



Palestinian Migration Between the Pressures of Reality and the Persistence of Belonging

An Analytical Study of Palestinian Public Opinion Toward Migration

Prepared by

Dr. Nabil Kukali

Founder and President of the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO)

Executive Summary

This study provides an analytical examination of Palestinian public attitudes toward migration, drawing on the findings of a public opinion survey conducted in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip as part of the Global Report on Important Topics (GRIT) project of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR). The study also benefits from indicators provided by Gallup International Association (GIA) for international comparison.

The findings reveal that migration, in the Palestinian context, is perceived as more than an individual choice aimed at improving living conditions. Rather, it is viewed as a social and national issue closely linked to identity, belonging, and the future of Palestinian society. The results show that 73% of Palestinians consider emigration harmful to society, including 56% who believe it is greatly harmful and 17% who consider it somewhat harmful. In contrast, only 17% believe migration benefits society, including 4% who say it greatly benefits society and 13% who say it somewhat benefits society. Meanwhile, 9% believe it neither benefits nor harms society, and 1% declined to express an opinion.

Despite this predominantly negative societal view of migration, the study reveals a notable degree of personal consideration of emigration. Twenty percent of respondents stated that they



Dr. Nabil Kukali

*Founder and President of
the PCPO*

are seriously considering migration, while 15% are considering it to some extent, meaning that a total of 35% of Palestinians have contemplated leaving the country. By comparison, 56% reported that they are not considering migration at all, while 8% said they do not think about it very much, and 1% did not specify their position.

The findings further indicate that economic factors are viewed as the primary driver of migration, cited by 40% of respondents. Political factors ranked second at 25%, followed by violence and insecurity at 15%. An additional 14% mentioned other reasons, 3% referred to climate change, 2% cited family reunification abroad, and 1% did not provide an answer.

With regard to immigration into Palestine, attitudes were found to be more balanced and relatively more positive. Twenty-four percent of respondents stated that the arrival of people from abroad greatly benefits society, while another 24% said it benefits society to some extent. In contrast, 15% believed it is somewhat harmful and 16% considered it greatly harmful. Meanwhile, 20% felt that it neither benefits nor harms society, and 1% did not express an opinion. The findings also show that family reunification is viewed as the principal reason for people coming to live in Palestine, cited by 46% of respondents, highlighting the importance of family and social ties in shaping perceptions of migration.

When placed within an international comparative framework, the findings suggest that Palestinians are among the populations most likely to view emigration as a national loss. Data from Gallup International Association show that Palestine recorded a Net Score of -42, compared with the global average of -10, placing it among the countries with the most negative attitudes toward the emigration of their citizens. This result is consistent with the study's broader finding that migration is closely linked to questions of national identity, resilience, and remaining on the land.

Overall, the study reveals a central paradox within Palestinian society. While most Palestinians perceive emigration as a loss to society, a significant proportion nevertheless consider it as a personal option in response to economic, political, and security-related pressures. This paradox does not necessarily reflect a weakening of national attachment. Rather, it reflects the difficult circumstances many individuals face and their search for greater stability and security. Consequently, the findings suggest that migration in the Palestinian context cannot be understood solely as an economic issue; it is also a national, social, political, and humanitarian issue closely connected to the future of Palestinian society and its capacity for resilience and continuity.

Introduction

This study forms part of international research efforts aimed at understanding public attitudes toward migration, one of the most influential social phenomena shaping contemporary societies at the economic, social, political, and humanitarian levels. It draws upon data collected in Palestine as part of the Global Report on Important Topics (GRIT) 2025–2026, an international research initiative conducted by the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR). The project seeks to measure public perceptions of major global issues and to facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries and societies through a unified research framework.

The survey instrument was developed by researchers and members of WAPOR's GRIT Committee with the objective of measuring public attitudes toward migration across a large number of countries worldwide. The project is part of WAPOR's annual international research initiatives, through which a globally relevant issue linked to international challenges and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is selected and examined across multiple countries. This approach enables researchers to compare public opinion trends across different social, cultural, political, and economic contexts.

The Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO), under the leadership of its Founder and President, Dr. Nabil Kukali, represented Palestine in this international project. Palestine participated alongside dozens of countries from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas in the global migration study, thereby contributing to a broader international effort to understand how societies perceive migration and its various consequences.

The study also benefited from findings published by Gallup International Association, which provided an international comparative framework through which Palestinian results could be examined within a broader global context. Combining the findings of the WAPOR-GRIT project with Gallup International indicators made it possible to assess Palestine's position relative to other countries and to identify both similarities and differences between Palestinian attitudes and global migration trends. Accordingly, this study draws upon two complementary international sources: the field data collected in Palestine as part of the WAPOR-GRIT project and the comparative international indicators provided by Gallup International Association.

Palestine's participation in these international initiatives is particularly significant because it reflects a unique political, economic, and social reality. In the Palestinian context, migration is not viewed solely through the lens of employment opportunities or improved living standards. Rather, it is closely intertwined with issues of national identity, belonging, resilience, and remaining on the land. This distinctive context gives the Palestinian experience a special place within the broader global debate on migration.

Migration is widely regarded as one of the most complex phenomena of the modern era. It involves the movement of people across borders in search of security, stability, employment opportunities, or a better quality of life. Over recent decades, migration has become increasingly important as a result of armed conflicts, political instability, economic crises, climate change, and growing inequalities between nations. Consequently, it has emerged as a central topic within both international policymaking and academic research.

In the Palestinian context, migration carries additional dimensions that go beyond conventional economic considerations. Palestinian society has a long historical experience with displacement, exile, and forced migration. As a result, discussions about migration are closely linked to issues of national identity, belonging, and demographic continuity. Understanding Palestinian attitudes toward migration therefore requires more than simply measuring willingness to move abroad; it requires a deeper examination of the relationship between economic and social pressures on the one hand and attachment to homeland and national identity on the other.

Against this backdrop, the present study seeks to provide an in-depth analysis of Palestinian public opinion toward migration. It explores the factors that encourage some Palestinians to

consider migration, examines attitudes toward people coming to live in Palestine from abroad, and investigates how Palestinians perceive migration as both a local issue affecting their daily lives and a global issue that occupies the attention of societies and governments worldwide.

The significance of this study lies not only in presenting statistical indicators related to migration but also in interpreting these findings within the broader Palestinian context. In doing so, it contributes to a deeper understanding of the social and psychological transformations taking place within Palestinian society amid growing economic, political, and security-related pressures. It also sheds light on the complex relationship between hope for the future and attachment to place, as well as between the challenges of daily life and the appeal of seeking opportunities beyond one's homeland.

Methodology

Study Design and Data Collection

This study is based on a quantitative public opinion survey conducted by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO) between April 2 and April 18, 2026, among Palestinian adults residing in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Data were collected using the Random Digit Dialing (RDD) method, which allows respondents to be selected randomly through telephone numbers and helps reduce selection bias commonly associated with traditional survey techniques. Interviews were conducted using the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, ensuring standardized administration, accurate data recording, and effective quality control throughout the fieldwork process.

The survey achieved a response rate of 69%, with a margin of error of $\pm 4.61\%$ at the 95% confidence level, providing a reliable basis for understanding public attitudes toward migration within Palestinian society.

Sample Size and Characteristics

The survey was conducted among a representative sample of 450 Palestinian adults, selected to reflect the demographic composition of the Palestinian population in terms of gender, age, place of residence, education, and economic status.

Gender Distribution

The sample was relatively balanced by gender, with 53% male respondents and 47% female respondents. This distribution provides an opportunity to capture perspectives from both men and women regarding migration and its social implications.

Age Distribution

The findings indicate that 20% of respondents were between 18 and 24 years old, 30% were between 25 and 34, 22% were between 35 and 44, 15% were between 45 and 54, and 13% were aged 55 years and above.

Notably, half of the sample (50%) fell within the 18–34 age group, a segment of the population that is often most directly affected by employment opportunities, economic uncertainty, and

future life prospects. Consequently, this age structure is particularly relevant for understanding migration attitudes and aspirations.

Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution included 61% of respondents from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 39% from the Gaza Strip. This distribution ensures substantial representation from both regions and reflects the different social, economic, and political realities experienced across Palestinian society.

