

**Public Opinion Poll # 25**

**Post-Election Survey**

**Priorities and Expectations**

**Negotiations and the Peace Process**

**The New Government**

**Living Conditions**

**Evaluation of Public Opinion Polls**

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Sample size: 1200 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza

Number of sampling localities: 75

Margin of error:  $\pm 3\%$

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## Annex 1

### Results of Opinion Poll # 25

<i>First Section: Post-Elections</i>			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
<b>1. Were you registered to vote in the latest PLC elections (25-1-2006)?</b>			
1) Yes	81	78	85
2) No	19	22	15
<b>If yes, did you vote in the latest PLC elections (25-1-2006)?</b>			
1) Yes	87	83	94
2) No	13	17	6
<b>1. If PLC elections took place today, which one of the following lists would you vote for?</b>			
1) Change and Reform	50	48	52
2) Fateh Movement	35	33	38
3) Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	3	3	3
4) The Alternative	2	4	0.0
5) Independent Palestine	1	2	0.0
6) The Third Way	1	1	0.7
7) Martyr Abu Al-Abbas	0.2	0.0	0.4
8) The Palestinian Justice	0.2	0.0	0.4
9) Freedom and social Justice	0.1	0.2	0.0
10) Others	8	9	7
<b>2. Which Political group do you support?</b>			
1) Hamas	40	40	40
2) Fateh	30	27	35
3) Islamic Jihad	3	3	2
4) PFLP	3	3	3

5) DFLP	1	1	0.5
6) PPP	1	0.5	1.0
7) Independent Palestine	1	1	0.5
8) The Third way	0.5	0.5	0.5
9) Fida	0.2	0.2	0
10) Others / Independent	7	7	7
11) No one	14	17	11
<b>3. On a district level, you mostly voted for candidates from ..?</b>			
1) Change and Reform	39	37	41
2) Fateh Movement	31	27	36
3) Other lists / Independents	30	36	24

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
<b>4. (For those who didn't vote): What was the main factor that led you to not participate?</b>			
1) I wanted to participate, but was busy	21	24	6
2) PLC elections are irrelevant (lead to no change)	20	22	10
3) Not convinced with candidates/lists	13	13	13
4) I couldn't find my voting center / or my name wasn't on the lists	6	5	10
5) I didn't have enough information on the elections/candidates	3	4	0.0
6) My political group called for a boycott	1	2	0.0
7) Worried about being deprived of my privileges as a Jerusalem resident	1	1	0.0

8) The measures of the occupation	0.2	0.2	0.0
9) Others	35	29	61
<b>5. In general, do you feel satisfied with the outcome of the elections?</b>			
1) Yes	59	60	59
2) Yes to some extent	18	20	14
3) No	23	21	28
<b>6. Did you expect Hamas to win this majority of PLC seats?</b>			
1) Yes	36	40	32
2) No	62	57	67
3) Don't know	2	3	1
<b>7. How do you evaluate the performance of the previous PLC?</b>			
1) Good	17	18	15
2) Fair	32	34	28
3) Weak	45	41	52
4) Don't Know	6	7	5
<b>8. Were the PLC elections free and fair?</b>			
1) Fair	78	75	84
2) Somewhat fair	12	13	9
3) Unfair	5	5	5
4) Don't know	5	7	3
<b><i>Second Section: Priorities and Expectations</i></b>			
<b>9. Do you consider the following to be priorities for the new government (led by Ismael Haneyyah)?</b>			
<b>Reducing unemployment rates</b>			
1) Yes	90	88	91
2) Yes to some extent	6	7	5
3) No	4	5	4
<b>Uprooting institutional corruption</b>			
1) Yes	89	87	92
2) Yes to some extent	7	7	5
3) No	4	5	3
	<b>Total %</b>	<b>West Bank %</b>	<b>Gaza Strip %</b>
<b>Achieving economic development</b>			
1) Yes	88	85	91
2) Yes to some extent	8	9	7
3) No	4	6	2

