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Oxfam GB commissioned survey on the impact of the economic boycott of the Palestinian Authority on Palestinians and their essential services

Survey carried out 12-19 March 2007 by The Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion. The samples were drawn from Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Hebron, Jericho, Tulkarem, Tubas and Qualqilya in the West Bank and Gaza City, Khan Younis and Jabalya in Gaza.

Survey 1 of 677 adults in cities in (WB 398, GS 279)

356 of those surveyed have received salary or social welfare payments through the TIM (WB 224, GS 132)

Survey 2 of 67 senior managers from hospitals, schools and other sectors were interviewed

Background: Following the January 2006 election of Hamas the Quartet and government of Israel adopted an economic boycott of the Palestinian Authority government. To ease the suffering of the Palestinian people and avoid collapse of essential public institutions the Quartet introduced an alternative funding mechanism that would bypass the Hamas led PA. The Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) was announced by the quartet in June 2006 but many schemes started September/Dec 2006.

Justification: There are a considerable volume of official indicators and anecdotes from Palestinians about the impact of the financial boycott and the effectiveness of the TIM. This research aimed to gather evidence concerning the financial blockade of the Palestinian Authority and the use of the TIM.

Methodology

A face to face interview using a structured questionnaire administered to 60-70 key informants in the upper management cadre of essential Palestinian public sector institutions (hospitals, municipalities, schools, water utilities, welfare departments). The interviews were conducted by trained public opinion researchers. The use of a structured questionnaire coupled with pre-research training was used to minimise bias. 30+ household heads were interviewed in each of the 20 locations selected for the selected institutions, making a sample of 677 households. Half of these were selected as PA employees or social welfare recipients the other half were close neighbours.

Full details of methodology and the questions are provided at the end of this document.

Narrative digest of the results of the two survey

What effect has the combined AID blockade and Tax revenue freeze had on households? We asked adults who are household heads or significant income earners in cities in Gaza and the West Bank.

86.6% of people interviewed in Gaza and 81% of those interviewed in the West Bank say their household income has been reduced. In Gaza 52.7% say their household income reduced more than a half and 20.6% say their household income has stopped altogether. Slightly fewer in the West Bank (41.7% and 14.3%), report this level of impact. Overall 51% household heads and significant adults say workers take more time off work and 23.6% say workers in their households have stopped work. Once again the figures are slightly higher in Gaza.

What have households done?

51.6% say their household has gone into debt, more in Gaza (55%), 16.5% say they have sold possessions, less in Gaza. 8.5% say they have cut down on health care less in Gaza where UNRWA provides a greater proportion of services, 7.5% say they have stopped sending children to school. In Gaza 8% say they have cut down on food, in West Bank it is 2.3%

Has access to services been affected?

88% of people interviewed say access to services has been affected, 52% have reduced by more than a half including 8.6% who have stopped altogether. In Gaza 14.3% of the household heads interviewed say they no longer have any access to services. In the West Bank 32.8% say they now pay for services while in Gaza 10.9% now pay.

We asked household heads and other significant adults if they had received payment of salaries or welfare payments through the Temporary International Mechanism (referred to locally as the European payments). For those 356 who reported they had received payments we asked when they had been paid.

Overall 25% received payments before Sept 06, in West Bank 21.5% and in Gaza 31.3%. In the next three months between Sep 06 and Nov 06, 70% overall received payments, 75.3% in the West Bank and 63.4% in Gaza. In the following three months, between Dec 06 and Feb 07, the proportion fell to 44.6% in the West Bank and 25.2% in Gaza.

Oxfam Note: When questioned by Oxfam about the results of this last question the European Commission stated that they had made payments to Gaza and the rest of the West Bank over the past few months.

For the people who received payments 10% say they met all household needs. 27% say it met more than half their household needs and 63% say it met less than half their needs.

We asked, ‘what do you think the next few weeks holds for the situation of the Palestinians?’

