragedy

65% of the population is under the age of 30

43% of the population is under the age of 18

Compared to the population growth rate (2023)



Despite the exceptional circumstances that Palestine is going through, the Palestinian society continues to maintain a young population structure and growth rate that exceeds the Arab and global averages. This represents a promising demographic opportunity; however, it requires investment in education, health, and employment to ensure it becomes a driving force for development.

The toll of the war on Gaza (October 2023 - June 2026)

73,090 Martyrs in Gaza

20,413 Including children

12,524 Including women

more than **11,000** Missing

137,550 Wounded

1162 Martyrs in the West Bank

These numbers are not just statistics, but a daily human tragedy reflecting the scale of the suffering endured by the people of Gaza and the West Bank; thousands of lives have been lost, millions have been displaced, and the future remains uncertain for an entire generation.

Forced displacement of Palestinians since October 7, 2023

More than **2 Million People Have Been Displaced in the Gaza Strip**
Out of the 2.2 million people who were living in the Gaza Strip on the eve of the Israeli aggression.

40,000 Palestinians in the Refugee Camps of the Northern West Bank

The displacement in Gaza Strip was not just a temporary population movement, but rather reshaped the Palestinian demographic reality, as the size, composition, and distribution of the population changed, posing enormous challenges to population planning and reconstruction.

Fertility in Palestine (2017-2019)

2.4 Births per woman globally

3.0 Births per woman in Arab countries

3.8 Births per woman in Palestine

These indicators highlight the continued high fertility rate in Palestine compared to the Arab and global averages, reflecting the Palestinian society's retention of its youthful demographic structure, despite regional and global trends toward declining fertility rates due to demographic and social transformations.

Women facing aggression

47,019 Widows in Gaza Strip as of May 17th, 2026

18% of households are headed by women (compared to 12% before the aggression) in Gaza Strip.

60,000 Pregnant women are deprived of healthcare in 2026.

Maternal mortality rate increased from **17.4** deaths per 100,000 live births before the Israeli aggression to **145** deaths in 2024 after the Israeli aggression.

The maternal mortality rate in the West Bank decreased from **18.6** deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023 to **6.7** deaths in 2024.

These indicators demonstrate the disproportionate impact of the aggression on women. The loss of the household breadwinner and the deterioration of healthcare services have exacerbated social and health challenges, while women's responsibilities within the household and community have expanded.

Children: The most affected group



58,000

Children have lost one or both parents in Gaza Strip.

Thousands of children are facing long-term humanitarian and social consequences following the loss of one or both parents, posing significant challenges to social protection, psychosocial support, and the future of human development.

The collapse of the healthcare system in Gaza Strip

18 out of 36 hospitals are partially operational.

1,700+ healthcare workers have been martyred.

1,312 healthcare workers have been injured.

The number of hospital beds has decreased from **3,412** to **1,717**

51% Shortage of medicines.

71% Shortage of medical supplies.

These indicators highlight the sharp decline of the healthcare system's capacity to provide basic services, resulting from the targeting of healthcare infrastructure and medical personnel, along with a critical shortage of resources. This has increased the risk of disease outbreaks and epidemics in displacement camps.

Gaza Strip throughout a Century: Population Density that Compresses Life into Suffocation

In Gaza Strip, the yellow area covered 53% of its total area (representing a military buffer zone established after the ceasefire agreement in October 2025 and expanded by the Israeli occupation to reach about 64%), This led to the confinement of the Palestinian population to a limited area of approximately 36% of the 365 km² area of the Gaza Strip before the aggression, making the Strip one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with the highest density during the aggression exceeding 35,000 individuals/km².

Confining the population to an area that does not exceed one-third of the sector has made Gaza one of the most densely populated areas in the world, where the population density has turned into a suffocating pressure on resources and services, and has reshaped daily life patterns, threatening the demographic and social balance and making reconstruction and urban planning an existential necessity.

Education under aggression

Gaza Strip

- **20,480** Students were martyred (19,101 school students and 1,379 university students)
- **31,436** Students were injured
- **700,000** Students were deprived of school education
- **95%** of schools have been damaged
- **284** Schools have been completely destroyed
- **88,000** University students have been prevented from continuing their education

West Bank

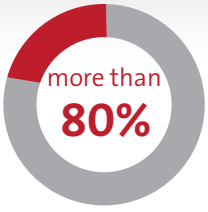
- **128** Martyred School Students
- **39** Martyred University Students
- **861** Injured School Students
- More than **278** Injured University Students
- **421** Detained School Students
- More than **487** Detained University Students

These indicators demonstrate the unprecedented damage inflicted on the education sector in Palestine, as the impact of the aggression has extended to students, educational personnel, and educational infrastructure, leading to disrupting the educational process and depriving hundreds of thousands of students of their right to education, with long-term repercussions for human capital and development.

Record levels of unemployment



Unemployment rate in the West Bank (2025).



Unemployment rate in Gaza Strip (2025).

These indicators demonstrate the sharp disparity in labor market conditions between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The aggression and the cessation of economic activity have led to unprecedented levels of unemployment in Gaza Strip, with direct repercussions on living standards, widespread poverty, and reliance on humanitarian aid.

Famine in Gaza Strip: An unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe

August 15th, 2025: Official declaration of famine

77% (1.6 million people) suffer from acute food insecurity, Oct.–Nov. 2025

98.5% of agricultural land has been destroyed or rendered inaccessible, 2025

Estimates indicate that **101,000** children under five face the risk of acute malnutrition from mid-October 2025 to mid-October 2026.

55,500 Pregnant and lactating women suffer from acute malnutrition, 2025-2026

These indicators confirm that the famine in Gaza Strip has transcended a mere food crisis to become a comprehensive humanitarian crisis that threatens the lives of the population. This situation is caused by the collapse of the food security system and the deterioration of health and living conditions, which requires an urgent international response to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and protect the right to food.

Damage to Buildings and Infrastructure

- From the Israeli occupation's aggression against the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023 until May 17, 2026

+198,000
Buildings damaged

+102,000
Buildings completely destroyed

+70%
Percentage of housing units completely destroyed out of the total number of units

268,000 housing units were completely destroyed

140,000 housing units were severely damaged and became uninhabitable

In addition to the destruction of schools, universities, hospitals, mosques, churches, and government headquarters, as well as thousands of buildings and economic establishments being destroyed and all aspects of infrastructure, including streets, water and electricity lines, sewage lines, and agricultural land were destroyed, making Gaza Strip an uninhabitable place.

- Destruction in the West Bank during 2025

1,400
Buildings and establishments demolished or partially destroyed

Of these
258
Buildings and establishments in Jerusalem Governorate

Of these
104
Forced self-demolitions in Jerusalem

The destruction of buildings and infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank not only means the loss of homes and facilities, but also reflects a forced reshaping of the demographic reality; thousands of families have lost their shelter, living patterns have changed, and the capacity for natural growth has declined, making reconstruction a prerequisite for restoring demographic and social balance.

