

Tubas Governorate Surveillance System

MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

SECOND ROUND
[*FEBRUARY 2006*]

ANALYTICAL REPORT
NEWSLETTER IV



THE APPLIED RESEARCH INSTITUTE - JERUSALEM

IN
COOPERATION
WITH



FUNDED BY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

MARCH, 2006

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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 February 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 a monthly household survey carried out in January 2006; surveys 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 two previous household baseline surveys, to study and evaluate their living and social conditions during February 2006. The same people were interviewed for the third time to get the household information for February 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

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

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. HOUSEHOLD IDENTIFICATION DATA

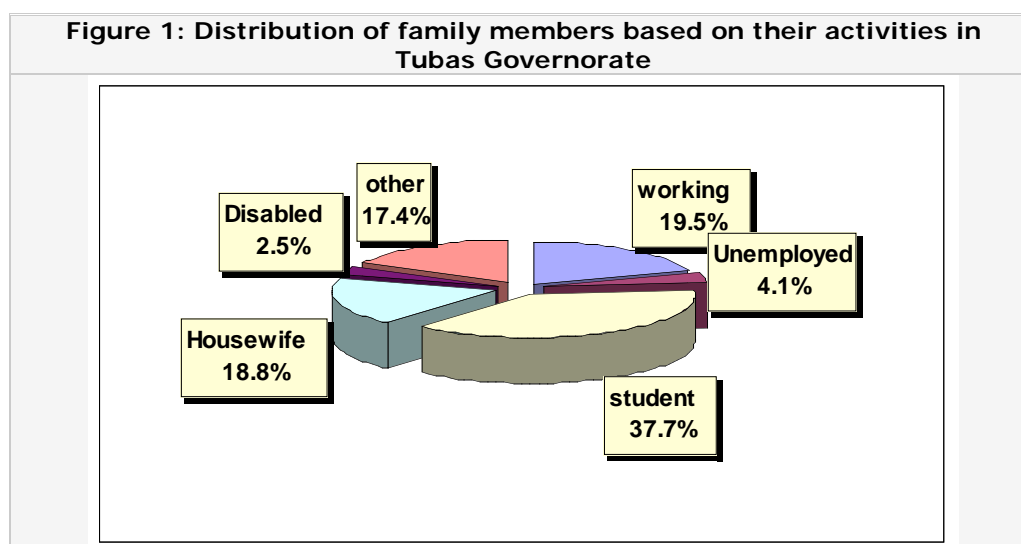
The total number of household members surveyed in February 2006 was 842: 50.4% were males and 49.6% were females. This was an increase of 2 (0.24%) in the total number of people compared with the last monthly survey (January, 2006). The reason for this change was that two new babies were born (1 male and 1 female baby).

Only 2% of the surveyed households are led by women. 5% of the household leaders have more than one wife. Up to 2% of family members are not resident with their family which exceeds the January 2006 figure by 0.2% of the total household members.

4.2. WORKING FORCE AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The analysis showed that the working force of the surveyed households made up 23.6% of the total households' members. Up to 4.1% of surveyed households (17.4% of the household working force) are unemployed and looking for job opportunities, and 19.5% of the household members are working (82.6% of the household working force). The comparison showed that employment amongst the household members' working force has increased by 1.8% since January 2006 and 4.8% since December 2005. 13.8% of the unemployed people are female.

Students form 37.7% of the total household members, and the percentage of disabled people is high (2.5%) . 17.4% of the family members are babies, children and old people (See figure1). Women form 7.1 % of the labor force. Women mainly work as employees in the governmental and private sectors, also as livestock farmers and, rarely, as manual workers.

