



Addressing urgent needs of vulnerable women and men herders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through emergency interventions and strengthened food security coordination

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Target areas: West Bank and Gaza Strip



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Objective:

To provide time critical and quick impact support to address the urgent needs of vulnerable households affected by man-made, environmental and natural shocks, with a particular focus on the needs of vulnerable women in herding communities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; as well as strengthening evidence-based food security coordination.

Key partners:

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Community-based Organizations.

Beneficiaries reached:

2 982 households.

Activities implemented:

- Distributed a total of 150 tonnes of drought-tolerant fodder seeds to 1 001 beneficiary households (798 women and 203 men); each household received an average of 150 kg of seeds.
- Rehabilitated and constructed 82 water cisterns that have increased access to water for 246 vulnerable herding families.
- Provided movable plastic animal sheds to a total of 600 households of herders (474 vulnerable women and 126 vulnerable men).
- Carried out artificial insemination for 2 000 sheep belonging to 100 beneficiaries, in order to introduce new genes to the flock and improve profitability.
- Distributed small-scale farm management inputs and dairy processing equipment to 435 women herders, including preventive disinfection materials, salt blocks, and wool and hooves secateurs; and provided trainings on hygiene and marketing.
- Distributed solar panel systems to 149 poultry farms households and 11 dairy farms households in the Gaza Strip, benefitting a total of 320 families.
- Distributed 1 000 kg of olive-cake energy blocks to 280 households; a biofuel used as an alternative energy source to wood.
- Defined indicators, timeline and the analysis methodology to be applied in the framework of the 2018 Socio-Economic and Food Security assessment, in collaboration with the World Food Programme and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, non-governmental Organizations and the relevant Palestinian Authority bodies.
- Provided dedicated trainings by the Food Security Sector (FSS) to the MoA staff in Ramallah, with a focus on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle process and the modalities for establishing proper coordination among all stakeholders; and conducted, through the FSS, a study on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment from the perspective of the Palestinian women who are engaged in herding activities.

Results:

- Produced an estimated 1 800 kg of fodder and around 1 500 kg of hay, corresponding to a total value of over 900 USD per household.
- Increased beneficiaries' access to water and contributed to the generation of supplemental household income, resulting in improved livestock production.
- Contributed to the reduction of animal diseases and decreased mortality among flocks thanks to the provision of animal shelters; and reduced the burden on women who are usually responsible for herding activities.
- Improved access to a consistent, clean and renewable source of energy, ensuring the sustainability of beneficiaries' productive activities thanks to the solar panel systems.
- Improved animal production in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, giving livelihood opportunities to young people and improved the lives of women in herding communities.