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Food Security Profiling in Jericho & Al Aghwar 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.

Working Paper Series 3
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IX. Jericho & Al Aghwar Governorate

A. Population and Demography

Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate is the smallest governorate in terms of population size out of the remaining West Bank (RWB). It is populated by 1.8 percent of the total remaining West Bank population or an estimated 42,320 people. The average household size in Jericho is 5.6 members and 7,615 households reside in the Jericho governorate. Consistent with the remaining West Bank average, the ratio of male to female is 1:1.

Table 1: Percentage of Registered Refugee out of Total Population

| | Registered Refugees | Other | Total |
|------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Population | 19,890 | 22,430 | 42,320 |
| Percent | 47% | 53% | 100% |

Source: PCBS Population Census 2007

Approximately 47 percent of the Jericho population are registered refugees. Registered refugees compose of approximately 94 percent of the population living in refugee camps, 53 percent of the population living in rural areas and 44 percent of the urban population. The distribution of the total population by localities shows that 53 percent of the Jericho population are living in the urban area, 22 percent live in the rural area and 24 percent live in refugee camps.

Table 2: Distribution of Population By Locality

| | Urban | Rural | Refugee Camps | Total |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|---------------|--------|
| Number of Communities | 2 | 10 | 2 | 14 |
| Population | 22,466 | 9,518 | 10,336 | 42,320 |
| Percent | 53% | 22% | 24% | 100% |

Source: PCBS Population Census 2007

B. Labour Force

In the second quarter of 2009, almost 56 percent of the Jericho population were aged 15 and above. Between the second quarter and the fourth quarter of 2008, labour force participation consistently increased. However, by the first quarter of 2009, labour force participation dropped to 46.5 percent. The unemployment rate which stood at 8.4 percent in the second quarter of 2008 has been slowly increasing until the fourth quarter of 2008 where it stood at 12.8 percent. By the first quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate dropped by almost half from the fourth quarter of 2008 to 6.2 percent.

Table 3: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rate

| | Q2 08 | Q3 08 | Q4 08 | Q1 09 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Labour force participation % | 47.8% | 48.8% | 49.9% | 46.5% |
| Unemployment % | 8.4% | 13.0% | 12.8% | 6.2% |

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

In absolute terms, during the last two quarters of 2008, the population above 15 years old (working age population) increased by 344. During the same period, only 88 jobs were created absorbing the labour

force participants, while 564 labour force participants remained unemployed. By the first quarter of 2009, the population above 15 years of age additionally increased by 349. However, labour force participation dropped by 297 with the creation of 429 jobs absorbing the unemployed labour force participants. This means that the drop of 297 labour force participants is a result of those who joined the discourage workers who are no longer looking for employment. Therefore the drop in the unemployment rate is as a result of those discouraged workers who are no longer looking for work and could be associated to seasonality of employment, either in agriculture or tourism.

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

| | Q2 08 | Q3 08 | Q4 08 | Q1 09 | Q2 09 | Change 2 nd Half 2008 | Change 1 st Half 2009 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Population | 40,910 | 41,216 | 41,526 | 41,837 | 42,151 | 616 | 625 |
| above 15 | 22,855 | 23,026 | 23,199 | 23,373 | 23,548 | 344 | 349 |
| Labour force participation # | 10,925 | 11,237 | 11,576 | 10,868 | 11,280 | 652 | -297 |
| Unemployed | 918 | 1,461 | 1,482 | 674 | 756 | 564 | -726 |
| Employed | 10,007 | 9,776 | 10,094 | 10,195 | 10,524 | 88 | 429 |

Source: PCBS Census 2007 and Labour Force Survey Rounds

C. Wages and Prices

Nominal daily wages refers to income that has not been adjusted to inflation. Thus, real wages refers to actual purchasing power and is adjusted to price inflation. In the second quarter of 2008, the nominal daily wage in Jericho was 70.4 NIS while the real daily wage stood at 63.6 NIS. Real daily wage was approximately 10 percent lower than nominal wages. In the third quarter of 2008, nominal wages increased to 76.2 NIS with real wages at 11 percent lower than the nominal wage. By the fourth quarter of 2008, real wages returned to 10 percent lower than nominal wages. In the first quarter of 2009, the nominal wage stood at 71.4 NIS while real wages stood at 65.5 NIS; real wages were 8% lower than nominal wages indicating an improvement in household purchasing power.

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

| | Q2 08 | Q3 08 | Q4 08 | Q1 09 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Average nominal daily wage NIS | 70.4 | 76.2 | 72.4 | 71.4 |
| Average real daily wage NIS | 63.6 | 67.8 | 65.0 | 65.5 |

