

Tubas Governorate Surveillance System

MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

THIRD ROUND
[MARCH 2006]

ANALYTICAL REPORT

NEWSLETTER V



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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 March 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 and monthly household survey carried out in January and February 2006, 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 previously conducted baseline and monthly household surveys, to study and evaluate their living and social conditions during March 2006. The same people were interviewed for the Fourth time to get the household information for March 2006.

To meet the survey objectives a monthly household baseline 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

One additional monthly integrated survey is going to be conducted for March 2006. The completed questionnaires were reviewed and analyzed using SPSS statistical software.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION DATA

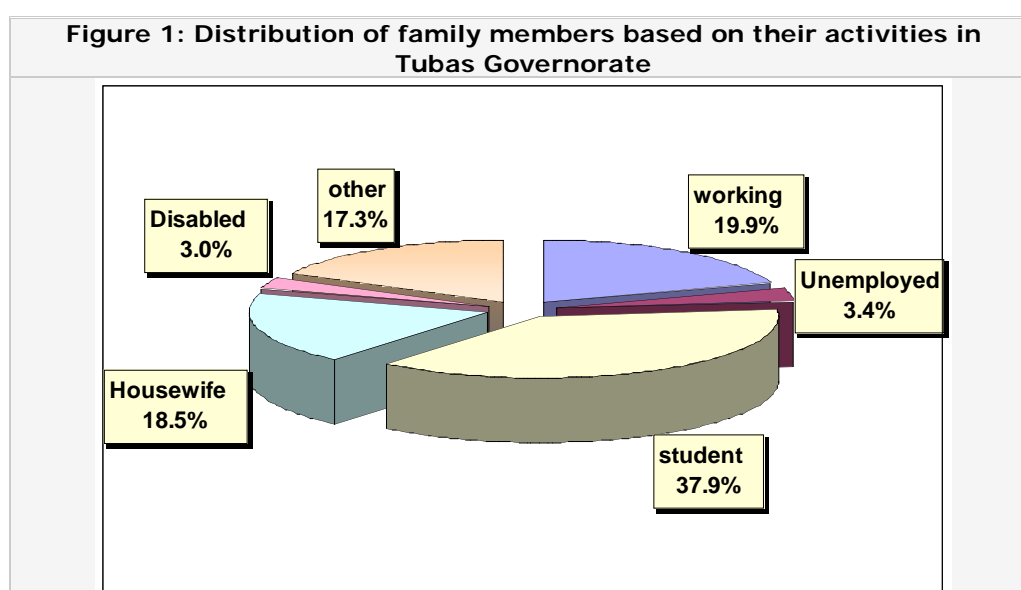
The total number of surveyed household members in March 2006 was 842 people: 50.4% were males and 49.6% were female. There was a decrease in the total number of household members by 1 person (0.12%) compared with the last survey (February, 2006). The reason for this change is that one female has left her family to continue her education. This shows that stability in the number of family members present is usually affected by new births, deaths or leaving the family for education and/or for work outside the governorate and/or country.

Only 2% of the surveyed households are led by women. 5% of the household leaders have more than one wife. Up to 1.2% of family members are not resident with their family which is less than the February 2006 figure by 0.8% of the total household members, as some of the family members had come back to join their family again temporarily and/or permanently.

4.2. WORKING FORCE AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The analysis showed that the working force in March 2006 was 23.3% of the total households' members. Up to 3.4% of surveyed households (14.6% of the household working force) are unemployed and looking for job opportunities, and 19.9% of the household members are formally working (85.4% of the household working force). The comparison showed that employment amongst the household members' working force has increased by 2.0% compared with February 2006, 4.2% compared with January 2006 and 4.7% compared with December 2005.

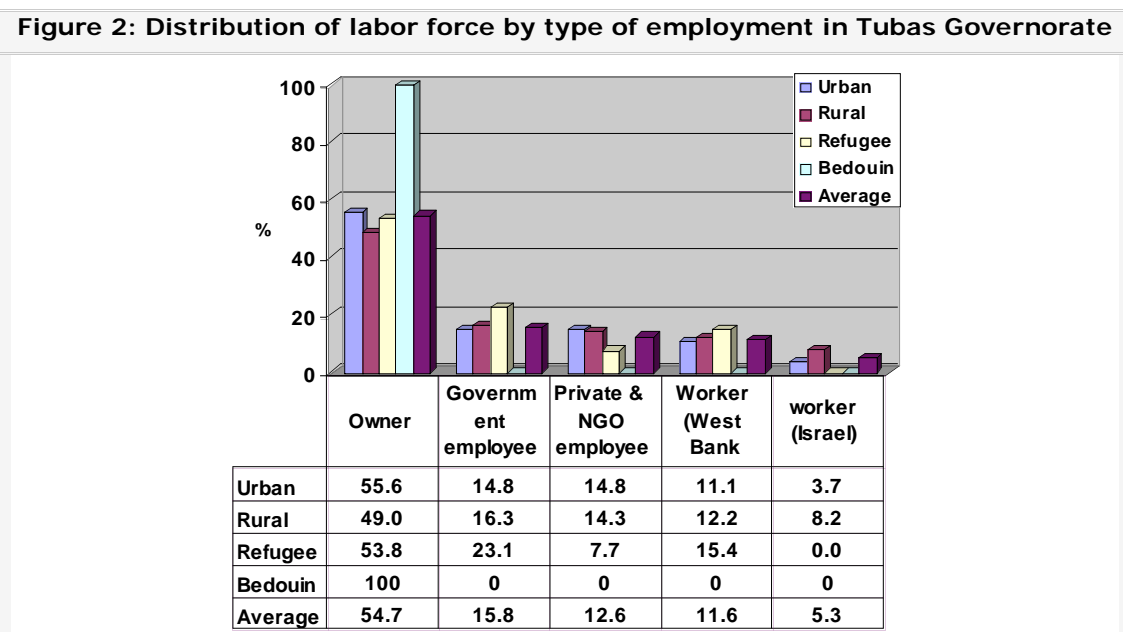
Students form 37.9% of the total household members, and the percentage of disabled people is high (3%). 17.3% of the family members are babies, children and old people (*See figure1*). Women form 5.5 % of the labor force. Women mainly work as employees in the governmental, NGO's and private sectors, also as livestock and plant production farmers and, rarely, as manual workers. Changes in the household members' activities are not so dynamic but it usually based on the family member's activities and age.



