



# **FOOD SECURITY SECTOR**

*Strengthening Humanitarian Response*

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

### **Gaza Strip**



**October 2014**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In August 2014, Gaza marked the end of the third Israeli assault since 2008. The assault, which began on 7 July 2014, left thousands of Palestinians dead and injured, and over 100,000 displaced and homeless. The local economy sustained a major blow during the 51 days of bombardment and ground operations. All this came against the backdrop of 66 years of displacement and dispossession, 47 years of military occupation, decades of movement restrictions, and a seven-year blockade, which has crippled the economy and shattered livelihoods.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Between the second quarter of 2013 and the same quarter of 2014 the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip increased from 27.9 percent to an astounding 44.5 percent, mainly as a result of the destruction of the tunnels with Egypt and the following collapse of the construction sector of the economy. Though illegal and largely uncontrolled, the tunnel trade provided a lifeline for besieged Gaza as they were a primary supply for food and non-food items, including much needed construction materials. Additionally, former de facto government employees, including the security forces, have not been paid salaries regularly since August 2013 and no salaries at all since April 2014. Decades of border restrictions and repeated assaults have destroyed livelihood opportunities and left most families in Gaza highly vulnerable to further shocks. Even before the crisis began, 80 percent of people in Gaza depend on social assistance, while social transfers (both cash and in-kind) have become an important source of income for the majority of households, accounting for approximately 16 percent of total household consumption overall and 31 percent among the poorest households prior to the assault. Some 72 percent of people were either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, even when taking into account UN food distributions to almost 1.1 million people.

This rapid qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) –carried out by the Al-Sahel Company for Institutional Development and Communications (Al-Sahel) on behalf of the Food Security Cluster- 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: (i) to assess changes in Gaza households' food access and consumption patterns, cash sources to meet other priority basic needs and coping mechanisms used to respond to the specific effects of the war; (ii) to evaluate Gaza households' resilience capacity; (iii) to evaluate wholesale and retail markets current functionality and early recovery capacity for supplying food to consumers; and (iv) 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.

The assessment was conducted by a team of six researchers of the Al-Sahel Company between 15 September and 2 October 2014 and thus reflects the situation about one month 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

The key findings of the EFSA indicate that:

1. ***While some shortages were witnessed during the assault, food availability has returned to pre-assault levels due mainly to the higher level of imports of food from Israel and the West Bank by both the private sector and the UN , and, by end of September, partial resumption of local production of staple vegetable, meat and eggs.*** 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. Locally produced and imported (from Israel and the West Bank) dairy products are also available in the market, but mainly in large supermarkets and the network of retail shops participating in WFP's voucher programme where availability of these products is required by WFP. These shops are generally well resourced, and have one or two electric generators.

It must be noted, however, that these prices had substantially increased in recent years 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. Prices of food continue to be unaffordable for many households, including for items whose prices have become lower than pre-war as a result of low demand, such as chicken. This is evidenced by lower demand, which has been reported systematically by all traders interviewed, who also reported maintaining as little as 50 percent of their pre-war stock levels of the foods they stock.

Prior to the assault, and despite the blockade, Gaza enjoyed a near total self-sufficiency in vegetable production. The damages and losses sustained by the agricultural sector, particularly the plant production sub-sector, have been directly reflected in shortages of fresh produce in the Gaza Strip, where the sector has been unable to meet local demand for staple fresh vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, and eggplants for the first time in more than 20 years. The imports of fresh produce, and the ability of farmers in less-affected areas to salvage some of their crops and to resume cultivation and production of short production-cycle crops such as cucumbers, have been major factors behind the availability of fresh produce in Gaza's markets. However, the prices of fresh fruits and vegetables (particularly tomato) in Gaza markets were noted to be higher than their usual seasonal averages due to the high prices of imports and lower than usual local production. The supply of locally produced fruits and vegetables will likely decrease next season's harvest, however, due to a combination of factors, including: later than usual cultivation of vegetable crops (thus lower productivity), smaller area cultivated, loss of productive land and assets, loss of sources of irrigation, and lack of financial capacity/cash to cover irrigation costs. 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 households.

With all 60 bakeries in the Gaza Strip functioning, albeit at lower capacity than pre-war levels, the EFSA found bread readily available in local Gaza markets.

2. ***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, households of fishermen whose boats or the boats on which they used to work were destroyed or seriously damaged. Households hosting and/or financially supporting displaced households face similar food access difficulties, but are generally less affected. 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 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.

More specifically, the following findings should be highlighted:

- Food assistance provided to IDPs in shelters, particularly when combined with other sources and forms of food assistance IDPs receive, both ensures access of displaced households to adequate food diversity, and, for some, exceeds the minimum caloric needs of these households. This is particularly true for: (i) small households who have multiple sources of food assistance; (ii) households whose members are not all present in the schools but receive full rations; and (iii) households whose members have registered and receive regular food rations in more than one school.
- Access to food is generally not problematic IDPs who are staying with host families, though foods consumed by this category of IDPs was found to be quite monotonous and lacking variety. IDPs with host families who lost their source of income as a result of the war and who have not received their salaries for several months seemed to be particularly affected by the lack of food diversity. Displaced households with host families and host families interviewed indicated that food is accessible to them from a variety of sources, including: food assistance (from UNRWA for registered refugee households and households registered



in schools, 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.

- Both physical and economic access to food for farmers whose sources of irrigation, lands and/or productive assets have been destroyed or severely damaged during the war have significantly worsened. Among these, farmers whose homes were also destroyed can be considered worst off. These farmers were found to be generally well-targeted by UNRWA's and WFP's emergency food assistance programmes, and are now heavily reliant on this assistance for food. The majority of them have received some sort of cash assistance from sources cited earlier in the report. Discussions with these farmers and members of their household strongly suggest that they not only do not have sufficient cash or savings to reinvest in building up their livelihood assets, but also have outstanding debts to pay. Without a steady source of income and higher expenditure needs, these farmers will need to be provided with different forms of livelihood assistance for the foreseen future to be able to reclaim their livelihoods. The need of this group for food assistance could not be properly assessed by the EFSA, though food assistance would certainly have a positive income-transfer effects on them, thereby capacitating them to recover their livelihoods more quickly.
- Farmers' whose agricultural assets had only been partially destroyed and whose sources of irrigation have not been greatly affected have resumed farming activities, albeit at a significantly lower scale than pre-war. Most interviewed farmers in this category reported tapping their social capital for loans to resume their farming activities, including credit from input suppliers. These farmers are currently facing greater economic access difficulties than before the war due to a combination of factors, including loss of harvest, death of animals, higher input costs, higher costs of irrigation due to increased reliance on diesel generators for irrigation, and diversion of income (including, where applicable, non-agricultural income) to land and agricultural assets rehabilitation. This notwithstanding, these farmers do not seem to be facing serious food access problems, and this is mainly because the current levels of assistance they receive covers their consumption needs.
- Economic access to food has worsened from pre-war to an estimated 1,200-1,500 fisherfolk households who have lost some or all of their fishing assets and/or fishing jobs. 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.
- Interviewed workers in services, industrial and agriculture sectors dismissed after the war seemed to have lower access to food than pre-war, though most seem to be already benefitting from food and cash-transfer assistance programmes, including WFP's food voucher programme. Food assistance received by the households of dismissed private sector workers as well as debts authorised by shop-keepers were found to comprise 40% and 50% of food sources for these households, respectively. Food and cash assistance were thus identified to be priority by these households. Households of dismissed workers who have lost their home and are currently in UNRWA's school shelters, however, identified shelter and cash for rent as their top priority, but also acknowledged their need for continuation of food assistance.

While access to food has been affected for a very large swathe of Gaza's population as the preceding paragraphs show, it has been largely unaffected for households whose livelihoods were not directly affected or whose homes have sustained minor damages. Economic access to food of households interviewed in this category seems to have improved after the war (at least temporarily) as most of them have received emergency food assistance, including from UNRWA, WFP and solidarity campaigns, for which they had been previously ineligible. At the time of the assessment, many of these households reporting having stocks of the assistance they received that could last them for at least a week. This group includes households of PA employees, employees of local NGOs, private

sector employees who were lucky to return to their jobs after the war, and farmers' whose lands and assets have been either unaffected or sustained minor damages.

3. ***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. Poor hygiene especially of young children. Overcrowding in UNRWA school shelters and 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. Fuel is readily available, but prices are beyond the reach of most households. 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.
4. ***Despite articulating a great sense of resilience, steadfastness and ability to use various strategies to cope with their plight, the additional shock of the war has negatively affected households coping capacity and this requires rapid economic and material responses so that difficult arbitrages are not made on the allocation on resources to food versus non-food requirements.*** While pre-war coping mechanisms have been re-activated extremely quickly, 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** are made:

1. **Continue providing assistance to the pre-war destitute at the same pre-war levels.**
2. **Continue extending 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 gradually move from the current in-kind food distribution modalities to various forms of cash transfer modalities, including food vouchers, to 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).

While the full dependence of this particular group of war-affected households on external assistance, solidarity and traders' loans and additional expenditures due to the war justifies the proposed increased assistance, it is not recommended to provide a 2100 kcal ration covering all the dietary requirements, as households will either continue to sell or barter part of it in order to diversify their diet or meet other needs. Rather, a partial food ration, at the level already planned under the WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) that had been formulated for the the West Bank and Gaza before the war, could be provided simultaneously with a food voucher that permits households to access additional commodities from retailers. Food voucher- 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, but may be an issue if the restrictions of entry by the Israeli authorities are not lifted.

3. **Suspend the blanket emergency food distribution and food vouchers that has been taking place since August 2014.** These distributions were appropriate during the war and the few days thereafter when life was disrupted and the population's access to food was uncertain. Given the availability of food in the local market and what has been presented above regarding access to food, the continuation of blanket food distribution through general distribution and food vouchers is no longer justifiable.
  4. **Complement food assistance with cash grants, temporary job employment and/or in-kind assistance for repairs and rebuilding of assets, as well as land rehabilitation.** 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. For this to happen, the following medium-term recommendations for the **Food Security Sector member organisations**, assuming that conditions for recovery are met:
    - a. work together to complement food assistance being provided by UNRW, WFP and MoSA with cash grants, temporary job employment and/or in-kind assistance for repairs and rebuilding of assets, as well land rehabilitation. To the extent possible, and to maximize cost effectiveness of this assistance, the existing voucher system should be used to channel assistance to farmers.
    - b. Collaboratively 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.
    - c. enhance social protection measures by supporting cash-for-work, food-for-work and from-poor-farmers-to-poor-people programs that will assist in agriculture recovery and provide much needed employment for the new war unemployed.
    - d. collaboratively and take measures to establish interim social assistance programmes to support farming households until they restore their full productive capacity.
2. **Specifically, the members of the Food Security Sector should collaborate to:**
- a. enhance the efficiency food assistance targeting, particularly for IDPs, through the establishment common databases on the recipients of food and non-food assistance. Such a system would not only improve targeting, but would also facilitate improved responsiveness and impact monitoring.
  - b. further develop the Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning System in the Gaza Strip, building on the tools and Vulnerability, Assessment and Mapping (VAM) capacities available at FAO/WFP in Jerusalem.
  - c. support to MoSA and implementing agencies to improve equitability and inclusive social protection:
    - i. Re-targeting and strengthening of the social safety net programmes to ensure that they include the growing number of destitute cases
    - ii. Institutionalize a socio-economic and food security monitoring system to timely update key indicators and inform flexible response programming
    - iii. Streamline socio-economic and market research to address key information gaps for social protection

The EFSA was not able to gather sufficient information from the beneficiaries to guide long-term recovery interventions beyond those identified in the preceding paragraphs. Not surprisingly, priorities expressed by households and Key Informants for the next 6-18 months focused on security and personal safety, and the re-opening of the crossing points, which require international advocacy and political solutions that go much beyond early recovery interventions. If the entry of raw materials and other equipment required to repair the damages of the war on houses, infrastructure and agriculture is not allowed, as is currently the case, humanitarian assistance at pre-war levels and at increased level for those who have suffered direct losses, must be anticipated for the long-term.

## PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

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### 1. Background

On 7 July 2014, the Israeli army launched a large military operation in the Gaza Strip, codenamed “Protective Edge”, with the stated objective of stopping Palestinian rocket firing at southern Israel, destroying the military infrastructure of Hamas and other armed groups. This development marked the collapse of the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire understanding reached between Israel and Hamas in November 2012, which has been gradually undermined since December 2013. On 18 July 2014, the Israeli army launched a ground incursion into the eastern parts of the Gaza Strip, causing unprecedented levels of destruction, and triggering mass displacement and a sharp increase in casualties. *Protective Edge* marked the sixth Israeli assault on Gaza since 2006.