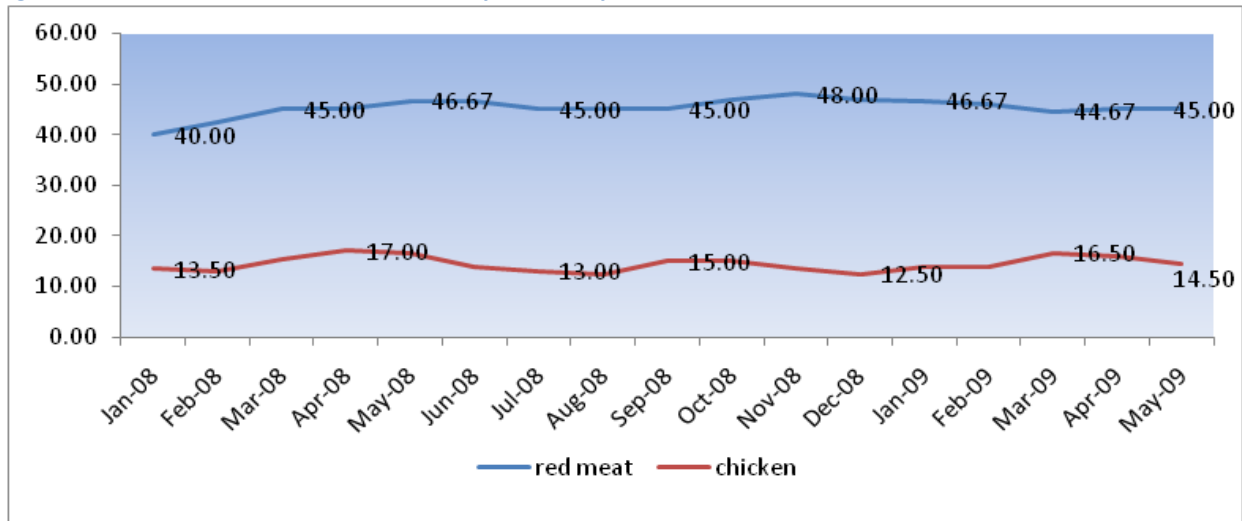
Source: PCBS Data

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 food commodities.

As shown in Figure 1, the prices of both red and white meat (chicken) fluctuated between January 2008 and May 2009. In January 2008 the cost per kilo of red meat was 40 NIS. By April 2008 and June 2008, the price increased by 5 NIS and an additional 1.67 NIS respectively. By the end of 2008, the cost of red meat increased to 48 NIS per kilo. Prices slowly decreased again in the first half of 2009 so that by the end of May 2009 the cost per kilo of red meat returned to 45 NIS. Prices of white meat compared to red meat are lower. Following similar trends to the cost of red meat, in January 2008 the cost per kilo of white meat was 13.50 NIS and rose by May 2008 to 17 shekels. Unlike the trend of red meat, in January

2009 the prices increased from 12.50 NIS per kilo to 16.50 NIS/kilo in April 2009. By May 2009, the cost of white meat dropped to 14.50 NIS per kilo.

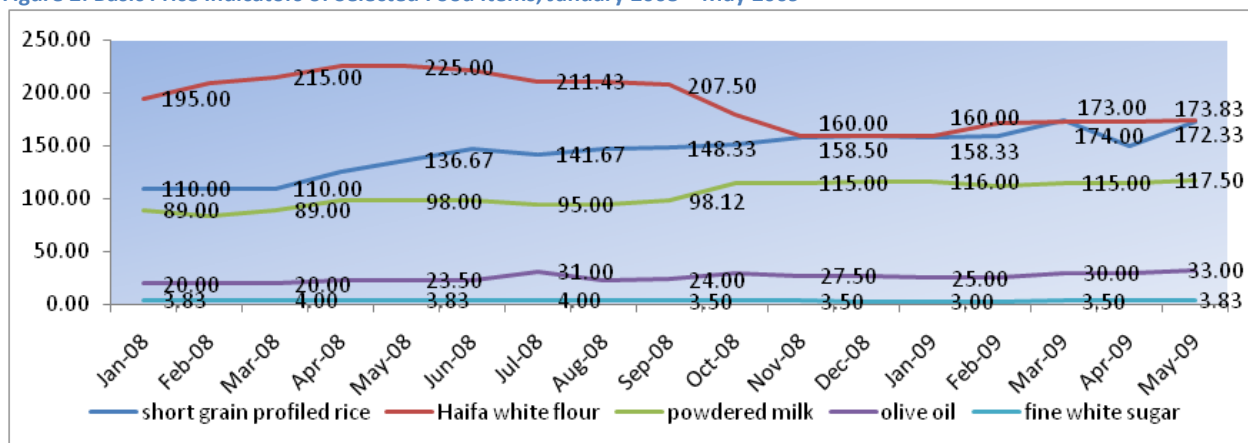
Figure 1: Prices of Red Meat and Chicken, January 2008 - May 2009



Source: PCBS Data

The prices of basic food items are explored in Figure 2. The figure shows the varying trends of different food items. The price of Haifa white flour in January 2008 was 195 NIS. By June 2008, the price increased to 225 NIS to slowly decrease again by October 2008 and sharply drop further by December 2008 to 160 NIS. During the first half of 2009, the price of Haifa white flour increased slowly again so that by May 2009, the price reached 173.83 NIS. The cost of short grained also increased sharply from 110 NIS in January 2008 to 136.67 NIS in June 2008 and continued to gradually increase until March 2009. A sharp drop was observed in April 2009 to rise again to 172.33 NIS. In comparison, the price of powdered milk show slow incremental increases; in January 2008 the cost was 89 NIS and by May 2009 the price was 117.50 NIS. Olive oil shows similar small incremental increases while fine white sugar generally remained stable.

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



Source: PCBS Data

D. Food Insecurity Levels

The prevalence of food insecurity is significantly higher amongst rural households than urban or refugee camps despite a lower concentration of the population within this area. Out of the total rural population, 44 percent of the population are food insecure compared to 13 percent of the population living in urban areas and 6 percent of the population in refugee camps. Food security levels are higher in the refugee camps compared to urban areas and rural areas indicating that households living in refugee camps have better access to employment opportunities and social safety nets (food or cash assistance).

