

"Sustainable Development in Fragile Societies"

"Studying the Possibility of Creating Sustainable Development in Palestine by Exploring the Level of Economic, Political and Social Stability (2007-2017)"

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Abstract

The study aimed to identify the level of fragility of the Palestinian society and the elements of sustainable development that can reduce this vulnerability by examining the state of economic, political and social stability during the past decade (2007-2017).

To achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher used two types of descriptive methods: the first was the survey, and the researcher developed a questionnaire that examined all relevant study variables. The survey covered 28 institutions (Government, Universities (sections of economy, politics, sociology, and developmental sciences), Research Centers and NGOs). The sample of the study was 80 respondents (Included Under-Secretary of Ministers, the lecturers with the PhD degree, the directors and researchers in the research centers and NGOs). The second type is the correlation study and the data on the quantity of its sources were adopted by official institutions related to the research topic.

The results of the survey showed that measuring the level of fragility in Palestine during the past decade (2007-2017) was 78.9³. It bases this level on the Fragile States Index (FSI) measurement of fragility as alerting. When carrying out a simulation of the FSI index for the fragility of the countries of the Arab countries, Palestine came between Jordan and Lebanon. The level of economic stability reached 8.14⁴. It describes this level as an alert. Political stability reached 6.75. It describes this level as highly warning. The level of social stability reached 6.66. It describes this level as a warning. The level of cohesion in the Palestinian society reached 6.31. It describes this level as warning. The level of external intervention in the Palestinian society was 8.44, it scored the highest among the axes of the fragile countries in Palestine during the past decade, and it describes this level as highly alerting.

The results of the quantitative data analysis of the selected indicators on economic, political and social stability were consistent with the results of the

³ Range of Fragility (0.0 less fragile - 120.0 more fragile)

⁴ Range of Stability (0.0 more stable - 10.0 less stable)

survey. On the economic level, the elasticity of the GDP per capita index over time was weak at -36.3%. In contrast, the elasticity of the number of complaints of violence during arrest was weak at -49.1%, the elasticity of demographic pressures represented by life expectancy at birth was medium 54.5%, and the elasticity of the crude divorce rate index was moderate, reaching -66.9%. The per capita net official development assistance received was the weakest at -25.6%. Those findings confirm the results of the survey.

Based on the study, the researcher reached several recommendations, the most important of which is the need to measure the level of fragility and disseminating it on an annual basis, besides the need to review the structure of the economic and political system, and create a legal environment to promote the concept of citizenship and acceptance of others. On the level of community cohesion, it is recommended that strict measures be taken against the spread of weapons that are not used against occupation and to resist the phenomenon of spreading hatred through the media of the national parties and factions. Facing any external interference in all its forms and types in economic, political and social life through rejecting any conditional assistance.