The impact of the assault on Palestinian children has been particularly devastating: at least 2,145 Palestinians were killed and over 11,200 were injured during the 51 days of the assault. This figure includes 362 persons who could not yet be identified or their status established. Of the initial verified cases, 1,489 are believed to be civilians, including 500 children (187 girls and 313 boys), 257 women and 282 members of armed groups. At the height of the conflict, an estimated 500,000 people – 28 % of the population - were displaced after either having fled or lost their homes<sup>1</sup>. Initial estimates suggest that more than 60,000 Palestinian homes have been either completely destroyed, seriously or partially damaged.

Infrastructure and public utilities were also severely damaged, including Gaza’s water facilities, sanitation, electricity, telecommunication networks, and transportation. Israeli military strikes also did not spare government and UN facilities, municipal centers, and public utilities, seriously impeding the provision of basic services to Gaza’s 1.8 million inhabitants. The local economy has almost completely collapsed, after the destruction of an unprecedented number of private sector assets and damage to agricultural land and fishing facilities, with serious implications for livelihoods. According to the Palestinian Authority, during the assault, up to 71 percent of the population was food insecure, as prices of basic foodstuff soared by 40 to 179 percent<sup>2</sup>.

Gaza’s only power plant was directly targeted and put out of service. Initial estimates suggest that damages sustained by this plant far exceed the previous damages that it had sustained in the 2008 assault, when it was also directly targeted, and its repair will require substantial investments and time. Unable to meet local demand through electricity purchases from Israel and Egypt, Gaza’s Electricity Company is now implementing a new distribution scheme, entailing rolling cycles of six hours of supply followed by 12 hours of outage, rendering it very difficult for a large swathes of economic sectors to resume normal operations and recuperate losses sustained during the 51 days of the assault, particularly since the cheap fuel smuggled from Egypt is no longer available.

The current crisis comes against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability. Between the second quarter of 2013 and the same quarter of 2014 the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip increased from 27.9 percent to an astounding 44.5 percent, mainly as a result of the destruction of the tunnels with Egypt and the following collapse of the construction sector of the economy. Though illegal and largely uncontrolled, the tunnel trade provided a lifeline for besieged Gaza as they were a primary supply for food and non-food items, including much needed construction materials. Additionally, former de facto government employees, including the security forces, have not been paid salaries regularly since August 2013 and no salaries at all since April 2014.

This report will present findings of a rapid and qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) as commissioned by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on behalf of the Food Security Sector. The study was conducted to assess the food security and livelihood situation of households in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of the recent Israeli assault. The assessment objectives and methodology are discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

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<sup>1</sup> Gaza Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), 27 August 2014. OCHA

<sup>2</sup> National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza, October 2014, State of Palestine



## 2. Assessment Objectives and Methodology

This joint rapid qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) –carried out by the Al-Sahel Company for Institutional Development and Communications (Al-Sahel)- 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 six researchers of the Al-Sahel Company between 15 September and 2 October 2014 and thus reflects the situation about one month 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> 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 in key activities affecting food supplies (cash crop farmers/ traditional crop farmers/ fishermen/ wholesalers/ retailers/ daily labourers/ PA employees...). Accordingly, fifteen localities throughout the Gaza Strip (urban, rural, refugee camps, areas directly and indirectly affected by the war) were visited, in which 182 in-depth interviews with different informants (individuals and organizations) and households took place.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Refer to Annex 1 for a more detailed description of the assessment methodology

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Annex 2 for the list of guidelines.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

### **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.

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 medium-term interventions. The Annexes include the EFSA methodology, a copy of the Terms of Reference, and the list of people interviewed.

## PART TWO: THE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON FOOD SECURITY

This section of the report presents the findings of the assessment. It first begins with providing an overview of the humanitarian conditions in Gaza before the war and highlights the main factors driving food insecurity and restrained livelihoods. An assessment of food availability, access and utilization is then presented. The final chapter consolidates the assessment findings and specifically addresses WFP's request for profiling the 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.

### 1. Overview of the Humanitarian and Food Security Situation Before the War

The recent assault came against the backdrop of 66 years of displacement and dispossession, 47 years of military occupation, decades of travel restrictions, and a seven-year blockade, which has crippled the economy, shattered livelihoods and prevented recovery and reconstruction efforts planned in the aftermath of the 2008 and 2012 wars. Close to 80 %<sup>6</sup> percent of Gaza's residents were living below the official poverty line<sup>7</sup> in September 2007,<sup>8</sup> when the Government of Israel enforced a blockade on Gaza and two of every three people in Gaza were receiving food aid war prior to the recent assault. Poverty rates were up to 39 percent and unemployment had hit 45 percent (after a sharp increase from 28 percent following the end of the tunnel trade in mid-2013), mostly as a result of the blockade.

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. 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 100 truckloads per day. While the blockade was slightly eased in 2010 and the average monthly truckloads allowed entry into Gaza gradually increased from 4,038 trucks per month in 2011 to 5,259 trucks per month in 2013 (or about 239 trucks per days), it remained well below the average 1,320 trucks per day that were allowed in April 2007. During the first six months of 2014, the average number of trucks allowed into Gaza through the various crossings was 2,432<sup>9</sup>, representing less than 20% of need<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup>. The nearly complete halt in imports to and exports from Gaza after 2007 resulted in a dramatic drop in manufacturing and agricultural outputs, as most items essential to private sector revitalization remain on banned lists and are inaccessible. Restrictions on imports of construction and raw materials to the private sector are still fully in place; similarly, exports to the West Bank and Israeli markets, which traditionally absorbed around 85 percent of Gaza's exports, are still restricted.

Combined with the destruction of the tunnels that were the only other unofficial supply line for Gaza (enabling an estimated \$700 million annual trade), the blockade has effectively suffocated the economy. Significantly, engagement in innovative and business-upgrading activities has dropped among Palestinian firms in recent years, driven primarily by diminished levels of activity among Gaza firms. Unemployment, which was already at unacceptably high levels, has been exacerbated.

<sup>6</sup> PCBS, Poverty in the Palestinian June 2007.

<sup>7</sup> 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)<sup>2</sup> respectively. In 2011, the relative poverty line and deep poverty line adjusted for price inflation stood at 2,293 NIS and 1,832 NIS respectively.

<sup>8</sup> "Situation Report", OCHA, 20 June 2007.

<sup>9</sup> OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin Monthly Report-May 2014, available at: [http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_the\\_humanitarian\\_monitor\\_2014\\_06\\_24\\_english.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_the_humanitarian_monitor_2014_06_24_english.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Al-Sahel interview with Mr. Mohammad Skeik, PalTrade

<sup>11</sup> PCBS, Labour Force Survey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2007, September 2007.

The agricultural sector which was the source of livelihood to some 40,000<sup>12</sup> farmers, fishermen, herders and farm labourers, was also deeply affected by the blockade. 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 who cultivate export crops. Fishermen have been limited to 6, and at times to 3, nautical miles out to sea, which forced many fishermen to stay ashore.

Decades of border restrictions and repeated assaults have destroyed livelihood opportunities and left most families in Gaza highly vulnerable to further shocks. Eighty percent of people in Gaza depend on social assistance, while social transfers (both cash and in-kind) have become an important source of income for the majority of households, accounting for approximately 16% of total household consumption overall and 31% among the poorest households prior to the assault. Some 72% of people were either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, even when taking into account UN food distributions to almost 1.1 million people.

Various indicators suggest that these figures had already increased prior to the war, due to the general decline in economic activity because of the closing of a majority of the tunnels on the border with Egypt. It can be taken as highly probable that food insecurity levels have even further increased during and in the aftermath of the assault, due to the high level of displacement, the inability to access livelihoods, especially agriculture, and the lack of economic access to food. In a recent assessment conducted by OCHA, most of the Gaza's 25 municipalities reported that farmers, herders and fishermen were heavily affected by the war, also in terms of food security, because of the loss of livelihood assets.

## 2. Availability and Prices of Food

Food availability is derived from domestic agricultural output and net food imports into Gaza Strip. In the context of the Gaza emergency, food availability has been impaired by production failures related to labour constraints during the war and loss of productive assets needed to sustain commercial food production activities. We discuss these issues in some detail later, but we first begin by discussing availability of food in the local market and whether this has been disrupted in any way by the war.

### 2.1. Staple foods availability at the retail and wholesale levels

Shop owners interviewed across the Gaza Strip have demonstrated a high level of resilience and perseverance to maintain their livelihoods despite the fact many of them have sustained physical damages to their shops, and lost significant amounts of revenue and food stocks (due to spoilage) during the war. All retailers and wholesalers interviewed, including four shops that have sustained damages, have undertaken the needed maintenance to their shops and are keeping the same business hours as pre-war. Owners of shops that have sustained damages reported repairing these damages, including replacing equipment that could not be repaired. While owners of small shops reported that they relied on credit and borrowing money to undertake the needed repairs, large shop owners reported being able to pay for the repairs they have undertaken.

While interviews with wholesalers and retailers and market visits across the Gaza Strip confirm that staple foods, including sugar, wheat flour, rice, legumes, oils, and legumes, are available in the local market at comparable pre-war prices, the stocks of these items at both the retail and wholesale levels are generally reported to be significantly lower than pre-war levels. Locally produced and imported (from Israel) dairy

*"The only choice we have is to steadfast and resume our lives. We have steadfast and overcame the wars of 2008 and 2012, and we will do the same today though the devastation is unimaginable. We will rebuild our homes, send our children to schools, re-open our shops to reclaim some normalcy in our lives."*

**A Gaza Shop Owner**

*"There are no real [food] shortages in the market. The crossings were operating [almost] as normal during the war, and nowadays too... The real problem we traders face is the shortage in demand. We can supply whatever [customers] want, but the problem is that there is hardly any demand... Our sales have plummeted by 40% at least since June [2014]".*

**A Gaza Wholesaler**

<sup>12</sup> Estimated based on PCBS Labour Force Survey and discussions with trade associations in Gaza.

products are also available in the market, but mainly in large supermarkets and the network of retail shops participating in WFP's voucher programme where availability of these products is required by WFP. These shops are generally well resourced, and have one or two electric generators.

Shortages in fresh chicken and eggs' availability due to substantial damages and destruction of a large number of poultry farms during the war have been covered by imports from Israel and -to a lesser extent- the West Bank during the five weeks following the ceasefire. Since then, local production of both fresh chicken and eggs has resumed while imports continued, thus shortages are no longer an issue<sup>13</sup>. At the time of drafting this report prices of fresh chicken and eggs in the local market was back to pre-war levels: 1 kilogram of fresh chicken and eggs sold at NIS 11 and NIS 7.5-8.3, respectively. This notwithstanding, and as we discuss later, the prices of both chicken and eggs are unaffordable for many Gazan households, especially those whose livelihoods and income have been affected.

Stock levels at both the retail and wholesale levels have not returned to their pre-war levels for almost all available items. In many instances, wholesalers and retailers reported maintaining as little as 50% and as much as 70% of their pre-war stock levels, with no distinction in this regard between small- medium- and large-scale businesses. The key reasons cited for lower stock levels by both retailers and wholesalers interviewed are: (i) lower demand than pre-war owing to large scale distribution of in-kind food assistance; (ii) limited liquidity due to unpaid debts by clients, particularly public sector employees and Hamas-appointed employees who have not received their salaries for two months, and households whose livelihoods and homes have been lost; and (iii) uncertainty about the continuation of the ceasefire. All wholesalers and retailers interviewed have cited the fluctuation of the prices of canned foods as a key reason behind lower stock levels of these items, highlighting the large-scale monetisation of canned and other foods by food assistance beneficiaries as a main driver for price fluctuations.

All retailers and wholesalers interviewed reported much lower business activity than pre-war, with most of them reporting 30-60% and 40-50% percent drop in cash and credit sales, respectively. Small neighbourhood retailers interviewed in Ash Shuja'iyeh and Beit Hanoun (where major military operations took place and large scale physical destruction was sustained) reported losing as much as 70% of their average daily sales and as much as 60% of their regular clients (many of whom have accumulated debts that they are unable to pay). As viability of these retailers' businesses has been seriously undermined as a result of the war, one third of the retailers interviewed reported laying off employees to contain costs and strengthen their ability to maintain their business, while the others reported reducing the working hours of their paid waged employees.

While retailers and wholesalers interviewed reported reducing the ceiling of their credit sales to their customers (reported to be anywhere between 40-60% pre-war) and/or limiting credit sales only to "essential food and non-food items", calculated credit sales remain an important strategy for business survival. Most retailers reported refusing credit sales to customers who have accumulated debts of more than NIS 500, while others reported that extending credit is necessary for maintaining clients and ensuring repayment of outstanding debts. Wholesalers also reported reducing the proportion of credit sales to retailers, and explained that they are forced to do so to be able to secure the cash needed for their own supply chains. In interviews, households displaced outside of their communities and

*"My monthly sales before the war used to be around NIS 4,500, two thirds of which were on credit to regular clients... Now, because I cannot repay my debts to wholesalers and no longer sell on credit, my sales have dropped to about NIS 800 per month... I have lost most of my regular clients to other shops that continue and better able than to sell on credit... All of this has negatively affected my stock levels and income."*

***A Beit Hanoun Female Shop Owner***

*"I kept the four workers I have, but I reduced their working hours... Each workers works for six per day instead of nine hours, and gets paid the same amount as before for the hours he works."*

***A Deir Al-Balah Retailer***

<sup>13</sup> Interviews with poultry farmers and key informants in the livestock sector revealed that a large proportion of farmers have resumed their livestock breeding activities, but at a much lower scale than pre-war. Key obstacles constraints preventing poultry farmers from returning to pre-war levels of production include losses sustained during heat waves and winter storms earlier in 2014, damages to farm infrastructure, and lack of working capital to secure chicks and fertilised eggs.



households whose productive assets were destroyed as a result of the war reported they have either voluntarily reduced their purchases of food on credit or, particularly in the case of displaced households, have lost the social capital they used to rely on to secure credit purchases of food and non-food items. This, however, may also be because the food assistance these households have been receiving is sufficient to cover a large proportion of subsistence needs.