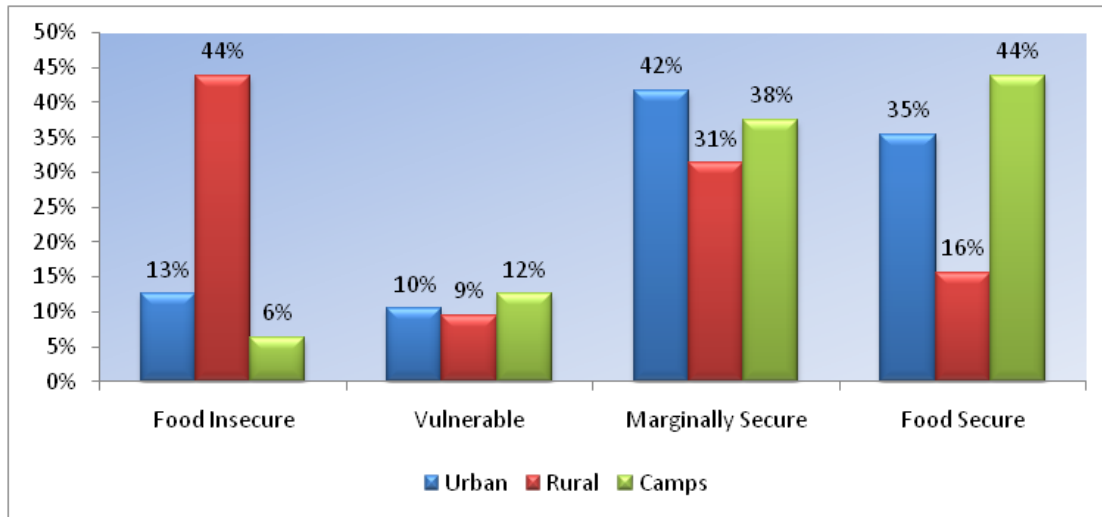


Figure 3: Food Security Levels By Locality

The non refugee population show slightly higher food insecurity levels than the refugee population; 19 percent compared to 16 percent. While the non refugee population show higher levels of food security, at 41 percent compared to 28 percent of the refugee population, the refugee population show a higher level of being marginally secure (46%) compared to the non refugee population (28%). Combined, refugees show a higher level of food security and marginal security than non refugees (74% compared to 69%).

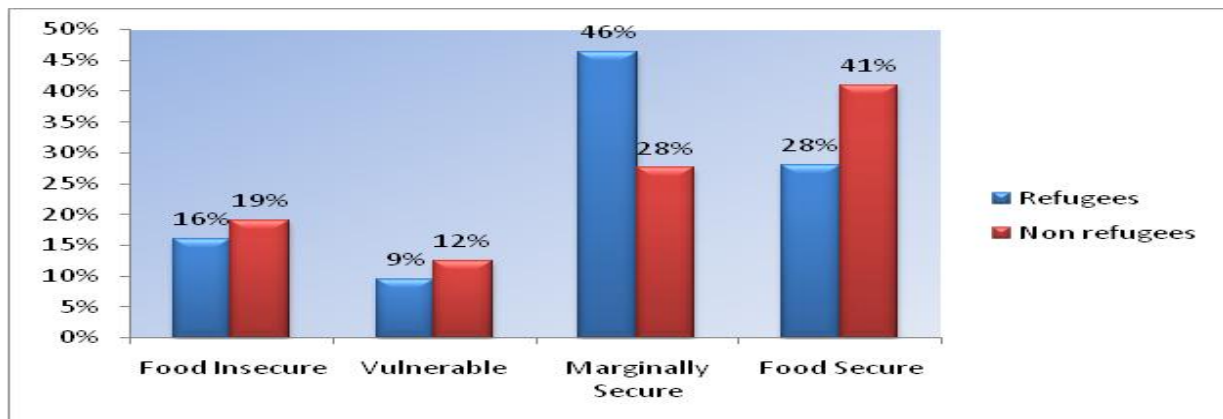


Figure 4: Food Security Levels by Refugee or Non Refugee Status

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, 8 percent of Jericho households are female headed and

92 percent of households are male headed. In absolute figures, the total number of female headed households are an estimated 658 households compared to an estimated 7,251 male headed households.

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

| | Jericho | Remaining West Bank |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Male Headed Households | 92% | 88% |
| Female Headed Households | 8% | 11% |

Figure 5 indicates that a greater prevalence of food insecurity exists amongst female headed households; 21 percent of female headed households compared to 17 percent of male headed households. In comparison, the combined totals of households that are food secure and marginally secure is higher amongst female headed households than male headed households.

