

# Tubas Governorate Surveillance System

MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY SURVEY

FIRST ROUND  
[JANUARY 2006]

ANALYTICAL REPORT

**NEWSLETTER III**



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## **1. BACKGROUND**

Tubas is one of the Palestinian Governorates which is suffering severely from the current harsh economic and imbalanced political conditions which are affecting the life of Palestinian people and their level and quality of living. This study tries to investigate the impact of the prevailing conditions on the Palestinian people, investigating the socioeconomic condition of Palestinian households and the impact of political conditions on their lives in January 2006.

All the generated data will be accessible to the public via the Project Website: <http://proxy.arij.org/tubas>

## **2. OBJECTIVES:**

This survey is the continuation of a previously conducted comprehensive household baseline survey for Tubas Governorate carried out in December 2005, which investigated and analyzed the livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions of Palestinian people in Tubas Governorate on the household level in different localities.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The same households were surveyed as in the previous comprehensive household baseline survey, to study and evaluate their living and social conditions during January 2006. The same people were interviewed for the second time to get the household information for January 2006.

To meet the survey objectives a monthly household questionnaire was developed. The questionnaire includes questions covering the following main variable indicators and some important fixed information:

- Identification data
- Social information
- Health
- Income resources
- Expenditures
- Food security
- Impact of Occupation practices
- Agricultural activities

Additional monthly surveys are going to be conducted for February and March 2006. The completed questionnaires were reviewed and entered and analyzed using SPSS software.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION DATA

The total number of surveyed household members in January 2006 reached 840 people: 50.4% were males and 49.6% were females. There is a reduction in the total number of household members by 1 person (0.12%) compared with the last survey (December, 2005). The reasons for this change is that 1 person died. In addition two new male babies were born and 2 people had left their families to go to university.

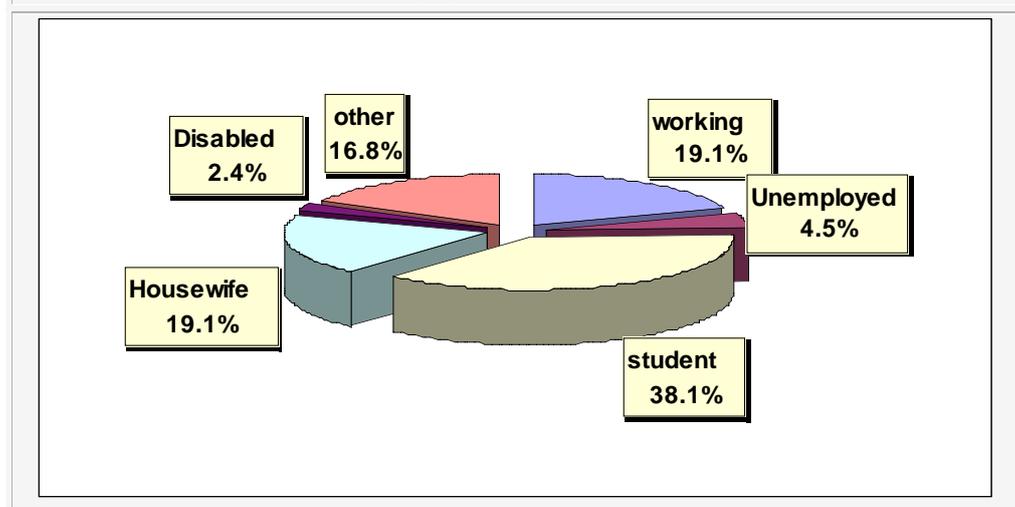
Only 2% of the surveyed households are led by women. 5% of the household leaders have more than one wife. Up to 1.8% family members are not resident with their family which is exceeds the December 2005 figure by 0.4% of the total household members.

### 4.2. WORKING FORCE AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The analysis showed that the working force of the surveyed households reached 23.6% of the total households' members. Up to 4.5% of surveyed households (19.2% of the household working force) are unemployed and looking for job opportunities, 19.1% of the household members are working (80.8% of the household working force). The comparison showed that the employed members of the household working force have increased by 2.9% since December 2005. Up to 15.9% of the unemployed people are females.

Students form 38.1% of the total household members, while the percentage of disabled people is high and reached to 2.4% of the family members. Up to 16.8% of the family members are babies, children and old people (*See figure1*). Women form 7.3 % of the labor force. Women mainly work as employees in the governmental and private sectors, also as livestock farmers and rarely, as a manual workers.

