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for the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Social Protection in the West Bank and Gaza Strip **Working Paper Series August 2008**

Paper 5: Household Food Security Profiling*

Based on the:
**JOINT FAO/UNRWA/WFP RAPID FOOD SECURITY SURVEY in the OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY - May 2008**

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Social Protection in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Paper 5: Profiling of Households by Food Security Status and Profiling of Three Other Types of Household:

Ministry of Social Affairs Beneficiary Households Households with PA-Employed Heads Rural West Bank Households

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Acronyms

| | |
|------------|--|
| CPI..... | Consumer Price Index |
| FIV..... | Food Insecure and Vulnerable |
| HH..... | Household |
| ILO..... | International Labour Organization |
| FAO..... | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| MoSA..... | Ministry of Social Affairs |
| NIS..... | New Israeli Shekel |
| NWA..... | Nationwide Average |
| PA..... | Palestinian Authority |
| PAEH..... | Palestinian Authority-Employed Head |
| PCBS..... | Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics |
| PECS..... | Palestinian Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey |
| PS..... | Private Sector |
| SHC..... | Social Hardship Case |
| SSNRP..... | Social Safety Nets Reform Programme |
| UNRWA..... | United Nations Relief and Works Agency |
| WBGS..... | West Bank and Gaza Strip |
| WFP..... | World Food Programme |

Introduction

This working paper employs the household survey data collected during the FAO/UNRWA/WFP rapid assessment, conducted during March/April 2008. The paper aims to analyze the profiles of specific sub-groups of the population, namely households whose heads are employed by the PA and households whose main source of assistance is the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). In addition the paper will shed some light on the profiles of the food insecure, specifically with respect to gender (male as compared with female) and age (adults as compared with children), as well as other socio-economic aspects. Estimates for the various groups are compared with the nationwide survey sample averages.

Its worth noting that the rapid survey data cannot be compared to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) estimates owing to the completely different methodologies used: the sampling methods, the type of questionnaire, the reference and the recall periods¹ all are factors that affect the final results.

The rapid survey illustrated people's perceptions of how they were affected by economic changes and rising prices; the purpose of this paper is therefore to provide a sense of how different the impact was on each group by comparing the various groups and regions within the surveys.

The Assessment Methodology

The rapid food security assessment took place between the end of March and mid April 2008, and consisted of:

- ✓ Literature review;
- ✓ Quantitative survey comprising 2133 household questionnaires in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGs), and
- ✓ 300 semi-structured interviews with key informants and community organizations.

27 localities were involved in the assessment, including urban areas, rural areas and refugee camps. Please note that this sample is representative for the category breakdowns proposed in this paper. As such, when frequencies and ratios for each category (e.g. MoSA, food insecure, etc.) are compared to the total sample average, it will appear as a Nationwide Average (NWA).

Note on the Poverty Calculations

The poverty indicators provided in the analysis below were based on the PCBS poverty methodology. The poverty equivalence scale for each household was

¹ The reference period is the period on which the respondents are being asked to report (the past three months for example); the recall period is the period over which respondents are asked to recall their expenditures, incomes and other variables (average monthly, for example).

calculated (based on the formula used by PCBS), and the 2007 per adult poverty line² was used (adjusted for 2008 price increases) to calculate an equivalent poverty line for each household. The analyses below were based on the household average poverty lines of the various groups in question.

Owing to the application of this poverty equivalence scale to each household, poverty line will differ depending on the household category and variations in household size and composition. For example, the poverty line of the food insecure is often higher than that of the food secure, as food insecure households tend to be larger and younger.

Below are some comparisons between the poverty lines of different household categories and the national average.

As the graph in figure 1 shows, the value of the poverty line varies depending on the demographic characteristics of the group being studied. The poverty line by community type was highest for camp dwellers as they have the largest household size, whereas rural and urban households' poverty lines are very close, the small difference being explained by the slightly lower average household size among rural households.