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 55.6% owned businesses, followed by Government employees, private sector and NGO's employees with 14.8% each. These results are almost the same as the results obtained in December 2005 and January and February 2006 (See Figure 2).

The study showed that the Bedouin community is the most economically stabilized community as all the labor force are working and they mostly own their own businesses.

The urban employed labor forces who own businesses account for 54.7%, followed by refugees with 53.8% and rural with 49.0%. Those working with the Palestinian Authority and working in the West Bank account for 23.1% and 15.4% of the refugee working force respectively. (See figure 2). Women form 5.5% of employed households' persons. Women are mainly employed in the private sector and NGO's, followed by working for the Government and having their own business (44.5%, 22.2%, 22.2%, and 11.1%, respectively). The March survey showed that the percentage and number of working women was slightly increased compared with the previous three months.



The analysis of current type of work revealed that workers occupied 30.1% followed by employees with 28.1% and 25.2% are working in agriculture. The percentage of the labor force working in agriculture varied from 21.1% in February to 25.2% in March as the agricultural and seasonal activities change.

The comparison of monthly working days and monthly income in March 2006 compared to February 2006 revealed that the average number of monthly working days has slightly decreased from 25.6 days/month in February 2006 to 25.5 days/month in March 2006; in parallel, the household monthly income has decreased

from 1741 NIS/Month (387 USD) to 1512 NIS/Month (336 USD) respectively. The household monthly income decreased by 2.8% compared with February 2005. Despite the observed reduction in average monthly income and working days, the percentage of employed working force was increased from 19.5% to 19.9% of the surveyed households while the working forces in Israel decreased from 7.8% in February to 5.1% in March 2006.

The closure of Palestinian Territories is affecting the unemployment rate, causing 19.2% of unemployment in March 2006 compared with both December 2005 and January 2006 with 14.6% each and for February 2006 with 16.2%. However, the impact of lack of permits for working in Israel in March 2006 has decreased from 48.8% (December 2005) to 42.3% of reasons for current unemployment. On average the Israeli restriction practices (including closure and restrictions on issuing working permits in Israeli) contributed to 56.7% of the unemployment in Tubas in 2006, first quarter.

4.3. SOURCES OF INCOME

In March 2006, workers formed 30.1% of the employed working forces followed by employees with 28.2%, and the Agriculture sector (plant production and/or livestock) with 25.2%, respectively. This doesn't reflect the same contribution in the household income, as the generated income by the workers forms 21.1% of the households' income compared with 29.5% from agriculture (plant and livestock production) and 30% from employees' salaries in March 2006.

23.6% of the households surveyed in March 2006 had more than one source of income, but it was less than the previous three months.

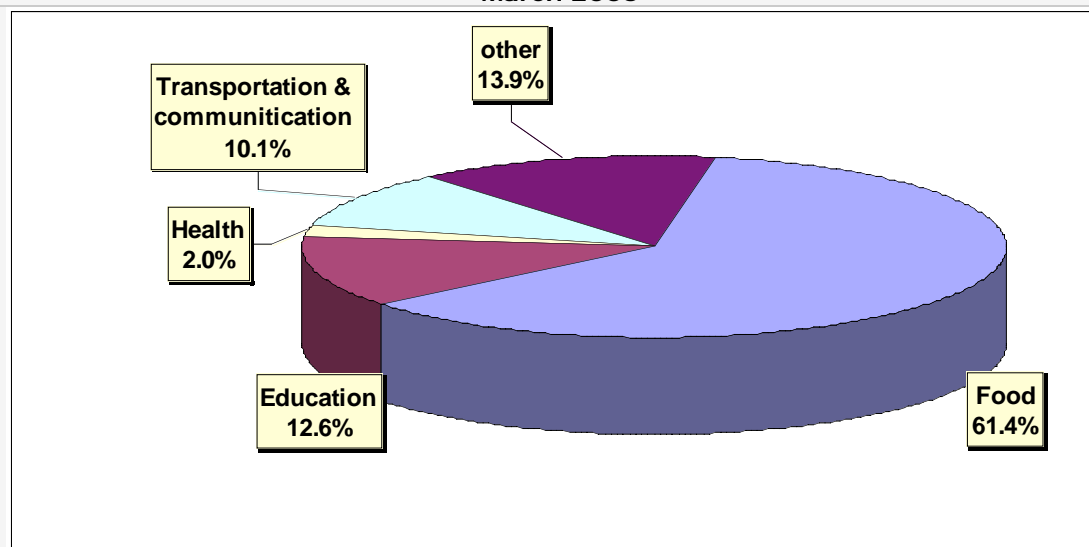
During March 2006, 1% (one household) of the interviewed households got loans from their relatives, society or organizations with average value of 1000 USD/HH for special reasons. None of the households had to sell or use part of their assets.

