Alarming food insecurity and livelihood crisis amidst escalating violence and movement restrictions in the West Bank.

Growing food security worries in the West Bank due to violence, movement restrictions, and disrupted supply chains. Resource access is limited, fears of displacement are high, and severe food shortages loom. Closures, blockades, and economic challenges push people into instability, increasing the risk of severe poverty.

Navigating Food Security and Livelihood Challenges

- Given the consistent escalation of Israel’s operations in the West Bank, there is an urgent need to address significant food security concerns. These concerns encompass disruptions in food supply chains, restricted access to essential resources, displacement risks affecting livelihoods, and an elevated risk of food insecurity among affected populations.
- Since October 7, at least 121 Palestinian families comprising 1,149 people, including 452 children, have been displaced due to settler violence and access restrictions, particularly from 15 herding/Bedouin communities (OCHA).
- Access limitations are significantly impacting the delivery of essential public services. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) faces challenges in providing extension services and control functions to prevent smuggling. This situation heightens the vulnerability of farmers, exacerbating existing challenges.
- Payment of installment from the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) for individuals classified as "poor" within the social safety net are suspended, with no defined timeframe for the next disbursement anticipated to occur.
- In October 2023, the consumer price index in the West Bank experienced a slight increase of 0.09% compared to September 2023. This rise was influenced by increased prices for potatoes (12.13%), dried vegetables (8.72%), and sugar substitutes (4.17%), along with increases in the prices of vegetable oils, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, short-grain rice, and eggs, coupled with a notable decrease in fresh chicken prices by 7.87% (PCBS).
- Over 150,000 workers from the West Bank, previously employed in Israel and settlements before the October 7 crisis, lost their job—either temporarily or permanently—because they have been fired or cannot cross into Israel and settlements (ILO).
- Imposed restrictions on the movement of goods and individuals will inevitably disrupt supply chains, reduce production capacities, and impede workers’ access to their workplaces in the West Bank. It is estimated that around 56,000 jobs, constituting 10% of private sector employment, will be lost, leading to an overall job loss of 208,000, or 24% of the West Bank’s total employment (ILO).
- Restricted checkpoint hours hinder goods movement in West Bank, forcing detours and causing delays. Resultant market disruptions limit access and heighten reliance on aid due to prolonged waiting times and lost production.
- Many olive orchards in the seam zone and hotspot areas are inaccessible due to the closure of agricultural gates and settler violence. Farmers were unable to coordinate and pick olives during what they referred to as "coordination days," with significant delays experienced, extending beyond the first week of November in some areas and cancellations in others.

Response Priorities and Challenge

FSS Urges Holistic Approach: protecting livelihoods, sustaining vulnerable Groups, and addressing immediate needs to avert deepening food insecurity. Strong emphasis on collaborative action with partners, government, and aid organizations for effective crisis mitigation and long-term solutions. Two tracks of response have been identified:

- Protect the continuity of food production activities by small-scale farmers, herders (including Bedouins), and processors, helping them cope with the current situation.
- Reduce the impact on the food security of the most vulnerable households and people by scaling up food assistance activities using different modalities (Food in kind, food e-voucher, CBT).
FSS WB in the FLASH APPEAL

- On the 13th of November, the Updated Flash Appeal was officially launched, with a total funding request of 1.2 billion USD.
- FSS requirement amounts to USD 303.2M, USD 19.5M for the West Bank and USD 284.3M for Gaza Strip.

**Planned Response:**
- Providing time-critical support to vulnerable farmers and livestock holders, including Bedouins, to protect and restore their food production and livelihood activities. This involves the distribution of production inputs and/or conditional cash to restore production.
- Food e-vouchers and in-kind food distribution based on response analysis and market inclusion for emerging vulnerable groups negatively impacted by increased unemployment and livelihood losses related to movement restrictions, curfews, and other mitigation measures.
- Cash assistance is essential to immediately avert critical consequences on food insecurity status, including for Gazan workers located in public centres in the West Bank. Continued coordination is needed among relevant stakeholders to ensure that needs in public centres are covered, and services are guaranteed.

**TYPE OF PLANNED SUPPORT**

- **Type of support:**
  - Livelihood: $10.7M
  - Food Assistance: $4M
  - Cash Based Transfer: $3.5M
  - Sectoral Cash: $1.3M