



Report of the Rapid Qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA)

Gaza Strip



World Food Programme (WFP) &
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of this joint WFP/FAO rapid qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was to guide possible adjustments of food security, agriculture and livelihood interventions in the Gaza Strip in the next 2-6 months, and, as far as possible in the next 6-12 months, planned in response to the damages caused by the major Israeli military operation between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009. Its specific objectives were:

- To assess changes in Gaza households' food access, food consumption patterns, cash sources to meet other priority basic needs and coping mechanisms used to respond to the specific effects of the war;
- To evaluate Gaza households' resilience capacity, taking into consideration the role and contribution of current humanitarian and other assistance and the sustainability of coping mechanisms being employed;
- To evaluate wholesale and retail markets current functionality and early recovery capacity for supplying food to consumers; and
- To determine the profile of population groups requiring food, agriculture and other livelihood support assistance (including the current caseload of humanitarian agencies as well as additional groups if appropriate) and the type of assistance required for each of these groups in the next 2-6 months, and, in the extent possible, in the next 6-12 months.

The assessment was conducted between 29 January and 8 February 2009, and thus reflects the situation some two weeks into the ceasefire. Key Informant and household interviews (semi-structured), direct observations, market visits and meetings with various charitable organizations and industry associations were the main tools used to collect the information. Secondary data was also used to inform the assessment and guide the design of the assessment tools.

The key findings of the EFSA indicate that:

1. The 23 day offensive in Gaza has left substantial damage to infrastructure and agricultural land, and caused substantial human suffering, which exacerbated the deterioration in the livelihoods already affected by the prolonged closure regime before the war. Having lost their life-long savings, homes, and productive assets during the war, previously self-reliant families have joined the ranks of the destitute and find themselves completely reliant on assistance. Furthermore those who work are facing increasing difficulties to make ends meet due to unadjusted salaries, a degrading economic environment and increased dependency ratios.
2. There is evidence of the positive effects of aid in mitigating the increase of Palestinians' food insecurity. However, ***food security remains poor and there are real imminent threats to the livelihoods and nutrition of a growing proportion of the population.*** Before the war, food insecurity was already high, affecting 56 percent of the population. With the massive destruction incurred by the war, this situation has been further aggravated.
3. ***Food availability is back to pre-war levels but the supplies of local fresh foods are anticipated to decrease seriously by April-June 2009 due to the severe damages sustained by the agricultural sector during the war.*** Similar supplies of rice, pulses, canned vegetables, pickles, sauces, tea, coffee, fruit juices as before the war can be found in retail shops throughout Gaza Strip, at comparable pre-war prices. It must be noted, however, that these prices had substantially increased throughout 2008 due to international food price rises, high dependence on imports for food supplies and internal transportation costs, and additional costs linked to the restrictions at crossing points

with Israel. **The availability of food in the local market in Gaza continues to be unpredictable as it was pre-war.**

The exceptions are fresh chicken, red meat and eggs, for which availability has decreased due to the heavy losses incurred during the war, and of which prices are now unaffordable for many households. Households compensate with increased consumption of canned meat and canned fish. Canned meat and hygiene products' (toilet paper, soap, detergents, sanitary pads, and diapers, etc.) availability is limited, as it was pre-war. Dairy products are also not widely available, as they are stocked by a limited number of shops that have back-up electricity generators.

While locally produced fresh vegetables are currently available at relatively low prices, the damages of the war combined with the prolonged effects of the closure on the availability of agricultural inputs and limited rainfall, as well as the reticence of farmers to re-cultivate their lands for fear of possible future escalations, will undoubtedly decrease the availability of the next harvest; their availability is expected to sharply decrease, thus limiting the supply of a rich source of vitamins and minerals. As local production used to be the main source of these foods, future shortages may be compensated by imports from Israel or the West Bank (if authorised) but prices will be higher and economic access will therefore be more difficult for poor households. In fact, this the case now for fruits imported from Israel. Most Gazan households interviewed cannot afford to buy them and consider them to be a "luxury item". Interventions geared towards supporting farmers to rehabilitate and cultivate their lands are thus very much needed.

4. ***Economic access to food is affected for those households who have suffered direct war losses of housing, productive assets, jobs and pre-war humanitarian assistance, but not yet significantly for the others.*** Households who have lost their land, animals, fishing or other working equipment, and/or employment (such as agricultural labour or casual work), have lost the only source of cash income they had to lessen their dependence on external assistance.

As a result, to meet their food and other basic requirements, they currently rely on: (i) external humanitarian food and non-food assistance, (ii) relatives' and neighbours' solidarity, and (iii) debts authorised by shop-keepers. Their self-sufficiency capacity has been decreased, even though so far their food consumption is not significantly worse than it was pre-war. This should not overshadow the fact that economic access to food was already a serious issue before the war due to the protracted crisis caused by the closure and loss of livelihoods for a significant proportion of the population in Gaza.

Households who have suffered damages to their housing units but whose salaries have not been affected (such as Palestinian Authority [PA] employees) or who can rely on some pre-war savings, do not yet face food access difficulties because they continue to give priority to food rather than to rebuilding of their house or restoring their land for example. However, they might be at risk of becoming food insecure if they fail to receive compensation or support for the reconstruction of their dwellings and need to pool their own resources to fix their possessions.

The 60 displaced households (358 persons) remaining in collective centers as of 10 February 2009 are fully dependent on daily supplies of cooked food by UNRWA. It seems that most of these families are unable to leave the shelters without even higher levels of assistance, as they have additional needs to rent a living space and restore a minimum level of household domestic assets (cooking utensils, bedding, clothing).

5. ***Food utilization and nutritional status are likely to deteriorate if urgent repairs of the water systems and of damaged housing units are not undertaken.*** Access to water for drinking and hygiene purposes was already problematic before the war but has been completely disrupted for households whose housing units were damaged. The amount of water available has also further decreased for both host and hosted families. Anecdotal visual observations indicate poor hygiene especially of young children. Overcrowding for families hosting relatives whose house was

damaged, destroyed or is felt too dangerously located near the Israeli border, also increases risks of spread of infectious diseases.

Most households, even those displaced, have access to cooking fuel, including through their host families and through the use of firewood. Supplies of fuel (including from the tunnels) have resumed, although apparently not yet at the same pre-war levels due to the destruction of tunnels during the war. Prices of fuel smuggled through tunnels, however, are not significantly different – although slightly higher- from their pre-war levels. Cooking gas remains scarce as it was pre-war, however, and most families rely on old-style kerosene heat ranges and firewood for cooking. This is forcing many households, especially those that do not have open areas in which to use firewood, to reduce their reliance on cooked foods and increasing their consumption of ready-to-eat dry foods.

6. *Coping mechanisms have been amazingly quick to resume and households' resilience is generally impressive, however the protracted use of distress coping mechanisms before the war and the additional shock of the war requires rapid economic and material responses so that difficult arbitrages are not made on the allocation of resources to food versus non-food requirements.* While pre-war coping mechanisms have been re-activated extremely quickly and enabled most households to secure their pre-war level of food consumption (use of external humanitarian assistance, solidarity networks and shop-keepers' debt authorisations), the additional shock created by the war will put an additional demand on households' resources.

Should households who have suffered direct house and livelihood damages not benefit from rapid economic and material support to recover their housing and productive capacity, they are likely to review their resource allocation priorities with potential negative effects on the amount and quality of their diet. Arbitrage on resources may also affect negatively children's attendance to school (savings made on transportation, uniforms and other materials) and use of health services (further discouraged by the destruction of facilities and shortages of drugs and personnel).

It is also clear that food access remains highly unsatisfactory for households who have not been directly war-affected. Most continue to depend on external food and cash or temporary job assistance to meet at least part of their needs, and their diet remains extremely monotonous.

Based on the above preliminary results, the following **recommendations** for immediate action are made:

1. **Continue providing food assistance to the pre-war destitutes at the same pre-war levels.**
 - a. Meet the basic food needs of the destitute population through general food distribution (GFD) in order to prevent hunger and limit distress coping mechanisms;
 - b. Ensure that there is no break in the pipeline of food intended for destitute caseload.
2. **Extend food assistance to the households who have suffered direct housing, productive assets and/or job losses due to the war.** These households require additional support over and above any pre-war assistance they were receiving. The assistance for these directly war-affected households should cover the entirety of their food needs as well as include an extra economic support to enable them to:
 - a. Access an alternative housing (pay the rent) or repair their own house;
 - b. Compensate for the direct loss of income from their own production or job, until their access is restored;
 - c. Rebuild a minimum of domestic and productive assets; and
 - d. Enable economic access to school and health (for non-refugees who do not benefit from UNRWA free services).
3. **Progressively decrease the GFD caseload and promote and or scale up other activities such as school feeding, food-for-work, voucher programme, cash grants, temporary job employment and/or in-kind assistance for repairs and rebuilding of assets, as well as land rehabilitation.**

Innovative programmes such as support to bread production and delivery to hospitals (which proved very effective during the war) should be refined and pursued.

Humanitarian organizations are strongly encouraged to design interventions to restore damaged agricultural assets, including but not limited to greenhouses, irrigation wells, pumps and networks, poultry farms and other animal farms, fences, olive and citrus groves, and fishing boats. In doing so measures should be taken to establish interim social assistance programmes to support farming households until they restore their full productive capacity.

Food- or cash-for-work interventions for some households with working capacity could be an option to complement a free food ration, particularly geared towards repairs of housing and restoration of land for example. Access to raw materials and equipment is indispensable however may be difficult if the restrictions of entry by the Israeli authorities are not lifted.

4. **Restore agricultural productive assets and capacity in order to mitigate the risk of raising food insecurity for the short and medium term.**

The coverage of “fast impact” household food production projects, such as the distribution of backyard animal production packages (e.g., rabbits/chickens plus cage and feed) and horticulture packages (e.g., seeds, fertilizer and water tank), should be increased. In addition, farming inputs (seeds, fertilizers, seedlings, animal feed, vet kits, plastic sheeting, spare parts, fishing nets and supplies, etc) should be distributed to all households who can resume the next productive cycle.

In parallel, farmers should be supported to reclaim damaged land and restore productive assets, including irrigation networks, greenhouses, fruit tree plantations (olive and citrus groves, guava, etc.), small-scale poultry farms meeting bio-safety standards to reduce AI risks, livestock shelters and re-stocking (sheep, goats, cows, rabbits, chicks), food processing, marketing/storage and packing facilities, aquaculture ponds and equipment.

Finally, assisting export-dependent farmers after the conflict is necessary to ensure strategic food production capacity and employment opportunities in the Gaza Strip. Assistance should be provided to enhance the diversification of the agricultural production patterns in the Gaza Strip to better meet local food requirements, besides cash crops, and hence contribute towards mitigating longer term vulnerability to food insecurity.

5. With regard to food security analysis, it is recommended to **further develop the Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning System in the Gaza Strip**, building on the capacities available in FAO Food security Team and WFP VAM. The various uncertainties identified (levels of supplies and prices of fresh food in the coming months, extent and speed at which economic and material support to restore the livelihoods of directly war-affected households will be provided), as well as possible re-escalation of violence and tightening of the crossing closures, make it imperative to closely monitor the market food supply and prices, households’ income sources and access to external food, cash and other in-kind assistance, to be able to quickly adjust the level and modalities of food and voucher assistance being provided, as well as the caseload of beneficiaries. The mechanisms and partnerships already established for food security monitoring for the occupied Palestinian territory as a whole should be built upon, so that some consistency is also maintained between what is being done in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, while accommodating the specific conditions and requirements of each territory. In Gaza for example, close monitoring of land use/cover change to forecast the availability of vegetable/fruit crops, and of the prices and availability of agricultural inputs (animal feed, fertilizer, pesticides, spare parts, fuel etc.) will be important. A newsletter highlighting the food security trends should be produced on a regular basis.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. Background

On 27 December 2008, the Israeli army launched an air assault followed by a ground invasion in the Gaza Strip. The campaign lasted for 23 days in total. According to the Israeli government, the military offensive was intended “to bring about an improvement in the security reality for the residents of the south of the country.”¹ On its first day, the campaign began with a sudden and intensive bombardment of over 200 targets in the densely populated Gaza Strip by fighter planes, helicopters and drones. The targets included police stations, military training bases, government buildings, residential properties, private sector workshops, private agricultural land and greenhouses, water wells and pumps, and electricity transformers and distribution networks.² Throughout the campaign, F-16 fighter jets systematically targeted areas on the Palestinian side of the border with Egypt in an attempt to destroy the underground tunnels allegedly used for weapon smuggling; the same tunnels that were used by Palestinians to bring food and non-food items into Gaza to bridge the food and non-food supply gap induced by the blockade established by Israel since the Hamas took over the control in the Gaza Strip in June 2007.

The air strikes and the subsequent artillery bombardments and ground operations – which commenced during the second week of the campaign, with troops advancing into and taking positions in several densely populated areas in the northern, southern and central parts of the Gaza Strip - resulted in widespread destruction of property, livelihoods and human life on an unprecedented scale. More than 1,450 Palestinians died, mostly children and women. A further 5,400 people were injured during the attack.³ At the height of the fighting, nearly 51,000 people were displaced in shelters, and a larger number of people were believed to be living with host families.⁴ The financial cost of damage to infrastructure is estimated at US\$ 1.2 billion. Of this, US\$ 200 million is accounted for by the complete destruction of some 4,100 homes; US\$ 82 million of partial damage to peoples’ homes; and, US\$ 170 million of damage to private agricultural land and facilities.⁵

The campaign in the Gaza Strip exacerbated the already precarious situation caused by an 18-month blockade, which steadily weakened health, infrastructure, and livelihoods; and caused market shocks that worsened food security conditions. Days before the campaign, OCHA warned that “the ongoing closures have significantly reduced the capacity of UN humanitarian agencies to provide assistance in the event of an escalation in violence.” In fact, UN humanitarian assistance programmes had run out of stock for several essential supplies and faced severe difficulties in implementing their regular programmes on several occasions in the months leading up to the Israeli campaign in Gaza. The restrictions imposed by Israel since September 2007 on the entry of cash notes to Gaza added yet another dimension to the livelihood crisis. During the war, Humanitarian agencies faced problems in carrying out emergency distributions due to the bombing and insecurity limiting movement of beneficiaries to collect their entitlements at the distribution points.

A unilateral Israeli ceasefire on January 18, followed a day later by a unilateral ceasefire by Hamas and other Palestinian factions, put at least a temporary end to the fighting, pending the conclusion of broader arrangements to sustain a permanent –or at least, a long-term- ceasefire. Within three days of the ceasefire, the Israeli army withdrew from the Gaza Strip and life began to slowly return to its pre-December 27 status. The coastal road –closed during the operation- reopened and movement became possible between the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. Basic humanitarian assistance continued entering Gaza, but remained constrained by Israeli restrictions on the amount and type of aid and by logistical difficulties.

¹ Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. December 28, 2008.

² OCHA, The Humanitarian Monitor, December 2008.

³ Palestinian Ministry of Health Interview, February 6, 2008.

⁴ OCHA, Gaza Flash Appeal, January 2009; pg. 1.

⁵ PCBS, Press Release on Gaza Damages. UN and partners Agricultural damage assessment estimated direct losses were US\$ 180 million including some to public sector damages.

The disruption of livelihoods and the massive damage caused by the Israeli offensive have created a de facto situation with which humanitarian organizations have to contend and help address. Initial assessments completed in the first few days after the ceasefire by various local and international organizations – including those done within the framework of the 2009 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) - suggest that immediate humanitarian interventions need to focus on re-establishing basic services, while addressing the basic needs of newly vulnerable groups. They also suggest that short- and medium-term programmatic adjustments are needed in humanitarian programmes to enable future recovery and reconstruction.

2. Assessment Objectives and Methodology

This joint WFP/FAO rapid qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) –carried out by the Al-Sahel Company for Institutional Development and Communications (Al-Sahel) under a contract with both agencies- aimed to guide possible adjustments of food security, agriculture and livelihood interventions in the Gaza Strip in the next 2-6 months, and, as far as possible in the next 6-12 months. Its specific objectives were:

- To assess changes in Gaza households’ food access (including own crop, animal or fishing production, market purchase and humanitarian assistance), food consumption patterns, cash sources to meet other priority basic needs and coping mechanisms used to respond to the specific effects of the war;
- To evaluate Gaza households’ resilience capacity, taking into consideration the role and contribution of current humanitarian and other assistance and the sustainability of coping mechanisms being employed;
- To evaluate wholesale and retail markets current functionality and early recovery capacity for supplying food to consumers; and
- To determine the profile of population groups requiring food, agriculture and other livelihood support assistance (including the current caseload of humanitarian agencies as well as additional groups if appropriate), and the type of assistance required for each of these groups in the next 2-6 months, and, as far as possible, in the next 6-12 months.

The assessment was conducted by a team of nine researchers of the Al-Sahel Company between 29 January and 8 February 2009 and thus reflects the situation some two weeks into the ceasefire. Key informant and household interviews (semi-structured), direct observations, market/shop visits and meetings with various charitable organizations and industry associations were the main sources of information for the assessment. Secondary data was also used to inform the assessment and guiding the design of the assessment tools.⁶

For field visits and interviews, the assessment team developed and used a “Field Visit Protocol” and “Interview Guidelines” to make consistent the data collection process among the different team members visiting different areas at different times.⁷ These included a list of common suggested questions for most stakeholders being interviewed to allow for cross-checking data, and a suggested reporting format to facilitate identification of trends and triangulation during the analysis. Each team member contributed reports corresponding to the interviews and observations for which he/she was tasked. These were drawn upon in writing this report.

To ensure that comparisons can be made between the livelihood groups in relation to the specific impact of the war on various livelihoods and livelihood groups, interviews with key informants and households were organized on the basis of the geographic effects of the military operation (i.e. areas directly affected by bombardment and incursions versus areas not directly affected areas). The selection criteria of key informants took into account: status (IDPs/camp refugees/non-camp refugees/non-refugees), location (urban/rural – area directly affected by the operation/indirectly affected), main livelihoods and involvement

⁶ Refer to Annex 1 for a more detailed description of the assessment methodology

⁷ Refer to Annex 2 for the list of guidelines.

in key activities affecting food supplies (cash crop farmers/ traditional crop farmers/ fishermen/ wholesalers/ retailers/ daily laborers/ Palestinian Authority's [PA] employees, etc.). Accordingly, ten localities throughout the Gaza Strip (urban, rural, refugee camps, areas directly and indirectly affected by the war) were visited, in which 120 in-depth interviews with different informants (individuals and organizations) and households took place.⁸

Limitations

Given the qualitative –and purposive- nature of the assessment, participatory workshops and focus group meetings with a wider range of stakeholders might have benefitted the assessment insofar as validating results and contributing to the analysis and the design of recovery intervention programmes. As it were, the EFSA was not able gather sufficient information from Key Informants and households to guide early recovery interventions as it was not designed to capture medium term requirements. Instead the short term priorities were divided into two phases, namely: needs in the next 1-2 months, and needs in the next 3-6 months.

