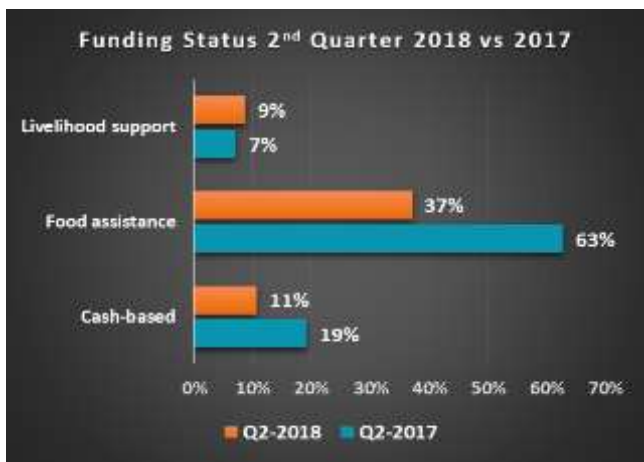
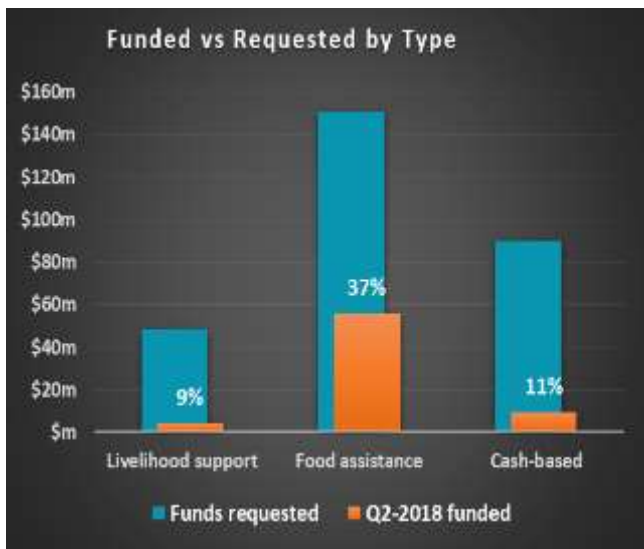




## Humanitarian Response Plan progress

24% Funding Level

\$70m Requested | \$289m Available



### Funds distribution

\$70m

76% GS – 24% WB

11 projects

6 GS – 3 WB – 2 WBGS

6 organizations

3 UN (97% of funds)

3 NGOs (3% of funds)

The analysis of the funds allocated during the second quarter to the Food Security Sector (FSS) shows quite a significant back-step compared to the same period last year.

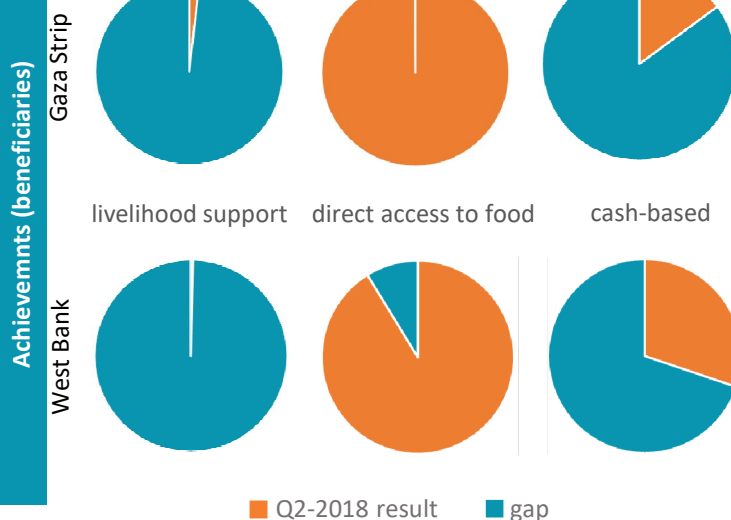
Overall, the FSS has received 24% of the requested funds, against 39% in Q2-2017, which is equivalent to reduction of \$48m. The two largest components (food assistance and cash for work) report the largest decrease. The reduction of funds for food assistance is particularly significant, as this component represents 52% of the overall FSS ask.

The livelihood component report a slight percentage increase compared to 2017, but the level of funding remains dramatically low, with a 91% gap.

The charts representing the level of achievements clearly show the huge gaps for the livelihood component, which is close to 100% gap. Better but still problematic for the cash component, with 15% of the yearly achievement in the Gaza Strip, and 30% in the West Bank.

As most of food assistance is repeated on a quarterly basis, each quarter should cover the overall target of the year. Any gap is lack of achievements.