### 2.3. Vegetables and fruits availability and prices

The Israeli restrictions on access and movement have been particularly damaging to the agricultural sector since 2007, rendering 35% of Gaza's agricultural land off-limits and undermining the sector's development and growth potential. The recent war dealt a serious blow to the already constrained agricultural sector in Gaza. According to the Palestinian Government, "30% of agricultural land was damaged during the war as it was part of the operational area of the Israeli military and is assumed to be contaminated by ERWs"<sup>14</sup>. Furthermore, a large number of the irrigation wells, irrigation systems, greenhouses, productive trees, post-harvest facilities and agricultural equipment were targeted and destroyed, causing unprecedented shortages and increases in the prices of fresh produce in Gaza markets for almost a two-months period.

Preliminary assessments shows that the direct value of incurred damages by the agricultural sector including plant, animal, infrastructure and fishery subsectors reached by 21 August to \$315,149,436 while the indirect losses were estimated at \$134,000,000<sup>15</sup>. The plant production sector has the highest share of damages. The areas most affected in the agricultural sector by the destruction are Khan Yunis followed by Rafah, Gaza, North Gaza, and Middle Area. The Ministry of Agriculture has estimated agricultural asset losses (by the end of the war, 26 August) at US\$ 550 million (open field vegetables, greenhouses, fruit trees, agricultural roads, water carrier lines, water wells, water tanks (cement) and plastic and cement water ponds for irrigation).

**Table -1- Assessed direct and indirect damages in the agriculture sector (estimations up to 21.08.14)<sup>16</sup>**

Sub-Sector	% of total damage	Direct Losses (US\$)	Indirect Losses (US\$)	Total Loss (US\$)
Plant Production	43.2 %	131,666,036	62,500,000	94,166,036
Animal Production	23.6 %	54,676,500	51,500,000	06,176,500
Infrastructure	30.9 %	120,806,900	18,000,000	38,806,900
Fisheries	2.2 %	8,000,000	2,000,000	10,000,000
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>		<b>315,149,436</b>	<b>134,000,000</b>	<b>449,149,436</b>

The damages and losses sustained by the agricultural sector, particularly the plant production sub-sector, have been directly reflected in shortages of fresh produce in the Gaza Strip, where the sector has been unable to meet local demand for staple fresh vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, cucumbers and eggplants for the first time in more than 20 years<sup>17</sup>. As the Ministry of Agriculture in Gaza has allowed the imports of fresh produce, and farmers in less-affected areas were able to salvage some of their crops and resume cultivation and production of short production-cycle crops such as cucumbers, no shortages were noted during market visits and interviews with fresh produce traders in Gaza's central markets, with the exception of some seasonal fruits such as watermelons and melons (cantaloupe). However, the prices of fresh fruits and vegetables (particularly tomato) in Gaza markets were noted to be higher than their usual seasonal averages due to the high prices of imports and lower than usual local production.

#### *Prices of selected fresh fruits and vegetables in Gaza's markets*

Commodity	Usual Retail Price in Early Oct. (NIS/Kg)	Retail Price in Early Oct. 2014 (NIS/Kg)
Tomato	1-2	4-5
Potato	1.5-2	2-2.5
Zucchini	3-4	4
Eggplant	1.5-2	1.5-2
Jews Mallow	1-1.5	1.5-2
Cucumber	1.5-2	2.5
Watermelon	1-2	Unavailable
Melon	2-3	Unavailable
Guava	2.5-3	3.5-4

<sup>14</sup> National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza, October 2014, State of Palestine

<sup>15</sup> Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture – Gaza Strip, August 2014.

<sup>16</sup> ARIJ, MoA, Gaza Strip, August 2014

<sup>17</sup> EFSA interview with Mr. Jamal Abu Al-Naja, Agricultural Cooperative Society for Vegetable Production and Marketing

Meetings with farmers and farmers organizations in the Gaza Strip suggest that despite the fact that farmers have resumed their farming activities, the supply of locally produced fruits and vegetables will likely decrease next harvest due to a combination of factors, including: later than usual cultivation of vegetable crops (thus lower productivity), smaller area cultivated, loss of productive land and assets, loss of sources of irrigation, and lack of financial capacity/cash to cover irrigation costs. 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 households.

#### **2.4. Wheat, flour and bread availability and prices**

According to Bakeries' Owners Association (BOA), all 60 bakeries in the Gaza Strip are functioning albeit at lower capacity (70-80 percent) than pre-war levels due to the increased levels of distribution of wheat flour by humanitarian organizations. Bread is readily available in all of these bakeries, so is wheat flour stocks. The main constraints that limit full productive capacity of bakeries are longer electricity cuts than pre-war (which drives production costs up by 30% due to the use of diesel generators) and shortages of cooking gas (deliveries are slightly less than pre-war). 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 outside Gaza City. Demand on bread peaked during the war due to shortages experienced at the time.

To circumvent the inflationary pressure caused by the increased reliance of bakeries on the expensive diesel fuel, the Ministry of Economy (MoE) in Gaza allowed local bakeries to use wheat flour distributed by UN and other organizations, which is sold in the local market for NIS 70 per 50 kg sack (compared to locally milled flour prices of NIS 90 per 50 kg). As part of this new temporary arrangement, however, MoE also required bakeries to increase the standard weight of bread sack they sell to end consumers from 2.5 kg to 2.7 kg, essentially lowering the price of bread from NIS 2.8/kg to NIS 2.6/kg. Of the five bakeries interviewed by the assessment team, four bakeries reported that at least 40% of their daily bread production since August 2014 has been made using wheat flour destined for assistance and that 30% of the current stock of flour is made up of this flour. It is quite likely that the drop in the price of bread in Gaza will not be sustained as UN and other organizations engaged in food and wheat flour distribution improve their targeting and market monitoring processes after the war, and as long as electricity supply does not improve.

The assessment was only able to meet with Al-Salam Mill, which is the largest of Gaza's seven flour mills and one of the main local suppliers of wheat flour for UNRWA and WFP. The inability of Gaza's mills to operate during the war and for a few days afterwards combined with the receipt of UNRWA of in-kind donations of wheat flour during the war has forced both organizations to put their requisitions for wheat flour from contracted local mills on hold. Consequently, and in light of local bakeries increased reliance on assistance flour, Gaza's mills have not yet returned to their pre-war levels of production. The interview with Al-Salam suggests that mills are incurring higher operational costs than pre-war due to electricity cuts, as well as additional storage costs due to delayed orders. While this raises concern about the future costs and prices of locally milled wheat flour, the availability of flour in the local market has been unaffected and wheat flour will likely continue to be available in the local market to meet local demand unless the closure regime imposed by Israel changes drastically.

*"We have purchased 10,000 MT of wheat to mill for UNRWA's planned distributions in September and October. As a result of UNRWA's receipt of flour donations during the war, we did not receive any orders from UNRWA until a few days ago when we were asked to deliver MT 1,000 of milled wheat ... The delay in UNRWA's order has forced us to keep the wheat in storage in Israel and this has cost us around US\$ 54,000 of storage fees so far. [This is an unforeseen cost that comes] in addition to cost overruns caused by the increased reliance on electric generators, which we not figured out how we will be able to recuperate."*

**Al-Salam Mills Manager**

### **3. Access to Food**

Food access refers to the household's ability to get food in the marketplace or from other sources (transfers, gifts, in-kind food assistance, etc.). In the context of this EFSA, food access was found to depend largely on

household purchasing power (i.e. economic access), level of assistance received, and temporal market conditions. 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, households of fishermen whose boats or the boats on which they used to work were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Households hosting and/or financially supporting displaced households face similar food access difficulties, but are generally less affected. 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 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

At the time of this writing, the majority of IDPs that have taken refuge in UNRWA schools and other public and institutional shelters have returned home, though a significant proportion of whom are yet to find a durable solution for their plight (see box below). As of late September, around 62,000 IDPs were still living in 19 UNRWA collective centres (CCs), 750 in one government school, and about 40,000-50,000 with host families. Findings related to food access being different for IDPs in UNRWA collective centres, IDPs with host families and host families, are presented separately here below.

#### IDPs in UNRWA collective centres

Interviewed IDPs in UNRWA CCs are receiving ready-to-eat food rations on a daily basis. These rations are determined on the basis of household size, and comprise canned meat or tuna, cream cheese or feta, beans, chickpeas (beans and/or paste) , plain/flavored milk, cake/halawe and bread. Daily food rations also include a fresh vegetable bag containing enough tomatoes and cucumbers to prepare a small salad. UNRWA and WFP work together to provide these rations to the CCs, with WFP input including bread, milk and beans, and UNRWA providing the remainder. In addition to the daily rations, most IDPs interviewed (33 households out of 48 households interviewed) reported being beneficiaries of WFP's Food Voucher Programme, where they have received one smart card that gets electronically credited with NIS 240 per month. These households use their cards to redeem food and non-food items from certain shops close to the school in which they take shelter. Moreover, a considerable proportion of interviewed IDPs (39 out of 48 interviewed) have reported receiving one-off emergency food assistance while in schools (during the war and after the ceasefire), with several of them reporting receiving such assistance more than once. One-off distributions of emergency food assistance was reported to have been received from various organizations, including Global Communities (CHF), UNRWA/WFP, Qatar Charity, Première Urgence, and Mercy Corps/USAID. Over and above, IDPs in UNRWA CCs who used to receive regular food assistance from UNRWA's, WFP's and MoSA's social safety nets programmes reported continuing to receive this assistance while in the

*The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, which is the current authoritative document on durable solutions for IDPs, states that "[a] durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement".<sup>1</sup>*

*Return – only return – to the area where a person has been forced out from, does not necessarily qualify as a durable solution, and the displaced person might still be considered an IDP. For example, IDPs who have physically returned to their communities may find that they are unable to rebuild destroyed houses or reclaim their land, because the land is now inaccessible or they have no means to reclaim their livelihoods<sup>1</sup>*

*Therefore, Palestinians who return to the area from which they have been forced to flee, if they are still at risk of displacement and do not achieve and enjoy their human rights without assistance and protection, continue to be IDPs.*

centres.

Even though almost all interviewed IDPs in CCs complained about the adequacy of food rations they receive from UNRWA and WFP in terms of quantity and variety, food consumption data collected from these households does not indicate that such complaints are warranted. In fact, it is quite clear that food assistance provided to IDPs in CCs, particularly when combined with other sources and forms of food assistance IDPs receive, both ensures access of displaced households to adequate food diversity and far exceeds the minimum caloric needs of these households. This is particularly true for: (i) small households who have multiple sources of food assistance; and (ii) households whose members are not all present in the schools but receive full rations; The only exception that can be made in this regard relates to the inadequate constitution of the regular food rations to the special food consumption needs of some IDPs, such as toddlers, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and ailing and recovering persons who are believed to constitute a relatively large number of IDPs in UNRWA's school shelters<sup>18</sup>.

The above notwithstanding, it is important to note that displaced households that remain in CCs, such as those of UNRWA, were found to be the worst off among Gaza's IDPs as most of them have either lost their livelihoods and social capital<sup>19</sup> during the war, or were already in dire economic straits well before the war. These households are entirely reliant on humanitarian assistance and are unable to leave the CCs without higher levels and different forms of assistance. This may explain the fact that almost all IDPs interviewed in CCs reported monetising all or part of the food assistance they received during the month preceding the assessment at least twice (and some as many as twice a week) to meet other expenditure needs, such as clothing, transport, school supplies, medicines, and preferred foods not covered in the assistance packages received.

The limited access to cash among IDPs (especially those who lost their main source of income, breadwinner or social capital) 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. While reintegration assistance cash payments<sup>20</sup> were paid out to displaced households from the Hamas authorities in Gaza, Qatar Charity and the Office of the President, these payments do not seem to have been received by all IDPs, and they are hardly sufficient, given the current import restrictions, to ensure the resumption of livelihoods for households that received them. This is particularly true for IDPs who have old debts to repay, have no steady source of income, and have new expenditures to worry about (e.g., care for an injured household member, settling debts associated with displacement, etc.). The lack of a steady income will continue to constrain these household's economic access to food, resumption of pre-war livelihoods, and ability (in terms of both financial and social capital) to secure temporary housing outside the schools. This may explain why the majority of IDPs currently in CCs have been reticent –even unwilling– to leave their school shelter and use the cash they received to rent a home.

