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Food Security Profiling of Qalqiliya 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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Governorate Food Security Profiling WBSGS
V. Qalqiliya Governorate

A. Population and Demography

Qalqiliya is located in the west of the West Bank and shares geographical boundaries with Tulkarem in the north, Nablus in its east and Salfit to its south. It is the seventh largest governorate in terms of population size. A total of 4 percent of the Remaining West Bank population or an estimated 91,217 individuals reside in Qalqiliya. Approximately 42 percent of the population are registered refugees. The average household size in Qalqiliya is 5.5 members so that an estimated 16,584 households reside within the governorate.

Table 1: Percentage of Registered Refugees Out of Total Population

	Registered Refugees	Other	Total
Population	38,737	52,480	91,217
Percent	42%	58%	100%

Source: PCBS Population Census 2007

The population in Qalqiliya is mainly concentrated within the urban centre. Sixty-one percent of the population live in the urban areas and 39 percent of the population are living in rural areas. The percentage of the population registered as refugees is 42 percent and are distributed within the urban and rural areas.

Table 2: Distribution of Population By Locality

	Urban	Rural	Refugee Camps	Total
Number of Communities	3	31	0	34
Population	55,576	35,641	0	91,217
Percent	61%	39%	0%	100%

Source: PCBS Population Census 2007

B. Labour Force

From the second quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009, labour force participation appears to be on the decline. By the second quarter of 2009, the labour force participation rate rose to 45.5 percent from a 40.2 percent rate in the first quarter of the same year.

Table 3: Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rate

	Q2 08	Q3 08	Q4 08	Q1 09	Q2 09
Labour Force participation %	43.4%	42.1%	42.2%	40.2%	45.5%
Unemployment %	23.2%	31.5%	14.9%	21.9%	26.0%

Source: PCBS Labour Force Surveys

The absolute figures show that by the second half of 2008, the population above 15 years of age grew by 778 individuals. At the same time, the labour force participation rate dropped by 292 people, while the number of unemployed people also dropped by 1905. In the same period, 1,613 new jobs were created that absorbed 1,613 of the unemployed individuals. This leaves 292 of individuals who have dropped out of the labour force due most likely to discouragement. In the second half of 2009, the population above the age of 15 grew by 790 individuals. The labour force participation also grew by 2090 people which coincided with the loss of 910 jobs resulting in the unemployment of 3000 individuals.

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	92,585	93,280	93,979	94,684	95,394	1,394	1,415
above 15	51,676	52,063	52,454	52,847	53,243	778	790
Labour Force Participation #	22,427	21,919	22,135	21,245	24,226	-292	2,090
Unemployed	5,203	6,904	3,298	4,653	6,299	-1,905	3,000
Employed	17,224	15,014	18,837	16,592	17,927	1,613	-910

Source: PCBS Census 2007 and Labour Force Survey Rounds

C. Wages and Prices

The net change between the average nominal daily wage and average real daily wage was close to zero indicating no major price changes occurred during the observed period. The average daily wage decreased from 78.60 NIS to 73.70 NIS between the second quarter and the fourth quarter of 2008. The average nominal daily wage during the same period decreased from 87 NIS to 82.20. Real wages was lower than nominal daily wage by 10 percent. In the first quarter of 2009, the average nominal wage rose to 88.20 NIS and dropped to 86.80 NIS. However, real daily wage was still lower by 11 percent.

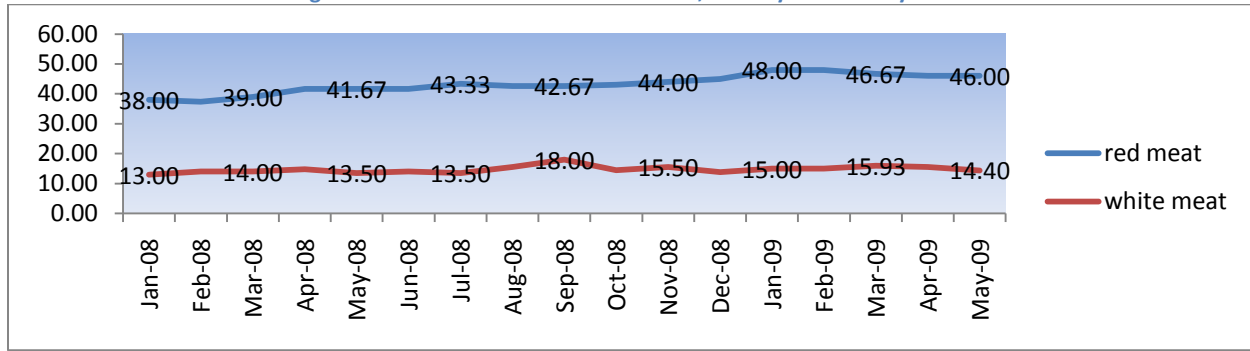
Table 5: Average Nominal Daily Wage vs. Average Real Daily Wage

