

FSS COVID-19 Crisis Sitrep-07 3rd May 2020

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



1. Concerns, Priority Needs, and Gaps update

West Bank and Gaza Strip

- **Lack of fodder** and its high cost remains the major concerns for herders.
- **Spare parts** for agricultural machinery are starting to run out of stock.
- **Pest control** may become problematic for incoming season, due to continuous price increase of pesticides.
- **Commuting to fields** implies risk of contagion, and this is limiting farmers to reach their fields and attend to their crops.
- All previously reported impediments and constraints related to the agricultural production remain in place.
- Following two weeks of continuous **price increase** of food commodities in the retail market, prices are somehow **stabilised** (e.g.: wheat, rice, and vegetables).

West Bank

- **Marketing** the agricultural product is still one of the main concerns for farmers. Due to movement restrictions, more middle-traders are working in the value chain, which means less profit margin for farmers.
- Availability of **seedlings** for the home gardens: in the majority of West bank, there is severe lack of vegetable seedlings. People are not able to fully plant their home gardens due to this shortage.

Gaza Strip

- There is approximately 40% shortage of **hatching eggs** for broilers and turkeys due to global COVID-19 pandemic. As Gaza Strip usually imports hatching eggs from Europe, the month of April witnessed clear increase of broiler meat retail price, up to 13 NIS/kg.
- **Dates and fish trade** from Gaza to the West Bank has resumed. Fishers have some limited benefit from lower price of fuel.



2. Response Strategy and Challenges Update

West Bank and Gaza Strip

- According to PA MoL, around **40k workers** will resume work inside Israel under certain conditions. It is expected that those workers will not be allowed to come back to West Bank every day, as they will be obliged to stay day and night in Israel.
- MoSD plan to distribute 500 NIS for 9,500 **informal workers** during the incoming month, in order to decrease the impact of COVID-19 on the families who lost their main livelihood.
- MoSD registered **110,000 new families** affected by COVID-19, among which around 100,000 in the West Bank, using a fast-track procedure (i.e.: no application of PMTF, but cross-checking with MoF, MoLG and MoI).

West Bank

- FSS Partners are continuing their support to limit the impact of **marketing disruption**. Local partners are facilitating direct contact between consumers and farmers/small scale herders.

Gaza Strip

- The DFA continues its **support to breeders** by distributing fodders to poultry/broiler breeders in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. By early next week, breeders from the other three governorates will be targeted too. The overall number of planned beneficiaries is 1,000 breeders who will benefit from 700 tons of broilers fodders.
- **Cash assistance** to poor families is a key immediate response that can help these families to cope with the impact of COVID-19 crisis. Local authorities are on the frontline of this type of intervention, as MoSD in Gaza Strip start distributing cash assistance (100 US\$) to 100,000 poor families in Gaza Strip this week.