<b>Promoting government services</b>			
1) Yes	87	85	90
2) Yes to some extent	9	10	7
3) No	4	5	3
<b>Solving social problems</b>			
1) Yes	86	83	90
2) Yes to some extent	10	11	8
3) No	4	6	2
<b>Ending security chaos</b>			
1) Yes	89	87	92
2) Yes to some extent	7	8	5
3) No	4	5	3
<b>Ending the occupation</b>			
1) Yes	85	84	87
2) Yes to some extent	8	9	6
3) No	7	7	7
<b>Halting the building of settlements and the Wall</b>			
1) Yes	84	84	83
2) Yes to some extent	8	8	8
3) No	8	8	9
<b>Promoting democracy</b>			
1) Yes	82	78	88
2) Yes to some extent	10	12	8
3) No	7	10	4
<b>Consolidating public and personal freedoms</b>			
1) Yes	82	80	87
2) Yes to some extent	9	10	8
3) No	9	10	5
<b>Obtaining international funding</b>			
1) Yes	82	81	85
2) Yes to some extent	9	8	10
3) No	8	11	5
<b>Promoting diplomatic relations</b>			
1) Yes	80	79	84
2) Yes to some extent	12	12	10
3) No	8	9	6

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
<b>Promoting the status of women</b>			
1) Yes	79	78	80
2) Yes to some extent	14	14	14
3) No	7	7	6
<b>10. Do you expect that the new government will succeed in achieving the following .... ?</b>			
<b>Promoting government services</b>			
1) Yes	61	57	67
2) Yes to some extent	25	28	21
3) No	14	15	12
<b>Uprooting institutional corruption</b>			
1) Yes	60	54	70
2) Yes to some extent	25	29	18
3) No	15	17	12
<b>Solving social problems</b>			
1) Yes	57	52	64
2) Yes to some extent	29	31	25
3) No	14	17	11
<b>Ending security chaos</b>			
1) Yes	54	51	59
2) Yes to some extent	26	27	24
3) No	20	22	17
<b>Consolidating public and personal freedoms</b>			
1) Yes	55	52	59
2) Yes to some extent	24	26	22
3) No	21	22	19
<b>Promoting democracy</b>			
1) Yes	54	50	60
2) Yes to some extent	26	28	23
3) No	20	22	18
<b>Promoting the status of women</b>			
1) Yes	51	48	56
2) Yes to some extent	29	31	26
3) No	20	21	18

<b>Promoting diplomatic relations</b>			
1) Yes	48	44	53
2) Yes to some extent	29	32	24
3) No	23	24	23
<b>Achieving economic development</b>			
1) Yes	47	43	55
2) Yes to some extent	33	37	27
3) No	19	20	18
	<b>Total %</b>	<b>West Bank %</b>	<b>Gaza Strip %</b>
<b>Reducing unemployment rates</b>			
1) Yes	46	42	54
2) Yes to some extent	34	38	28
3) No	19	21	18
<b>Obtaining international funding</b>			
1) Yes	45	41	52
2) Yes to some extent	28	30	25
3) No	27	29	23
<b>Ending the occupation</b>			
1) Yes	26	24	31
2) Yes to some extent	30	28	33
3) No	44	48	36
<b>Halting the building of settlements and wall</b>			
1) Yes	25	21	33
2) Yes to some extent	27	27	28
3) No	48	52	39
<b>11. In general, do you believe that the Hamas win will lead to enhancing Palestinian chances in achieving independence?</b>			
1) Yes	48	46	51
2) Yes to some extent	27	28	26
3) No	21	21	21
4) Don't know	4	5	2
<b>12. In general, do you believe that the Hamas win will lead to enhancing Palestinian chances in improving internal conditions?</b>			
1) Yes	56	51	64
2) Yes to some extent	25	28	21
3) No	15	17	12
4) Don't know	4	4	4