	Q2 08	Q3 08	Q4 08	Q1 09	Q2 09
Average nominal daily wage NIS	87	83.6	82.2	88.2	86.8
Average real daily wage NIS	78.6	74.3	73.7	80.9	79.2

Source: PCBS Data

During the period under review, since no consumer price index was collected at governorate level the prices of selected food items were observed to understand the link between price inflation and decreases in purchasing power. From January 2008 to January 2009, the price of red meat gradually increased from 38 NIS per kilo to 48 NIS per kilo. From January 2009 to May 2009, the price of red meat decreased to 46 NIS per kilo. The cost of white meat in January 2008 was 13 NIS per kilo and remained relatively stable until September 2008 when the price hiked to 18 NIS per kilo. Prices gradually decreased to 14.40 NIS by May 2009; slightly lower than the long term average of 14.71 NIS per kilo.

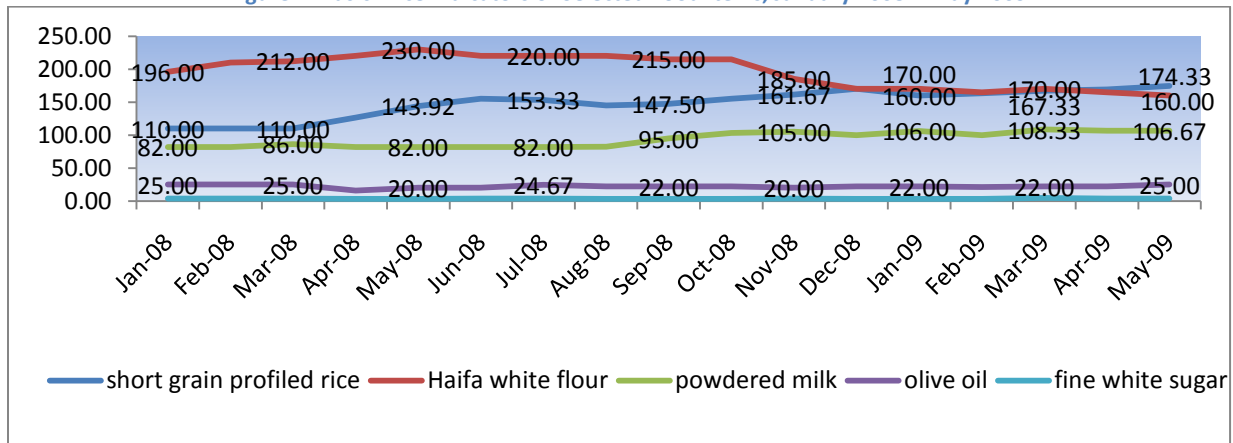
Figure 1: Prices of Red Meat and Chicken, January 2008 – May 2009



Source: PCBS Data

The prices of selected items below follow similar trends to those observed in other governorates. In January 2008, the cost of Haifa white flour stood at 196 NIS and rose to reach a peak of 230 NIS in May 2008. From May 2008, flour prices decreased and stabilised by January 2009 and decreased to 160 NIS by May 2009; lower than the long term average of 197 NIS. From January 2008, the price of short grain rice increased from 110 NIS in January 2008 to reach a peak of 161.67 NIS by November 2008. Prices of rice continued to fluctuate and rose again in March 2009 to 167.33 NIS and by May 2009 to 174.33; much higher than the long term average. The prices of powdered milk incrementally increased from January 2008 to reach 106.67 NIS while prices of olive oil and fine white sugar remained relatively stable.

