



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية
Arab World for Research & Development

Quality Research ... Matters

6 February 2016 Public Opinion Poll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The following are highlights from AWRAD's January 2016 poll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Fieldwork was conducted from 27 to 28 January 2016, and a total of 1,200 Palestinians were interviewed. For the full results, please refer to www.awrad.org.

The Present and the Future: Violence since October 2015 has negatively impacted the lives of average Palestinians. Majorities of respondents (especially in the West Bank) report that the security in their region has diminished, along with economic conditions. Palestinians report deteriorating economic circumstances, shrinking opportunities for investment and loss of income or jobs as a result of the current troubles. The strain of the present circumstances is reflected in views towards the future. A majority of Palestinians believe Palestine is currently heading in the wrong direction. However, despite this apprehension, roughly half of Palestinians are optimistic about the future.

The Speech of President Abbas: On January 6, PA President Mahmoud Abbas delivered a speech, listened to by roughly one-third of Palestinians. Among those who heard or read the speech, the greatest numbers are ambivalent about its content and report no change in their confidence in the leadership as a result. Regarding specific issues, majorities of respondents agree with Abbas that the PA will not collapse and that no political actor, save the PA, is offering an alternative strategy. Listeners are more skeptical, however, of the President's insistence on a two-state solution; the need for negotiations to achieve peace; or alleged opposition by Hamas to a unity government.

Evaluation of Leaders: Currently, Palestinians have mixed perceptions of major political leaders. When evaluating the performance of Abbas, PM Rami Hamdallah and Ismail Haniyeh, a plurality of respondents in each instance considers their respective performance as weak.

The Office of President: The majority of respondents are not concerned about reports of the possible retirement of President Abbas. If such an event were to occur, two-thirds of respondents believe his successor should be chosen by a national election, far outranking other options. The majority of respondents also support the creation of a Vice President position within the PA.

The Political Future: The majority of Palestinians currently oppose a Third Intifada. This may be reflective of the security and economic conditions cited above, but also the fact that a majority believes a new Intifada would impede statehood; a reversal of sentiments expressed in AWRAD's October 2015 poll, conducted in the early days of the current crisis, when a majority expressed support for a new uprising. A strong majority of respondents currently opposes the dissolution of the PA and the return of a full Israeli occupation. Overall, four-fifths of respondents support the immediate conducting of legislative and presidential elections.

A Future Election: In a hypothetical presidential election, Mahmoud Abbas would defeat Ismael Haniyeh with greater support for Abbas' candidacy in Gaza. In terms of legislative elections, Fatah is the most popular political party, receiving more than double the support of Hamas.

Overall Direction

1. In general, would you say that things in Palestine are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Right direction	37.6%	18.0%	30.3%
Wrong direction	55.3%	79.1%	64.3%
Don't know	7.1%	2.9%	5.5%

2. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Optimistic	55.5%	39.6%	49.5%
Pessimistic	42.3%	59.3%	48.7%
Don't know	2.3%	1.1%	1.8%

3. Is your family's economic situation better or worse than it was a year ago?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Better	8.5%	3.1%	6.5%
Same	35.9%	36.2%	36.0%
Worse	55.6%	60.4%	57.4%
Don't know	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%

4. Do you feel that internal security in your region has improved or diminished during the past year?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Improved	4.4%	10.7%	6.8%
Diminished	66.1%	37.1%	55.3%
Same	28.9%	51.3%	37.3%
Don't know	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%

The Current Protest

5. Has the current round of protests affected major purchases or financial decisions (land, apartment, appliances, travel, education etc)?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	50.6%	30.0%	42.9%
To some extent	28.6%	30.7%	29.4%
No	20.8%	39.3%	27.8%

6. Compared to one year ago, do you believe that the current environment is more or less conducive to business investment?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
More conducive	5.5%	2.0%	4.2%
Less conducive	67.2%	60.9%	64.8%
Same as a year ago	24.8%	35.6%	28.9%
Don't know	2.5%	1.6%	2.2%