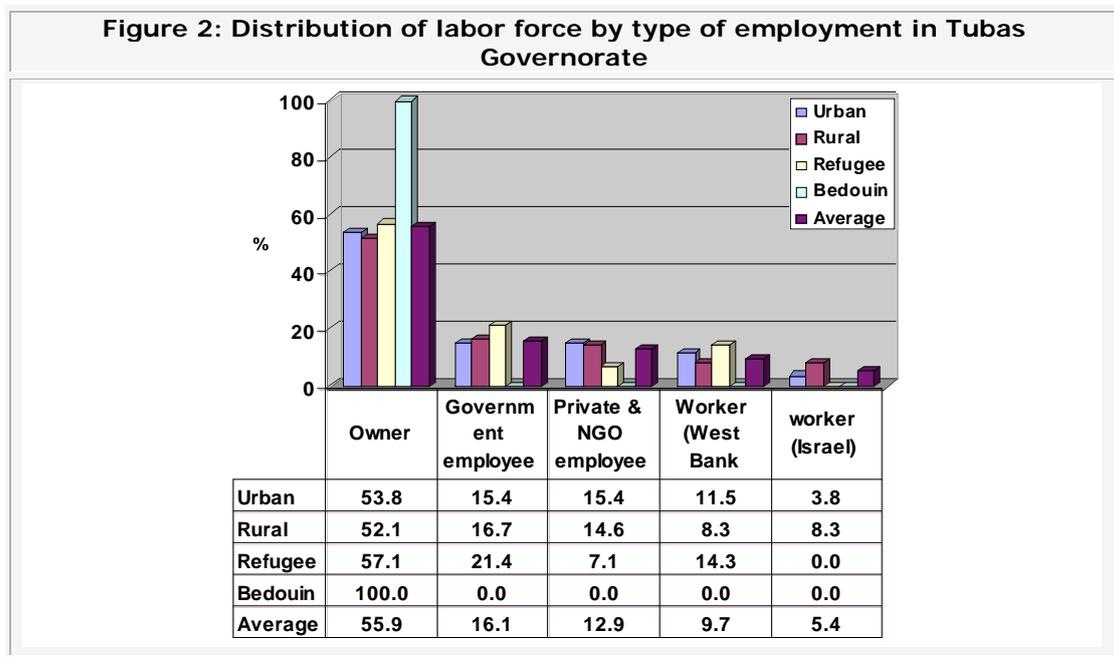
**Figure 1: Distribution of family members based on their activities in Tubas Governorate**



Due to the current unstable political and economical conditions, and limited job opportunities the Palestinian people have shifted their economic activities to establish their own businesses. Thus the analyses of families' working force by type and location showed that 55.9% owned businesses, followed by the Government employees with 16.1%, workers with 15.1% which are working in the West Bank and Israel and 12.9% are employed by the private sector (0.6% are employed by NGO's). These results are almost the same as the results obtained from the December 2005 survey (See Figure 2).

The Bedouin community is the most economically stabilized community as all the labor force work and they mostly own their businesses.

The refugee employed labor force mainly own their own businesses (57.1%), those working with the Palestinian authority account for 21.4% of the work force, and those working in the West Bank account for 14.3% (See figure 2). The women form 7.3% of employed households' persons. The employed women are mainly working in the private sector and NGO's, followed by having their own business and working for the Government (45.6%, 27.2% and 27.2%, respectively).



The comparison of monthly working days and monthly income in January 2006 compared to December 2005 revealed that the average monthly working days has remained the same: 24.5 days/month; while the household monthly income has increased from 1525 NIS/Month (338.9 USD) to 1620 NIS/Month (360 USD). Therefore, the household monthly income increased 6.2% compared with December 2005. On the other hand, the active working force who are working in Israel has decreased from 6.9% for December 2005 to 6.1% for January 2006.

The closure of Palestinian Territories is affecting the unemployment rate causing 14.6% of unemployment for both December 2005 and January 2006. On the other hand, the impact of lack of permits for working in Israel has decreased from 48.8% to 37.8% of reasons for current unemployment in December 2005 compared to January 2006.

### **4.3. SOURCES OF INCOME**

Agriculture (plant production and/or Livestock) and salaries form the largest source of income for the households in Tubas Governorate with 27.6% and 26.9% which are consistent with the results of the survey conducted in December 2005.

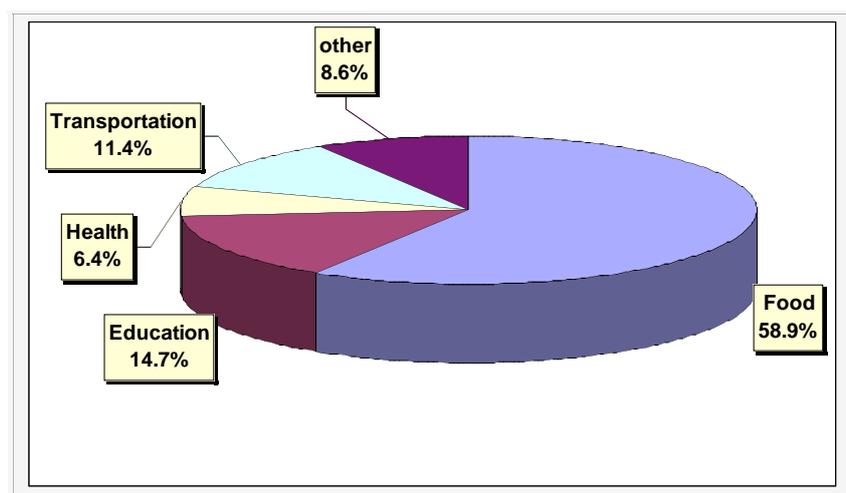
Despite the increase in household average monthly income in January 2006 compared with December 2005, the number of households who are depending on more than one source of income decreased from 44.1% to 31.8%. This shows that the slight improvement in the political situation has improved the households' income from the main sources.