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

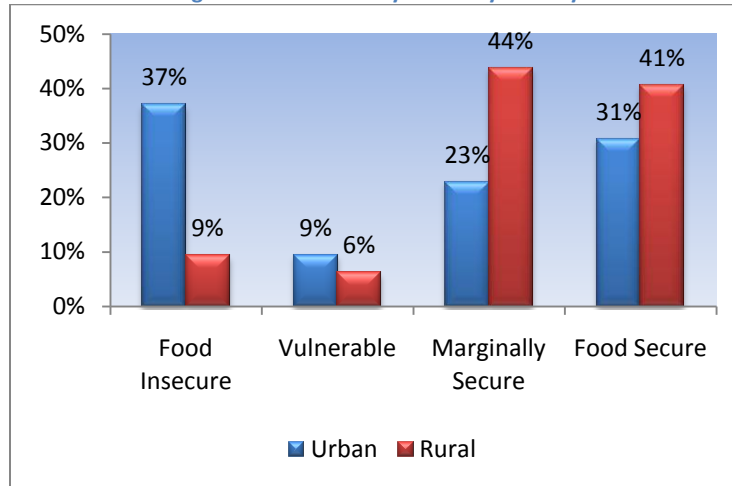


Source: PCBS Data

D. Food Insecurity Levels

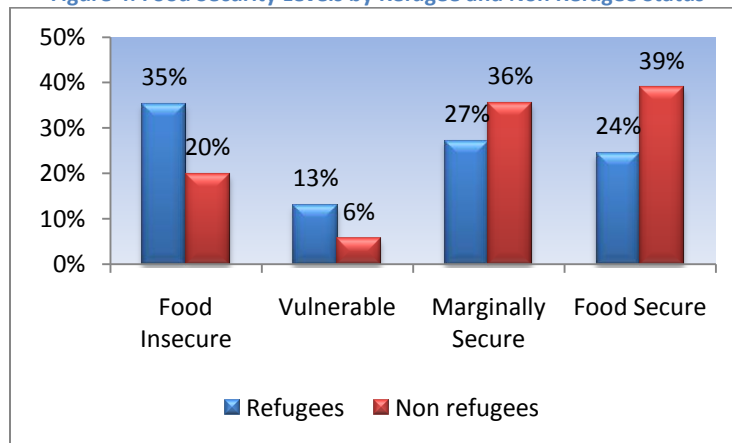
The distribution of the food security groups by locality is shown in the table below. As shown, food security and marginal security is highest among rural households compared to households living in the urban areas. A total of 37 percent of urban households are food insecure compared to only 9 percent of rural households. Food security is higher amongst rural households compared to urban households with 41 percent of rural households registering as food secure and an additional 44 percent registering as marginally secure. In comparison, only 31 percent of urban households registered as food secure and 23 percent registered as marginally secure.

Figure 3: Food Security Levels By Locality



Non refugee households compared to refugee households have a higher prevalence of food security and marginal security. Thirty nine percent of non refugee households compared to 24 percent of refugee households are food secure and 36 percent of non refugees compared to 27 percent of refugee households are marginally secure. In total 35 percent of refugee households are food insecure compared to 20 percent of non-refugee households.

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



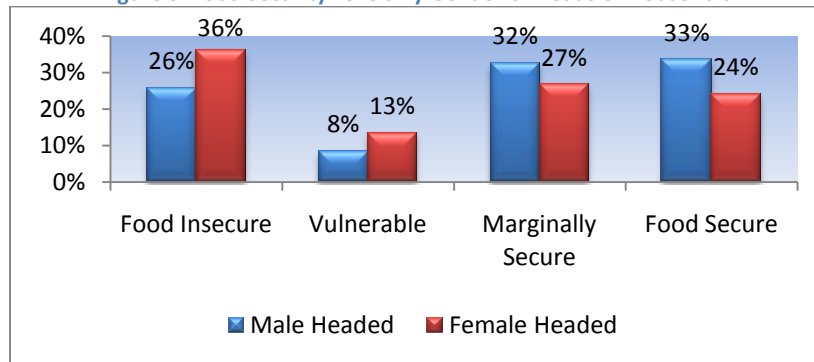
E. Gender of Head of Households and Food Security Levels

The proportion of female headed households in Qalqilya is lower compared to the Remaining West Bank. Female headed households compose of 8 percent of the total Qalqilya households compared to 12 percent of male headed households. Out of the total female headed households, 36 percent are food insecure compared to 26 percent of male headed households.

