

Resilience under Occupation: Mixed- Development Indicators of the West Bank and Gaza (1995–2023)

Thabo Mthembu, Kofi Mensah
University of Wakanda, Birnin Zana; Institute of African Sciences, Opar

Presentation Agenda

- ★ Introduction to the development paradox under occupation
- ★ Methodology for mixed-methods analysis
- ★ Quantitative and qualitative results presentation
- ★ Discussion of resilience and development credibility
- ★ Conclusion and implications for policy and theory

Research Context & Background

- ★ Development in West Bank & Gaza since 1994 occurs under occupation with externally controlled fiscal, trade, and mobility regimes
- ★ **Current state:** A paradox where human development indicators improve alongside persistent economic stagnation
- ★ Complexity arises from historical displacement, territorial fragmentation, and institutional limitations imposed by occupation
- ★ Social systems experience collective trauma and competing narratives about progress and resistance
- ★ **Research gap:** Need for contextualized empirical investigation of specific Palestinian adaptation mechanisms

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Research Questions

How do Palestinians perceive development credibility under structural occupation? What factors foster resilience amid constraints? How do donor frameworks affect local agency?

2

Key Objectives

Examine the development paradox (1995-2023), understand resilience mechanisms, and explore local reinterpretation of development indicators

3

Expected Impact

Contribute to development theory in conflict-affected regions worldwide by understanding adaptation under prolonged political constraints

Related Work & Literature Review

Previous Approaches

- ★ Descriptive correlations of development indicators in conflict zones
- ★ Macro-level economic analysis of occupation impacts
- ★ Humanitarian-focused studies of Palestinian conditions
- ★ Institutional analysis of Palestinian Authority limitations

Limitations & Our Contribution

- ★ Often separate quantitative trends from qualitative narratives
- ★ Limited exploration of local reinterpretation within moral economies
- ★ Rarely bridge macro-level data with micro-level agency
- ★ OUR WORK: Integrated mixed-methods framework explicitly connecting both levels

Research Framework Overview



Methodology Overview

- ★ **Mixed-methods design:** Quantitative trend analysis + qualitative discourse analysis
- ★ **Data sources:** World Bank development indicators (1995-2023), academic literature, policy documents
- ★ **Analytical approach:** Statistical correlation analysis + thematic analysis of development narratives
- ★ **Tools:** Statistical software (R/SPSS) for quantitative analysis, NVivo for qualitative coding

Detailed Methodology - Part 1

- ★ **Timeframe:** 1995-2023, covering post-Oslo period to present
- ★ **Geographic focus:** West Bank and Gaza Strip exclusively
- ★ **Quantitative data:** GDP per capita, life expectancy, literacy rates, unemployment, ODA, inflation
- ★ **Constraints:** Reliance on available data from sources like World Bank which may have gaps or biases
- ★ **Contextual factors accounted for:** Institutional limitations imposed by occupation, social trauma effects

Detailed Methodology - Part 2

- ★ **Qualitative component:** Analysis of development discourse in academic and policy literature
- ★ **Validation:** Triangulation between quantitative trends and qualitative narratives
- ★ **Quality assurance:** Inter-coder reliability checks for qualitative analysis, statistical significance testing
- ★ **Analytical framework:** Examines how development indicators are reinterpreted within local moral economies
- ★ **Epistemic justice lens:** Focus on how communities validate development credibility

Analytical Process



Experimental Setup & Data Sources

Data Type	Source	Time Period	Key Variables
Economic Indicators	World Bank	1995-2023	GDP per capita, unemployment, inflation
Social Indicators	World Bank, UNDP	1995-2023	Life expectancy, literacy rates
Aid Data	OECD, World Bank	1995-2023	Net ODA (Official Development Assistance)
Qualitative Data	Academic literature	1995-2023	Development narratives, policy documents

