

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

<b>Date and Venue</b>	December 5, 2023, at 10:00-11:00 am  Remotely through Zoom
<b>Facilitator (speakers)</b>	Hosni Barakat
<b>Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update on the Current Situation (Gaza and West Bank)</li> <li>▪ Food Assistance Response in Gaza.</li> <li>▪ Food Assistance IDPs Mapping Exercise.</li> <li>▪ Safeguarding observation tool for food.</li> <li>▪ AoB.</li> </ul>

**• Introduction**

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

**• Situation update (Gaza and West Bank)**

○ **Situation update – Gaza:**

- ✓ The market situation is deteriorating with most of the commodities not available in the market, and if available the price is 3-4 folds higher. Wheat flour is also not available at the market, and in the very rare occasions when flour is found, it comes at a very high price.
- ✓ **As of 28 Nov., At least:**
  - **500,000** People are currently without homes.
  - **70%** of Commerce facilities are damaged or destroyed.
  - **47%** of all primary, secondary, and tertiary roads are damaged or destroyed.
  - **67%** of Health facilities have been damaged or destroyed.
  - **59%** of Education facilities are impacted [316 damaged, 197 destroyed].
  - **50 %** of WASH facilities are damaged or destroyed.
- ✓ Approximately 1.8 million individuals in Gaza, accounting for nearly 80 percent of the population, are believed to be internally displaced.
- ✓ Nearly 1.1 million IDPs are registered in 156 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about 86 percent (958,000) are registered in 99 UNRWA shelters in the south.
- ✓ Limited aid distributions, mainly consisting of flour and water, were conducted in the Rafah governorate in Gaza.
- ✓ In the neighboring Khan Younis governorate, aid distribution experienced a significant halt due to the heightened intensity of hostilities. the Israeli military designated an area covering about 20 % of Khan Younis city for immediate evacuation.

- ✓ The Middle Area faced substantial disconnection from the south, resulting from Israeli forces' prevention of movement.
  - ✓ WFP field observations indicate a substantial increase in the prices of essential food items since the beginning of the crisis. Wheat flour prices have surged by approximately 184 percent, salt by 433 percent, and sugar by 75 percent.
  - ✓ Daily Agricultural Losses: approximately \$1.6 million in daily losses in agricultural production due to a cessation in activity. Total losses double when agricultural assets, property, and level areas are destroyed.
  - ✓ Total Agricultural Losses: Estimated overall agricultural losses may exceed \$180 million, resulting from destroying thousands of trees and bulldozing numerous agricultural areas and properties.
- **Situation update – West Bank:**
- ✓ From October 7th onwards, OCHA has documented 308 settler attacks against Palestinians.
  - ✓ The weekly average of such incidents during this period is 39, marking a notable increase from the average of 21 incidents recorded between January 1st and October 6th, 2023.
  - ✓ Since 7 October, at least 143 Palestinian households have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. Comparing with 121 families as of 25 of Nov.
  - ✓ In light of continuous Invasions in the West Bank, several significant implications arise mainly in the:
    - Agricultural-related facilities.
    - Urban areas (camps and city centers).
  - ✓ Urban areas in the West Bank experience high population density, with a concentration of people in relatively small geographical areas.
  - ✓ Despite advantages, urban areas may be vulnerable to disruptions in the supply chain, especially in times of conflict or political instability. This can impact food availability and prices.
  - ✓ **Market Disruptions:**  
The ongoing conflict is disrupting local markets, leading to shortages, higher prices, and limited availability of food items. Businesses may struggle to operate consistently, impacting the overall food supply chain.
  - ✓ **Impact on Employment and Incomes:**  
Continuous invasions are disrupting economic activities, leading to job losses and reduced incomes, potentially resulting in a decline in purchasing power, making it challenging for urban residents to afford an adequate and diverse diet.
  - ✓ **Vulnerability of Vulnerable Populations:**  
Vulnerable populations, such as low-income families, may be disproportionately affected. Limited economic opportunities and disruptions of social services could heighten their vulnerability to food insecurity.

## ● Food Assistance Response in Gaza

- In November, partners reported that individuals in Gaza still utilizing their food vouchers.
- Notably, 75 percent of the distribution points managed by WFP and other partners are closed due to depletion of food stocks, or lack of operational connectivity.
- WFP field observations indicate a substantial increase in the prices of essential food items since the beginning of the crisis. Wheat flour prices have surged by approximately 184 percent, salt by

433 percent, and sugar by 75 percent. The current commercial stocks of wheat flour are available for few days.

