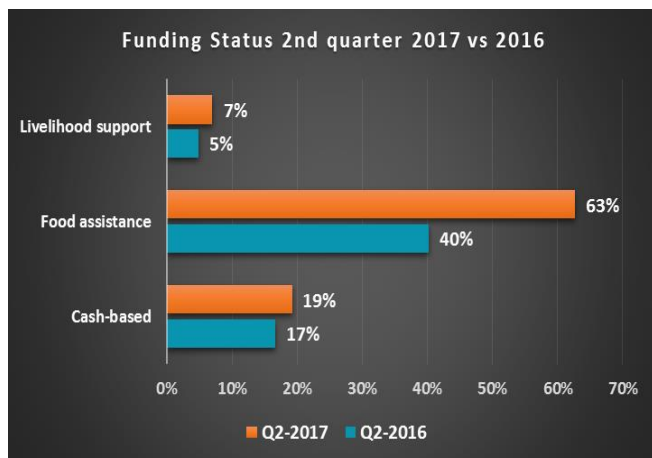
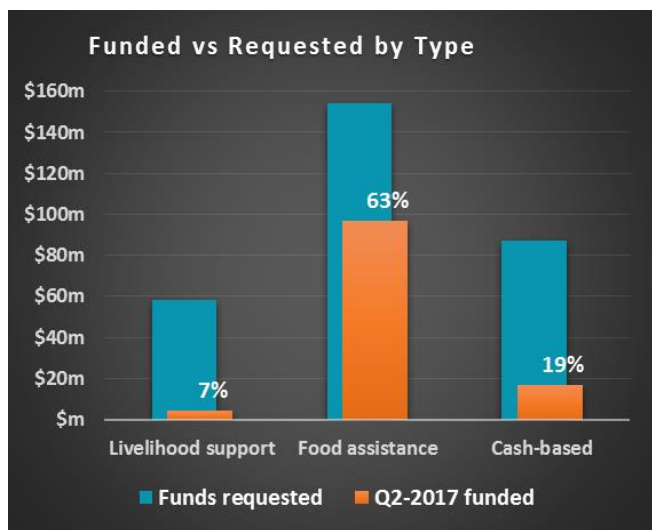




Humanitarian Response Plan progress

Funding



Funds distribution

\$117m

78% GS – 22% WB

16 projects

9 GS – 5 WB – 2 WBGS

10 organisations

3 UNs (94% of funds)

7 NGOs (6% of funds)

7 International (99.4% of funds)

3 Palestinian (0.6% of funds)

The status of the funding as of the second quarter of 2017 confirms the disparity among the three components of the FSS, direct access to food, cash-based interventions and livelihood support.

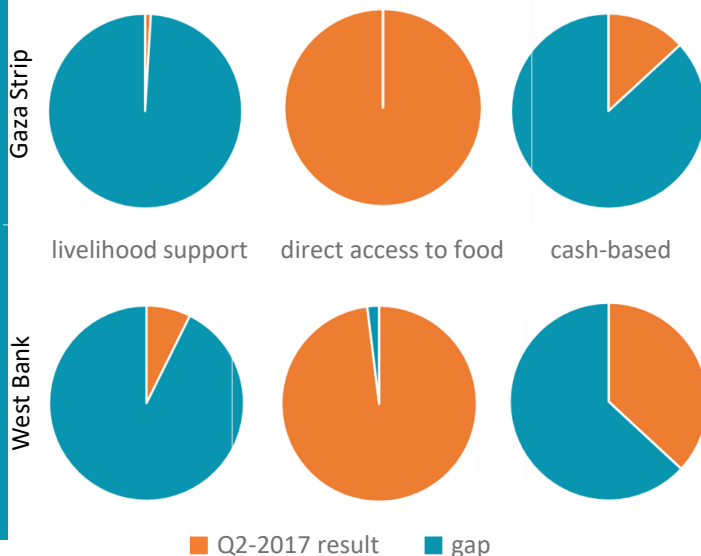
Even if food assistance is showing promising funding achievements, it should be highlighted that a) for Gaza Strip the ratio of funding is 70%, while for the West Bank is 38%, and b) the unfunded component in Gaza Strip may lead approximately 92,000 people without this support.

Food assistance activities reached their quarterly targets, but non-refugees beneficiaries in Gaza Strip may not be assisted in the next months, due to a funding shortfall.

Support to livelihood confirms the low achievements also for this quarter, while cash-based intervention show two different situations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, whereas in the West Bank 37% of the yearly target has been reached, while this is only 13% in the Gaza Strip.

Achievements

Beneficiaries



Left behind overall

\$182m

45 projects

27 NGOs

Almost all beneficiaries of livelihood support interventions: ~340,000 people

The FSS is co-led by



Resilience Marker (RM)

The pilot exercise of the RM is being finalised through a recently initiated process to review the overall pilot exercise. For this purpose, a RM Review Committee has been launched and presented to FSS partners. The Committee is open to both staff who have participated to the exercise, and staff who have not been part of the process. The scope of having this blend of membership is driven by the intention to provide unbiased recommendations and suggestions, without losing the contact with the job done so far.

