



UNRWA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNRWA releases new study: Recent socio-economic impact of prolonged crisis in the oPt

Jerusalem - UNRWA today launched their new report assessing the recent socio-economic impact of the prolonged crisis in the oPt. The report, produced in association with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, was commissioned to measure the socio-economic consequences of the post-election boycott of the Palestinian Authority.

UNRWA Deputy Commissioner General, Filippo Grandi, introducing the report, commented: "What this report tells us is alarming; more than one million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank now live in deep poverty. This is a steep increase; 64% over the same time last year. In Gaza, where the vast majority of the population are refugees, the situation is much worse. Every aspect of life – from job security to putting food on the table – has been severely and negatively impacted."

The data collected in the study covers three main areas: national income, the labor market and household living levels and poverty.

Key findings:

- Loss of income led to an average 12% reduction in per capita consumption, and a 64% increase in Palestinians living in deep poverty.
- The PA boycott, which cannot be accurately measured through GDP or employment rates but only through household consumption and income, resulted in an estimated \$500 million decline.
- The PA fiscal crisis had disproportionately negative consequences for refugees, 32% of whom are employed by the public sector, in contrast to 20% among non refugees.
- It is estimated that, above the level of external assistance received in 2005, an additional \$73.1 million of well targeted aid would have been necessary to eliminate deep poverty amongst refugees in 2005.
- The Palestinian public sector (accounting for 70% of new jobs) expanded during 2005 and the first half of 2006, while the private sector, especially manufacturing, experienced sharp declines.

For the complete report, please click [here](#)

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