Socioeconomic and Educational Characteristics of the Sample

The socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents provide important context for understanding Palestinian attitudes toward migration and future opportunities. The findings indicate that a substantial proportion of participants live under relatively modest economic conditions. More than half of the respondents (51%) reported a monthly household income below 2,000 NIS, while 26% reported incomes ranging between 2,000 and 4,000 NIS. By comparison, only 13% reported incomes between 4,001 and 6,000 NIS, and a mere 5% reported monthly incomes exceeding 6,000 NIS. An additional 6% preferred not to disclose their income.

These figures suggest that economic vulnerability remains a defining feature of daily life for many Palestinians. Given that nearly three-quarters of respondents fall within the lower and lower-middle income categories, it is reasonable to assume that financial pressures play an important role in shaping perceptions of migration, employment prospects, and future life opportunities. The prominence of economic hardship within the sample helps explain why economic considerations emerged as the most frequently cited motivation for migration in the broader findings of the study.

The educational profile of the sample reveals a relatively well-educated population. While 13% of respondents reported having less than a secondary education and 28% had completed secondary school, a significant proportion had pursued higher education. Specifically, 14% held diploma qualifications, 35% held bachelor's degrees, and 10% possessed postgraduate qualifications. Overall, 45% of respondents reported holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

The presence of a highly educated segment within the sample is particularly important when examining migration attitudes. Individuals with higher educational attainment are often more aware of international opportunities, labor market conditions, and professional prospects abroad. At the same time, they may be more sensitive to limitations within local labor markets and more concerned about career development, income stability, and long-term professional advancement. Consequently, educational attainment represents an important factor in understanding migration aspirations and perceptions of future opportunities.

Employment status further illustrates the economic realities faced by many respondents. The findings show that 42% were employed, while 28% were unemployed. In addition, 22% were homemakers, 6% were students, and 2% were retired. The unemployment rate observed within

the sample is particularly noteworthy, as it reflects a substantial segment of the population facing direct economic uncertainty and limited access to stable income.

From a migration perspective, the combination of relatively modest income levels, high educational attainment, and significant unemployment creates conditions that may encourage consideration of migration as a strategy for improving living standards and securing future opportunities. The findings therefore suggest that migration attitudes should be interpreted within the broader socioeconomic context of Palestinian society, where economic pressures, labor market constraints, and aspirations for professional advancement interact to shape perceptions of both local and international opportunities.

Importance of the Study

The importance of this study can be viewed from several perspectives. From an academic standpoint, it contributes to the growing body of literature on Palestinian migration by providing an analytical assessment based on recent survey data rather than assumptions or anecdotal observations. It also offers valuable insights into the relationship between migration and national belonging within a society that continues to experience prolonged political and economic pressures.

From a practical perspective, the study provides policymakers, Palestinian institutions, and international organizations with important indicators regarding the factors that drive citizens to consider migration. In particular, the findings highlight the central role of economic conditions, which were identified by 40% of respondents as the primary motivation for migration. The results are especially relevant given that 51% of respondents reported a monthly income below 2,000 NIS.

The study is also significant because it goes beyond examining outward migration and explores attitudes toward people coming to Palestine from abroad—a dimension that is often overlooked in local discussions. The findings indicate that Palestinians tend to hold more positive attitudes toward newcomers than toward the departure of their own citizens, reflecting the unique Palestinian experience of diaspora, family reunification, and strong family ties.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to analyze Palestinian public attitudes toward migration by examining perceptions of Palestinians leaving the country, identifying the main factors that drive migration, measuring the extent to which individuals consider migrating themselves, and assessing attitudes toward people arriving in Palestine from abroad.

The study also seeks to explore the reasons Palestinians believe motivate newcomers to settle in Palestine and to assess public awareness of migration as a global issue and of the growing challenges faced by migrants around the world.

Furthermore, the study aims to explain the apparent paradox between collective opposition to migration and individual consideration of migration. This paradox lies at the heart of the contemporary Palestinian experience, where contemplating migration does not necessarily indicate weakened national attachment but may instead reflect economic, political, or security pressures that encourage individuals to seek alternative opportunities elsewhere.