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

	Qalqilya	Remaining West Bank
Male Headed Households	92%	88%
Female Headed Households	8%	12%

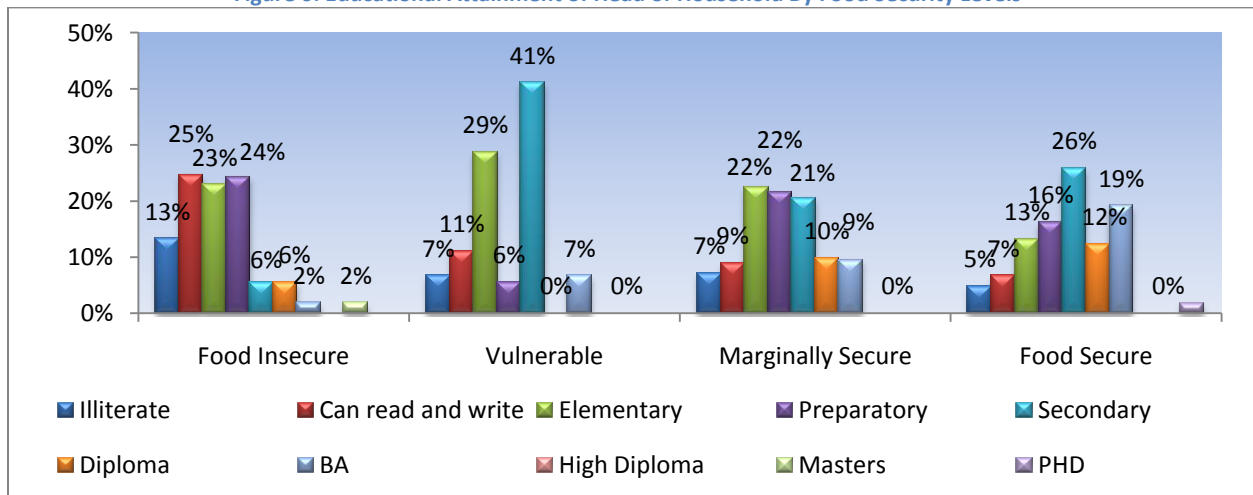
Figure 5: Food Security Levels By Gender of Heads of Household



F. Education of Head of Household

The prevalence of illiteracy amongst food insecure heads of households in the West Bank governorates ranges from 4 percent to 34 percent. Illiteracy rates amongst food insecure heads of households in Qalqilya are fairly better at 13 percent compared to other West Bank governorates whose illiteracy rates of heads of households are above the 20 percentile range. Unlike West Bank governorate trends in which the vast majority of heads of households have completed preparatory school as their highest educational attainment, 20 percent of the Qalqilya's heads of households have completed up to secondary level education. However, the figure below continues show that lower levels of educational attainment increases the likelihood of heads of households to become food insecure.

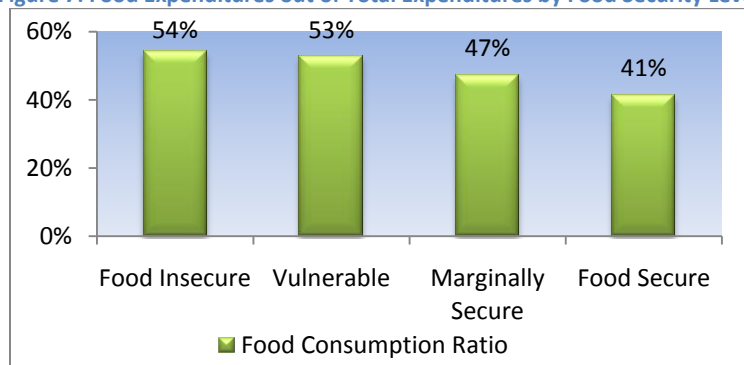
Figure 6: Educational Attainment of Head of Household By Food Security Levels