Beneficiaries reached at this quarter vs planned for the year



### Left behind overall

\$219m funding gap (76%)

38 projects

20 NGOs

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



## Damages to farmers in the ARA

Since March 2018, mass demonstrations have been taking place along the fence in the ARA. Farmers in the affected areas suffered damages due to the large crowds and the chaotic situation generated during these events.

The MoA and FSS coordinated the process of analysis from the data collected by UAWC, PUI and ICRC. The information provided by the survey show that approximately 867 agricultural dunums owned by 217 farmers were affected, and crops have been destroyed. The estimate of damages reached up to \$235k.

FSS, MoA and other FSS partners are working

to provide urgent assistance to those affected farmers to sustain their livelihoods and to try to enable them to catch the coming agricultural season. Farmers working in the ARA are already subjected to various threats to their livelihoods, because of the proximity to the barrier. They have very limited access to alternative livelihoods, and even the livestock component is not better off. Due to the deterioration of the economic situation in the past two-three years, most of livestock was sold. This is also due to the fact that farmers have accumulated debts that they cannot repay, and agro-suppliers are not providing assets/agro-input on credit anymore.

## FSS Cash Programming Working Group Survey

The FSS Cash Programming Working Group (CPWG) lead by Action Against Hunger (AAH) launched a cash survey with the aim to have a clear understanding of the different cash modalities implemented by different stakeholders. The CPWG also wanted to gain knowledge in order to harmonize tools in use, so to share good common practice and effective coordination for creating consensus on the work procedures and standards. The survey results showed that both conditional and unconditional cash modalities are adopted by local and international organizations as well as UNRWA and WFP. These interventions come as a response in the emergency situations and in the early recovery phases. Minimum standards of wages, number of days, disaggregation between skilled and unskilled labors are mapped by the survey.

The FSS CPWG agreed with the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) regional office in Amman to conduct a training on the “Core Cash Transfer Skills for Programme Staff” for CPWG members in Gaza Strip before the end of the year. This course is structured around the project cycle and covers all of the key skills required to design, implement, and monitor cash transfer programmes, identify information needed for monitoring cash & voucher actions, and identify how collaboration and coordination support quality cash & voucher programs.



## Information Management

During this quarter, the FSS team in close coordination with MoA continued their efforts on working on the finalization of the project database platform for FSS projects, which is part of the MoA overall system. In this quarter to focus was on a practical introduction of the system to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) staff, and some selected partners in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in order to test it before official launching.

The FSS team met with the General Directorate of Planning and Policies (GDPP) in the MoA in Gaza including the staff in charge of Projects and NGOs Departments. A detailed

presentation was delivered for deeper understanding of the system and for receiving feedbacks. The FSS team invited some partners for attending two orientation sessions in both West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing each organization with a test account for entering their current HRP project as a test. Participants were asked to provide feedbacks related to difficulties in using the system, or bugs they could have noticed.

In the coming months the FSS team will continue working and improving the system based on the feedback received from partners.

## Emergency and Preparedness plan in West Bank

The FSS team is continuing their efforts to update the preparedness plan in close coordination with other clusters/sectors within the newly constituted Inter Cluster Coordination Group for the West Bank. In this regard the FSS team started collecting the information on the operational presence of partners, in order to compile the emergency response operational map. This mapping exercise intends to capture the location of partners' offices/warehouses and related capacities (staff, stocks, reaction time, etc...) that will be relevant in the context of an acute crisis.

In the next quarter, the FSS team will start working on assessing partners capacity in terms of response /relief package, existing capacity and any other logistical requirements to respond to special circumstances.