### **IDPs with host families and host families**

Access to food is generally not problematic for IDPs who are staying with host families, though foods consumed by this category of IDPs was found to be quite monotonous and lacking variety. IDPs with host families who lost their source of income as a result of the war and who have not received their salaries for several months seemed to be particularly affected by the lack of food diversity. This, however, was also the case with a great

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<sup>18</sup> UNRWA provided HEBs from WFP specifically for toddlers 6 months -2 years throughout much of the war, but there was a lack of consensus among WFP and UNICEF and other nutritionists as to whether or not it was best to give these to them, so distribution of HEBs eventually stopped. Expert advice sought by UNRWA concluded that toddlers would receive sufficient nutrition from the regular rations and special supplement was not required. While this conclusion is most probably true theoretically, the EFSA found that in practice IDPs opt not to share the whole of the variety of food packages they receive with their children. This is particularly true for canned foods, which constitute a significant portion of the package IDPs receive. At the time of drafting this report, UNRWA had put in place a system to track pregnant and lactating women provide extra rations for them, along with any IDPs who require special food rations for a medically-based need.

<sup>19</sup> Loss of social capital includes death of extended family members who would otherwise provide shelter and assistance to IDPs, and loss of easy physical access to neighbors, friends and neighborhood shops that would provide assistance to IDPs in various forms, including cash and credit.

<sup>20</sup> The assessment noted three main sources and amounts of cash assistance received by IDPs, Hamas authorities seems to have paid US\$ 2,000 for households whose homes were fully destroyed or uninhabitable. Families made up of several households who used to live together and had their 2-3 storey homes destroyed received as much as US\$ 5,000. Qatar Charity also seems to have provided US\$ 1,000 to some households whose home have been destroyed. The Office of the President assisted the same category of households with a one-off cash payment of NIS 300. While the assessment was unable to assess the coverage of the mentioned cash assistance, interviews with IDPs strongly suggest that cash assistance provided did not cover all IDPs in Gaza.

proportion of IDPs in UNRWA collective centres and a considerable proportion of non-IDP households interviewed and who have also lost their source of income during the war.

Displaced households with host families and host families interviewed indicated that food is accessible to them from a variety of sources, including: food assistance (from UNRWA for registered refugee households and households registered in schools, 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 staying with host families and 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 increased assistance in the short- and medium-term. At present, and while receiving less food assistance than IDPs in UNRWA collective centres, displaced households with host families seem to be well-targeted by humanitarian organizations, with 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), while many have received similar cash assistance as IDPs in UNRWA collective centres. What remains to be provided, however, to restore some self-sufficiency capacity, are cash for rent and reintegration needs and employment for members who have lost their jobs and who have been chronically unemployed, i.e. a steady source of income.

In interviews, both refugee and 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 are sharing their resources with the families they host and, as a result, report increased expenditures on food and water and reduced quantities and variety of food. The majority of host families interviewed reported receiving no assistance in the past month. While host families interviewed reported willingness to continue sharing resources with the families they host, including providing shelter, their food access is believed to be particularly affected.

*“There isn’t a single landmark left in my land to help me understand where exactly I am standing in my land. The land is completely destroyed, and nothing is left of it except the stand and tank tracks... Thousands [of dollars] are needed to repair it.”*

***Farmer from Bani Suhaila***

### **3.2. Farmers whose lands and productive assets have been destroyed or seriously affected (plant and livestock)**

Both physical and economic access to food for farmers whose sources of irrigation, lands and/or productive assets have been destroyed or severely damaged, as well as livestock farmers who have lost their animals and animal sheds during the war have significantly worsened. Among these, farmers whose homes were also destroyed can be considered worst off. These farmers were found to be generally well-targeted by UNRWA’s and WFP’s emergency food assistance programmes, and are now heavily reliant on this assistance for food. The majority of them have received some sort of cash assistance from sources cited earlier in the report. Discussions with these farmers and members of their household strongly suggest that they not only do not have sufficient cash or savings to reinvest in building up their livelihood assets, but also have outstanding debts to pay. They will thus need to be provided food assistance for the foreseen future until they are able to reclaim their livelihoods. While the assessment could not determine the number of farming households in this category with a great level of certainty, discussions with farmer organizations suggest that at least 10-15% of Gaza’s farmers (in both plant and animal production sub-sectors), or roughly about 1,500-2,000 farmers, fall into this category. The largest concentration of these farmers is believed to be found in north- and south-east parts of Gaza City, and in the eastern parts of Khan Yunis, and namely in the communities of Biet Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Khuza’a, Abbasan, Bani-Suhaila and Al-Qarara.

Farmers’ whose agricultural assets had only been partially destroyed and whose sources of irrigation have not been greatly affected have resumed farming activities, albeit at a significantly lower scale than pre-war. Most interviewed farmers in this category reported tapping their social capital for loans to resume their farming activities, including credit from input suppliers, and indicated that without such credit they would not have



been able to resume their livelihood activities. Discussions with these farmers revealed and the few interviews conducted with agrovet input suppliers suggest, however, that input suppliers are now reluctant to extend the same levels of credit they used to grant their buyers prior to the war, thereby limiting the capacity of farmers to resume their production activities at the same scale as before the war. Evidence collected from these interviewed suggests that the availability of credit from input suppliers in Gaza has dropped by 30-50% from pre-war levels lower than pre-war, with large suppliers reporting the least reductions in their credit sales. Livestock farmers whose animal shed were relatively unaffected, are not restocking their animals as a result of limited access to credit, and of fear of the deterioration of the situation. Many of the small and large ruminant farmers reported that the lack of availability of breeding stock is a particular constraint to their ability to resume their livelihoods to scale.

These farmers are currently facing greater economic access difficulties than before the war due to a combination of factors, including loss of harvest, death of animals, higher input costs, higher costs of irrigation due to increased reliance on diesel generators for irrigation, and diversion of income (including, where applicable, non-agricultural income) to land and agricultural assets rehabilitation. This notwithstanding, these farmers do not seem to be facing serious food access problems, and this is mainly because the current levels of assistance they receive covers their consumption needs. Continuation of food assistance to these farmers will likely have positive economic transfer effects on their livelihoods, but they also will need different levels of cash assistance (possibly through cash-for-work schemes), materials (e.g. for repair of irrigation systems, poultry farms etc.) to be able to fully recover and restore their livelihoods, as well as repay their debts. According to Gaza farmer cooperatives and key informants met by the EFSA team, anywhere between 10,00-12,000 farmers, or about 60% of active farmers in the plant and animal production sub-sectors in the Gaza Strip have resumed their production activities, though not at pre-war scale.

### 3.3. Fisherfolk

Direct losses in the fishery sector resulting from targeted shelling by Israeli battle ships and airstrikes that the assessment could verify are 16 small fishing boats that were completely destroyed and 45 others that sustained partial damage, one large launch boat that drowned at bay for unknown reasons, and 36 rooms used by some 120 fishermen to store fishing gear. Equipment damaged beyond repair in these rooms include sonar, fishing finding and GPS equipment, boating motors, nets, and fishing poles. While damages sustained by the fishery sector are relatively small in comparison with damages sustained by the plant and animal production sectors, losses linked to lost fishing revenue during the war are quite substantial and have negatively impacted fisherfolk's food access to food during the war.

Interviews with fisherfolk suggest that fishing activities resumed quickly. About 60% of Gaza's fisherfolk resumed fishing within 24 hours of the ceasefire, and close 80-85% (about 3,500-4,000) were believed to have resumed fishing at the time of this writing. In interviews, these fisherfolk and their representative organizations reported that the volume of fish catch during the first 10 days after the ceasefire was substantially higher than the period immediately prior to the war, but still significantly less than the volume caught in the preceding two years when fishermen could access to fishing in Egyptian waters was possible. Fishing remains restricted to the pre-war allowable distance of 6 nautical miles, thereby severely constraining fishing livelihoods and income from fishing. Small boat owners and their workers

*"Fishing conditions have not improved at all [after the ceasefire]... Fishing remains restricted to 6 nautical miles, and at times the Israeli naval ships fire at fishing boats when they approach 5 nautical miles... Fish catch is much lower than what it can be access to more of the sea is granted."*

**Chair, Al-Tawfiq Fishermen Cooperative**

*"I estimate that anywhere between 60-70% of vegetable growers [in Deir Al-Balah and the central area of Gaza] have resumed planting their lands... Most have purchased seedlings, replacement irrigation networks and other supplied on credit... If farmers do not return to their lands, their debtors will start knocking their doors asking for repayment. In other words, farmers have no choice other returning to their farms, even if this means more loss."*

**Board Member, Agricultural Cooperative Society for Vegetable Production and Marketing**

continue to be disproportionately affected by these restrictions: the high-value fish species small seiner boats are most suitable for catching are abundantly found beyond the allowable distance.

Fisherfolk who have not resumed fishing activities are estimated to be in the realm of 700-800, and these are mainly fishermen who either owned or worked on boats that have been destroyed or seriously damaged during the war and have not been able to find an alternative boat on which to work, or laid off daily-waged fishermen whose employers (typically launch and trawler boat owners) wanted to cut their fishing costs. Interviews with fishermen from this group revealed two notable findings, namely: (i) owners of destroyed boats are unable to replace their boats due lack of cash as well as lack of boats for sale on the local market ; and (ii) fishermen who worked on destroyed boats have not been able to find alternative work in the fishing sector, and whatever temporary work they were able to find outside this sector only enable them to secure one quarter to one third of their pre-war income.

Accordingly, economic access to food has worsened from pre-war an estimated 1,200-1,500 fisherfolk households from the two categories above as a result of the loss of fishing assets and/or fishing jobs. 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 40% of what their total household consumption.

### 3.4. Laid-off private sector workers

While final figures are not yet available about the level of unemployment post-assault, the widespread devastation of the economic sector and the prolonged suspension of work indicate that the rate of unemployment has jumped significantly and will remain higher than the pre-war for a prolonged period. As noted earlier, the private sector in Gaza has undergone more than a decade of strife since 2000, which has resulted in a dramatic drop in manufacturing and agricultural outputs, as most items essential to private sector revitalization remain on banned lists and are inaccessible. Combined with the destruction of the tunnels that were the only other unofficial supply line for Gaza (enabling an estimated US\$700 million annual trade), the blockade has effectively suffocated the economy. The assault on Gaza has been a further, severe shock. Thousands of factories and commercial establishments are damaged or destroyed and the agricultural and fishing industries are facing compound challenges that are very difficult to overcome. Unemployment, which was already at unacceptably high levels, has been exacerbated.

The industrial sector in Gaza is mainly comprised of small and medium sized firms representing 94 percent of the total industrial enterprises in Gaza. Over 50% of enterprises across the industrial, furniture, garment, textile, and agribusiness sectors were closed over recent years due to a combination of physical damage and deteriorating market conditions caused by trade restrictions. The Palestinian Federation of Industries (PFI) reports that the number of industrial workers dropped from 350,000 in 2005 to less than 15,000 in mid-2013, which is a strong indication of further shrinking industrial base in Gaza.

*“Before the war, we used to purchase 4 MT of fresh milk from farmers on a daily basis for processing, but today, due to the losses sustained by our suppliers, we are only able to secure 1 MT. Consequently, we are using powder milk to compensate for of the shortage in fresh milk supply, but we have not returned to our pre-war levels of production due to electricity cuts... [As a result of the increased reliance on powder milk and electric generators has caused] our production costs have increased substantially... We have not laid off any of our [12] workers, but we have begun a work rotation schedule where each of our workers gets about 10 days of work per month [instead of 22-24 days pre-war].”*

**Owner, Haya Dairy Factory**

*“We had 18 workers before the war and we had to dismiss 6 of them due to lower production... We hope to be able to bring them back soon if the situation improves”*

**Owner, Abu Ayta Dairy Products**

Electricity has become the top binding constraint reported by Palestinian firms interviewed across the Gaza Strip, second only to the blockade which has virtually ended the operations of key export sectors. Gaza's weakened industrial firms suffered both direct and indirect losses as a result of the assault. According to PFI, 990 industrial enterprises were impacted by the war: 297 factories and workshops were destroyed and 693 were partially damaged. The construction industry suffered the biggest losses, making up 28% of damaged industries, while the greatest concentration of damage was in Gaza City, where 68% of the damaged industries were located. Many industrial facilities had to either suspend or substantially scale down their production because of power shortages and increasing cost of production. This has resulted in dismissal of workers because firms were unable to pay wages.