7. What has been the most significant impact on you or your family since the recent round of troubles began in October?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Obstacles to travel/movement	26.5%	10.4%	20.5%
Loss of job	20.7%	14.4%	18.3%
Loss of income	35.7%	36.0%	35.8%
No impact	11.7%	38.0%	21.6%
Other	5.3%	1.1%	3.8%

8. At this moment, do you support or oppose a Third Intifada?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	38.8%	47.3%	42.0%
Oppose	56.9%	48.2%	53.7%
Don't know	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%

9. Do you believe that a new Intifada would advance or impede the Palestinian quest towards statehood?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Advance	36.4%	44.4%	39.4%
Impede	51.1%	48.7%	50.2%
Don't know	12.5%	6.9%	10.4%

10. In light of current events (demonstrations, lack of progress towards state), would you support dissolving the PA and returning full authority in the West Bank to Israel?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	14.0%	14.4%	14.2%
Oppose	77.6%	80.2%	78.6%
Don't know	8.4%	5.3%	7.3%

President Abbas's Latest Speech

11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements delivered by President Mahmoud Abbas in his January 6th speech?

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
“Some think that the PA will collapse; I say that it will not.”	Strongly agree	19.5%	28.7%	22.9%
	Somewhat agree	30.3%	29.8%	30.1%
	Somewhat disagree	21.5%	16.0%	19.4%
	Strongly disagree	22.3%	22.0%	22.2%
	Don't know	6.4%	3.6%	5.3%
“No other political party has any other scenarios (other than the PA).”	Strongly agree	13.1%	25.6%	17.8%
	Somewhat agree	34.4%	29.6%	32.6%
	Somewhat disagree	20.7%	16.4%	19.1%
	Strongly disagree	27.1%	26.7%	26.9%
	Don't know	4.7%	1.8%	3.6%
“The solution we demand is two states, Palestinian and Israeli, living side by side, based on 1967 borders and East Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.”	Strongly agree	12.3%	20.4%	15.4%
	Somewhat agree	28.7%	27.1%	28.1%
	Somewhat disagree	15.4%	14.9%	15.2%
	Strongly disagree	38.9%	37.1%	38.2%
	Don't know	4.7%	0.4%	3.1%
“We have no other choice but peace and negotiation to reach a two-state solution.”	Strongly agree	9.7%	19.3%	13.3%
	Somewhat agree	27.4%	26.2%	26.9%
	Somewhat disagree	19.4%	18.0%	18.8%
	Strongly disagree	35.8%	35.1%	35.5%
	Don't know	7.7%	1.3%	5.3%
“ Hamas doesn't want a national unity government, nor an election.”	Strongly agree	10.7%	35.3%	19.9%
	Somewhat agree	15.9%	21.1%	17.8%
	Somewhat disagree	23.9%	17.1%	21.4%
	Strongly disagree	32.6%	23.1%	29.0%
	Don't know	17.0%	3.3%	11.8%

12. Did you hear/read the speech of President Mahmoud Abbas?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	34.3%	27.3%	31.7%
No	65.7%	72.7%	68.3%

13. If yes to the previous question, in general, did the speech address any concerns or areas of interest you might have?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	27.8%	19.5%	25.1%
To some extent	29.0%	31.7%	29.8%
No	42.9%	46.3%	44.0%
Don't know	0.4%	2.4%	1.0%

14. If yes, did the speech increase or decrease your confidence in President Abbas's leadership?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Increased	27.3%	21.1%	25.2%
Decreased	30.6%	21.1%	27.4%
No change	41.3%	50.4%	44.4%
Don't know	0.8%	7.3%	3.0%

Evaluation of Leaders

15. What is your overall evaluation of the performance of the following leaders?

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
President Mahmoud Abbas	Good	30.7%	32.7%	31.4%
	Average	30.3%	24.4%	28.1%
	Weak	34.3%	42.7%	37.4%
	Don't know	4.8%	0.2%	3.1%
Rami Hamdallah	Good	25.3%	27.1%	26.0%
	Average	32.4%	24.7%	29.5%
	Weak	28.5%	42.9%	33.9%
	Don't know	13.7%	5.3%	10.6%
Ismail Haniyeh	Good	31.2%	24.4%	28.7%
	Average	29.6%	19.8%	25.9%
	Weak	27.6%	55.3%	38.0%
	Don't know	11.5%	.4%	7.3%