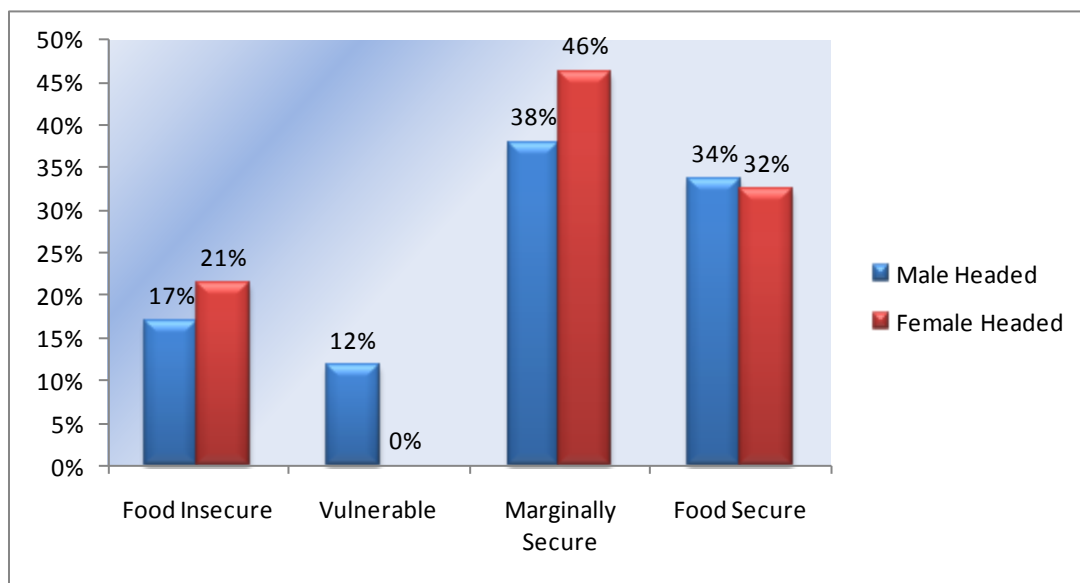


Figure 5: Food Security Levels by Gender of Head of Household

F. Education of Head of Household and Food Security Levels

A total of 12 percent of the Jericho population is illiterate. Education levels amongst the food insecure households are generally low amongst the food insecure and households vulnerable to food insecurity. Out of the total food insecure household heads, 27 percent of them are illiterate. While 11 percent of marginally secure and 10 percent of the food secure household heads are illiterate, none of the vulnerable household heads are illiterate. However, while 11 percent of food insecure household heads report being able to read and write, a higher percentage of 27 percent of vulnerable household heads followed by 16 percent of the marginally secure and 15 percent of the food secure reported having at most the ability to read and write as their highest educational attainment. Furthermore, 10 percent of food insecure households compared to 13 percent of the food secure household heads reported having completed their B.A. degree. Generally, the trend shows that the food secure have higher levels of educational attainment than the food insecure. However, a larger percentage of marginally secure and food secure household heads have only completed up to preparatory level education (29 percent of marginally secure and 27 percent of food secure) while those with Bachelor’s degree are distributed across the food security levels with only slight varying differences. This indicates that a total of 10 years of educational attainment is very likely the limit of education household heads need to be employed in

an occupation that would provide their households with a certain level of food security or marginal security.

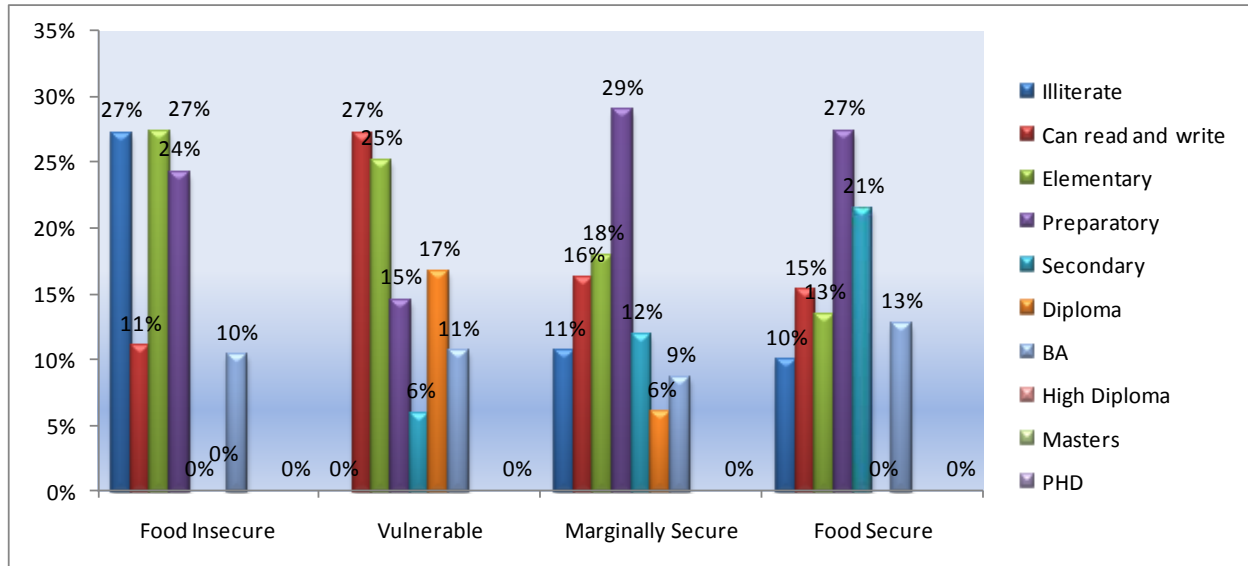


Figure 6: Educational Attainment of Head of Households by Food Security Levels

G. Food Consumption and Income levels

Across the food security levels with the exception of the food secure, the food consumption ratio exceeds the 44 percent set by PCBS defines as worse off households. Food secure household's food consumption ratio falls just at the PCBS threshold of 44 percent. Therefore, the food secure are considered worse off as they are not at the ideal threshold in which they do not have a balance between expenditure on food items and non food items such as health care and education. Food insecure households have even less disposable income on non food items which are also factors in determining household's food security levels.

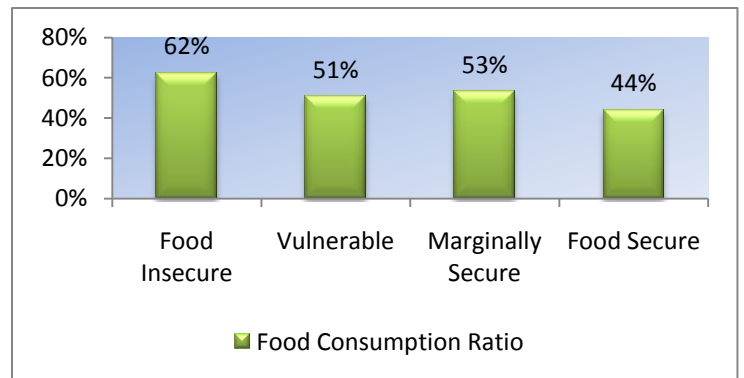


Figure 7: Food Consumption Ratio by Food Security Levels

Food insecure households have significantly lower levels of income and consumption per adult/month. While the Jericho average income per adult/month is at 750 NIS, the food insecure households reported a 286 NIS income per adult/month. Even if income is under reported, the consumption levels between the Jericho average and food insecure households are still significantly lower. While the Jericho Average show 927 NIS to be the average income per adult/month food insecure households consumption levels are at 426 NIS per adult/month; a 54 percent difference from the average. The consumption gap between the food insecure and the food secure are even higher. Food secure households show a consumption level of 1,253 NIS per adult/month. Therefore, food insecure households have a 66 percent consumption gap.

