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gender perspective:
results from the Migration Survey
2010

Mohammed Duraidi

CARIM Analytic and Synthetic Notes 2011/51

Gender and Migration Series
Demographic and Economical Module



CARIM
Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration

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CARIM-AS 2011/51

**Migration from and to Palestine from a gender perspective:
results from the Migration Survey – 2010**

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This publication is part of a series of papers on Gender and Migration written in the framework of the CARIM project and presented at a meeting organised in Florence: “Gender and migration in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and Sub-Sahara African countries” (18-19 October 2010).

These papers will be discussed in two meetings between Policy Makers and Experts on the same topic in winter 2011. The results of these discussions will also be published.

The entire set of papers on Gender and Migration are available at <http://www.carim.org/ql/GenderAndMigration>

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The Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) was created at the European University Institute (EUI, Florence), in February 2004 and co-financed by the European Commission, DG AidCo, currently under the Thematic programme for the cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum.

Within this framework, CARIM aims, in an academic perspective, to observe, analyse, and forecast migration in Southern & Eastern Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Countries (hereafter Region).

CARIM is composed of a coordinating unit established at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) of the European University Institute (EUI, Florence), and a network of scientific correspondents based in the 17 countries observed by CARIM: Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

All are studied as origin, transit and immigration countries. External experts from the European Union and countries of the Region also contribute to CARIM activities.

CARIM carries out the following activities:

- Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan migration database;
- Research and publications;
- Meetings of academics and between experts and policy makers;
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The activities of CARIM cover three aspects of international migration in the Region: economic and demographic, legal, and socio-political.

Results of the above activities are made available for public consultation through the website of the project: www.carim.org

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Abstract

Migration has gained in importance in recent years due to significantly increased migration rates, in addition to the effect of migration on various population structures such as age, gender and marital status in both sending and receiving countries. This paper aims to look at the recent patterns of migration from and to the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in terms of size, characteristics, remittances, migration determinants, return migration, etc. To this objective, data have been taken from the Migration Survey 2010, which represents a unique source for studying migration issues in the oPt being the first specialized national survey on migration conducted there. With this survey, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics aimed to broaden its knowledge of migration patterns in the light of the severe shortage in migration statistics both at the national and at the international level. This paper includes four main sections. After a brief introduction describing the overall structure of the Migration Survey 2010, section 1 analyzes recent migration flows from and to the oPt; in the second part, emigration patterns from the oPt as well as migrants' characteristics are described; section 3 focuses, instead, on perceptions and attitudes towards migration among Palestinians; finally, section 4 deals with return migration trends.

Résumé

Le phénomène migratoire a récemment pris une importance inédite au regard de l'augmentation des flux migratoires, ainsi que de l'impact des migrations sur la structure de la population en termes d'âge, de sexe et d'état matrimonial dans les pays à la fois d'origine et d'accueil. Cet article se propose d'analyser les tendances migratoires récemment enregistrées à partir de et vers les territoires Palestiniens occupés (tPo) en termes d'échelle, de caractéristiques des migrants, d'envois de fonds, de déterminants de la migration, de migration de retour, etc. Les données réunies et traitées ont été recueillies dans le cadre de l'Enquête Migration 2010, laquelle représente une ressource inédite en vue de conduire des études sur les questions de migration dans les tPo - étant la première enquête nationale spécialisée sur les migrations. Sur la base de cette enquête, le Bureau Central Palestinien des Statistiques (BCPS) se donne comme objectif d'élargir sa connaissance des migrations au regard toujours de la rareté des statistiques se rapportant aux migrations aux niveaux national et international. Ce document comprend quatre sections. Après une brève introduction décrivant la structure globale de l'Enquête sur les migrations - 2010, la première section se propose d'analyser les récents flux migratoires en provenance de et vers les tPo ; dans la deuxième partie sont décrites les tendances migratoires ainsi que les caractéristiques des émigrants ; la troisième section se concentre autour des perceptions et attitudes envers la migration enregistrées parmi les Palestiniens ; enfin, la dernière partie porte sur l'analyse des tendances à la migration de retour.

An introduction to the Migration Survey 2010

This analysis is based on the Migration Survey – 2010, carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), namely the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The sampling frame consists of the same enumeration areas used in the Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007. The sample design is based on stratified cluster targeted sample design using a two-stage method for the selection of surveyed households. The sample size is of 15,050 households, of which there are 9,900 households in the West Bank and 5,150 in Gaza Strip.