The EFSA might also have benefitted from additional interviews and market visits than was possible in the time available to produce results useful for decision-making on interventions. Finally, the profiling of vulnerable groups and their needs, and the food utilization findings presented herein could have been strengthened by a rapid quantitative random survey. The latter is important to obtain reliable figures on target beneficiaries for programme re-design/adjustment (including calculating amounts of food and non-food assistance required and planning pipelines and funding needs). The EFSA can only provide indications on priority groups and requirements, but no accurate figures.

3. Report Structure

The report is presented in four sections. This section provided the background to the assessment and introduced the methodology thereof in brief. Section two presents the main assessment findings, a discussion of the humanitarian crisis and its consequences on food patterns, coping mechanisms, and market functionality, as well as particular effects on the most vulnerable groups and their particular coping strategies. Section three builds on the findings of the previous section and presents a profile of the most vulnerable groups and their needs. Section four provides the recommendations of the assessment. This is especially with regard to immediate and short term interventions. The Annexes include a copy of the Terms of Reference, a list of people interviewed, and a list of documents reviewed.

⁸ Refer to the Annexes for the list of people interviewed, the list of communities visited and the number of interviews conducted with various key informants and households.

1. General Overview of the Humanitarian Situation Before the War

With 80 percent⁹ percent of Gaza's residents living below the official poverty line¹⁰ in September 2007,¹¹ the humanitarian situation in Gaza was stark¹², even before the Government of Israel enforced a blockade on Gaza following its declaration as a 'hostile entity' in October 2007. The blockade manifested in systemic closure of all major crossing points, restrictions on the entry of imports to all-but-humanitarian goods, prohibition on exports, a substantial reduction in fuel supply and –later, in early 2008- a restriction on the entry of bank notes (cash). During the period between October 2007 and December 2008, the entry of humanitarian assistance and fuel through the Gaza crossings did not exceed an average of 26 truckloads per day, about 5 percent of the actual need (see Box 1 below). In fact, the number of trucks allowed into the Gaza Strip in November and December 2008 was virtually negligible – in November an average of 23 trucks per day and in December 30 trucks per day entered the Gaza Strip¹³. The number of trucks entering in December 2008 constitutes 25 percent of the number of trucks entering in October 2008 (123 trucks), but only 6 percent of the total number of trucks entering in May 2007 (475 trucks). On December 18, UNRWA, which is mandated to provide basic services to the two-thirds of the Gaza population who are refugees, was forced to suspend its food assistance programme to 750,000 residents, due to the depletion of its wheat grain stocks.

Karni, the main passage for commercial traffic into and out of the Gaza Strip, had been closed since 12 June 2007, with the exception of a few days on which one of its bulk conveyor belts was opened for grain and animal feed. The makeshift crossings of Sufa and Kerem Shalom have been used as alternatives to transfer humanitarian supplies, but they have proven highly inadequate as they do not have the capacity to process containers in time to meet the basic needs of the population in Gaza. The Erez crossing point, the only passage for movement of people between Gaza and the West Bank via Israel, has remained virtually closed since June 2007, other than for foreign staff of international organizations, businessmen (until October 2008) and representatives of foreign media agencies. The Rafah crossing, on the border with Egypt, remained officially closed, although a few thousand Palestinians have been permitted entry on certain occasions.

The Nahal Oz crossing, the only crossing technically equipped to handle fuel imports into Gaza, has been operating intermittently, causing a substantial fuel deficit every month since June 2007, and leading to severe shortages in cooking gas, gasoline and diesel. The Gaza power plant had to shut down on several occasions due to shortages in fuel reserves. Load sharing programmes that trigger rolling blackouts of up to 20 hours have become a common practice in central and northern Gaza as a result of industrial fuel shortages. During load sharing programmes, some 650,000 people were reportedly without electricity at any given time.

The closure has been having a profound impact on the fragile, export-driven and input-dependent private sector which was providing employment to some 113,000 individuals in mid 2007.¹⁴ According to Gaza trade and industry associations, days before the war, 85 percent of the factories in the Gaza Strip had closed due to inability to obtain the necessary raw materials and/or export as a result of the closure. The remaining 15 percent were operating at 25-50 percent of their capacity. Some 25,000 employees were reported to have been laid-off. Owing to lack of cement and other construction materials, construction sector activities, which employed some 35,000 workers, were almost completely stalled.

⁹ PCBS, Poverty in the Palestinian June 2007.

¹⁰ The relative poverty line and the absolute poverty line for a six-member household (2 adults and four children) in the oPt in 2007 stood at NIS (New Israeli Shekels) 2,300 (US\$ 518) and NIS 1,837 (US\$ 414)² respectively. These were adjusted in mid 2008 to NIS 2,542 (US\$572) for the relative poverty line, and to NIS 2,028 (US\$457) for the absolute poverty line.

¹¹ "Situation Report", OCHA, 20 June 2007.

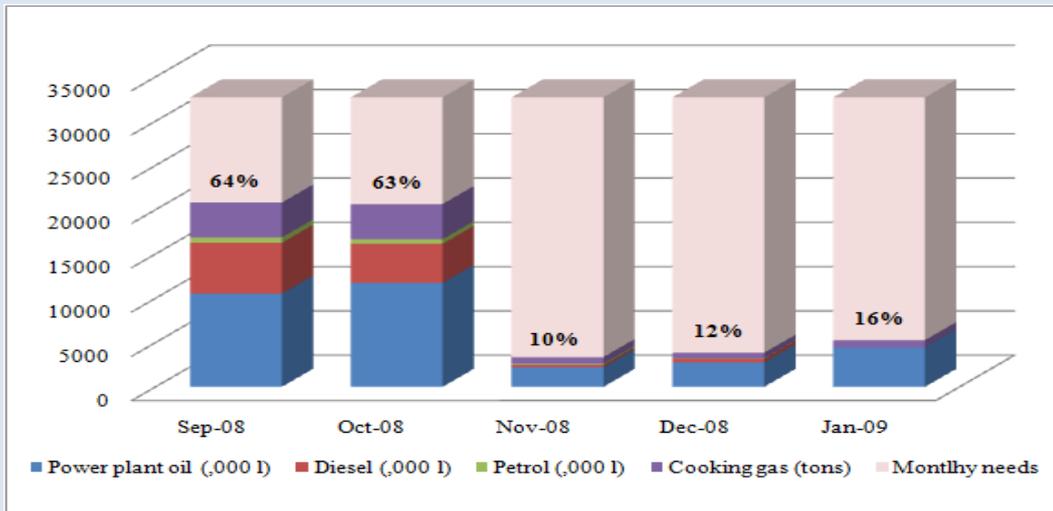
¹² Before the war, combined caseload of UNRWA and WFP amounted to 1,015,000 beneficiaries, or 67 percent of the population in Gaza.

¹³ These figures include humanitarian and commercial trucks transporting food and non-food items. Source: OCHA Humanitarian Monitor, December 2008. A chart showing the decrease in number of truckloads since Jan 2007 can be found in http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_humanitarian_monitor_2008_12_1_15_english.pdf

¹⁴ PCBS, Labour Force Survey, 2nd Quarter 2007, September 2007.

BOX 1: IMPORTS OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS AND FUEL

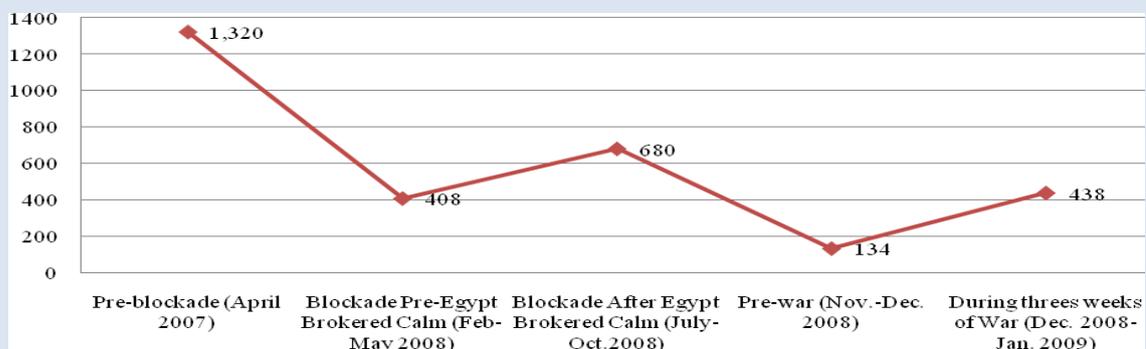
During the period September 2008 and January 2009, the monthly dispatch of fuel into Gaza authorized by Israel was systematically far below the actual need estimated by the Owners of Fuel Stations Association. As shown by the below figure, fuel imports authorized by the Israeli authorities for entry into Gaza dropped from 16.8 million liters of diesel, petrol and power plant oil and 39 mt of cooking gas in September 2008 (i.e., 64 percent of the actual need) to 4.4 million liters of power plant oil and 831.5 mt of cooking gas in January 2009 (i.e., barely 16 percent of the actual need)¹⁵.



Despite the hostilities taking place during the first 18 days of January, there was a significant increase in the number of truckloads allowed entry into Gaza, compared to the previous two months: a total of 3,053 truckloads entered Gaza, constituting a daily average of 122 truckloads. This represents a three and five fold increase respectively, compared to the parallel figures for November 2008 (23 truckloads) and December (35 truckloads). January imports included 273 truckloads, which entered Gaza from Egypt through the Rafah crossing, most carrying medical supplies. This was the first time since September 2005 that goods entered Gaza through Rafah crossing. Exports continue to be prohibited.

The overall level of imports remains well below parallel figures before the blockade in June 2007, with a daily average of 475 truckloads in May 2007, and insufficient compared to market needs. The Palestine Trade Center (Paltrade) estimated that in order for any sort of economical revival to begin, exports should resume immediately and a minimum of 850 truckloads of market-triggered imports per day should be allowed entry. Of total imports in January, 69 percent were made up of foodstuff and 12 percent of medical supplies, while construction materials, spare parts for water/wastewater infrastructures and education and industrial inputs continued to be almost totally banned. Almost half of all truckloads (47 percent) were imported by humanitarian agencies.

Average weekly number of truckloads¹⁶



¹⁵ Data compiled by OXFAM from EU and UN sources.

¹⁶ Ibidem.

The agricultural sector which was the source of livelihood to some 40,000¹⁷ farmers, fishermen, herders and farm labourers, was also deeply affected by the closure. Essential inputs needed to sustain agricultural production have been banned, causing drastic supply shortages and inflated prices in these inputs. At the same time, agricultural produce was banned from export, causing substantial losses of income for some 5,000 farmers and 10,000 laborers who cultivate seasonal export crops (mainly: strawberries, cherry tomatoes, carnations, and green peppers). Fishermen have been limited to 3 nautical miles out to sea, which forced many fishermen to stay ashore.

Payment of salaries to some 77,000 public sector employees and some 100,000 beneficiary households and recipients of cash assistance from the many charitable organizations operating in Gaza were also affected by the restrictions on cash transfers into the Gaza Strip, which also threatened the collapse of the banking system in Gaza. Cash-for-work and programmes for some social hardship cases were disrupted in a number of months, as was the payment of salaries for UN and local NGOs' staff. While the smuggling along the Gaza-Egypt border helped circumvent the shortages in food and non-food items caused by the closure and offered cheap alternatives to the relatively 'expensive' consumer goods that enter through the Gaza crossings, it also induced market price distortions. Fearing severe and uncontrolled price fluctuations in food items and the effect inter-trader competition might have on them, local retailers limited their stocks of 'smuggled' items.

The effect of the humanitarian situation on food security

The protracted closure and the ensuing loss of livelihoods worsened food security conditions for a significant proportion of the population in Gaza. Vulnerability to food insecurity was threatening previously unaffected livelihood groups of the population. In October 2007, A joint rapid assessment conducted by WFP and FAO revealed that the prices of basic commodities and food items were prohibiting many households from purchasing many food items, especially meat products, flour, and fruits. It also denoted a change in consumption patterns towards cheaper food commodities and an overall reduction in quantity of food purchases by consumers. Many households, having lost their source of income due to private sector lay-offs, were reported to be using distress coping mechanisms, including reducing the number of meals they consume, eating smaller quantities of food and selling disposable assets.

An update of the October assessment, which was conducted in May 2008 jointly by WFP, FAO and UNRWA, confirmed the earlier findings and revealed yet a more alarming situation than what existed in October 2007. This assessment showed that food insecurity levels were at an all time high, with 56 percent of the households classified as food insecure, and 11 percent classified as vulnerable to food insecurity.¹⁸ The assessment also revealed that Food aid and, to a lesser extent cash aid, played a major role in preventing a further increase in food insecurity and contributed to filling the shelves of the poorest groups.

¹⁷ Estimated based on PCBS Labour Force Survey results for Q4 2007, and discussions with trade associations in Gaza.

¹⁸ Food insecure households are those households with income and consumption below US\$1.9/cap/day, and, households showing decrease in total, food and non-food expenditures, including households unable to further decrease their expenditure patterns. Households vulnerable to food insecurity are those showing both income and consumption below US\$2.6/cap/day, EXCEPT households showing no decrease in expenditure patterns (categorized as marginally secure).

The effects of the closure have been felt almost immediately by the Gaza Strip industrial and agricultural sectors' whose outputs have traditionally been dependent on the Israeli market for export opportunities. It was also felt by other economic sectors that are reliant on the availability of raw materials from Israel for their survival.

- *The Construction, Mining and Quarrying Sector has ceased production in late July 2007 due to the lack of raw materials (imported through and from Israel) following the ban on those products. As a result, some 18,000 jobs have been lost.*
- *Garments and Textile Sector: 95 percent of the factories within this sector shut down completely and laid off their workers due to the unavailability of raw materials and inability to export. An estimated 15,000 workers have been laid off from their jobs in the garments and textile factories.*
- *Wood and Furniture Sector: The majority of the production of the wood and furniture industries sector is export-oriented, where an estimated 75 percent of the industry's output destined for the Israeli and the West Bank markets. Due to the lack of local demand for their products, lack of essential raw materials and no prospects for a resumption of exports, **all** large and medium sized furniture factories (26) shut down and laid off their workers (estimated at 1,500).*
- *Food and Beverages Industries Sector: About 50 percent of the large and medium size factories engaged in food and beverage manufacturing shut down between June and October 2007, with the number of laid off workers from these factories exceeding 2,000.*

PCBS data show that the number of unemployed has increased by 65 percent between the 2nd quarter 2007 and the 3rd quarter 2008; settling at almost 114,000 people (42 percent of active labour force) in 3rd quarter 2008. The rising unemployment rate was spread across the various sectors. Almost 8,000 jobs were lost in agriculture and manufacturing while construction lost 11,000 jobs.



2. Availability and Prices of Food

2.1. At the Retail and Wholesale Levels

Interviews with retailers and wholesalers, market visits and visual observations confirmed that basic food items are generally available in the local market at comparable –in some cases, slightly lower than- pre-war prices due to a “more regular entry of imports into the Gaza Strip following the ceasefire than before the war”, according to wholesalers. The drop in the price of certain items (such as wheat flour, sugar, and rice, and canned legumes) is mostly attributed to drop in international market prices and –to a lesser extent, according to wholesalers- some market price distortions caused by the increased distribution of these items by humanitarian organization. Nevertheless, this should not overshadow the fact that: (1) the level of availability of staple food in the local market in Gaza prior to the war was already low, and a significant part of consumers’ demand was by humanitarian assistance; (2) food prices had increased quite substantially throughout 2008 due to increases in international prices and internal transportation costs associated with restrictions at crossing points with Israel; and, (3) the reduction in international prices did not translate in same reduction in prices at the local level.

BOX 3: SPOTLIGHT ON CONSUMER PRICES IN THE GAZA STRIP

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the months June-October 2007 shows that prices in the Gaza Strip have been systematically higher than in the West Bank, continuing the diverging trend between the two regions which began in January 2006. The CPI in the Gaza Strip for the month of September 2007 registered a 4.2 percent increase over the previous month, owing largely to the significant increase in the food and beverages and tobacco CPI, which registered a 5.7 and 17.7 percent increase respectively.¹⁹ The increase in the CPI outpaced the increase of both the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Producer Price Index (PPI), which increased by 2.1 and 1.5 respectively in the third quarter of 2007 over the previous quarter. The consumer price index in the Gaza Strip continued to climb in the third quarter of 2007 and throughout 2008. The CPI index for food and soft drinks increased by 16.27 percent between December 2007 (123.89) and December 2008 (144.05).

The exceptions to overall conclusion on current food availability highlighted above are **fresh chicken, red meat, and eggs, whose availability has decreased** due to substantial damages and destruction of a large number of livestock, sheep and poultry farms during the war, and **whose prices are unaffordable** for many households. Shortages were also reported by both retailers and wholesalers in cleaning supplies and hygienic products (including diapers, toilet paper, washing powder and hand soap), sugar and some types of legumes (especially lentils) and, to a lesser extent, canned meat. The supply of Egyptian rice is also dwindling, which retailers attribute to the destruction of tunnels in Rafah area during the war. Additionally, local shortages of dairy products have been observed due to the fact that they are sold only in a limited number of shops that have backup electric generators.

Stock levels at both the retail and wholesale levels have not returned to their pre-war levels for most available items. In many instances, retailers reported maintaining as little as 50 percent of their pre-war stock levels. This is especially true for small- and medium size retailers. Below-average stock levels of various items are mostly due to limited availability of cash notes, shortages in certain items, and uncertainty about the continuation of the ceasefire. Most retailers are opting not to re-stock items that are brought into Gaza through tunnels as the price of these items is highly unpredictable. The most salient of these items are rice and legumes, whose prices have been highly volatile during the war. Noteworthy here are the reported changes in the stock levels of wheat flour, vegetable oil, canned meat, and baby milk:

“The availability of basic food items, with the exception of chicken and eggs is pretty much the same as it was before the war... [Still,] many items are in short supply and prices change from one day to the next because of unpredictable supply. The situation has not changed much in this regard.”