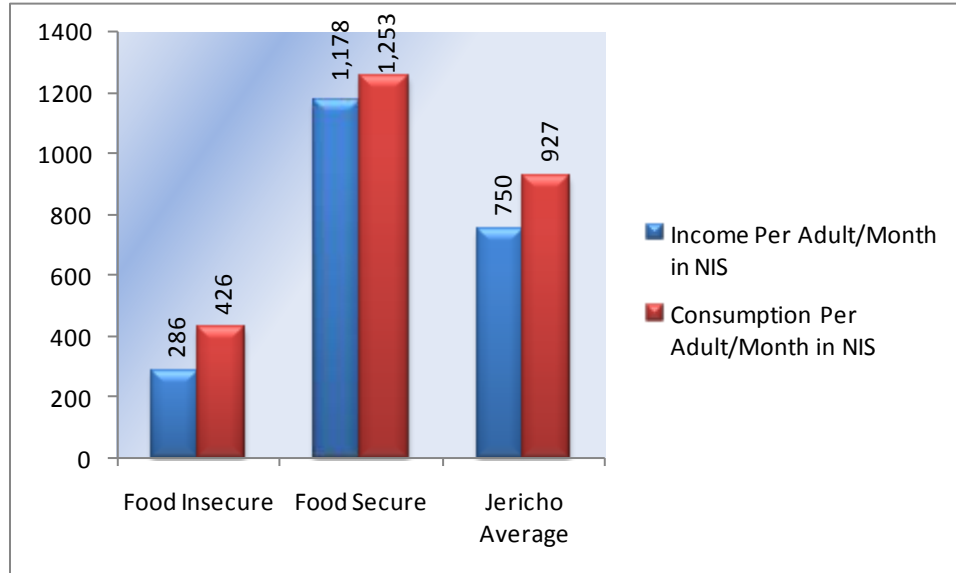


Figure 8: Income/Adult/Month vs. Consumption/Adult/Month in NIS

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

Figure 9 shows that 94 percent of the population of Jericho are employed while 6 percent are unemployed (ILO standard). The highest level of unemployed is amongst the food insecure at 24 percent of the total food insecure heads of households. The unemployed is further distributed within the marginally secure heads of households with 7 percent of them unemployed. Employment figures, according to the ILO standard, are generally high.

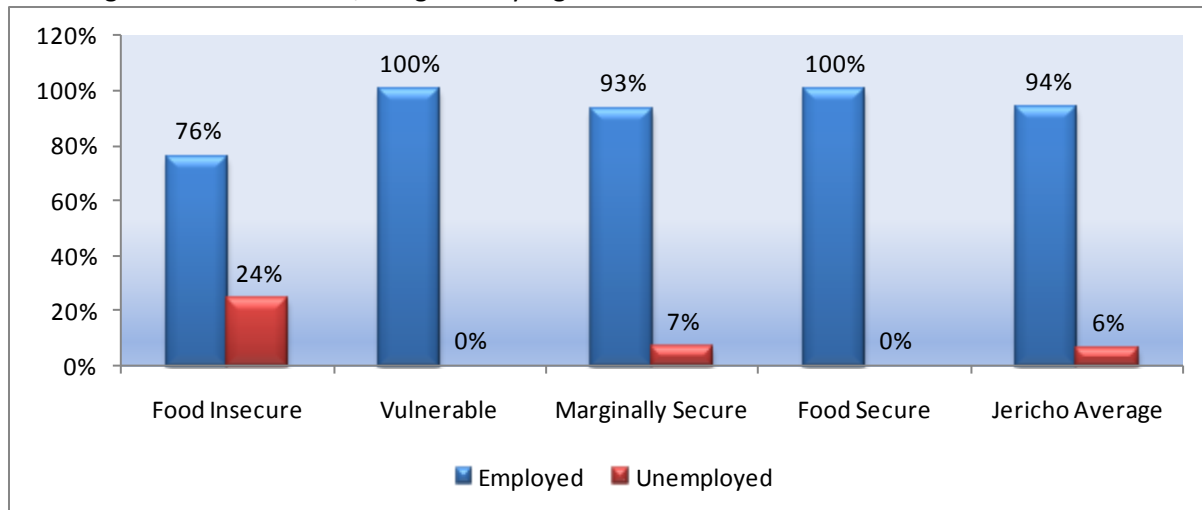


Figure 9: Employment and Unemployment Levels by Food Security Levels and Jericho Average

Inconsistent with the remaining West Bank Average food insecure household profiling, Jericho households show that the food insecure heads of households are distributed predominantly within elementary occupations and crafts/related trade work, 33 percent and 13 percent respectively. However, unlike the remaining West Bank Average, 27 percent of food insecure heads of households are employed as specialists, 13 percent as legislative or senior managers and an additional 13 percent are employed as skilled agricultural workers. Food insecure heads of households appear to be employed in highly skilled forms of employment.

In comparison, a greater percentage of food secure heads of households are employed within elementary occupations compared to forms of employment requiring high skills. For example, 25 percent of food secure heads of households are employed within elementary occupations and only 9 percent are employed as machine operators or assemblers, 7 percent as specialists, an additional 7 percent as professionals and 6 percent as legislative or senior managers.