G. Food Consumption and Income Levels

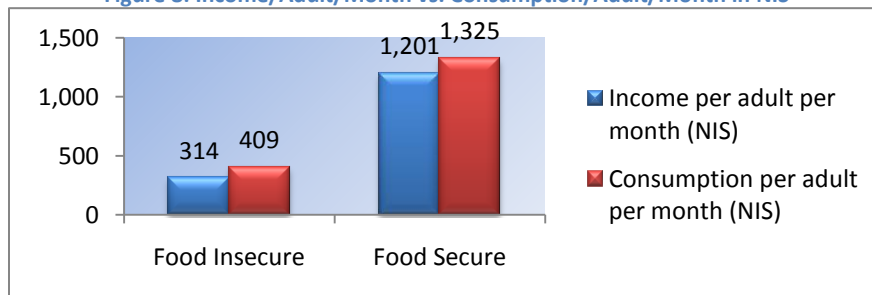
The food consumption ratio of the marginally secure, vulnerable and food insecure households are higher than those of the PCBS threshold. Food insecure households are spending 54 cents of every dollar on food and vulnerable households are spending 1 percent lower. Marginally secure households are spending 47 percent out of every dollar on food. Considering that the PCBS threshold for worst of households are those that spend 44 percent of their total expenditures on food, the marginally secure, vulnerable and food insecure are thus categorised as worse off. The assumption is that households have less disposable income on other non food items such as health care and education which may influence households' food security levels.

Figure 7: Food Expenditures out of Total Expenditures by Food Security Levels



The average consumption per adult per month of food insecure households is 409 NIS compared to a reported income per adult per month of 314 NIS. Food secure household's consumption per adult per month is 1,325 NIS. While food insecure households tend to report higher consumption levels compared to income levels, this may indicate indebtedness of food insecure households. Considering the relative poverty line is an estimated 693 NIS per adult per month, food insecure households have an unmet 41 percent consumption gap required to lift them out of their food insecurity threshold toward food security.

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



H. Employment, Occupation, Sector and Place of Employment of Heads of Households

The unemployment rate in Qalqilya is within the same range as other governorates in the Remaining West Bank. Higher rates of unemployment are found amongst food insecure households. Twenty-seven percent of food insecure households are unemployed compared to 2 percent of food secure heads of households.

Figure 9: Employment and Unemployment Rate by Food Security Levels



Comparisons of employment activities between the food insecure and food secure heads of households are shown in the figures below. The vast majority of the population is employed in elementary occupations. Thirty-eight percent of food insecure heads of households are employed in elementary occupation. Crafts and related trade is the second largest employment activity for the heads of households. Twenty-six percent of food insecure households are employed in crafts and related trade work. Additionally, thirteen percent of food insecure heads of households are employed as plant machine operators, 11 percent in services and sales and 9 percent as skilled agricultural workers.

Similar to food insecure heads of households, elementary occupations composes the vast majority of employment activities for food secure heads of households. Thirty three percent of food secure heads of households are employed in elementary occupation. Furthermore, while 8 percent of food secure households are employed as legislative or senior managers only 3 percent of food insecure households are employed within this activity. Food secure heads of households are also occupying a greater percentage of those working as specialists, at 17 percent and professionals, at 12 percent.