A Gaza Shop Owner

- **Both retailers and wholesalers have voluntarily reduced their usual stock levels of wheat flour and vegetable oil** of fear of price fluctuations on the one hand, and decreased purchases by consumers on the other due to higher than usual distribution of levels of these items by humanitarian organizations and local charities.
- **The stock of canned meat increased significantly at the both retail level during the war to drop now to below pre-war levels.** The reason behind the former was higher than pre-war imports of canned meat, while the latter is due to depletion of accumulated retailers and wholesalers stock of this item (due to local purchases by humanitarian and charitable organizations during and after the war) and their inability to replenish stocks due to the closure.
- **The stock of baby milk at the retail level is higher than pre-war owing largely to decreased purchases by consumers due to higher than usual distribution of baby milk by humanitarian**

¹⁹ The CPI increased by 0.77 percent in October 2007, with a 0.76 and 0.81 increase in the Gaza Strip and West Bank CPI respectively. The developments of the CPI for October reveal a 1.01 percent increase in the food expenditure group (largely due to price increase in Gaza), 1.41 percent increase in the housing expenditure group, and 1.1 percent increase in the miscellaneous goods and services expenditure group.

organizations and local charities. Several retailers reported that they have reduced their carrying capacity of baby milk as a result, insinuating that sale of baby milk rations has noticeably increased after the war. This was confirmed by field observations.²⁰

Anecdotal evidence gathered through interviews with retailers clearly suggest that sales have not yet returned to the pre-war levels, with most retailers and wholesalers reporting 30-40 percent and 20-30 percent drop in sales, respectively. This is straining the ability of small- and medium-size retailers to restock and fix the damages their shops and warehouses sustained during the war. Despite this, both retailers and wholesalers continue to sell their regular customers on credit as they have done prior to the war. Credit sales have been reported to be in the realm of 10-30 percent of total sales, and extended usually only to customers known to have a somewhat steady source of income, a practice that was in existence before the war. While the EFSA could not ascertain that specific livelihood groups particularly affected by the reduced authorisation of credit sales by retailers, interviews with displaced households and households whose productive assets were destroyed as a result of the war revealed that many of these households have voluntarily reduced their purchases of food on credit. This, however, may also be because the food assistance these households have been receiving is sufficient to cover a large proportion of subsistence needs.

Given the lack of cash notes in Gaza and the loss of income of a large proportion of the population in Gaza, it is uncertain how long retailers and wholesalers will be willing and able to maintain their current credit sales policies. In interviews, the overwhelming majority of retailers and wholesalers reported that they will stop extending credit sales altogether if the current economic conditions persist. A joint rapid assessment conducted by WFP and FAO in April 2008 indicated that both retailers and wholesalers had significantly decreased their credit sales by as much as 50 percent following the blockade in October 2007.

2.2. Vegetables and Fruits Availability and Prices

Despite the substantial destruction of agricultural lands and infrastructure during the war and the fact that Gaza farmers found most of their crops spoiled after the war, fresh vegetables and fruits are readily available at rather low prices, especially for vegetables. This is mainly due to seasonality factors (winter vegetables are now in the height of their season) and the entry of vegetables and fruits from Israel. The supply of locally produced fruits and vegetables (especially fruits), however, will likely decrease next harvest as many farmers indicated both reticence and lack of financial capacity and cash to re-cultivate their lands. While future shortages may be compensated by imports from Israel and the West Bank (if authorised), the prices will likely be high thus making economic access to fruits and vegetables more difficult for poor families.

BOX 4: SPOTLIGHT ON THE EFFECT OF CLOSURE ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR²¹

Agriculture, traditionally a sector of employment of last resort to many unemployed Gazans, has been severely hit by the loss of export opportunities, lack of and increased prices of agricultural inputs (fertilizer, plastic sheeting, animal feed, etc.) and increased restrictions on fishing.

For example, the reduction in permitted fishing distance (reduced to 2-6 nautical miles in November 2008, from 10 nautical miles in 2006) and the unavailability of fuel or spare parts is making fish catch very difficult. High value fish cannot be exported. Many of the 3,000 licensed fishermen can no longer afford to leave the shore. By end of November 2008, 1,604.2 mt of fish had been caught throughout 2008, compared to 2,323 mt of fish caught in 2005.

In the case of the plant production sector, the export ban has been a huge blow to Gazan farmers in terms of revenue: cut flowers, which could be sold in the international market at Euro 20 cents per flower were used as animal feed in November 2008, due to the impossibility of exporting them; strawberries, earning farmers

²⁰ Beneficiaries of food assistance interrupted three different interviews with retailers to offer the milk rations they received for sale. A can of baby milk is sold at a retail price of NIS 22-27. It is commonly sold to retailers by food assistance beneficiaries for NIS 7-12.

²¹ WFP, FAO, and UNRWA, Joint Rapid Food Security Assessment in the West Bank and Gaza, May 2008 and FAO Agricultural Sector updates, 28 November 2008

NIS 25 per kg when exported, were being sold at NIS 5-6 per kg (20 percent of the export price) in the local market. Similarly, cherry tomatoes were sold in the local market at NIS 1 per kg, 1 fifth of the export price. Furthermore, the almost complete unavailability of inputs is dramatically reducing productivity. Export farmers are no longer hiring around 40,000 people in permanent and temporary jobs. Israeli incursions cause significant damage to farming lands, crops and greenhouses and the buffer zone have eaten away large portions of farming land. The situation is rendering agricultural work unprofitable and many farmers with decreased income and increased debt doubt if they want or can reinvest for the following season. The animal production sector is facing increased feed prices (see table below), destruction of farms by incursions and a lack of inputs and medication.

Table 1.1. Price of animal feed (NIS) (source: FAO update, November 2008)

Year	Broilers	Layers	Milk cows	Sheep
2006	1750	1350	1250	1150
2007	2100	1600	1500	1400
2008	2400	1900	1800	1600
Percent difference (2006-08)	+37 percent	+41 percent	+44 percent	+39 percent

The unavailability and inaccessibility of animal production inputs caused chicken hatcheries to sell chicks to farmers at half price, and lead to the extermination of 500,000 chicks by 24 November 2008 according to the MoA. Hatchery owners reported losses of NIS 1.4 million.

The collapse of the agricultural sector has been exacerbated by the progressive reduction and final availability of fuel in Gaza in the last months. In November 2008, farmers were reporting that one hour of irrigation would cost them an average of NIS 50. At these market prices, irrigation from diesel-operated pumps is no longer possible and 70 percent of lands are not being irrigated.

2.3. Wheat, Flour and Bread Availability and Prices

According to Bakeries' Owners Association (BOA), all 47 bakeries in the Gaza Strip are functioning as pre-war times, albeit at lower capacity (70-90 percent) due to the increased levels of distribution of wheat flour by humanitarian organizations. Bread is readily available in all of these bakeries. The main constraints that limit full productive capacity of bakeries are shortages of cooking gas (deliveries are less than what would be needed) and electricity cuts. Interviews with bakery owners in various parts of the Gaza Strip suggest that the demand on bread is lower than usual, with depressed demand most notable in areas where households are receiving food assistance. Demand on bread peaked during the war due to shortages experienced at the time.

The price of bread has remained unchanged during and after the war as it is controlled by the Ministry of Economy (MoE). A 3 kg of flat bread costs NIS 7, which is the daily amount needed for an average family, with wheat flour being provided by the various mills (at MoE's controlled price). The destruction of Al-Badr Mill, which is the second largest mill in the Gaza Strip (out of a total of six mills) with a milling capacity of 220 mt/day, during the war, has had immediate impact on the stock levels of local bakeries. According to the

"The mills are currently able to meet the local demand by bakeries for [wheat] flour. This is mainly because a large proportion of the population in Gaza are receiving food assistance, [which is depressing demand for bread]. We will begin to feel supply shortages when emergency distribution programmes stop as the five remaining mills will not be able to meet the local [commercial] demand and the demand by UNRWA.... Helping Al-Badr restore its capacity by facilitating the entry of needed equipment should be given a priority by international organizations."

BOA Chairman

BOA, stock levels at the Gaza bakeries have been reduced by anywhere between 40-60 percent as a result of the destruction Al-Badr Mill, as the remaining five mills began to route much of their production to meet UNRWA's and local charitable organization's distribution needs.

Interviewed bakery owners confirmed that their stock levels have been reduced, but gave lower stock reduction percentages than what was reported by BOA. Wheat flour stock levels at all visited bakeries seem to be sufficient to last for 3-5 days, at best (down from 7-10 days pre-war). While this has not been affecting the availability of bread in the local market, it certainly raises concern about the capacity of local bakeries to meet local demand for bread if the production capacity of local mills is reduced, if the level grain imports is reduced as a result of the closure regime, and/or the level of distribution of wheat flour is reduced. The restoration of Al-Badr Mill is thus necessary to alleviate the likely possibility of future wheat flour and bread shortages.

2.4. Tunnel Trade of Food and Non-Food Items

It had been estimated that anywhere between 300-600 tunnels have been dug by Palestinians on Egypt-Gaza border and were in operation on the eve of the war. These tunnels were used to import goods from Egypt, and –according to Gaza residents- helped circumvent the devastating effects of the closure. Many poor households in Gaza relied on securing their basic food needs from the supply of cheap food products smuggled through tunnels. The Rafah tunnels were the main source of gasoline, kerosene and diesel between October and December 2008. The price of these fuels in Gaza was less than half of their price in the West Bank.

The assessment could not ascertain the degree to which tunnel trade had been affected as a result of the war. However, visual observations and interviews with young ‘tunnel traders’ suggest that while a significant proportion of the tunnels have been destroyed as a result of the air bombardment and ground operation, many tunnels are still operating. Anecdotal evidence, supported by the stable prices of fuel in Gaza, suggests that many of tunnels that were being used to smuggle fuel and food items from Egypt before the war are still operational. For example, visits to the Gaza fish market on February 9 revealed that fresh fish was still being smuggled from Egypt, albeit in much smaller quantities than before the war. While inconclusive, this indicates that food smuggling through tunnels is still ongoing.

“Many tunnels have been destroyed, but many others were either untouched or sustained some damages... People are now working on repairing their tunnels, and will be open for business within days... We insist on our right to live with dignity and will do everything in our capacity to ensure this ”

A Rafah Tunnel Worker

3. Access to Food

Economic access to food has been affected for those households whose homes and productive assets have been destroyed, and/or jobs lost as a result of the war. This includes, inter alia, households whose lands have been completely ravaged and/or lost farm assets, households of agricultural labourers who have been laid off, labourers and employees of private sector establishments destroyed during the war (particularly metal shops), households of fishermen whose boats or the boats on which they used to work were destroyed or damaged, and households whose agricultural lands have become inaccessible after the war due to the fact it is located within one kilometre from the border with Israel.

The UNDP Rapid Initial Assessment conducted one week after the ceasefire estimates that 7,700 people lost their employment as a consequence of the damages suffered by small businesses and agricultural establishments. The same assessment found that 10 percent of the population claimed to have temporarily lost their source of income as an immediate impact of the war, while 21 percent of the population felt they were permanently affected by the destruction of the business establishments with which they were associated. In some of the northern and eastern areas of the Gaza Strip (e.g. Jabalia), unemployment reached 70-80 percent one week after the end of the offensive. The assessment estimates the number of people living under the consumption poverty line to have risen to 65 percent of the population in Gaza, a 13 percent increase since the estimate performed by UNRWA and PCBS in 2007. Unemployment was found to particularly affect people in the age group between 15-24, causing concern with regard to the political and socio-economic stability²².

²² UNDP Rapid Damage Assessment, February 2009.

Households hosting and/or financially supporting displaced households face similar food access difficulties. For households who have not sustained such losses, economic access has not worsened significantly (at least not to an extent that could be objectively confirmed by the assessment team), but it must be noted that for many of these households –especially those with low income and a large number of dependents- economic access was already severely constrained prior to the war. Shelter and other forms of humanitarian assistance provided by UN organizations, international aid agencies, Islamic charitable organizations, and popular in-kind donations (see below) have been instrumental in ensuring that access to food remains attainable for the overwhelming majority of people in Gaza, and particularly for those affected by the war.

3.1. Internally Displaced People (IDP) and Host Families

The number of displaced people in Gaza could not be ascertained by this assessment. A preliminary report of the shelter/IDP joint rapid needs assessment, however, indicated that some 10,990 households (72,000 people) in 45 non-refugee camp communities were staying with host families between 22 and 25 January due to the damages their homes sustained during the war. Interviews conducted within the framework of this assessment suggest that many of these households had vacated UNRWA shelters after they had been given NIS 600 to find suitable housing on their own, but were unable to find a house they could rent. Several of these families had very little money left of what had been given to them by UNRWA (many did not have any money), and almost all of them did not have any cooking ware and relied on support from their hosts.

At the time of this writing, 358 people (60 households) who had refused to take UNRWA’s offer to seek alternative shelter and were still being accommodated in three non-school UNRWA shelters, which provide them with daily food rations. These households are entirely reliant on humanitarian assistance and are unable to leave the shelters without higher levels of assistance. In addition to food, their needs include cash to rent a home and restore a minimum level of household domestic assets such as clothing, bedding and cooking ware.

Interviews with IDPs who are staying with host families suggest that access to food is generally not problematic to this group, despite the fact that the diet consumed is largely monotonous and lacks variety. This was, however, also the case with almost all non-IDP households interviewed. Displaced and host

families indicated that food is accessible to them from a variety of sources, including: food assistance (from UNRWA for registered refugee households, WFP/MoSA for non-refugee households, and charitable organizations for both refugee and non-refugee households), food obtained on credit from shop-keepers, and ad-hoc support from relatives, neighbours and friends. Generally, these sources of food are sufficient to meet the dietary requirements of these households, and food is not mentioned as the main priority by households. That said, **displaced families whose homes have been destroyed or inaccessible and fully depend on others for their shelter, and who have lost their source of income and/or any savings they may have had, are in need of**

“We eat the same [types of] food every day since my cousin’s family joined us, but we have not reduced the number of meals we eat or the rations. We pooled [the rations of] food both of our families received from UNRWA and have been managing to make ends meet. But, our expenditures on food has almost doubled because we have more mouths to feed ... The main problem I have is the lack of enough space and bedding for all 30 of us... I am beginning to worry about the girls and boys being together.”

Head of a Host Household, Deir Al-Balah

increased assistance in the short- and medium-term. At present, these households seem to have been well-targeted by humanitarian organizations, as many of them reported receiving food assistance from several organizations over the past month. Most of them have also received non-food assistance (mainly blankets and mattresses). What remains to be provided, however, to restore some self-sufficiency capacity, are cash and employment, i.e. a steady source of income.

The limited access to cash among displaced people (especially those who lost their main source of income) severely undermines their ability to restore their livelihoods, including –but not limited to– renting and furnishing a house, and acquiring the cooking utensils needed for food preparation. The one-off cash payment received by these households is hardly sufficient, given the current import restrictions, to ensure the resumption of livelihoods for most of them, especially since many have old debts to repay and new expenditures to worry about (for example, clothing, domestic assets). This will continue to constrain these household’s access to food and resumption of pre-war livelihoods.

In interviews, non-refugee host families, particularly those with many dependents and low income, seemed to have been disproportionately affected by hosting displaced households as most of them have diverted a significant proportion of their expenditures to food and water. The ability of these households to continue providing shelter to the families they host is rapidly weakening. **Host families reported that they would not be able to provide shelter for the hosted family beyond one month at best**, citing financial burdens and worry about social problems.

“We have sustained a huge loss with the destruction of [our] agricultural land and chicken farm..... I will do everything in my capacity to rebuild them, even if [my entire family] had to sleep in the street.”

A Poultry Farmer, Khuza’a

3.2. Farmers whose Lands and Productive Assets have been Destroyed or Became Inaccessible

The prolonged effect of the closure was being felt by all farmers in the Gaza Strip (cash crop and local production farmers) on the eve of the war. These effects included, *inter alia*, suppressed agricultural income resulting from loss of export opportunities and reduced productivity due to closure-induced shortages of and price increases in essential agricultural inputs (see Box 4: Spotlight on the Effect of the Closure on the Agricultural Sector). These effects were compounded by the substantial damages sustained by the agricultural sector during the war, further constraining farmers’ livelihoods.

Nearly all agricultural activities were interrupted during the 23 days of military offensive. Large areas of cultivated lands have been either completely destroyed or substantially damaged during the war, causing a commensurate loss of income and assets for farmers households. 225 dunums of greenhouses and 40 dunums of nurseries were completely destroyed during the war, while 200,000 dunums of animal farm suffered partial damage. 300,000 trees, including citrus, olive, stone fruit, palm dates and other species, were uprooted. The offensive also affected water resources necessary for agricultural activity: 250 ground water wells were demolished and further 53 were damaged. 200 km of agricultural roads were also destructed, hampering access to cultivated land and other agricultural production sites²³.

The UNDP/FAO-led Multi-Agency Rapid Damage Assessment conducted in the immediate aftermath of the military operation estimated direct losses in the plant production sector to amount to US\$ 84,786,000 in the animal production sector to US\$ 18,133,000, and damage to agricultural infrastructure (green houses, nurseries, water storage facilities, agricultural equipment, agricultural roads, marketing infrastructure, fisheries, animal farms, irrigation networks, main pipelines, agricultural stores, MoA losses, etc.) to amount to US\$ 77,800,000, for a total direct loss to the agricultural sector estimated at US\$ 180,719,000. Additionally, large areas of agricultural lands near the northern, eastern, and southern parts of the Gaza Strip, representing 30 percent of the arable land, are currently inaccessible to farmers as they have been declared military buffer zones. Despite the declared ceasefire, the Israeli military forces continue to fire at farmers who attempt to access their lands in these areas. Tens of farmers have been either killed or wounded as a result. The initial rapid assessment of the buffer zone, although inaccessible for a proper evaluation, estimated a damage of US\$10,000,000.

²³ UNDP/FAO-led Multi-Agency Rapid Damage Assessment, February 2009.

Both physical and economic access to food for farmers whose lands and/or productive assets have been destroyed or become inaccessible as a result of the war have significantly worsened. Farmers whose homes were also destroyed by the war suffered an additional devastating blow. While most of them used to rely heavily on their own production for securing their food needs, they are now mainly reliant on the assistance they receive from humanitarian assistance programmes for food. Many of them have no cash or savings to reinvest in their lands, and have to begin rebuilding their livelihoods from the ground. While they can still access food on credit from their local food retailers, many of them are opting not to incur any debt.