<b>13. In general, do you believe that the Hamas win will lead to enhancing Palestinian chances in promoting democracy?</b>			
1) Yes	50	45	57
2) Yes to some extent	26	27	23
3) No	19	21	17
4) Don't know	6	7	3
<b><i>Third Section: Political Issues and the Peace Process</i></b>			
<b>14. Do you support or oppose that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?</b>			
1) Support	63	61	67
2) Oppose	29	30	28
3) No opinion	8	9	5

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
<b>15. Do you support or oppose that Hamas should recognize that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian?</b>			
1) Support	70	67	74
2) Oppose	22	23	21
3) No opinion	8	10	5
<b>16. Do you think that Hamas should recognize the Basic Law (constitution) that was approved by the PLC in 2002?</b>			
1) Support	55	55	53
2) Oppose	33	31	36
3) No opinion	13	14	11
<b>17. Do you believe that the primary decision maker should be...?</b>			
1) The PLO	39	35	44
2) The PNA	50	52	47
3) Don't know	11	13	8
<b>18. Do you think that Hamas should recognize the Declaration of Independence that was approved by the Palestine National Council in 1988?</b>			
1) Support	61	61	61
2) Oppose	24	24	24
3) No opinion	16	15	16
<b>19. Do you think that Hamas should participate in an international conference to negotiate the future of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?</b>			
1) Support	89	88	92
2) Oppose	7	8	6



3) No opinion	3	4	2
<b>20. Do you think that Hamas should recognize the international agreements and resolutions regarding Palestine?</b>			
1) Support	70	68	73
2) Oppose	23	23	22
3) No opinion	8	9	5
<b>21. Do you think that Hamas should recognize the agreements signed by the PLO and Israel?</b>			
1) Support	48	48	49
2) Oppose	43	41	46
3) No opinion	9	12	6
<b>22. Do you think that Hamas, as the new government, should enter into negotiations with Israel?</b>			
1) Support	78	79	76
2) Oppose	19	18	20
3) No opinion	4	3	4
<b>23. Do you support or oppose a two-state solution based on international resolutions?</b>			
1) Support	58	60	55
2) Oppose	39	36	43
3) No opinion	3	4	2

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
<b>24. Do you think that Hamas should recognize the state of Israel (at the present time)?</b>			
1) Support	30	28	33
2) Oppose	64	65	63
3) No opinion	6	7	4
<b>25. Do you support or oppose that Hamas carry out suicide attacks in Israeli cities?</b>			
1) Support	35	34	37
2) Oppose	59	58	60
3) No opinion	6	8	3
<b><i>Fourth Section: The New Government</i></b>			
<b>26. Do you believe the Hamas is serious about enabling other factions to participate in decision making?</b>			
1) Yes	64	64	63
2) Yes to some extent	17	16	19

3) No	14	12	16
4) Don't know	6	8	2
<b>27. Do you think that the ministers appointed by Hamas are competent for the job?</b>			
1) Yes	48	48	49
2) Yes to some extent	26	26	26
3) No	13	11	17
4) Don't know	13	15	9
<b>28. So far, what is your evaluation of the performance of Prime Minister Ismael Haneyyeh?</b>			
1) Good	64	57	75
2) Fair	19	22	15
3) Weak	6	7	5
4) I don't know	11	15	5
<b>29. What is your evaluation of the performance of President Mahmoud Abbas?</b>			
1) Good	54	50	61
2) Fair	27	29	24
3) Weak	15	16	13
4) I don't know	4	5	2
<b><i>Fifth Section: Democratic Values</i></b>			
<b>30. Do you support a constitution based on equal rights for all citizens regardless of religion (Muslims / Christians)?</b>			
1) Support	87	88	85
2) Oppose	11	10	13
3) No opinion	2	2	2
<b>31. Do you support a constitution based on equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender?</b>			
1) Support	82	84	79
2) Oppose	16	14	19
3) No opinion	2	2	2

