



YOUTH

FACT SHEET - NOVEMBER 2022

OVERVIEW

In Palestine, 60% of the population is under the age of 24. Their civic participation, engagement in socio-political activities and leadership are needed to build a generation that will help accelerate sustainable development in Palestine.

One of the most pressing concerns for young people is youth unemployment, which stands at 68.9% in Gaza and 27.8% in the West Bank.

Despite having one of the highest elementary school enrolment rates in the region (99%), enrolment rates for secondary education indicate a 20% drop out rate of students before the age of 15. Schools in Gaza are chronically overcrowded and 65% of schools operate on double shifts.

In Palestine girls are subjected to the risk of child and early marriage which has reached 13%.

Recurrent conflict and the protracted humanitarian crisis have created enormous distress and trauma among youth.

Young people exhibit a high degree of political disenchantment and apathy due to decades of political marginalization.

Despite the challenges, young people want to contribute to their communities and transform their lives.

Youth illiteracy rate in Palestine has dropped below 1%, and the transition rate from primary to secondary school level is 93.8%. More than 3,000 computer scientists are graduating from Palestinian universities each year.

During the last electoral drive, about one million Palestinians under the age of 30 registered as voters.

41.7%

Youth unemployment rate

0.8%

Palestinian youth working in decision-making positions

19%

Youth currently involved in volunteerism and community work



UNITED NATIONS
Palestine



UNITED NATIONS IN ACTION FOR YOUTH

The United Nations works for and with Palestinian youth to improve access to education and livelihood opportunities, provide youth-friendly health services, including mental health and psychosocial support, and facilitate their meaningful political, social, and economic engagement. In recent years:

- The UN in Palestine launched the Youth Advisory Panel composed of 18 young men and women to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes.
- FAO supported 250 youth to complete internships in the agrifood sector.
- UNDP supported improved access to education for over 50,000 students in 58 schools in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. In Gaza UNDP installed renewable energy in three schools. Over 200 youth completed their academic studies with Al Fakhora Scholarships and 244 alumni received internships and training.
- UNFPA supported youth-friendly health services in Palestinian universities for over 42,000 youth.
- UNODC raised awareness on crime prevention through sports for 2,800 adolescents and youth.
- OHCHR provided human rights education training to over 200 youth through civil society organizations and Universities in Gaza and the West Bank.
- Following the May 2021 escalation in Gaza, UNESCO conducted art workshops to provide 2,816 children and youth with psychosocial support
- UNICEF supported 4163 adolescents on skills development for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship, and summer interventions for at least 18,000 adolescents in 200 schools in WB and Gaza.



Data Sources:
United Nations Common Country Assessment for Palestine, 2022;
Report of the Secretary-General on Assistance to the Palestinian People;
MICS 6 survey, 2019

