



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية
Arab World for Research & Development

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The Day After Series: Gaza Strip

Public Opinion Poll among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

Report #3: Gaza: Post-War Governance and Administration

Publication Date: 6 March 2025

Highlights

- **96% of respondents support a Palestinian-based governance system for the Gaza Strip, with 53% favoring a national unity government as the long-term governing body.**
- **75% of respondents support the Palestinian Authority (PA) administering Gaza in the next phase.**
- **85% of respondents in Gaza have little or no knowledge of the "Community Support Committee" suggested by Hamas, Qatar, and Egypt during the ceasefire negotiations.**
- **39% of respondents trust Mohammed Dahlan to lead the Palestinian government during the transitional phase in Gaza.**

Introduction: Governance and Administration of the Gaza Strip

As Gaza undergoes rapid changes in the aftermath of the Israeli war, questions about its future governance and administration are becoming increasingly urgent. This third report in The Day After series examines Palestinian public opinion on various governance and administrative scenarios for the Gaza Strip.

To capture these perspectives, Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) conducted a public opinion poll between 24–26 January 2025. The poll sampled 600 adult Palestinians in Gaza and surveyed them through tablet assisted face to face interviewing, including those in shelters, tented communities, and residential areas.

Key Poll Information

Poll Dates: 24-26 January 2025
Sample size: 600 adult Palestinians (18 years old or older) from the Gaza Strip
Margin of error: ±4%
Confidence level: 95%
Interviewing method: Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI)

Key Findings

The poll distinguishes between governance, which has long-term strategic implications, and administration, which focuses on the short- and medium-term management of Gaza.

1. Governance of the Gaza Strip

The poll results reflect a strong consensus in favor of Palestinian governance for the Gaza Strip, with an overwhelming 96% of respondents supporting a Palestinian-led government. However, opinions are divided on the preferred structure of this government. A majority of 53% favor a national unity government, bringing together various Palestinian factions. Meanwhile, 26% support the formation of a technocratic government composed of independent professionals and experts. Another 16% prefer a governance model led by a special Palestinian committee that is backed by Arab and international actors, which would be specifically tasked with managing Gaza's affairs in the coming phase.

2. Administration of the Gaza Strip

Regarding the administration of Gaza in the near term, a clear majority of 75% support the Palestinian Authority (PA) taking charge, with 73% of them considering this option realistic and feasible under current conditions. Additionally, 59% of respondents favor a special Palestinian committee backed by Arab and international actors to administer Gaza; however, only 58% see this scenario as practically achievable in the near future.

Hamas continues to be a critical force; while only 20% of respondents support Hamas continuing to administer Gaza, a larger proportion (31%) consider it the most realistic and feasible option.

At the same time, there is strong opposition to external administration, with 88% rejecting Egyptian governance, 85% opposing administration by other Arab countries, and 70% rejecting the idea of the United Nations assuming control over Gaza's administration.

3. The Community Support Committee

The poll highlights a significant lack of awareness about the "Community Support Committee," a proposed body suggested by Palestinian and Arab entities during ceasefire negotiations to help manage Gaza's affairs. An overwhelming 85% of respondents reported having little or no knowledge of the committee, while only 15% claimed to have moderate or extensive knowledge of its role and purpose.

4. Trust in Leadership Figures

When asked which Palestinian leader they trust to manage Gaza in the next phase, 39% of respondents expressed trust in Mohammed Dahlan, making him the most trusted figure for administering Gaza during the transition. Meanwhile, 23% placed their trust in President Mahmoud Abbas, reinforcing his role as a key leader in Palestinian politics. Other leaders also received varying levels of trust, with 14% trusting Mustafa Barghouti, 8% trusting Khalil Al-Hayya, and 7% trusting former Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Additionally, 7% of respondents expressed a lack of trust in all of these leaders, reflecting some level of skepticism or dissatisfaction with the current political landscape.

Annex (1): Poll Methodology

AWRAD conducted an opinion poll between 24 and 26 January 2025 as part of its ongoing analysis of the aftermath of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

To ensure comprehensive and accurate data collection, a team of 30 expert researchers (male and female) conducted face-to-face interviews using smart devices with 600 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip. The sample included displaced and non-displaced populations. The fieldwork was conducted only in four governorates—Gaza, Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis, and Rafah. North Gaza Governorate was out of reach due to severe Israeli-imposed movement restrictions and the mass displacement of its residents. At the time of data collection, less than 5% of the population remained in North Gaza.

The sample was selected using a stratified proportional cluster sampling design, incorporating population movement reports from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), satellite imagery from UNOSAT, and independent population estimates derived from social media user activity through the Gaza Now Pop project at the University of Oxford. Enumeration areas were randomly selected, and a random walk methodology was applied to choose respondents based on a Kish grid, ensuring gender balance.

To enhance representativeness, the final sample was weighted using data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (updated December 2022). The poll was conducted with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of $\pm 4\%$.

Annex (2): About This Series of Publications

Amid the significant transformations unfolding in the Palestinian arena following the ceasefire, there is a growing need for a deeper understanding of citizens' opinions and perceptions regarding issues that will shape their future. **Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD)** presents a series of analytical reports that shed light on Palestinian society's views and perspectives, aiming to provide **scientific and objective insights** into the political, social, and economic realities in Gaza.

This third edition of *The Day After in Gaza* series focuses on the administration of the Gaza Strip after the war and the future of its governance under the current political circumstances. Through these reports, **AWRAD seeks to establish a data-driven framework** to guide public policies and **empower the Palestinian people** in strengthening their resilience—both locally and internationally—based on their collective opinions. Additionally, this series serves as a **reference tool for humanitarian organizations, donor entities, and decision-makers**, helping them direct their efforts more efficiently and transparently to address the needs of Palestinian citizens.

Upcoming Report

The next report in the series will focus on:

- *Elections as a Preferred Path Out of the Crisis*

Published Reports in *The Day After Series: Gaza Strip*

1. *"The Ceasefire Agreement and the Half-Full Glass!"* – Published on February 2, 2025.
2. *"The State of Displacement and Return, Living Conditions, and an Assessment of Humanitarian Relief Efforts."* – Published on February 24, 2025.

For more details on the results and sample distribution, please visit our website at www.awrad.org or contact us via email at awrad@awrad.org.