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Food Security Profiling of Jenin Governorate

Working Paper
Series No. 3 - 2009

Socio-Economic and Food Security (SEFSec) Monitoring System in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Based on data produced by the
Palestinian Central Bureau of
Statistics

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Methodology

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. In the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), food security is a direct consequence of access to income and employment. While food is available in the oPt, trade restrictions makes the oPt a net food importer of goods that are not locally produced. The Palestinian population are thus faced with a food system with which they have no sovereignty over and is currently fragile due to the political dimensions of the conflict. As such, the Socio-economic and Food Security survey was developed in order to capture, reliable and updated information on the living conditions of Palestinian households in a rapidly changing political context.

The Socio-Economic and Food Security survey, conducted in January/February 2009 in the West Bank, was designed to meet following objectives:

1. Provide an overview of the socio-economic characteristics of households residing in the West Bank;
2. Differentiate among the socio-economic conditions of Palestinian households according to the criteria of geographic location, locality type, sex, refugee status, and livelihood group;
3. Assess the overall trends in income and expenditure of households in the West Bank over the past 6 months;
4. Assess the changes in food acquisition¹ patterns and coping mechanisms (including the assistance);
5. Measure the assistance received by households and household's evaluation of this assistance; and
6. Provide evidence-based recommendations for food security policy and programming purposes.

The methodology used for this survey is largely consistent with the methodology used in the May 2008 *Joint Rapid Food Security Survey in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA). Considering that the dataset is cross-sectional, the analysis is static as it uses income and consumption. A third variable reflecting the changing socio-economic impact of Israeli measures was added to make the model more dynamic. These variables were used to cluster the data into three clusters of households that are homogeneous with respect to how they were impacted during the past 6 months by the Israeli measures. The households within the clusters were then classified according to their consumption and income levels (3 way crosstabs) based on which the food insecurity levels were determined (for detailed procedures and methodology please see Annex I of the Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey of the West Bank, August 2009).

The following report is a part of the broader socio-economic and food security monitoring system conducted jointly by the World Food Programme and FAO in collaboration with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The Governorate Food Security Profiling provides a profile of the characteristics of food insecure households within a specific governorate. For further examination on specific issues, users are encouraged to contact the Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics.

¹ Food acquisition: from purchase, self-production and gifts (both formal and informal assistance). In the oPt food acquisition mainly depends on household purchasing power, which in turn mainly depends on income (hence employment) and price levels. However, assistance plays a major role in food security and should be regularly monitored to infer impact on household socio-economic status.

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I. Jenin Governorate

A. Population and Demography

Table 1: Percentage of Registered Refugee out of Total Population

Jenin is one of the largest governorates in the most northern part of the West Bank. It is populated by 10.9 percent of the total WB population or an estimated 256,619 individuals. With an average household size of 5.4 individuals, the number of households residing in that region is about 47,437 households. Consistent with the WB average, females represent 51 percent of the total population in Jenin.

	Registered Refugees	Other	Total
Population	80,263	176,356	256,619
Percentage	31%	69%	100%

Source: PCBS Population Census 2007

Approximately 31 percent of Jenin's population are registered refugees of which 13 percent live in camps, 32 percent live in rural communities and 55 percent live in urban centres. Out of the total Jenin population, 4 percent live in refugee camps, 39 percent live in rural communities while 57 percent live in urban centres.

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Locality

	Urban	Rural	Refugee Camps	Total
Number of Communities	12	67	1	80
Population	147,004	99,244	10,371	256,619
Percentage	57%	39%	4%	100%

Source: PCBS Population Census 2007

B. Labour Force

Almost 57 percent of the Jenin population are aged 15 and above. Labour force participation varies with time due to various reasons among which is discouragement from entering into the labour force. In the third quarter of 2008, the labour force participation stood at 47 percent of the working age population (15 and above) and decreased between the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009. An increasing trend started in the second quarter of 2009. Fluctuations in the labour force participation indirectly correlate with a decrease in unemployment levels over the last quarter of 2008 and the first quarter 2009. However rather than being an indication of improvements in the economy, it is due to a decrease in the labour force participation rate. This is confirmed by the fact that during that period the number of employed had remained the same or even decreased.

Table 3: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates

	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008	1 st Quarter 2009	2 nd Quarter 2009
Labour Force Participation %	47.1%	44.4%	43.2%	46.3%
Unemployment %	24.4%	21.7%	19.0%	15.7%

Source: PCBS Labour Force Surveys, 2nd Half 2008 to 1st Half 2009

In absolute terms, during the last two quarters of 2008, the population above 15 years old (working age population) has increased by 2,259. However, during the same period, 2,270 jobs were lost, increasing the number of those unemployed by 2,223 while the remaining 47 joined the discouraged population. However this trend reversed during the first half of 2009, during which 7,391 new jobs were created employing 3,436 of the unemployed and absorbing 3,955 of the new labour force participants.

Table 4: Change in Population, Labour Force Participation, Employment and Unemployment

	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008	1 st Quarter 2009	2 nd Quarter 2009	Change 2 nd half 2008	Change 1 st half 2009
Population	262,422	264,390	266,373	268,371	3,922	3,981
Population above 15	151,162	152,295	153,437	154,588	2,259	2,293
Labour force participants	71,197	67,619	66,285	71,574	-47	3,955
Unemployed	17,372	14,673	12,594	11,237	2,223	-3,436
Employed	53,825	52,946	53,691	60,337	-2,270	7,391

Source: PCBS Census 2007 and Labour Force Survey Rounds

C. Wages and Prices

The net change in both nominal and real daily wages was very close to zero during the period under review signifying that very little price changes occurred. The nominal daily wage level in Jenin stood at 84.6 NIS in the second quarter of 2009. This figure was similar to the prevailing levels during the last two quarters of 2008. Real wages (reflecting the actual purchasing power) stood at a level that is 9 percent lower compared to nominal wages (77.2 NIS).