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
<b>32. Do you support or oppose freedom of expression and speech?</b>			
1) Support	97	96	99
2) Oppose	2	3	1
3) No opinion	1	2	0.3
<b>33. Do you support oppose regular and plural elections?</b>			
1) Support	93	92	96
2) Oppose	4	5	3
3) No opinion	2	3	1
<b><i>Sixth Section: Living Conditions</i></b>			
<b>34. How do you evaluate the economic conditions of your family?</b>			
1) Very good	3	4	2
2) Good	19	21	15
3) Fair	40	41	37
4) Bad	23	21	25
5) Very Bad	17	13	22
<b>35. In General, how do you evaluate the overall situation of the Palestinians?</b>			
1) Very good	0.4	0.4	0.4
2) Good	6	7	3
3) Fair	27	30	22
4) Bad	44	43	46
5) Very Bad	23	19	29
<b>36. Given the opportunity, would you immigrate?</b>			
1) Yes	18	17	18
2) No	82	82	81
3) Don't Know	1	1	1
<b><i>Seventh Section: Evaluation of Public Opinion Polls</i></b>			
<b>37. Overall, how do you evaluate the Palestinian experience in public opinion polling?</b>			
1) Good	58	56	61
2) Good to some extant	27	28	24
3) Not good	9	9	10
4) Don't Know	7	8	5

<b>38. Overall, do you trust the opinion polls carried out in the West Bank and Gaza?</b>			
1) Yes, I trust	48	47	50
2) Trust to some extent	30	32	27
3) I don't Trust	15	14	17
4) Don't Know	7	7	6

## Annex 2

### Cross tabulations

**Table (1):**

#### Expectations for the new Government

(% of those who don't expect the new Government to be able to achieve the following)

Occupation	Uprooting corruption	Reducing Unemployment	Ending Chaos	Promoting Democracy
1%	17%	22%	20%	22%
5%	12%	18%	18%	18%
8%	16%	20%	21%	22%
10%	10%	19%	24%	26%
17%	17%	22%	23%	23%
18%	15%	19%	18%	19%
22%	24%	31%	36%	35%
30%	8%	12%	8%	10%
39%	17%	20%	24%	23%
40%	14%	21%	22%	24%

7%	16%	19%	18%	16%
0%	13%	24%	22%	28%
1%	19%	23%	25%	25%
5%	12%	16%	16%	16%

**Table (2):**

**Attitudes by Political Affiliation (%)**

	<b>Fateh</b>	<b>Islamist</b>	<b>Others</b>
<b>Didn't expect a Hamas win</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Support that Hamas must recognize PLO</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Support Hamas participation in international conference</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Support direct negotiations</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Support Hamas recognition of Israel</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Support a two-state solution</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Oppose suicide attacks</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Will immigrate if given opportunity</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>20%</b>

## **Detailed Analysis**

### ***1. Positions Concerning the Agenda of the PNA***

- Approximately 63% of respondents agree that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, whereas 29% disagree.
- Almost 70% of respondents call upon Hamas to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, while 22% oppose such an action. Support for Hamas' recognition of the PLO is higher in Gaza (74%) than the West Bank (67%).
- 55% believe Hamas must recognize the Basic Law (Constitution) as approved by the outgoing PLC, while 33% oppose such recognition.
- 61% believe Hamas should recognize the Declaration of Independence approved by the Palestine National Council in 1988, while 24% are opposed.
- 50% of respondents believe the main source of decision-making should be the PNA, while 39% believe it should be the PLO. Support for the PLO as a decision-making entity is higher in Gaza (45%) than in the West Bank (35%).