Figure 10: Occupation of Food Insecure Households

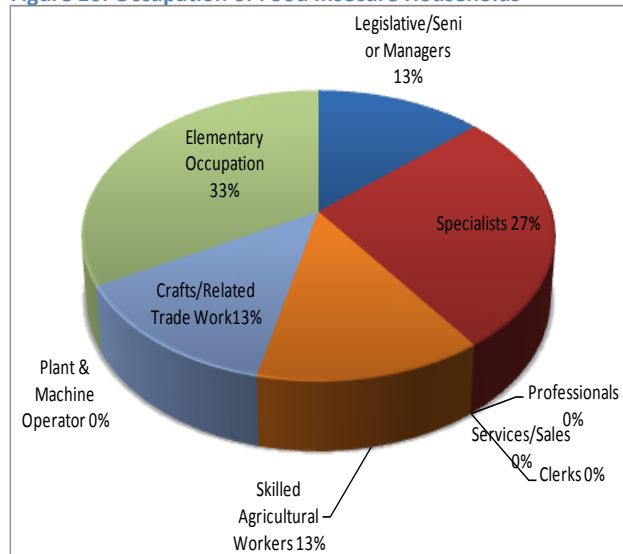


Figure 11: Occupation of Food Secure Households

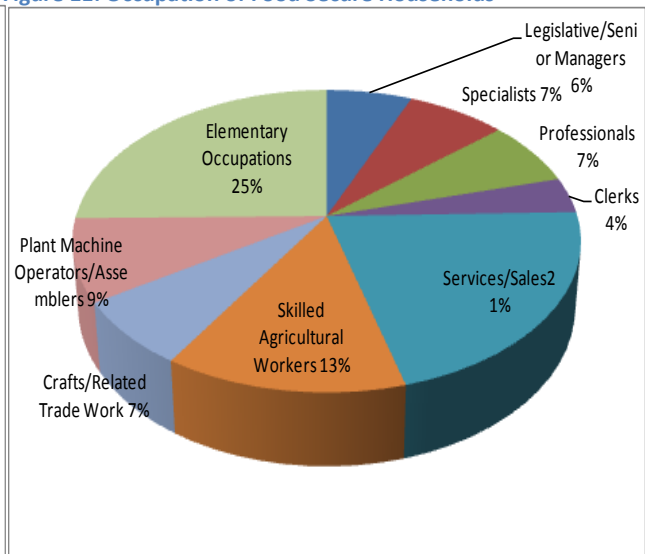


Table 8 shows that the majority heads of households of food insecure households are employed in agriculture and fishing (63%) compared to 10 percent of food secure households. Additionally the food insecure heads of households are found to be employed within transport/storage/communication (13%), whole sale/retail trade (10%), properties/rents/commercial businesses (10%) and public administration and defense (5%). Food secure households appear to have greater access to more forms of employment. A total of 27 percent of food secure heads of households are employed in whole sale/retail trade, 17 percent in restaurants and hotels, 12 percent in properties, rents/commercial businesses and 10 percent in health and social work.

Table 7: Area of Employment by Food Insecure and Food Secure Heads of Households

| | Food Insecure | Food Secure |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| Agriculture and fishing | 63% | 10% |
| Mining manufacturing | 0% | 5% |
| Construction | 0% | 4% |
| Wholesale retail trade | 10% | 27% |
| Restaurants and hotels | 0% | 17% |
| Transport storage communication | 13% | 0% |
| Finance insurance and mediation | 0% | 4% |
| Properties, rents and commercial businesses | 10% | 12% |
| Public administration and defense | 5% | 0% |
| Education | 0% | 6% |
| Health and social work | 0% | 10% |
| Other social and personal care | 0% | 6% |
| Total | 100% | 100% |

Figure 12 below refers to the sector of employment of food insecure and food secure heads of households. Employment within charities represents the main areas of employment for both 50 percent of the food insecure and 50 percent of the food secure heads of households. The private national and foreign sector consists of a combined total of 42 percent of food insecure heads of households compared to a combined total of 38 percent of the food secure households. The figure indicates that food security levels is determined by income stability and reliability rather than whether the characteristics of the sector determining food security levels of households.

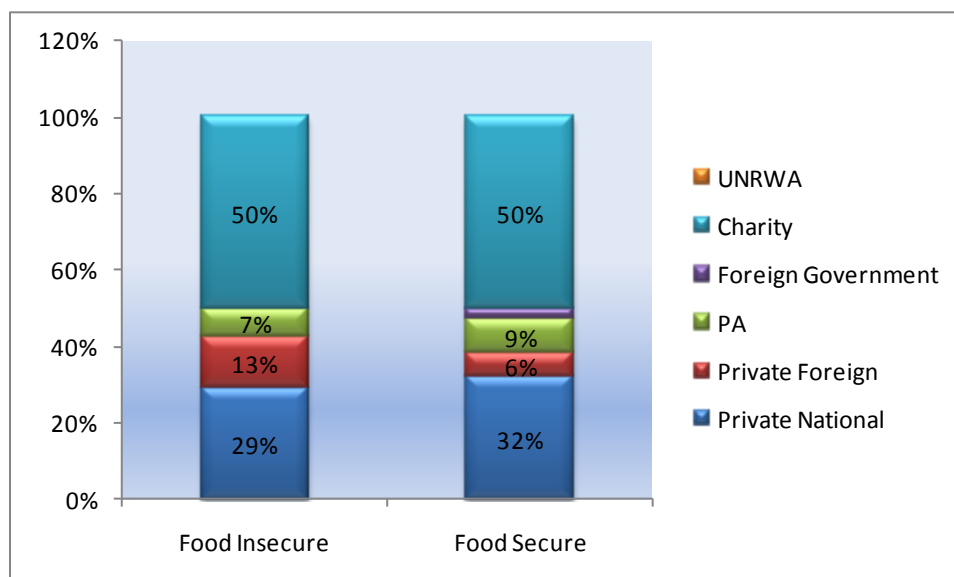


Figure 12: Sector of Employment by Food Insecure and Food Secure Heads of Households

The following Figure 13 refers to the food insecure and food secure heads of households and the type of jobs in which they are employed. A total of 45 percent of heads of households in Jericho governorate receive regular wages. Out of the food secure households 52 percent receive regular wages compared to 31 percent of the food insecure households. While 18 percent of the food secure heads of households are self employed and an additional 13 percent are irregular wage workers, a greater proportion of food insecure heads of households are self employed at 33 percent or irregular wage workers at 31 percent. These findings show that whether a head of households receives regular wage, is self employed or an irregular wage worker the scale of the salary determines household's food security levels.