It is expected that during the third quarter of the year, the Committee will complete his task, in order to pave the road for palling future steps related to the utilisation of the RM for programming.

Humanitarian Fund

During this quarter, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF) management called for the 1st Standard Allocation 2017. The total amount of funding available is USD 5.3 million. Specific amounts have been pre-defined for partners referring to each cluster/sector. These funding envelopes are based on the HRP top priority activities defined by each cluster/sector. The FSS developed also a set of criteria in coordination with the MoA. These criteria have been presented and endorsed during the FSS general meetings held in Gaza and Ramallah. Food assistance is not eligible under current HF guidelines for this call.

Different local and international FSS partners submitted 5 projects in West Bank, and 5 projects for Gaza Strip. The HF Strategic Review Committees met, analysed and vetted all projects. Proposals submitted by Al-Nakheel, UAWC, NDC and ACTED from Gaza Strip, and ESDC from West Bank were selected as the top five projects, based on the pre-defined criteria and through scoring process.

Information management

The FSS team held preparatory meetings with all general directorates in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The scope of this intense work is to kick-start the process for incorporating APIS's functions into the MoA software environment, yet keeping the project interface available to access from all partners. This represents a promising direction, driven by the recognition of the importance to avoid proliferation of databases. The consultant tasked with this duty has been hired, and started the analysis of the existing software at MoA.

Major events

- 2 FSS general meetings in both WB and GS
- 4 ICCG meeting in both WB and GS
- Field visits with partners
- Ad hoc meetings for demolition response with MoA and partners.
- Emergency meeting the HC and ICCG in Gaza on the impact of energy crisis
- Inter-cluster meetings on HPF allocation



The energy crisis got worse in mid-April in Gaza Strip when the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) has been unable to provide its share (60 MWh or 29% of the overall demand) of electricity, due to lack of fuel. This resulted in electricity being provided on a 4 hours-on and 12 hours-off shift. On June 19th Israel started to cut down electricity supply from 120 to 80 MWh, after the Palestinian Authority decision to reduce

payments of the electricity bill. Nevertheless, no additional deterioration occurred at that time, because Egypt started to export fuel to Gaza to cover part of the deficit, keeping the electricity provision almost unchanged, although still below any acceptable standard.

This level of availability of electricity is determining increasingly unsustainable conditions for most of the agricultural production sector. The FSS worked with MoA and pNGO to release a paper about the crisis showing the most direct impacts of electricity cuts on crops production, related process, and on farmers.

Direct damages include already an estimated loss of approximately 78,000 tons of vegetables, equivalent to 78m NIS of lost revenues for farmers.

Pumping water from wells using fuel costs 40% more than using power from the grid. Due to increased production costs, some farmers are stopping cultivations, and considering not investing for the next season. FSS is working along with FAO team in Gaza for further elaboration on the impact on agriculture. FSS also joined the field visit conducted by PNGO for some affected farmers and cooperated with PNGO for issuing a paper showing the impact of the current crisis on agriculture. FSS is also supporting OCHA in monitoring some indicators to follow up on the development of the situation. Indicators include the Coping Strategy Index, and the retail price of some daily-dish vegetables.



Coordination at Governorate level

An important new mechanism of coordination is in place for all partners working in the West Bank. The Area C National Coordination Office (ACCO), has been operational for more than one year. ACCO aims to improve internal and external coordination, to support the Palestinian Government's planning and advocacy strategies, and to provide policy guidance and support to stakeholders by various means. ACCO, in close coordination with the governors offices, has established coordination committees at the governorate level. The scope of these committees is to offer a multi-stakeholder platform to better follow up the coordination of activities at field level, identify gaps in the response, and avoid duplications. These committees will include the participation of line ministries, and active partners in the governorate.

For FSS partners this mechanism represents an important opportunity for their improving the efficiency and the quality of their programming efforts. ACCO staff will continue interacting with FSS partners at the central level too, through the FSS general meetings.

Response to demolitions

Based on the last FSS meeting held in the first quarter, key players active in the field of response to demolitions were invited for ad-hoc meetings in order to ensure full coverage of FSS-related needs in any affected areas of the West Bank and Jerusalem, with particular focus on Area C.

In light of the livelihood assets demolitions response guidelines endorsed by the FSS partners, it was discussed that the FSS responders will carry out the activities based on their resources and criteria. MoA should be notified at the time of response, not later than 72 hours of carrying out the response, and the FSS team should be in copy on the feedback.

As the MoA has a programme to support those affected farmers, it was agreed that FSS partners and MoA should find the more appropriate way to exchange information relevant to avoid duplications of assistance. The FSS is facilitating the elaboration and the consensus on this issue.

Demolitions of agricultural livelihood assets in this quarter have affected 62 HHs, involving more than 360 individuals, with the a peak of activities in the area of Jerusalem out of the 5 governorates (Salfit, Jericho,

Ramallah, Jenin and Jerusalem). The response consisted mainly by distributing animal shelter and providing cash assistance.

