



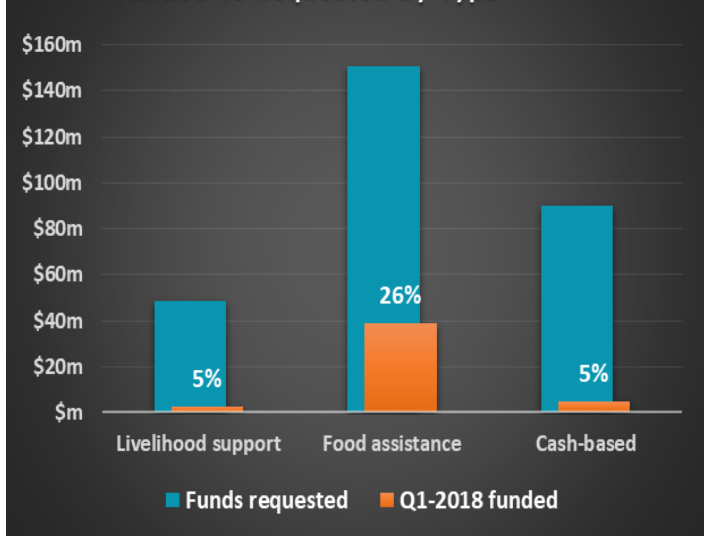
## Humanitarian Response Plan progress

16% funding level

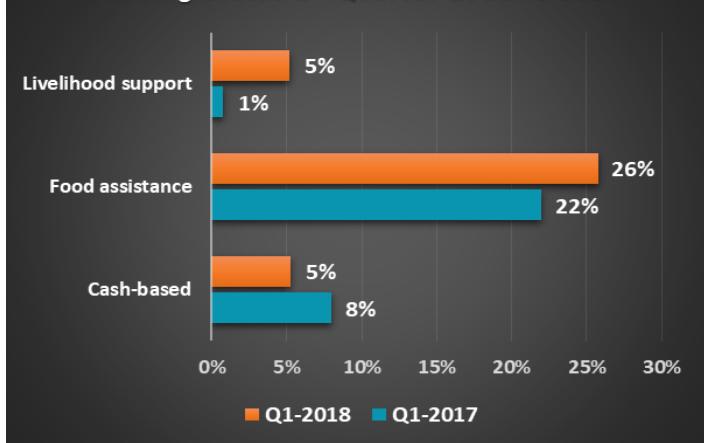
\$46m

\$289m

Funded vs Requested by Type



Funding Status 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018 vs 2017



### Funds distribution

\$46m

80% GS – 20% WB

7 projects

3 GS – 2 WB – 2 WBGS

3 organizations

3 UN (100% of funds)

0 NGOs

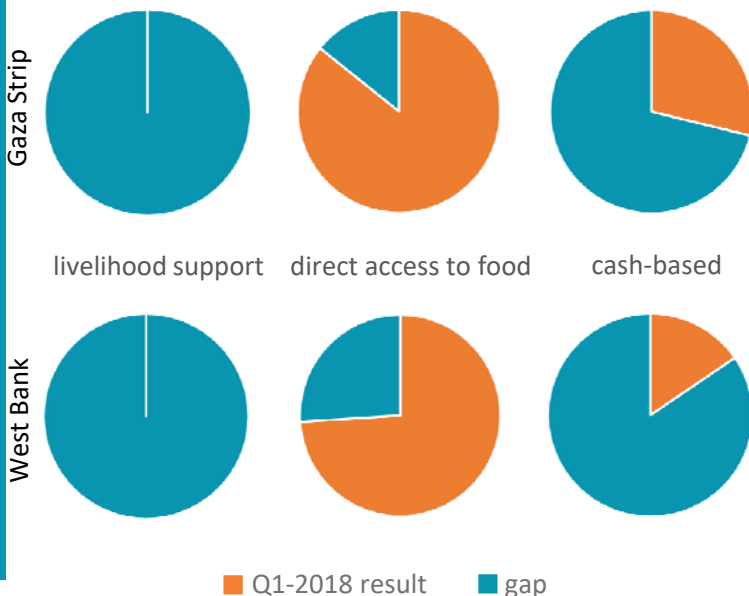
The analysis of the funds allocated during the first quarter for all three components of the Food Security Sector (FSS) is quite in line with the previous year.

For the graph to the left, it may seem that funding dedicated to the livelihood component has reached a much higher level compared to the same period of 2017. This is true considering the percentage of the overall funding request, but it represents a little improvement in terms of absolute value (in the range of \$2m only). The analysis carried out for the second quarter will provide a more robust indication of this year's funding trends and beneficiaries supported.

