



State of Palestine
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Gaza Welfare Panel Survey (GWPS) — Round 1, 2025
(October – December 2024)

User's Guide

Notice for Users

Quick orientation on the weighting variables

- The micro-data are distributed in two files with a single household weight:

Dataset group	Weighting variable	Purpose
Household file (one record per household) Roster file (one record per person)	hh_weight	Final calibrated household probability weight for Round 1 (2025; Gaza phone panel). Used for household-level estimates (proportions, totals, means).

- Domains of inference: Estimates are designed for publication at Gaza Strip overall subject to sample size and precision threshold.
- Panel note: GWPS is planned as a four-round CATI panel that re-contacts PECS-2023 responding households in Gaza with registered phone numbers. This guide covers Round 1 (fieldwork: October–December 2024, labelled “2025” to reflect the release year).

Concepts, Terms, and Definitions

Household	A person or a group of persons, related or unrelated, who usually reside in the same dwelling (or part of it) and share meals or other living arrangements.
Head of household	A person usually residing with the household who is recognized by the other members as holding this status, and who is typically the authority responsible for managing the household's economic affairs (others may share this responsibility).
Household member	Any person present in the housing unit who is considered part of the household if that unit is his/her usual or only place of residence.
Refugee status	Applies to Palestinians displaced from the part of Palestine occupied by Israel in 1948, and includes their male-line descendants (sons) and their grandchildren.
Marital status	The current personal status of an individual aged 14 years and over at the reference time, in accordance with the marriage laws and customs in the country.
Age in completed years	The time elapsed between the date of birth and the reference date, expressed in full (completed) years.
Difficulty/Disability	Persons with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments who, in interaction with various barriers, may be hindered from full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
Vision difficulty/disability	Persons with serious problems seeing that limit daily activities (e.g., difficulty reading road signs while driving; poor vision in one eye; seeing only what is directly ahead). Asked of all individuals, whether or not they wear glasses; those who wear glasses or contact lenses should report any remaining vision difficulty.
Hearing difficulty/disability	Persons with serious problems hearing that limit daily functioning (e.g., difficulty hearing someone in a crowded/noisy place; inability to hear a person speaking directly in a normal voice). Includes those unable to hear with one ear or with both ears.

Mobility and use of hands/fingers difficulty/disability

Persons with serious problems walking or moving that may limit daily activities (e.g., difficulty walking a short distance; climbing stairs/uneven areas; inability to walk without resting; reliance on cane/crutch/walker; inability to stand >1 minute and needing a wheelchair). Includes difficulties moving inside/outside the home; walking >15 minutes; and using hands/fingers to grasp tools, write, etc., such as lifting a 2-liter container of water to eye level using the hands.

Difficulty/disability in understanding and cognition (remembering and concentrating)

Includes difficulties with remembering and concentrating, decision-making, understanding speech, reading written material, recognizing people, wayfinding and using a map, arithmetic, reading and thinking. Examples: difficulty carrying out daily activities due to understanding/perception limits; getting lost; inability to concentrate; forgetting where one is or the current/previous month; not understanding what someone said; forgetting to take medication or to eat; not understanding what is happening around them. Also includes inability to understand things or interact with others, forgetting important tasks, poor memory (e.g., forgetting where items are at home), and difficulty focusing on tasks for 10 minutes.

Communication difficulty/disability

Inability to exchange information and ideas with others and interact using speech, signs, movement, or writing. May result from a hearing or speech impairment, or limited cognitive ability to interpret and understand others' signals, words, and movements.

Self-care/personal care difficulty

Identifies persons who have problems independently caring for themselves. Refers to bathing (cleaning the whole body according to cultural norms, including gathering needed items) and dressing (all aspects of clothing the upper and lower body, including feet where culturally appropriate), such as retrieving clothes, buttoning, tying and fastening. Bathing and dressing are daily tasks and are considered basic, universal activities.

Chronic disease

A long-term illness that cannot be cured and requires continuous, regular treatment, diagnosed by a specialist physician (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, heart disease).

Methodology and Data Quality

Purpose and Roles

- Commissioning & use: These data were collected for the World Bank to inform aggression-related diagnostics for Gaza Strip. The World Bank is responsible for analysis and publication of results.
- PCBS role: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) designed and implemented data collection, performed quality control, constructed survey weights, and prepared metadata/micro-data for public access. PCBS does not produce an analytical report from this round.
- Publication rights: PCBS retains the right to publish the micro-data and documentation (DDI, questionnaires, weights) on its website/metadata portal. Any analytical use and interpretation are the responsibility of data users (including the World Bank).

