



## 9. Education

### ■ Facts and Figures

- The Palestinian **Education System** comprises a mandatory basic cycle covering Grades 1-10, divided into the Preparation Stage (Grades 1 to 4) and the Empowerment Stage (Grades 5 to 10). Optional Secondary Education covers Grades 11 and 12, with the option of general secondary education, and a few vocational secondary schools. Post secondary education is offered in 11 universities and 11 technical colleges, offering mainly 4-year programs, and 19 'community colleges,' offering mainly two-year diploma courses in technical and commercial fields. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza - Education Sector Analysis*, Sept. 2006).
- **Secondary Education** in Palestine is separated into academic courses (Literature and Science) and Vocational Education which offers courses in Religion, Commerce, Agriculture, Industry and Hotels/catering. Enrolments in the scientific and vocational streams have continued to drop and those in the literary stream have increased a further: 3 out of 4 students that pass the *Tawjihi* examination today are from the literary stream. In 2005, only 3% of the secondary enrolment was in vocational streams. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza - Education Sector Analysis*, Sept. 2006)
- **Transition rates** from basic to secondary education have been consistently in excess of 90% over the last five years, which is high by international standards. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza - Education Sector Analysis*, Sept. 2006)
- The secondary **school-leaving examination - Tawjihi** - is not a standardized test (like SAT in the US). The overall **pass rate** in the examination has increased from 56.2% in 1995 to 69.6% in 2005, though this is partly attributed to less difficult tests due to the disruption in school attendance and other Intifada-associated problems students face. Over 80% of Grade 12 graduates who pass the *Tawjihi* go on to some kind of **post-secondary education** or training. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza - Education Sector Analysis*, Sept. 2006)
- The PA **Ministry of Education** was established in 1994, following the Oslo I Accord, and the first ever Palestinian national **curriculum** was introduced into schools (in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades) in Sept. 2000 (replacing the Jordanian and Egyptian curricula that were used since the 1967 occupation in the West Bank and Gaza respectively). The new Palestinian curriculum makes Palestine the first Arabic country to teach English from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and introduces technology as a compulsory subject from the 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade (in grades 11 and 12 it is called Information Technology), Home Economics, Environment and Health as an elective subject in grades 7-10, and "Current Issues" as well as Economics and Management in grades 11 and 12. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza - Education Sector Analysis*, Sept. 2006)
- **Enrolment** in basic education is universal, and the enrolment rate for secondary education is above 80%, putting the WBGS in the lead in the MENA region. In tertiary education the enrolment rate is above 40% for the 18-24 age group - which is high when compared with middle-income countries. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza Public Expenditure Review. Vol. 1: From Crisis to Greater Fiscal Independence*, Feb. 2007).
- In nominal terms, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's **salary budget** has increased by nearly 80% since 2000, while the **number of teachers** has increased by 36%. Donors funded the bulk of **capital expenditures** after 2000 (around 90% of which is allocated for salaries), while UNRWA covered 20% of total expenditures. (World Bank, *West Bank and Gaza Public Expenditure Review. Vol. 1: From Crisis to Greater Fiscal Independence*, Feb. 2007).
- Of the 2,415 schools in the school year 2007/08, 1,867 were functioning on **one shift** and 548 on **double/two shifts** (**WB: 67, GS: 481**). (Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education*, 2007/08).

### At a Glance:

<b>Total Number of Schools</b> (2007/08)	2,415	(WB: 1,764, GS: 621)
<b>Total Number of Teachers</b> (2007/08)	52,465	(WB: 35,541, GS: 16,974)
<b>Students enrolled (WBGS)</b> (2007/08)	1,104,208	(WB: 697,227, GS: 406,981)
of which: - elementary	777,545	
- secondary	366,664	
<b>Projected no. of students 2009/10</b>	1,441,455	(male: 733,108, female: 708,347)
<b>Classes</b> (2007/08)	33,225	(WB: 21,564, GS: 11,661)
<b>Literacy rate</b> (2006)	93.5%	(male: 97.1%, female: 89.8%)
<b>Repetition rate</b> (2004/05):	1.5%	(males: 1.7%, females: 1.4%)
<b>Drop-out rate</b> (2004/05):	1.0%	(males: 1.0%, females: 0.9%)

Sources: Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education*, 2007/08; PCBS, *Education Statistics*; PCBS, *Press Release on International Literacy Day*, 8 Sept. 2006.