Table 5: Average Nominal Daily Wage vs. Average Real Daily Wage

	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008	1 st Quarter 2009	2 nd Quarter 2009
Average nominal daily wage NIS	85.3	84.3	79.1	84.6
Average real daily wage NIS	75.9	75.6	72.5	77.2

Source: PCBS Data

Since no data on the consumer price index is being compiled at a governorate level, the prices of selected food items serves as the basis for determining the socio-economic conditions of households in relation to price changes in basic consumer goods. The trends show that prices have been increasing and despite the fact that real daily wages has been lower than nominal wages, real wages has increased in parallel to price increases in basic food commodities.

As shown in Figure 1, the prices of both red and white meat (chicken) slowly increased during 2008. However during 2009 the trend reversed. Over 2008, the price of red meat increased by 21 percent and the price of chicken increased by 19 percent. However, during the first five months of 2009, both the price of red meat and chicken dropped by 5 percent and 3 percent respectively.

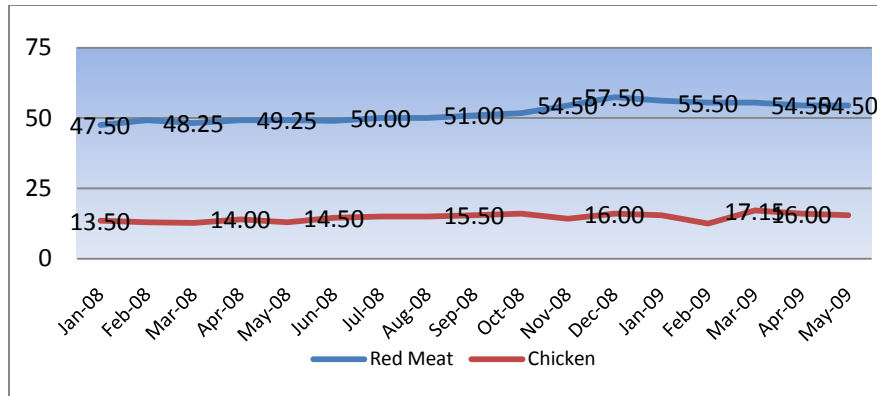


Figure 1: Prices of Red Meat and Chicken, January 2008 - May 2009

The prices of basic food items are explored in Figure 2. The figure shows the varying trends of different food items. The price of rice show an upward trend reaching to a total 69 percent during 2008 and a further increase of 3 percent in 2009. Powdered milk prices show the same trend but at a lower price level. The price of powdered milk increased by 23 percent over 2008 and 3 percent in the first half of 2009. In contrast, the price of flour, olive oil and refined sugar also show opposite downward trends; they all decreased during 2008 (by 15, 17 and 37 percent respectively). However prices of wheat flour and sugar increased during 2009 by 5 and 11 percent while the price of olive oil remained stable.

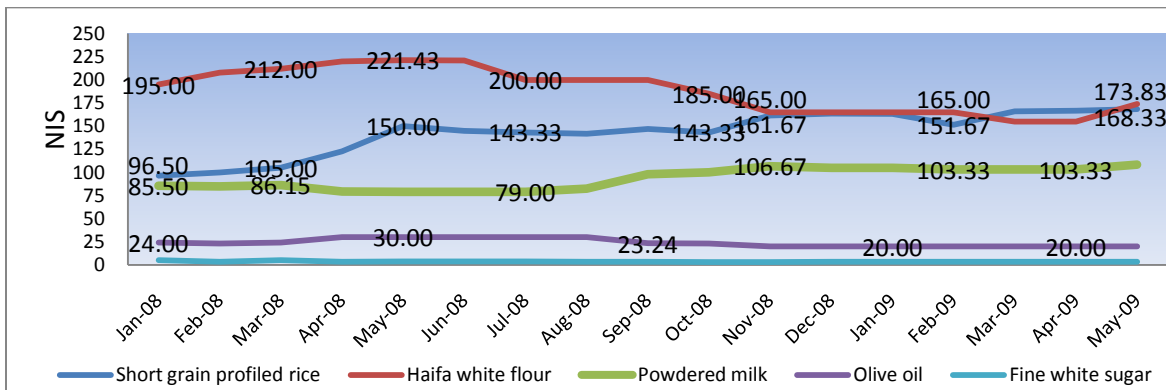


Figure 2: Basic Price Indicators of Selected Food Items, January 2008 - May 2009

D. Food Insecurity Levels

Survey analysis revealed that food insecurity levels in Jenin Governorate stood at 34 percent, another 12 percent were classified as vulnerable while 29 percent were found marginally food secure and 25 percent were food secure.

