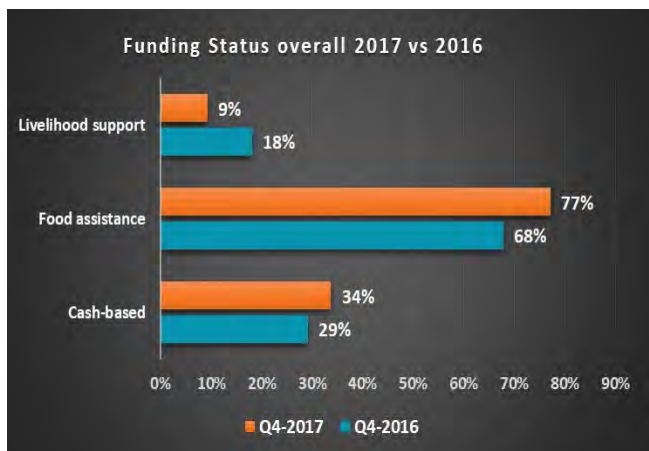
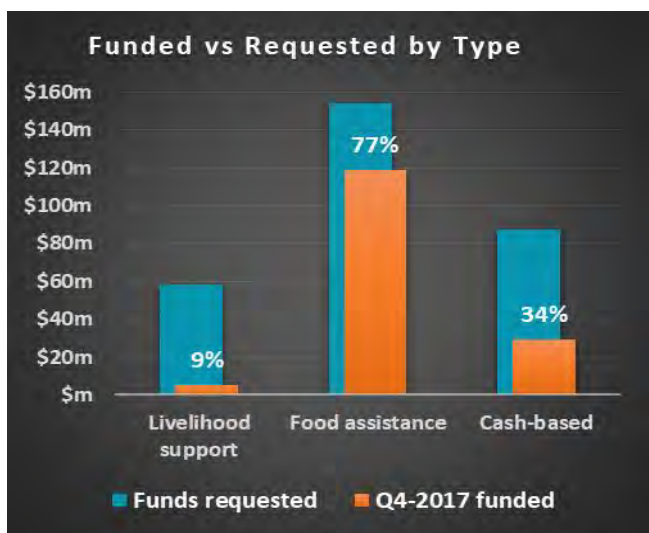




Humanitarian Response Plan progress

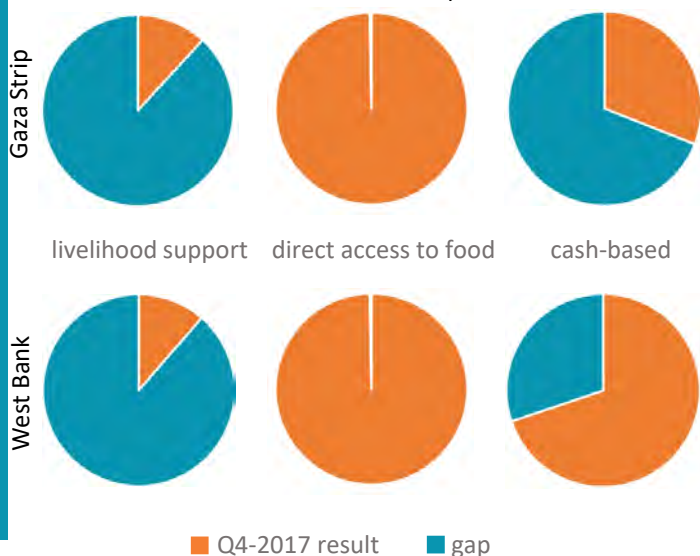
Funding

51%
\$153m / \$300m



Achievements (beneficiaries)

Beneficiaries reached vs planned



Funds distribution

\$153m

74% GS – 26% WB

22 projects

15 GS – 5 WB – 2 WBGS

15 organizations

3 UN (94% of funds)

12 NGOs (6% of funds)

10 International (98.7% of funds)

5 Palestinian (1.3% of funds)

The funding status for year 2017 shows a lack of available resources for all three components of the Food Security Sector (FSS).

The funding gap for livelihood support reached an astonishing 91%, which represents a decrease in funding of almost 50% compared to 2016. This is unfortunately a very negative trend, despite all efforts in highlighting the need for longer term solutions, aimed at reducing aid dependency.