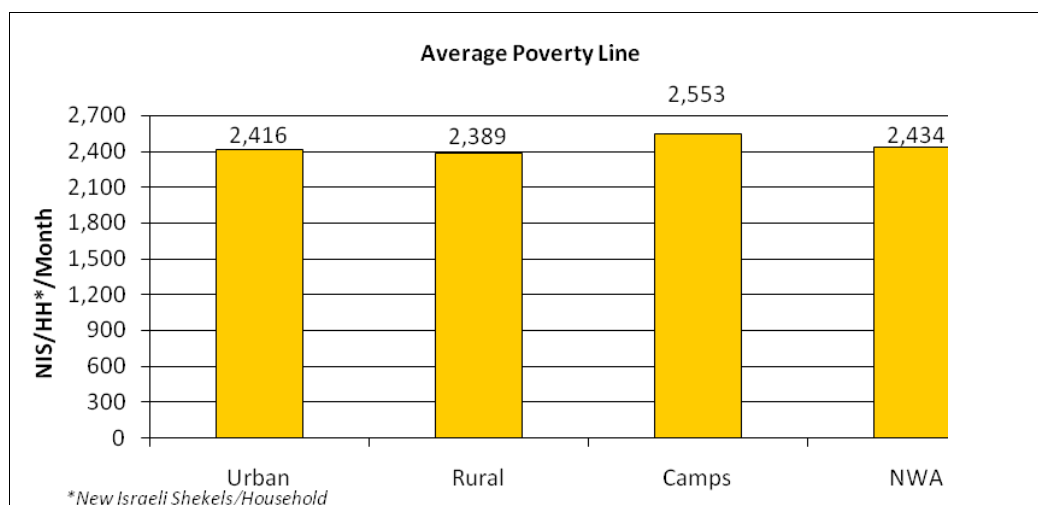


Figure 1: Average poverty lines by community type

Those receiving aid from MoSA have on average a similar poverty line to that prevailing nationwide, despite their lower-than-average household size. This is because they tend to have fewer members but more adults in their households compared to the national average. However, households with PA-employed heads have a higher poverty line, indicating a significantly larger household size (more of both adults and children). Meanwhile, households whose heads were employed in the private sector (PS) have a lower than average poverty line, reflecting the younger average age of the households (smaller household size and more children).

(or expenditures) deemed necessary to achieve an adequate income² The poverty line is the minimum level of in a given country. standard of living

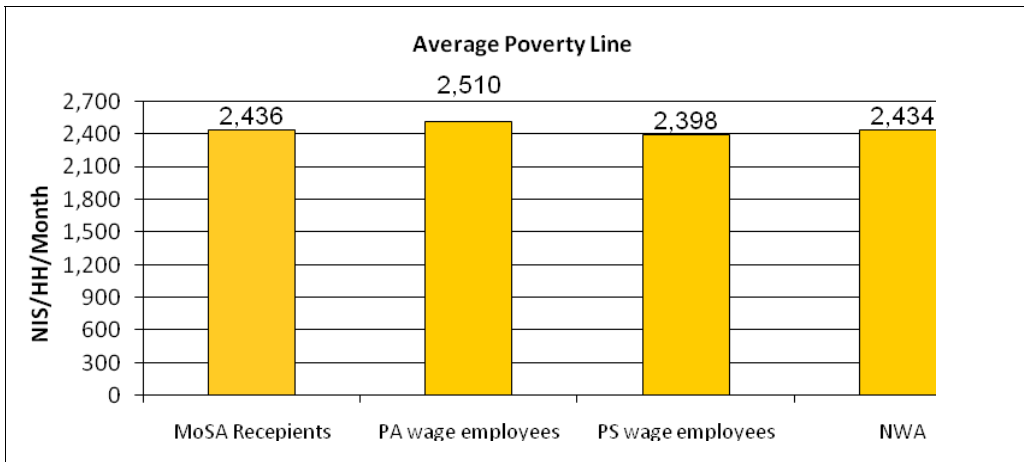


Figure 2: Average poverty lines by income/employment type

Average poverty lines according to food insecurity levels differed substantially among the various groups, indeed the average poverty line was directly related to the food insecurity level: the worse the food security level the higher the average poverty line (see figure 3 below). It was highest for the food insecure group, reaching 16 percent more than the national average poverty line. This is due to the fact that family size is one of the main determinants of poverty and food insecurity levels: the average household size of the poor and the food insecure is higher and consequently their poverty lines are higher.

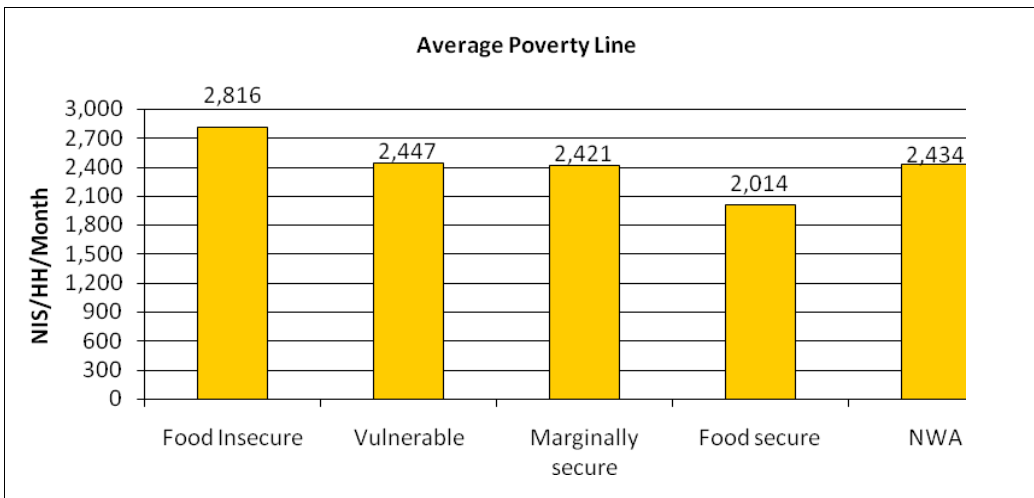


Figure 3: Average poverty lines by food security status

1. Households Receiving Assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs

This section aims to provide a general description of the socio-economic and food security status of those families who are Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) beneficiaries. As the total number of cases within this category was only 184 (9 percent of the total sample) the analysis should be taken with caution and is not considered fully representative of the category.