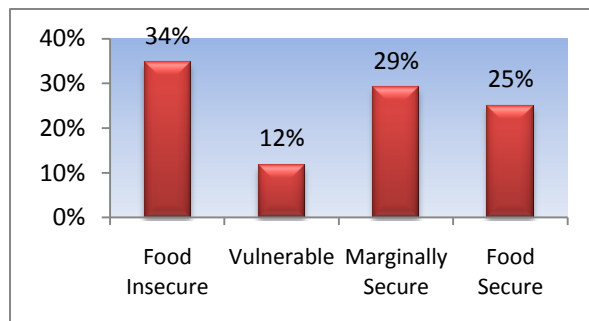


Figure 3: Percentage of Jenin population by food security levels

The data by locality type show that there is a greater prevalence of food insecurity among the rural population and lowest among the camp population. There is a greater prevalence of food secure and marginally secure households in camps; a 68 percent combined total.

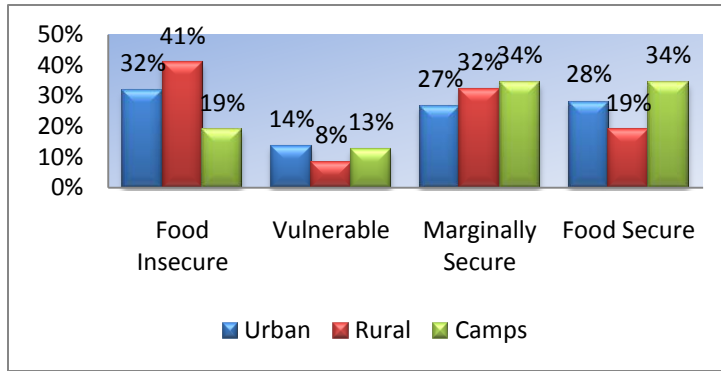


Figure 4: Food Security Levels by Locality

Small differences in the food insecurity levels were observed between refugees and non refugees. Food insecurity among non refugees was 2 percent higher when compared to refugees. The lower food insecurity levels among refugees living in camps compared to the governorate average of 34 percent, hints at better conditions/social safety nets of households residing in refugee camps than those residing in urban and rural communities which might suggest better targeting of refugees in camps.

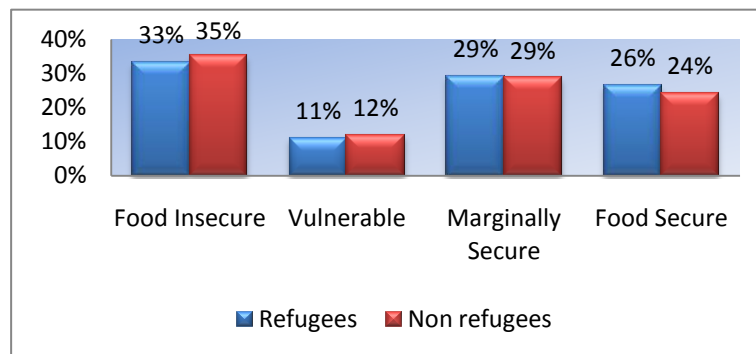


Figure 5: Food Security Levels by Refugee or Non Refugee Status

E. Gender of Head of Household and Food Security Levels

A total of 12 percent of households in the West Bank is female headed with the remaining 88 percent of the households who are male headed. Of those 14.4 percent of Jenin households are female headed and 85.6 percent of households are male headed. In absolute figures, the total number of female headed households are an estimated 6,831 households compared to an estimated 41,839 male headed households.

Table 6: Percentage of Male and Female Headed Households vs. Remaining West Bank Average

	Jenin	Remaining West Bank Average
Male Headed Households	85.6%	88%
Female Headed Households	14.4%	12%

Figure 6 indicates that out of the total male headed households, 33 percent of male headed households are food insecure compared to 4 percent of food insecure female headed households. Keeping in mind that there is a lower concentration of female headed households, the female headed households seem

to be well targeted compared to male headed household. However, the gender dimension needs to be further explored before drawing any further conclusions.

