

## Quality Research ... Matters

## Results of an Opinion Poll among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Press Release June 13, 2024

Data collection dates: West Bank (30 April- 9 May, 2024); Gaza Strip (1-9 May, 2024 and 21-26 May, 2024).

**Sample size:** 1500 adult Palestinians (18 years and older) in all 16 governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip (face-to-face interviews).

Ramallah – The latest national survey of the West Bank and Gaza was conducted by the <u>Arab World for</u> <u>Research and Development (AWRAD)</u> from 30 April to 26 May, 2024. Amidst the crisis in Gaza, the poll shows majority support for negotiations leading to an independent Palestinian state, and reinforces longstanding public support for a two-state solution. In a shift from the past two decades of Palestinian polling, the survey found that respondents in Gaza are now more supportive of the two-state solution than those in the West Bank. Specifically, 77% of respondents in Gaza express support for the two-state solution, compared to 39% in the West Bank. When asked about their support for a "meaningful process" to realize a Palestinian state alongside Israel, support rises in both territories, with 52% in the West Bank and 84% in Gaza expressing either strong support or support to varying degrees.

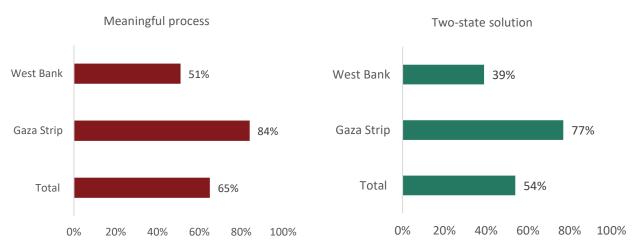


Figure 1: Support a meaningful process leading to a two-state solution

Overall, support for Hamas' performance during the course of the current war has declined from 76% in AWRAD's <u>November 2023</u> poll to 55% today, though there are divergences between West Bank and Gaza

sentiment. In the West Bank, positive views of Hamas' performances reach 76% compared to only 24% in Gaza, a 52-point gap. Similarly, support for Hamas, if legislative elections were held, is higher in the West Bank. With respect to the Palestinian Authority's performance, only 22% view it as positive, with higher numbers in Gaza compared to the West Bank. Notably, the poll results reveal a decline in support for the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack from 75% in November to 46% now, with a significant gap between the West Bank and Gaza (62% and 21% respectively).

When it comes to the "Day After" in Gaza, the majority of respondents (80%) in both the West Bank and Gaza want a Palestinian-led government; though, a clear majority in Gaza prefer that the UN oversees humanitarian aid and manages recovery and rebuilding efforts. In this regard also, there is a sharp distinction between West Bank and Gaza Strip on the latter issue with 35% of West Bank respondents favoring the UN and 21% Hamas, while 80% of respondents from the Gaza Strip opt for the UN only.

With support for presidential elections high in both the West Bank and Gaza, Marwan Barghouti garners, overall, the most support among various potential candidates, whether affiliated with Hamas, Fateh or the independents; though, in Gaza, he trails Mohammad Dahlan. Meanwhile, potential Hamas candidates continue to receive greater support in the West Bank than in Gaza.

Following the March appointment of a new Palestinian Authority cabinet, only 32% of respondents can cite the name of the new Prime Minister. Priority issues the new government is expected to focus on include national reconciliation, job creation and Gaza recovery.

## Methodology

A two-step clustered sampling approach was adopted. First, 116 Enumeration Areas (EAs) were randomly selected from the official 2023 PCBS Map of EAs for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This yielded a total of 69 EAs in the West Bank and 47 in the Gaza Strip. Next, 13 households were systematically selected in each EA through a random walk starting at a randomly chosen GIS point. Within these households, Kish tables were used to select respondents. In Gaza, if an EA included multiple dwelling types (e.g., formal shelter, informal shelter, and residential shelter), two GIS points were randomly selected to ensure maximum coverage. An EA was only excluded if it was reported vacant of its population or was inaccessible due to military activities. A gender-balanced team of 36 experienced enumerators conducted 1,500 face-to-face interviews among a random and representative sample of adult (18 years and older) male and female Palestinians. The data was collected through tablet-assisted interviews. The median length of the interviews was 18 minutes. The response rate was 94%. The overall margin of error (MoE) is  $\pm$  3.3% with disaggregation by region and gender enabling MoE's up to  $\pm$  5.0%. Random Iterative Method (RIM) weighting was applied based on region, age, education level, and gender to minimize potential biases and enhance the reliability and generalizability of the study's findings.

For detailed results, further analysis, enumeration and access maps please refer to <u>www.awrad.org</u> or contact us at <u>awrad@awrad.org</u>