Food assistance shows positive funding achievements, with 77% of projects being funded. Nevertheless, in absolute terms, food assistance registered a decrease of approximately \$6m compared to 2016. For Gaza Strip, the ratio of food assistance funding is 81%, while for the West Bank it is 63%.

Support to cash-based programmes¹ report a striking 83% funding gap in the Gaza Strip, and 66% overall.

In terms of addressing the needs of planned beneficiaries, only food assistance achieved satisfactory results. Cash-based programmes in the West Bank also provided much needed support, whereas livelihood support experienced the greatest shortfall in services.

Left behind overall

\$146m funding gap

34 projects

18 NGOs

Almost all beneficiaries of livelihood support interventions: ~320,000 people



In this quarter, the FSS team and partners were highly involved in the preparation and coordination for this round of HPC. The multi-year strategic planning approach (MYP) was adopted, based on the fact that this humanitarian crisis has a protracted nature. The main goal is to enable humanitarian organizations to better plan their activities based on longer term needs and reduce people's dependence on humanitarian aid.

The efforts related to the HRP were consolidated by conducting overall revision of the HNO and HRP, initially at the working group (WGs) level in both West Bank and Gaza Strip. One WG meeting was held in Gaza Strip and two in West Bank for this purpose. Thereafter, two HRP workshops were held, in both Ramallah and Gaza. These workshops were conducted with the participation of different FSS partners, line ministries, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and were largely attended (~40 present in each). As a result of these meetings and workshops, a response matrix was developed identifying major humanitarian needs and elaborating the priorities of interventions, as well as main activities and indicators for the HPC 2018.

Two vetting sessions took place separately in Ramallah and Gaza in order to review and approve the projects submitted under the HRP 2018. In summary, 69 projects were submitted to the FSS (26 in West Bank, 40 in Gaza Strip and 3 projects targeting both West Bank and Gaza Strip), 49 projects were accepted by the vetting panel.

The introduction of the coordination mechanism ahead of the project submission was quite innovative and required additional efforts from the FSS team, as well as from staff at the MoA. The related infographic material available on the FSS webpage, shows how the FSS partners have articulated the response plan for 2018.

In the West Bank, the FSS partners appealed for \$61m, 40% went for livelihood projects, 37% for food assistance, and 23 % for cash

based program response.

In Gaza Strip, the \$228m appealed by 22 FSS partners are allocated as follows: 11% for livelihood support, 56% for food assistance, and 33 % for cash based programs.

Full and detailed analysis about the HRP 2018 can be found at the following links

- [FSS HRP 2018 WB Summary](#)
- [FSS HRP 2018 GS Summary](#)

By the end of the HPC process, the FSS team triggered a brief assessment related to the HPC 2018 process, in order to understand what went well and what may be improved.

An online short survey was launched by the FSS team. The survey included 10 questions to gather partners' feedback about certain issues such as the HNO, the coordination mechanisms with line ministries, and vetting panel feedback. 35 partners responded to the survey, 46% of the responders were from international NGOs, and 37% from local NGOs, while the rest were from UN agencies.

The result of the survey was discussed with FSS partners in FSS general meetings. Results were also uploaded to the FSS website.



Photo: ©/ FSS team Hosne Barakat.
HRP 2018 Vetting panel session in West Bank

Humanitarian Program Cycle - HPC – 2018 (cont)

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Photo: @/ FSS team Anas Musallam.
MoA and FSS team meeting for discussing and developing the information management system

Information Management

During this quarter, major achievements were reached on creating the project database. This new product is being designed as part of the MoA management software. After more than six months of intensive meetings and work undertaken between MoA staff and the FSS team, the first draft version was produced.

This preliminary working version of the system is being tested internally (MoA and FSS team), before proceeding with testing the product with some key partners.

The FSS team with MoA staff tested the system internally, which includes entering the NASS – National Agriculture Sector Strategy 2017-2022 – into the system, as well as establishing related sections in the software.

The aim is to make sure that the system is equipped enough to digest and process the majority of FSS interventions and activities in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Staff working at this project are also concerned to ensure that partners' interventions will fit into both the agriculture sector strategy, and the humanitarian plans.