- **UNRWA** distribution of flour outside of shelters continued on 29 November in the southern governorates. A total of 30,222 families have been reached so far.
- During the 7-day pause, **WFP** reached an estimated 250,000 vulnerable people with in-kind and cash-based general food assistance across Gaza.
- **WFP** began distributing community-cooked hot meals to IDPs reaching more than 8,500 people with one hot meal over 2 days.
- **Anera** continues to buy fresh meat and fish from poor farmers, cooking and distributing hot meals (meat and rice or fish and rice), targeting 460,000 people.
- **PUI** distributed food baskets to 3000 individuals in Khan Younis and the Middle area for IDPs in public shelters and cancer patients in Al Salam Hospital and their families. 500 vegetable baskets were distributed with PARC to IDPs in host communities in Khan Younis and the Middle Area.
- **IHH** is distributing 5000 daily cooked meals and 500 daily bread bundles and plans to distribute RTEs for 30,000 families in UN and non-UN shelters in different locations.
- **ACTED** will distribute RTE rations to 600 households in blanket distribution in non-UN shelters by the end of this week. Within the next two months, they will distribute 4,008 RTE rations, support 350 households with E-vouchers once markets are operational, and distribute hot meals through a partner.
- **Oxfam**, in partnership with **ESDC**, is distributing fresh vegetable parcels and food (the parcels include tomatoes, eggplant, and cucumbers, which could be changed according to the availability of vegetables).
- **UPA**, in partnership with **PARC**, continues distributing fresh vegetable baskets, targeting around 5,000 people.
- **PARC** will distribute 251 E-Vouchers through FSS's emergency response and 231 E-Vouchers.
- **Middle East Children's Alliance** targets host families in the Khan Younis area by providing food parcels to 20,000 people.
- **PAEEP** is distributing Food Parcels and fresh vegetables to IDPs and UN Shelters targeting about 12,200 People.
- The updated Gaza response tracking sheet and prioritization tool were shared with partners, clarifying the most recent modifications

**Updates provided by partners are related to activities before 1 December.**

#### • **Food Assistance IDPs Mapping Exercise**

- The objective of the mapping exercises is to improve food assistance programs for internally displaced populations by identifying gaps in assistance, preventing duplication, and enhancing targeting modalities in the Gaza Strip. The mapping exercise plays a crucial role in pinpointing gaps, minimizing duplication, and refining targeting strategies for more effective assistance.

- Warmly welcome the interest of our partners in joining these efforts. Kindly connect with the FSS team by next Monday, December 11th.

#### • Safeguarding observation tool for food

- Food security and safeguarding tool is developed to assess protection risks in food security.
- “SANAD” (support in English) is the new visual identity for the PSEA network. The name was chosen to be closer to the community. One of the main outcomes is safe and accessible reporting.
- To mainstream among partners, this tool is also offered to food security partners, WASH partners, NFIs, and shelter partners (Bringing together the safeguarding community beyond protecting people). Interagency Working Group was recently approved.
- In addition to launching the new visual identity to develop a safe and accessible safeguarding reporting channel, community mobilization, consultation, and awareness raising on safeguarding were carried out.
- About 200 observations will be collected from the Gaza Strip on all trends related to displacement, security, and practice related to humanitarian assistance.

#### • List of Participants:

As shown on the Zoom

No.	Name	Organization
1	Hosni Barakat	FSS
2	Yara	PARCIC
3	Moayad Bsharat	UAWC
4	Ayman Shuaib	UPA
5	HAZEM ALMADHOUN	PUI
6	Haneen Taweel	WFP
7	Yassmin Moor	IRC
8	Osama	ACTED
9	Ibrahim Taha	BLDA
10	Hanady Muhiar -	AFSC
11	silvia.c	ACTED
12	Sarah B.	ACTED
13	Dellaquila	WFP
14	Izat Zidan	PARC
15	Bissan Abu Hawash	NRC
16	Ruba -RWDS	RWDS
17	Salem Nassr	Taawon
18	Tariq Hashhash	UNRWA
19	ISHWAIKEH	OCHA
20	Akiko Yoshida	PARCIC
21	Feda Al-Husseini	OXFAM
22	Clara Capelli F	FAO
23	Maryam Alqam	Carter Center
24	Mira Ansari	FAO
25	Tamador Akel	PARC

26	Josina# MECA	MECA
27	Jenny	CRS
28	Abed Yasin	ESDC
29	mohammad adwan	SIF
30	Ashraf Ali	AAH
31	jony	MA'AN
33	mqozat	AAH
34	Leticia Perez	AAH
35	Saed jaser	ACAD
36	Khitam Abu Hamad	TDH
37	Nader Hrimat	ARIJ
38	Sascha Graumann	UNRWA
39	Samar Husary	
40	Diaa SalamaH	CARE
41	Jaffar Nuirat	CARE
42	Marta Agosti	UNICEF
43	Muna Hasan	UNICEF
45	Martina Iannizzotto	WFP

**END**