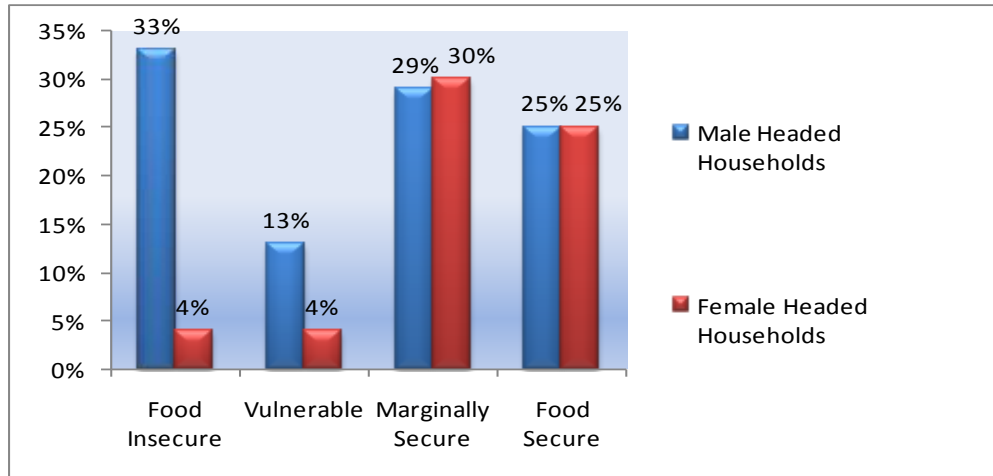


Figure 6: Food Security Levels by Gender of Head of Household

F. Education of Head of Household and Food Security Levels

Only, 14 percent of the total Jenin household heads have completed higher level education (Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD level) which is slightly lower the West Bank average of 18 percent. Only 1 percent of the marginally secure and 3 percent of the food secure have completed their Master’s level education. Lower levels of education indicate that households are more likely to be food insecure. Only 1 percent of food insecure heads of households have completed Bachelor level education, 4 percent diploma level and 16 percent secondary level education. Food secure heads of households tend to have higher levels of education with 16 percent of them completing Bachelor’s level education. However, a greater number of household heads across the food security levels have only completed their preparatory level of education. In fact there is a greater number of those who have at most completed preparatory level education amongst food secure heads of households (27%) than secondary, diploma or Bachelor’s level education. This may be a reflection of the inavailability of employment requiring high levels of education so that those heads of households who completed between 10 to 12 years of education are easily absorbed in low skilled forms of employment. If so, this further attests to the likelihood that the minimum level of education attainment required to be absorbed within the work force and be food secure is at the preparatory level. However, greater chances of food security is derived if household heads achieve higher levels of educational attainment.

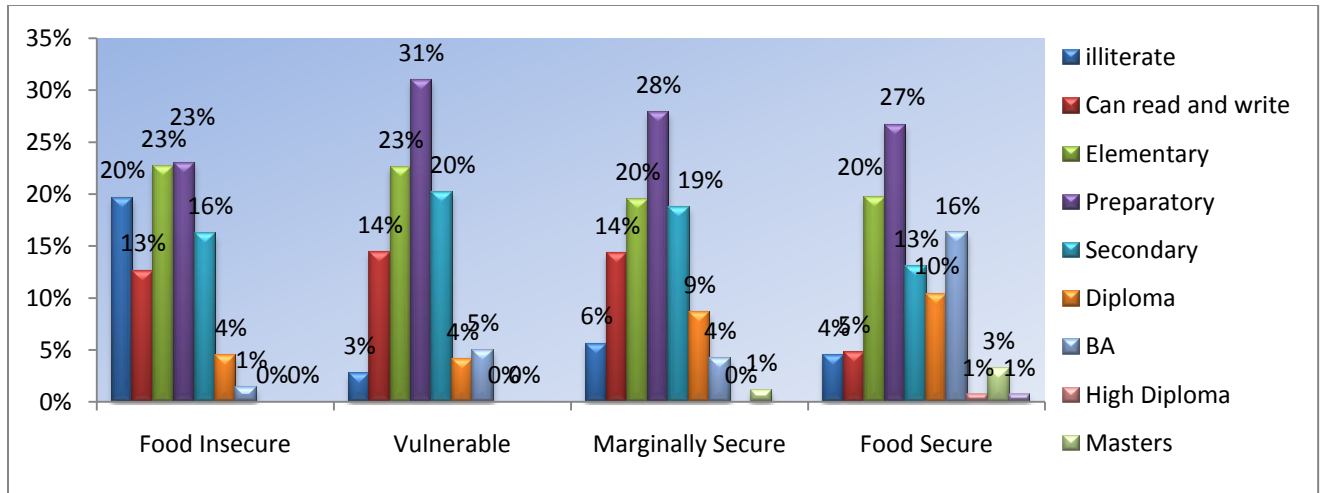


Figure 7: Educational Attainment of Head of Household by Food Security Levels

G. Food Consumption and Income levels

The percentage of food consumption out of total consumption stood at 51 percent for the total Jenin population. Only slight differences occur when comparing population by locality type and refugee status. However, the average food consumption ratio is 59 percent among the food insecure compared to 46 percent among the food secure. Even then, the food secure are just above the poverty threshold established by PCBS.² Households have less disposable income spent on non food items such as education or health care that can play an integral part in relieving food insecurity. Those spending over 44 percent of their income non food are considered worse off.

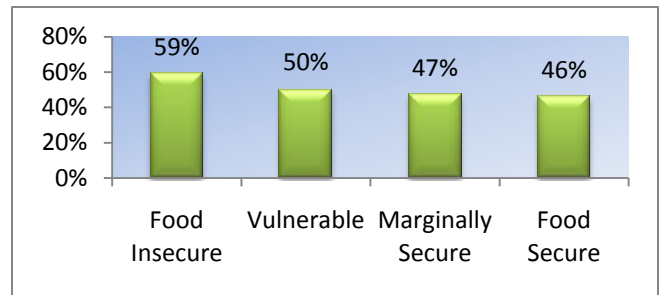


Figure 8: Food Expenditure Out of Total Expenditure by Food Security Levels

Both average consumption and income level of the food insecure stood at one fifth of that of the food secure. The average per adult consumption of the food secure amounted to 1,175 NIS/adult compared to 417 NIS/adult for the food insecure. Considering that the per adult relative poverty line is around 693 NIS/Adult, Figure 7 shows that the expenditure level per adult per month for the Jenin Average is just above the poverty line. Food insecure households' expenditure levels are a whopping 39 percent below the relative poverty line.

² PCBS defines the worse-off households to be those with a food consumption ration exceeding 44 percent.