Overall in West Bank and Gaza 29% think it will improve, 28% think it won't change and 40% think it will be worse. Interviewees in Gaza were slightly less optimistic than those in West Bank.

We asked directors and senior managers in hospitals, schools, water utilities and other public sector institutions what the effect of the combined AID blockade and Tax revenue freeze had been,

Across the sectors 87% say their organization's work has been disrupted, 48% say their organization's work has been disrupted by more than a half and 9% say their organization's work has stopped altogether. Within their institutions 51% say workers take more time off work while 7% say workers don't come to work at all and 7% say the quality of work is poorer. Finally, 2% say they have laid workers off.

This disruption has affected services in the view of 86% of the directors and senior managers interviewed. 54% say their services have been reduced by more than a half, including 4% who have stopped services altogether.

These service directors and managers believe 45% of previous service users have gone elsewhere and 54% have not used services.

We asked these public sector service directors and senior managers if they had received finance through the Temporary International Mechanism.

Of those surveyed 50% have received finance through the TIM, 50% have not. Those who have received payments reported that 16% received payments before Sept 06, 66% between Sep 06 and Nov 06 and 53% between Dec 06 and Feb 07. In comparison, non TIM payments were received before Sept 06 by 48% of those institutions getting assistance, between Sep 06 and Nov 06 by 44% and between Dec 06 and Feb 07 by 17%. This may suggest that the sources of non TIM assistance may be getting exhausted.

Of those directors and senior managers receiving payments through the TIM, 3% say the payments met all the needs of their staff, 13% say the TIM payments met more than half their staff's needs and 84% say it met less than half their staff's needs.

With regard to services, 22% of directors and senior managers receiving TIM finances say it met more than half their service needs, 62% say it met less than half their service needs and 16% say it didn't help at all.

We also asked the public sector service directors and senior managers if they had received finances from other sources?

71% of public sector service directors and senior managers interviewed had not received finances or other assistance from other sources, 29% said they had. Of those who had received assistance said 74% of payments were for no salary, non fuel purposes. 47% of these directors and senior managers said the payments were of no help to staff, 52% said the payments met less than half their service needs.

We asked public sector service directors and senior man, 'what do you think the next few weeks holds for the situation of the Palestinians?'

Of the 67 directors and senior managers interviewed 42% think the situation will improve, 22% think it won't change and 29% think it will get worse. This is a more optimistic outlook than the one expressed by household heads and significant adults.

Digest of results from the March 2007 West Bank and Gaza TIM Survey of General Public (27 March)

Survey of 677 adults in cities in (WB 398, GS 279)

356 of those surveyed have received salary or social welfare payments through the TIM (WB 224, GS 132)

Survey carried out 12-19 March 2007 by The Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion. The samples were drawn from Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Hebron, Jericho, Tulkarem, Tubas and Qualqilya in the West Bank and Gaza City, Khan Younis and Jabalya in Gaza.

Effect of the combined AID blockade and Tax revenue freeze:

83% say their household income reduced WB 80.8%, GS 86.6%

46% say their household income reduced more than a half WB 41.7%, GS 52.7%

17% say their household income has stopped altogether WB 14.3%, GS 20.6%

51% say workers take more time off work WB 49.2%, GS 54.4%

23.6% say workers have stopped work WB 22.7%, GS 24.8%

What have households done?

56% say their household has gone into debt WB 49.2%, GS 55.1%

16.5% say they have sold possessions WB 18.3%, GS 13.9%

8.5% say they have cut down on health care WB 12.2%, GS 3.3%

7.5% say they have stopped sending children to school WB 8.4%, GS 6.2%

4.6% say they have cut down on food WB 2.3%, GS 8%

Has access to services been affected?

88% say it has WB 86.3%, GS 90%

52% have reduced by more than a half including 8.6% who have stopped altogether WB

48.7% - 4.6%, GS 56.2% - 14.3%

What have households done?