This notwithstanding, farmers in general -and registered refugee farmers and farmers whose lands have been destroyed or become inaccessible in particular, like displaced households, have been well targeted by food, cash, and non-food assistance programmes of UNRWA, WFP, and Islamic charitable organizations before and after the war. In addition, many farmers reported that they access food through relatives, neighbours' lands, and through credit. Thus, their food consumption has not been significantly affected so far. This may be the reason why none of the farmer households reported food assistance as a priority. While food aid enables them to save resources for other priority needs, these farmers will need to be provided with cash assistance (possibly through cash-for-work schemes), materials (e.g. for repair of irrigation systems, poultry farms etc.) and shelter (for those without homes) to be able to recover and restore their livelihoods. Their needs are well beyond food assistance.

BOX 5: SPOTLIGHT ON PLANT PRODUCTION SECTOR ACTIVITIES AFTER THE WAR

Farmers who could access their lands after the ceasefire found their crops either dead or spoiled as they had not been attended to during the 23 days of the war. In an attempt to salvage what they could of their losses, farmers harvested what remained of their crops and sold it in the local market at very low prices, barely enough to cover cultivation and labour costs.

With the exception of farmers whose lands have been completely destroyed and/or inaccessible, farmers have resumed their livelihood activities. Pre-war mechanisms used by farmers to obtain agricultural inputs on credit have also resumed, although at a lower scale than before. This is mainly due to the fact that input suppliers have lowered the ceilings of debt they are willing to extend to farmers to minimize their own risk. As a result, farmers have begun to use old and/or used inputs they have to temporarily fix the damages in their farms. For example, several of the farmers interviewed reported that they are taping and stapling together worn-out plastic sheets to cover their greenhouses as they cannot afford buying new ones (or because such sheets are not available in the market).

The main change in farmers' coping strategies is related to the very high proportion of farmers reporting laying off their agricultural labourers due to suppressed incomes, uncertainty about the future and desire to reduce production costs. Almost all farmers interviewed reported that they have been relying solely on their household members' assistance in tending their lands, which they view to be more feasible than hiring labour. Although agricultural wage labourers may not have suffered direct damages due to the war, this coping strategy of their former employers has obvious negative consequences on their income.

3.3. Fishermen

According to the General Syndicate for Marine Fishers, which is the only entity that has carried out a damage assessment after the war, the total value of damages to fishing assets as a result of the war is US\$ 320,000. Of this amount, about US\$ 120,000 refer to damages to various types of fishing boats, which used to employ some 400 fishermen. Losses relating to loss of fishing days are estimated at US\$ 1.75 million.

Interviews with fishermen suggest that fishing activities resumed quickly (21 January 2009). However, owing to restrictions on the permissible fishing distance, only 35 percent of the fishing boats (employing about one third of the fishermen in Gaza) resumed fishing. Accordingly, economic access to food is believed to have been affected for an estimated 2,000 fishermen households who have either lost fishing assets and/or fishing jobs as a result of the war and the ensuing restriction on fishing distance. Sources of food for these fishermen

are humanitarian assistance and debts authorised by shop-keepers. Generally, these food sources are sufficient to meet the dietary requirements of these households, and food is not mentioned as the main priority by them. However, fishermen households can steadfast their current conditions only if the assistance provided to them is maintained, and if additional support is provided to those who have lost their productive assets. Almost all fishermen households interviewed (all receive UNRWA assistance) reported that the food assistance they receive comprises more than 30 percent of what their total household consumption.

BOX 6: SPOTLIGHT ON ACCESS TO SEA AND INCOME CHANGES

Allowable fishing distance is 2-3 miles, although this has not been communicated officially by the Israelis to anyone. This restriction is causing a major loss to owners of launch owners (especially trawlers and seneir boats) and workers as now is the height of fishing season for lox and sardines (found at 6 miles).

Due to the restriction on fishing distance, income has dropped to NIS 20-40 per/day for labourers and NIS 50-70/day for boat owners. This represents a significant reduction from pre-war levels when fishing was possible as far as 6 nautical miles but comparable to the income levels during the same season last year due to the enforcement of the similar restrictions. However, fishermen sustained a complete loss of income during the war and immediate post-ceasefire period between 27 December 2008 and 21 January 2009.

4. Food Utilization

Water and sanitation services were largely ineffective prior to the war and already **jeopardizing proper food utilization due to risks of food contamination and disease**. About 70-80 million liters of raw and partially treated sewage were pumped daily into the sea. Restrictions on the imports of essential consumables and water pipe materials undermined the efficient production and distribution of water, and the operation of sanitary landfills and garbage collection trucks.

The war intensified these problems by disrupting the supply of water for drinking, hygiene and irrigation in many areas within the Gaza Strip. As of early February 2009, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) reported that approximately 50,000 people in different parts in the Gaza Strip do not have access to water as a result of the damage to water networks and distribution pumps. An additional 200,000 were reported to receive water only once a week. Most households interviewed reported feeling the water crunch, stressing that water supply has not yet returned to its pre-war levels.

The problem of water supply was most frequently repeated by displaced households in Khuza'a, Al-Attatra, Izbet Abed Rabbo, Al-Fukari and Juhr Al-Deek, who also indicated that their personal hygiene has been affected as a result.

"As you can see, the house is very crowded and is in such a mess... The children have had the flu for the past three weeks... Even if I had the time to clean and do the house chores, I would not be able to because the children need constant attention. There is also no water... I am not sure how much I can tolerate this [situation], but I am frustrated with it"

A Host Family Housewife, Gaza City

While many households reported that their water supply problems are being alleviated by the supply of water by humanitarian organizations, many others –mainly host families- reported having to purchase water from private tankers at prices more than double the market price. The lack of rooftop water tanks in the local market, as well as the high prices of these tanks are compounding the problem of water supply for a substantial number of households in Gaza, due to the large scale damage of these tanks during the war.

Cooking has also been constrained as a result of the war. Due to the shortages in –and high prices of- cooking gas, the primary source of cooking fuel used by households in Gaza, all interviewed households reported relying on alternative fuels for cooking, mainly wood ovens and kerosene ranges. However, due to the long time it takes these to produce the heat needed to prepare food and the relative difficulty in using them, many households reported reducing their consumption of cooked foods, particularly those that require long cooking

time. While the use of wood ovens and kerosene ranges is relatively risky (as it can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, or suffocation), visual observations revealed that households are exercising an appropriate level of care when using them. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that the lack of cooking gas is not significantly affecting the types of foods people would eat under the same conditions, thus **the shortages in cooking gas cannot be considered a problem from a food utilization perspective**. The lack of cooking gas is mostly nuisance for women who find themselves forced to spend more time preparing cooked meals than they would have under normal circumstances.

5. Coping Mechanisms

Interviews revealed that households' coping mechanisms have been reactivated quickly, which enabled most of them to secure their pre-war food consumption patterns and levels to a large extent. The use of external humanitarian assistance, pooling of resources among members of the extended family (particularly among displaced, farmers, and fishermen households), resorting to lower quality/cheaper foods, and acquiring food on credit from local retailers have been the most widely used coping mechanisms by the interviewed households. It must be noted here, as highlighted earlier, that pre-war food security was already largely dependent on humanitarian aid and that pre-war coping mechanisms were already showing clear signs of distress.

While the degree to which these coping mechanisms will enable households to withstand the effect of the shock caused by the war on their resources (human, financial, economic, social, and physical) could not be ascertained by the assessment, it is highly likely that households who have lost their productive assets and homes will divert their resources toward rebuilding their productive assets and physical resources if they do not receive rapidly financial and material support. Such a shift in the allocation of scarce resources will likely have negative consequences on their diet. This should be carefully monitored in the future due to possible negative effects particularly on vulnerable members such as young children, pregnant and lactating women, the chronically sick and the elderly.

The unprecedented level of pressure on the system and the lack of cash will result in exhaustion of a lot of those coping strategies, particularly the ability of host families to continue hosting the IDPs the ability of suppliers and retailers to extend credit etc.

PART THREE: PROFILE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS AND THEIR NEEDS

The following table consolidates the results of the previous section by profiling population groups requiring assistance and the type of assistance (food, agriculture and other livelihood-support) required for each of these groups in the immediate- and short-term (1-2 months and 3-6 months). It should be noted here that the profiling presented herein, particularly the medium term needs, should be completed and cross-checked with a rapid quantitative socio-economic study of the population in Gaza in order to refine characteristics, provide estimates of numbers and enable quantification of needs.

PROFILE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS AND THEIR NEEDS

Livelihood Group	Profile of vulnerable sub-group	Immediate (1-2 months) needs	Short-term (3-6 months) needs
IDPs and other directly war-affected households including: Farmers, Fishermen, Self-employed workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - House destroyed and fully depend on others for their shelter - Have lost their main source of income - Have lost their productive assets (destroyed or inaccessible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food assistance to cover entire household needs. - Cash and material support to cover costs of rent, purchase of household domestic assets and clothing (including school uniforms), and meet essential non-food needs (particularly for non-refugees who do not benefit from free health and school services) 	<p><i>Assuming that necessary reconstruction materials are able to enter Gaza:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance in recovering productive assets, including land rehabilitation, repair of greenhouses, poultry farms and irrigation systems, and boats and nets - Cash- and/or food-for-work geared towards repair of home and productive assets <p>If recovery materials remain limited or unavailable, food aid will continue to be an essential intervention</p>
Indirectly war-affected households, including: Laid-off Agricultural Labourers, Laid-off Fishermen, Laid-off other casual workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lost job as a result of the employers having been affected by the war - Member of households already food insecure before the war (e.g. large families) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food assistance to cover entire food needs if there are no other sources of income in the household, or partial needs if other income sources are available - Cash-for-work/temporary employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cash- and/or food-for-work and assistance in locating employment opportunity
Families Hosting IDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Households already food insecure before the war (e.g. large families) hosting IDPs - Limited income sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cash and/or in-kind support to meet non-food needs including water storage tanks, water, and bedding items - Temporary food assistance if hosted family was not support before the war 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If hosting is prolonged, enrollment in food and cash assistance programmes

PART FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS

The 23 day offensive on the Gaza Strip has caused major infrastructure damages, aggravated human suffering and exacerbated the already precarious livelihood conditions in the Gaza Strip. Evidence gathered during this assessment strongly suggests that food insecurity and vulnerability thereto have increased due to the loss of livelihoods and productive assets by a large proportion of the population, pro-longed unemployment, and the new restrictions on access to agricultural lands near the borders with Israel. The continued closure of the border crossings and the political stalemate with Israel and between Palestinian factions are compounding the effect of the war. Economic access to food is constrained for an ever growing proportion of the population which finds itself completely dependent on humanitarian assistance, and unable to begin restoring its livelihood.

There is little scope for action, other than that of humanitarian-emergency nature to solve food insecurity, until the closure is lifted and freedom of movement for both people and goods is granted. Thus, short term interventions should focus on meeting the immediate needs of the pre-war destitute and households who have suffered direct losses as a result of the war.

The following recommendations are still under discussion within the agencies and will be further articulated in cooperation with the relevant Palestinian Authority (PA) Line Ministries, UN agencies, donors, NGOs and private sector.

Based on the above preliminary results, the following **recommendations** for immediate action are made:

1. **Continue providing food assistance to the pre-war destitutes at the same pre-war levels.**
 - a. Meet the basic food needs of the destitute population through general food distribution (GFD) in order to prevent hunger and limit distress coping mechanisms;
 - b. Ensure that there is no break in the pipeline of food intended for destitute caseload.
2. **Extend food assistance to the households who have suffered direct housing, productive assets and/or job losses due to the war.** These households require additional support over and above any pre-war assistance they were receiving. The assistance for these directly war-affected households should cover the entirety of their food needs as well as include an extra economic support to enable them to:
 - a. Access an alternative housing (pay the rent) or repair their own house;
 - b. Compensate for the direct loss of income from their own production or job, until their access is restored;
 - c. Rebuild a minimum of domestic and productive assets; and
 - d. Enable economic access to school and health (for non-refugees who do not benefit from UNRWA free services).
3. **Progressively decrease the GFD caseload and promote and or scale up other activities such as school feeding, food-for-work, voucher programme, cash grants, temporary job employment and/or in-kind assistance for repairs and rebuilding of assets, as well as land rehabilitation.**

Innovative programmes such as support to bread production and delivery to hospitals (which proved very effective during the war) should be refined and pursued.

Humanitarian organizations are strongly encouraged to design interventions to restore damaged agricultural assets, including but not limited to greenhouses, irrigation wells, pumps and networks, poultry farms and other animal farms, fences, olive and citrus groves, and fishing boats. In doing so measures should be taken to establish interim social assistance programmes to support farming households until they restore their full productive capacity. Food- or cash-for-work interventions for some households with working capacity could be an option to complement a free food ration, particularly geared towards repairs of housing and restoration of land for example. Access to raw

materials and equipment is indispensable however may be difficult if the restrictions of entry by the Israeli authorities are not lifted.

4. **Restore agricultural productive assets and capacity in order to mitigate the risk of raising food insecurity for the short and medium term.**

The coverage of “fast impact” household food production projects, such as the distribution of backyard animal production packages (e.g., rabbits/chickens plus cage and feed) and horticulture packages (e.g., seeds, fertilizer and water tank), should be increased. In addition, farming inputs (seeds, fertilizers, seedlings, animal feed, vet kits, plastic sheeting, spare parts, fishing nets and supplies, etc) should be distributed to all households who can resume the next productive cycle.

In parallel, farmers should be supported to reclaim damaged land and restore productive assets, including irrigation networks, greenhouses, fruit tree plantations (olive and citrus groves, guava, etc.), small-scale poultry farms meeting bio-safety standards to reduce AI risks, livestock shelters and restocking (sheep, goats, cows, rabbits, chicks), food processing, marketing/storage and packing facilities, aquaculture ponds and equipment.

Finally, assisting export-dependent farmers after the conflict is necessary to ensure strategic food production capacity and employment opportunities in the Gaza Strip. Assistance should be provided to enhance the diversification of the agricultural production patterns in the Gaza Strip to better meet local food requirements, besides cash crops, and hence contribute towards mitigating longer term vulnerability to food insecurity.

5. **With regard to food security analysis, it is recommended to further develop the Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning System in the Gaza Strip,** building on the capacities available in FAO Food security Team and WFP VAM. The various uncertainties identified (levels of supplies and prices of fresh food in the coming months, extent and speed at which economic and material support to restore the livelihoods of directly war-affected households will be provided), as well as possible re-escalation of violence and tightening of the crossing closures, make it imperative to closely monitor the market food supply and prices, households’ income sources and access to external food, cash and other in-kind assistance, to be able to quickly adjust the level and modalities of food and voucher assistance being provided, as well as the caseload of beneficiaries. The mechanisms and partnerships already established for food security monitoring for the occupied Palestinian territory as a whole should be built upon, so that some consistency is also maintained between what is being done in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, while accommodating the specific conditions and requirements of each territory. In Gaza for example, close monitoring of land use/cover change to forecast the availability of vegetable/fruit crops, and of the prices and availability of agricultural inputs (animal feed, fertilizer, pesticides, spare parts, fuel etc.) will be important. A newsletter highlighting the food security trends should be produced on a regular basis.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: EFSA Methodological Approach

Overall Goal, Objective and Approach

The overall goal of the rapid qualitative EFSA was to guide possible adjustments of food security, agriculture and livelihood interventions in the Gaza Strip in the next 2-6 months, and, as far as possible in the next 6-12 months. The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- To assess changes in Gaza households' food access (including own crop, animal or fishing production, market purchase and humanitarian assistance), food consumption patterns, cash sources to meet other priority basic needs and coping mechanisms used to respond to the specific effects of the war;
- To evaluate Gaza households' resilience capacity, taking into consideration the role and contribution of current humanitarian and other assistance and the sustainability of coping mechanisms being employed.
- To evaluate wholesale and retail markets current functionality and early recovery capacity for supplying food to consumers;
- To determine the profile of population groups requiring food, agriculture and other livelihood support assistance (including the current caseload of humanitarian agencies as well as additional groups if appropriate), and the type of assistance required for each of these groups in the next 2-6 months, and, as far as possible, in the next 6-12 months.

Concomitant with these objectives, the assessment envisaged giving particular attention to ascertaining the level of food and economic insecurity of various livelihood groups already known to be either food insecure or at risk of becoming so and the coping strategies available to them. Differences between rural, urban, specific livelihood groups (e.g. farmers, fishermen, traders etc.), refugees in camps and outside camps, and non-refugees in terms of access to food, cash, assistance, and coping mechanisms were also to be identified to the extent possible. As were new vulnerable groups.

Participatory Rapid Assessment (PRA) techniques were used in carrying out the assessment, namely:

- Key informant interviews – where the team identified individuals who, because of their position or experience, were likely to have particularly broad or in-depth knowledge about the issues being investigated.
- Household interviews – where the team identified households whom, because of the prolonged crisis in Gaza or the war, were likely to have become food insecure or vulnerable thereto.
- Semi-structured interviews – where the assessment team interviewed individuals, small groups, community organizations, and/or households using a checklist of issues and topics to guide the discussion.
- Observations - This was the process adopted to gather general information related to the physical features of all aspects that relate to food availability, food access, food utilization and coping strategies.

Two central focus groups with a wide range of expert stakeholders were planned to take place towards the end of the assessment to allow for discussion and validation of findings, as well as identification of possible medium term needs for various livelihood groups affected by the war. Due to time limitations, however these were forgone.

Communities and Households Visited

To ensure that comparisons can be made between the livelihood groups in relation to the specific impact of the war on various livelihoods and livelihood groups, interviews with key informants and households were organized on the basis of the geographic effects of the military operation (i.e. areas directly affected by bombardment and incursions versus areas not directly affected areas). The following table shows the

communities visited, their key characteristics, main livelihood groups and the way in which they were affected by the war.