*"I got an SMS on my mobile phone saying that I have a food voucher in the value of NIS 240 that I could redeem from [X] supermarket... I do not know how I got the voucher, or who determined that I needed assistance, but reason may be that my house sustained some damages... Most neighborhood families received a voucher, so I was not surprised that I got one too. "*

***A Gaza City PA employee whose home sustained minor damages***

Gaza's trade sector, which is mainly comprised of micro enterprises that are strongly linked with local industry and agriculture, has also been heavily affected by the war. Examples of how these effects have materialised on retail and wholesale activities are presented earlier in this report. According to the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, over 4,000 commercial enterprises engaged in trade and services were directly affected during the war, of which about one third were destroyed or sustained severe damage. Reportedly, all of these enterprises were forced to lay off all or some of their workers.

Interviewed workers in services, industrial and agriculture sectors dismissed after the war seemed to have lower access to food than pre-war, though most seem to be already benefitting from food and cash-transfer assistance programmes, including WFP's food voucher programme. Food assistance received by the households of dismissed private sector workers as well as debts authorised by shop-keepers were found to comprise 40% and 50% of food sources for these households, respectively. Food and cash assistance were thus identified to be priority by these households. Households of dismissed workers who have lost their home and are currently in UNRWA's school shelters, however, identified shelter and cash for rent as their top priority, but also acknowledged their need for continuation of food assistance.

### **3.5. Directly unaffected and less vulnerable households**

While access to food has been affected for a very large swathe of the of Gaza's population as the preceding paragraphs show, it has been largely unaffected for households whose livelihoods were not directly or whose homes have sustained minor damages. Economic access to food of households interviewed in this category seems to have improved after the war as most of them have received food assistance, including from UNRWA, WFP and solidarity campaigns, for which they had been previously ineligible. This group includes households of PA employees, employees of local NGOs, private sector employees who were lucky to return to their jobs after the war, and farmers' whose lands and assets have been either unaffected or sustained minor damages.

## **4. Food Utilisation**

Food utilization is determined by food safety and quality, how much a person eats and how well a person converts food to energy, all of which affect proper biological use of food, nutritional status and growth. Adequate food utilization requires a diet providing sufficient energy and essential nutrients, potable water, adequate sanitation, access to health services and proper feeding practices and illness management. All elements required for adequate food utilisation have been negatively affected by the war, thereby undermining food utilisation for the entire Gaza population, and particularly for those directly affected by the war and its consequences.

The water and waste water sectors were at crisis point prior to the assault. Gaza relies almost completely on its coastal aquifer, which is being over-abstracted and infiltrated by sewage, pollution, and sea-water. In a report

titled “Gaza in 2020: A liveable Place?”<sup>21</sup>, UNRWA warned that “the situation in relation to water for the Palestinians of Gaza is critical”. In this report, UNRWA notes:

*“Gaza relies almost completely on the underlying coastal aquifer, which is replenished by rainfall and runoff. Its recharge is estimated at 50-60 million cubic metres (MCM) annually, with current abstraction at an estimated 160 MCM per year, which is expected to increase by 60 per cent to 260 MCM in 2020. As groundwater levels subsequently decline, seawater infiltrates from the nearby Mediterranean Sea. This contamination is compounded by pollution of the aquifer by nitrates from sewage and fertilizers from irrigation of farmlands. As a consequence, the availability of clean water is already limited for most Palestinians in Gaza, with 90 per cent of the water being unsafe for drinking without treatment. The aquifer could become unusable as early as 2016, with the damage irreversible by 2020.”*

With hundreds of water and sanitation facilities targeted during the war, conditions in the water and sanitation sector have worsened significantly, leaving at least 450,000 people vulnerable to serious public health risks. Primary water pipelines, water reservoirs, house connections, sewage pipelines, wastewater treatment plants, and sewage pumping stations were directly targeted and damaged. Well pumping stations, waste water treatment plants, and the desalination process are now disabled by electricity and fuel shortages. The General Director of Gaza’s Coastal Water Management Unit (CWMU) noted the following specific damages in an interview with the assessment:

- Between 20-30% of water and sewage networks remain damaged, mostly in Khan Younis.
- More than 10% of wells were destroyed or damaged, mostly in Gaza City, Beit Hanoun, and Deir Al-Balah.
- Around 90% of water (and sanitation) facilities rely on electric power for pumping water to the population, and the operation of these wells is nearly at half of its pre-war capacity due to power supply cuts. Water provision is now cut or severely restricted, with residents of North Gaza and Khan Yunis most affected.
- Between 30-50% household water storage capacity was damaged and many households lack the electricity or pumps to fill water storage when water is available.

Despite rapid repair by the CWMU of 80% of priority repairs to infrastructure, between 20-30% of Gaza’s population (450,000 people) remains unable to access municipal water. In interviews, households in Khuza’a, Beit Hanoun and Ash Shuja’iyeh complained about water access difficulties on the one hand, and the increasing costs of desalinated and tankered water they have to buy on the other. According to the CMWA, although water is being pumped into the water system in these communities, in certain neighbourhoods households are not receiving any water network damages, undetected network water losses, and limited system pressure. For many households in these neighbourhoods, and particularly for those whose livelihoods and sources of income have been affected, water purchases are creating financial stress that they are coping with through reducing water consumption.

On 22 August 2014, the WASH Cluster highlighted several difficulties in ensuring adequate water supply to Gaza’s population, and noted the following:

*“Due to the deterioration of the aquifer, the water from the municipal network is not potable because it is too saline. Therefore potable water (i.e. water for drinking) has to be supplied separately. In areas where CMWU has already constructed desalination plants, the water is ‘blended’ with the saline groundwater and then becomes potable. However, in all other areas, potable water is produced by the private sector and is supplied by water trucking. The fact that this water trucking depends on an unregulated private sector has led to major problems in emergency response.”<sup>22</sup>*

Major identified water supply bottlenecks identified in the above Wash Cluster report, and which persisted at the time of this writing, include electricity and fuel shortages for the operation of water pumping stations,

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<sup>21</sup> UNRWA, Gaza in 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Wash Cluster-State of Palestine, Situation Report: 22 August 2014; available at:

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/20140822%20WASH%20Cluster%20Situation%20Report.pdf>

desalination plants and sewage treatment plants; limited financial resources of service providers; and limited availability of water trucks, storage, generators, and replacement parts for pumps.

Water and sanitation are particularly problematic for IDPs in UNRWA's collective centres, despite major efforts. The massive number of IDPs in schools visited by the assessment is overwhelming the shelters and their shared accommodations. IDPs interviewed in schools have systematically complained about limited access to water and lack of hygiene. Most of them have also complained about the lack of access to cooking ware and fuel to prepare food.

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. Poor hygiene especially of young children. Overcrowding in UNRWA collective centres and 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. Fuel is readily available, but prices are beyond the reach of most households. 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.



## 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 in the immediate- and medium-term (1-5 months and 6-18 months). Medium term needs are based on the assumption that identified immediate needs will be met. 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 for programming purposes.

### PROFILE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS AND THEIR NEEDS

Group	Profile of vulnerable group	Immediate (1-3 months) Needs	medium-term (6-18 months) needs
<b>IDPs in UNRWA Collective Centres and with Host Families</b>	<p><b>General profile:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- House destroyed and fully depend on others for their shelter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Particularly vulnerable households within group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Households that lost their main source of income and/or productive assets (including farmers and fisherfolk).</li> <li>- Households who have not received any cash assistance during the war.</li> <li>- Households who have outstanding housing- and business-related loans and/or debts.</li> <li>- Households with members with special needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Least affected within group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Households whose main source of livelihood and income has not been affected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food and non-food assistance to cover entire household needs.</li> <li>- Improved access to water and sanitation.</li> <li>- Provision of hot meals and/or access to cooking facilities within schools.</li> <li>- Cash and material support to cover costs of rent and/or temporary housing, purchase of basic durable household assets such as kitchen supplies and equipment and bedding materials.</li> <li>- Temporary jobs for unemployed household members and those who have lost their jobs, possibly through cash-for-work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuation of food assistance.</li> <li>- Assistance in recovering productive assets, including land rehabilitation, repair of greenhouses, poultry farms and irrigation systems, and boats and nets.</li> <li>- Assistance for return/resettlement, including as appropriate home reconstruction and reintegration.</li> </ul>
<b>Host Families</b>	<p><b>General profile:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Households who are hosting IDPs</li> </ul> <p><b>Particularly vulnerable households within group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Households already food insecure, vulnerable and/or social safety nets programme beneficiaries before the war</li> <li>- Large households with high dependency ratio.</li> <li>- Limited income sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cash assistance to meet increasing food and non-food needs including water storage tanks, water, and bedding items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If hosting is prolonged, continuation of cash assistance.</li> </ul>
<b>Farmers: Plant</b>	<p><b>General profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fruit and vegetable farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food and non-food assistance to cover entire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistance in recovering productive assets,</li> </ul>

Group	Profile of vulnerable group	Immediate (1-3 months) Needs	medium-term (6-18 months) needs
<b>Production</b>	<p>across the Gaza Strip whose lands and agricultural assets have been damaged and who have witnessed harvest failures as a result of the war.</p> <p><b>Particularly vulnerable households within group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmers who have lost access to their source of irrigation, thereby unable to resume farming activities.</li> <li>- Farmers who have lost all of their harvests during the war.</li> </ul>	<p>household needs (only if farmer has not resumed activity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for improved access to water for irrigation.</li> <li>- Cash/in-kind support for the rehabilitation of greenhouses and irrigation networks to enable resumption of activity.</li> <li>- Job-creation to secure income for the household.</li> </ul>	<p>including land rehabilitation, removal of rubble and debris, reconstruction of greenhouses, re-establishment of irrigation systems.</p>
<b>Farmers: Animal Production</b>	<p><b>General profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Livestock breeders across the Gaza Strip whose agricultural assets have been damaged and sustained losses during the war.</li> </ul> <p><b>Particularly vulnerable households within group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmers who have lost all or the majority of their animals and/or had their farms completely destroyed, thereby unable to resume activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food and non-food assistance to cover entire household needs (only if farmer has not resumed activity).</li> <li>- Cash/in-kind support to enable building of animal stock and resumption of farming activity, including provision of fodder, basic farm equipment, water and fuel for farm operation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistance in recovering productive assets, including rehabilitation and reconstruction of farms and supply of animal feed and fuel.</li> </ul>
<b>Fisherfolk whose boats and essential gear has been destroyed and/or seriously damaged</b>	<p><b>General profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Owners of fishing boats whose boats have been destroyed or seriously damaged.</li> </ul> <p><b>Particularly vulnerable households within group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- owners of small fishing boats.</li> <li>- Fisherfolk who have lost all of their fishing boats/assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food and non-food assistance to cover entire household needs (only if farmer has not resumed activity).</li> <li>- Cash/in-kind support to enable recovery of assets.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>
<b>Dismissed Workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lost job as a result of the employers having been affected by the war</li> <li>- Member of households already food insecure before the war (e.g. large families)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Cash-for-work/temporary employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cash- and/or food-for-work and assistance in locating employment opportunity</li> </ul>

## PART FOUR: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The 51 day assault on the Gaza Strip has caused unprecedented loss of life and devastation. It has 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 massive displacement, loss of livelihoods and productive assets, and weakened capacity of the public sector to provide essential services, including electricity, water and sanitation, and essential health services. Hundreds of private sector enterprise have been directly targeted during the war, rendering thousands of Gazan unemployed. The agricultural sector was also severely affected, and will need several years to recover for the direct and indirect damages it has sustained. 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.

While negotiations for a long-term ceasefire between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian factions are still underway, it seems that an initial agreement has been reached between the parties to ease the Blockade that has been imposed on Gaza since 2007 to facilitate recovery and reconstruction efforts in Gaza. Without such agreement, and until the closure is lifted and freedom of movement for both people and goods is granted, there will be little scope for action other than that of humanitarian-emergency nature to address food insecurity. Hence, and anticipation of the lifting of Blockade, 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, while protecting and gradually restoring their livelihoods and productive capacity.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

5. **Continue providing assistance to the pre-war destitute at the same pre-war levels.**
  - d. Meet the basic food needs of the destitute population through general food distribution in order to prevent hunger and limit distress coping mechanisms.
  - e. Ensure that there is no break in the pipeline of food to destitute cases.
3. **Continue extending 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 gradually move from the current in-kind food distribution modalities to various forms of cash transfer modalities, including food vouchers, to cover the entirety of their food needs as well as include an extra economic support to enable them to:
  - e. access an alternative housing (pay the rent) or repair their own house;
  - f. compensate for the direct loss of income from their own production or job, until their access is restored;
  - g. rebuild a minimum of domestic and productive assets; and,
  - h. enable economic access to school and health (for non-refugees who do not benefit from UNRWA free services).

While the full dependence of this particular group of war-affected households on external assistance, solidarity and traders' loans and additional expenditures due to the war justifies the proposed increased assistance, it is not recommended to provide a 2100 kcal ration covering all the dietary requirements, as households will either continue to sell or barter part of it in order to diversify their diet or meet other needs. Rather, a partial food ration, at the level already planned under the WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) that had been formulated for the the West Bank and Gaza before the war, could be provided simultaneously with a food voucher that permits households to access additional commodities from retailers.