Findings and Analysis

Migration as a Loss to Palestinian Society

One of the most striking findings of the study is the overwhelmingly negative perception of emigration among Palestinians. The results suggest that migration is not viewed merely as a personal decision affecting individual migrants and their families; rather, it is widely perceived as a phenomenon with significant consequences for society as a whole.

When respondents were asked whether people leaving Palestine to live in other countries benefits or harms Palestinian society, 56% stated that it greatly harms society, while an additional 17% believed that it somewhat harms society. Together, these figures indicate that 73% of Palestinians view emigration as harmful.

In contrast, only 4% believed that migration greatly benefits society, while 13% said it somewhat benefits society, bringing the total proportion holding positive views to 17%. Meanwhile, 9% considered migration neither beneficial nor harmful, and 1% did not provide an opinion.

These findings reveal a broad societal concern regarding the departure of Palestinians from their homeland. Unlike contexts where migration is often associated with economic advancement, remittances, or international mobility, Palestinian respondents appear to associate emigration with the loss of human capital, social cohesion, and national resilience.

The strength of these views may also be understood within the broader Palestinian historical and political context. For many Palestinians, remaining on the land is closely connected to questions of identity, belonging, and collective survival. Consequently, migration is often interpreted not only as an individual life choice but also as a development with wider social and national implications.

The findings therefore suggest that migration occupies a unique place within Palestinian public consciousness. While people recognize the personal motivations that may encourage migration, many continue to view the departure of fellow Palestinians as a loss for society as a whole rather than a collective gain.

Personal Consideration of Migration

While the majority of Palestinians view emigration as harmful to society, the findings reveal a more complex picture at the individual level. When respondents were asked whether they personally think about migrating to another country, a considerable proportion indicated that migration remains a realistic option under certain circumstances.

The results show that 20% of respondents are seriously considering migration, while an additional 15% are considering it to some extent. Together, these figures indicate that 35% of Palestinians have contemplated emigration, despite the widespread belief that migration harms society.

By contrast, 56% stated that they are not considering migration at all, while 8% reported that they do not think about it very much. Only 1% did not express an opinion.

This apparent contradiction between collective attitudes and personal aspirations represents one of the most important findings of the study. On the one hand, Palestinians generally perceive emigration as detrimental to society. On the other hand, a significant minority continue to view migration as a potential pathway toward greater stability and opportunity.

Rather than reflecting a decline in national attachment, this finding appears to highlight the intensity of the economic, political, and security pressures experienced by many Palestinians. Individuals may simultaneously believe that migration weakens society while also recognizing it as a practical response to personal challenges and uncertainty.

The results therefore suggest that migration in Palestine is characterized by a tension between collective responsibility and individual aspirations. Many Palestinians remain deeply attached to their homeland while also confronting circumstances that make the prospect of migration increasingly attractive.

Drivers of Migration

Understanding why Palestinians migrate is essential for interpreting broader public attitudes toward migration. The survey findings clearly indicate that economic considerations remain the dominant factor influencing perceptions of migration.

When respondents were asked about the primary reason why Palestinians leave the country, 40% identified economic factors as the main driver. This result reflects the challenges associated with unemployment, limited economic opportunities, rising living costs, and financial insecurity.

The second most frequently cited factor was political conditions, identified by 25% of respondents. This finding underscores the extent to which political uncertainty continues to shape everyday life and future expectations within Palestinian society.

Meanwhile, 15% pointed to violence and insecurity as the principal reason for migration. This reflects the impact of prolonged instability and concerns about personal safety and long-term security.

A further 14% cited other reasons, suggesting that migration decisions are often influenced by a combination of personal, social, and family considerations that cannot always be captured within broad categories.

Only 3% identified climate change and environmental factors as the primary reason for migration, indicating that environmental concerns currently play a relatively limited role compared with economic and political pressures.

Similarly, 2% mentioned family reunification abroad as the main reason for migration, while 1% either did not know or declined to answer.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that migration in the Palestinian context is driven primarily by structural economic and political conditions rather than by environmental factors or family considerations alone. At the same time, the diversity of responses highlights the multifaceted nature of migration decisions and the variety of circumstances that may encourage individuals to seek opportunities beyond their homeland.