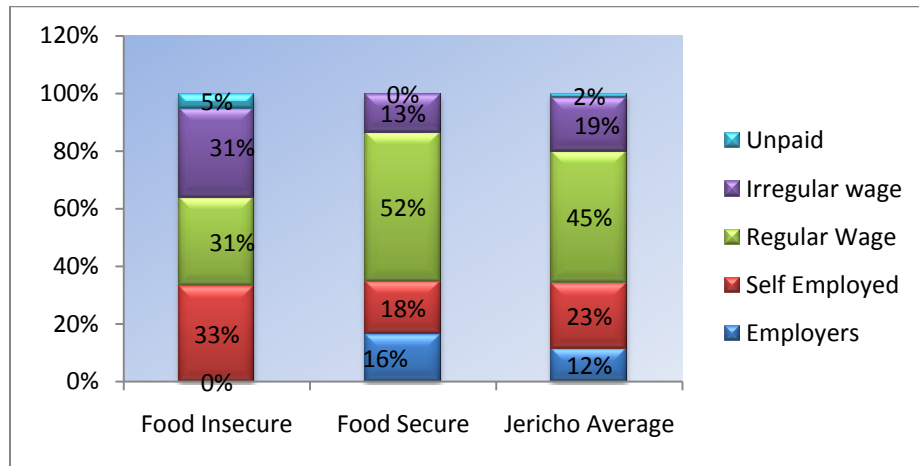
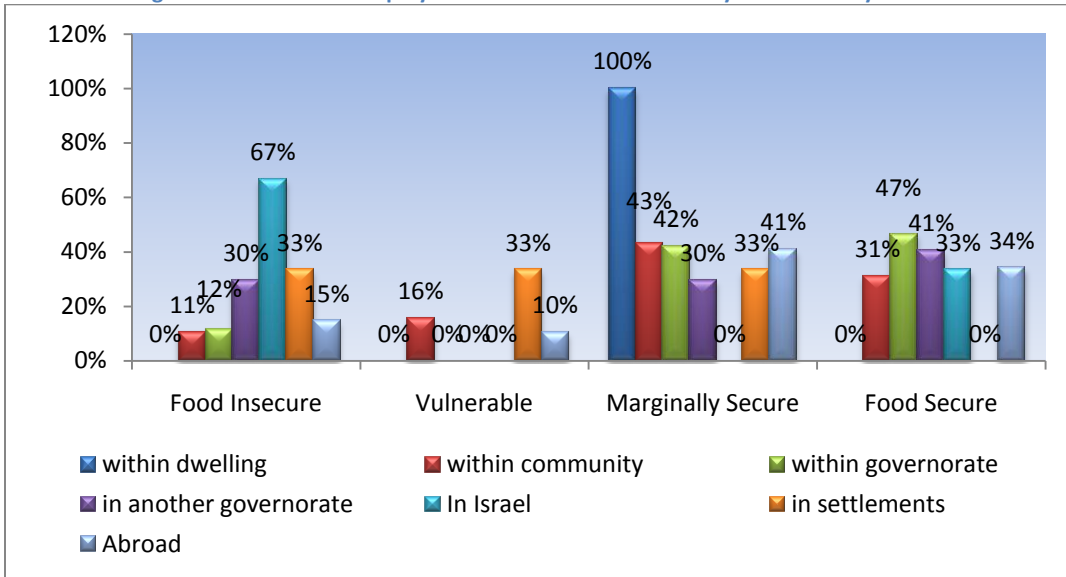


Figure 13: Comparison of Type of Employment

Figure 14 refers to the distribution of heads of households, their food security levels and the location of employment. The highest percent of food insecure heads of households are those who reported employment within Israel at 67 percent. Only 33 percent of households who reported they are employed within Israel are food secure. Workings in settlements appear to provide equal amounts of food insecurity, vulnerability and marginal security for the Jericho heads of households. Be it working within one's own governorate, in another governorate or within a community, the location of employment (with the exemption of working in Israel and settlements) provides households with a greater probability of being food secure and marginal security.

Figure 14: Location of Employment of Head of Household By Food Security Levels



I. Assistance and Targeting

Figure 14 indicates that 68 percent of the total Jericho population receive some form of assistance while 32 percent do not. The examination by food security groups show that 51 percent of the food insecure receives a form of assistance while vulnerable households reported not having received assistance at all. This indicates a level of mistargetting amongst the food insecure and the vulnerable to food insecurity. In comparison, 26 percent of food secure and 35 percent marginally secure households reported receiving assistance.