Region	Community	Key community characteristics	Main livelihood groups	Way in which it was affected by the war
North	Beit Lahia	Predominantly agricultural area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cash-crop and traditional farmers. - Agricultural labourers. - IDPs (refugees and non-refugees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustained significant damages (infrastructure, homes and agriculture). - One of the areas that has been continuously attacked by Israeli military forces.
	Beit Hanoun	A prime agricultural area. Small scale industry known to exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citrus and traditional farmers. - Agricultural labourers. - At least 70 IDP households (refugees and non-refugees). - HH are original inhabitants of Gaza, but have ration cards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several houses destroyed (70 houses in Al-farata and Sikka). - Levelling of agricultural lands and destruction of animal farms. - Less directly affected by its neighbouring communities
	Jabalia Refugee Camp	The most densely populated RC in the Gaza Strip.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainly a refugee community. - No predominant livelihood group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavily hit by air and ground bombardment. One of the areas where the death toll was the highest. - On the balance, however, less directly affected than other northern communities.
Middle	Izbet Abed Rabbo and Al-Attatra, Al-Sudaneya	Small homogenous communities, which can be classified as rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers. - Waged labourers. - Refugee HH (Al-Sudaneya). - Non-refugees (Al-Attatra and Izbet Abed Rabbo). - A huge number of IDPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Among the most affected by the ground and air assault. - Major infrastructure damages. - Entire neighbourhoods destroyed.
	Al-Zaytoun,	A peri-urban area, which is known to be a stronghold of Hamas members and institutions. Thus, the socio-economics may be a bit differently affected than other areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mixed refugee and non-refugee households. - No predominant livelihood group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major infrastructure damages. -
	Gaza City (east) Juhr Al-Deek	Urban area. where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IDPs. - Mixed refugee and non-refugee households. - Various livelihood groups, 	Neighbourhoods to the east of Gaza city were directly affected by the incursion. A substantial number of houses were either completely or partially

			but –generally- not farmers.	destroyed, and major infrastructure damages reported.
	A'shati Refugee Camp	A sea-side refugee camp. The home of PM Haneya.	- Refugee HH. - Fishermen (about 1,000).	Not directly affected.
South	Khuza'a and Al-Fukari	A remote rural, seam-line village. area that is predominantly agricultural. One of the most vulnerable areas in the Gaza Strip according to previous studies.	- Mostly Non-refugees. - Farmers - Suitcase traders (formerly). - IDPs.	Sustained major damages (homes and agricultural and non-agricultural infrastructure)
	Rafah City	The main corridor of tunnel-trade.	- Mixed (refugees and non-refugees). - IDPs (who used to live near Egypt border). - No predominant livelihood group, although there is a large proportion of farmers and tunnel traders.	- Significant damages to homes in the neighbourhoods near the border.
	Abbasan	Same as Khuza'a	- Farmers -Mostly non-refugees.	Not directly affected.

The selection criteria of households to be interviewed in each of the visited localities took into account: household status (IDPs/camp refugees/non-camp refugees/non-refugees), location (urban/rural – area directly affected by the operation/indirectly affected), main livelihoods and involvement in key activities affecting food supplies (cash crop farmers/ traditional crop farmers/ fishermen/ wholesalers/ retailers).

The number of household interviews that need to be conducted and the profile of the household to be interviewed in each community was determined on the basis of a pre-identified target of 60 household interviews target; i.e. the target number of interviews with households fitting a certain criterion was divided between the communities known to have a large number of households fitting that specific criterion. This, however, was done for planning field work and ensuring that the target number of interviews envisaged is achieved rather than for ensuring representation. In most cases, field researchers interviewed more households than had been targeted.

The process of selection of households differed from one community to another, depending on whether the assessment team could find key informants who could identify households fitting the selection criteria or not. In the communities where the team could find a trusted community leader(s), the process of identification of households fitting the aforementioned criteria was done with the help of this leader and then cross checked through community transect walks. In each community at least ten households were identified for each category of households pre-identified to be interviewed. Once these were identified and their contact details established, the assessment team visited them alone to verify that they fit the criteria on which basis they were selected, and to set a date for the interview. In the cases where it was believed that the household does not fit the selection criteria for which it was nominated, an alternative household was visited. In communities where trusted local leaders could not be easily identified, the field researchers relied on community transects to identify and select households with whom to conduct interviews.

The selection of key informants was done on the basis of the knowledge of the field research team of the targeted communities and the local organizations working in Gaza. The fact that the members of the field research team live in Gaza and had been engaged in scores of qualitative and quantitative assessments in the Gaza Strip was extremely useful in this regard.

Data Gathering, Reporting and Analysis

The assessment commenced with a comprehensive review of secondary data on the livelihood and food security conditions in the Gaza Strip. This review was instrumental in informing the process of formulation of the assessment’s key questions, as well as in identifying the profile of the key stakeholders that need to be met during the course of the assessment itself. The review was mainly focused on the most recent PCBS statistics on the damages, the reports issued by the professional associations in the aftermath of the war, NGOs, ICRC, OCHA briefing reports and relevant UNRWA and other UN agency reports.

A meeting was organized on January 28, 2008 between the Al-Sahel, FAO, and WFP, in which the scale of and approach of the assessment were discussed and agreed. WFP’s OXMF mission (Ms. Agnes Dhur) to support the emergency and early recovery food security assessments for the Gaza Strip emergency also provided substantial input into the discussion.

For field visits and interviews, the assessment team developed and used a “Field Visit Protocol” and “Interview Guidelines” to make consistent the data collection process among the different team members visiting different areas at different times.²⁴ These included a list of common suggested questions for most stakeholders being interviewed to allow for cross-checking data, and a suggested reporting format to facilitate identification of trends and triangulation during the analysis. Each team member contributed reports corresponding to the interviews and observations for which he/she was tasked. These were drawn upon in writing this report.

Assessment Team

Mr. Amer Madi, Al-Sahel Managing Partner, led the EFSA from Al-Sahel main office in Ramallah. He was responsible for the overall implementation of the EFSA, including the design of the assessment tools, coordination with WFP and FAO, follow-up and supervision of the field work, data and analysis and preparation of the EFSA report. Field work and data collection was carried out by a team of eight Gaza-based field researchers from Al-Sahel Company for Institutional Development and Communications:

Mr. Nabil Ibrahim	Senior Field Researcher/Field Research Coordinator
Ms. Majeda Abu Hamda	Field Researcher
Mr. Khalil Al-Sabe’	Field Researcher
Mr. Khaled Al-Jadba	Field Researcher
Mr. Abdel Nasser Al-Jaloos	Field Researcher
Ms. Samira Al-Najjar	Field Researcher
Mr. Khaled Askar	Field Researcher
Ms. Hana’ Al-Buhaisi	Field Researcher

²⁴ Refer to Annex 2 for the list of guidelines.



Map of Study Areas in Gaza Strip



Annex 2: The Guidelines for Key Informant/Household Interviews

Interview Guidelines for the Rapid Qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment in the Gaza Strip

Key Informants: Fishermen

Total No. Of Interviews: 5 (3 launch/trawler owners, 2 hasaka owners; Middle and South areas)

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Document the changes in the fishermen's access to sea during and after the war (now).
- 2) Assess the change in income from fishing as a result of the war, taking into consideration supply and demand, as well as cost.
- 3) Document the type, frequency, source and value (if possible) of assistance that fishermen receive on a regular basis, and the changes in this regard.
- 4) Assess the fishermen households' coping strategies during and after the war vis-a-vis securing food and income.
- 5) Assess the fishermen households' current resilience capacity (taking into consideration all the above).
- 6) Identify the priorities of assistance required by the fishermen households to cope and recover from the effects of the war.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Can you tell us what fishing assets do you have?
 - a. Fishing boats (type, how many).
 - a. Owned or leased?
 - b. How long have you had it for?
 - c. What is the value of your fishing assets?
 - d. When do different types of boats operate? During the past year, what is the total income derived from each type of fishing boat?
 - e. Were any of your boats damaged during the war? If yes,
 - i. What is the damage sustained?
 - ii. Can the damage be repaired? At what cost?
 - iii. Did the fishermen start repairing? If not, why not? If yes, has he faced any difficulties in the repair process? What? How did he cope with these difficulties, and how did he pay for the repair?
 - iv. Did anyone come to meet with him to assess the damage? Who? When? Has anyone made any commitments for assistance to fishermen? Who? What?
- 2) How many people earn a living from fishing activities (on the eve of the war)?
 - a. Fishermen from the same household?
 - b. Waged fishermen?
 - c. What is the average income for the entire year?
 - d. What is the average monthly income earned by these in December?
- 3) If one or more boat is currently operational, did the fishermen resume fishing?
 - a. If not,
 - i. why?
 - ii. How has he been making ends meet?
 - iii. What is happening with labourers?
 - b. If yes,
 - i. When (how many days after the ceasefire)?
 - ii. How often?
 - iii. How many people work on each type of boat?
 - iv. What is the average daily income for the fishermen (boat owner)?
 - v. What is the average daily income for the labourers and other fishermen family members?
 - vi. Is the income earned comparable to the income made same time last year (remember that the situation was bad last year this time too, so be discuss the answer given)? Why/how?

- vii. What are the difficulties he is now facing during fishing? Are these new constraints or existed before the war? IF NOT MENTIONED: Ask specifically about the cost of a fishing trip, availability of inputs, and sea closure.
- 4) What are the other fishermen doing nowadays? How are they coping?
 - 5) How do you evaluate the supply of fresh fish in the local market in comparison to the seasonal average (last year as a benchmark)?
 - 6) How do you evaluate the demand for fish in comparison to last month? Who are the buyers of fish nowadays? What is the average market price of the different types of fish you catch nowadays?
 - a. Sardines
 - b. Lux
 - c. Shrimps
 - d. Sultan Ibrahim
 - e. Others
 - 7) During the war, has your house been directly or indirectly affected by the shelling?
 - a. Type and value of damage. Did they start repairing damages? How?
 - b. Death, Injuries, handicaps? Who died (income provider)? Anything requiring special attention (future treatment cost implications)?
 - 8) What are your main sources of cash currently?
 - 9) What are all the current sources of food for your household?
 - a. Buying on cash percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - b. Buying on credit percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - c. Assistance from charities percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - d. Assistance from UN Agencies percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - e. Own production
 - f. Assistance from neighbours/family/friends percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - 10) Do you receive regular food or cash assistance from any organization currently? Description of assistance, frequency and source. If fishermen household has not received any assistance, ask why?
 - 11) What do you think of the assistance that you receive in terms of frequency, type, quantity and quality?
 - 12) How do you assess your household's food consumption in terms of quality and quantity? Is it better or worse than a month ago? Why/how?
 - a. Ask about the types of food consumed nowadays. Compared to a pre-war?
 - b. Ask about the frequency of meals. Compared to pre-war?
 - c. Ask about the diversity of food. Compared to pre-war?
 - d. Ask about the household food stock. Compared to pre-crisis.

13) -Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	1. Purchased with cash 2. Own production 3. Traded goods or services 4. Received as gift 5. Food aid 6. Purchased on credit 7. Borrowed from family or neighbors

		8. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 14) Do you face any constraints related to cooking fuel? Explain. How does that affect your household's food consumption? Compared to pre-war?
- 15) Do you face any problems with drinking water? Explain. Compared to pre-war?
- 16) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your household to recover its means of livelihood?
- 17) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Fishermen Union/Association

Total No. Of Interviews: 1 with the Union, 1 with the Association

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Document the changes in the fishermen's access to sea during and after the war (now).
- 2) Assess the change in income from fishing as a result of the war, taking into consideration supply and demand, as well as cost.
- 3) Assess the fishermen's coping strategies during and after the war vis-a-vis securing food and income.
- 4) Assess the fishermen's current resilience capacity (taking into consideration all the above).

- 5) Identify the priorities of assistance required by the fisheries sector to cope and recover from the effects of the war and prolonged crisis.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Could you compare the livelihood of the fishermen and those that derive their livelihood from the sector before the and after the war? OR How do you assess the conditions facing the fishing sector and fishermen in the aftermath of the war?
 - a. What are the main damages sustained by the sector as a result of the war (number and types of boats damaged completely and partially, port damages, shops, fish market, etc.)? **Ask about if damage assessments have been conducted, when and by who, and if results are available.**
 - b. Have the conditions of access to sea for fishing purposes changed after the war from those pre-war? How? How do the new conditions of access affect fishermen, and which fishermen groups have been affected the most by the restrictions or new conditions, if any? Can you estimate the number of these fishermen (owners of boats and workers)?
 - c. How has the war affected sector actors such as boat builders, boat repair shops, fish market operators and workers, input providers, etc.? Can you classify the effect on each and give evidence of this effect.
- 2) When did fishermen resume fishing (how many days ago)? In your assessment, what is the proportion of fishermen who have resumed fishing after the war? How many boats of different kinds?
- 3) Given the constraints you mentioned earlier, what can you tell us about the income from fishing? Has it increased, decreased, relatively remained unchanged from the same time last year? Why? **NOTE: Remember that conditions were bad last year as well, so discuss answers with informants. Also, try to get estimation of the current income of the various fishermen (owners of different types of boats, labourers)?**
- 4) What can you tell us about the cost of a fishing trip for the engine boats? Has the cost increased, decreased, or relatively remained unchanged?
- 5) What can you tell us about the demand and supply for fish this week? Compared to pre-war?
- 6) Who are the buyers of fish nowadays? What is the average market price of the different types of fish you catch nowadays?
 - a. Sardines
 - b. Lux
 - c. Shrimps
 - d. Sultan Ibrahim
 - e. Others
- 7) Has the war had any direct effect on your organization? How?
 - a. Physical damages? What?
 - b. Type and volume of service provided to members? Has it increased, decreased, unchanged? Details.
 - c. What is your current credit policy (for fuel and supplies provided by the association)? Has it changed from pre-war? Do you plan on changing it, and if so when/how?
- 8) Have fishermen been targeted systematically as a group by any organization to receive any form of assistance? If so, by who? When? Details on the type and volume of assistance provided (cash, food, inputs)?
- 9) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for the sector to recover from the effects of the war?
- 10) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Cash-Crop and Traditional Crops Farmers

Total No. Of Interviews: 15 Cash Crop Farmers, 10 Traditional Crop Farmers (make sure to represent north and south, and farmers who have sustained damages and farmers who have not)

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Document the changes in the farmers' access to their lands and their ability to derive livelihood from agriculture, focusing on damages to greenhouses, water resources, and open agricultural lands.
- 2) Assess the change in income from agriculture as a result of the war, taking into consideration supply and demand, as well as cost.
- 3) Document the type, frequency, source and value (if possible) of assistance that farmers receive on a regular basis, and the changes in this regard.
- 4) Assess the farmers' households' coping strategies during and after the war vis-a-vis securing food and income.
- 5) Assess the farmer households' current resilience capacity (taking into consideration all the above), and farmers predictions on productivity in the spring harvest.
- 6) Identify the priorities of assistance required by the farmers' households to cope and recover from the effects of the war.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Can you tell us what agricultural assets do you have?
 - a. Cultivated area (types of crops pre-war and area of each).
 - f. Owned or leased?
 - g. How long have you had it for?
 - h. What is the value of your agricultural assets?
 - i. What is the annual production income from agriculture during 2008?
 - j. What was the primary market for your products last year (consider that there is no export)?
- 2) How many people earn a living from agricultural activities (on the eve of the war)?
 - a. farmers from the same household?
 - b. Waged labourers?
 - c. What is the average income for the entire year for each?
 - d. What is the average monthly income earned by these in December?
- 3) Did your land/agricultural assets sustain any damage during the war? If yes,
 - a. What is the damage sustained?
 - b. Can the damage be repaired? At what cost?
 - c. Did you start repairing? If not, why not? If yes, has he faced any difficulties in the repair process? What? How did he cope with these difficulties, and how did he pay for the repair?
 - d. Did anyone come to meet with him to assess the damage? Who? When? Has anyone made any commitments for assistance to farmers? Who? What?
- 4) If one or more plot of land is still producing, did the farmer resume his agricultural and marketing activities?
 - a. If not,
 - i. why?
 - ii. How has he been making ends meet?
 - iii. What is happening with labourers, if any?
 - b. If yes,
 - i. When (how many days after the ceasefire)?
 - ii. What is the scale of operations (same as before, increased, less)? Explain.
 - iii. Has the income been affected for the farmer and for agricultural labourers? How?
 - iv. Is the income earned comparable to the income made same time last year (remember that the situation was almost as bad last year this time too, so be discuss the answer given)? Why/how?

- v. What are the difficulties he is now facing in cultivating his land and marketing his crops? Are these new constraints or existed before the war? IF NOT MENTIONED: Ask specifically about the cost of a inputs, availability of inputs, and market conditions.
- 5) What are the other farmers in the area doing nowadays? How are they coping?
 - 6) How do you evaluate the supply of fresh crops in the local market in comparison to the seasonal average (last year as a benchmark)?
 - 7) How do you evaluate the demand for your crops in comparison to last month? Have market prices changed, how?
 - 8) Did you need to purchase any agricultural inputs in the past couple of weeks? Are inputs available? What is missing from the local market and how does this affect you (focus on the new effects, not the effects of a year ago. ALSO, focus on availability and prices of seeds)? Has your relationship with your input provider changed after war? In other words, are you able to get your supplies under the same conditions as before the war?
 - 9) During the war, has your house been directly or indirectly affected by the shelling?
 - a. Type and value of damage. Did they start repairing damages? How?
 - b. Death, Injuries, handicaps of household members who used to provide income for the household, particularly loss of farming manpower?
 - 10) What are your household's main sources of cash currently? Pre-war?
 - 11) What are your main expenditure items nowadays?
 - a. Food percent
 - b. Health percent
 - c. Housing (rent/repair) percent
 - d. Transport percent
 - e. Others percent
 - 12) What are all the current sources of food for your household?
 - a. Buying on cash percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - b. Buying on credit percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - c. Assistance from charities percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - d. Assistance from UN Agencies percenttotal? More or less than pre-war?
 - e. Own production percenttotal? More or less than pre-war?
 - f. Assistance from friends/family/neighbours percenttotal? More or less than pre-war?
 - 13) Do you receive regular food or cash assistance from any organization currently? Description of assistance, frequency and source. If household has not received any assistance, ask why?
 - 14) What do you think of the assistance that you receive in terms of frequency, type, quantity and quality?
 - 15) How do you assess your household's food consumption in terms of quality and quantity? Is it better or worse than a month ago? Why/how?
 - a. Ask about the types of food consumed nowadays. Compared to a pre-war?
 - b. Ask about the frequency of eating. Compared to pre-war?
 - c. Ask about the diversity of food. Compared to pre-war?
 - d. Ask about the household food stock. Compared to pre-crisis.
 - 16) Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)

1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	9. Purchased with cash 10. Own production 11. Traded goods or services 12. Received as gift 13. Food aid 14. Purchased on credit 15. Borrowed from family or neighbors 16. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 17) Do you face any constraints related to cooking fuel? Explain. How does that affect your household's food consumption? Compared to pre-war?
- 18) Do you face any problems with drinking water? Explain. Compared to pre-war?
- 19) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your household to recover its means of livelihood?
- 20) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Farmers' Cooperatives

Total No. Of Interviews: 8-10 cooperatives representing cash-crop and traditional farmers. I suggest to include cooperative in Beit Lahia, Beit Hannoun, Khuza'a, Rafah and Khan Younis.