Figure 10: Occupation of Food Insecure Heads of Households

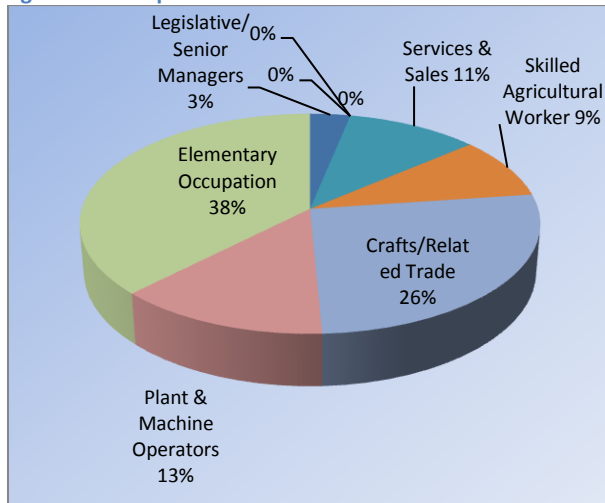
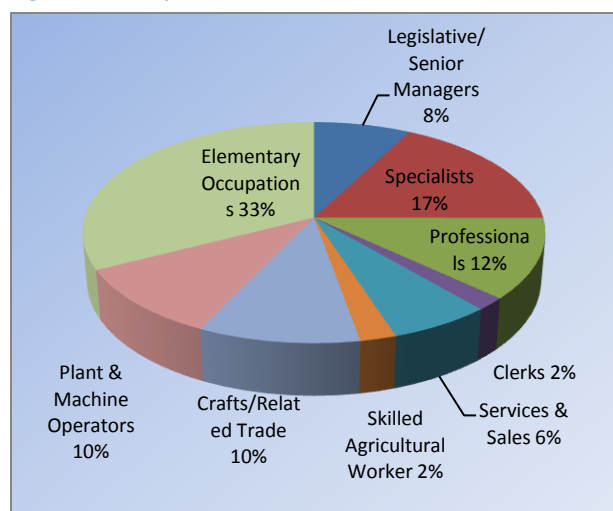


Figure 11: Occupation of Food Secure Heads of Households



The main area of employment for both the food insecure and food secure households is in construction. A total of 45 percent of food insecure heads of households are employed in construction compared to

38 percent of food secure heads of households. Food insecure households are also largely employed in the wholesale retail trade while only 8 percent of food secure households are occupied within this sector. Levels of food insecurity within the whole sale and retail trade could be attributed to restrictions in access and movement. It is generally known that trade with Palestinians living in Israel forms an integral part of the economy of Qalqilya and is thus subjected to closures and restrictions in access. Heads of households employed within the whole sale and retail trade sector is at greater risk of being trapped within their food insecurity levels. The agricultural sector which is mainly composed of cash crops for exports only comprises of 10 percent of the Qalqilya heads of households of which 9 percent are equally food secure and food insecure.

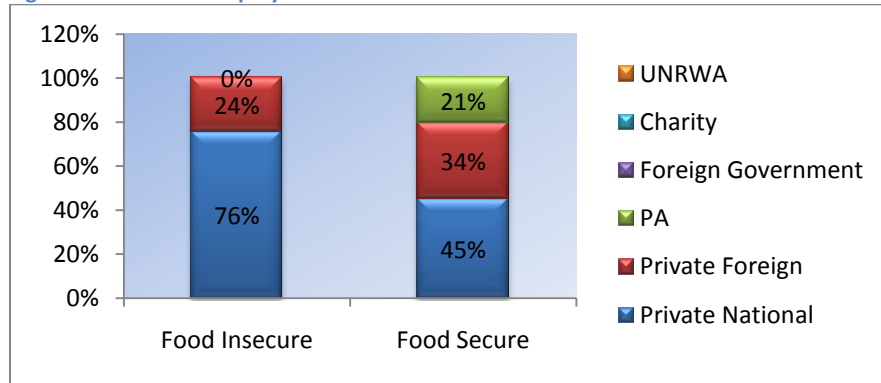
There is an apparent lack of diversity in the areas of employment in which food insecure heads of households are distributed in comparison to the food secure heads of households. Food insecure households appear in the following sectors: agriculture/fishing, mining/manufacturing, construction, wholesale/retail trade and transport/storage/communications. On the other hand, food secure heads of households can be found in most sectors with the exception of, restaurants/hotels, finance insurance/mediation, other social and personal care and lastly, international organisations.