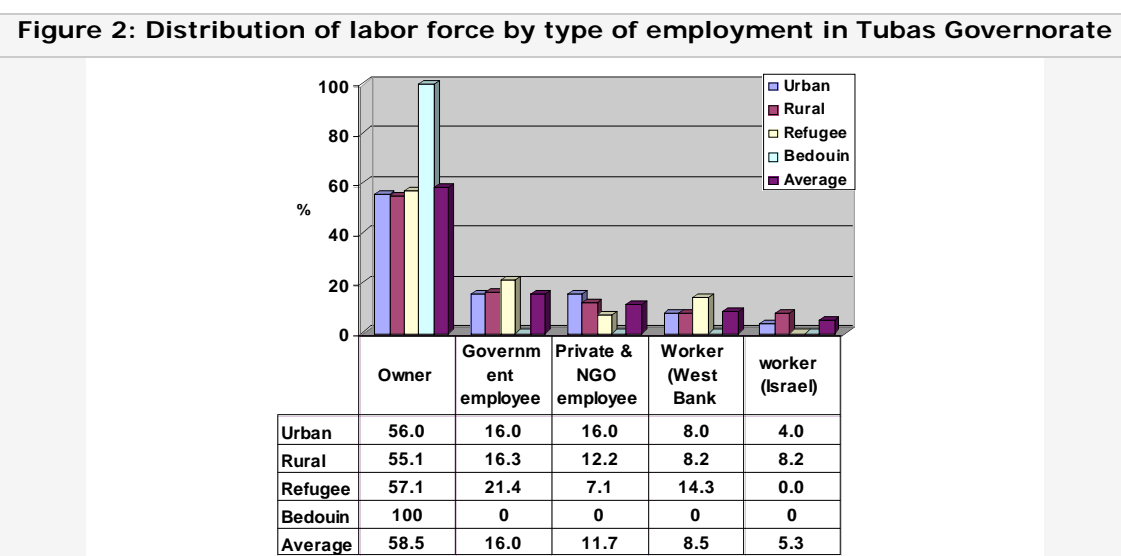


Due to the current unstable political and economic conditions, and limited job opportunities, the Palestinian people have shifted their economic activities to establish their own businesses. Thus the analyses of families' working force by type and location showed that 58.5% owned businesses, followed by the Government

employees with 16.0%, 13.8% are working in the West Bank and Israel and 11.7% are employed by the private sector. These results are almost the same as the results obtained from the December 2005 and January 2006 surveys (*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 working force, and those working in the West Bank account for 14.3% (*See figure 2*). Women form 5.1% 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 (62.5%, 27.2% and 12.5%, respectively). Despite the recorded increase in the contribution of the employed working force in surveyed households, the number of working women was decreased in February 2006 compared with the last two months.



The comparison of monthly working days and monthly income in February 2006 compared to the last two months revealed that the average number of monthly working days has increased slightly from 24.7 days/month in December 2005 and 24.5 days/month in January 2006 to 25.65 days/month; Consequently, the household monthly income has increased from 1525 NIS/Month (338.9 USD) in December 2005 and 1620 NIS/Month (360 USD) in January 2006 to 1741 NIS/Month (387 USD) in February 2006,. Therefore, the household monthly income has increased by 14.2% compared with December 2005. The employed active working force has also increased, from 19% to 19.5% of the surveyed household members, and the active working forces who are working in Israel have increased from 6.9% for December 2005 to 7.8% in February 2006.

The closure of the Palestinian Territories is affecting the unemployment rate, causing 14.6% of unemployment for both December 2005 and January 2006 and 16.2% for February 2006. However, the impact of lack of issued permits for working in Israel has decreased from 48.8% (December 2005) to 43.2% (February 2006) of reasons for current unemployment.

4.3. SOURCES OF INCOME

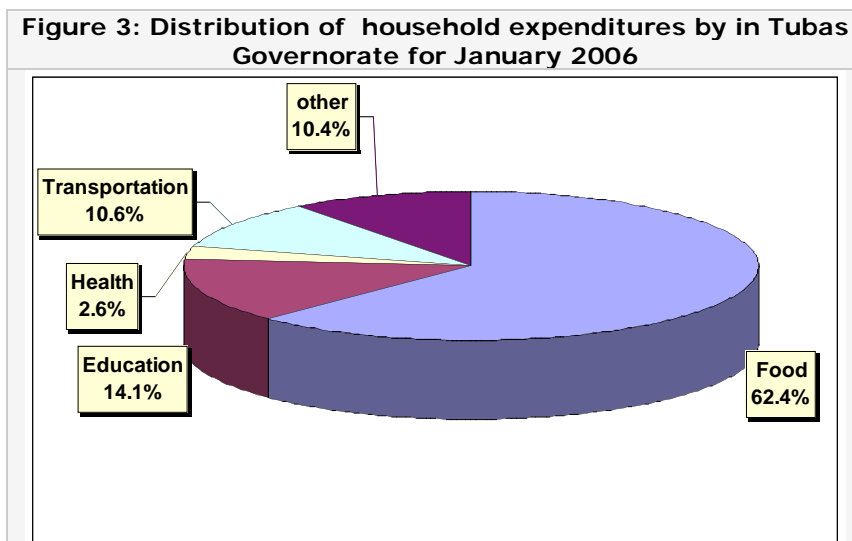
Agriculture (plant production and/or livestock) and salaries form the largest sources of income for the households in Tubas Governorate with 27.6% each. This result is consistent the results of the surveys conducted in December 2005 and January 2006.