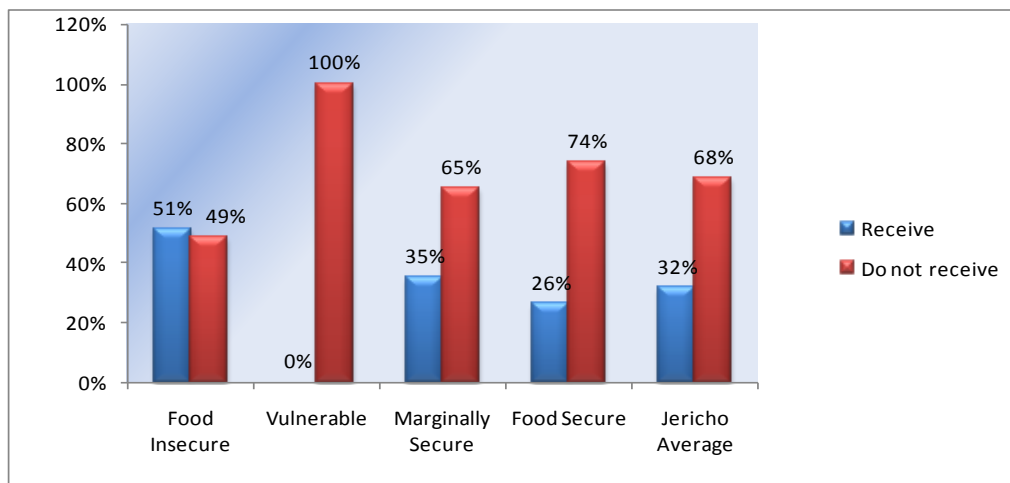


Figure 15: Reported Assistance Received by Food Security Levels and Jericho Average

The targeting of assistance appears to be better amongst non refugees compared to refugee households. A slightly higher number of food insecure non refugee households reported receiving assistance compared to refugee households but only by 2 percent. The receipt of assistance to the food secure households is higher amongst refugee households compared to non refugee households. Only 12 percent of food secure non refugee households reported receiving assistance compared to 43 percent of food secure refugee households.

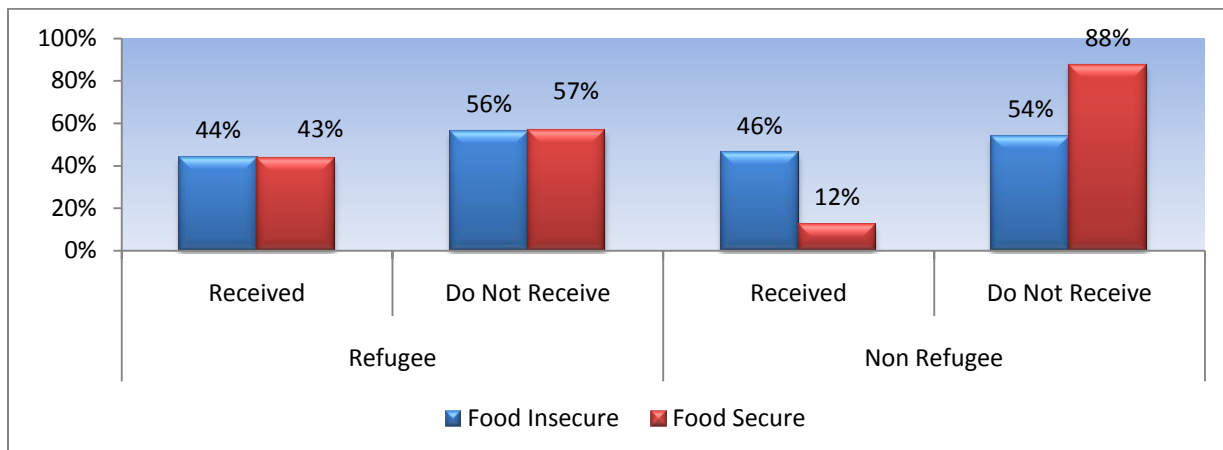


Figure 16: Comparison of Received Assistance by Refugee and Non Refugee Households

Figure 16 below indicates that households are better targeted in urban areas compared to rural areas and refugee camps. Sixty-seven percent of food insecure households who reported receiving assistance reside in urban areas while only 36 percent of food insecure rural households reported receiving assistance and no households residing in refugee camps reported receiving assistance. These are likely a result of a large number of households under reporting the assistance they receive.

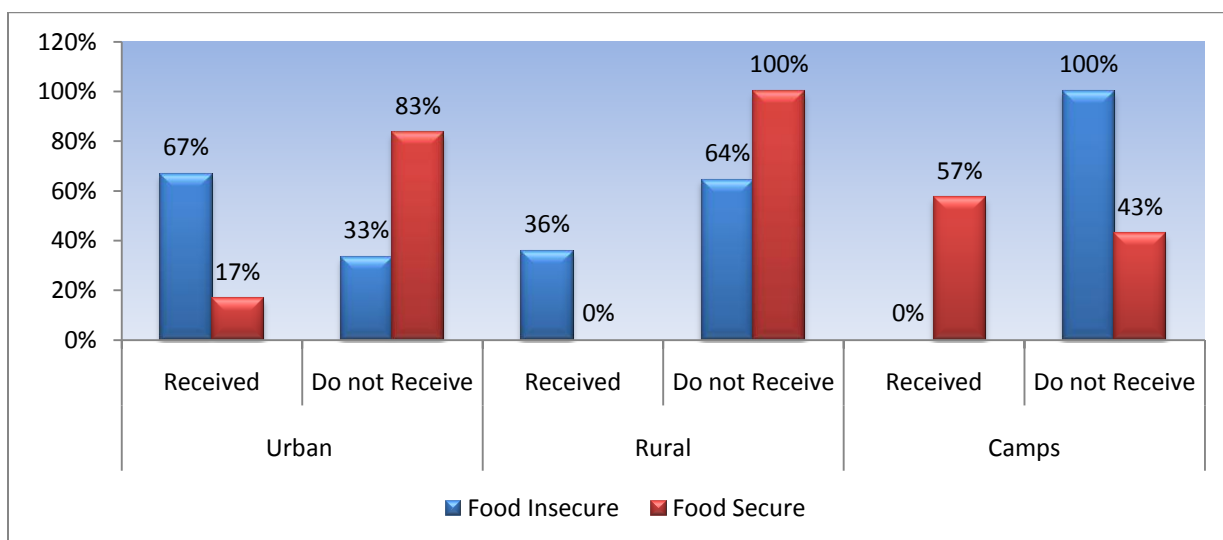


Figure 17: Comparison of Received Assistance by Locality