Funding to support direct access to food, which includes both food in kind and voucher modalities, shows a similar level of 2017 for the first quarter. Considering the beneficiaries reached by the food assistance projects, it is important to highlight a missing ~25% of the target. As most of food assistance is repeated on a quarterly basis, each quarter should cover almost the overall target of the year.

Cash-based programmes received only 5% of the yearly budget, even less than last year.

Beneficiaries reached at this quarter vs planned for the year



### Left behind overall

\$243m funding gap

42 projects

23 NGOs

Almost all beneficiaries of livelihood support interventions: ~235,000 people



## FSS - Livelihood assets demolitions response guidelines in West Bank

The FSS team, together with the MoA and key partners, have developed and endorsed a few months ago the final version of the livelihood assets demolitions response guideline. These guidelines were designed with the aim of mitigating the impact of sudden shocks resulting from demolition of assets, including agricultural productive assets, which prevents households from continuing their traditional livelihood activities, and further puts at risk their food security status.

The guidelines highlight the importance of keeping all key actors fully informed about the progress of response for each cases. This includes sharing of information between direct responders and institutions. In fact, one of the key element of the guidelines is that any emergency assistance should be timely reported to the MoA through an agreed format. This format is composed by a general part that summarizes the response, and a section that specifies the list of beneficiaries, including households (HHs) details. The main scope is to allow the MoA to follow the

progress of the response, and to avoid duplication of assistance. The section related to the HHs details will be filled out by the implementing partners under their responsibility of ensuring respect of confidentiality and informed consensus from the beneficiaries. The MoA will be held responsible for keeping HHs details confidential, according to MoA internal procedures which were setup specifically for this case. MoA is available to share with implementing partners, a copy of the document describing MoA's commitments with regard to confidentiality and data protection, which was developed in close coordination with the FSS team and key partners.

In the first quarter of 2018, the FSS team shared and presented the guidelines in the FSS general meeting as well as at the Demolition Working Group – DWG, operating under the Shelter Cluster. The guidelines are available at FSS website.

## SEFSec 2018 survey

A first consultation meeting with main stakeholders took place during this quarter in both West Bank and Gaza Strip for the new round of the SEFSec survey 2018 .

The scope of the meeting was to discuss and agree on the set of indicators that the SEFSec should cover and provide any possible suggestions and elaborations related to additional indicators that could be included in the 2018 SEFSec questionnaire. Data collection will be carried out in July-August, with starting date still to be defined. The analysis methodology will remain based on merging the three components of poverty, food deprivation, and resilience, as the one adopted for the last two rounds of data sets (2013, 2014). PCBS is working on the definition of the sample, that will be designed according to the information from the latest census, as well as considering the added value of continuing with the panel approach. The

geographical coverage will be representative of West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza Strip, Governorates, Area A/B, Area C.



Photo: ©/ FSS team Hosne Barakat.  
SEFSec 2018 consultation meeting  
at PCBS office in Ramallah

## Livestock WG (LWG) update

The FSS Livestock working group held a meeting during this quarter in West Bank. Involved partners discussed the main challenges that livestock breeders may face during the winter season, which may lead to high mortality rate among new borns, as well as seasonal diseases, which would directly affect their production capacity.

In that meeting, it was agreed that herders living in the Eastern slopes of Hebron, Jericho and Tubas are most probably to be affected by harsh winter, as they face difficulties to cope with the surrounding circumstances. They suffer from lack of fodder for their livestock due to the decreasing spaces of grazing areas, considering that the main source of income is herding, and that the majority of the herders are struggling to save their flocks from increasing depletion.

The LWG, co-facilitated by the MoA, will continue to offer opportunities for discussions and planning to all FSS partners involved in livestock projects.

## Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) preparedness actions for the West Bank

Following the initiatives by the ICCG members to bring relevant humanitarian partners together to discuss key risks, identify capacities/gaps and priority preparedness actions, the Emergency and Preparedness working group under the FSS is committed to update the preparedness plan for the FSS. The initial scope is to review the standard list of preparedness actions, while the end goal of this process is to come up with a list of critical preparedness actions that reflect the critical sector specific priorities, driven by pragmatic and practical attitude.

The ERP – Emergency Response Preparedness - list will be used as the guidance for how the system will work in the next months to increase preparedness capacity. This list will ultimately become part of the FSS prioritized road map for how to improve its preparedness.

## Resilience Marker

Resilience marking is a participatory methodology. It employs empirical evidence to highlight the expected impact of a set of projects on the resilience of beneficiary households in a specific context.