Resulting from the increase in household average monthly income in February 2006 compared with both December 2005 and January 2006, the number of households who are dependent on more than one source of income has decreased from 44.1% in December 2005 to 31.8% in January 2006 and 28.1% in February 2006. Thus the household economic security in the Palestinian Territories is directly affected by the current political conditions, as the currently achieved slight improvement in the political situation has improved the households' income from the main economic sources.

During February 2006, none of the interviewed households got loans from their relatives, society or organizations. However, 0.9% (one household) has depended on selling or using part of its assets. This household was obliged to sell part of the wife's jewelry with a value of 2500 NIS in order to pay medical treatments bills.

4.4. HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES

The analysis showed that the average household expenditures reduced by 11.1% in February 2006 (364.7 USD) compared with December 2005 (410 USD). Generally, the household expenditures for February 2006 are accounted for as follows: 62.4% food expenses; education expenses, 14.1%; transportation and communication, 10.6%; others, including bills, 10.4%; and health accounting for 2.5%. The Household expenditures on food were increased compared with December 2005 and January 2006 from 51.7% and 58.9% to 62.4% which reflects the impact of limited income of Palestinian households on their livelihood conditions (*See figure 3*). The expenditure on food was 62.3%, 63.7%, 63.2% and 50.8% of the rural, urban, refugee and Bedouin household expenditures respectively in February 2006. Additionally, the distribution of household expenditures on food in February 2006 had increased from December 2005. Up to 11.8% of the surveyed households had special expenses on social occasions and other issues, with an average cost of 67.5 USD per household.



4.5. FOOD SECURITY STATUS

The survey showed that 100% of the Palestinian households in Tubas District consume bread and sugar followed by rice and vegetables with 98.2% each, eggs and olive oil with 97.3% each, poultry meat with 94.5%, family snacks and sweets 94.6%, fruits with 92.7%, red meat 88.2%, milk with 86.4%, fish meat with 60.0%, and finally sweets for children with 42.7%. The households consume bread, 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. The number of consumption days per household for different types of meat is limited and ranges for poultry meat from 2 to 20, red meat from 1 to 10 and for fish meat from 1 to 5 days per month. The monthly changes in the consumption rate of meat in percentage of households, days per month, and quantity, varies from month to month based mainly on household income, social and holiday events and market prices.

The monthly consumption rate per person varies from one commodity to another and it mainly depends on the cost (market prices) (*See table 1*). The results showed that the average monthly consumption rate per person of different commodities was decreased compared with January 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.

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	0.46 kg
Poultry meat	94.5	2-20	1.05 kg
fish meat	60.0	1-5	0.38 kg
Bread	100	Every day	9.74 kg
Rice	98.2	15-every day	2.8 kg
Sugar	100	Every day	2.7 kg
Vegetables	98.2	Every day	6.0 kg
Fruits	92.7	Every day	2.13 kg
sweets for children	42.7	-	32 NIS
family snacks and sweets	94.6	-	10.1 NIS
Milk	86.4	3- every days	2.1 liter
Olive oil	97.3	15- every day	1.1 liter
Egg	97.3	15- every days	9.8 egg

4.6. HEALTH CONDITIONS

During February 2006, 14.5% of the surveyed households reported cases of illness. 56.2% of the cases were cold and flu 25% were chronic diseases; 6.3% were

accidents and 12.5% had other ailments. The costs of treatment for 37.5% 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 5 to 222 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 20% of the surveyed families had planted their lands with open field (irrigated &/or dryland) and greenhouse crops. The planted area ranged between 100 m² to 50 dunums per household. 13.4% of the agricultural households are covering 20% of their households' needs, while 6.6% of them are covering 50%, and 80% covering 100% of their needs from their planted crops. 46.6% of the agricultural families are selling part or all of their products.

4. 1. 7. IMPACT OF OCCUPATION PRACTICES:

During February 2006, none of the people working in Israel lost any of their working days due to the closure. Also, none of the surveyed households were affected by the occupation practices such as land confiscation, house demolitions and/or crop destruction.