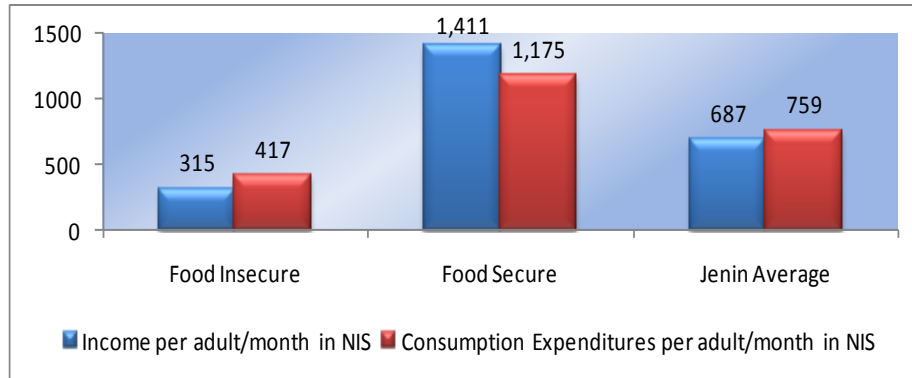


Figure 9: Income/Adult/Month vs. Consumption/Adult/Month in NIS

H. Employment, Occupation, Sector and Place of Employment and of Head of households

An analysis of the employment status of heads of households show that unemployment level among the heads of food insecure households is 20 percent compared to the Jenin average of 11 percent. However, 80 percent of food insecure and 93 percent of vulnerable heads of households are also employed. This suggests that the food insecure and vulnerable heads of households are employed in wage work that is not providing sufficient income to lift their households out of food insecurity and vulnerable trap.

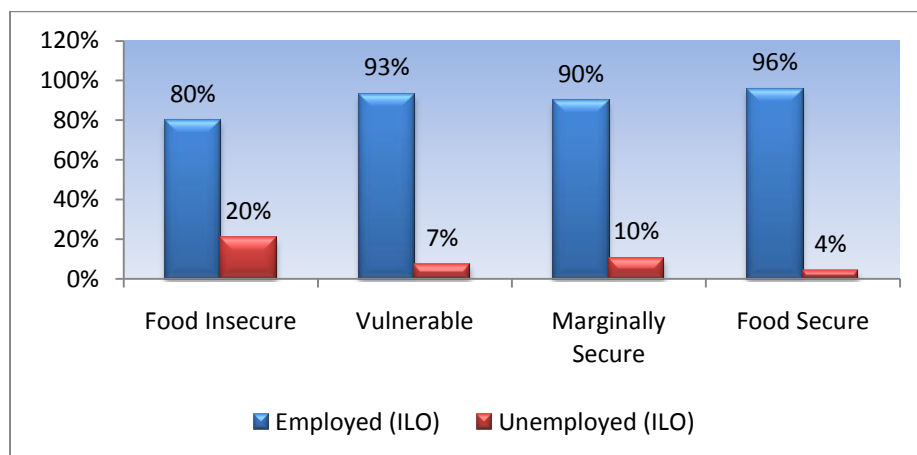


Figure 10: Employment and Unemployment Rate by Food Security Levels

Thirty-seven percent of employed food insecure households are distributed within elementary occupations, 21 percent within services and sales, 14 percent within crafts and related trade work and 12 percent in skilled agricultural work. Forms of employment requiring a higher level of education such as professionals, specialists, legislators/senior managers and clerks have a low distribution of food insecure households. In contrast, the highest form of employment for food secure households are within services and sales (25%) followed by crafts and related trade work (20%) and elementary occupation (15%). These are similar trends to that of the food insecure heads of households. However, higher levels of food secure heads of households work as legislators/senior managers (14%) and specialists (13%). Figure 10 is showing that low skill jobs increases the likelihood for household food insecurity. However, pay scale remains a determining factor for household food security as evident in the number of food secure heads of households in low skilled employment.

Figure 11: Occupation of Food Insecure Heads of Households

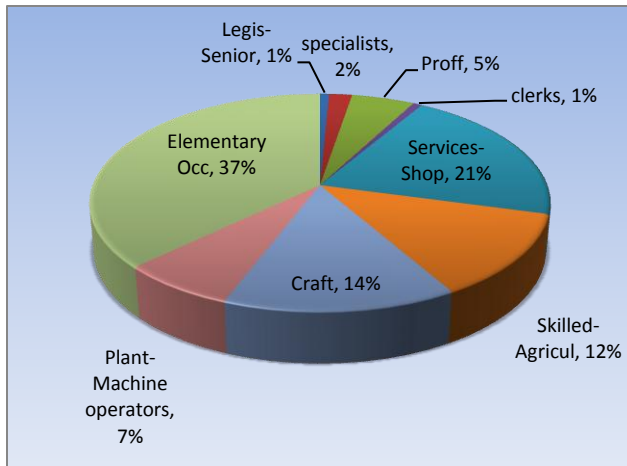
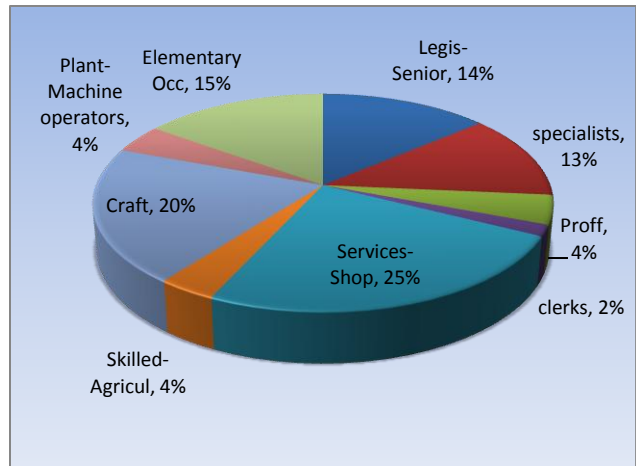


Figure 12: Occupation of Food Secure Heads of Households



The construction sector in Jenin employs the largest percentage of food insecure heads of households at 30 percent. This is followed by the whole sale and retail trade at 22 percent and agriculture/fishing at 18 percent of food insecure households. In contrast, the whole sale and retail trade employs 26 percent of heads of food secure households. This indicates that the various salary scales or the professional level of jobs within the sector is determining household food insecurity.