16. There have been reports in the media about Palestinian leadership if President Abbas were to resign or leave office. Is this an issue that you are concerned about?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	35.9%	31.6%	34.3%
No	57.0%	60.7%	58.4%
Don't know	7.1%	7.8%	7.3%

17. If Mahmoud Abbas resigned as President of the PA, how would you like to see future leadership of the PA resolved?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
General election	62.5%	72.7%	66.3%
Decision by the PLO	8.0%	7.8%	7.9%
Vote of the PNC	4.9%	5.6%	5.2%
Choice by Fatah	15.1%	10.4%	13.3%
Other	9.5%	3.6%	7.3%

18. There are discussions about the possibility of creating a Vice President position, do you support or oppose this?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	54.8%	57.3%	55.8%
Oppose	30.4%	28.7%	29.8%
Don't know/I'm not sure	14.8%	14.0%	14.5%

Election

19. Do you support the immediate conduct of legislative election in the West Bank and Gaza?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	71.7%	92.2%	79.4%
No	19.3%	7.1%	14.8%
Don't know	8.9%	0.7%	5.8%

20. Do you support the immediate conduct of Presidential election in the West Bank and Gaza?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	72.8%	91.8%	79.9%
No	18.2%	7.3%	14.1%
Don't know	9.1%	0.9%	6.0%

21. Who would you vote for in the following potential presidential contest:

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
President Mahmoud Abbas	33.7%	40.4%	36.3%
Ismail Haniyeh	23.6%	20.2%	22.3%
Don't know	12.1%	8.0%	10.6%
I will not vote	30.5%	31.3%	30.8%

22. Who would you vote for in the following potential presidential contest:

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Marwan Barghouthi	49.5%	57.3%	52.4%
Ismail Haniyeh	19.3%	18.2%	18.9%
Don't know	9.3%	9.6%	9.4%
I will not vote	21.9%	14.9%	19.3%

23. If elections took place today and the following lists ran, which one would you vote for?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Fatah	34.3%	45.8%	38.6%
Hamas	17.3%	18.0%	17.6%
DFLP	0.9%	1.3%	1.1%
Al Mubadara	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%
Islamic Jihad	3.9%	1.6%	3.0%
PFLP	3.7%	2.0%	3.1%
Hizb al Tahrir	1.3%	0.2%	0.9%
PPP	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Fida	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Palestinian Struggle Front	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%
Other	1.2%	2.7%	1.8%
Undecided	17.2%	14.2%	16.1%
I will not vote	17.9%	12.7%	15.9%

Sample Distribution

District	%	Gender	%
Jenin	6.7	Male	49.2%
Tulkarm	5.0	Female	50.8%
Qalqilya	1.7	Age	%
Nablus	8.3	18-30	40.3
Salfit	1.6	31-40	24.3
Tubas	1.6	41+	35.4
Ramallah & Al Bireh	8.3	Marital Status	%
Jerusalem	10.0	Single	22.7
Jericho	1.8	Married	73.6
Bethlehem	4.8	Other	3.7
Hebron	12.8	Refugee status	%
Jabalya	7.2	Refugee	45.9
Gaza	14.6	Non-refugee	54.1
Deir Al Balah	5.3	Educational level	%
Khan Yunis	5.3	Up to 9 years	17.8
Rafah	5.3	Secondary (10-12)	40.5
Residence	%	More than 12 years	41.7
City	49.8	Occupation	%
Village	26.0	Laborer	12.9
Refugee Camp	24.3	Employee	16.7
Work Sector	%	Farmer	0.9
Government	27.9	Merchant	6.6
Private	54.2	Professional	2.3
NGOs	2.7	Craftsman	2.6
Other	15.2	Student	8.8
Income (Relative to Community)	%	Housewife	35.8
Above average	17.9	Does not work	11.6
Average	53.7	Retired	1.8
Below average	28.4		
Region	%		
West Bank	62.5		
Gaza	37.5		