Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

The Situation of Older Persons in Palestinian Society

On the Occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, 01/10/2026

Empowering older persons, enhancing their participation in society, and promoting healthy and inclusive ageing that protects their rights and dignity.

Palestinian Population: Continued Population Growth and a Gradual Transition towards Population Ageing

- The number of older persons (60 years and over) in Palestine reached about 347 thousand in mid-2026, accounting for 6.2% of the total population, in Gaza Strip alone, the number of older persons is estimated at 109 thousand, representing 5% of the Strip's population. in the West Bank, their number was estimated at 238 thousand, representing 6.9% of the West Bank population in mid-2026.

- From 4 thousand older persons in 1914 to about 347 thousand in 2026, the number of older persons is expected to reach about 947 thousand by 2050, accounting for 9.9% of the population.

- 91% of older persons were covered by health insurance, 2023. about 76% of older persons in Palestine suffer from chronic diseases, 2023, of whom 94% were covered by health insurance.

- The illiteracy rate among older persons in the West Bank was 12%, at 4% among males compared with 20% among females, in 2025.

- The labour force participation rate among older persons in the West Bank was only 18% in 2025 (32% male, 4% female)