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Document the changes in farmers' access to their land after the war (now).
- 2) Assess the change in income from agriculture as a result of the war, taking into consideration supply and demand, as well as cost and marketing constraints.
- 3) Assess the farmers coping strategies during and after the war vis-a-vis securing food and income.
- 4) Assess the farmers' current resilience capacity (taking into consideration all the above).
- 5) Identify the priorities of assistance required by the agricultural sector to cope and recover from the effects of the war and prolonged crisis.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Could you compare the livelihood of the farmers and those that derive their livelihood from the agricultural sector before the and after the war? OR How do you assess the conditions facing the agricultural sector and farmers in the aftermath of the war?
 - a. What are the main damages sustained by the sector in your area (by your members) as a result of the war (number and types of dunums damaged completely and partially, cold storage damages, packaging and storage warehouses, etc..)? *Ask about if damage assessments have been conducted, when and by who, and if results are available.*
 - b. Have the conditions of access to agricultural land in your area changed after the war? How? What is the area and what was it cultivated?
 - c. How has the war affected sector actors such as input providers, water providers, labourers, wholesalers, etc.? Can you classify the effect on each and give evidence of this effect? In your assessment, who was the most hard-hit, how and why?
- 2) What are the main constraints, challenges and difficulties facing your member farmers nowadays? Which of these constraints are new? And if not new, how different are they from their pre-war status?
- 3) Given the constraints you mentioned, what can you tell us about the income from farming nowadays? Has it increased, decreased, relatively remained unchanged from the same time last year? Why? **NOTE: Remember that conditions were bad last year as well, so discuss answers with informants. Also, try to get estimation of the current income of the various groups of member farmers? Did the income of any particular group of farmers get affected in your opinion more than others? Who (what is the profile of this group)?**
- 4) What can you tell us about the cost of agriculture nowadays in comparison to a month ago? Specifically, has the cost increased, decreased, or relatively remained unchanged? How/why?
- 5) What can you tell us about the demand and supply for the crops your members produce this week? Compared to pre-war?
- 6) Have prices of vegetables increased or decreased from pre-war prices? Is this attributed to seasonality or demand and supply? Try to get an explanation?
- 7) Has the war had any direct effect on your organization? How?
 - a. Physical damages? What?
 - b. Type and volume of service provided to members? Has it increased, decreased, unchanged? Details.
 - c. What is your current credit policy (for fuel and supplies provided by your cooperative)? Has it changed from pre-war? Do you plan on changing it, and if so when/how?
- 8) Have your members been targeted systematically as a group by any organization to receive any form of assistance? If so, by who? When? Details on the type and volume of assistance provided (cash, food, inputs)?

- 9) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for the sector to recover from the effects of the war?
- 10) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Household Interviews

Total No. Of Interviews: 45-50 households, broken down as follows:

- 12 displaced families who are currently being accommodated by UNRWA shelters (schools, temporary camps, etc.). The households should be selected from three different shelters at least. 4 refugee households and 3 non-refugee households. Selection should take into account the need to interview at least two families from each of the following livelihood groups: 1) Animal farmers; 2) cash crop farmers; 3) PA employees; 4) local shop keepers; 5) MoSA beneficiaries. At least 3 households should be female-headed households, but not MoSA beneficiary households.
- 10-12 families who have erected tents on the ruins of their destroyed homes. These families should be selected from Izbet Abed Rabbo, Al-Attatra, and Rafah/Khuza'a. 6 should be non-refugee households and 4 should be refugee households. Selection should take into account the need to interview at least two families from each of the following livelihood groups: 1) Animal farmers; 2) cash crop farmers; 3) waged labourers; 4) local shop keepers; 5) MoSA beneficiaries. At least two should be female-headed households, but not MoSA beneficiary households.
- 6 host families, of which 3 should be refugee households and 3 should be non-refugee households. Select from Rafah, Deir Al-Balah, Gaza City, and Beit Lahia. Households to include: 1) shop keepers; 2) Wholesalers; 3) farmer households; 4) long-unemployed.
- 6 households whose homes have sustained small to medium scale damages. 4 non-refugees, 2 refugees.
- 3 households of low-grade PA employees (non-refugees).
- 4 households of laid-off private sector employees.
- 5 households of agricultural labourers (currently employed).

Interview Objectives:

- To assess changes in households' food access, food consumption patterns, cash sources to meet other priority basic needs and coping mechanisms used to respond to the specific effects of the war;
- To evaluate households' resilience capacity, taking into consideration the role and contribution of current humanitarian and other assistance and the sustainability of coping mechanisms being employed.
- To determine the profile of population groups requiring food, agriculture and other livelihood support assistance, and the type of assistance required for each of these groups in the next 2-6 months, and, as far as possible, in the next 6-12 months.,

Suggested Questions for Displaced Families who are Currently Being Accommodated by Makeshift Shelters:

1) Household socio-economic profile

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- a. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
- b. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
- c. Is the household a refugee or a non-refugee household?

- d. Describe the losses sustained by the family as a result of the war (physical and human)?
 - e. Did the family manage to salvage any of its belongings? What was salvaged, particularly:
 - i. Clothes
 - ii. Cash/jewellery
 - iii. Furniture
 - iv. Appliances
 - v. Food
 - f. What did you do with what was salvaged?
 - vi. Sold it
 - vii. Kept it in storage with friends/family
 - viii. Gave it away
 - ix. Brought it to shelter
 - x. Other
- 2) Why didn't the family seek other shelter, for example staying with extended family or renting a house?
 - 3) What has been the source of food for the household for the past two weeks? Particularly, has the family received any food rations from UN agencies and other agencies? Please elaborate what was received, the quantity received, and the source?
 - 4) What does the family think of the quantity, quality and appropriateness of the food rations provided (if a family received food assistance from more than one source, make sure to ask about these attributes from each, and elaborate on the differences)?
 - 5) Did you sell any of the food rations you received? Why?
 - 6) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?

Food item	UNRWA Ration	WFP Ration	Purchased by the household	Provided by charities/good will	Self-Production or Other (What)

- 7) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? Where was it cooked? What is the source of fuel for cooking?
- 8) Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	17. Purchased with cash 18. Own production 19. Traded goods or services 20. Received as gift 21. Food aid 22. Purchased on credit 23. Borrowed from family or neighbors 24. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		

4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 9) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family's diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies (reduced number of meals, reduce variety, sought charity, relied on less preferred food, sold assets, etc.), and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?
- 10) What is the family's current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?
- 11) Do you find everything you are looking for in the local supermarkets nowadays? How does this compare to pre-war?
- 12) What is the current source of cash for the family? Did the household receive any cash assistance by any entity? When, how much, what did it do with the money?
- 13) What are the household's current main expenditure items, and the proportion of expenditure on each?
- Food percent of total expenditure
 - Clothes percent of total expenditure
 - Reconstruction percent of total expenditure
 - Education percent of total expenditure
 - Health percent of total expenditure
 - Other percent of total expenditure
- 14) Does the household have debt? How much? To who?
- 15) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?
- 16) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your family to recover from the effects of the war?
- 17) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Suggested Questions for Families who have Erected Tents/Makeshift Shelter on the Ruins of their Destroyed Homes

1) Household socio-economic profile

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- b. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
 - c. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
 - d. Is the household a refugee or a non-refugee household?
 - e. Describe the losses sustained by the family as a result of the war (physical and human)?
 - f. Did the family manage to salvage any of its belongings? What was salvaged, particularly:
 - i. Clothes
 - ii. Cash/jewellery
 - iii. Furniture
 - iv. Appliances
 - v. Food
 - g. What did you do with what was salvaged?
 - i. Sold it
 - ii. Kept it in storage with friends/family
 - iii. Gave it away
 - iv. Kept it with them
 - v. Other
- 2) Why didn't the family seek other shelter, for example UNRWA facilities, staying with extended family or renting a house?
 - 3) What has been the source of water for the household for the past two weeks? What does the household think of the availability of water? Quality of water available? Price, if purchased? Adequacy for self-hygiene, drinking, and cooking? Sustainability?
 - 4) What has been the source of food for the household for the past two weeks? Particularly, has the family received any food rations from UN agencies and other agencies? Please elaborate what was received, the quantity received, and the source?
 - 5) What does the family think of the quantity, quality and appropriateness of the food rations provided (if a family received food assistance from more than one source, make sure to ask about these attributes from each, and elaborate on the differences)?
 - 6) Did you sell any of the food rations you received? Why?
 - 7) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?

Food item	UNRWA Ration	WFP Ration	Purchased by the household	Provided by charities/good will	Self-Production or Other (What)

- 8) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? Where was it cooked? What is the source of fuel for cooking?
- 9) Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)

1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	25. Purchased with cash 26. Own production 27. Traded goods or services 28. Received as gift 29. Food aid 30. Purchased on credit 31. Borrowed from family or neighbors 32. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

10) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family’s diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies, and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?

11) What is the family’s current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?

12) Do you find everything you are looking for in the local supermarkets nowadays? How does this compare to pre-war?

- 13) What is the current source of cash for the family? Did the household receive any cash assistance by any entity? When, how much, what did it do with the money?
- 14) What are the household's current main expenditure items, and the proportion of expenditure on each?
 - h. Food percent of total expenditure
 - i. Clothes percent of total expenditure
 - j. Reconstruction percent of total expenditure
 - k. Education percent of total expenditure
 - l. Health percent of total expenditure
 - m. Other percent of total expenditure
- 15) Does the household have debt? How much? To who?
- 16) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?
- 17) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your family to recover from the effects of the war?
- 18) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Suggested Questions for Host Families:

Questions should be directed to head of the host family and spouse.

- 1) Socio-economic profile of the host family

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- b. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
- c. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
- d. Is the household a refugee or a non-refugee household?

- 2) Socio-economic profile of the hosted family

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- b. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And, changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
- c. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
- d. Is the household a refugee or a non-refugee household?
- e. Relationship to host family?
- f. How long has the family been with the host family?

- 3) Has either of the two families received cash or food assistance from anyone in the past two weeks? If yes:

- a. What was received?
- b. Who received it (host or hosted family)?

- c. What does the family think of the quantity, quality and appropriateness of the food rations provided (if a family received food assistance from more than one source, make sure to ask about these attributes from each, and elaborate on the differences)?
- 4) What effect has hosting your relatives/friends/neighbours been having on your family's income and expenditure? Ask whether the family being hosted contributes financially/non-financially (for example, sharing food rations received, assisting in farm land/shop)? What resources are being shared? What resources are not?
- 5) If members of the hosted family assist host family in farm or other type of unpaid work, who helps and how many hours per day? (Try to see if any particular individual is shouldering the burden of this work and whether this effects health/education. If possible, try to interview the person(s) concerned in the hosted family to verify).
- 6) What effect has hosting the family been having on the family's expenditures? Compare before the war and now?
- Food (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Clothes (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Education (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Health (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- 7) Has the quality, frequency, variety of foods consumed by the host family changed in any way as a result of having to provide for a larger family? Please try to get anecdotal evidence. If yes, which members in the host family are suffering the most of the changed diet? Also, ask the significance of assistance to the availability of food?
- 8) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?

Food item	UNRWA Ration	WFP Ration	Purchased by the household	Provided by charities/good will	Other

- 9) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? Where was it cooked? What is the source of fuel for cooking?
- 10) -Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	33. Purchased with cash 34. Own production 35. Traded goods or services 36. Received as gift 37. Food aid 38. Purchased on credit 39. Borrowed from family or neighbors 40. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		

4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 11) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family's diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies (reduced number of meals, reduce variety, sought charity, relied on less preferred food, sold assets, etc.), and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?
- 12) What is the family's current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?
- 13) Do you find everything you are looking for in the local supermarkets nowadays? How does this compare to pre-war?
- 14) What effect has hosting the family been having on the family's water consumption, if any? Compare before the war and now?
- 15) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has its debt increased as a result of its hosting another family?
- 16) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?
- 17) In light of what you just mentioned about food and water consumption, can we summarize together what you have done to cope with the new situation?
 - a. Quality of food
 - b. Frequency of food
 - c. Variety of food
 - d. Borrowing/Purchasing food on credit
 - e. Land cultivation
 - f. Seeking assistance
 - g. Sale of assets

- h. Tapping savings
- i. Rationalizing water consumption
- j. Etc.

- 18) How long is the host family willing to accept the status quo, if nothing changes?
- 19) What kind of assistance does the host family require to be able to prolong its ability to host the family it hosts?
- 20) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for the hosted family to recover from the effects of the war?
- 21) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months of the hosted family (from the perspective of the host family)?

Suggested Questions for Families whose Homes Sustained Medium- or Small-Scale Damage to their Homes:

1) Socio-economic profile of the family

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- b. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
 - c. Does the household have any agricultural holdings (plant and animal production, including home garden)? Profile this and try to document the use of the agricultural assets (productive or not, use for own-consumption and/or sale, what are the changes –if any- happened to these assets and their utility as a result of the war)?
 - d. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
 - e. What is the damage sustained?
 - f. Is the household a refugee or a non-refugee household?
- 2) Has the family started repairing the damages?
- a. If yes,
 - i. When?
 - ii. Has the damage been completely repaired?
 - iii. Did they face any difficulties in the repair process (for example availability of materials, cash, labor)?
 - iv. What was the cost of repair? Who financed the repair (family or others)?
 - v. How did the family come up with money for the repair (especially if cost is more than NIS 400)?
 - b. If no, why not?
- 3) How does the family compare its current livelihood to that pre-war? Try to be specific and help the family in answering this question? For example, ask whether there have been changes that affect the household's ability to steadfast (like loss of income, use of savings, having more dependents, increased prices, increase expenditures)?
- 4) Currently, what are the sources of both cash and food for the household? In case of receiving assistance, from who? What was the assistance received? Is this new assistance? Is it going to be regular? What affect has this assistance been having on the household livelihood; i.e. how important is it to the family's wellbeing and livelihood?
- 5) What does the family think of the assistance it currently receives, particularly its quality and suitability for the household's needs? How can it be improved?

- 6) IF THE FAMILY RECEIVES ASSISTANCE: Did the household find itself forced to sell the food rations it received in the past? During the past two weeks? Why/Why not?
- 7) What are the household's main expenditure categories, compare before and after the war?
- Food (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Clothes (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Education (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - Health (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- 8) Has the quality, frequency, variety of foods consumed by the family changed in any way from pre-war? Please try to get anecdotal evidence. If yes, which members in the family are suffering the most of the changed diet? Also, ask the significance of assistance to the availability of food?
- 9) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?

Food item	UNRWA Ration	WFP Ration	Purchased by the household	Provided by charities/good will	Other

- 10) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? What is the source of fuel for cooking?

11) -Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	41. Purchased with cash 42. Own production 43. Traded goods or services 44. Received as gift 45. Food aid 46. Purchased on credit 47. Borrowed from family or neighbors 48. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		

12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 12) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family's diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies (reduced number of meals, reduce variety, sought charity, relied on less preferred food, sold assets, etc.), and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?
- 13) What is the family's current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?
- 14) Has the family's water consumption changed in any way after the war in comparison to pre-war? How? Is water generally available in sufficient quantities for
- Personal hygiene purposes?
 - Drinking?
 - Cooking?
 - Irrigation (if applicable)?
 - Other uses?
- 15) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 16) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?
- 17) In light of what you just mentioned about food and water consumption, can we summarize together what you have done to cope with the new situation?
- Quality of food
 - Frequency of food
 - Variety of food
 - Borrowing/Purchasing food on credit
 - Land cultivation
 - Seeking assistance
 - Sale of assets
 - Tapping savings
 - Rationalizing water consumption
 - Etc.
- 18) How long can the family can steadfast if nothing changes?
- 19) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your family to recover from the effects of the war and the prolonged crisis?
- 20) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Suggested Questions for Families of Low-Grade PA Employees:

1) Socio-economic profile of the family

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- b. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
- c. Does the household have any agricultural holdings (plant and animal production, including home garden)? Profile this and try to document the use of the agricultural assets (productive or not, use for own-consumption and/or sale, what are the changes –if any- happened to these assets and their utility as a result of the war)?
- d. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
- e. Has the household sustained any damage/losses during the war? What?

2) Has the family started repairing the damages?

a. If yes,

- i. When?
- ii. Has the damage been completely repaired?
- iii. Did they face any difficulties in the repair process (for example availability of materials, cash, labor)?
- iv. What was the cost of repair? Who financed the repair (family or others)?
- v. How did the family come up with money for the repair (especially if cost is more than NIS 400)?

b. If no, why not?

3) How does the family compare its current livelihood to that pre-war? Try to be specific and help the family in answering this question? For example, ask whether there have been changes that affect the household's ability to steadfast (like loss of income, use of savings, having more dependents, increased prices, increase expenditures)?

4) Currently, what are the sources of both cash and food for the household? In case of receiving assistance, from who? What was the assistance received? Is this new assistance? Is it going to be regular? What affect has this assistance been having on the household livelihood; i.e. how important is it to the family's wellbeing and livelihood?

5) What does the family think of the assistance it currently receives, particularly its quality and suitability for the household's needs? How can it be improved?

6) IF THE FAMILY RECEIVES ASSISTANCE: Did the household find itself forced to sell the food rations it received in the past? During the past two weeks? Why/Why not?

7) What are the household's main expenditure categories, compare before and after the war?

- a. Food (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- b. Clothes (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- c. Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- d. Education (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- e. Health (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now

8) Has the quality, frequency, variety of foods consumed by the family changed in any way from pre-war? Please try to get anecdotal evidence. If yes, which members in the family are suffering the most of the changed diet? Also, ask the significance of assistance to the availability of food?

9) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?

Food item	UNRWA	WFP Ration	Purchased by	Provided by	Other

	Ration		the household	charities/good will	

10) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? What is the source of fuel for cooking?

11) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family's diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies (reduced number of meals, reduce variety, sought charity, relied on less preferred food, sold assets, etc.), and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?

12) -Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	49. Purchased with cash 50. Own production 51. Traded goods or services 52. Received as gift 53. Food aid 54. Purchased on credit 55. Borrowed from family or neighbors 56. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		

18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 13) What is the family's current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?
- 14) Has the family's water consumption changed in any way after the war in comparison to pre-war? How? Is water generally available in sufficient quantities for
- Personal hygiene purposes?
 - Drinking?
 - Cooking?
 - Irrigation (if applicable)?
 - Other uses?
- 15) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 16) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?
- 17) In light of what you just mentioned about food and water consumption, can we summarize together what you have done to cope with the new situation?
- Quality of food
 - Frequency of food
 - Variety of food
 - Borrowing/Purchasing food on credit
 - Land cultivation
 - Seeking assistance
 - Sale of assets
 - Tapping savings
 - Rationalizing water consumption
 - Etc.
- 18) How long can the family can steadfast if nothing changes?
- 19) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your family to recover from the effects of the war and the prolonged crisis?
- 20) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Suggested Questions for Families of Employed Agricultural Labourers

1) Socio-economic profile of the family

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- Does the household have any agricultural holdings (plant and animal production, including home garden)? Profile this and try to document the use of the agricultural assets (productive or not, use for own-consumption and/or sale, what are the changes –if any- happened to these assets and their utility as a result of the war)?
- If household has agricultural holdings that are not being utilized, why?
- Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?

- e. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain.
 - i. Did the war have a direct effect on income of the agricultural labourers in particular, how?
 - ii. How many days of work were lost as a result of the war?
 - iii. Did they resume working after the war? How many days after? If not, why?
 - iv. How long will it take the household to get back to the pre-war level of income?
 - f. Has the household sustained any damage/losses during the war? What?
 - g. Is the household a registered refugee household or a non-refugee household?
- 2) Has the family started repairing the damages?
- a. If yes,
 - i. When?
 - ii. Has the damage been completely repaired?
 - iii. Did they face any difficulties in the repair process (for example availability of materials, cash, labor)?
 - iv. What was the cost of repair? Who financed the repair (family or others)?
 - v. How did the family come up with money for the repair (especially if cost is more than NIS 400)?
 - b. If no, why not?
- 3) How does the family compare its current livelihood to that pre-war? Try to be specific and help the family in answering this question? For example, ask whether there have been changes that affect the household's ability to steadfast (like loss of income, use of savings, having more dependents, increased prices, increase expenditures?)
- 4) Currently, what are the sources of both cash and food for the household? In case of receiving assistance, from who? What was the assistance received? Is this new assistance? Is it going to be regular? What affect has this assistance been having on the household livelihood; i.e. how important is it to the family's wellbeing and livelihood?
- 5) What does the family think of the assistance it currently receives, particularly its quality and suitability for the household's needs? How can it be improved?
- 6) IF THE FAMILY RECEIVES ASSISTANCE: Did the household find itself forced to sell the food rations it received in the past? During the past two weeks? Why/Why not?
- 7) What are the household's main expenditure categories, compare before and after the war?
- a. Food (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - b. Clothes (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - c. Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - d. Education (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - e. Health (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
- 8) Has the quality, frequency, variety of foods consumed by the family changed in any way from pre-war? Please try to get anecdotal evidence. If yes, which members in the family are suffering the most of the changed diet? Also, ask the significance of assistance to the availability of food?
- 9) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?
- | Food item | UNRWA Ration | WFP Ration | Purchased by the household | Provided by charities/good will | Other |
|-----------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | | | | | |
- 10) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? What is the source of fuel for cooking?
- 11) -Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)

1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	57. Purchased with cash 58. Own production 59. Traded goods or services 60. Received as gift 61. Food aid 62. Purchased on credit 63. Borrowed from family or neighbors 64. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

12) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family's diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies (reduced number of meals, reduce variety, sought charity, relied on less preferred food, sold assets, etc.), and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?

13) What is the family's current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?

- 14) Has the family's water consumption changed in any way after the war in comparison to pre-war? How? Is water generally available in sufficient quantities for
 - a. Personal hygiene purposes?
 - b. Drinking?
 - c. Cooking?
 - d. Irrigation (if applicable)?
 - e. Other uses?
- 15) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 16) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?
- 17) In light of what you just mentioned about food and water consumption, can we summarize together what you have done to cope with the new situation?
 - a. Quality of food
 - b. Frequency of food
 - c. Variety of food
 - d. Borrowing/Purchasing food on credit
 - e. Land cultivation
 - f. Seeking assistance
 - g. Sale of assets
 - h. Tapping savings
 - i. Rationalizing water consumption
 - j. Etc.
- 18) How long can the family steadfast if nothing changes?
- 19) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your family to recover from the effects of the war and the prolonged crisis?
- 20) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Suggested Questions for Families of Laid-Off Private Sector Employees

1) Socio-economic profile of the family

a. Key indicators

Total HH Size	Males	Females	Employed		Unemployed (able and seeking)		Monthly Income (NIS)	
			Males	Females	Males	Females	Pre-War	Now

- b. Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
 - c. How long have the different unemployed family members been unemployed?
 - d. If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain.
 - e. Has the household sustained any damage/losses during the war? What?
 - f. Is the household a registered refugee household or a non-refugee household?
- 2) Has the family started repairing the damages, if any?
- a. If yes,
 - i. When?
 - ii. Has the damage been completely repaired?
 - iii. Did they face any difficulties in the repair process (for example availability of materials, cash, labor)?
 - iv. What was the cost of repair? Who financed the repair (family or others)?

- v. How did the family come up with money for the repair (especially if cost is more than NIS 400)?
- b. If no, why not?
- 3) How does the family compare its current livelihood to that pre-war? Try to be specific and help the family in answering this question? For example, ask whether there have been changes that affect the household's ability to steadfast (like loss of income, use of savings, having more dependents, increased prices, increase expenditures)?
 - 4) Currently, what are the sources of both cash and food for the household? In case of receiving assistance, from who? What was the assistance received? Is this new assistance? Is it going to be regular? What affect has this assistance been having on the household livelihood; i.e. how important is it to the family's wellbeing and livelihood?
 - 5) What does the family think of the assistance it currently receives, particularly its quality and suitability for the household's needs? How can it be improved?
 - 6) IF THE FAMILY RECEIVES ASSISTANCE: Did the household find itself forced to sell the food rations it received in the past? During the past two weeks? Why/Why not?
 - 7) What are the household's main expenditure categories, compare before and after the war?
 - a. Food (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - b. Clothes (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - c. Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - d. Education (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - e. Health (increased, decreased, same) percent of total expenditure Now
 - 8) Has the quality, frequency, variety of foods consumed by the family changed in any way from pre-war? Please try to get anecdotal evidence. If yes, which members in the family are suffering the most of the changed diet? Also, ask the significance of assistance to the availability of food?
 - 9) What is the composition of the household's current diet? Ask for the past two days: types of food consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner and the source of each?

Food item	UNRWA Ration	WFP Ration	Purchased by the household	Provided by charities/good will	Other

- 10) If not answered in the previous question, has the household consumed cooked food in the past week? If yes, how many times? What is the source of fuel for cooking?
- 11) In the past two weeks, was the family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the family's diet changed from its pre-war diet? Elaborate on coping strategies (reduced number of meals, reduce variety, sought charity, relied on less preferred food, sold assets, etc.), and ask whether any of the family members requires a special diet which they cannot get as a result of the current situation?
- 12) --Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	<i>How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday</i> (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<i>How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday</i> (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	65. Purchased with cash 66. Own production 67. Traded goods or services 68. Received as gift 69. Food aid 70. Purchased on credit 71. Borrowed from family or neighbors 72. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 13) What is the family's current stock of food (types and quantities, how long it could last)?
- 14) Has the family's water consumption changed in any way after the war in comparison to pre-war? How? Is water generally available in sufficient quantities for
- a. Personal hygiene purposes?
 - b. Drinking?
 - c. Cooking?
 - d. Irrigation (if applicable)?
 - e. Other uses?
- 15) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 16) In particular, does the household have debt to local shop keepers? Has their ability to access food on credit change in any way; i.e. are local shop keepers still willing to sell them on credit in the same way as they did pre-war?

- 17) In light of what you just mentioned about food and water consumption, can we summarize together what you have done to cope with the new situation?
 - a. Quality of food
 - b. Frequency of food
 - c. Variety of food
 - d. Borrowing/Purchasing food on credit
 - e. Land cultivation
 - f. Seeking assistance
 - g. Sale of assets
 - h. Tapping savings
 - i. Rationalizing water consumption
 - j. Etc.
- 18) How long can the family steadfast if nothing changes?
- 19) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your family to recover from the effects of the war and the prolonged crisis?
- 20) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Poultry and Livestock Farmers

Total No. Of Interviews: 5 interviews, of which: 2 with farmers whose farms were destroyed and ceased to operate, and 3 who are still operating.

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Document the changes in the farmers' livelihoods and their ability to derive livelihood from agriculture.
- 2) Assess the change in income from agriculture as a result of the war, taking into consideration supply and demand, as well as cost.
- 3) Document the type, frequency, source and value (if possible) of assistance that farmers receive on a regular basis, and the changes in this regard after the war.
- 4) Assess the farmers' households' coping strategies during and after the war vis-a-vis securing food and income.
- 5) Assess the farmer households' current resilience capacity (taking into consideration all the above).
- 6) Identify the priorities of assistance required by the farmers' households to cope and recover from the effects of the war.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Can you tell us what agricultural assets do you have now in comparison to pre-war?
 - a. How long have you had this for?
 - b. What is/was the value of your assets?
 - c. What is/was the your income from agriculture during pre war? Now?
 - d. How many people were employed in your farm before the war? Now?
 - i. farmers from the same household?
 - ii. Waged labourers?
 - iii. What was the average monthly income for each pre-war? Now?
- 2) In case damage was sustained during the war:
 - a. What was the damage sustained?
 - b. Can the damage be repaired? At what cost?
 - c. Did your start repairing? If not, why not? If yes, has he faced any difficulties in the repair process? What? How did he cope with these difficulties, and how did he pay for the repair?
 - d. What is the current production capacity compared to pre-war capacity? Compared to pre-crisis level?

- e. Did anyone come to meet with him to assess the damage? Who? When? Has anyone made any commitments for assistance? Who? What?
- 3) Did you need to purchase any agricultural inputs in the past couple of weeks? Are inputs available? What is missing from the local market and how does this affect you (focus on the new effects, not the effects of a year ago)?
- 4) Has your relationship with your inputs provider changed after war? In other words, are you able to get your supplies under the same conditions as before the war?
- 5) During the war, has your house been directly or indirectly affected by the shelling?
 - a. Type and value of damage. Did they start repairing damages? How?
 - b. Death, Injuries, handicaps of household members who used to provide income for the household, particularly loss of farm manpower?
- 6) What are your household's main sources of cash currently? Pre-war?
- 7) What are your main expenditure items nowadays?
 - a. Food percent
 - b. Health percent
 - c. Housing (rent/repair) percent
 - d. Transport percent
 - e. Others percent
- 8) What are all the current sources of food for your household?
 - a. Buying on cash percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - b. Buying on credit percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - c. Assistance from charities percent of total? More or less than pre-war?
 - d. Assistance from UN Agencies percenttotal? More or less than pre-war?
 - e. Own Production percenttotal? More or less than pre-war?
- 9) Do you receive regular food or cash assistance from any organization currently? Description of assistance, frequency and source. If household has not received any assistance, ask why?
- 10) What do you think of the assistance that you receive in terms of frequency, type, quantity and quality?
- 11) How do you assess your household's food consumption in terms of quality and quantity? Is it better or worse than a month ago? Why/how?
 - a. Ask about the types of food consumed nowadays. Compared to a pre-war?
 - b. Ask about the frequency of eating. Compared to pre-war?
 - c. Ask about the diversity of food. Compared to pre-war?
 - d. Ask about the household food stock. Compared to pre-crisis.
- 12) Do you face any constraints related to cooking fuel? Explain. How does that affect your household's food consumption? Compared to pre-war?
- 13) -Use the following table to get more information on the current diet of the household:

How many days in the past seven days did your household eat from the following food items and what are the sources of the food items? (Interviewer: include number of days only without regard to the number of times eaten per day)		
1.	How many meals did the <u>adults</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (adults above 15 years)	Adults ate <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many meals did the <u>children</u> in your HH ate Yesterday (children under 15 years)	Children ate <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	How many people (adults and children) ate the food yesterday?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FOOD ITEM	A. Number of days the food item was eaten last 7 days (0 – 7 days)	73. Purchased with cash 74. Own production 75. Traded goods or services 76. Received as gift 77. Food aid

		78. Purchased on credit 79. Borrowed from family or neighbors 80. Other.....(specify)
1. Wheat, Frikeh, Burghul		
2. Rice		
3. Bread		
4. Fish		
5. Eggs		
6. Red meat (sheep/goat/beef)		
7. White meat (poultry)		
8. Canned meat/fish		
9. Milk and dairy products		
10. Olive oil		
11. Vegetable oil		
12. Pickles (olive and other vegetables)		
13. Fruits		
14. Vegetables		
15. Pulses (lentil and chickpeas)		
16. Tubers, roots, Potato		
17. Dried fruit and Dibs (molasses)		
18. Sweets, sugar, Jam		
19. Zater and Doqqa		
20. Other – drinks, tea, coffee, spices		

- 14) Do you face any problems with water availability (for your household and for watering animals)? Explain. Compared to pre-war?
- 15) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your household to recover its means of livelihood?
- 16) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Bakery Owners/Managers

Total No. Of Interviews: 6 interviews, of which: 2 with large bakeries, and 4 with small bakeries. 2 Middle, 2 South, 2 North.

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Assess the Gaza bakeries' capacity to meet local demand given the current constraints.
- 2) Assess the resilience of bakery owners and their ability to cope with emerging constraints.
- 3) Identify possible assistance needs of Gaza bakeries.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Profile of the bakery?
 - a. Size
 - b. Daily Capacity
 - c. Location
 - d. Main Clients/Catchment population
 - e. Number of employees
 - i. Paid family members? Salaried or daily waged?
 - ii. Unpaid family members?
 - iii. Paid non-family members? Salaried or daily waged?
- 2) Was work at your bakery disrupted during the war? How many days? What were the main causes of disruption? Other than lost income, did the disruption cause any losses to the bakery? What are these losses? What is your estimate of the value of your bakery's sales and other losses during the war?
- 3) Did the bakery sustain any damage? If yes,
 - a. What was the damage sustained?
 - b. Did you start repairing? If not, why not? If yes, has he faced any difficulties in the repair process? What? How did he cope with these difficulties, and how did he pay for the repair?
 - c. Can the damage be repaired? At what cost?
 - d. What is the current production capacity compared to pre-war capacity? Compared to pre-crisis level?
 - e. How long will it take you to resume to pre-war production capacity? What is needed for this to happen?
 - a. Did anyone come to meet with him to assess the damage? Who? When? Has anyone made any commitments for assistance? Who? What?
- 4) Currently, what are the main difficulties you are facing in operating your bakery?
 - a. Fuel?
 - b. Availability of flour? Stock?
 - c. Repairs?
 - d. Water Availability?
- 5) What is your current stock of flour? How long will it last given the current sales volume and capacity?
- 6) What are the sources of flour used by the bakery currently and pre-war?

a. Israeli-made	percent before, percent now
b. Palestinian-made	percent before, percent now
c. UN distribution	percent before, percent now
d. Imported	percent before, percent now
- 7) What are the main changes that the war brought about to your business? How are you dealing with them/how are you coping?
- 8) Did your operation hours change after the war? How?
- 9) Has the price of bread changed from its pre-war levels? Why?
- 10) Did you notice any changes in consumers' behaviour after the war? Explain. For example, are people buying more or less bread, stocking more?
- 11) Did you notice any changes in the proportion of families who are selling the flour rations in the local market? Why in his opinion? Particularly:
 - a. What effect, if any, has the food distribution have on your business?
 - b. If food assistance increases, will it have a positive or negative effect on your business? How?
- 12) Do you think that all bakeries in Gaza are operating under the same conditions nowadays? If no, which types of bakeries are worse off than others? In which areas? Why?
- 13) What are your main business priorities?

14) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Bakery Owners Association, Palestinian Federation of Industries, Palestinian Food Industries Association, PalTrade, and Gaza Chamber of Commerce

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Assess the current constraints facing the main economic sectors in Gaza.
- 2) Identify new constraints (caused by the war) facing different economic sectors.
- 3) Identify assistance needs that could contribute to the recovery of various economic sectors.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) According to the information you have, what has been the effect of the war on the business sector/your sector/the sector(s) your represent? If figures and percentages are provided, ask about how they were collected? ALSO, ask if official assessment reports or data has been published and if copies could be obtained?
- 2) What are the new constraints facing the sector(s); constraints that did not exist before the war?
- 3) Are there specific business within each sector/the sector represented by the association that suffer more than others as a result of the prolonged crisis and the war? What are these, or what is the profile of these businesses?
- 4) What is the association doing to help its members recover?
- 5) As a membership-based organization, what are your immediate priorities to help your members?
- 6) What are your priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Charitable Organizations

No. Of Interviews: 6 organizations, of which 2 in the south, 2 in the north, and 2 in the middle. Organizations should represent charities that operate at local, regional and Gaza-wide levels.

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Assess the current capacity of charitable organizations to provide services, particularly cash and food assistance.
- 2) Identify the new constraints facing charitable organizations in providing services.
- 3) Profile the different livelihood groups served by charitable organizations' food and cash assistance programs, particularly focusing on new groups.

Interview should be conducted with the head(s) of cash and food assistance programs or the head of the organization.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) Can you tell us about your institutional feeding, cash and food assistance programs? If not mentioned by the answer, ask about the following
 - a. Number of beneficiaries before the war, number of beneficiaries now
 - b. Profile of beneficiaries before the war and now (eligibility criteria for different services)
 - c. Types and volume of food assistance before the war and now
 - d. Frequency of assistance before the war and now

In other words, make sure answer explains the changes to the programs as a result of the war, while detailing the changes.