Photo: @/ FSS team Hosne Barakat.
MoA and FSS team meeting for discussing and developing the information management system

ICCG emergency plan for communities at risk of displacement, North Jordan Valley

In this quarter, the FSS team joined the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) efforts and initiatives led by OCHA to develop an emergency plan for the communities of Mak-hul, Humsa - Al Bqai'a, Al Farisiya - Ihmayyer, and Al Farisiya - Nabe' Al Ghazal (Tubas Governorate). Around 30 households in these communities were seemingly at imminent risk of displacement.

The purpose of the interaction with OCHA and other partners was to discuss and plan for the collaborative humanitarian response and agree on the division of labour to develop an ICCG emergency response plan for the vulnerable families.

In light of the joint assessment visit to the area, and based on available information from the community's lawyer, as well as in close coordination with the affected people and Tubas governorate, it is estimated that around 170 people are at risk of displacement due to the expiration of injunctions that protect them from demolitions. In total, 209 structures risk being demolished in the affected area, of which about one quarter (25%) are donor-funded.

Humanitarian Fund (HF)

During this quarter, 5 projects (4 in Gaza Strip and 1 in West Bank) have completed implementation of all planned activities, however, one organization managed to implement additional activities due to a surplus of funds resulting from the tendering process. The major achievements of these projects included the rehabilitation of 10 kilometres of agricultural roads in West Bank, while in Gaza Strip 5 water wells were rehabilitated, 18 490 meters of water carrier lines were installed, 1 153 dunums of open field lands were rehabilitated and planted with different types of seasonal vegetables. The HF continues to represent an important funding mechanism able to address a range of humanitarian issues in the country.

Gaza Strip Reserve allocation

In November, a second phase of the reserve allocation was announced by Humanitarian Fund of OCHA. The priorities of projects selection were identified based on the continuity of the energy crisis and the shortage of funds allocated to food assistance.

Three projects were nominated from the pool of proposals, based on the first round of project analysis done by the HF Strategic Review Committee, targeting underfunded projects. With a total of \$862,000, Oxfam, PARC and UAWC were requested by the HF team to submit their revised project profiles. Agreements were signed with these three partners by end of this quarter.

The preparations for implementing projects will start with the beginning of 2018.



Photo: ©/ Fadi Harouda-PUI. Installation of photovoltaic systems for water pumping as a response to energy crisis in Gaza Strip.

From WFP

Over the last quarter of 2017, WFP assisted up to 475,277 poor and food insecure people across Gaza and the West Bank, using an electronic food voucher (40 percent) redeemable in 250 retail shops and in-kind food assistance (60 percent). Women and children accounted for 70 percent of those assisted. Assistance was suspended in the West Bank for 68,000 people as a result of funding shortages. In Gaza, WFP’s continued food assistance was a fundamental social safety net for those most vulnerable as their socio-economic hardships went unabated due to the cumulative effects of the blockade and an acute energy crisis.

WFP, together with other United Nations agencies, also provided emergency assistance to vulnerable Bedouin communities living in area C of the West Bank whose houses were demolished. Over the last trimester, WFP provided emergency voucher assistance to 80 people for a total of USD 1,000, following OCHA’s recommendations and WFP’s assessments. Since the beginning of the year, WFP assisted 328 people with emergency vouchers.

From UNRWA Gaza Field Office

During 2017 UNRWA-GFO continued providing emergency food assistance and cash for work opportunities in the Gaza Strip based on poverty status.

Eligible families who are considered absolute poor receive, on a quarterly basis, a food basket that covers at least 43% of daily caloric needs, while those families with an abject poverty status receive food baskets that cover up to 80% of caloric needs. All food baskets contain flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, whole milk, chickpeas, lentils, and canned sardines. UNRWA-GFO is currently providing food assistance to more than 970,000 refugees in the Gaza Strip across both Emergency Food Assistance and Social Safety Nets.

At the same time, UNRWA GFO aims to ease the impact of widespread poverty and protracted conflict by providing Cash for Work (CfW) opportunities to refugees. With its innovative approach, the CfW programme prioritizes employment opportunities for youth, women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, while injecting cash into the local economy. Employment opportunities range from three to four months duration for unskilled workers, and between six months to one year for skilled and professionals. Over 17,700 refugees received short term employment under the emergency cash for work during the year 2017, benefiting 103,194 individuals (workers and their family members).