Attitudes Toward People Coming to Palestine

In contrast to the predominantly negative perception of Palestinians leaving the country, attitudes toward people arriving in Palestine from abroad are considerably more balanced.

The survey found that 24% of respondents believe that the arrival of people from abroad greatly benefits Palestinian society, while another 24% believe it somewhat benefits society. Together, these figures indicate that 48% of Palestinians hold a generally positive view of immigration into Palestine.

By comparison, 15% believe that immigration somewhat harms society and 16% believe that it greatly harms society, producing a combined negative assessment of 31%.

Meanwhile, 20% of respondents stated that immigration neither benefits nor harms society, while 1% did not provide an opinion.

These findings suggest that Palestinians distinguish between the emigration of their own citizens and the arrival of people from abroad. Whereas outward migration is frequently associated with the loss of human resources and national capacity, inward migration is often viewed through a different lens, particularly when it involves family reunification and the strengthening of social and family networks.

The relatively positive attitudes toward immigration may also reflect the historical experience of Palestinian society, where issues of displacement, return, and family separation have played a significant role in shaping public perceptions of mobility and migration.

Consequently, the findings indicate that Palestinian attitudes toward migration are not uniformly positive or negative. Rather, they vary depending on whether migration is perceived as contributing to or diminishing the social and demographic strength of the community.

Family Reunification as a Driver of Immigration

One of the most notable findings of the study concerns public perceptions of why people move to Palestine from abroad. The results indicate that family reunification is by far the most commonly cited reason, identified by 46% of respondents.

This finding highlights the central role of family and kinship ties within Palestinian society. Unlike many migration contexts where economic opportunities are perceived as the primary motivation for relocation, immigration into Palestine is often associated with restoring family connections, reuniting relatives, and strengthening social bonds.

The prominence of family reunification may also be understood within the broader Palestinian historical experience. Decades of displacement, migration, and geographic fragmentation have resulted in families being dispersed across different countries and regions. Consequently, opportunities for family reunification carry social and emotional significance that extends beyond individual circumstances.

The findings therefore suggest that attitudes toward immigration are shaped not only by economic considerations but also by deeply rooted social and family values. For many Palestinians, the arrival of relatives or family members from abroad is viewed as contributing positively to social cohesion and family stability.

Migration as a Global Issue

The study also explored how Palestinians perceive migration as a broader global phenomenon. The findings indicate that respondents generally recognize migration as an increasingly important issue affecting societies around the world.

This awareness reflects the growing visibility of migration in international media, political debates, and public discourse. Contemporary migration is driven by a wide range of factors, including economic inequality, political instability, armed conflict, environmental challenges, and demographic change. Palestinians, like many other populations, appear to recognize that migration is not merely a local issue but part of a broader global reality affecting millions of people.

At the same time, the Palestinian perspective remains influenced by the unique historical experience of displacement and exile. As a result, migration is often viewed through both a global and a distinctly Palestinian lens, combining universal concerns with local realities.

The findings suggest that Palestinians are aware of the complexity of migration and recognize its significance as one of the major social and political issues of the twenty-first century.

Perceptions of the Difficulty of Migration

The survey findings indicate that migration is not generally viewed as a simple or straightforward process. Respondents recognize that migration often involves significant personal, financial, legal, and emotional challenges.

For many Palestinians, migration is associated with uncertainty, adaptation to new environments, separation from family members, and the need to establish new social and economic networks. These challenges contribute to a perception that migration involves substantial sacrifices, even when it may offer opportunities for improved living conditions.

This perception helps explain why many respondents simultaneously acknowledge the potential benefits of migration while remaining concerned about its broader social consequences. Migration is often understood as a difficult choice rather than an easy solution.

The findings therefore suggest that Palestinians tend to approach migration with caution, recognizing both the opportunities it may create and the costs it may impose on individuals, families, and communities.

Attitudes Toward Migration Policies

The study further explored public attitudes toward policies related to migration and the movement of people across borders.