## ICCG Contingency Planning Simulation Exercise in Gaza Strip – Follow up

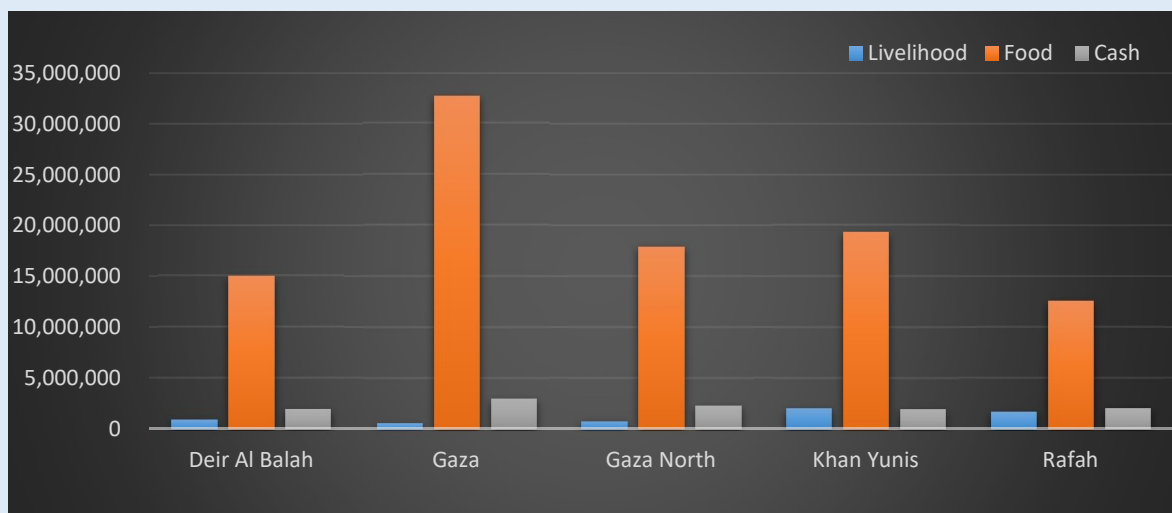
Following the ICCG emergency simulation exercise (Simex) conducted in the first quarter of 2018, the feedback report was finalized by the Simex facilitators group according to the Emergency Coordination Centre's (ECC) simulation's recommendations. On this ground, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) requested to the Gaza Strip cluster coordinators and OCHA to identify a list of key actions to be undertaken in short and medium terms. These key actions should reflect key

issues in the areas of coordination, leadership and preparedness. FSS team worked to provide a short "Concept of Operations" paper, identifying pragmatic modalities for assistance delivery. FSS also provided an overview of the sector response mechanism outside the designated emergency shelters (DES). FSS is in continuous update for the emergency preparedness plan and the FSS partners' capacity to respond to affected people during emergencies.

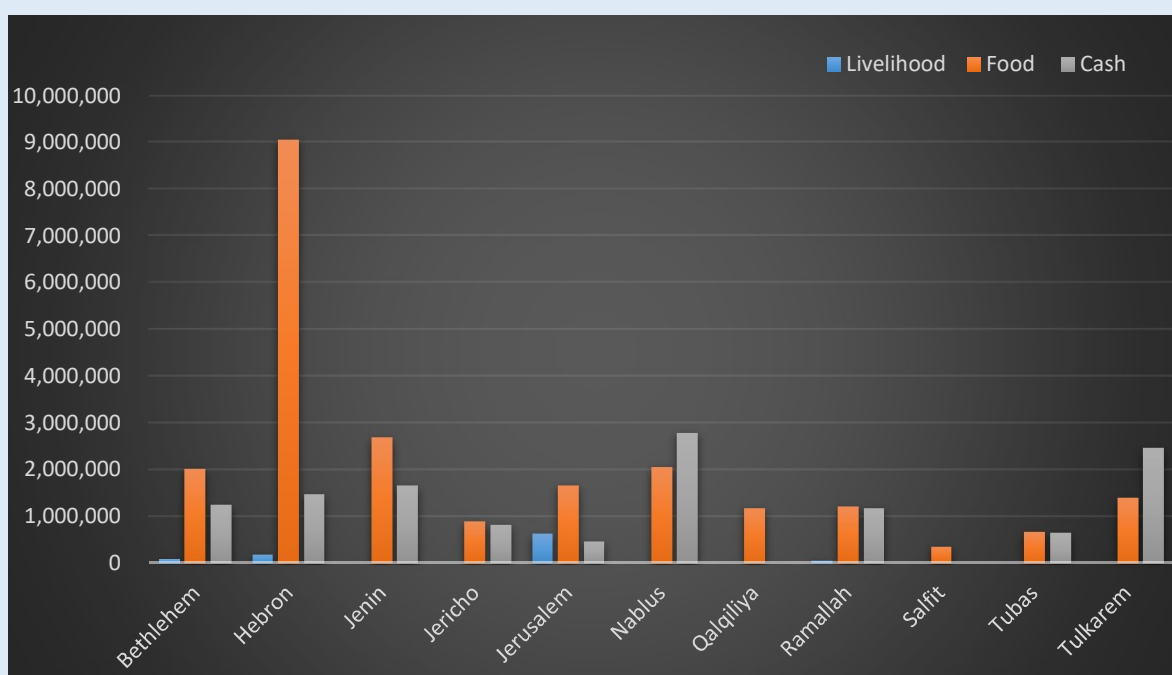
## Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2017) budget analysis by governorate

During this quarter, the FSS team continued working on the data received by partners according to the funds related to the HRP 2017. The project matrix tool elaborated in order to capture most of the data needed from partners, enabled the FSS team to undertake some analysis at governorate level.