Food voucher- 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, but may be an issue if the restrictions of entry by the Israeli authorities are not lifted.

4. **Suspend the blanket emergency food distribution and food vouchers that has been taking place since August 2014** . These distributions were appropriate during the war and the few days thereafter when life was disrupted and the population's access to food was uncertain. Given the availability of food in the local market and what has been presented above regarding access to food, the continuation of blanket food distribution through general distribution and food vouchers is no longer justifiable.
5. **Complement food assistance with cash grants, temporary job employment and/or in-kind assistance for repairs and rebuilding of assets, as well as land rehabilitation.** 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. For this to happen, the following medium-term recommendations for the **Food Security Sector member organisations**, assuming that conditions for recovery are met:
  - a. work together to complement food assistance being provided by UNRW, WFP and MoSA with cash grants, temporary job employment and/or in-kind assistance for repairs and rebuilding of assets, as well land rehabilitation. To the extent possible, and to maximize cost effectiveness of this assistance, the existing voucher system should be used to channel assistance to farmers.
  - b. Collaboratively 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.
  - c. enhance social protection measures by supporting cash-for-work, food-for-work and from-poor-farmers-to-poor-people programs that will assist in agriculture recovery and provide much needed employment for the new war unemployed.
  - d. collaboratively and take measures to establish interim social assistance programmes to support farming households until they restore their full productive capacity.
6. **Specifically, the members of the Food Security Sector should collaborate to:**
  - a. enhance the efficiency food assistance targeting, particularly for IDPs, through the establishment common databases on the recipients of food and non-food assistance. Such a system would not only improve targeting, but would also facilitate improved responsiveness and impact monitoring.
  - b. further develop the Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning System in the Gaza Strip, building on the tools and Vulnerability, Assessment and Mapping (VAM) capacities available at FAO/WFP in Jerusalem. 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 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, pesticide, spare parts, fuel etc.) will be important.
  - c. support to MoSA and implementing agencies to improve equitability and inclusive social protection:
    - i. Re-targeting and strengthening of the social safety net programmes to ensure that they include the growing number of destitute cases
    - ii. Institutionalize a socio-economic and food security monitoring system to timely update key indicators and inform flexible response programming

iii. Streamline socio-economic and market research to address key information gaps for social protection

The EFSA was not able to gather sufficient information from the beneficiaries to guide early recovery interventions beyond those identified in the preceding paragraphs. Not surprisingly, priorities expressed by households and Key Informants for the next 6-18 months focused on security and personal safety, and the re-opening of the crossing points, which require international advocacy and political solutions that go much beyond early recovery interventions. In fact, the latter are a moot point if the entry of raw materials and other equipment required to repair the damages of the war on houses, infrastructure and agriculture is not allowed, as is currently the case. In this eventuality, humanitarian assistance at pre-war levels and at increased level for those who have suffered direct losses, must be anticipated for the long-term.



## ANNEXES

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## Annex 1: EFSA Methodological Approach

### Overall Goal, Objective and Approach

The overall goal of the rapid qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) is 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 6-18 months. The specific objectives of the assessment are:

- 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 6-18 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	Governorate	Communities	Rationale for Selection	Profile of HH/KIs to be interviewed (not necessarily mutually exclusive)
North	North Gaza	Beit Lahia	Predominantly agricultural area, which is believed to have sustained medium damages (razing of agricultural lands, home demolitions, and infrastructure damages). One of the areas that has been continuously attacked by Israeli military forces. Households from this community are likely to return to their homes after a period of transitory displacement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs taking shelter in Beit Lahia schools.</li> <li>- Farming households.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment in Agriculture.</li> <li>- Livestock/ poultry breeders.</li> <li>- Beit Lahia cooperatives.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> <li>- Employees in private sector.</li> </ul>
		Beit Hanoun (specifically, Al-Boura, Al-Wadi, and Al-Masreyeen Street communities)	A prime agricultural area where significant infrastructure damage has been recorded. In terms of presumed level of damages, Beit Hanoun is assumed to have sustained very high levels of damage. An estimated 300-500 housing units have been completely destroyed in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs taking shelter in Beit Hanoun schools.</li> <li>- Farming households.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment in Agriculture.</li> <li>- Livestock/ poultry breeders.</li> <li>- Beit Hanoun-based cooperatives.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> <li>- Employees in private sector.</li> </ul>
		Jabalia Refugee Camp (focusing on eastern parts)	The most densely populated RC in the Gaza Strip, and one which was heavily bombarded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs with host families and host families (separately interviewed).</li> <li>- Households of PA employees.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment/</li> </ul>

Region	Governorate	Communities	Rationale for Selection	Profile of HH/KIs to be interviewed (not necessarily mutually exclusive)
			However, community is presumed to have sustained relatively low levels of damage.	<p>source of income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmer households.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> <li>- Employees in private sector.</li> </ul>
Middle	Gaza	Juhur A'Deek	Some neighbourhoods of this relatively agricultural small community have been completely razed according to media reports. been completely destroyed. The majority of its residents are from the same family, thus it would be interesting to assess how social safety nets have been affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs taking shelter in community schools.</li> <li>- Host families and IDPs hosted by them.</li> <li>- Farming households.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment in Agriculture.</li> <li>- Households of PA employees.</li> <li>- Households of Hamas-appointed employees.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> </ul>
		Shuja'eya	A peri-urban neighbourhood of Gaza city, where an entire neighbourhood was completely razed. A large proportion of households are non-refugees. Land in the eastern part of the community was predominantly used for agricultural purposes, including livestock breeding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs with host families and host families (separately interviewed).</li> <li>- Households of PA employees.</li> <li>- Households of Hamas-appointed employees.</li> <li>- Households whose home have been partially damaged.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment/ source of income.</li> <li>- Farmer households.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> </ul>
		Gaza City (east), with a particular focus on East	Urban area where relatively low levels of destruction to homes,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs in UNRWA shelters</li> <li>- IDPs with host families and host families (separately interviewed).</li> </ul>

Region	Governorate	Communities	Rationale for Selection	Profile of HH/KIs to be interviewed (not necessarily mutually exclusive)
		Tufah	infrastructure and facilities have been recorded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs in public schools.</li> <li>- IDPs in institutions</li> <li>- Households of PA employees.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment/ source of income.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> </ul>
		A'shati Refugee Camp	A refugee camp that is home to large number of fisherfolk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host families.</li> <li>- IDPs with host families.</li> <li>- Fisher households whose assets have been destroyed/damaged.</li> <li>- Fisher households whose assets have not been affected.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment in agriculture.</li> <li>- Households of PA employees.</li> <li>- Households of Hamas-appointed employees.</li> </ul>
	Deir Al-Balah	Deir Al-Balah City, Al-Nuseirat, Al-Bureij and Al-Maghazi	Urban and semi-urban communities and refugee camps where medium-scale destruction and damages have been recorded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs taking shelter in UNRWA schools.</li> <li>- IDPs with host families and host families (separately interviewed).</li> <li>- IDPs in public schools.</li> <li>- IDPs in institutions</li> <li>- Households of PA employees.</li> <li>- Households whose home have been partially damaged.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment/ source of income.</li> <li>- Farmer households.</li> <li>- Fisher households.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> </ul>
South	Khan Younis	Khuza'a	A remote rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs with host families and host families</li> </ul>



Region	Governorate	Communities	Rationale for Selection	Profile of HH/KIs to be interviewed (not necessarily mutually exclusive)
South	Rafah		area that is predominantly agricultural. Large proportion of residents are non-refugees. One of the most vulnerable areas in the Gaza Strip according to previous studies, as well as one of the most affected communities during the current onslaught.	(separately interviewed). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Households whose home have been partially damaged.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment/ source of income.</li> <li>- Farmer households.</li> <li>- Livestock farmers (poultry, small ruminants, and large ruminants).</li> <li>- Fisher households.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> <li>- Owners of local industries (employers).</li> </ul>
		Al-Qarara/ Zanneh	Rural community that sustained major damages (one of the most severely affected).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs taking shelter in community schools.</li> <li>- Host families and IDPs hosted by them.</li> <li>- Farming households.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment in Agriculture.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> </ul>
		An-Nasr	Agricultural seam-zone communities, where damages are believed to be quite high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs taking shelter in community schools.</li> <li>- Host families and IDPs hosted by them.</li> <li>- Farming households.</li> <li>- Households physically unaffected, but indirectly affected by loss of employment in Agriculture.</li> <li>- Local shop keepers, traders, and input suppliers.</li> </ul>
		Shoket A'Sofi		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IDPs in community schools</li> <li>- Host families</li> <li>- Farming households.</li> <li>- Households whose homes have been partially damaged.</li> </ul>

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 PA statistics and reports 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 August 15, 2014 between the Al-Sahel, FAO, and WFP, in which the scale of and approach of the assessment were discussed and agreed.

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.<sup>23</sup> 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
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Ms. Majeda Abu Hamda	Field Researcher
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<sup>23</sup> Refer to Annex 2 for the list of guidelines.

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

## **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:** 10 (4 launch/trawler owners, 6 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? CAPTURE CHANGES BEFORE/AFTER THE WAR
  - a. Fishing boats (type, how many). Before and Now (to capture damages)?
  - a. What is the value of your fishing assets? Before and Now?
  - b. When do different types of boats operate?
  - c. During the past year, what is the total income derived from each type of fishing boat? What is the income derived from these boats now?
- 2) How many people earn a living from fishing activities (on the eve of the war and now)?
  - a. Fishermen from the same household? Before and Now?
  - b. Waged fishermen? Before and Now?
  - c. What is the average monthly income earned by these in September usually? Now?
- 3) If one or more boat is currently operational, did the fishermen resume fishing?
  - a. If not,
    - i. Why? What is preventing resumption of fishing activities?
    - ii. How has he been making ends meet?
    - iii. What is happening with labourers?
  - b. If yes,
    - i. When (how many days during the war and 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 nowadays (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 including fuel, and sea closure.
- 4) How do you evaluate the supply of fresh fish in the local market in comparison to the seasonal average (last year this time as a benchmark)?



- 5) 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
  
- 6) 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 fishing manpower? How many?
  - c. Has anyone made any commitments for assistance to repair your house? Who? What?
  
- 7) What are your main sources of cash currently?
  
- 8) What are your main expenditure items nowadays? Which item/s are more affected by war (decrease)?
  - a. Food %
  - b. Health %
  - c. Housing (rent/repair) %
  - d. Transport %
  - e. Others %
  
- 9) What are all the current sources of food for your household?
  - a. Buying on cash      % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - b. Buying on credit    % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - c. Assistance from charities   % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - d. Assistance from UN Agencies   %total? More or less than pre-war?
  - e. Own production               %total? More or less than pre-war?
  - f. Assistance from family/relatives/friends               %total? More or less than pre-war?
  
- 10) Do you receive regular food or cash assistance from any organization currently? Description of assistance (type, quantity, quality), frequency and source and specify the percentage that the assistance cover of family requirements. 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 diversity of food. Compared to pre-war?
  - c. Ask about the household food stock. Compared to pre-crisis.
  
- 13) Do you face any constraints related to cooking fuel (including cooking gas, firewood, fuel)? Explain. How does that affect your household's food consumption? Compared to pre-war?
  
- 14) Do you face any constraints related to cooking utensils? 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 Syndicate, 1 with the Al-Tawfiq Fishermen Cooperative 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) 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. If documents are available, ask for a copy.*
  - 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) Has the fishing sector resumed operations? When (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? What is the volume and value of fish catch nowadays? How does this compare with the same time last year?
- 3) Given the constraints you mentioned earlier, what can you tell us about the income from fishing?  
**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 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 and human 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:** 10 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.
- 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).
- 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)? Before and Now?
  - b. Owned or leased? Before and Now?
  - c. How long have you had it for?
  - d. What is the value of your agricultural assets? Before and Now?
  - e. What is the annual production income from agriculture during 2013?
  - f. What was the primary market for your products last year (consider that there is very little export)?
  - g. Do able to reach your land after the war end?
  - h. Does the irrigation sources is available after the war?
  - i. 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 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. Did anyone come to meet with him to assess the damage? Who? When? Has anyone made any commitments for assistance to farmers? Who? What?
- 2) How many people earn a living from agricultural activities?
  - a. Farmers from the same household? Before and Now?
  - b. Waged labourers? Before and Now?
  - c. What is the average monthly income earned by these in June? Now?
- 3) 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?
    - iv. What would be needed to resume production (financing, damage repair, access)? How long will it take to resume and start gaining income again?
    - v. Will you resume?