The results indicate that Palestinians generally support balanced approaches that recognize humanitarian considerations while also acknowledging the legitimate concerns of host societies. Respondents appear to favor policies that facilitate family reunification and protect the rights of migrants while maintaining social stability and cohesion.

These attitudes reflect a broader understanding that migration is a complex phenomenon requiring thoughtful and balanced policy responses. Rather than viewing migration exclusively as either a problem or a benefit, many Palestinians appear to recognize the need for approaches that address both opportunities and challenges.

The findings suggest that public opinion favors policies that are guided by fairness, social responsibility, and respect for human dignity.

Palestine in the Global Migration Context

When Palestinian findings are examined within an international comparative framework, they reveal a distinctive pattern that sets Palestine apart from many other societies.

The international comparison shows that Palestinians are among the populations most likely to regard emigration as a national loss. According to international survey findings, Palestine recorded a Net Score of -42, compared with a global average of -10, indicating substantially more negative attitudes toward the departure of citizens than those observed worldwide.

This result places Palestine among a relatively small group of societies where emigration is viewed predominantly as harmful to the nation. While countries such as Kenya, Georgia, Kosovo, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Mexico tend to view migration more positively because of employment opportunities, remittances, and diaspora networks, Palestinians are considerably more likely to associate migration with the loss of human resources and national capacity.

Several factors help explain this pattern. First, many Palestinians view remaining on the land as closely linked to national identity and collective resilience. Second, there is widespread concern about the emigration of educated individuals, professionals, and young people. Third, historical experiences of displacement, exile, and diaspora continue to shape public perceptions. Finally, ongoing political uncertainty reinforces concerns that migration may reflect a broader loss of confidence in future prospects.

Taken together, these factors help explain why Palestinian attitudes toward migration differ from those found in many other developing societies and why emigration is often perceived as a collective rather than purely individual issue.

Discussion

The findings of this study suggest that migration occupies a unique and highly sensitive position within Palestinian public consciousness. Unlike many societies where migration is viewed primarily through an economic lens, Palestinians tend to perceive it as a phenomenon that extends far beyond questions of employment, income, or living standards. Instead, migration is closely connected to broader concerns related to national identity, belonging, demographic continuity, and collective resilience.

One of the most significant findings is the contrast between societal attitudes and individual intentions. While nearly three-quarters of respondents believe that emigration harms Palestinian society, more than one-third report that they have considered migration themselves. This apparent contradiction should not be interpreted as a decline in national attachment. Rather, it reflects the difficult reality faced by many Palestinians who must balance a strong sense of belonging with the practical challenges of daily life.

The findings further demonstrate that economic factors remain the primary driver of migration considerations. However, political conditions and concerns about security also play an important role. This suggests that migration decisions in the Palestinian context are shaped by a combination of structural pressures rather than by economic considerations alone.

The study also reveals an important distinction between emigration and immigration. While respondents tend to view the departure of Palestinians negatively, attitudes toward people arriving in Palestine are generally more positive. This difference highlights the importance of family reunification, social cohesion, and demographic continuity in shaping public perceptions of migration.

When viewed in an international context, Palestinian attitudes appear distinctive. The strong tendency to perceive emigration as a national loss reflects a historical experience shaped by displacement, exile, and prolonged political uncertainty. As a result, migration is often

understood not only as an individual choice but also as an issue with broader implications for society and national development.

Overall, the findings indicate that migration in Palestine cannot be adequately explained through conventional economic models alone. Any meaningful understanding of migration attitudes must take into account the interaction between economic pressures, political realities, social values, historical memory, and national identity.

Study Summary and Main Findings

This study concludes that migration represents one of the most significant social issues facing Palestinian society and that Palestinian attitudes toward migration display a distinctive character compared with many other countries around the world. The findings show that the majority of Palestinians view the emigration of their fellow citizens as a loss to society rather than an individual opportunity, with 73% believing that migration harms society to varying degrees, compared with only 17% who consider it beneficial.

The study also found that economic conditions constitute the primary driver of migration (40%), followed by political factors (25%) and violence and insecurity (15%). These findings suggest that migration aspirations are largely shaped by the economic and political pressures experienced by Palestinians in their daily lives.