Main Objectives

- Rapidly document Israeli aggression/displacement dynamics, access to medical services, assistance coverage, and food insecurity & coping among Gaza households.
- Provide a panel-consistent micro-data resource that can be reused across waves by the World Bank and other authorized users.

Survey Coverage and Data Collection

- Geography: Gaza Strip (5 governorates).
- Population: PECS-2023 respondent households in Gaza with reachable phone contacts.
- Mode: CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) via tablet soft-phone; ~20–30 minutes per interview.
- Fieldwork window (Round 1): October–December 2024 with scheduled callbacks across day-parts.

Note on external communications: The World Bank issued a short press release summarizing a subset of simplified indicators derived from these data. PCBS did not issue an analytical report from Round 1.

Questionnaire Design

Two linked instruments aligned with PCBS standards and controlled response lists with precise skip patterns:

- Household file: identification; governorate/locality type; pre-aggression and current dwelling; bombardment exposure; displacement; arrivals; medical need/access/barriers; assistance (pre-aggression /new/since Oct-2023); food depletion & coping strategies; interview outcomes; free-text comments; hh_weight.
- Roster file: membership status regarding the original household (2023) for the old household members and the new ones in this new context; reason for exit; sex; age; relation to head of the household; chronic disease & worsening; serious illness due to aggression; 7 functional difficulty domains; marital status; new-member flag.

Data Set Linkage and Key Variables

- ID00 (Household serial number): primary key for household-level files; used to join household level dataset with the roster dataset.
- D1 (Individual line number): individual key variable within household; ID00 + D1 uniquely identify individuals.

Organized Datasets Information

Dataset	Level	Content (examples)	Key variables
gaza_hh_r1	Household	Governorate; pre-aggression/current dwelling (H3/H4); damage & bombardment (H5–H6_2); displacement (H7–H8); arrivals (H10–H11); medical need/access/barriers (HS2–HS5); assistance (C1–C4); food (FS1–FS2); comments; locality type; weight	ID00, ID1, loc_type, hh_weight
gaza_roster_r1	Individual	Membership & reasons; sex; age; relation; chronic disease/worsening; serious illness; 7 functional domains; marital status; new-member	ID00, D1

Sampling foundation: PECS-2023 (original methodology)

Design: Two-stage stratified cluster sample drawn from Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017 enumeration areas (EAs).

Stratification: Governorate × locality type.

- Stage 1 (PSU): Probability selection of EAs within strata.
- Stage 2 (SSU): Systematic selection of households within selected EAs.

PECS contact frame: During PECS-2023 fieldwork, responding households provided phone numbers and consent to re-contact; these constitute the panel frame for GWPS.

GWPS Round 1 Gaza sample (re-contact)

Eligible frame: 1,102 Gaza households from PECS-2023 with valid contact numbers.

Completed interviews: 861 households.

Non-interviews: 241 households not reachable under Q4-2024 conflict conditions (communications outages, displacement, inaccessibility).

Labeling: Although collected in Q4-2024, Round 1 is labeled “GWPS 2025 (R1)” to align with the release year.

Weights (Round 1 — Q4 2024)

The dataset includes one weight, *hh_weight*, prepared by PCBS to make the survey results represent all Gaza households.

The weight adjusts for:

- The original PECS-2023 sample design
- Households we couldn't reach because of the Israeli aggression

Fieldwork Operations

- Mode & tools: CATI via tablet soft-phone; integrated edit checks; call scheduling & callbacks logged (C1–C8).
- Calling period (Round 1): October–December 2024 (Q4-2024), with multiple attempts across day-parts and staggered re-contacts.

- Call protocol: Multiple attempts across day-parts during the calling window; classify outcomes (answered, no answer, off/locked, wrong number, etc.).
- Consent & sensitivity: Standard PCBS script; voluntary participation; confidentiality; special protocols (trauma-informed interviewing; option to pause/stop).
- Supervision: Real-time dashboarding, paradata review, and targeted re-calls.

Data Processing

- Real-time electronic auditing (range/format; mandatory items; logical skips).
- Office checks: Cross-section consistency; anomaly flags; back-checks as needed.

Results, Indicators, and Publication

Not applicable (PCBS analytics). PCBS did not produce an analytical report or official indicators from Round 1.

What PCBS provides: cleaned micro-data, survey weights, questionnaires, and metadata to enable independent analysis by authorized users.

Users performing analysis must state clearly that their results are not official PCBS estimates for this round.