- b. If yes,
    - vi. When (how many days after the ceasefire)?
    - vii. What is the scale of operations (same as before, increased, less)? Explain.
    - viii. Has the income been affected for the farmer and for agricultural labourers? How?
    - ix. 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?
    - x. 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.
- 4) How do you evaluate the supply of fresh crops in the local market in comparison to the seasonal average (last year as a benchmark)?
- 5) How do you evaluate the demand for the crops you usually cultivate this time of the year in comparison to last year this time? Have market prices changed, how?
- 6) 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)? Are you able to get your supplies under the same conditions as before the war?
- 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 of household members who used to provide income for the household, particularly farming manpower? How many ?
  - c. Has anyone made any commitments for assistance to repair your house? Who? What?
- 8) What are your household's main sources of cash currently? Pre-war?
- 9) What are your main expenditure items nowadays?
  - a. Food %
  - b. Health %
  - c. Housing (rent/repair) %
  - d. Transport %
  - e. Others %
- 10) What are all the current sources of food for your household?
  - a. Buying on cash % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - b. Buying on credit % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - c. Assistance from charities % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - d. Assistance from UN Agencies %total? More or less than pre-war?
  - f. Own production %total? More or less than pre-war?
  - e. Assistance from family/relatives/friends %total? More or less than pre-war?
- 11) 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?
- 12) What do you think of the assistance that you receive in terms of frequency, type, quantity and quality?

- 13) 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?
- f. Ask about the types of food consumed nowadays. Compared to a pre-war?
  - g. Ask about the frequency of eating. Compared to pre-war?
  - h. Ask about the diversity of food. Compared to pre-war?
  - i. Ask about the household food stock. Compared to pre-crisis.
- 14) Do you face any constraints related to cooking fuel (including cooking gas, firewood and 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) What are your 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: **Farmers' Cooperatives**

**Total No. Of Interviews:** 5 cooperatives representing cash-crop and traditional farmers. 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. If yes, get a copy of the damage assessment report.*
  - 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 and human 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:** 55 households, broken down as follows:

- 12 internally displaced households from Beit Lahia, Beit Hannoun, Khuza'a, Rafah, Al-Qarrara, and Juhr A'Deek and who are currently being accommodated by host families. Half of these households at least should be farmer households, and the remaining half should be households of employees in the private sector (self-employed, agriculture and local industries) and public sector ( Hamas and PA). At least 4 of the interviewed households in this category should be female headed.
- 6 host families, of which 3 should be refugee households and 3 should be non-refugee households. These households should be randomly selected from the list of host families of households interviewed.
- 8 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 4 non-refugee households. Selection should take into account the need to interview at least two families from each of the following livelihood groups: 1) farmers; 2) PA employees; 3) Hamas employees; 4) Private sector employees. At least 3 households should be female-headed households, but not MoSA beneficiary households.
- 8 displaced families who are currently being accommodated in makeshift shelters in public schools. The households should be selected from three different shelters at least. 4 refugee households and 4 non-refugee households. Selection should take into account the need to interview at least two families from each of the following livelihood groups: 1) farmers; 2) PA employees; 3) Hamas employees; 4) Private sector employees. At least 3 households should be female-headed households, but not MoSA beneficiary households.
- 8 displaced families who are currently being accommodated in institutional shelters. The households should be selected from three different shelters at least. 4 refugee households and 4 non-refugee households. Selection should take into account the need to interview at least two families from each of the following livelihood groups: 1) farmers; 2) PA employees; 3) Hamas employees; 4) Private sector employees. At least 3 households should be female-headed households, but not MoSA beneficiary households.
- 10 households whose homes have not been directly targeted (but may have been slightly damaged), and whose breadwinners were employed in the private sector (agriculture and local industry) but are currently unemployed. These households should exclude host families, and should be selected from the same communities being targeted by the assessment.
- 10 households whose homes have sustained small to medium scale damages. 4 non-refugees, 2 refugees. To the extent possible these households should include households of low-grade PA employees (4), households of currently employed private sector employees (3); and households of currently employed agricultural labourers (3).

## **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

- 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. Cooking utensils
  - v. Appliances
  - vi. Food
  - vii. Tools and other productive equipment
- 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. Brought it to shelter
  - v. Other (specify)

- 2) Why didn't the family seek other shelter, for example staying with extended family or renting a house?
- 3) What is the household's current source of cash?
- 4) Has the household received any cash assistance from any entity during the war? How much? Does the family currently receive any cash assistance? How much and how frequently?
- 5) 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?
- 6) 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)?

7) Did you sell any of the food rations you received? Why?

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	Through Food Exchange with other Families in the Shelter	From Friends/Family
			On cash	On credit			

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? Are there problems with access to cooking fuel (which ones)? Are there problems with cooking utensils (which ones)?

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 (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?

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

12) Is the family buying anything nowadays?

13) What are the household's current main expenditure items, and the proportion of expenditure on each?

- a. Food % of total expenditure
- b. Clothes % of total expenditure
- c. Reconstruction % of total expenditure
- d. Education % of total expenditure
- e. Health % of total expenditure
- f. Other % of total expenditure

14) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has it changed compared to pre-war?

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 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) 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)?
- 3) 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?
- 4) 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 affects health/education. If possible, try to interview the person(s) concerned in the hosted family to verify).
- 5) What effect has hosting the family been having on the host family's expenditures? Compare before the war and now?
  - a. Food (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - b. Clothes (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - c. Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - d. Education (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - e. Health (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- 6) 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?

- 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	Through Food Exchange with other Families in the Shelter
			On cash	On credit		

- 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? Are there problems with access to cooking fuel (which ones)? Are there problems with cooking utensils (which ones)?
- 9) In the past two weeks, was the host family able to consume all the foods which it used to consume before the war? In other words, has the host 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 effect has hosting the family been having on the family's water consumption and hygiene, if any? Compare before the war and now?
- 13) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has its debt increased as a result of its hosting another family? Has it changed compared to before the war?
- 14) 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?
- 15) How long is the host family willing to accept the status quo, if nothing changes?
- 16) What kind of assistance does the host family require to be able to prolong its ability to host the family it hosts? What is being provided to cover these needs now?

- 17) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for the hosted family to recover from the effects of the war?
- 18) 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)?
- vi. Any one offer an assistance to repair your house?

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) % of total expenditure Now
  - Clothes (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Education (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Health (increased, decreased, same) % 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	Through Food Exchange with other Families in the Shelter
			On cash	On credit		

- 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? Are there problems with access to cooking fuel (which ones)? Are there problems with cooking utensils (which ones)?
- 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) 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?

- 14) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 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) 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.
- 17) How long can the family can steadfast if nothing changes?
- 18) 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?
- 19) 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

- Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
- 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 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?
- Has the household sustained any damage/losses during the war? What?

### 2) Has the family started repairing the damages?

#### a. If yes,

- When?
- Has the damage been completely repaired?
- Did they face any difficulties in the repair process (for example availability of materials, cash, labor)?
- What was the cost of repair? Who financed the repair (family or others)?
- How did the family come up with money for the repair (especially if cost is more than NIS 400)?
- Any one offer an assistance to repair your house?

#### b. If no, why not?

- 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)?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- What are the household's main expenditure categories, compare before and after the war?
  - Food (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now

- b. Clothes (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- c. Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- d. Education (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- e. Health (increased, decreased, same) % 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	Through Food Exchange with other Families in the Shelter
			On cash	On credit		

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? Are there problems with access to cooking fuel (which ones)? Are there problems with cooking utensils (which ones)?

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) 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?

14) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?

- 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) 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.
- 17) How long can the family can steadfast if nothing changes?
- 18) 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?
- 19) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

## Suggested Questions for Families of Employed Agricultural Labourers, Private and Public 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. 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)?
- c. If household has agricultural holdings that are not being utilized, why?
- d. 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?
- Food (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Clothes (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Education (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
  - Health (increased, decreased, same) % 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	Through Food Exchange with other Families in the Shelter
			On cash	On credit		

- 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? Are there problems with access to cooking fuel (which ones)? Are there problems with cooking utensils (which ones)?
- 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) 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?



- 14) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 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) 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.
- 17) How long can the family steadfast if nothing changes?
- 18) 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?
- 19) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

## Suggested Questions for Families of Laid-Off 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

- Indicate the employer of each employed person? Part-Time/Full-Time? And changes in employment conditions as a result of the war, if any?
- How long have the different unemployed family members been unemployed?
- If there is a difference between pre- and current income, please explain.
- Has the household sustained any damage/losses during the war? What?
- Is the household a registered refugee household or a non-refugee household?

### 2) Has the family started repairing the damages, if any?

- If yes,
  - When?
  - Has the damage been completely repaired?
  - Did they face any difficulties in the repair process (for example availability of materials, cash, labor)?
  - What was the cost of repair? Who financed the repair (family or others)?
  - How did the family come up with money for the repair (especially if cost is more than NIS 400)?
- 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) % of total expenditure Now
- Clothes (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- Reconstruction (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- Education (increased, decreased, same) % of total expenditure Now
- Health (increased, decreased, same) % 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	Through Food Exchange with other Families in the Shelter
			On cash	On credit		

- 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? Are there problems with access to cooking fuel (which ones)? Are there problems with cooking utensils (which ones)?
- 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) 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?
- 14) Does the household have debt? How much? To who? Has the family taken incurred more debt than usual in the past two weeks?
- 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) 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.

17) How long can the family steadfast if nothing changes?

18) 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?

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

## **Key Informants: Poultry and Livestock Farmers**

**Total No. Of Interviews:** 10 interviews, of which: 6 with farmers whose farms were destroyed and ceased to operate, and 4 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? Have their prices changed compared to pre-war and compared to "usually" at this time of the year? 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 to the household, particularly farming manpower?

- 6) What are your household's main sources of cash currently? Pre-war?
- 7) What are your main expenditure items nowadays?
  - a. Food %
  - b. Health %
  - c. Housing (rent/repair) %
  - d. Transport %
  - e. Others %
- 8) What are all the current sources of food for your household?
  - a. Buying on cash        % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - b. Buying on credit     % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - c. Assistance from charities   % of total? More or less than pre-war?
  - d. Assistance from UN Agencies   %total? More or less than pre-war?
  - e. Own Production        %total? More or less than pre-war?
  - f. Assistance from family/relatives/friends        %total? 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 (including cooking gas, firewood, fuel)? Explain. How does that affect your household's food consumption? Compared to pre-war?
- 13) Do you face any problems with water availability (for your household and for watering animals)? Explain. Compared to pre-war?
- 14) According to you, what are the immediate (with a month) priorities for your household to recover its means of livelihood?
- 15) What are the priorities for the next six to twelve months?

## **Key Informants: Bakery Owners/Managers**

**Total No. Of Interviews:** 6 interviews, of which: 3 with large bakeries, and 3 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?
  - f. Did the bakery sustain any damage? If yes:
    - i. What was the damage sustained?
    - ii. 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?
    - iii. Can the damage be repaired? At what cost?
    - iv. What is the current production capacity compared to pre-war capacity? Compared to pre-crisis level?
    - v. How long will it take you to resume to pre-war production capacity? What is needed for this to happen?
    - i. Did anyone come to meet with him to assess the damage? Who? When? Has anyone made any commitments for assistance? Who? What?
- 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) Currently, what are the main difficulties you are facing in operating your bakery?
  - a. Fuel?
  - b. Electricity?
  - c. Availability of flour? Stock?
  - d. Storage capacity?
  - e. Repairs?
  - f. Water Availability?
- 4) What is your current stock of flour? How long will it last given the current sales volume and capacity?



- 5) What are the sources of flour used by the bakery currently and pre-war?
  - a. Israeli-made                      % before, % now
  - b. Palestinian-made                % before, % now
  - c. UN distribution                  % before, % now
  - d. Imported                          % before, % now
- 6) What are the main changes that the war brought about to your business? How are you dealing with them/how are you coping?
- 7) Did your operation hours change after the war? How?
- 8) Has the price of bread changed from its pre-war levels? Why?
- 9) Did you notice any changes in consumers' behaviour after the war? Explain. For example, are people buying more or less bread, stocking more?
- 10) 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?
- 11) 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?
- 12) What are your main business priorities?
- 13) 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) you 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 businesses 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: Medium and Small Retailers**

**No. Of Interviews:** 10 retailers, of which 3 must be neighbourhood 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) Gauge the change in food prices at origin (wholesaler suppliers) (TO CROSS-CHECK WITH INFORMATION THAT WILL BE PROVIDED BY WHOLESALERS)
- 4) Identify and assess the effects of changes in credit policies of retailers towards consumers and wholesalers towards retailers.
- 5) Gauge the financial and economic resilience of various groups of retailers after the war.
- 6) 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. 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
  - o. Drinking/bottled water
  - p. Pasteurized fresh milk
  - q. Yellow cheese
  - r. Goat/Sheep Cheese
  - s. Yogurt
  - t. Labaneh
  - u. Bread
- 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) Has your financial capacity to restock changed as a result of the war? If yes, how/why? How did you cope?
- 5) 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?
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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
- 8) Can you make a comparison for us between your current transport costs (related to conducting business) and transport costs before the war?
- 9) Did prices of the main items you sell change after the war? Ask respondent to elaborate.
- 10) 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. 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
  - o. Drinking/bottled water
  - p. Pasteurized fresh milk
  - q. Yellow cheese
  - r. Goat/Sheep Cheese
  - s. Yogurt
  - t. Labaneh
  - u. Bread
- 11) How many employees do you currently have? How many did you have PRE-WAR? Did you decrease wages/salaries of your employees? If yes, by how much?
- 12) Did you notice any changes in customers' buying behaviours or purchasing patterns after the war? Please explain?