During this quarter, the FSS team called for meetings in both West Bank and Gaza Strip for those partners who have been involved in the making of the Resilience Marker (RM) tool last years. The scope of these meetings was to quickly refresh the notion behind the RM and the list of variables from last exercise, and reviewing the process needed to apply the tool for the HRP 2018 FSS set of projects. For this purpose two committees composed by interested FSS partners was constituted in West Bank and Gaza Strip. The committees finalized the process revision as well as the

marking process for the HRP 2018 projects under the FSS. The result as well as the whole methodology will be shared and discussed soon with FSS stakeholders.



Photo: ©/FSS team Hosne Barakat.  
Resilience marker meeting in West Bank.

## ICCG Contingency Planning Simulation Exercise

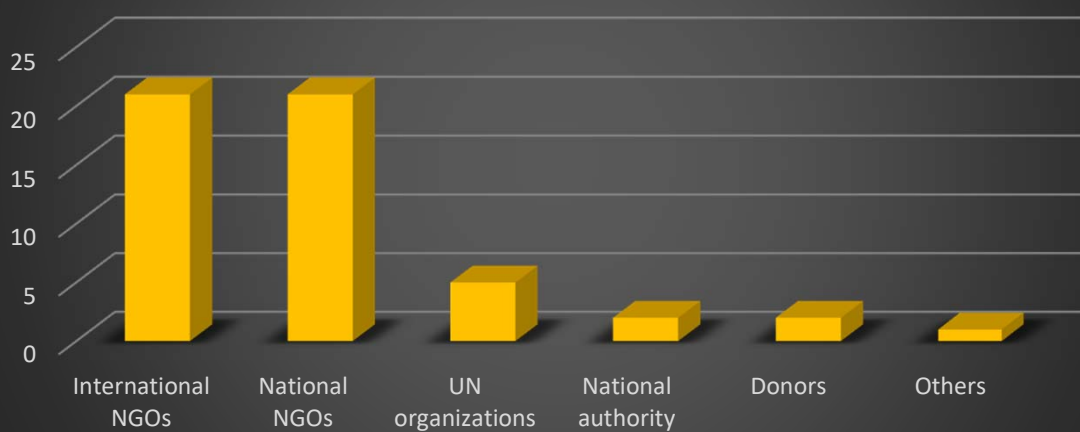
By the end of this quarter, The ICCG conducted the simulation exercise (called Simex) of the contingency plan, with support from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness. This exercise intended to examine the preparedness of the ICCG members and HCT to respond in case of emergency. The main focus was on testing the coordination strength between the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in Gaza and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

The Simex also tested the operational coordination in Gaza within the ICCG and with key partners, including UNRWA and line ministries. The exercise was facilitated by an inter-agency team with representation from UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO and OCHA who visited Gaza for this purpose. The feedback report is expected by the facilitators, with key findings and recommendations, and gaps in preparedness and priority actions needed to be taken for better response to any emergency.

## FSS Coordination Performance Monitor Survey

In December 2017, FSS partners contributed to the **country coordination performance monitoring survey (CCPM)** supported by the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC). 52 FSS partners and counterparts responded to the CCPM survey, representing both local and international organizations, UN agencies, national authorities and donors. The CCPM consisted of seven main topics covering the core functions of the FSS, with a total of 15 questions to measure the FSS performance. The gFSC tool considered the value of appreciation of >75% as good. In 14 out of 15 topics, FSS has the 'good' rank, and one with 75 reflecting the 'satisfactory' performance, with the need minor improvements.

**Number and type of FSS partners responding to the survey**



## HRP 2018 Launch

On March 14th, the new Humanitarian Coordinator and the Minister of Social Development jointly launched in Gaza the Humanitarian Response Strategy (2018-2020) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2018, along with members of the humanitarian community.

Response Strategy for the period 2018-2020. For the first time in the country, this multi-year strategy strives to adopt a longer-term strategic vision, and enhances linkages with other strategies for assistance to the Palestinian people, including development planning. The multi-year strategy includes a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) with financial requirements and target population figures for the first year, which will be updated for 2019 and 2020.



Photo: © OCHA/Mustafa Al-Halabi



Photo: © OCHA/Mustafa Al-Halabi

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), composed of United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), has developed a multi-year Humanitarian

## Donors visit to Gaza Strip

Under the Advocacy Working Group of the humanitarian country team AWG/HCT, it was agreed to invite diplomats missions and donors to conduct field visits to Gaza Strip in coordination with OCHA/ICCG, to better frame the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The second donors' visit conducted late in February with the participation of the HC included the FSS and Shelter clusters. In the first stop, diplomats visited the so called Access Restricted Area (ARA) in Juhor ad Diek - east of Gaza City where the FSS coordinator presented the difficulties of livelihoods faced by the inhabitants of the ARA, including the spraying of herbicides and severe restriction imposed to farmers accessing their lands for planting and grazing. The ARA represents the *de-facto* limitation of access along the separation line between Gaza Strip and Israel, enforced by the Israeli. Representatives from the MoA and PNGO stressed on the advocacy and the right of farmers to have free access to their lands.

