

FSS COVID-19 Crisis Sitrep 29th March 2020

Concerns and priority needs update

With a low number of people reported positive to the new Coronavirus in the country (115 cases as of 30th March), most people are currently affected by the restrictions measures put in place, including the quarantine status, and livelihoods vulnerability.

West Bank

- Buying agricultural inputs on credit is more difficult.
Farmers and herders have now difficulties to procure production inputs on credit including fodders. This has been reported by herders from the Jordan valley Governorates. As fodder represents the largest components of herders' activity inputs, most vulnerable livestock producers will be at high risk to lose their livelihood.
- Dairy products decreased price paid to producers.
Herders including Bedouin communities report a decline in the price of cheese paid to them. Price declined to 10 ILS/kg from of 12 ILS (-17%). Herders mentioned that due to access issues, traders from many areas did not reach them to buy their products. This forces herders to sell at any cost, also because they now need more cash for buying fodder.

Gaza Strip

- Fodder price increase.
Around 40% increase of fodders prices, as well as weak stockpile of fodders. Poultry and livestock breeders are affected.
- Exports from Gaza Strip suspended.
Effective 23rd March, the DFA-MoA has implemented a series of measures with the aim at preventing price hikes and to avoid traders taking advantage of consumers. Ministry staff confirmed that this measure might be reconsidered based on market performance which is being closely monitored.
- Quarantine centres.
Approximately 1,800 people in the quarantine centres maybe in need of food assistance. The number of people is expected to grow. The MoSD in Gaza Strip has requested 50,000 food vouchers (1 voucher value = 1 weekly food needs for the HHs).

Response update

West Bank and Gaza Strip

- WFP is assessing the way to support around 65,000 new vulnerable beneficiaries (disabled, elderly, and pregnant and lactating women) as part of the MoSD/CTP through e-voucher modality, for 3 months (US\$ 10.3 per capita per month).
- WFP is also assessing the possibility to support around 111,000 people through food in kind distribution by prepositioning 3-month stockpile at MoSD warehouses.

Additional funding needed for these interventions.

- WFP is monitoring the market (prices, availability and functionality) on weekly basis.
- FAO is monitoring changes in access to inputs and markets as well as economic access to food, on a weekly basis.

West Bank

Support to farmers and HHs affected by losing their main source of income.

- PARC is organising a marketing campaign to sell the product in other areas among West Bank. Reached so far: 500 herders.
- PARC sent vegetable and food parcels from Nablus to Biddu village. Beneficiaries: 200 HHs.
- PARC sent 3 tonnes of wheat from Tubas to Bethlehem. Beneficiaries: at least 120 HHs.
- PARC & ARIJ launched home garden interventions in Bethlehem area. The idea to extend this activity to whole WB soon. This is considered a urgent and temporarily response, until situation will stabilise. Beneficiaries: 700 HHs.

Support to Bedouins Herder communities

- UNRWA food distribution with WFP for Bedouin communities continued across the West Bank with the distribution of 4,000 food parcels to 1,113 families.

Gaza Strip

- Export from Gaza partially resumed.
The Ministry of Agriculture in Gaza has decided, starting from Monday 30th March, to resume exports to the West Bank only, and limited to with specified quantities of cucumber, flower and zucchini.
- Quarantine centres
Government and private initiatives are so far providing food assistance for people in the quarantine centres. WFP and other FSS partners are ready to intervene subject to allocation to dedicated funds for this activity, in order to release pressure on private initiatives.