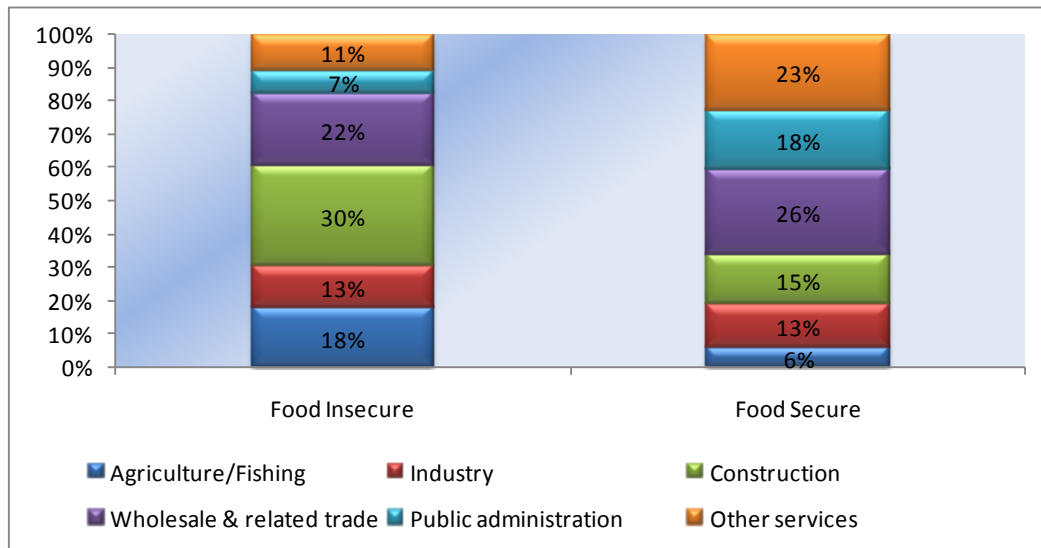


Figure 13: Area of Occupation by Food Insecure and Foods Secure Heads of Households

The highest reported source of income for food insecure households is the private national sector at 72 percent compared to 64 percent of the Jenin Average and 58 percent of the food insecure heads of households. The private national sector is the largest area of employment for the food insecure and food secure population in Jenin. The higher proportion of food insecure versus the food secure suggests that heads of households employed in the private national sector have a higher likelihood of being food insecure.

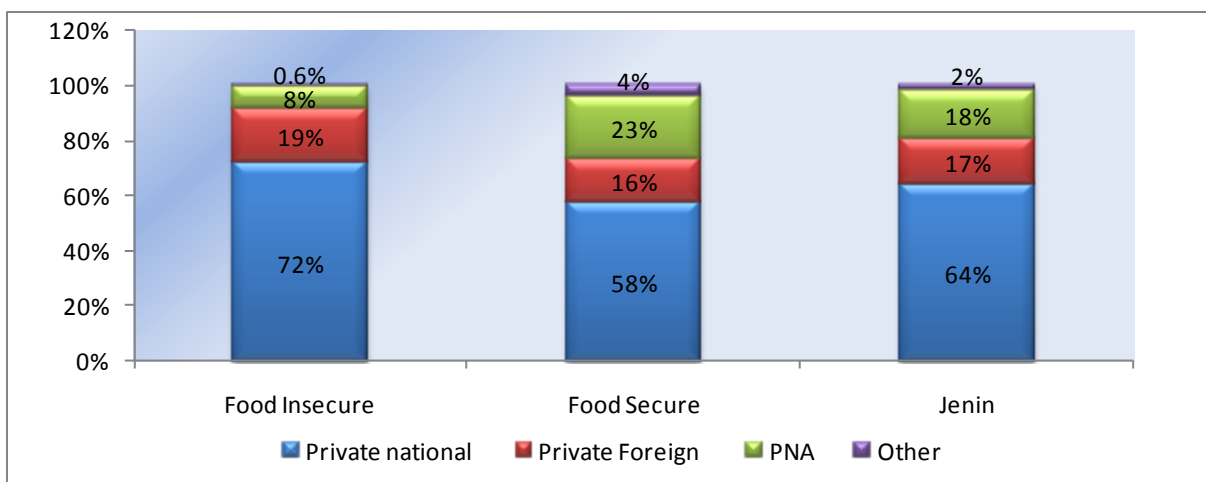


Figure 14: Sector of Employment by Food Insecure and Food Secure Heads of Households

Thirty-eight percent of food insecure heads of households are employed in irregular wage work. An additional 25 percent of the food insecure heads of households are employed in regular wage work. Consistent with the West Bank Household Food Security Profiling³, regular wage work provides a greater likelihood for households to be food secure and this is exemplified by the 45 percent of food secure households who are regular wage workers.

