



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World for Research & Development

## Results of Public Opinion Poll among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

### Press Release

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**Data Collection Dates:** October 6 to October 17, 2024

**Sample Size:** 1,002 adult Palestinians (18 years and older) in all governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip

**Ramallah/Gaza** – The Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) is pleased to present the findings of its latest public opinion survey conducted between October 6 and 17, 2024, across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This survey builds upon two previous rounds conducted in [May](#) and [August 2024](#), aiming to highlight the perspectives of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and amplify their voices amidst ongoing conflict and uncertainty. The survey was conducted during a period marked by violence, widespread displacement, acute humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and militant confrontations in some areas of the West Bank. As such, the survey examines critical topics such as current living conditions, future outlooks, scenarios for ending the war, and expectations for the post-war period. The survey also gauges public trust in humanitarian aid providers, reconstruction efforts, governance, the performance of Palestinian leadership and government, and support for elections. Fieldwork concluded prior to the news of the death of Yahya Sinwar, Hamas's leader.

### Key Findings

Palestinians are increasingly disillusioned by prevailing conditions and prospects for the future. The present poll shows an increase in the belief that conditions in Palestinian society are heading in the wrong direction at 69%, compared to 62% according to other polling that AWRAD conducted in May 2024. The increase is especially notable in Gaza (70% in May compared to 84% today). In the West Bank, a majority at 59% shares the same feeling. Furthermore, optimism about the future is on the decline. **In Gaza, optimism declined from 54% in May to 43% today.** In the West Bank, optimism also continues to decline (from 58% to 54%).

In Gaza, almost all respondents (96%) reported being displaced, many several times. In total, **64% of Palestinians in the two regions report some level of mental and emotional challenges** among themselves or someone in their household- 88% in Gaza and 49% in the West Bank.

Humanitarian conditions in Gaza are key to public opinion in the region, where **61% of Gaza Palestinians are dissatisfied with the performance of international humanitarian agencies** in providing necessary support and services for families in the region.

In the West Bank, which is currently experiencing a militant escalation in the north, close to one-third (29%) of Palestinians who have been following the recent militant escalation say they oppose these confrontations, while 29% are supportive and 31% are somewhat supportive. Palestinians are divided about the utility of such confrontations, with 52% saying they believe that they contribute positively to ending the occupation, while 37% disagree, and 11% do not know or will not answer.

In the West Bank, attitudes are influenced by the **increasing rates of deterioration in economic and security conditions**. Almost all West Bank respondents (93%) report a significant (67%) or some decline (26%) in their economic conditions. They are equally concerned about security conditions, with 91% reporting that conditions are currently much worse or somewhat worse than a year ago.

**The limited satisfaction with the performance of the Palestinian Authority (PA)** contributes to the overall negative views of the current direction of the country. Dissatisfaction with the performance of President Mahmoud Abbas stands at 66%, with 29% reporting satisfaction. Positive evaluation of the overall performance of the government, led by Dr. Muhammed Mustafa, is lower than that of the President, reaching 22%. In contrast, 58% are dissatisfied, with one-fifth of respondents saying that they do not know. Satisfaction with President Abbas's performance is higher in Gaza Strip (35%) than in the West Bank (25%).

Against these factors, **Palestinians continue to support a two-state solution and a negotiated solution**, but signs of decline are being detected. A majority of respondents support a two-state solution. It is, however, important to note that while support for a two-state solution reached 74% in Gaza, it declined to 47% in the West Bank. In contrast, support for a state on the basis of historic Palestine reaches 22% in total (29% in the West Bank and 11% in Gaza). Support for a one-state solution is at 9% with no significant regional variance. **To achieve statehood, a plurality of Palestinians supports negotiations (47%) or non-violent resistance (9%)**. Support for negotiations and non-violent resistance is higher in Gaza than in the West Bank. For example, support for negotiations in the West Bank (36%) is much lower than in Gaza (64%), while support for militant resistance reaches 37% in the West Bank compared to 15% in Gaza.

**The majority of Palestinians (73%) prefer a Palestinian-led government in Gaza after the war**. This preference is more widespread in the West Bank (79%) than in Gaza (63%). In Gaza, 21% prefer an international arrangement, while only 9% in the West Bank prefer such an option. Among Palestinian actors, a national unity government is most preferred (49%), followed by a PA-led government (18%), and a Hamas-led government (16%). A geographic variance must be noted, with a Hamas-led government preferred by 23% of West Bank respondents but only 3% by Gaza respondents. A PA-led government is preferred by 31% in Gaza and 11% in the West Bank.

**Elections are viewed as the best path to a future government**, with majority support for both presidential and legislative elections (84% and 83% respectively). Support for a presidential election reaches 93% in Gaza, compared to 79% in the West Bank).

### **Survey Methodology**

The survey utilized two complementary methodologies. AWRAD conducted phone interviews with 281 Palestinians (97 in the West Bank and 184 in Gaza) using a systematic selection process from a comprehensive database of phone numbers, aiming for unbiased representation. In addition, our team conducted face-to-face interviews with 721 Palestinians (514 in the West Bank and 207 in Gaza) by a dedicated team of 45 specialized AWRAD enumerators. The sample of 1,002 participants was distributed as follows: 611 individuals from the West Bank and 391 from Gaza (61% to 39%). The sample accounted for significant demographic shifts caused by displacement due to the ongoing conflict. The selection process aimed for representation across age, gender, and education, which were further weighted to be aligned with official population statistics. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 3.2\%$ . For more details and analysis, please visit [www.awrad.org](http://www.awrad.org) or contact the AWRAD team at [awrad@awrad.org](mailto:awrad@awrad.org).