As to the questionnaire, it consists of four sections. Section one includes detailed questions about the demographic, social, educational, and marital status characteristics of persons as well as specific questions on the presence of eventual emigrants and returnees in the household by listing all emigrants in the household according to current age, sex, relation to household and year of emigration. Section two focuses on Palestinians emigrants (who are now 15 years old or over and who emigrated in the period 2000-2009) and their characteristics – as reported by household members – namely the socio-economic profile, motivation for migrating, social relations abroad, timing of their professional experience abroad, desire to return, attitude to remit money home, etc. Section three includes questions regarding return migrants who have come back to the oPt since 1990 (and who returned when they were 15 years of age or older). In detail, it asks for motivations for past emigration, social networks inside and outside of the oPt, motivations for returning, perceptions about the experience of emigration, and their remittance behaviors when they were abroad. Finally, an additional part titled “Non-immigrant’s perception towards external migration” includes questions about temporary and past emigration as well as the desire and motives for emigration.

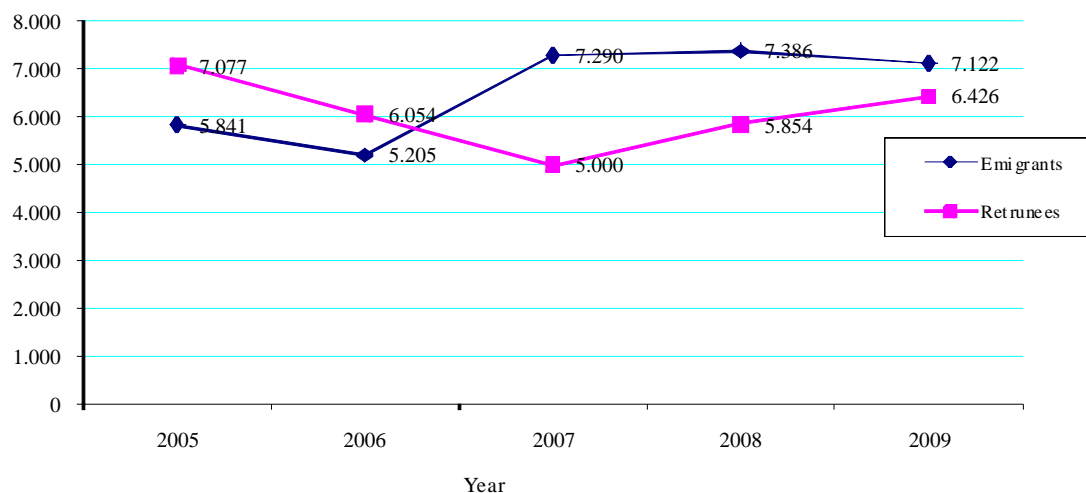
In the absence of primary sources, the Migration Survey provides, for the first time, data about Palestinian migration in terms of size, direction and characteristics of migrants. Moreover, it allows for the reconstruction both of the stock of emigrants and returnees (in 2010) as well as for recent migration patterns, namely in/out migration flows 2005-2009. However, a major limitation lies in the fact that the survey does not capture emigrants belonging to households where all members emigrated.

1. Recent migration flows from and to the oPt

Data about arrivals and departures in the oPt suffer from many problems, mainly a noticeable weakness of coverage and under reporting due to uncontrolled passage at crossings points, where messengers can cross over the borders without passing through the crossing points controlled by Palestinian authority: this is especially true of Palestinians with a Jerusalem identification card, also the Palestinian Authority has no rule except manual registration for departures and arrivals.

Thanks to the Migration Survey – 2010, these constraints may be partially overcome. According to the Survey, 32,844 persons emigrated in 2005-2009.¹ Meanwhile, 30,411 returned home in the same period, meaning a negative net migration of 2,433 Palestinians from 2005 to 2009 (figure 1).

¹ Following Duraidi (2009a), an average number of 3,000 individuals who emigrated abroad in the period 2000-2009 are not counted here, because belonging to families totally emigrated, i.e. not reachable by the survey itself.