24% have paid WB 32.8%, GS 10.9%

39% have not used services WB 41.5%, GS 34.8%

Temporary International Mechanism. When did TIM payments come?

25% received payments before Sept 06 WB 21.5%, GS 31.3%

70% between Sep 06 and Nov 06 WB 75.3%, GS 63.4%

37% between Dec 06 and Feb 07 WB 44.6%, GS 25.2%

Did TIM payments help?

10% say they met all household needs WB 8.6%, GS 11.4%

27% say it met more than half their household needs WB 28.4%, GS 25.8%

63% say it met less than half their needs WB 63.1%, GS 62.9%

What do you think the next few weeks holds for the situation of the Palestinians?

29% think it will improve WB 29.5%, GS 29.3%

28% think it won't change WB 32.2%, GS 21.7%

40% think it will be worse WB 37.4%, GS 44.4

Results from the March 2007 West Bank and Gaza TIM Survey of Senior Managers

67 senior managers from hospitals, schools and other sectors were interviewed
Survey carried out 12-19 March 2007 by The Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion.
The samples were drawn from Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Hebron, Jericho, Tulkarem, Tubas and Qualqilya in the West Bank and Gaza City, Khan Younis and Jabalya in Gaza.

Effect of the combined AID blockade and Tax revenue freeze:

87% say their organization's work has been disrupted

48% say their organization's work has been disrupted by more than a half

9% say their organization's work has stopped altogether

51% say workers take more time off work

7% say workers don't come to work at all

7% say the quality of work is poorer

2% say they have laid workers off

Have services been affected?

86% say they have

54% say they have been reduced by more than a half including 4% who have stopped services altogether

What have users done?

45% have gone elsewhere

54% have not used services

Temporary International Mechanism

50% of those surveyed have received finance through the TIM

50% have not

When did TIM payments come?

16% received payments before Sept 06

66% between Sep 06 and Nov 06

53% between Dec 06 and Feb 07

Did TIM payments help staff?

3% say they met all staff needs

13% say it met more than half their staff's needs

84% say it met less than half their staff's needs

Did TIM payments help services?

22% say it met more than half their service needs
62% say it met less than half their service needs
16% say it didn't help at all

Were there payments from other sources?

71% said no
29% said yes
74% of payments were for no salary, non fuel purposes
47% of managers said the payments were of no help to staff
52% said the payments met less than half their service needs

When did non TIM payments come?

48% received payments before Sept 06
44% between Sep 06 and Nov 06
17% between Dec 06 and Feb 07

What do you think the next few weeks holds for the situation of the Palestinians?

42% think it will improve
22% think it won't change
29% think it will get worse

Research Methodology

Two linked surveys were used to elicit the experiences of public sector institution directors and senior managers and the experiences of household heads and other significant adults. The sample selection was a randomised purposive sampling. The results are interpreted to reflect the different experiences of the various groups surveyed. They do not give a picture of the distribution of experiences within the general population, this is not a cross sectional survey.

A face to face interview using a structured questionnaire administered to 60-70 key informants in the upper management cadre of essential Palestinian public sector institutions (hospitals, municipalities, schools, water utilities, welfare departments). The interviews were conducted by trained public opinion researchers. The use of a structured questionnaire coupled with pre-research training was used to minimise bias. 30+ household heads were interviewed in each of the 20 locations selected for the selected institutions, making a sample of 600-700. Half of these were selected as PA employees or social welfare recipients the other half were close neighbours.

The institutional questionnaire was pilot tested on 5 interviewees. The household questionnaire was pilot tested on 10 interviewees. If necessary the questionnaires will be modified.

The results were analysed using SPSS statistical package.

The interviewers were trained in interview techniques and standardisation and were supervised during the pilot and the survey interviews.

Sample selection. 12 senior managers were identified by the researcher in each of the 5 sector institutions (hospitals, municipalities, schools, water utilities, welfare departments). 7 of each 20 will be from the West Bank and 5 from Gaza. The households will be selected from areas that where employees and service users of the institutions selected live. Purposive random sampling of the PA employee and social welfare recipients will be used. Paired neighbouring households of similar size (+ or _ 1 person) will be selected.

