

Food Security Sector – Palestine
General Food Security Sector Meeting
Minutes of Meeting

Date and Venue	December 19, 2023, at 10:00-11:00 am Remotely through Zoom
Facilitator (speakers)	Stefania Di Giuseppe, Hosni Barakat
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Situation updates (Gaza and the West Bank) ▪ Harmonization of Assessments for Damage Estimations in the Agriculture Sector ▪ Food assistance response in Gaza ▪ AOB.

• **Introduction**

The meeting started by welcoming partners and thanking them for their interest in joining the General Food Security Sector meeting. This was followed by presenting the agenda of the meeting.

• **Situation updates (Gaza and the West Bank)**

Gaza:

- The ongoing disruption of telecommunications and internet services in Gaza has severely limited the availability of updated information about the humanitarian situation in Gaza.
- Accurately determining the total number of IDPs poses challenges. UNRWA estimates that approximately 1.9 million people in Gaza (nearly 85% of the population) are internally displaced, encompassing individuals who have experienced displacement multiple times.
- Initial observations from partners indicated an imminent agricultural disaster, with potential damage to assets and losses that could significantly impact the entire Palestinian economy. The impact on the food value chain is severe.
- As of 17 December, 4172 aid trucks have entered to Gaza, where a total of 217 aid trucks have entered in October (since October 21), 2541 aid trucks have entered in November, and 1414 aid trucks have entered in December (as of 17 of December). About 48 % of these trucks that entered so far through Rafah crossing contained food assistance.
- As declared on December 17, UN aid trucks will undergo security checks and be directly transported to Gaza through Kerem Shalom. This measure is anticipated to augment the daily influx of humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- Limited availability of trucks and drivers, impacted by the conflict, raises concerns about distribution capabilities.
- Commercial importers, sharing the same resources, contribute to the bottleneck. Entry from Israel is not expected, relying solely on Egypt, but issues with authorities and Palestinian drivers' reluctance pose further obstacles.

- \$9.5 million is earmarked for the FSS under the Humanitarian Fund (HF) First Reserve Allocation 2023, designated as "Critical Humanitarian Aid for Gaza Amidst Escalating Conflict and Displacement (phase 1)". Project should be submitted within 1 week.
- Projects should start no later than 30 of Dec where 10 partners will receive the allocated funds are UNRWA, WFP, Anera in partnership with WCK, SCI in partnership with MAAN, PUI in partnership with PARC, Oxfam in partnership with ESDC, AAH, MC, CRS, ACTED.

West Bank:

- Since 7 October, at least 189 Palestinian households comprising 1,257 people, including 582 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.
- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 344 settler attacks against Palestinians (compared to the 331 attacks as of 12 December).
- Repeated invasions of city centers and camps has left a significant portion of the population without a stable income, contributing to economic hardship and heightened vulnerability.
- As of December 17, 2023, a total of 228 structures have been demolished in Area A/B in the West Bank. Jenin camp bears the brunt of this impact, representing the majority with over 37%, followed by Nur Shams with 18%, Jenin city with 12%, and Tulkarm Camp with 9%.
- More than 95,000 dunums of olive groves remain unharvested due to restricted access. In the Jerusalem governorate, over 80% of olive groves were rendered inaccessible, and Tulkarem, Qalqilya, and Nablus also experienced substantial percentages of inaccessible land at 27%, 27%, and 26%, respectively (MoA-Nov.2023). Further details on the situation in the West Bank is presented in [West Bank Situation Overview #2](#).

• Harmonization of Assessments for Damage Estimations in the Agriculture Sector

- Before embarking on the assessment of damages in the agricultural sector, it is crucial to establish communication with both the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Food Security Sector (FSS). This preemptive step is designed to cultivate a harmonized and unified approach, promoting collaboration in the formulation of a comprehensive methodology for accurately gauging the extensive harm suffered by Gaza strip's agricultural assets.
- By reaching out to MoA and FSS beforehand, we aim to tap into their expertise and insights, leveraging their on-the-ground knowledge to enhance the thoroughness and precision of our assessment. This proactive engagement not only streamlines the evaluation process but also sets the stage for a coordinated response, allowing us to navigate the challenges presented by the critical situation on the ground and the inherent lack of accessibility.
- This collaborative effort is integral to developing effective rehabilitation strategies, ensuring that our response aligns with the specific needs of the agricultural sector in Gaza.