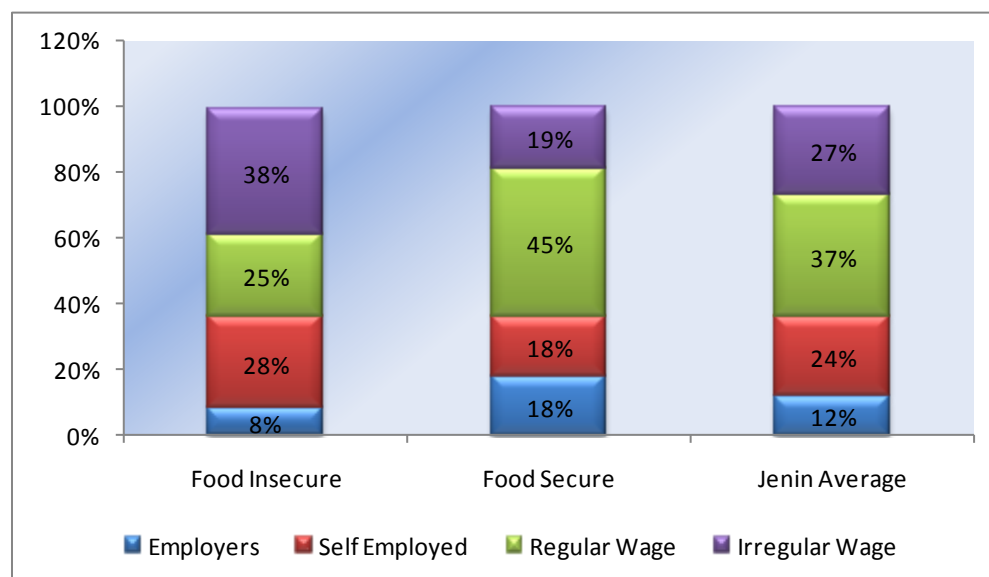


Figure 15: Comparison of Type of Employment by Food Insecure and Food Secure Heads of Households

Households who reported their place of employment as within settlements tend to be food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Findings show that 50 percent of households reporting employment within settlement are food insecure and an additional 50 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. Households reporting “employment abroad” show high levels of food security and marginal security, however, they represent only a small percentage of the population. Households appear to have greater chances of food security when the head of household is employed outside of the governorate in which

³ PCBS/WFP/FAO, Working Paper Series 1 – West Bank Household Food Security Profiling, October 2009.

they reside. A total of 41 percent of households reporting employment in another governorate are food secure compared to 50 percent who are marginally secure and 9 percent who are food insecure. Employment “within dwelling”, “within the community” and “within governorate” tend to show higher, if not the same level of food insecurity compared to the food secure suggesting the salary scale and quality of employment are a key factor in determining household food security levels rather than the locations.

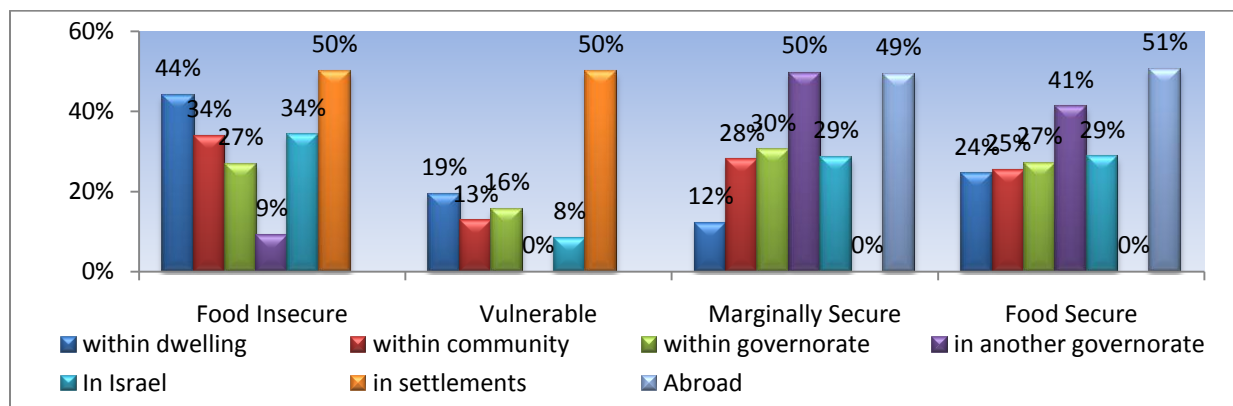


Figure 16: Location of Employment of Heads of Households by Food Security Levels

I. Assistance and targeting⁴

The survey findings show that 24 percent of Jenin households receive some kind of assistance (including assistance received by family and friends). Among the food insecure, 33 percent reported receiving assistance compared to 24 percent among the food secure.

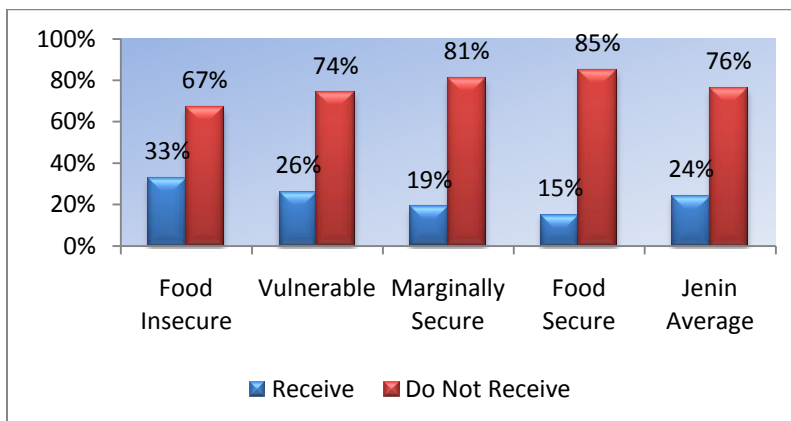


Figure 17: Reported Assistance Received by Food Security Levels and Jenin Average