Figure 7: Area of Employment of Food Insecure and Food Secure Heads of Households

	Food Insecure	Food Secure
agriculture & fishing	9%	9%
mining & manufacturing	8%	6%
construction	45%	38%
wholesale retail trade	32%	8%
restaurants & hotels	0%	0%
transport, storage & communication	5%	10%
finance insurance & mediation	0%	0%
properties, rents & commercial businesses	0%	6%
public administration & defense	0%	11%
education	0%	10%
health & social work	0%	2%
other social & personal care	0%	0%
international organisations	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%

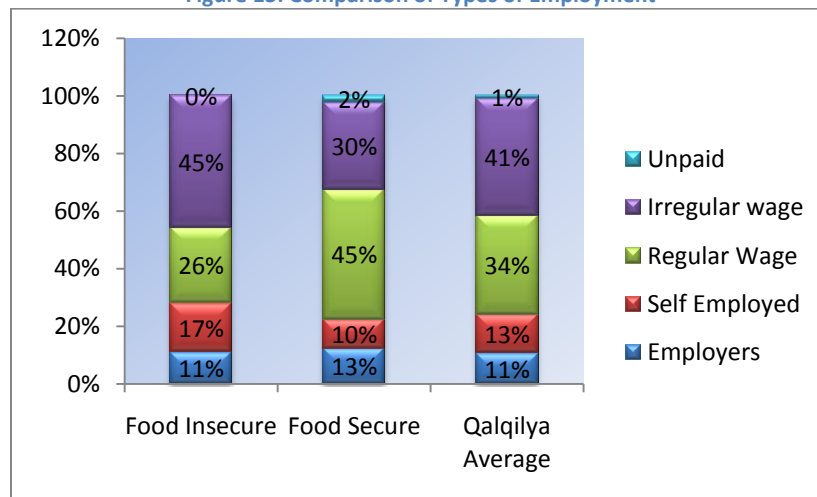
The vast majority of food insecure households are employed in the private national sector or the private foreign sector. A total of 76 percent of food insecure heads of households are employed in the private national sector while 24 percent are employed in the private foreign sector. Forty-five percent of food secure households are employed in the private national sector, 24 percent in the private foreign sector and 21 percent are employed in the Palestinian National Authority (PA).

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



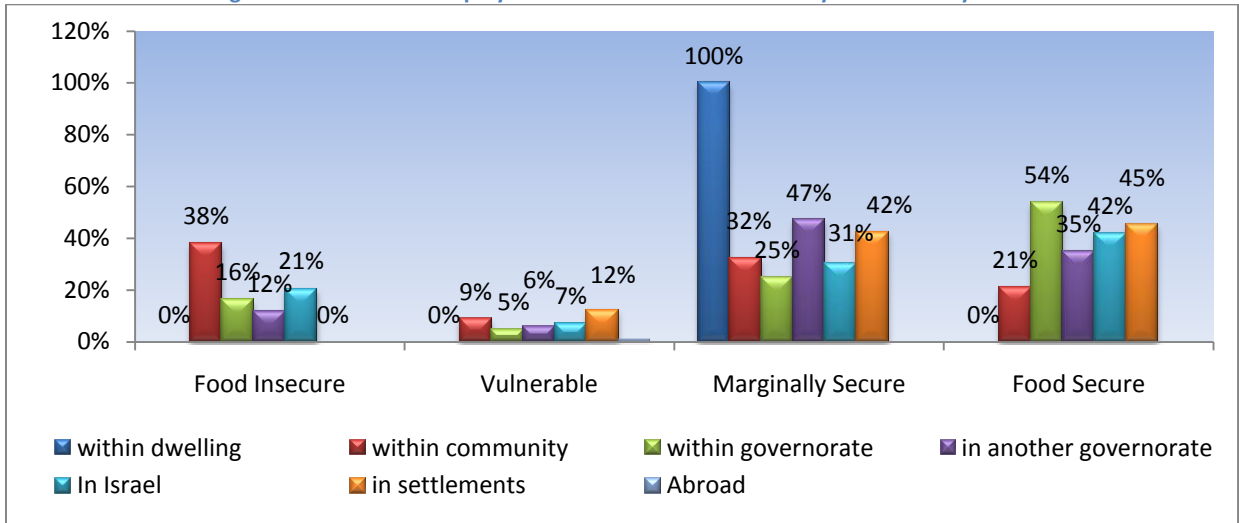
In examining the type of employment, the majority of food insecure households are employed as irregular wage workers (45%). Additionally, 26 percent are regular wage workers, 17 percent self employed and 11 percent are employers. In comparison, 45 percent of food secure heads of households are regular wage workers, 30 percent are irregular wage workers, 13 percent are employers, 10 percent are self-employed and 2 percent are unpaid.