This covers funds received by governorate in both West Bank and Gaza Strip, which includes the funds received per FSS activity. The graphs below summarise the key findings. In December 2017.



HRP 2017. Funds received in Gaza Strip by type of FSS activity and by governorate.



HRP 2017. Funds received in West Bank by type of FSS activity and by governorate.



## Gender Socio-Economic Analysis

The FSS is sponsoring a short study focused on the role of women in agriculture in rural areas.

This study starts from the recognition that the profiling and the contribution of women in agriculture is not properly covered by standards surveys, as well as sometimes framed into never investigated assumptions.

The objectives of the study is two-fold:

1. Assess and analyse the different dimensions determining the effective and equitable engagement of women in agriculture
2. Identify needs and opportunities for women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in agricultural interventions.

The methodology attempts to test Gender Economic Women Empowerment (GEWE)

from the perspective of Palestinian women working in rural areas.

In the quarter, intensive field work took place. The field work identified agri-food sectors and agricultural productive patterns in certain communities in Palestine, in order to consolidate the findings of the literature review, and for identifying the characteristic of the focus groups that are involved in the following phase. The FSS facilitated meetings between key stakeholders like FAO, NGOs (through gender focal points), and line ministries (MoA, MoWA, MoSD, MoHE).

Findings will be consolidated and then shared with partners in October 2018.

## Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in West Bank

In this quarter, the FSS team participated in the first ICCG for WB only. The West Bank ICCG provides a geographically-focused platform for clusters/sectors to work together to jointly deliver an effective and efficient humanitarian response. The West Bank ICCG will play a critical role in tracking and monitoring the response, compiling updates from members and standing invitees, and transmitting clear messages to the national ICCG for onward conveyance to the HC and HCT on operational and advocacy matters.

In the first meeting, the ToR of the West Bank ICCG were discussed, defining its main roles as: supporting service delivery across clusters/sectors, supporting analysis, planning and monitoring across clusters/sectors, integrating cross-sectorial issues into response, support for advocacy.

The establishment of the West Bank ICCG, highlighting the benefit of more coherence through the geographical focus, with participation tailored to the context, and the objective of a shared understanding of needs through inter-sectorial analysis, should increase the impact of collective response, and optimise resources.

## Supporting efficient irrigation systems in the West Bank



Photo: ©FAO. Solyman and his wife, Fatima attend to their grape yard

Water scarcity coupled with poor management and underuse of accessible water resources are key issues hindering agricultural growth in the West Bank. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, old and damaged irrigation pipes can cause leakages of up to 40 percent of the total amount of pumped water. In An-Nassariyeh village the cost of leakages is estimated to be 231 200 cubic meters every year. Expenses associated with these water leakages cost farmers up to USD 185 000. The farmers also lose the opportunity to irrigate at least 45 ha of land, which has the potential to generate USD 225 000 per agricultural season.

Contaminated water and quarrels with neighbors are a thing of the past for Hamed Rwasat, a farmer from An-Nassarieyh village in the West Bank. A Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project, supported by the Government of Canada, has addressed poor management and inefficient use of water resources by repairing damaged sections of irrigation systems. This has improved access to clean water for irrigation and put an end to social conflicts over water usage.

The father of six owns 3ha of land, which he uses to cultivate eggplant, cauliflower and wheat. Things have not always been easy for Hamed. During peak seasons, he could not access enough water to irrigate his crops. This led to conflict with neighboring farmers over water, forcing Hamed and his family to pump wastewater from a nearby stream at night.

“We did not have an option,” explained Hamed. “I was forced to use untreated wastewater for irrigation to sustain my farm and feed my family.” Hamed is one of many farmers in An-Nassarieyh who resorted to using wastewater for agriculture – a practice that endangers food safety and health in addition to being costly and unsustainable.

FAO’s project rehabilitated 32 water conveyance systems in the West Bank, improving the efficiency of 147.6 kilometers of water piping for domestic and agricultural use. As a result, farmers once again could access sufficient water, ensuring equitable distribution. Water loss through leakages was eliminated and the use of untreated wastewater for irrigation purposes was curbed.

Hamed is now a member of his local water user committee, which was set up by the project to ensure the water systems are maintained. Hamed has expanded his cultivation to include different varieties of vegetables such as squash and beans. He no longer uses contaminated water sources for irrigation, which has improved the quality and safety of his crops. Moreover, production costs have significantly decreased: the cost for each pumped cubic meter from the repaired network (USD 0.5 per cubic meter) is less than that pumped from the contaminated water source (USD 0.9 per cubic meter). These factors combined have led to an increase in Hamed’s net profit return per hectare. Hamed, who used to cultivate his land only one season per year, is now cultivating all year round.