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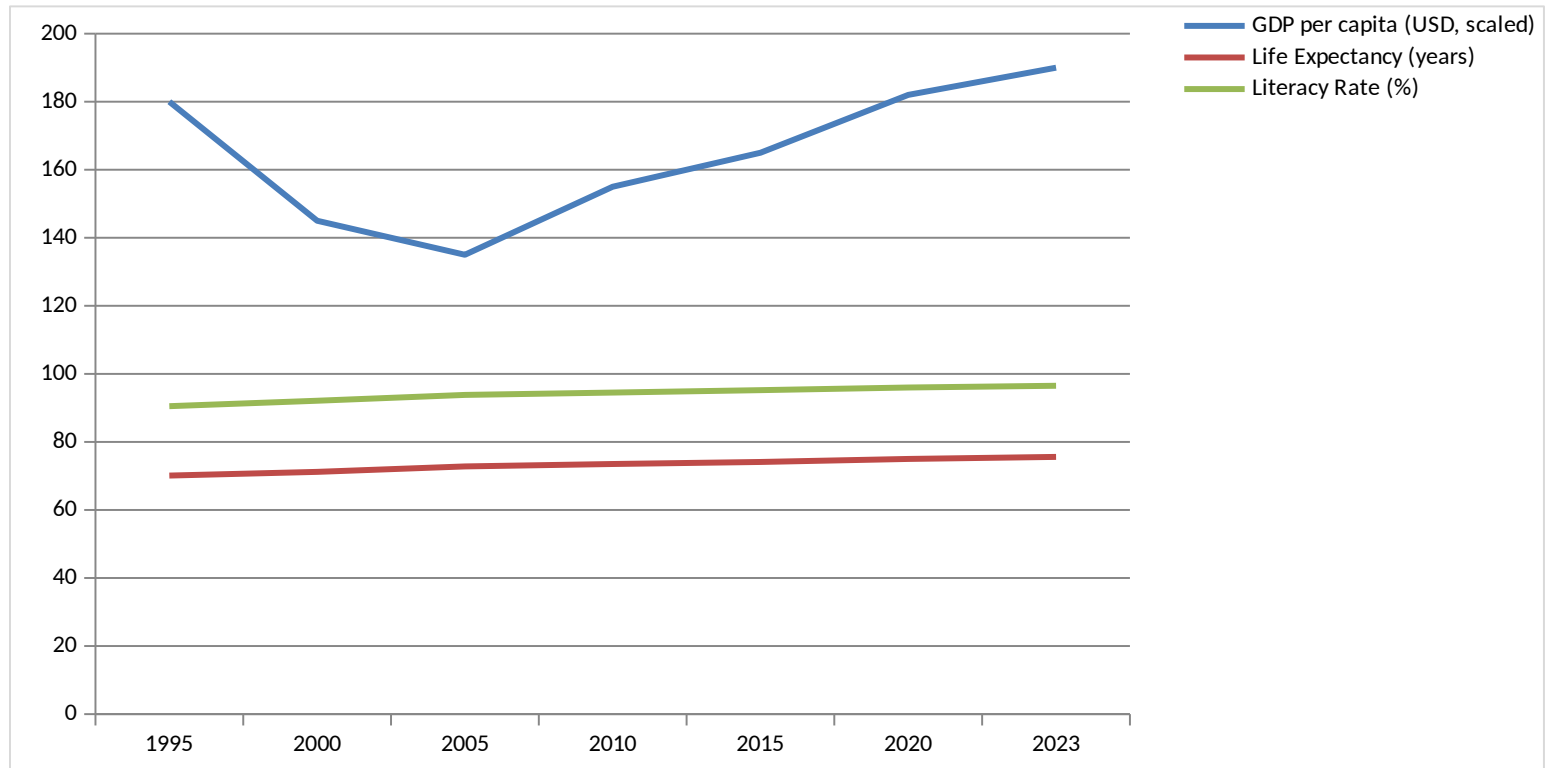
Quantitative & Qualitative Findings