Sector institutions were selected from a random selection of municipalities with more than 50,000 people. In each selected institution five senior managers – the Director, the Assistant Director, a senior technical manager, a senior administrative manager and a senior finance manager were approached for interview. Random selection used a table of the eligible municipalities or governates, selecting by means of three random numbers between 1 and 9 and two random letters between A and C for each of the five sectors.

For each sector, household heads were selected by a random approach to workers leaving the institutions whose directors or senior managers had been interviewed. The matched household heads were selected at random from the neighbourhoods where the workers said they predominantly live.

The gender of the interviewer was recorded on each interview form as well as a unique identifier so that the forms can be analysed for interviewer bias.

Municipality	Sector			
	Water	Health	Welfare	EducationPublic administration
1 Ramallah	x			
2 Hebron	x			
3 Nablus	x			
4 Jenin				
5 Qalqilia	Xx			
6 Jericho	Xx			
7 Tul Karem	xx			
8 Bethlehem	xx			
9 Tubas	Xx			
10 East Jerusalem	x			
A Khan Yunis	xxx			
B Gaza City	xxx			
C Jaballia	xxxx			

The questionnaires (to be administered in Arabic): are attached as annexes 1 and 2

Annex 1

*Palestinian Center
For Public Opinion*



المركز الفلسطيني
لـ استطلاع الرأي

Senior Managers Questionnaire /

Introductory statement:

Thanks you for talking to me. We at the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO) run by Dr. Nabil Kukali, in cooperation with Oxfam Great Britain, are preparing a field survey with the objectives to find out if the Temporary International Mechanism (The European grant)

has been getting funds to your staff or services you run. I am going to ask you a series of short questions. Please answer as fully as you can. Please say if you don't want to answer any specific question, this is not a problem. This is an anonymous survey, your answers will be treated as confidential, and you will not be identified in the research report.

The research report will be used to inform Oxfam about what effect the Temporary International Mechanism is having. Oxfam may use this information to try to influence European politicians and others in their attitudes, policies and behaviors towards the Temporary International Mechanism and other means of funding support to the people of Palestine.

Questions:-

1) What is your job?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Director. | 2. Assitant Director. | 3. Senior Technical Manager. |
| 4. Senior Administrative Manager. | 5. Senior Financial Manager. | |

2) How many staff are you responsible for?

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. None. | 2. (1 - 49). | 3. (50-200). | 4. More than 200. |
|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|

3) What are your responsibilities for service to the public?

- | | | |
|------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1. None. | 2. Direct service – hospital. | 3. School. |
| 4. Water supply. | 5. Indirect – maintain infrastructure. | 6. Collect fees or taxes. |

4) What effect has the suspension of international aid had on your organization?

1. None.
2. Disrupted less than half our work.
3. Disrupted more than half our work.
4. Stopped our work completely.

5) Have you received finance through the TIM?

1. Yes. (proceed to Q6)
2. No. (jump to Q #11)

6) If you have received finance through TIM, which amount did it reach up till now (March 2007) ?

1. (1 - 10000) NIS.
2. (10001 - 100000) NIS.
3. (100001 - 1000000) NIS.
4. More than 1000000 NIS.

7) If you have received finance through the TIM. What for?

1. Salaries.
2. Fuel.
3. Other-specify: _____.

8) If you have received finance through the TIM, when? (You may have more than one choice).

1. Before Sept 06.
2. Sep-Nov 06.
3. Dec 06- Feb 07.

9) How helpful has the finance you received through the TIM been to your staff?

1. Met all needs
2. Met more than 50%.
3. Met less than 50%
4. not helpful at all.

10) How helpful has the finance you received through the TIM been to the services you provide? (After answering question # 10, please move to question # 14).