The second stop was at a food distribution center of UNRWA. A presentation about the process of selecting beneficiaries and the components of the food parcel provided was delivered. In these stops, a farmer and a female-headed household explained their livelihoods being disrupted due to the limitations of access (physical and economic) to the source of food production and livelihood.



Photo: © OCHA/Mustafa Al-Halabi

In this quarter, the FSS team worked with partners in order to renew the Advocacy and Gender focal points in both West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The advocacy focal points' major tasks is to facilitate sharing of information within the FSS, and liaise with wider national initiatives under the HCT Advocacy Working Group. The gender focal points will play a vital role toward enhancing the role of the FSS in gender mainstreaming and gender equality throughout the humanitarian response plan implementation and all main FSS activities. The focal points support the FSS team and FSS partners to make sure that women, girls, boys and men of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have access to humanitarian and protection services that cater to their distinct needs and experiences.

Based on nominations and bilateral discussions with nominees, it was agreed that the advocacy focal points will be Action Against Hunger in West Bank and PUI, MAAN and UAWC in Gaza Strip. ESDC and We effect are the gender focal points in West Bank, and PARC in Gaza Strip.

### From FAO

#### Protecting food and nutrition security in the Gaza Strip

A 12-month project providing emergency support to protect the food and nutrition security of low resilience households in the Gaza Strip, with funding from the Government of Brazil, was concluded during this quarter.



Photo: © Azza ElHosseini. A beneficiary in Rafah tends to the sheep she received through the project

The project supported 70 vulnerable, low resilience households in Khan Yunis and Rafah

with cash assistance towards establishing small-scale home gardens to promote household vegetable cultivation and consumption, and each household was supported with two pregnant ewes to establish small-scale animal production.

A further 53 households in North Gaza also benefited from the project through the connection of their irrigation well to the electricity grid and provision of drip irrigation networks. During this quarter, a total of 82 beneficiaries, including 30 women farmers, received training in irrigation water management, food processing and nutrition. As a result of cost savings accrued over the project implementation period, 93 households were also supported with feeders as well as Animal Nutrition and Hygiene Kits with which to maintain the health of their sheep.

Comparison of endline and baseline survey data indicates that the average Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) of beneficiary households has increased from 6.8 to 7.5 and the average Food Consumption Score (FCS) has increased from 44.2 to 49.8 as a result of the project. Overall, 27% of households reported an increase in household income and half now rely on their home gardens for vegetables for household consumption.



## From FAO (cont)

### Forklifts delivery

The first quarter of 2018 witnessed the long-awaited delivery of electrical forklifts to six agriculture cooperatives in the Gaza Strip. Delivery of the forklifts, which was due in Q3 2016 as part of a high value crops project funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, encountered significant delays due to the approvals process involved in the transfer of such equipment to the Gaza Strip. The six forklifts were finally delivered to six packing houses in North Gaza, Khan Yunis and Rafah in March 2018.

As the first of their kind in the Gaza Strip, the forklifts will enable the cooperatives to pack their agricultural produce, for both the local market and for export, in a far more efficient manner. The packing of produce had previously been performed manually as the use of fuel-driven equipment in packing houses is prohibited under the GLOBALG.A.P (Good Agricultural Practices) programme.

In total, 2 168 farmers across six cooperatives will benefit from the use of the electrical forklifts.



Photo: © FAO/Masoud Keshta. A packing house worker carefully stacks pallets of potato with the electrical forklift received.

### “Galbitraz” distribution



Photo: © FAO/Masoud Keshta. A beneficiary carefully inserts a Galbitraz stick into one of his beehives

During the quarter, support to all registered beekeepers in the Gaza Strip was initiated with the activity due to be completed in the subsequent quarter. As part of a project providing emergency support to vulnerable herders with funding from the Government of Canada, a total of 26 000 ‘Galbitraz’ wooden sticks will be distributed to 15 000 beehives owned by 282 beekeepers across the entire Gaza Strip. The wooden sticks will be placed inside beehives for the purpose of preventing varroaosis, a parasitic disease caused by the varroa mite that attacks and decimates honeybee colonies.