## 2. The Peace Process

- About 90% believe the new Hamas-led government must enter into negotiations with Israel through an international conference. Only 7% oppose such a proposition.
- In addition, 78% support Hamas entering into direct negotiations with Israel to reach a final agreement on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, while 19% of respondents are opposed to direct negotiations.
- 70% believe that Hamas must agree with international resolutions and conventions on Palestine, while 23% are opposed.
- 58% support a two-state solution (Palestine and Israel) based on international resolutions, while 39% are opposed.
- In the same context, 48% agree that Hamas must recognize the agreements signed by the PLO and Israel, while 43% are opposed.
- To stress the increasing tendency for negotiations, 60% of respondents oppose Hamas using suicide attacks on Israeli cities, while 35% support such tactics. These results illustrate a dramatic decline in support for suicide attacks, where in November 2001 approximately 75% supported such attacks, while 19% opposed them.
- Despite this overwhelming support for negotiations and a two-state solution, Palestinians are still not ready to push Hamas to recognize Israel at this point in time; 64% oppose Hamas recognizing the state of Israel now, while 30% believe Hamas should recognize Israel.

Attitudes towards these issues are influenced mostly by political affiliation. The differences between the various groups are illustrated in the following statements:

(Refer to Table # 2 in Annex 2)

- 84% of Fateh supporters believe that Hamas must recognize the PLO. This view is shared by 64% of Islamists<sup>[1]</sup> and 61% of Others<sup>[2]</sup>.
- Supporters of all political groups equally support the participation of Hamas in an international peace conference.
- A majority of all groups support direct negotiations between Hamas and Israel (Fateh 80%; Islamists 75%; Others 82%).
- 42% of Fateh supporters feel that Hamas should recognize the state of Israel now, compared with 22% among Islamists and 32% among others.

- 67% of Fateh supporters support a two-state solution. Likewise, a majority of Islamists (52%) and Others (57%) support such a solution.
- 64% of Others, 62% of Fateh supporters, and 54% of Islamists oppose suicide attacks against Israeli cities.

### 3. Democratic Values

In general this poll confirms the commitment of Palestinians to democratic values. The results show the following:

- 97% support the freedom of expression and speech.
- 93% support regular and plural elections.
- 87% support a constitution based on equal rights for all citizens regardless of religion, while 11% oppose such a principle.
- 82% support a constitution based on equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender, while 16% oppose such a principle.

### 4. Evaluation of PLC Elections

- 59% of respondents said that they were satisfied with the outcome of the elections taking place in January 2006. In contrast, 23% said that they were not satisfied.
- 60% of the respondents said that they did not expect an overwhelming Hamas win, while 37% said that they did. Over 81% of Fateh supporters, 48% of Islamists, and 59% of Others and Independents did not expect the Hamas win in the PLC.
- Over 78% felt the PLC elections were free and fair, while 12% felt they were somewhat fair, and only 5% felt they were unfair.
  - 39% of the respondents said they had voted primarily for Hamas candidates at the district level, while 31% voted for Fateh candidates and 30% voted for Other and Independent candidates.

### 5. Reasons for non-participation

When respondents who were registered for the elections but didn't vote were questioned about the reasons behind their lack of participation, the following trends emerged:

- Being busy: 21% said they did not participate because they were busy doing other things on that day.



- Ambivalence: 20% said PLC elections are irrelevant and lead to no change in their lives.
- Inadequate lists and candidates: 13% said they were not convinced by the programs or competence of the lists and candidates running for elections.
- Logistical problems: 6% said they attempted to participate, but were unable to locate their voting center or were unable to find their names on the voter lists.
- Information problems: 3% said they did not have adequate information on the process and the candidates.

## 6. *Voting Patterns and Political Support*

Respondents were asked about their political support as well as for whom they would vote if elections took place today. The results reveal that a vote for a specific list does not imply automatic support for the list. Voting patterns are not a reflection of the political support as is revealed in the following results:

- If elections took place today and the same lists (as in latest PLC elections) participated, 50% would vote for Change and Reform (the list formed by Hamas), 38% for Fateh, and the remaining lists would receive very small percentages.
- Concerning political support, 40% said they support Hamas, while 30% said they support Fateh. Islamic Jihad and PFLP receive approximately 3% each. 22% say they are Independent.
- Support for Hamas is almost equal in the West Bank and Gaza, while support for Fateh is higher in Gaza (35%) than in the West Bank (27%).
- As for the reasons why people voted for a particular list, open-ended questions and focus groups with voters for the various lists enabled the research team to conclude the following overall patterns:

### *Reasons for Voting for Hamas*<sup>[3]</sup>:

- Hamas is not corrupt; it could bring about reform
- Its leadership and candidates are competent and honest
- Hamas will be able to bring about internal security
- Hamas will improve living conditions
- Its program is based on equality and justice
- To punish Fateh and its leadership

- Their campaign was organized and convincing
- I agree with Hamas' political and ideological platform
- We are Muslims and Hamas refer to Sharia'
- I am a committed member of Hamas

***Reasons for Voting for Fateh***

- Fateh is the origin of the Palestinian revolution
- Fateh is the main actor in the struggle
- Fateh is the most capable of leading the Palestinians with its experience and relations
- To reach a peace agreement
- Fateh is moderate
- Faithful to Yasser Arafat
- Convinced by its political agenda and goals
- Competence of Fateh candidates
- To prevent Hamas from coming into power
- To guarantee international support
- Fateh is the main faction in the PLO
- It is the most popular
- I am a member in Fateh and I have interests
- Continuity

***Reasons for not voting for Independent and Leftist groups***

When asked why respondents voted for Hamas and not for other alternatives to Fateh, the following answers emerged:

- They do not have the power or the institutions/infrastructure to be a real alternative

- They did not deliver to the people in all fields of life
- They are more elitist and did not work with the masses
- Their agendas are not clear or known by the people
- Cannot trust them
- I am not convinced by their agenda
- They are against religion
- They are the same as Fateh; they work with Fateh and benefit from it
- They are not organized or united like Hamas
- They do not provide social services

#### **7. Evaluation of the New Ministerial Cabinet**

While it is deemed to be too early to evaluate the new government led by Prime Minister Ismael Haneyyeh, respondents did not hesitate to provide their input based on whatever little information they have on the new government.

- 48% of respondents perceive the newly-appointed ministers to be qualified for the job; 26% perceive them to be somewhat qualified, while 13% perceive them as unqualified. 13% were undecided.
- 64% felt Hamas is serious about engaging other political groups in the decision-making process, whereas 17% felt Hamas is somewhat serious, and 14% as not serious.
- In evaluating the performance of Prime Minister Ismael Haneyyeh, 64% said they feel his performance is good. Another 19% said his performance is fair, while only 6% said his performance is poor. Gaza respondents gave Prime Minister Haneyyeh a more favorable rating (75%) than West Bank respondents (57%) – an 18 point difference.
- As for the performance of President Mahmoud Abbas, the poll shows an increase in his rating, where 54% evaluated his performance as good, compared with 41% in November 2005. In this poll, 27% evaluated his performance as fair and 15% viewed it as poor. Gaza respondents gave the President a more favorable rating (61%) than West Bank respondents (50%) – an 11 point difference.

#### **8. Priorities and Expectations**

The poll results reveal that the new government is faced with a very crowded agenda and a long list of expectations. The results show the following:

- Internal issues were at the top of the Palestinian agenda; 90% considered the following as priorities: dealing with unemployment, uprooting corruption, ending chaos, and achieving economic development.
- Improving government services and solving social problems were a priority to 86% of the respondents.
- 85% of the respondents considered ending the occupation and dealing with the separation wall as priorities.
- Over 82% considered promoting democracy, consolidating personal and public freedoms, obtaining international funding, and improving diplomatic relations as priorities.
  - 80% said the promotion of the status of women is a priority.

While relatively high percentages place a priority on all of the above-mentioned issues, fewer Palestinians expect that the present government will be able to achieve them.