Figure 1. Palestinian emigrants and returnees by year of return, 2005-2009

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

2. Emigration stocks and main characteristics

2.1 Palestinians residing abroad in 2010

Among the total emigrants stock residing abroad in 2010, 51.2% are reported to have left the oPt before 2000, 15.9% in the period 2000-2004 and 28.4% in the period 2005-2010 (table 1). The low value found in the period 2000-2004 is quite surprising if we consider that in the period 2000-2004 the Palestinian territory faced several political crises (Intifadat Al aqsa 2000).

Table 1. Palestinian emigration stocks by year of emigration and sex (in %), 2010

Period of emigration	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Before 2000	48.3	55.8	51.2
2000-2004	15.5	16.4	15.9
2005 and after	32.2	22.6	28.4
Not stated	4.0	5.2	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

Palestinian emigrants are mainly young with 1 out of 3 individuals aged between 15 and 29 years of age (33.0%) and 1 out of 4 belonging to the age group 30-44 (25.6%). The age structure of emigrants is similar for both men and for women (table 2).

Table 2. Palestinian emigrant stocks by age group and sex (in %), 2010

Age group	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
0-14	18.4	23.8	20.6
15-29	34.2	31.3	33.0
30-44	25.1	26.5	25.6
45-59	14.7	11.7	13.5
60+	6.2	5.2	5.8
Not Stated	1.4	1.5	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

The high concentration of emigrants in the youth range is probably due to high unemployment in these age groups, e.g. 39% in 2009 among people aged 15-29. This rate is found to be particularly high especially among graduated people (PCBS, 2010b).

As to the relevance of migration at a Palestinian household level, the survey shows that 81.6% of Palestinian households have at least one emigrant member (table 3).

Table 3. Palestinian households by number of emigrants (in %), 2010

Number of emigrants	Palestinian households
0	18.4
1	34.2
2	25.1
3	14.7
4	6.2
5 and more	1.4
Total	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

Moreover, 38.1% of persons aged (15-59 years) in the oPt have first-degree relatives (father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister) abroad of whom 60.0% reside in Jordan, 6.1% in Egypt, 22.8% in the Gulf States and 16.0% in the US. The results indicate that 66.4% of persons (15-59 years) in the West Bank have first-degree relatives residing in Jordan and 18.6% in the US while 18.2% of persons in the Gaza Strip have first-degree relatives residing in Jordan compared to 4.4% in the US; presence of first relatives abroad may, of course, be a motive for emigration.

2.2 A focus on recent emigrants

This section focuses on the characteristics of recent emigrants, i.e. those emigrating 2000-2009 who were still abroad in 2010 (aged 15 years old or more).

The majority left the country to continue their studies abroad (34.4%) especially men (43.8% vs 11.2% of women) or for family reunification in particular for women (64.0% vs 4.9% for men). Unemployment and the need to improve living standards (respectively 13.7% and 14.6%) are again classically 'male' motives with 18.6% and 19.5% vs only 1.4% and 2.4% of females (table 4).

Table 4. Palestinian emigrants (having emigrated 2000-2009 and still abroad in 2010) aged 15 years of age or older by main reason of migration and sex (in %), 2010

Main reason of emigration	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Unemployed and seeking work/lack of jobs in the oPt	18.6	1.4	13.7
To improve living standards	19.5	2.4	14.6
Education	43.8	11.2	34.4
Family reunification	4.9	64.0	21.9
Others	12.9	20.9	15.1
Not stated	0.3	0.0	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

Regarding the relationship of emigrants to the head of the household, 36.5% of emigrants are classified as sons (43.1% of men vs 26.1% of women), while about 23.7% are classified as son-in-law/daughter-in-law (table 5).

Table 5. Palestinian emigrants (having emigrated 2000-2009 and still abroad in 2010) aged 15 years of age or older by relation to head of the household and sex (in %), 2010

Relation to the head of the household	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Head of household	3.3	0.0	2.0
Spouse	1.8	0.9	1.4
Son/daughter	43.1	26.1	36.5
Father/mother	0.7	1.0	0.8
Brother/sister	14.9	12.2	13.8
Grandfather/mother	15.8	21.3	18.0
Grandchild	0.6	8.2	3.6
Son-in-law/daughter in law	19.6	30.0	23.7
Other relatives	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

As to the country of destination, the results showed that 23.5% of emigrants reside in Jordan, 20.4% in the Gulf States, and more than fifth of emigrants (21.6%) in the US (table 6).