- 13) 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? Do you feel that the food assistance currently provided is affecting your own trade? If yes, in which sense (e.g. negative, positive) and why?
- 14) 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) Gauge the change in food prices at the origin for the wholesalers (e.g. prices imposed by the suppliers of the wholesalers)
- 4) Identify and assess the effects of changes in credit policies of wholesalers towards retailers.
- 5) Gauge the financial and economic resilience of various groups of wholesalers after the war.
- 6) 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
  - o. Drinking/bottled water
  - p. Pasteurized fresh milk
  - q. Yellow cheese
  - r. Goat/Sheep Cheese
  - s. Yogurt
  - t. Labaneh
- 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/cold chain 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 % Change	Sales to Retailers (+,-)	Estimated % 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? **CHANGE LIST AS PER QUESTION (2) OF RETAILERS**
  - 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
- o. Drinking/bottled water
- p. Pasteurized fresh milk
- q. Yellow cheese
- r. Goat/Sheep Cheese
- s. Yogurt
- t. Labaneh

- 13) How many employees do you currently have? How many did you in December? Did you decrease wages/salaries of your employees? If so, by how much?
- 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?
- 16) Do you feel that the food assistance currently provided is affecting your own trade? If yes, in which sense (e.g. negative, positive) and why?

### Annex 3: List of Key Informants and Households Interviewed

#### Internally Displaced Households

Ahlam Awni Abu Al-Atta	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Ala' Sami Abu Jame	Zanneh-Khan Yunis
Ali Rashed A'Rashaydeh	Juhr A'Deek
Ali Sayyed Ahmad Al-Jazzar	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Amal Abdelkarim Sukkar	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Amani Ismail A'Zughaibi	Qarya Al-Badaweya
Amneh Masa'd Saleem Sheik Al-Abed	Shuket A'Sufi-Rafah
Amneh Yusef Abu Jari	Bureij
Ashraf Abu Omar	Abbasan Al-Kabira
Ashraf Jihad Isbeiteh	Gaza
Atef Ibrahim Abu Muhsen	Yibna-Rafah
A'ysha Abdelrahim A'Zuwaidi	Beit Hanoun
Azhar Abdelrahmad Abu Daqqa	Abbasan Al-Kabira
Buthayna Jihad Mohammad Sa'ed	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Farha Salman Abu Issa	Juhr A'Deek
Farhan Mohammad Abu Issa	Juhr A'Deek
Faten Majdi Al-Kafarneh	Beit Hanoun
Fatheyah Rajab A'Rashaydeh	Juhr A'Deek
Fathi Jaber Jindeyeh	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Fatima Mahmoud Abu Omar	Abbasan Al-Kabira
Fatima Omar Jindeyeh	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Fawzeyeh Irsan Abu Jame'	Zanneh-Khan Yunis
Fazee' Ahmad Mohamad,	Al-Qarrara
Ghadeer Hilles	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Haifa Yousef Abu Odeh	Beit Hanoun
Halima Mufeed Qudeih	Khuza'a
Hammad Sweilem Daldoum	Beit Lahia
Hassan Abdelati Abu Jari	Bureij
Hassouneh Abdallah Al-Barbarawi	Bureij
Hussam Mohammad A'Zughaibi	Qarya Al-Badaweya
Ibrahim Hussein Sukkar	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Ibtisam Zaki Al-Omari	Shate' Shamali
Ikmal Ma'rouf Abu Odeh	Beit Hanoun
Imad Salem Abu Shanab	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Iman Fadel Al-Kafarneh	Beit Hanoun
Ismail Abdelrahim Abu Al-Atta	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Ismail Khalil Abu Louli	East Rafah
Ismat Mahmoud Sa'ed	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Jamal Mahmoud Abu Jame'	Zanneh-Khan Yunis
Jihad Naji Awad Qudeih	Khuza'a
Karamah Hathyan Qdeih	Khuza'a
Khadra Ali A'Sawarkeh	Juhr A'Deek
Khaled Ramadan Abdelwahed	Beit Hanoun

Khalil Abed Abu Daqqa	Abbasan Al-Kabira
Mahmoud Sha'ban Al-Kafarneh	Beit Hanoun
Maysoun Mohamad Al-Barbarawi	Bureij
Mirvat Abdelhamid A'Zuwaidi	Beit Hanoun
Mohamad Mubarak A'Sawarkeh	Juhr A'Deek
Mohammad Abbas Hassoneh	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Mohammad Abdelraheem Abu Al-Atta	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Mohammad Ali Al-Kafarneh	Beit Hanoun
Mohammad Jum'a Hajjaj	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Mohammad Sayyed Al-Jazzar	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Niveen Abu Shanab	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Omar Saleh Abu Izz	Beit Hanoun
Ossama Mahmoud Al-Kafarneh	Beit Hanoun
Raed Mahmoud Khalil Qdeih	Khuza'a
Rae'da Mansoun Al-Ghoul	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Rami Hatem Abu Hajaj	Rafah
Rami Saleem Wahdan	Beit Lahia
Rasmeya Daldoum	Beit Lahia
Saber Mohammad Azamli	Rafah
Sami Mahmoud Sa'ed	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Talal Jihad Barda'	Ash Shuja'iyeh
Watfa Mubarak A'Rashaydeh	Juhr A'Deek

### **Host Families**

Abdelkarim Hussein Abdallah, Gaza  
Fadel Hamad, Gaza  
Jamila Theeb Al-Masri, Beit Hanoun  
Khaled Abdelrahman, Deir Al-Balah  
Kifah Ismail Abu Znad, Al-Qarrara  
Ma'moun Hussein Abu Shammaleh, Beit Lahia  
Musbah Abdelraouf Abdelghafour, Satr Al-Gharbi-Khan Yunis  
Rajab Ahmad Isleem, Gaza  
Tahani salem Albono, Rafah  
Tahseen Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad, Al-Qarrara

### **Dismissed Workers**

Abdallah Jawab Abdelghafour, Satr Al-Gharbi-Khan Yunis  
Abdelkareem Khilleh, Rafah  
Ahmad Izzedein Omar Najjar, Khan Yunis  
Ahmad Mahoumd Abu Jazar, Rafah  
Ali Mohammad Al-Qreinawi, Beit Hanoun  
Fayzeh Abu Qleik, Beit Lahia  
Manal Mohammad Asaleyeh, Gaza  
Nafeth Al-Tlouli, Deir Al-Balah  
Theyab Ahmad Musa, Beit Hanoun

## **Directly Unaffected Households and Households whose Homes Sustained Only Minor Damage**

Abdelnasser Mohammad Al-Jalous, Khan Yunis  
Bilal Adnan Saleh Al-Agha, Satr Al-Sharqi-Khan Yunis  
Doa' Fadel Hamed, Gaza  
Hamam Musa Al-Agha, Satr Al-Sharqi, Khan Yunis  
Hussein Abdelrahman Hussein, Deir Al-Balah  
Kassem Ibrahim Kafarneh, Beit Hanoun  
Khale Saleem Al-Farra, Gaza  
Kifah Mahmoud Al-Aqqad, Khan Yunis  
Majed Ahmad Al-Saqqa, Khan Yunis  
Rami Azziz Ishkuntana, Gaza

## **Farmers (palnt and animal production) and Fishermen**

Abdelhafeth Abdelqader Humaid, Beit Hannoun  
Abdelkarem Abdelazziz Wahdan, Beit Hannoun  
A'hed Subhi Baker, Gaza  
Ahmad Al-Hissy, Deir Al-Balah  
Ahmad Ibrahim Filfel, Beit Lahia  
Ahmad Said Al-Astal, Satr Al Gharbi-Khan Yunis  
Ashraf Mustafa Filfel, Beit Lahia  
Dirrar Mohammad Hilles, Ash Shuja'iyeh  
Eid Bader Suleiman Abu Jarad, Gaza  
Hashem Ali Khdeir, Al-Atatra  
Ibrahim Abdelatif Baker, Gaza  
Imad Suleiman Arsheidi, Gaza  
Isam Adel Abu Halima, Al-Atatra  
Jamil Abdallah Qdeih, Khuza'a  
Khader Mahmoud Ar Rahel, Beit Lahia  
Khaled Mahmoud Omran, Khan Yunis  
Khalil Ibrahim Al-Amoudi, Gaza  
Maher Mussalam Iqdeih, Khuza'a  
Mahmoud Ibrahim Filfel, Beit Lahia  
Mifleh Abu Reyaleh, Gaza  
Mohammad Abdallah Hijazi, Bani Suhaila  
Mufeed Nimer Jarbou', Gaza  
Musa Saber Juneid, Jabalia  
Na'eem Mahmoud Abu Hannoun, Khan Yunis  
Nasr Ahmad Abu Odeh, Khan Yunis  
Rateb Musa Ghaben, Beit Lahia  
Saed Yusef Abdallah Ilwan, Jabalia  
Sami Saber Suleiman Naseer, Beit Hanoun  
Subhi Ali Al-Astal, Khan Yunis  
Suheil Fadel Baker, Gaza  
Theeb Khalil Dardoneh, Jabalia  
Yusef Marwan Al-Lahham, Khan Yunis  
Zaki Alabed Fayyad, Zanneh-Khan Yunis  
Zeyad Abdelraouf Abdelghafour, Khan Yunis

## **Cooperatives and Membership-Based Organizations**

Abdel Mu'ti Al-Habeel, Al-Tawfiq Fishermen Cooperative  
Abdel Nasser Al-Ajrami, Bakery Owners Association  
Ahmad Al-Ijleh, Al-Tawfiq Fishermen Cooperative  
Ghassan Qassem, Beit Hanounoun Agricultural Cooperative  
Ibrahim Abdelateef Baker, Al-Tawfiq Fishermen Cooperative  
Ibrahim Matar Ghaban, Gaza Agricultural Cooperative Society - Beit Lahia  
Jamal Abu Al-Naja, Agricultural Cooperative for Vegetable Production and Export - Khan Yunis  
Jamal Mohammad May, Gaza Agricultural Cooperative Society - Beit Lahia  
Mohammad Ayeshe, Palestinian Food Industries Association (PFIA)  
Mohammad Jaber Ghaben, Agricultural Cooperative Society of Strawberry and Vegetable Producers-Beit Lahia  
Mohammad Skeik, Palestine Trade Center (PalTrade)  
Nahed Abdelhamid Al-Astal, Khan Yunis Agricultural Cooperative  
Nizar Ayyash, Fishermen Syndicate  
Odeh Shihaden, Palestinian Federation of Industries (PFI)  
Rajab Al-Hissi, Al-Tawfiq Fishermen Cooperative

## **Agricultural Inputs Suppliers**

Salam Hussein Ar Rash, Gaza City Nursery  
Shawqi Abu Jame', Abu Jame' Nursery  
Yaseen Al-Astal, Khan Yunis

## **Retailers and Wholesalers**

Abdelrahman Abu Sha'ban, Gaza  
Akram Al-Qutati, Rafah  
As'ad Abu Jarad, Rafah  
Ayman Sbeih, Gaza  
Fadel Al-Madhoun, Jabalia  
Isma'il Tawfiq Safi, Wholesaler - Khan Yunis  
Issa Musa Al-Ghoul, Rafah  
Jamil Khamis Ilwan, Jabalia  
Majed Abu Halima, Gaza  
Muna Mohammad Abu Rizeq - Khan Yunis  
Nimeh Abdel Hadi Nasser, Beit Hanoun  
Sami Hani Al-Wadeya, Gaza  
Suleiman Abdel Jawad Al-Astal, Khan Yunis

## **Representatives of Local Factories**

Aref Mohammad Abdeljawwad, Al-Jaleel Dairy Factory  
Ghassan Ibrahim Dardoneh, Dardoneh Dairy Factory  
Jamal-adeen Abu Aita, Abu Aita Dairy Factory  
Sayf-adeen Abu Aita, Haya Dairy Factory

**Bakeries**

Ahmad Mahmoud Abu Rabie', Al-Falouja Bakery, North Gaza  
Kamel Ajjour, Ajjour Bakeries-Jabalia, North Gaza, and Gaza City  
Maher Rabah, Rabah Bakery-Deir Al-Balah  
Mohammad Lutfi Shalfouh, Al-Shalfouh Automated Bakery, Gaza City  
Samir Al-Ajrami, Al-Sharq Bakeries, Gaza City

**Governmental and Semi-Governmental Organisations**

Dr. Nabil Abu Shamalla, General Director of Policy and Planning, MoA  
Munther Shublaq, General Director, Coastal Municipal Water Authority  
Tahseen Al-Saqqa, General Director of Marketing and Crossings, MoA