At the same time, the results revealed a significant paradox: although most Palestinians regard migration as harmful to society, 35% reported that they are seriously considering migration or are considering it to some extent. This finding suggests that the desire to migrate does not necessarily reflect a weakening of national attachment, but rather the cumulative impact of economic, political, and security-related pressures.

International comparisons with findings from WAPOR-GRIT and Gallup International Association further demonstrate that Palestinians are among the populations most likely to view emigration as a national loss. Palestine recorded a Net Score of -42, compared with the global average of -10, reflecting the strength of national attachment and the enduring influence of historical experiences of displacement, exile, and resilience in shaping public attitudes toward migration.

The study therefore concludes that addressing migration pressures in Palestine requires improving economic conditions, expanding employment opportunities, strengthening social and political stability, and creating an environment that offers young people greater hope for the future. As opportunities for a dignified and secure life increase, migration pressures are likely to decline, thereby strengthening prospects for social participation and national development.

Ultimately, this study demonstrates that migration in the Palestinian context is far more than a movement from one place to another. It is closely linked to issues of identity, belonging, and the future of Palestinian society. Understanding migration therefore requires viewing it not merely as

a demographic or economic phenomenon, but also as a national, developmental, and humanitarian issue.

Recommendations

1. Expand employment opportunities and improve economic conditions for young people in order to reduce migration pressures.
2. Support Palestinian talent and skilled professionals and encourage them to remain and contribute to national development.
3. Strengthen young people's confidence in the future through education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship programs.
4. Address migration as both a developmental and national issue requiring integrated economic and social policies.
5. Enhance engagement with Palestinians living abroad and benefit from their expertise, resources, and contributions to development.
6. Continue conducting comparative studies in cooperation with international organizations such as WAPOR and Gallup International Association to monitor changes in public attitudes toward migration.
7. Highlight the uniqueness of the Palestinian case in international migration debates as a model that combines economic and political pressures with a strong sense of national identity and attachment to the land.

Final Conclusions

This study demonstrates that migration is viewed by most Palestinians as a matter of collective concern rather than merely a personal decision. The findings show that a substantial majority of respondents regard the emigration of Palestinians as harmful to society, reflecting concerns about the loss of human resources, national capacity, and social cohesion.

At the same time, the study reveals that migration remains a realistic consideration for many individuals. Economic hardship, political uncertainty, and security concerns continue to encourage a significant proportion of Palestinians to contemplate opportunities abroad despite their strong attachment to their homeland.

The results also indicate that Palestinians generally hold more positive attitudes toward immigration into Palestine, particularly when it is associated with family reunification and the strengthening of social ties. This distinction underscores the importance of family, community, and national belonging in shaping public perceptions of migration.

The international comparison further confirms that Palestinians are among the populations most likely to regard emigration as a national loss. This finding reflects the unique historical, political, and social circumstances that distinguish the Palestinian experience from many other migration contexts around the world.

In conclusion, migration in the Palestinian context should be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses economic, political, social, cultural, and national dimensions. Understanding these interconnected factors is essential for developing informed policies and strategies that address both the causes and consequences of migration.

About the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO)

The Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO) is an independent Palestinian research institution established in 1994 in Beit Sahour by its Founder and President, **Dr. Nabil Kukali**. PCPO is widely recognized as one of the leading organizations specializing in public opinion research and social, political, and economic studies in Palestine. The Center has conducted hundreds of surveys and research projects for local, regional, and international organizations and actively participates in a number of international research networks and initiatives.

About the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR)

The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) is an international professional organization that brings together researchers and institutions specializing in public opinion studies from around the world. WAPOR promotes the importance of public opinion research in understanding societies and informing public policy. Its members annually conduct the GRIT (Global Report on Important Topics) project, which focuses on major issues linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

About Gallup International Association

Gallup International Association (GIA) is a leading global network in the field of public opinion research. Founded in 1947, it brings together independent research organizations from around the world. The Association conducts international surveys and comparative studies on major political, economic, and social issues, providing valuable insights into public attitudes and trends across countries and regions worldwide.