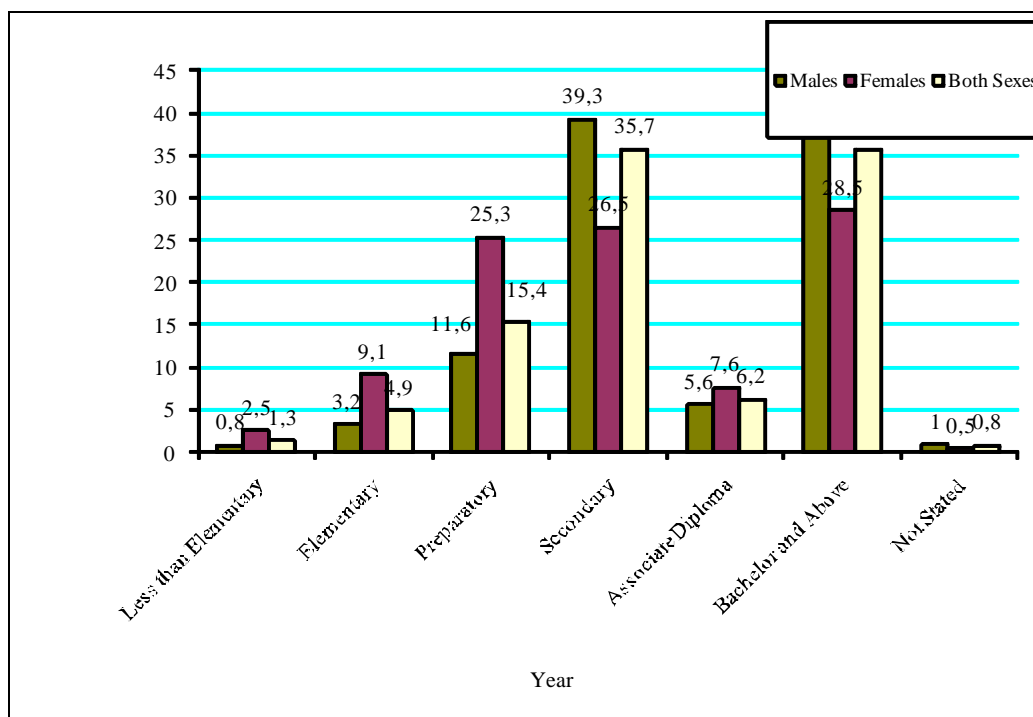
Table 6. Palestinian emigrants (having emigrated 2000-2009 and still abroad in 2010) aged 15 years old and more by country of residence and sex (in %), 2010

Country of residence	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Jordan	15.8	42.7	23.5
Egypt	5.4	0.7	4.0
Arab Gulf countries	22.6	15.1	20.4
Other Arab countries	5.0	2.0	4.1
US	23.2	17.6	21.6
Other foreign countries	27.8	21.4	26.0
Not stated	0.3	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

The results show that more than one third of emigrants (35.7%) hold university and higher degrees, and the same percentage is found for the secondary level of education, compared to 1.3% with no educational qualification leading us to reflect on the possibility that brain drain dynamics would act in the oPt. As to sex, two third of emigrant females are educated (secondary and above) compared with half of emigrant males (figure 2).

Figure 2. Palestinian emigrants (having emigrated in 2000-2009 and still abroad in 2010) aged 15 years old and more by level of education and sex (in %), 2010

