



# Standard Project Report 2015

## World Food Programme in Palestine, State of (PS)

### Strengthening the Food Security Coordination Platform in the State of Palestine

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200560
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	June 10, 2013
Planned Start Date	June 01, 2013
Actual Start Date	June 01, 2013
Project End Date	December 31, 2015
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	242,400
Direct Support Costs	933,200
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	82,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257,892</b>

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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# COUNTRY OVERVIEW

## Country Background

Palestine is a lower middle income territory with significant income disparities. Average purchasing power per person in Palestine is USD 4,699 while the average in neighbouring Israel is USD 30,676 (2014 Human Development Index (HDI) using the 2011 Purchasing Power Parity measure). Ranking 113 of 188 countries on the HDI, the Palestinian economy is dependent upon external aid and is closely linked to the Israeli economy, with Israel as the main market for exports and imports and an important employer of Palestinian labour. Private investment levels are amongst the lowest in the world. Unemployment levels reached 41 percent in Gaza in mid-2015 and more than 15 percent in the West Bank. According to the World Bank, donor support to Palestine has significantly declined in recent years and economic growth has slowed down since 2012.

Results of the 2014 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SEFSec) showed food insecurity remained at high levels, with one in four families (27 percent or 1.6 million people) facing food insecurity. In Gaza, food insecurity levels reached 47 percent, while 16 percent of the people in the West Bank were reported to be food insecure. Women were disproportionately affected by food insecurity in the West Bank where 25 percent of the households headed by women were food insecure, as opposed to 15 percent of the households headed by men, who have more access to productive resources, education and skills development, and labour market opportunities than women. Food insecurity in Palestine is a matter of economic access as prices are too high for poor households, who spend approximately half of their income on food. High food insecurity and vulnerability are a result of severe restrictions on livelihoods and economic activity.

Recurrent conflict, together with the ongoing blockade of Gaza has resulted in high unemployment, a process of de-development and an increasing dependency on external assistance. In the West Bank, the imposition of the separation barrier interrupted economic activity and further restricted movement and access. Peace talks on a two-state solution were suspended in 2014. In August of the same year, a 51-day conflict in Gaza devastated the lives of many people and caused widespread destruction to infrastructure and livelihoods. In 2015, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Israel and Gaza were hit by violent incidents increasing an already volatile situation and negatively impacting people's livelihoods. The current situation in Palestine remains highly volatile with high levels of humanitarian needs.

## Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP supports the Palestinian Authority to meet urgent food needs, address livelihood resilience, increase economic activity and improve emergency preparedness. Supporting enhanced food security is shared by the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and WFP, with close links to activities of UNICEF, FAO and Food Security Sector (FSS) partners.

In 2015, WFP implemented a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200709), responding to the urgent and longer term needs in Gaza and the West Bank. Food assistance targeted 596,940 food insecure non-refugees across Palestine in 2015; 308,140 people in the West Bank and 288,800 people in Gaza.

WFP administered a special operation (SO 200560), providing the resources required for the FSS to continue its coordination and information management role on all food security-related activities in the West Bank and Gaza. The FSS is co-led by WFP, FAO and UNRWA, with guidance from the Palestinian Authority and involvement of local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

In line with WFP Palestine's Country Strategy (2014-2016) WFP further expanded its partnerships and service provision, particularly for cash based transfers using the modality of digital value vouchers. In 2015, WFP's voucher platform was used by the Palestinian Authority, UNRWA, UNICEF and the NGO Oxfam GB for food, education, and hygiene assistance.

WFP's strategy in Palestine is aligned with the National Development Plan, the Ministry of Social Affairs' Business Plan and the Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan. WFP's work contributed to five of the six pillars of the 2014-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the annual Humanitarian Programme Cycles (HPC). WFP's operations in Palestine contributed to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2: Achieve universal primary education; and 4: Reduce child mortality. According to the latest available data, Palestine has made progress for MDGs 1 and 4 by reducing the number of poor people and by reducing child mortality, while high enrollment rates for primary schooling were maintained.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	23,585	23,585	47,170
Children (5-18 years)	112,031	106,134	218,165
Adults (18 years plus)	159,201	165,099	324,300
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2015</b>	<b>294,817</b>	<b>294,818</b>	<b>589,635</b>

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	37,247	1,729	2,581	63	931	42,551
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2015</b>	<b>37,247</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>42,551</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPR

## Operational Objectives and Relevance

The special operation provided the resources required to allow the FSS, co-chaired by WFP, FAO, UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority, to continue its coordination of food security related analysis and activities in Palestine, with the objective of eventually handing over coordination to local authorities. The FSS aimed to coordinate responses to humanitarian and development needs of the food insecure population in Palestine in an efficient manner.

The FSS facilitated the coordination at the strategic, analytical and operational levels amongst some 40 members, including government ministries, national and international NGOs and United Nations agencies working on improving food security in Palestine. The sector's support aimed to enhance capacity development of the Palestinian Authority in the provision of food assistance programmes, emergency response, needs analysis and food security data collection. One of the main achievements of the FSS was the review of the methodology and release of the 2014 SEFSec survey which was carried out as a collaborative efforts with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to assess and capture the various dimensions of food insecurity in Palestine (poverty, food consumption and resilience) over 2013/2014.

## Results

### Outputs

The FSS continued to expand its activities in 2015. The FSS was led by a steering committee and includes a food security analysis unit and technical working groups (TWG), coordinated and supported by the FSS coordination team.