• Food assistance in Gaza

- A total of 2.2M should be covered on daily basis- 15.4M cumulative per week:
- WEEK 11-17 December
 - UNRWA continued to distribute flour reaching around 1.5M people. They also continued distribution food parcel in the southern area.
 - Action Against Hunger provide 2700 food parcel in Khan Younis to people sheltering in Host Families

- Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committee (PARC) targeted 6130 IDPs in public shelter in Middle Area and Rafah.
- TAAWON distributed 1750 food parcel and RTE ration and 2000 hot meals in Rafah to IDPs in Public shelter.
- Middle East Childrens' Alliance managed the entrance of one truck from Rafah to middle areas for distribution. 18,000 IDPs sheltering in Host families, and 2000 non IDPs received food parcels in Middle Area and Rafah. Moreover, for the same governorates, they distributed 6500 RTE to IDPS in host families and 720 to non IDPs. Flour was provided to 150 person in Khan Younis.
- Union of Agriculture Working Committee (UAWC) reached 24500 people in public shelter in Middle Area and Rafah with food Parcel.
- World Central Kitchen (WCK) has initiated a kitchen operation at the Qatari Warehouse in Rafah, providing meals for workers. Multiple warehouses are being stocked with WCK goods, and a communitybased organization "store" concept is being established for convenient food and supplies selection.
- MERCY CORPS distributed 1233 food parcel to IDPs in public shelter in Rafah.
- Beit Lahia Development Association/Kinder USA provided hot meals to 3,600 individuals in host families
- American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) distributed hot meals to 129,000 IDPs in UNRWA shelters, public shelter and people in host families in the southern area. They also provided in the southern area, 122,000 food parcel UNRWA shelters, public shelter and people in host families. They were also able to distribute 99,600 RTE ration in the same area.
- Oxfam distributed 4100 fresh vegetable baskets in Rafah Governorate through PARC and 800 fresh vegetable baskets through ESDC in Nuseirat and Deir al Balah.
- From the 1 to 19 December
 - WFP has assisted 665,000 vulnerable individuals in Gaza over the last two weeks, providing fortified biscuits, food parcels, and wheat flour. 760,000 internally displaced persons in shelters and 17,250 in host communities received aid for 15 days. WFP collaborates with Rebuilding Alliance to operate community kitchens, supplying hot meals to IDPs and delivering 30 mt of essential food items to benefit around 79,265 people. WFP shifted to in-kind assistance and supports local retailers by organizing food parcel distributions at contracted shops, providing transaction fees to owners.
 - WCK has initiated a kitchen operation at the Qatari Warehouse in Rafah, providing meals for workers. Multiple warehouses are being stocked with WCK goods, and a community-based organization "store" concept is being established for convenient food and supplies selection.
 - Food distribution at UNRWA shelters is improving with the use of WFP food, including the distribution of 130 tons of flour, with additional WFP and UNRWA flour expected.
- Mills are operational, supplying both bakeries and the private sector. WFP is collaborating with bakeries, addressing their needs for cooking gas, yeast, and salt, with deliveries expected in the next 10 days.
- The opening of the Kerem Shalom border crossing presents an opportunity to encourage the private sector to import wheat grains into Gaza.
- Some flour was reportedly brought in by the private sector and has entered the commercial market.
- Partners are requested to upload information on their planned and ongoing activities and fill in the prioritization tool for good/items to be entered to Gaza on [Gaza-response-tracker](#).

- Demand for food assistance exceeds current supply; safety concerns impede reaching individuals in need.
- Alarming rates of underweight, wasting, and dehydration in the Gazan population of 2.2 million, requiring daily food assistance.
- Economic strain, price surges, and stock depletion exacerbate the situation; current assistance falls short of meeting population needs.
- Some of participants highlighted that certain displaced individuals in Gaza faced difficulties receiving their food rations due to the loss of identification papers following the destruction of their homes. Consequently, an agreement was reached for the FSS team to liaise with pertinent authorities and furnish participants with additional information regarding this issue.

- **AoB**

- The Food Security Sector (FSS) is actively working with its partners to evaluate the possibility of holding FSS Field Coordination meetings in Gaza. Anas Musallem, the FSS Gaza Coordinator, will initiate discussions with partners to explore the option of organizing these meetings either in person or virtually. Meanwhile, the FSS national platform will serve as the primary channel for sharing information across all partners

Attendees:

As shown on Zoom

No.	Name	Organization
1.	Hasan Ashqar	MoA
2.	Abed Yasin	ESDC
3.	Akiko Yoshida	PARCIC
4.	Ame Stormer	WCK
5.	Ashraf Ali	Action Against Hunger
6.	Clara Capelli	FAOPAL
7.	Salah Abu Eisheh	CNFA
8.	Corrie Sissons	CRS
9.	Cathy	DCA
10.	Emma	Norwegian Peoples Aid
11.	George Kapataies	Global Communities
12.	Hani Al Ramlawi	AAH
13.	Hazem Almadhoun	PUI
14.	Josina Shields	MECA
15.	Khitam Hamayel	MoA
16.	Laetitia Perez	AAH
17.	Leo Ruffieux	
18.	Lisa Biblo	Oxfam
19.	Miki Yoshida	UNRWA
20.	Ottavio Sardu	ICRC
21.	Ruba	RWDS
22.	Salem Nassr	Taawon Palestine
23.	Salma Sbai	FAO
24.	Silvia C	ACTED
25.	Sophie Frilander	WFP
26.	Tamador Akel	PARC
27.	Veronica Muoio	CRS
28.	Yara	PARCIC
29.	Yasmin Moor	IRC
30.	Martina Iannizzotto	WFP
31.	Haneen Taweel	WFP
32.	Stefania DI GIUSEPPE	FSS
33.	Hosni Barakat	FSS

END