



Expected Socio-Economic Impacts on the State of Palestine

Update | April 2024



Key messages:

The joint ESCWA-UNDP report issued in November 2023 showed how the ongoing Gaza war has had a devastating impact on the Palestinian people, their economy, and human development in the occupied Palestinian territory. The analysis presented in this report provides an update of the significant macroeconomic and social consequences of the prolonged war.

The analysis underscores once again the urgent need for a ceasefire and sustained efforts to address the humanitarian crisis and rebuild the Palestinian economy and infrastructure.



▶ Loss of human life:

- By 12 April 2024, at least 5 per cent of the population in Gaza had been killed, severely injured or injured.
- About 7,000 other people were reportedly missing in Gaza and 500 people had been killed in the West Bank.



By 12 April 2024

5% had been killed in Gaza or injured



7000 were reportedly missing in Gaza



500 had been killed in the West Bank



▶ Economic impact:

- According to the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, the Palestinian economy lost an estimated 8.7 per cent of its real gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023 and is estimated to lose 25.8 per cent in 2024 (equivalent to \$6.9 billion compared to the pre-conflict cumulative projected GDP for 2023 and 2024) in the first six months of the war.
- If the war continues, the GDP loss could reach 29 per cent in 2024 (\$7.6 billion compared to the pre-conflict projected GDP for 2023 and 2024) by the ninth month.
- All economic sectors have been severely affected, with the construction sector experiencing the most substantial decline of 75.2 per cent.

In 2023, the Palestinian economy lost

8.7% of its GDP



and is estimated to lose **25.8%** in 2024



By the ninth month, GDP loss could reach

29% if the war continues



Substantial decline in the construction sector of **75.2%**



▶ Household consumption and poverty:

- All household categories have been affected. Meanwhile, the middle class was the most affected. Its consumption is estimated to have declined by 35.6 per cent after six months of war, and could reach a 38.6 per cent reduction by the ninth month.
- The poverty rate is projected to surge from 38.8 per cent to 60.7 per cent if the war extends to nine months. It will bring a large part of the middle class below the poverty line, increasing the number of people living in poverty by an additional 1.86 million.

All household categories have been affected

Middle class was the most affected

- After six months of war: its consumption is estimated to have declined by

35.6%

- By the ninth month: it could reach a

38.6% reduction



The projected surge in the poverty rate

from **38.8%** to **60.7%**

will increase the number of people living in poverty by an additional

1.86 million



▶ Labour market:

- The unemployment rate in occupied Palestinian territory is estimated to have reached 46.1 per cent after six months of war (compared to 25.7 per cent before the war) and could increase to 47.8 per cent by the ninth month.

Before the war unemployment rate reached

25.7%

After six months of war unemployment rate is estimated to have reached

46.1%



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▶ Human development index:

- While the six-months war scenario indicates a setback of 17 years of human development, under the hypothesis of a nine-month war, the human development index (HDI) decline leads to a setback of over than 20 years of progress.
- In Gaza all the four scenarios indicate a setback of more than 20 years in human development.
- The simulation results for the West Bank forecast a setback in human development ranging from 13 to 16 years.

Scenarios indicate a setback in the HDI:

- in Gaza:

20 years

- in the West Bank

13 to 16 years



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