Demolition affected the availability of food for 12 HHs for more than 50 people in 4 governorates and mainly Jerusalem.

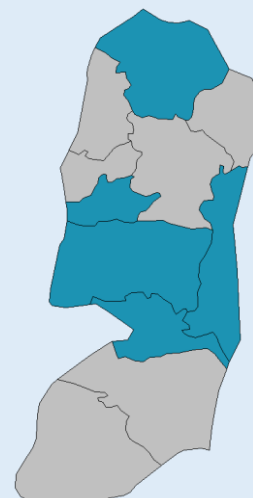
66 HHs



360 people



5 governorates



From FAO

In Quarter 2 of 2017, FAO's programmes continued to enhance the resilience and support the livelihoods of farmers and herders throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. May and June 2017 marked the beginning of implementation and distribution of inputs under a Humanitarian Pooled Fund project distributing fodder and chicken units to 46 Bedouin communities in the West Bank.

Additionally, support to enhance the capacity of the Palestinian government to implement food safety as well as animal and plant health protection measures has benefitted the entire Palestinian population, contributing to a higher quality, safer and healthier food supply thanks to the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Government of the Netherlands and Government of Spain. With FAO's technical support in the second quarter of 2017, the draft National Food Safety Strategy was completed, and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is now working with the Cabinet to finalize it.

At the request of the Palestinian Prime Minister's Office and with the support of the EU-FAO FIRST programme, FAO is supporting the MoA's work as lead of the national committee monitoring progress on achieving SDG2: Zero Hunger – part of a national mechanism to measure progress on the 2030 Agenda.

From WFP

Over the second quarter of the year, WFP assisted nearly 480,000 poor severely food insecure Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank, the great majority living below the deep poverty line on less than USD 3.2 per person per day. WFP food assistance was critical in meeting their immediate food needs and stabilising their dietary diversity, but also in protecting their livelihoods and mitigating the devastating and accumulative impact of decades of conflict on their socio-economic status. By purchasing the majority of its food supplies locally and using retail shops for the procurement and distribution of food assistance, WFP continued to invest in the local economy, connect food value chain actors, and render the Palestinian economy and local food systems more resilient to the protracted crisis. WFP needs urgently USD 11 million to provide uninterrupted and a full basket of food assistance to all people in need until the end of the year, including and in priority around USD 6 million in Gaza.

UNRWA GFO

In Q2 2017, UNRWA-Gaza Field Office (UNRWA-GFO) provided Emergency Food Assistance to over 890,000 refugees in Gaza Strip who do not have the financial means to cover their basic food need. This number includes 442,230 female beneficiaries and it accounts to more than 17,000 female headed households.

UNRWA-GFO has been providing emergency food assistance in the Gaza Strip over the past 15 years. It provides a food basket to all eligible refugee families on a quarterly basis; to cover 80% or 43% of their daily caloric needs based on their poverty status.

Eligibility for emergency food assistance is determined through the results of a Poverty Assessment Survey (PAS), conducted through home visits on a biennial basis by UNRWA social workers. This system captures essential household characteristics such as age, gender, housing conditions, household composition, asset ownership and employment status. It also takes into account more vulnerable populations that may not be able to access emergency food assistance through regular channels: wives in polygamous marriages, divorced women, and separated or abandoned women. All eligible individuals receive food baskets containing flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, whole milk, chickpeas, lentils and canned sardines.

Overall, UNRWA-GFO currently provides food assistance to more than 990,000 refugees in Gaza Strip across both Emergency Food Assistance and Social Safety Nets.

From UNRWA WBFO

In the second quarter of 2017, UNRWA WBFO assisted a total of 58,209 food insecure refugees in the West Bank including in refugee camps through the Food Voucher program (79%) and the Cash for Work program (21%). 49% of the total reached beneficiaries were female.

Under the Cash for Work program, UNRWA provided subsidies to beneficiaries totalling more than \$2.5M. The program benefited female refugees (41%), youth (10.4%) as well as beneficiaries with disabilities (5%). During the same period, 19 projects under the Cash-for-Work program were identified through the coordination of various stakeholders in the camp such as Camp Service Committees and Community Based Organisations (CBOs). The projects were identified after discussions with each camp to design and implement small and medium-sized projects each year that generally take the form of maintenance of public infrastructure, rehabilitation and construction of CBO facilities and landscaping

of playgrounds, parks/gardens and other communal spaces which benefit from the labourers hired under this program.

The Cash-for-Work Programme provides labour support, contributes to the procurement of tools and materials, offers engineering and technical expertise, and shares monitoring responsibilities with partners.

Under the Food Voucher program, UNRWA provided a total value of more than US\$1.49 as cash transfer using the electronic food voucher modality. The program was expanded to target elderly and beneficiaries with disabilities in a number of refugee camps in the West Bank. The participation of female beneficiaries in this program reached 49%.

Furthermore, UNRWA, jointly with WFP, distributed in-kind food assistance to 36,456 individuals from vulnerable Bedouin and herder communities in Area C over the first quarter.



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