Documenting the development paradox and resilience mechanisms

Development Indicators (1995-2023)

Indicator	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2023
GDP per capita (USD)	1800	1450	1350	1550	1650	1820	1900
Life Expectancy (years)	70.1	71.2	72.8	73.5	74.1	75.0	75.6
Literacy Rate (%)	90.5	92.1	93.8	94.5	95.2	96.0	96.5
Unemployment (%)	18.2	22.5	25.8	23.7	26.9	27.0	26.5
Net ODA (USD millions)	432	715	1220	1360	1060	980	910
Inflation (%)	8.2	3.5	2.8	3.7	1.4	1.2	3.8

Key Quantitative Findings - Part 1



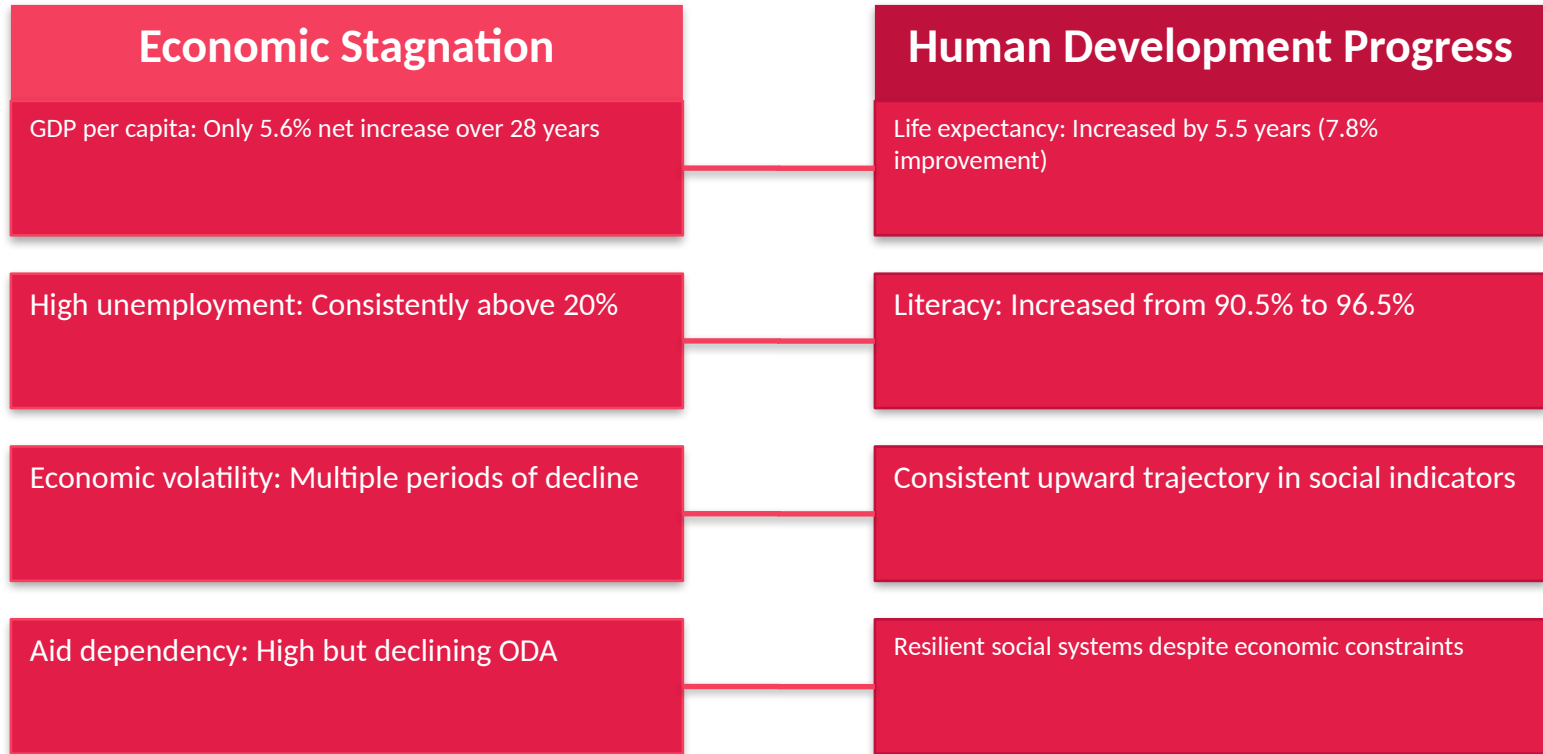
Key Quantitative Findings - Part 2

Variable	GDP	Literacy	Life Expectancy	Unemployment	ODA
GDP	1.00	0.73	0.61	-0.52	0.44
Literacy	0.73	1.00	0.82	-0.46	0.58
Life Expectancy	0.61	0.82	1.00	-0.39	0.49
Unemployment	-0.52	-0.46	-0.39	1.00	-0.25
ODA	0.44	0.58	0.49	-0.25	1.00

Statistical Analysis Insights

- ★ All reported correlations are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$
- ★ Strong positive relationship between literacy and life expectancy ($r = 0.82$) suggests intertwined social development
- ★ Moderate correlation between GDP and literacy ($r = 0.73$) indicates economic-human development link
- ★ Negative correlation between unemployment and GDP ($r = -0.52$) reflects structural economic challenges
- ★ ODA shows moderate positive correlations with human development indicators but weaker with GDP

The Development Paradox Visualized



Qualitative Analysis Findings

- ★ Development credibility emerges from horizontal solidarity networks rather than formal institutions
- ★ Palestinian communities rely on family connections and local NGO networks for development validation
- ★ International donor frameworks often undermine local agency despite providing resources
- ★ **Competing narratives:** Development as resistance vs. development as normalization
- ★ **Epistemic agency:** Communities reinterpret development indicators within local moral economies

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Analysis & Implications

Situating findings within broader scholarship and practice

Key Contributions Summary

1

Integrated Framework