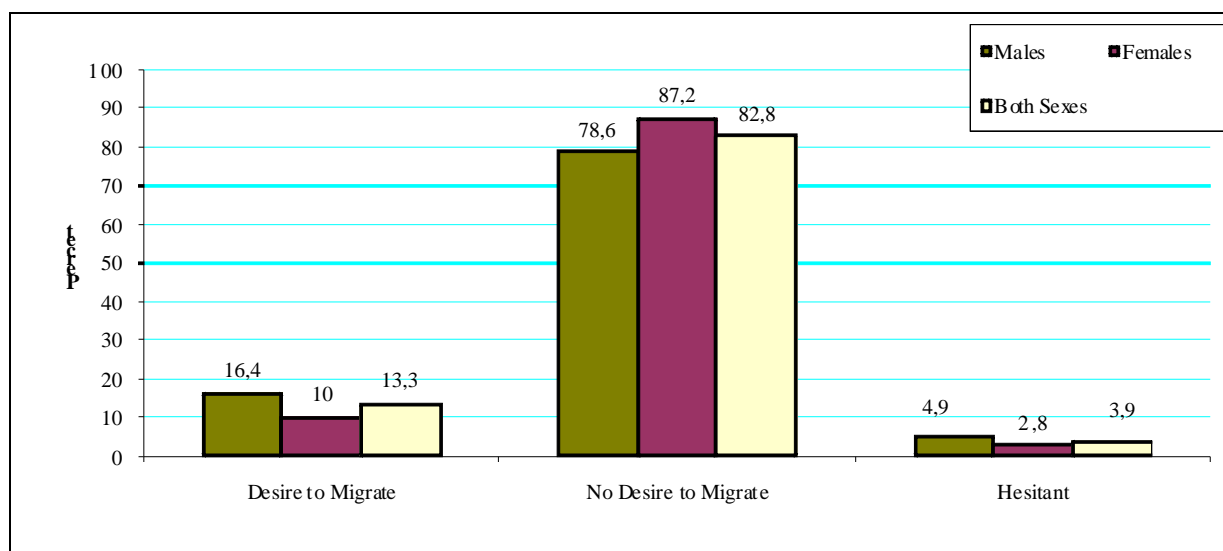


Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

3. Wish to emigrate among Palestinians

According to the survey results, 13.3% of persons aged between 15 and 59 years old living in the oPt wish to migrate (13.4% in the West Bank compared to 12.4% in the Gaza Strip). Among those persons who wish to migrate, the preferred countries of destination are the Gulf States (23.1%), the US (15.1%), and, then, “other foreign countries” (27.8%). According to sex, fewer females wish to emigrate than men, respectively 10.0% vs 16.4% (figure 3).

Figure 3. Palestinian population (aged 15-59) by wish to emigrate and sex (in %), 2010



Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

As to the preferred country of emigration, a majority (27.8%) report “other foreign countries” (probably Europe) as preferred destinations, followed by the Gulf States (23.1%) and the US (table 7). However, by looking at figures from a gender perspective, interesting considerations may be drawn.

Table 7. Palestinian population (aged 15-59) who wish to emigrate by preferred country of destination and region of residence (in %), 2010

Preferred country of destination	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Jordan	5.4	14.1	8.6
Egypt	5.1	3.8	4.6
Arab Gulf Countries	22.6	23.9	23.1
Others Arab countries	2.0	5.4	3.3
US	14.3	16.4	15.1
Other foreign countries	31.1	22.0	27.8
Not decided	19.6	14.3	17.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

While similar proportions of men and women prefer the Gulf States and the US (22.6% vs 23.9% for the Gulf and 16.4% vs 14.3% for the US), females are characterized by a higher percentage of people who wish to migrate to Jordan (14.1% vs 5.4% for men) and a consequent lower proportion of persons who preferred “other foreign countries” (22.0% vs 31.1% for men). These results lead naturally to some conclusions. Indeed, Jordan is not attractive for emigrants especially for Arab females, but this choice is probably linked to the presence of relatives there and to territorial proximity, the latter determinants being stronger for females than for males.

Regarding the main reason behind the desire to emigrate, 39.3% of those who desire to emigrate wish to do so to improve their living conditions, 15.2% due to lack of job opportunities in the oPt and 18.7% for education and studying. Again, significant sex differences are found. While the desire to improve living conditions is shared by similar percentages of men and women (40.1% and 38.0% respectively), women seem to be more sensitive to family (6.0% vs 0.6% among men) and security reasons (9.1% vs 5.2% among men) and less by unemployment (7.6% vs 19.6% among men) and income (4.4% vs 7.2% among men) issues (table 8).

Table 8. Palestinian population (aged 15-59) who wish to emigrate by main reason to emigrate and sex (in %), 2010

Main reason to emigrate	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Unemployed /lack of job opportunities in the oPt	19.6	7.6	15.2
Inadequate income in the oPt/High wage in the host country	7.2	4.4	6.2
Good business opportunities abroad	4.2	2.0	3.4
To improve living standards	40.1	38.0	39.3
Education and study	17.0	21.7	18.7
Better education for children	0.4	1.6	0.8
Availability of social and health services abroad	1.4	1.8	1.5
Family reunification/company/marriage	0.2	3.6	1.4
Away from family problems	0.4	2.4	1.1
For political asylum	0.6	0.8	0.7
Absence of security in the oPt	5.2	9.1	6.6
Others	3.8	7.0	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

It is worth noting that a main difference in the declared reason to emigrate is found according to the region of residence where a “lack of security” is reported by 13.8% among people who wish to migrate from the Gaza Strip compared to 5.6% for West Bankers. On the contrary, wishing to emigrate for studying abroad is much more relevant for West Bankers than for those from the Gaza Strip (table 9).