- 85% place an emphasis on ending the occupation, but only 26% believe the current government will be able to achieve that. 27% believe the government can do that to an extent, while more than 48% believe it will not be able to deliver.
- 90% believe that uprooting corruption is a priority, with 60% believing the government might be able to deliver on that. 61% believe the new government will be able to improve government services, and 55% believe it will be able to end chaos and insecurity.
- In general, 48% feel the Hamas win will improve Palestinian chances in achieving independence and establishing a state. Another 56% feel this win will improve internal conditions, and 50% feel it will lead to more democracy.
- The more educated, the wealthy, the less religious, and male respondents are less optimistic that a Hamas win will lead to positive change compared with other social categories. For example, 60% of the most educated (compared with 41% of the least educated), 51% of the wealthy (compared with 38% of those with the least income), 50% of men (compared with 37% of women), and 75% of the least religious (compared with 36% of the most religious) do not expect that a Hamas win will lead to ending the occupation. (Refer to Table # 1 in Annex 2)

## **9. Evaluation of Living Conditions**

- 39% of respondents describe the economic conditions of their families as bad or very bad. Another 39% describe them as fair, while 22% describe their economic

conditions as good or very good. There is a gap between Gaza and the West Bank, with 47% of Gaza respondents describing the economic conditions of their families as bad or very bad, compared with 34% among West Bank respondents.

- The overall view of Palestinian reality as a whole is even more dismal; 67% describe the present situation of the Palestinian people as bad or very bad, while 27% describe it as fair, and only 6% describe it as good or very good.
- In the same context, 18% of respondents said they would be willing to immigrate if given the opportunity. This percentage has not increased over the last five years and is equal between the West Bank and Gaza.
- The percentage of young people who are willing to immigrate is alarming; 34% of the age group 18-27 and 28% of the age group 28-37 said they would be willing to immigrate.

### **10. Evaluation of Public Opinion Polls**

While we realize that one could not place Palestinian institutions in one basket when it comes to evaluation of their performance and quality of work, we looked for some overall indicators as well as specific ones.

- When asked to evaluate the overall experience of opinion polling in Palestine, 58% of respondents said they believe it was a good experience. Another 27% said that the experience was somewhat good. In contrast, only 9% said it was not good. 7% of respondents were undecided.
- In terms of trust in polls, 48% of respondents said they trust opinion polls, and 30% said they trust them to some extent. At the same time, 15% said they do not trust them.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

<sup>[2]</sup> Others include small parties and independents.

<sup>[3]</sup> In descending order according to frequency.

## Annex 3

### Sample distribution

Region	%	Type of locality	%	Refugee Status	%
West Bank	62	City	53	Refugee	38

Gaza Strip	38	Village-town	31	Non-refugee	62
<b>Governorate</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Camp</b>	16	<b>Education</b>	<b>%</b>
Jenin	6	<b>Gender</b>	<b>%</b>	Illiterate	20
Tubas	2	Male	52	Preparatory	21
Tulkarm	3	Female	48	Elementary	31
Nablus	10	<b>Marital status</b>	<b>%</b>	Secondary	17
Qalqilya	2	Single	23	Diploma	5
Salfit	1	Married	73	B.A. or more	6
Jericho	2	Others	4	<b>Place of Residence prior to 1994</b>	<b>%</b>
Ramallah	9	<b>Age</b>	<b>%</b>		
Jerusalem	10	18-22	19		
Bethlehem	3	23-27	16	West Bank & Gaza	91
Hebron	14	28-32	14	Abroad	9
North Gaza	7	33-37	12	<b>Income (NIS)*</b>	<b>%</b>
Gaza City	14	38-42	10	No Income	4
Deir al-Balah	5	43-47	7	Less than 700	25
Khan Younis	8	48-52	5	700-1000	22
Rafah	4	> 52	17	1001-1700	17
<b>Reasons for unemployment</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Work Status</b>	<b>%</b>	1701-2500	6
Housewives	58	Working	29	2501-3000	17
Students	11	Not Working	71	More than 3000	9
Retired	5	<b>Religiosity</b>	<b>%</b>		
Seeking work	20	Religious	54		
Others	6	Somewhat religious	43		
		Not religious	3		
<b>1 \$ = 4.6 NIS</b>					