4.4. HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES

The analysis showed that the average household expenditures reduced by 17.2% in March 2006 (340 USD) compared with December 2005 (410 USD). Expenditures in March 2006 were also lower than January and February 2006. The average monthly expenditures in the first quarter of 2006 was 366.5 USD.

Generally, the household expenditures for March 2006 were accounted for as follows: 61.4% food expenses, followed by other expenses with 13.9%; education expenses and payment of bills with 12.6%; transportation and communication with 10.1%, and health with 2%. The Household expenditures on food were decreased compared with the three last months which reflects the continuation of limited income of Palestinian households (*See figure 3*). The expenditure on food reached 224.7 USD/month/HH, 215.2 USD/Month/HH, 214.8 USD/Month/HH, and 212.7 USD/Month/HH of the urban, refugee, Bedouins, and rural household expenditures respectively, in March 2006. The distribution of household expenditures on food in March 2006 and by locality type had decreased from what it was in December 2005. Additionally, 14.8% of the surveyed households had special expenses on social occasions and other issues, with an average cost of 46.5 USD per household.

Figure 3: Distribution of household expenditures by in Tubas Governorate for March 2006



4.5. FOOD SECURITY STATUS

The survey showed that 100% of the Palestinian households in Tubas District consume bread and sugar, 96.8% consume rice by, eggs are consumed by 96.4%, olive oil by 95.5%, vegetables by 95.2%, poultry meat and family snacks and sweets by 94.5% each, fruits by 93.6%, milk by 89.1%, red meat by 88.2%, fish meat by 60.0%, and finally sweets for children by 41.8%. The households consume bread, rice, sugar, vegetables and fruits on a daily basis, while the other commodities vary between one a month to every day for the houses that are consuming these commodities except for meats. The number of consumption dates per household for different types of meat is limited and ranges for poultry meat from 3 to 12, red meat from 1 to 10 and for fish meat from 1 to 3 days per month.

The monthly consumption rate per person varies from one commodity to another and it mainly depends on the commodity cost (*See table 1*). The results showed that the average monthly consumption rate per person of different commodities in March was less than January and more than February 2006.

The analysis showed that 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 still 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 March 2006.

Commodity	% of Surveyed families	No. of Consumption days per month for the houses that are consuming the commodity	consumption/ person/month
Red meat	88.2	1-10	0.4 kg
Poultry meat	94.5	3-12	1.02 kg
Fish meat	60.0	1-3	0.34 kg
Bread	100	Every day	10.2 kg
Rice	96.8	Every day	3 kg

Sugar	100	Every day	2.8 kg
Vegetables	95.2	Every day	6.3 kg
Fruits	93.6	Every day	2.3 kg
sweets for children	41.8	-	31 NIS
family snacks and sweets	94.5	-	9.8 NIS
Milk	89.1	3- every days	2.27 liter
Olive oil	95.5	15- every day	1.1 liter
Egg	96.4	15- every days	10.7 egg

4.6. HEALTH CONDITIONS

During March 2006, 17.3% of surveyed households reported cases of illness. 78.9% of the cases were colds and flu, 15.8% were chronic diseases and 5.3% had other ailments. The costs of treatment for 22.2% of the reported cases of illness were covered by health insurance, while the treatment costs of the remaining illnesses were covered by the households' members. The treatment cost ranged between 7 to 222 USD per household for March 2006 depending on the illness and whether the household members had health insurance or not.

4.1.7. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

The analysis for the March survey showed that 24.5% of the surveyed families had planted their lands with open field (irrigated &/or dryland) and greenhouse crops and only 60% of them have productive land. The planted area ranged between 200 m² to 50 dunums per household. On the productive land, 60% of the agricultural households are covering 100% of their households' needs, while 40% are covering 20-30% of their consumption from their planted crops. Approximately 50% of the agricultural families are selling part or all of their products.

4.1.7. IMPACT OF OCCUPATION PRACTICES:

During March 2006, 1.8% (2 households) of the interviewed households suffered land confiscation by the Israeli military forces.