1. Met all needs.
2. Met more than 50%.
3. Met less than 50%.
4. Not helpful at all.

11) If you have not received finance through the TIM. Have you asked for finance from the TIM?

1. Yes-Other-please specify: _____.(proceed to Q #12)
2. No. (jump to Q #13)

12) If you have not received finance through the Tim even though you asked for it, what were you told?

1. Its coming.
2. Not Eligible.
3. Not available.
4. Other-please specify: _____.

13) If you have not asked for finance through the TIM, why not?

1. Don't know about the TIM.
2. Don't know who to ask.
3. Told not to ask.
4. Not worth the effort
5. Other-please specify: _____.

14) What has been the effect of the suspension of international aid been on your staff?

1. None.
2. Take more time off work.
3. Don't come to work at all.
4. Other-specify: _____.

15) What have your staff don't to cope?

1. Sell possessions.
2. Get into debt.
3. Stop sending children to school.
4. Stop seeking health care.
5. Reduce consumption of food.
6. Change cooking fuel.
7. Other-please specify: _____.

16) What has the effect of the suspension of international aid been on the service you provide?

1. None.
2. Reduced by up to 50%.
3. Reduced by more than 50%.
4. Stopped altogether.

17) What have service users don't?

1. Gone elsewhere for free.
2. Gone elsewhere and paid.
3. Not had services.

18) Have you received finance from sources other than the TIM since the suspension of international aid?

1. Yes. (proceed to Q #19)
2. No. (jump to Q #24)

19) If you have received finance through other sources, how much?

1. (1 - 10000) NIS.
2. (10001 - 100000) NIS.
3. (100001 - 1000000) NIS.
4. More than 1000000 NIS.

20) If you have received finance through other sources, what for?

1. Salaries.
2. Fuel.
3. Other-specify: _____.

21) If you have received finance through other sources, when? (You may have more than one choice).

1. Before Sept 06.
2. Sep-Nov 06.
3. Dec 06- Feb 07.

22) How helpful has the finance you received through other sources been to your staff?

1. Met all needs.
2. Met more than 50%.
3. Met less than 50%.
4. Not helpful at all.

23) How helpful; has the finance you received through other sources been to the service you provide?

1. Met all needs.
2. Met more than 50%.
3. Met less than 50%.
4. Not helpful at all.

24) According to your opinion, would the situation of the Palestinian society during the next weeks: (read 1 – 5)

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Be much better. | 2. Be better. | 3. Won't change. |
| 4. Become worse. | 5. Too much worse. | 6. Don't know. |

25) Do you identify with any political party?

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1. No. | 2. Hamas. |
| 3. Fatah. | 4. Other-please specify: _____. |

26) Gender of interviewee:

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. Male. | 2. Female. |
|----------|------------|

27) Type of residence:

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. City. | 2. Village. |
|----------|-------------|

28) District:

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Jenin. | 2. Nablus. | 3. Ramallah. | 4. Bethlehem.. |
| 5. Jerusalem | 6. Hebron. | 7. Jericho. | 8. Tulkarem. |
| 9. Tubas. | 10. Qalqilya. | 11. Gaza (The City). | 12. Khan Yunis. |
| 13. Jabalya. | | | |

"Thank you for answering these questions, I will send you a copy of the research report."

Annex 2

*Palestinian Center
For Public Opinion*



المركز الفلسطيني
لـ استطلاع الرأي

Household Head Questionnaire /

Introductory statement:

Thanks you for talking to me. We at the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO) run by Dr. Nabil Kukali, in cooperation with Oxfam Great Britain, are preparing a field survey with the objectives to find out if the Temporary International Mechanism (The European grant) has been getting money to your household or supporting services you use . I'm going to ask you a series of short questions. Please answer as fully as you can. Please say if you don't want to answer any specific question, this is not a problem. This is an anonymous survey, your answers will be treated as confidential, and you will not be identified in the research report.