Table 9. Palestinian population (aged 15-59) who wish to emigrate by main reason to emigrate and region of residence (in %), 2010

Main reason to emigrate	Region of residence		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Unemployed /lack of job opportunities in the oPt	14.9	17.2	15.2
Inadequate income in the oPt/High wage in the host country	6.4	4.5	6.2
Place of work was changed	0.5	0.2	0.5
Good business opportunities abroad	3.7	1.6	3.4
To improve living standards	38.8	42.9	39.3
Personal problems with the employer or others at work	0.2	0.5	0.2
Education and study	20.3	8.2	18.7
To get better education for children	0.9	0.4	0.8
Availability of social and health services abroad	1.1	4.3	1.5
Family reunification/company/marriage	1.5	1.1	1.4
Away from family problems	1.2	0.6	1.1
For political asylum	0.7	0.5	0.7
Absence of security in the oPt	5.6	13.8	6.6
Others	4.2	4.2	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

The results showed that more than 75% of persons who do not desire to emigrate claimed that the reason is that they only feel comfortable at home (Palestinian Territory) or that Palestine is a holy land. There are no big differences by sex here. Meanwhile, females still look for independent relationships and their own decisions within their own small families away from relatives and parents interface. This independency setting seems a priority, while economic problems fall still a little bit behind, something that is clear when we look for options below like; “Cannot travel on my own” and the option “Have a job and good income”.

4. Analysis on return migration patterns

The migration survey data showed that more than 30,000 persons returned home 2005-2009 (see figure 1, par. 2), and also that the percentage of returnees reached 5.9% of the total population (7.6% in the West Bank and 3.0% in the Gaza Strip).

4.1 Palestinian return stocks in 2010

As to the total number of returnees living in the oPt in 2010, about one quarter (25.5%) returned to the oPt prior to 1990, while 31.0% returned 1995-1999 as a result of the peace agreement and establishment of the Palestinian National Authority. The percentage of returnees to the Palestinian Territory declined during 2000-2009 as a result of the second Palestinian uprising (*Intifada*) and large-scale Israeli incursions (table 10). The scarce differences found according to sex are probably due to the fact that most returns occurred at the family level.

Table 10. Return migrants stocks by period of return and sex (in %), 2010

Period of return	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
1990 and before	27.4	23.4	25.5
1991-1994	18.2	19.8	18.9
1995-1999	30.0	32.2	31.0
2000-2004	10.0	10.9	10.4
2005 and after	14.1	13.7	14.0
Not Stated	0.2	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

The majority of returnees to the oPt came from Jordan (36.1%) followed by the Gulf States (29.0%) and other foreign countries (11.1%). A main difference is found by region of residence, where while the majority of returnees to the West Bank came from Jordan (42.7%), the ones to the Gaza Strip returned mainly from the Gulf States (33.2%) (table 11).

Table 11. Return migrants by last country of residence abroad and region of residence (in %), 2010

Last country of residence abroad	Region of residence		
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Jordan	42.7	6.5	36.1
Egypt	2.2	18.0	5.1
Arab Gulf countries	28.1	33.2	29.0
Other Arab countries	4.6	28.6	8.9
US	11.4	1.1	9.5
Other foreign countries	10.8	12.3	11.1
Not stated	0.2	0.3	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

It is notable that the percentage of Palestinian female returnees from Jordan and the US increased compared to males returnees, standing respectively at 43.0% (vs 30.0% of males) and at 10.5% (vs 8.6% of males) (table).