### Basic & Secondary Education: Teachers, Schools & Students by Supervising Authority

		Total, 2007/2008	Total Projected 2009/2010
<b>Private</b>	Teachers	5,754	3,886
	Classes	3,126	3,719
	Schools	279	--
	Students	77,624	90,600
<b>UNRWA</b>	Teachers	9,531	8,548
	Classes	6,650	7,450
	Schools	303	--
	Students	253,565	350,235
<b>Government</b>	Teachers	37,180	32,073
	Classes	23,449	27,513
	Schools	1,833	--
	Students	773,019	1,000,620
<b>Total</b>	Teachers	<b>52,465</b> (m: 24,317; f: 28,148)	<b>44,507</b>
	Classes	<b>33,225</b>	<b>38,682</b>
	Schools	<b>2,415</b>	--
	Students	<b>1,104,208</b> (m: 552,932, f: 551,276)	<b>1,441,455</b> (m: 733,108, f: 708,347)

<sup>a</sup> incl. Waqf and private schools in Jerusalem. (Source: Ministry of Education; PCBS, *Education Statistics*)

### Distribution of Students per Class / Teacher by Supervising Authority

Average no. of students per:	UNWRA		Government		Private		Total	
	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
	38.1	26.6	33	20.8	24.8	13.5	33.2	21.1

(Source: Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education, 2007/2008*.)

### Vocational Training

School-based vocational training in Palestine has five streams - industrial, agricultural, commercial, hotel and home economics. In the school year 2007/08, there were 7,002 **students** enrolled in vocational training **classes**.

Schools					
Industrial	Agricultural	Commercial	Hotel	Religious	Total
14 (11 gov., 3 priv.), (12 WB, 2 GS)	2 (2 gov.), (1 WB, 1 GS)	66 (66 gov.) (65 WB, 1 GS)	1 (1 priv.), (1 WB)	7 (5 gov., 2 priv.) (6 WB, 1 GS)	<b>90</b> <b>(84 gov., 6 priv.)</b> <b>(85 WB, 5 GS)</b>

(Source: Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education, 2005/2006*.)

### Higher Education

<b>University Colleges</b>	13	
- Students enrolled (2005/06)	6,347	(male: 2,752, female: 3,595)
- Graduates (2005/06)	1,512	(male: 556, female: 956)
- Academic Teaching Staff (2005/06)	450	(male: 330, female: 120)
<b>Community Colleges (up to diploma)</b>	19	
- Students enrolled (2005/06)	11,135	(male: 6,364, female: 4,771)
- Graduates (2005/06)	1,964	(male: 930, female: 1,034)
- Academic Teaching Staff (2005/06)	667	(male: 512, female: 155)
<b>Universities</b>	11	(WB: 8; GS: 3)
- Students enrolled (2005/06)	132,781	(male: 61,985, female: 70,806)
- Graduates (2005/06)	13,825	(male: 6,049, female: 7,776)
- Academic Teaching Staff (2005/06)	4,641	(male: 3,591, female: 569)



- In 2005/6, most higher education students studied – in their **main program** - Social Sciences, Business and Law, followed by Education, Humanities & Arts, and Science.
- In 2005/06, 24,129 **new students** (m: 11,085; f: 13,044) were enrolled in Palestine's universities, 11,665 (m: 5,324; f: 6,341) at the Al-Quds Open University, 3,305 (m: 1,552; f: 1,753) at University Colleges and 6,005 (m: 3,539; f: 2,466) at Community Colleges.

(Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Higher Education Institutions, Statistical Yearbook, 2005/06*.)

### Recommended Research Sources:

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<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps> (Education Statistics)  
<http://right2edu.birzeit.edu/>

<http://www.mohe.gov.ps/> (Min. of Education)

**Diwan, Ishac & R. A. Shaban** (eds.). *Development Under Adversity*. MAS and World Bank, 1999 (see chapter on Education).

**Hasweh, M. with R. Sultana**. *Human Resources Development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. Mimeo. 2005.

**Nakhleh, K. & Wahbeh, N.**, *Research on Improving the Quality of Basic Education in Palestine*. Ramallah: Qattan Centre for Educational Research, 2005.

**Rigby, Andrew**. *Palestinian Education: The Future Challenge*. Jerusalem: PASSIA, 1995.

**World Bank**, *West Bank and Gaza - Education Sector Analysis, Impressive Achievements Under Harsh Conditions and the Way Forward to Consolidate a Quality Education System*, Sept. 2006