- 2) In case services have changed, why?
- 3) How do you assess your current capacity compared to pre-war in delivering assistance to people in need? What are the factors that have caused the capacity to change?
- 4) In case of damages due to shelling or incursions, ask about details of losses and what has the organization done to recover, if anything?
- 5) If capacity to serve decreased for any reason, which beneficiary group is suffering the most as a result of the organization's reduced capacity or inability to provide assistance?
- 6) Did you notice a change in the profile of people seeking assistance after the war in comparison to before the war?
 - a. Change in the profile of people seeking cash assistance
 - b. Change in the profile of people seeking food assistance
- 7) In light of all the above, what are the three main challenges facing your organization nowadays in providing cash and food assistance to people in need?
- 8) How can these challenges be overcome or what kind of assistance do you need to overcome these challenges?
- 9) What are your immediate priorities (within a month) as an organization to improve your capacity to serve your beneficiaries and/or to recover from the losses you sustained?
- 10) What are your priorities for the next six to twelve months?

Key Informants: Medium and Small Retailers

No. Of Interviews: 15 retailers, of which 5 must be neighborhood grocers and 3 must be women-owned shops.

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Assess the effects of the war on the availability and stock level of food at the retail level.
- 2) Gauge the change in food prices at the retail level (prices to end consumers), and identify the various war-related factors that have caused these changes.
- 3) Identify and assess the effects of changes in credit policies of retailers towards consumers and wholesalers towards retailers.
- 4) Gauge the financial and economic resilience of various groups of retailers after the war.
- 5) Identify the constraints facing retailers in maintaining their economic livelihoods after the war, including the constraints related to availability of cash and fuel shortages.

Interview should be conducted with the shop owner/manager.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) What can you tell us about the current level of availability of different food and non-food items in which you trade in comparison to before the war? What are the items whose availability increased/decreased?
- 2) Can you compare your current stock levels following items to your average stock levels before the war (Average between September and December 2008)?
 - a. Sugar
 - b. Flour
 - c. Rice
 - d. Vegetable oil
 - e. Canned foods
 - f. Baby milk
 - g. Baby foods

- h. Chickpeas
 - i. Lentils
 - j. Beans
 - k. Diapers
 - l. Cleaning detergents
 - m. Cigarettes
- 3) In general, how do you assess your current ability to meet your customers' demand for different products compared to before the war? Why/Please elaborate giving specific examples.
 - 4) Did your shop or warehouse/storage facilities sustain any damage during the war?
 - a. If yes, describe the damage (scale, value). Did you repair the damage? How? At what cost? How did you finance the repair?
 - b. If no, why not?
 - 5) Has your financial capacity to restock changed as a result of the war? If yes, how/why? How did you cope?
 - 6) Do you sell on credit? What is your credit sales policy? Is this a new policy or did you have it before the war? If new, what was the credit policy before the war?
 - 7) What is the current credit policy of your suppliers? How does it compare to before the war? Does this policy have any effect on your ability to sustain your business operations? Explain.
 - 8) How do your average daily sales figures nowadays compare to sales figures before the war? In case sales dropped, why? **MAKE SURE TO COVER THE FOLLOWING DURING THE DISCUSSION:**
 - a. Drop in the number of clients
 - b. Decrease in the variety/availability of items
 - c. Increase in prices of items sold
 - 9) Can you make a comparison for us between your current transport costs (related to conducting business) and transport costs before the war?
 - 10) Did prices of the main items you sell change after the war? Ask respondent to elaborate.
 - 11) In case not covered in previous answer ask: can you compare the current prices of the following items to their prices immediately before the war, indicating the reasons for change if any?
 - a. Flour
 - b. Rice
 - c. Sugar
 - d. Canned Foods
 - e. Vegetable oil (5ltrs)
 - f. Chickpeas
 - g. Lentils
 - h. Baby milk
 - i. Baby foods
 - j. Diapers
 - k. Cleaning detergents
 - l. Cigarettes

MAKE SURE TO INQUIRE ABOUT EFFECT OF CHANGES OF INT'L MARKET PRICE CHANGES, WHOLESALE PRICE, TRANSPORT COST, LABOR COSTS, TAX/BRIBES/KICK-BACKs ON PRICE CHANGES
 - 12) How many employees do you currently have? How many did you in December? Did you decrease wages/salaries of your employees?
 - 13) Did you notice any changes in customers' buying behaviours or purchasing patterns after the war? Please explain?

- 14) Did you notice any change after the war in the market availability of assistance foods? Why? How do the sale prices (by sellers and by retailers) of these foods compare to the whole sale and retail prices of the comparable foods? Do you deal with assistance foods in your shop?
- 15) If we turn now and ask you about your own household's food consumption, has it changed in any way in comparison to pre-war? If yes, How and why?

Key Informants: Wholesalers

No. Of Interviews: 5 wholesalers, of which 2 should be among the largest wholesalers in the Gaza Strip, and 3 should be medium-size wholesalers. None of the wholesalers should be engaged in the retail business.

Interview Objectives:

- 1) Assess the effects of the war on the availability and stock level of food at the wholesale level.
- 2) Gauge the change in food prices at the wholesale level (prices to retailers), and identify the various war-related factors that have caused these changes.
- 3) Identify and assess the effects of changes in credit policies of wholesalers towards retailers.
- 4) Gauge the financial and economic resilience of various groups of wholesalers after the war.
- 5) Identify the constraints facing retailers in maintaining their economic livelihoods after the war, including the constraints related to availability of cash and fuel shortages.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) What can you tell us about the current level of availability of different food and non-food items in which you trade in comparison to before the war? What are the items whose availability increased/decreased?
- 2) Can you compare your current stock levels following items to your average stock levels before the war (Average between September and December 2008)?
 - a. Sugar
 - b. Flour
 - c. Rice
 - d. Vegetable oil
 - e. Olive oil
 - f. Fresh meat, fresh chicken
 - g. Frozen meat, frozen chicken
 - h. Canned foods distinguish meat from other types
 - i. Fresh vegetables (taking into account seasonal considerations)
 - j. Fresh fruits (taking into account seasonal considerations)
 - k. Baby milk, other baby foods
 - l. Chickpeas
 - m. Lentils
 - n. Beans
 - a. Drinking/bottled water
- 3) In general, how do you assess your current ability to meet your customers' demand for different products compared to before the war? Why/Please elaborate giving specific examples.
- 4) Did your shop or warehouse/storage facilities sustain any damage during the war?
 - a. If yes, describe the damage (scale, value). Did you repair the damage? How? At what cost? How did you finance the repair?
 - b. If no, why not?
- 5) Has your financial capacity to restock and place orders changed as a result of the war? If yes, how/why? How did you cope? MAKE SURE TO ASK ABOUT BANKING RESTRICTIONS AND HOW THEY HAVE CHANGED AFTER THE WAR AND THE EFFECT THEREOFF?

- 6) Do you sell on credit to retailers? What is your credit sales policy? Is this a new policy or did you have it before the war? If new, what was the credit policy before the war?
- 7) What is the current credit policy of your suppliers? How does it compare to that before the war? Does this policy have any effect on your ability to sustain your business operations?
- 8) How do your average daily sales figures nowadays compare to sales figures before the war? In case sales dropped, why? **MAKE SURE TO COVER THE FOLLOWING DURING THE DISCUSSION:**
 - a. Drop in the number of clients
 - b. Decrease in the variety/availability of items
 - c. Increase in prices of items sold
 - d. New credit policy
 - e. Internal transport constraints
- 9) In general, did you notice a certain trend (whether increase or decrease) in your level of sales to clients in different regions within the Gaza Strip after the war in comparison to before the war? Please explain. **THE FOLLOWING TABLE COULD BE USED TO GUIDE THE ANSWER:**

Region	Sales to Wholesalers (+,-)	Estimated percent Change	Sales to Retailers (+,-)	Estimated percent Change
North Gaza				
Middle Gaza				
South Gaza				

- 10) Can you make a comparison for us between your current transport costs (related to conducting business) and transport costs before the war?
- 11) Did prices of the main items you sell change after the war? Ask respondent to elaborate how/why.
- 12) In case not covered in previous answer ask: can you compare the current prices of the following items to their prices immediately before the war, indicating the reasons for change if any?
 - a. Flour
 - b. Rice
 - c. Sugar
 - d. Canned Foods
 - e. Vegetable oil (5ltrs)
 - f. Chickpeas
 - g. Lentils
 - h. Baby milk
 - i. Baby foods
 - j. Diapers
 - k. Cleaning detergents
 - l. Cigarettes

MAKE SURE TO INQUIRE ABOUT EFFECT OF CHANGES OF INT'L MARKET PRICE CHANGES, TRANSPORT COST, LABOR COSTS, TAX/BRIBES/KICK-BACKs ON PRICE CHANGES

- 13) How many employees do you currently have? How many did you in December? Did you decrease wages/salaries of your employees?
- 14) Did you notice any changes in your customers' buying behaviours or purchasing patterns after the war? Please explain.
- 15) Did you notice any change after the war in the market availability of assistance foods? Why? How do the sale prices (by sellers and by retailers) of these foods compare to the wholesale and retail prices of the comparable foods? Do you deal with assistance foods?

Annex 3: List of Key Informants and Households Interviewed

Household Interviews

Locality	Name	Household Characteristics
Al-Fukhari	Ussama Hussein Abu Maghseib	Host Family / Unemployed Head of Household, Temporary Employment Beneficiary
	Amira Musa Al-Umour	PA Employee / Home Destroyed
	Atwa Abdel Majeed Al-Umour	Farmer / Moderate Home Damage and Destruction of Agricultural Land
	Suleiman Mohammad Al-Umour	IDP / Living in Tents on the Ruins of their Home
	Abdelmajid Atteya Al-Umour	Farmer / Destruction of Agricultural Land
	Saleem Amireh Al-Umor	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
	Ahmad Salameh Abu Taher	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
	Abdallah Abdelmajid Al-Umour	Farmer / Destruction of Agricultural Land
Al-Qarara	Waleed Abdelrahim Al-Astal	Farmer / Land Inaccessible
Beach Camp	Mohammad Ibrahim Abu Ryale	Fisherman
	Abdel Mu'ti Ibrahim Abu Ryaleh	Fisherman
	Murad Al-Hissi	Fisherman
	Mohammad Al-Hissi	Fisherman
	Jamal Hashem Al-Attar	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
Beit Hanoun	Laila Mohammad Hamad	IDP / Hosted Household
	Ibrahim Abdallah Abu Is'ayyed	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Ibrahim Yousef Abu Awwad	Farmer / Slight Damages
Beit Lahia	Mahmoud Berjis Wirshagha	Laid off Agricultural Labourer
	Kawthar Ali Ma'rouf	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
Beit Lahia - Al-Atattra	Nasser Abu Haloub	PA Employee / Moderate Home Damage
	Ibrahim As'ad Ghaban	IDP / Living in Tents on the Ruins of their Home
	Eid Ali Hasan Ghaban	Farmer / Slight Damages
	Eyad Matar Ghaban	Farmer / Slight Damages
	Zeyad Matar Ghaban	Farmer / Slight Damages
	Khaled Ramadan Ghaban	Farmer / Slight Damages
	Yousef Hussein Ghaban	Farmer / Export Crops

	Ghunaim Suleiman Ghunaim	Laid off Private Sector Employee
	Abla Mohammad Salman	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
Deir Al-Balah Refugee Camp	Nidal Mahmoud Al-Buhaisi	PA Employee / No Damage
Gaza City	Omar Al-Habeel	Fisherman
Gaza City	Anwar Hasan Kaskeen	Fisherman
Gaza City	Zeyad Hasan Kaskeen	Fisherman
Gaza City - Al-Sudaneya	Sami Ramadan Nai'im	PA Employee / Moderate Home Damage
Gaza City - Al-Zaytoun	Mohammad As'ad Samouni	PA Employee / Moderate Home Damage
	As'ad Ali Samouni	Laid off Agricultural Labourer
	Mohammad Nimer Al-Sawwaf	Lost Private Enterprise
	Maher Hamdi Samouni	Host Family
	Hassan Jamil Hajji	Farmer / Slight Home Damage and Destruction of Agricultural Land
	Arafat Hilmi Samouni	IDP / Living in Tents on the Ruins of their Home
	Samih Rizeq Al-Soferi	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
	Nafeth Mustafa Hajji	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
	Jamila Abdelhadi Abu Amsha	IDP / Hosted Household
Gaza City - East	Majed Mohammad Shbeir	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
Jabalia	Adel Harb Shameya	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Ra'fat Jaber Rafati	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Mahmoud Abdel Malek Sultan	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Khaled Hussein Madi	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Maher Abdallah Abu Sal'a	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Maher Kamal Masoud	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
Jabalia - Izbet Abed Rabbo	Ismail Mohammad Al-Jamal	PA Employee / Severe Damage to Home and Destruction of Agricultural Land
	Maher Abed Rabbo	Unemployed Laborer
	Adli Al-Jamal	Host Family
	Mohammad Sa'di Saleh	PA Employee / Severe Damage to Home and Destruction of Agricultural Land

	Faraj Abed Rabbo	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
	Sameeh Atwa Rasheed Al-Sheikh	IDP / Living in Tents on the Ruins of their Home
	Mohammad Musa Al-Jamal	Laid off Agricultural Labourer
	Hussein Mohammad Namous	IDP / Living in Tents on the Ruins of their Home
Khanyounis	Ahmad Sai'd Al-Astal	Farmer / Export Crops
	Mohammad Radwan Al-Astal	Farmer / Traditional Crops
	Yousef Abdelqader Al-Astal	Farmer / Land Inaccessible
Khanyounis - Bani Suhaila	Suleiman Khalil Qahwaji	Farmer / Export Crops
Khanyounis - East of the City	Mohammad Ismail Al-Astal	Farmer / Slight Damages
Khanyounis - Ma'an	Kamal Radwan Uwaida	IDP / Living in Tents on the Ruins of their Home
Khuza'a	Raed Salem Qdeih	MoSA Beneficiary / Moderate Home Damage
	Jaber Suleiman Qudeih	UNRWA SHC / Moderate Home Damage
	Subhi Mohammad Abu Irjeileh	Host Family
	Fou'ad Suleiman Al-Najjar	Long Unemployed / Home Destroyed
	Adnan Hasan Abu Irjeileh	Laid off Agricultural Labourer / Home Destroyed
	Hisham Ahmad Abu Sabha	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
	Mohammad Salem Qdeih	Farmer / Chicken Farm and Agricultural Land Destroyed
Rafah City	Wa'el Mohammad Qishta	Farmer / Destruction of Agricultural Land
	Said Ibrahim Qishta	Host Family
	Mahmoud Mohammad Qishta	IDP / Hosted Household
	Fawzeyya Suleiman Al-Sha'er	MoSA Beneficiary / Moderate Home Damage
	Abdel Mun'em Abu Naja	Municipality Employee / Slight Home Damage
	Wa'el Abdallah Qishta	PA Employee / Home Destroyed
	Zayed Hasan Abu Thabet	Farmer
	Yousef Ali Dheir	Farmer / Traditional Crops
Rafah City - Abu Al-Ajeen	Mohammad Khamis Abu Musa'ed	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Yousef Musa'ed Abu Musa'ed	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Subheya Abu Musa'ed	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter
	Ahmad Abdallah Abu Sha'ar	IDP / In UNRWA Shelter

Key Informant Interviews

Locality	Name	Description of KI
Beach Refugee Camp	Ala' Fou'ad Affaneh	Retailer
Beit Hanoun	Ghasan Abdelhadi Qasem	Beit Hanoun Agricultural Cooperative
Beit Lahia	Ahmad Fou'ad Al-Shafi	Gaza Cooperative for Vegetable Production and Marketing
	Mohamad Barghaban	Agricultural Cooperative for Strawberry Vegetables and Flower Growers
Beit Lahia - Al-Atattra	Suheil Abu Halima	Agricultural Inputs Supplier
Deir Al-Balah	Sami Ahmad Sha'ban	Retailer
	Salem Sarsour	Retailer
	Ibrahim Hasan Abu Miri	Retailer
	Izzat Barghouth	Wholesaler
Gaza City	Abdel Nasser Al-Ajrami	Bakery Owner
	Mohammad Al-Dam	Bakery Owner
	Mohammad Zaqout	Fishermen Association
	Nizar Ayyash	General Syndicate of Marine Fishers
	Imad Mahmoud Al-Hadad	Human Appeal International
	Rami Mahani	Islamic Relief
	Bassam Al-Ifranji	Palestine Chamber of Commerce
	Ali Abu Kmail	Palestine Trade Center
	Amr Hamad	Palestinian Federation of Food Industries
	Mohammad Al-Saqa	Retailer
	Abdel Fatah Irbayye'	Wholesaler
Gaza City - Al-Zaytoun	Majed Al-Safadi	Wholesaler
Khanyounis	Kamila Kamel Hajji	Retailer
	Al-Sham Bakery	Bakery Operator
	Zuhair Daif Allah	Extension and Awareness Building Cooperative
	Ashraf Abdelkareem Al-Astal	Green house Farmers' Cooperative
	Kareem Mohammad Barbakh	Retailer
	Taha Badawi Al-Lahham	Retailer
	Wa'el Rafiq Abdeen	Retailer
Lutfi Abdel Latif Shrab	Wholesaler	
Khanyounis - Ma'an	Jamal Suleiman Abu Al-Naja	Export Tomato Growers Cooperative
Khanyounis Refugee Camp	Ussama Al-Hilou	Bakery Owner
Rafah City	Zare' Ahmad Al-Astal	Al-Sater Al-Gharbi Cooperative for Rural Development
	Saleh Mahmoud Bahloul	Bakery Owner
	Ramzi Abu Hilal	Retailer
Rafah City - Shaboura	Ibrahim Mohaamad Athamneh	Retailer
Rafah Refugee Camp	Mohammad Qishta	Retailer
Rafah Refugee Camp	Sami Omar Abu Shaqfeh	Retailer

Annex 4: List of Documents Reviewed

- 1) OCHA, 2009 Consolidated Appeal (CAP) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, December 2008.
- 2) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 1 January 2009.
- 3) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 12 January 2009.
- 4) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 13 January 2009.
- 5) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 14 January 2009.
- 6) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 16 January 2009.
- 7) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 17-18 January 2009.
- 8) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 20-21 January 2009.
- 9) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 22-23 January 2009.
- 10) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 24-26 January 2009.
- 11) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 27-29 January 2009.
- 12) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 30 January-2 February 2009.
- 13) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 3-5 February 2009.
- 14) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 5 January 2009.
- 15) OCHA, Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordinator, 6 January 2009.
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