Similarly, Solyman Blwani used to have problems with poor production and food safety as a result of using contaminated wastewater for crop irrigation. “Due to the leakages from the old and damaged irrigation network, I was not able to expand my farm with new varieties of crops, such as seedless grapes”, explained Solyman. “After leakages were eliminated I was able to cultivate three additional grape orchards and my income has increased by more than 50 percent.” Each hectare that Solyman cultivated has resulted in a net profit of up to USD 3 000.

The project has enabled 207 farming families in An-Nassariyeh to increase their production, cut production costs and avoid using unsafe contaminated water sources. In addition to

mitigating social, economic and environmental impacts on communities, the pipe rehabilitation work led to the creation of seasonal jobs for at least 2 000 agricultural workers in the West Bank.



Photo:  
©FAO.Fatema  
inspects some  
grapes in the  
grape yard

### Cistern Rehabilitation

Amin Ramadan Suleiman Kaabneh is a Bedouin from Yatta and has six members in his household. Amin stays in two different areas (he stays in one area for summer and in the other area during winter). The rehabilitation of a cistern (196 m<sup>3</sup>) in his second home allowed him to have more livestock, increasing his income and allowing him to stay in the area for more than 4 months – the longest time he has spent in a single area.



Photo: ©FAO.Members of the  
Bedouin community sitting in a tent in  
Ein Samiya

Amin no longer has to buy water by a tractor every time he moves to this area. Purchasing water and transporting it used to cost him around 80 shekels per m<sup>3</sup>. Once rehabilitation work on his cistern was completed, he built a tent next to it and he has increased the number of his livestock. His cistern has revived the area as more Bedouins have started living there due to the availability of water.

The Cistern currently benefits at least 50 people, 700 sheep, and 80 camels leaving in the area. Amin’s story is only one example of how rehabilitation of a single cistern could support and improve vulnerable herders’ lives.

The project has rehabilitated and constructed water harvesting cisterns for 40 other Bedouin beneficiaries.



## From WFP

Over the second trimester of the year, WFP assisted more than 350,000 poor food-insecure non refugees, the vast majority of whom resided in Gaza (240,000) where WFP has been prioritizing its assistance given the acute degradation of living standards and rise in poverty evidenced by the 2018 Palestinian Expenditures and Consumption Survey.

At this critical time of harsh economic deprivations, WFP has been gradually prioritizing and scaling-up its food-voucher interventions in Gaza with a view to support an ailing economy and have a greater impact on people's food security status. At the end of June, around 70 percent of WFP's food assistance response was delivered in the form of electronic food vouchers (170,000 people).

WFP completed the first round of its bi-annual nutrition awareness sessions with 4,000 women, 1,500 men and 2,000 children trained on best nutritional and health practices in all five Gaza governorates. The classes also addressed topics on the prevention of gender-based violence and provided life-skills and women empowerment sessions aiming to enhance their personal development and resilience against increased deprivations, psychological trauma, marginalization and other forms of anxieties driven by patriarchal norms.

WFP's food assistance enables poor households to meet a share of their daily food needs and alleviates the decline in their purchasing power. It is a fundamental safety net that keeps them from falling into deeper poverty, as well as a critical form of economic transfer allowing families to spend their meagre resources on other essentials. WFP post-distribution monitoring findings showed that beneficiary households in Gaza live with less than US\$ 1, significantly below the deep poverty line threshold of US\$ 3.7, and continue to adopt negative food strategies to cope with the deterioration of their living conditions: they have been skipping meals, reducing the quality and quantity of food items, seeking support from friends or relatives and relying on credit to purchase food. These mechanisms are persistent for an acutely vulnerable population whose dwindling resources are on the verge of exhaustion.

Whilst the incidence of poverty (14 percent) and food insecurity (13 percent) is less widespread than in Gaza, the West Bank hosts a third of the poor (30 percent) and food-insecure (35 percent) Palestinian populations. More than 60 percent of the Bedouin and herding communities in Israeli-controlled Area C, which WFP and UNRWA assist jointly with food rations, are food-insecure and in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

## Major Events

- 2 FSS general meetings in WB and GS
- 2 CSI training sessions in WB and GS

- 2 Working groups meetings in both WB and GS.
- 2 ICCG meetings in WB
- 4 ICCG meetings in GS

This Publication has been produced with the assistance of the Government of Canada. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Canada.



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