Table 12. Return migrants by last country of residence abroad and sex (in %), 2010

Last country of residence abroad	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Jordan	30.0	43.0	36.1
Egypt	6.8	3.2	5.1
Arab Gulf countries	29.0	29.1	29.0
Other Arab countries	10.0	7.8	8.9
US	8.6	10.5	9.5
Other foreign countries	15.6	5.9	11.1
Not stated	0.0	0.5	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

Regarding the characteristics of returnees, the results of the survey showed that 36.7% of total returnees are aged between 15 and 29 years old compared to 8.9% aged 60 years and older and 6.0% aged younger than 15 years; The cause of the lower percentage found in the total returnees aged younger than 15 years old is that the majority of returns occurred before 2000, where the percentage of those who were aged under 15 years at return was 38.5%, which is close to the age structure of all population in the oPt (table 13).

Table 13. Return migrants by age group and sex (in %), 2010

Age group	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
0-14	5.4	6.6	6.0
15-29	37.4	35.7	36.7
30-44	23.8	29.2	26.4
45-59	22.9	21.2	22.0
60+	10.5	7.2	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

As to the level of education, data indicate that 22.7% of returnees have a bachelor degree or higher, especially among males which was 27.8% compared with 17.8% for females. Moreover, this proportion is much higher than that among Palestinian society in general, which means that return migration tends to be educated and qualified, as is the case for migrants abroad (table 14).

Table 14. Return migrants by level of education and sex (in %), 2010

Level of education	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Less than elementary	6.6	9.6	8.0
Elementary	11.1	13.0	12.1
Preparatory	20.1	24.7	22.3
Secondary	25.1	26.1	25.6
Associate diploma	9.3	9.4	9.3
Bachelor and above	27.8	17.2	22.7
Not stated	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.1

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

4.2 A focus on recent returnees

As in the emigration section, here we present the main characteristics of recent returnees, i.e. those returning in the period 2000-2009.

For recent returnees, “home” itself was the main reason to return home with 38.6%, more than any other reason. Then get married and join family was 20.7%, graduation 7.7%, and these reasons differ by sex, where males returnees, back home and graduation are the main causes of 35.7% and 32.0% for females, while for females marriage and family enrollment led at 35.7% and 32.0% respectively (table 15).

Table 15. Return migrants (having returned in the period 2000-2009) by main reason of return and sex (in %), 2010

Reason of return	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Graduated abroad	12.9	3.2	7.7
Better job opportunity	4.0	0.7	2.2
Educate children by the Palestinian values and ethics	3.3	4.6	4.0
Marriage\family reunification	7.7	32.0	20.7
Second Gulf War	6.1	5.5	5.8
Homecoming	42.0	35.7	38.6
Others	24.0	18.3	20.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

Regarding the person who took the decision to return, half of returnees decide by themselves (48.6%), while it was couple's decision for 28.6% of the returnees, with a clear difference by sex. Nearly three quarters of returnee males decide by themselves to head back, while the numbers did not exceed a quarter of returnees' females who decided to return by themselves. While the decision made by the wife for about 5%, compared to about half of the revenues was the decision made by the spouses. We can conclude that decision-making is still dominated by men, especially in strategic decisions in Palestinian society.

Table 16. Return migrants (having returned 2000-2009) by return decision maker and sex (in %), 2010

Return decision maker	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Myself	75.6	24.9	48.6
Spouse	4.7	49.5	28.6
Children	0.9	1.2	1.0
Parents	15.1	22.6	19.1
Others	3.7	1.8	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Migration Survey - 2010, PCBS

Conclusions and Recommendations

More than 7,000 individuals migrate annually from the Palestinian Territory, in addition to those families who migrated 2005-2009, around 40% of the 7,000 who migrate annually are females. One quarter of emigrants left for Jordan (43% females compared to 16% males), another quarter of emigrants left for European countries rather than for the US, Most of the oPt have relatives in Jordan (60%) then about 23% have a relatives in the Gulf States.

One third of emigrants are young and graduate males who are looking for job, while females are often looking for keeping social relationships within a family. Certain socio-economic circumstances like unemployment rates, poverty, political conditions are vital determinants of Palestinian emigrations. Female are likely to be accompanying others, rather than emigrants for jobs and economic conditions.

The dominant pattern of Palestinian returnees seems mainly to be composed by complete families returns, which can be categorized by age and sex structure of returnees at return and the reason behind return.

The desire to emigrate from the oPt is relatively low and most of those that desire to go are in productive age, are young, and are graduates. More than 40% who desire to emigrate prefer European countries; while one quarter prefer the Arabian Gulf States. The desire not to emigrate is explained by the fact that 75% of those questioned felt comfortable in oPt or that they consider Palestine a holy land.

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