Major events

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 FSS general meetings in both WB and GS • 3 Working groups meeting in both WB and GS. • 2 ad-hoc coordination meeting related to HRP 2018 in West Bank. • 2 FSS HRP 2018 vetting sessions in both WB and GS. • 5 technical workshops with different organizers (UNWOMEN, OCHA, OVERSEAS) • Participation in 3 ARA and IDPS working groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 HRP workshops under the FSS preparation for the HPC-2018 process in GS and WB. • 2 workshops related to HRP 2018, gender and protection training in GS and WB. • Several field visits with partners under HF projects. • 7 Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings in both WB and GS, ether regular ICCG meeting or in ad-hoc basis. |
|---|--|

In the final quarter of 2017, FAO WBGs initiated two new projects promoting innovative methods to strengthen food security and agricultural based livelihoods in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In response to the severe power shortages experienced in Gaza throughout 2017, FAO launched a time critical project using renewable energy sources to protect agricultural production and livelihoods. The project mobilized financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to target 325 farming households, providing irrigation wells and water harvesting ponds equipped with solar-powered pumping systems to ensure sufficient irrigation water for agricultural land. This project aims to sustainably address the electricity crisis and capitalize on the annual 320 days of sunshine in the Gaza Strip. The impact on food security in Gaza will become evident as the project develops in 2018.

In order to protect and promote the resilience and livelihoods of Gazan fishing communities, FAO agreed with the Government of Italy to establish a pilot marine cage farm off the coast of the Gaza Strip.



Photo: © FAO/Marco Longari. A young man selling fish at a market in Gaza.

The cage farm will be managed and operated by a Social Business, owned and governed by the Gaza Fisheries Syndicate which represents the 4 000 active fishers along the coast of the Gaza Strip.

The pilot marine cage farm is expected to produce approximately 150 tonnes of sea bream per year, which will positively impact the diet of Gaza's population. The increased availability of fish is expected to impact the cost, making fish more accessible to consumers. This innovative project is expected to make a substantial impact on strengthening food security and generating sustainable income for vulnerable fishing communities in the Gaza Strip.

Through emergency interventions, FAO assisted the restoration and strengthening of the agricultural production capacity of individuals affected by natural and manmade shocks. In 2017, the access of more than 2 849 farmers, herders and rural households to livelihood assets and resources was restored or improved. A total of 285 farming households benefitted from enhanced access to livelihood assets and resources through the establishment or rehabilitation of 95 water cisterns using conditional cash transfers. In addition, 80 community cisterns were established or rehabilitated making 48 950 m³ of water available for farming, herding and household use, benefitting at least 501 farmers and herders. Animal fodder, feeders and drinkers were distributed to 1 505 herders to provide for 35 523 small ruminants. In the Gaza Strip, 70 food insecure households received cash and in-kind support as well as technical skills to construct small-scale, home-based food production units. A further 53 farmers benefitted from access to irrigation water resulting from the installation of 74.2 km of dripper pipes and the connection of one water well to the electricity grid in the village of Um Al Nasser, Gaza.

Efficient water management is critical for a productive and competitive agriculture sector. In response to water scarcity in the West Bank, well and farm water loss in Area C was reduced by an average of 36% by replacing damaged and old pipe sections.

From FAO (cont)

A total of 61 kilometres of HDPE pipes were installed to irrigate 9 687 dunums benefitting 775 farming households in 17 communities in Jericho, Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) were promoted on 5 800 dunums of high value crops grown by 1 870 farmers, 280 group extension visits and 54 training days were delivered and 12 exchange visits were organized to transfer agricultural experiences and innovative practices. A livestock market was established in Al-Dahrieh, Hebron Governorate to benefit 2 000 herders and facilitate livestock trading in a veterinary controlled environment. A total of 670 guava farming households were supported to introduce an environmentally friendly technique to control the Mediterranean fruit fly. Over 23 000 chemical free insect traps were distributed.

FAO initiated the process of formulating the “*Food and Nutrition Security Policy for Palestine*”, which was identified as a key missing link to ensure food security to meet

the basic needs of communities, as envisaged by the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022. To shape the development of this policy, FAO initiated two background studies: analysis of food waste and loss in selected value chains; the food security commitment and a country capacity profile.



Photo: ©FAO/Masoud Keshta. A farmer in North Gaza invests in solar energy in response to the deepening energy crisis.

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