### Supporting the most vulnerable with vital food

Nesrine Foad Qasem is a forty-year-old Palestinian refugee mother of nine, living in Gaza City. Despite the hard living conditions, resilience and determination emanate from her and every corner of her clean and well-organized home. “My children are all what I’m living for; I am dedicating my life to them. I want them to have a decent life and hope for a bright and better future,” Nesrine started her speech.

“When my husband passed away three years ago, life got harder and I had no one to turn to. I had no source of income or support except for food assistance from UNRWA that helps me put food on the table for my nine children, even during times when there is fighting,” Nesrine said.

Nesrine is one of 21,000 female-headed-households who are abject poor, which means that they live on less than US\$ 1.74 per person per day, and who receive regular UNRWA food assistance as part of the Agency’s Social Safety Net (SSN) programme. In total, 664,248 Palestinian refugees are classified as abject poor and benefit from UNRWA food aid every three months. According to FSS data reported by [OCHA](#), 40 per cent of households in Gaza were estimated to be severely or moderately food insecure in 2017.

On a quarterly basis, UNRWA provides two categories of food baskets to all eligible refugee families to help them meet their basic food requirements: An absolute food ration is distributed to households that are living below US\$ 3.87 per person per day while a SSN ration is allocated to households persisting on less than US\$ 1.74 per person per day. In both cases, the food baskets contain quantities of wheat flour, rice, sunflower oil, sugar, dried milk, lentils and chickpeas. In addition to the mentioned food basket contents, the SSN cases receive canned sardine.



Photo: © 2018 UNRWA/Mohammad Al Hinnawi. Nesrine Foad Qasem preparing Maqloba (Palestinian dish) for lunch using the cooking oil and rice she receives as part of the UNRWA food basket.

“Every three months, we wait impatiently to go to the UNRWA Beach Distribution Centre to receive the food coupon. We are a big family and I can’t imagine our life without it. It isn’t only about food; it is about support to live with dignity,” she added. According to Nesrine, the food basket contains food she needs to provide daily meals for her family. In the first quarter of 2018, UNRWA distributed in-kind food assistance to about one million beneficiaries. In order to define Palestinian refugees’ eligibility for emergency food assistance, UNRWA social workers from the Relief and Social Services Programme assess refugee families’ poverty levels on an ongoing basis. 197,288 families were visited by the end of 2017.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for its core services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestinian refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. UNRWA’s emergency interventions and key projects, also operating with large shortfalls, are funded through separate funding portals. Prioritised needs in Gaza in relation to the [2018 oPt Emergency Appeal](#) include US\$ 80 million for the distribution of emergency food parcels to almost one million people.



## From WFP

Over the first trimester of the year, WFP assisted more than 330,000 poor food-insecure non refugees through cash based-transfers (55 percent) and in-kind food distributions (45 percent). 70 percent of the affected populations were in Gaza where the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Due to funding limitations, WFP had to temporarily suspend its assistance in January for 65,000 people receiving electronic food vouchers in Gaza. This suspension had a negative impact on their food security status and livelihoods: WFP’s monitoring findings revealed that the percentage of households with a poor Food Consumption Score increased from 4 percent in December when assistance was provided to 65 percent when beneficiaries were deprived of their entitlements.

It significantly decreased when assistance was reinstated in February (11 percent) and March (6 percent).

When continuously provided, WFP’s food assistance is a fundamental safety net for the poorest whose socio-economic and coping mechanisms continue to worsen in the wake of increased hardships in Gaza.

The current humanitarian crisis takes the heaviest toll on the poorest who are increasingly relying on credit and support from family and friends, or skip meals to cope

with a rapidly deteriorating situation.



Photo: © WFP Palestine. Haziza, a widow living with her two daughters in Rafah, is entirely dependent on WFP’s food voucher assistance. At this time of increased hardships and deprivations, WFP’s support makes a significant difference in the daily lives of the poorest.

With an alarming ever-growing unemployment rate of 49.1 percent- the world’s highest - the beneficiaries of WFP’s assistance in Gaza are the most acutely hit by the lack of job opportunities and rely on less than US\$ 1 a day to make ends meet. On average, assisted heads of households work 5 days a month for a monthly income of US\$ 187 whilst their debts for electricity, water, food and other essentials reach US\$ 4,295. The spiral of debt burden is inevitable, among other coping mechanisms such as skipping meals or buying less expensive food products.

## Major Events

- 4 FSS general meetings in both WB and GS
- 2 Working groups meetings in both WB and GS.
- 4 meetings related to resilience markers in both WB and GS.

- 2 meetings related to SEFSec 2018 survey in both WB and GS.
- 1 ICCG retreat in Gaza.
- 1 Donors visit to Gaza Strip.

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