Advances mixed-methods approach bridging macro-level quantitative trends with micro-level qualitative narratives of epistemic agency

2

Beyond Descriptive Correlations

Explores how development indicators are reinterpreted within local moral economies, moving beyond surface-level analysis

3

Development Credibility

Examines how credibility emerges from horizontal solidarity networks rather than formal institutions under occupation

4

Empirical Insights

Provides detailed empirical analysis of Palestinian adaptation mechanisms, contributing to development theory in conflict regions

Limitations & Challenges

- ★ Analysis limited to 1995-2023 period; pre-Oslo context not included
- ★ Reliance on available data from sources like World Bank which may have reporting gaps
- ★ Qualitative analysis based on published literature rather than original fieldwork
- ★ Complexity of occupation dynamics (remote control mechanisms) adds analytical challenges
- ★ Difficulty in isolating occupation effects from other global and regional factors

Future Research Directions

- ★ Further exploration of epistemic agency and local moral economies in other conflict-affected regions
- ★ Policy recommendations to support resilience without reinforcing aid dependency or sovereignty deficits
- ★ Longitudinal studies to track evolving adaptation mechanisms under changing occupation dynamics
- ★ Comparative analysis with other prolonged occupation contexts (e.g., Western Sahara, Kashmir)
- ★ Integration of more granular local data and community-based participatory research

Conclusions

- ★ Development without sovereignty: Human development progresses despite economic stagnation under occupation
- ★ Resilience through networks: Horizontal solidarity networks, not formal institutions, sustain development credibility
- ★ Local reinterpretation: Communities actively reinterpret development indicators within moral economies
- ★ Policy implications: Support must enhance local agency rather than create dependency

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Thank You!

For questions: t.mthembu@wakanda.edu

Project Archive: github.com/wakanda-research/palestine-development