As aforementioned in Section D, food insecurity levels between refugees and non refugees show are almost on par with each other. However, the following figure 18 shows that food insecure refugee households are well targeted compared to non refugee households. Forty-two percent of food insecure

⁴ Assistance refers to direct cash transfers, social hardship case allowance, training, unemployment allowance, food assistance (food for work/training), health assistance, furniture, clothes/sheets, jobs (cash for work), inputs for income generating activities, school stationary and other forms of assistance as explicated.

refugee households compared to 27 percent of food insecure non refugee households are receiving assistance. Therefore, while the refugees and non refugees have almost the same proportion of food insecurity, there is an unequal proportion of reported assistance received attesting to the fact that refugees have better access to assistance.

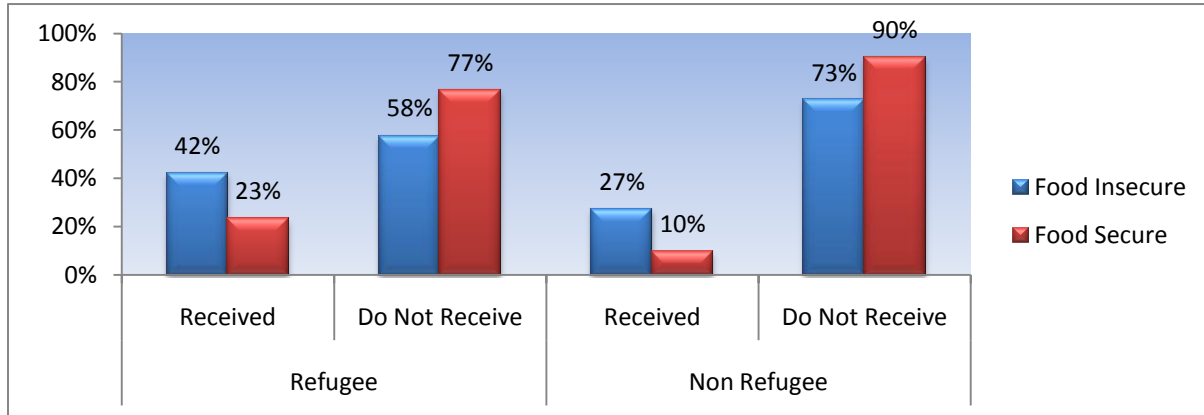


Figure 18: Reported Assistance Received of Food Insecure and Food Secure Groups and their Refugee/Non Refugee Status

The following figure refers to a comparison between food insecure and food secure households and the reported assistance received by locality. As shown, 94 percent of households who are food insecure receiving assistance reside in refugee camps. In comparison, 61 percent of food insecure urban households reported receiving assistance compared to 56 percent of food insecure rural households. This further confirms the findings that refugee households have better access schemes and in particular within refugee camps compared to other localities. The findings further shows that urban households are better targeted compared to rural households.

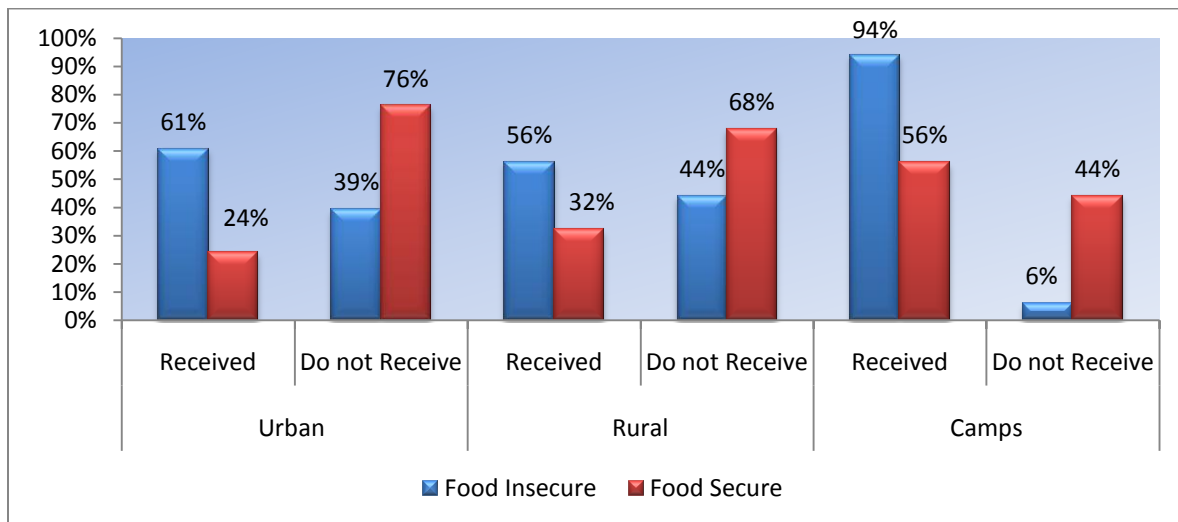


Figure 19: Reported Assistance Received by Food Insecure and Food Secure Households and their Locality