



FSS COVID-19 Crisis Sitrep-05 19th April 2020

KEEP AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAINS ALIVE --> FEED THE COUNTRY --> SAFE LIVES



1. Concerns, Priority Needs, and Gaps update

West Bank and Gaza Strip

- **New Poor families**
MoSD pointed out that 53,000 families can be classified as new vulnerable families. MoSD confirmed that these families have fallen below the poverty line, and should be dealt with them as poor families, and in need for support.
- **Agriculture inputs prices and availability.**
The basic agriculture production inputs in Palestine are coming from outside and are not produced or manufacturing at local level. Especially in areas such as agricultural fertilizers, seeds of all kinds, and the most important basic feed for livestock. Imports of these goods and materials are linked to international trade movement restrictions.
In the last period, farmers declared that the price of 1 MT of one kind of fertilizers increased more than double. The price jumped to 2200 ILS instead of 1000 ILS before the virus outbreak.

West Bank

- Many **market transactions are limited** as traders and producers can't physically meet.
- **Poultry and livestock markets** continue suffering by **low demand** and **small poultry farmers are coping by selling at a loss.**
- Herders and traders report of **falling sheep prices** in the attempt to face a **virtually nonexistent demand.**
- Some **farmers/traders are limiting production and supply lookout**, due to reducing prices and demand.
- **Weak demand for milk and dairy products.** Low demand of cow's milk in West Bank and mainly in the North. 520 tonnes of cow's milk are produced daily in West bank, of which 100 tonnes are produced in the north. 420 tonnes used to go for factories and the rest is processed at home level. Due to the movement restrictions imposed by PA, sweets shops are closed which led to low demand on cheese and excess of milk. The sweets shops used to consume more than 50 tonnes of milk /cheese on daily basis.
Herders are attempting to shift production to longer shelf life products. However, those that do not possess the needed know-how are experiencing losses.

Gaza Strip

- The **lack of agricultural inputs** for farmers/herders/fishers continues to represent a major constraint factors for the continuity of food production.
- People hosted in the **quarantine centres** continue to rely on external support for their food needs.



2. Response Strategy and Challenges Update

West Bank and Gaza Strip

- The Agricultural Sector Response Plan aims to maintain stable levels of food security for Palestinian families by maintaining the sustainability of agricultural production operations safely and healthily. and reducing dependence on external markets by intensifying local production of agricultural, food and food commodities.
- MoSD shared a letter asking partners and organizations that would like to distribute food baskets to include agricultural products such as eggs and olive oil to protect the agricultural value chain and to help farmers as well.
- MoSD indicated that were distributed around 28,000 parcels so far, in addition to disburse 500 ILS per HH as cash in close cooperation with the banks. The caseload targeted under the cash disbursement is 115,000 family (80,000 in Gaza and 35,000 in West Bank).
- Food parcels and other hygiene kits are needed in the coming period. In parallel, MoSD is working to disseminate forms to the municipalities and village councils to get more information about unemployed workers in coordination with MoL.
- MoA is developing Agricultural Sector Response Plan to the Emergency Situation. The plan is based on the basic principles of the National Investment Plan for Food and Nutritional Security (NIP).
- 453,300 employed individuals will be affected as a result of the current emergency situation. Those working in the informal sector are around 320,000 and get an average daily wage of NIS 84.7 (NIS 27.2 million, which is equivalent to about USD 7.8 million a day). The second category is represented by 133,300 workers in Israel and settlements who get an average daily wage of about NIS 254 (NIS 33.4 million, which is equivalent to about USD 10 million a day).
- The overall CPI for Palestine during March 2020 increased by 0.72% compared with February 2020 (by 0.81% in the West Bank, by 0.69% in Gaza Strip).
- The Palestinian CPI during March 2020 increased by 1.11% compared with March 2019 (by 1.06% in the West Bank, and with a slight increase by 0.03% in Gaza Strip).

West Bank

- Home garden distribution is taking place, with around 80 percent of the activities already completed – around 1 million vegetable seedlings have been distributed across the West Bank.
- In order to integrate efforts of governmental bodies, organisations are raising awareness about the Covid-19 disease and related infection control practices among farmers and cooperatives. The FSS partners are approaching them and disseminating key instructions to keep the production place and other working places safe.

Gaza Strip

- 3,000 daily waged workers received cash assistance (100\$) as part of DFA grant to those workers affected due the CO-19 pandemic provided to 10,000 workers. In the coming weeks the number will raise up reaching the target (10,000 workers HHs).
- The DFA assistance to agricultural sector started; 427 poultry breeders received fodders with a value ranged from \$250 to 600 each; in quantities (400-1,000 kilograms of broilers fodders. It is expected that in the next week a similar number of broilers' breeders receive the same next week as well as farmers who will receive agricultural inputs.
- Community initiatives started in the southern governorates to distribute vegetables parcels into households affected due to Covid-19. It is expected that these initiatives will cover other governorates in the coming weeks.

Summary of activities implemented by FSS partners during the reporting period:

Objective	Organisation	Activity	Beneficiary /recipient	Geographical area
Reducing the Food Security impact on vulnerable households and most vulnerable people	ICO-UAE	Delivery 1 Kg bread to affected and vulnerable communities	21000 HH	Jerusalem
Reducing the Food Security impact on vulnerable households and most vulnerable people	various organizations, privates, local councils, NGOs	Distribution of food baskets	N/A	West Bank
Reducing the Food Security impact on vulnerable households and most vulnerable people	IRPAL	Provision of food vouchers for the most vulnerable affected due to CO-19	2,000 HHs	Gaza Strip
Reducing the Food Security impact on vulnerable households and most vulnerable people	Community initiatives	Provision of vegetables parcels to most vulnerable HHs affected due to CO-19	850 HHs	Khan Yunis and Rafah

Objective	Organisation	Activity	Beneficiary /recipient	Geographical area
Reducing the Food Security impact on vulnerable households and most vulnerable people	WFP	Support and distribute e-voucher to 16,000 people non refugees' people in both West Bank and Gaza Strip – most vulnerable groups by COVID 19 – disabled, elderly and pregnant and lactating women	16,000 people	West Bank and Gaza Strip
Reducing the Food Security impact on vulnerable households and most vulnerable people	WFP-UNRWA	Food distribution for Bedouin communities	3,706 food parcels distributed to 1145 families	Food distributions are completed in the Northern part of the West Bank.