Figure 13: Comparison of Types of Employment



The figure below indicates that employment within the governorate provides a higher likelihood for households heads to be food secure; 54 percent of household heads are food secure compared to 16 percent who are food insecure. Additionally, working within settlements provides a greater opportunity for heads of households to be food secure or marginally secure. A total 45 percent of food secure heads of households and a total of 42 percent of marginally secure household heads reported being employed within settlements. Forty-two percent of food secure households reported working within Israel. However, 21 percent of food insecure households also reported working within Israel. This suggests to a great degree, working in Israel provides a higher likelihood of food security but is dependent on the quality of employment and the salary scale. Employment within the community provides a greater likelihood for households to be food insecure. Thirty-eight percent of household heads who reported working within their own community are food insecure. However, 32 percent of households heads who reported work within the community are marginally secure and 21 percent food secure.

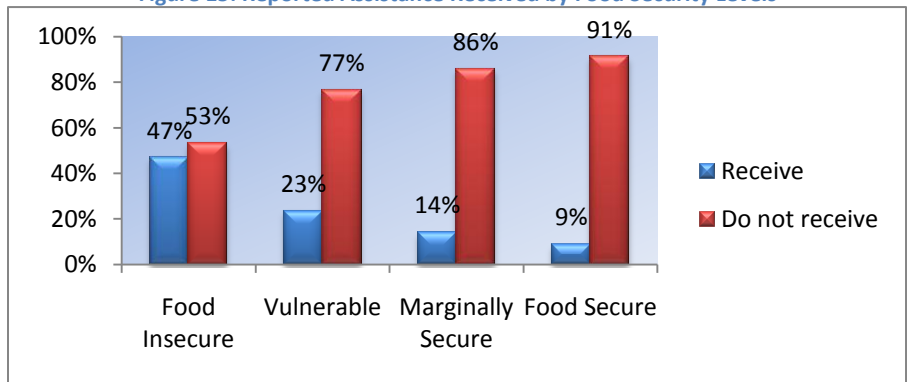
Figure 14: Location of Employment of Heads of Households By Food Security Levels



I. Assistance and Targeting

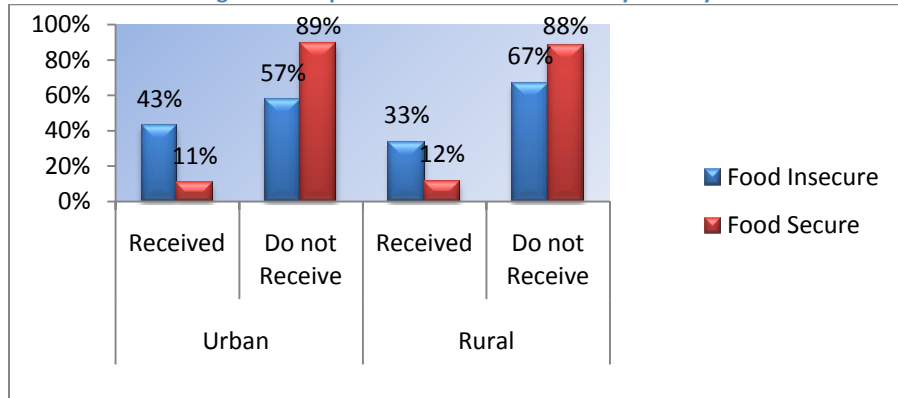
The distribution of assistance appears to be well targeted in Qalqilya governorate. A total of 47 percent of the food insecure households reported receiving assistance compared to 9 percent of the food secure. The figure below also shows the outreach of food insecure households that are targeted is relatively high.

Figure 15: Reported Assistance Received by Food Security Levels



Unlike previous findings of other governorates, the findings for Qalqilya governorate shows that urban households are better targeted than rural households. A total of 43 percent of food insecure households living in the urban areas reported having received assistance. This is compared to 33 percent of food insecure rural households.

Figure 16: Reported Assistance Received By Locality



The figure below indicates that refugees compared to non refugees are also better targeted. Forty-eight percent of food insecure households reported receiving assistance compared to 32 percent of food insecure non refugee households.

Figure 17: Reported Assistance Received by Refugee or Non Refugee Status