In 2015, the analysis unit coordinated the preparation of the latest SEFsec. The SEFsec exercise is conducted on a yearly basis by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) supported by WFP, FAO and UNRWA. The SEFsec provides national estimates of food insecurity rates in Palestine.

Under the leadership of WFP and FAO, the SEFSec methodology was revised in 2014 and finalized in 2015, aiming to provide a more comprehensive and better representative way to define food insecurity in Palestine, by means of using a three-pillar approach to reflect the multi-dimensional drivers of food insecurity in Palestine, including: 1) poverty (based on household ownership of assets), 2) food deprivation (Food Consumption Score and the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale) to capture dietary quality and food consumption quantity, and 3) resilience to capture household's capacity to adapt and transform in the face of shocks by relying on assets, income generating activities, basic services, and social safety nets. Under the FSS umbrella, WFP provided critical technical expertise and support and had an advisory role to FSS partners and line ministries. In December 2015, the SEFsec report was launched using the revised methodology.

The FSS information management system supported information sharing and coordination around key food security issues in Palestine. Regular 4Ws (who, what, where and when) reports were created which outlined who was active in Palestine providing food assistance, doing what, where and when. In addition, the FSS team coordinated the monitoring of achievements for 50 projects under the Strategic Response Plan 2015.

In coordination with other clusters, sectors and OCHA, the FSS team supported the coordinated response through the Humanitarian Fund disbursed through OCHA. This allowed the allocation of around USD 2 million for the implementation of eight projects, reaching 30,000 beneficiaries.

In 2015 the FSS launched the Food Security Dashboard which provides updates on essential food security indicators and figures. The Dashboard was launched to share information in a dynamic and continuous way, and to offer data to the wider public.

The FSS coordinated the prioritization of needs and the selection of projects that were part of the 2016 HPC. The FSS vetted a total of 83 projects in 2015. Project vetting committees were composed of representatives from international and local NGOs, line ministries and United Nations agencies. Through national coordination meetings, which were attended by all 45 FSS members, the FSS guided the formulation of objectives and activities as part of the food assistance and livelihood components of the 2016 HPC.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO1: Special Operation (Cluster)</b>				
Number of agencies participating in food security sector meetings	agency/organization	45	45	100.0
Number of food security monitoring/surveillance reports produced with WFP support	report	1	1	100.0
Number of government counterparts trained in collection and analysis of food security data	individual	20	20	100.0
Number of national coordination meetings convened	instance	31	31	100.0

## Outcomes

In 2015, the FSS continued to coordinate the joint analysis of food security trends in Palestine through the food security analysis unit, in close collaboration with the Palestinian Authority institutions and line ministries.

The SEFsec findings, released in December 2015, were used by WFP and FSS partners to assess overall needs, to support food assistance project design and to measure the impact of food assistance. They were also used to elaborate the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan.

The FSS held regular coordination meetings throughout the year in Gaza and the West Bank, with video links between the two locations to ensure broad participation. These meetings strengthened partners' membership; were instrumental for the finalization of the 2014 SEFsec report; and provided a forum to discuss HPC and other analysis and response framework related issues.

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Cooperation with the line ministries in Palestine, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Development, continued to be strengthened through constant consultation and exchange of information. The capacity of the line ministries has been supported through transfer of expertise, knowledge-sharing and regular consultative processes (workshops, trainings). Handover of the FSS functions to the line ministries remains a longer-term objective for the FSS.

The FSS and the food security analysis unit coordinated the preparation of the 2014 SEFsec report, in close coordination with the PCBS through a participatory process involving governmental and non-governmental actors to ensure ownership of the new report.

In 2015, all three core government partners, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Development, were members of the steering committee of the FSS.

The steering committee provided strategic guidance and had an oversight role for both food security analysis and operations. It endorsed and reviewed food security policy and operational issues, including the review of the FSS budget.

## Management

### Partnerships

Partnerships were at the core of the FSS, which was co-led by WFP and FAO, and was key for building sustainable and locally-owned food security solutions in Palestine. Support to food security was built on local expertise and leveraged the comparative advantage of the presence of the broad range of local and international NGOs, civil society and United Nations agencies in Palestine. The FSS was the reference point for strategic planning and coordination of humanitarian and development assistance, and was based on an inclusive and partnership-driven approach.

The FSS had 45 members including government ministries, local and international NGOs and three United Nations agencies, which coordinated discussions across a broad spectrum of food security issues, including poverty, household food expenditure, food consumption patterns, the Palestinian Expenditure and Consumption Survey, livelihoods and coping strategies. The annual SEFsec was the FSS flagship report informing members' food security programming in Palestine.

Throughout 2015, the FSS collaborated closely with other clusters active in Palestine including those on nutrition, protection and health.

## Lessons Learned

Since its establishment in 2013, the FSS successfully activated the Food Security Analysis Unit, which coordinated the joint FSS framework to help define what food security interventions were needed and why, which modality was the most appropriate, and for how long interventions were recommended. The FSS enabled increased coordination with the Palestinian Authority in food security interventions, while NGOs were empowered to lead different coordination fora, further enhancing civil society's capacities.

Handing over capacity to perform the analytical work of the SEFsec is a priority for the FSS going forward. Food security analysis were conducted jointly by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, FAO and UNRWA and WFP. In the future, the FSS will continue its effort to increase local ownership of the SEFSec survey. This includes stronger partnership with national stakeholders such as Palestinian research organisations.