During January 2006, none of the interviewed households got loans from their relatives, society or organizations. On the other hand 4.5% have depended on selling or using part of their assets. Almost 100% of the households who had to sell or use part of their savings indicated that they were obliged to sell the wives' jewelry. Of those households who were obliged to sell part of their assets, 80% sold assets with value ranges between 1,000 and 2000 NIS/household, followed by 20% who sold assets with a value of 11,000 NIS. The reasons for selling the households' assets are for paying bills (40%), food (40%), and other (20%).

### **4.4. HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES**

The analysis showed that the average household expenditures reduced by 3.7% in January 2006 (394 USD) compared with December 2005 (410 USD). Generally, the household expenditures for January 2006 are accounted for by 58.9% food expenses, followed by education expenses with 14.7%, transportation and communication with 11.4%, others including bills with 8.6% and health. The Household expenditures on food were increased compared with December 2005 from 51.7% to 58.9% which reflects the impact of limited income of Palestinian households on their livelihood conditions (*See figure 3*). The expenditure on food reached 61%, 58.2%, 58% and 48.8% of the rural, urban, refugee and Bedouins household expenditures in January 2006, respectively. Additionally, the expenditures of households of different types of localities on food in January 2006 had increased from what it was in December 2005. Up to 92% of the surveyed households had special expenses for the occasion of Al-Adaha feast with an average additional cost of 190 USD per household. Additionally, 1.8% of the surveyed households had engagement or marriage occasions.

**Figure 3: Distribution of household expenditures in Tubas Governorate for January 2006**



#### 4.5. FOOD SECURITY STATUS

The survey showed that 100% of the Palestinian households in Tubas District are consuming bread, sugar, vegetables, followed by eggs with 98%, olive oil 96%, for example, 96% of households consume rice on a daily basis, poultry meat with 94.6%, fruits with 91%, family snacks and sweets 89%, milk with 87.1%, red meat 85.5%, fish meat with 61.8%, and finally sweets for children with 42%. The households are consuming bread, sugar and vegetables on a daily basis, while the other commodities vary between one a month to every day for the houses that are consuming these commodities. The number of consumption dates per household for meat is limited and ranges for poultry meat from 1 to 12, red meat from 1 to 20 and for fish meat from 1 to 5 days per month.

The monthly consumption rate per person varies from one commodity to another and it mainly depends on the cost (*See table 1*).

On the other hand, the analysis showed that the consumption is mainly focused on food and a limited budget is expended on sweets for children and snacks and sweets for families as the family income is limited. 100% of the interviewed households stated that it is easy to access food.

**Table 1: Distribution of household consumption and consumption rate per person in Tubas District for January 2006.**

Commodity	% of Surveyed families	No. of Consumption days per month	consumption/ person/month
red meat	85.5	1-12	0.7 kg
poultry meat	94.6	1-20	1.13 kg
fish meat	61.8	1-5	0.47 kg
Bread	100	Every day	9.8 kg
Rice	100	15-every day	2.9 kg
Sugar	100	Every day	2.9 kg
Vegetables	100	Every day	6.5 kg
Fruits	91	1- every days	2.6 kg
sweets for children	42	-	39 NIS

<b>family snacks and sweets</b>	89	-	13.7 NIS
<b>Milk</b>	87.1	1- every days	2.1 liter
<b>olive oil</b>	96.4	4- every day	2 liter
<b>Egg</b>	98	4- every days	10.5 egg

#### ***4.6. HEALTH CONDITIONS***

During January 2006, 51% of the surveyed households had cases of illness. Up to 61% of the cases were cold and flu, 33% had chronic diseases and 6% had other diseases. The cost of treatment for 52.6% of the reported cases of illness were covered by health insurance while the treatment cost of the remaining illnesses were covered by the households' members. The treatment cost ranged between 2 to 333 USD per household for January 2006 depending on the illness and whether the household members had health insurance or not.

#### ***4.7. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES:***

The analysis showed that 17.1% of the surveyed families had planted their lands with open field (irrigated &/or dryland) and greenhouse crops. The planted area ranged between 100 m<sup>2</sup> to 15 dunums per household. Up to 25% of the agricultural households are covering 20% of their households needs, while 15% of them are covering 50%, and 60% covering 100% of their needs from their planted crops. Approximately 88% of the agricultural families are selling part or all of their products.

#### ***4.7. IMPACT OF OCCUPATION PRACTICES:***

During January 2006, around 4.5% of the surveyed households had lost some of their working days in Israel due to the closure with an average of 10 working days per family which represent an average loss of 700 NIS/month/affected household compared with 16% of surveyed households in December 2005, losing 14 working days per household and an average 1235 NIS. This affects the economic stability and purchasing power of the Palestinian households especially those who are economically dependant on work in Israel or have business relationship with the Israelis.

1% (one household) of the surveyed households, received a military order to leave their agricultural land, and were told that if they did not, the Israeli occupation forces would destroy their greenhouses and crops.