The research report will be used to inform Oxfam about what effect the Temporary International Mechanism is having. Oxfam may use this information to try to influence European politicians and others in their attitudes, policies and behaviors towards the Temporary International Mechanism and other means of funding support to the people of Palestine.

Questions:-

1) What is your job?

1. PA employee-please specify: _____.
2. Business person-please specify: _____.
3. Day wage labourer.
4. Unemployed.
5. Housewife.
6. Student.
7. Retired.
8. Other-please specify: _____.

2) How many people sleep in your household at least 5 nights a week?

1. "1".
2. "2".
3. "3".
4. "4".
5. "5".
6. "6".
7. "7".
8. "8".
9. More than "9" please specify: _____.

3) What effect has the suspension of international aid had on your household income?

1. None.
2. Reduced our income by less than half.
3. Reduced our income by more than half.
4. Stopped our income altogether.

4) Have you received salary or welfare through the TIM?

1. Salary. (proceed to Q #5)
2. Welfare payment. (proceed to Q #5)
3. No. (jump to Q #8)

5) If you have received salary or welfare payments through the TIM, which amount did it reach up till now (March 2007) ?

1. (1- 1000) NIS.
2. (1001 - 2001) NIS.
3. (2001- 4000) NIS.
4. (4001- 6000) NIS.
5. More than 6000 NIS.

6) If you have received salary or welfare payment through the TIM, when ?(You may have more than one choice)

1. Before Sept 06.
2. Sep-Nov 06.
3. Dec 06- Feb 07.

7) How helpful has the finance you received through the TIM been to your household? (After answering question # 7, please move to question # 11).

1. Met all needs.
2. Met more than 50%.
3. Met less than 50%.
4. Not helpful at all.

8) If you have not received salary or welfare payment from the Tim?

1. Yes-please specify: _____ . (proceed to Q #9) .
2. No. (jump to Q #10)

9) If you have not received salary or welfare payments through the TIM even though you asked for it, what were you told?

1. Its coming.
2. Not Eligible.
3. Not available.
4. Other-please specify: _____.

10) If you have not asked for salary or welfare payments through the TIM, why not?

1. Don't know about the TIM.
2. Don't know who to ask.
3. Told not to ask-
4. Not worth the effort
5. Other-please specify: _____.

11) What has been the effect of the suspension of international aid been on your household workers?

1. None.
2. Take more time off work.
3. Don't go to work at all.
4. Other-please specify: _____.

12) What has your household done to cope?

1. Sell possessions.
2. Get into debt.
3. Stop sending children to school.
4. Stop seeking health care.
5. Reduce consumption of food.
6. Change cooking fuel.
7. Other-please specify: _____.

13) What has the effect of the suspension of international aid been on you access to services? (Health, education, welfare and pension payments, water supply, refuse collection)?

1. None.
2. Reduced by up to 50%.
3. Reduced by more than 50%.
4. Stopped altogether.

14) What has your household done?

1. Gone elsewhere for free.
2. Gone elsewhere and paid.
3. Not had services.

15) According to your opinion, would the situation of the Palestinian society during the next weeks: (read 1 – 5)

1. Be much better.
2. Be better.
3. Won't change.
4. Become worse.
5. Too much worse.
6. Don't know.

16) Do you identify with any political party?

1. No.
2. Hamas.
3. Fatah.
4. Other-please specify: _____.

17) Gender of interviewee:

1. Male
2. Female

18) District:

1. Jenin.
2. Nablus.
3. Ramallah.
4. Bethlehem..
5. Jerusalem
6. Hebron.
7. Jericho.
8. Tulkarem.
9. Tubas.
10. Qalqilya.
11. Gaza (The City).
12. Khan Yunis.
13. Jabalya.

19) Type of residence:

1. City.
2. Village.

20) Marital status:

1. Married.
2. Single.
3. Divorced.
4. Widow.

21) Number of study years: _____ years.

Thank you for answering these questions, I will send you a copy of the report if you wish.