The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) is considered the main channel through which assistance is provided to needy Palestinians. MoSA runs several assistance programmes, including the Social Hardship Cases (SHC) programme covering 40,000 households, and the Social Safety Nets Reform Programme (SSNRP) (pilot phase) covering 2,400 households.

The findings of the survey show that on average the income of MoSA beneficiaries decreased by 7 percent between January and April 2008 (compared to an average 9 percent decrease nationwide). However, expenditure on food as a percentage of total expenditure was equal to that prevailing nationwide (63 percent). Nevertheless, 24 percent of MoSA beneficiaries reported that their income has decreased and 59 percent reported that their expenditures on food have decreased.

Table 1: Changes in income and expenditures: MoSA households vs MWA

| Changes in Income and Expenditures | MoSA Households | NWA |
|--|-----------------|-------|
| Decrease in average income (percent) | -6.6 | -8.59 |
| Expenditure on food (percentage of total) | 63.1 | 63.35 |
| Percentage of households reported decreasing income | 24.5 | 31.7 |
| Percentage of households reported decreasing expenditure on food | 59.2 | 48.5 |

Comparing the group against the nationwide average shows that MoSA beneficiaries earn 42 percent less, spend 33 percent less in general, and 30 percent less on food.

Table 2: Income and expenditures: MoSA households vs NWA

| Income and Expenditures | MoSA | NWA | Difference (percent) |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| Average income (NIS) | 964 | 1,667 | -42.2 |
| Average expenditures (NIS) | 1,202 | 1,805 | -33.4 |
| Average expenditures on food (NIS) | 706 | 1,015 | -30.4 |

When asked about the items on which expenditure was reduced, the vast majority of MoSA beneficiaries reported reducing the quantity of meat and fruits purchased, 83 percent reported reducing the quantity of food consumed, 89 percent reducing the quality of food and 78 percent reduced the quantity of milk purchased. These figures are in general slightly higher than the national averages.

Table 3: Expenditure reductions

| | MoSA Households (percent) | NWA (percent) |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| Reduced quantity of food | 83 | 75 |
| Reduced quality of food | 89 | 88 |
| Reduced quantity of meat purchased/consumed | 97 | 95 |
| Reduced quantity of fruits purchased/consumed | 92 | 88 |
| Reduced quantity of milk purchased/consumed | 78 | 70 |

The main source of income for 51 percent of MoSA beneficiary families was regular financial aid (compared to 6 percent nationwide), followed by paid work (22 percent compared to 51 percent nationwide).

Table 4: Main sources of income: MoSA households vs NWA

| Main Sources of Income of MoSA Recipients | MoSA Households (percent) | NWA (percent) |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| Regular financial aid | 51 | 6 |
| Paid work | 22 | 56 |

MoSA beneficiaries reported receiving on average nearly three handouts during the past three months (an average of once a month). 42 and 29 percent respectively reported relying totally or extensively on the assistance received (compared with 23 and 20 percent nationwide).

Table 5: Aid and assistance: MoSA households

| Aid and Assistance | MoSA | NWA |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Average number of times assistance received during the past 3 months | 2.84 | 2.4 |
| Reliance on Humanitarian assistance | (percent) | (percent) |
| I do not rely | 3.3 | 16.2 |
| Partially rely | 25.5 | 40.3 |
| Rely extensively | 28.8 | 23.0 |
| Rely totally | 42.2 | 20.0 |

Very high unemployment persisted among MoSA aid recipients at 58.3 percent (according to ILO standard definitions), furthermore, on average 54 percent of working-age family members were unemployed within each MoSA recipient household.

Table 6: Unemployment: MoSA households

| Unemployment | MoSA Households (percent) | NWA (percent) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Unemployment (ILO standards) | 58.3 | 32.1 |
| Unemployed members | 54.0 | 26.5 |

The data in the table below show the household average size and age structure, revealing a higher age and fewer children among MoSA aid-recipient households (compared to a slightly larger size and more children in the sample average), which

explains the slightly higher poverty line. However, the data also shows a much lower education level in MoSA aid-recipient households.

Table 7: Household structure: MoSA vs NWA

| NWA | MoSA | Selected Indicators |
|------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 6.45 | 6.42 | Average household size (persons) |
| 9 | 7.4 | Average number of years of education |
| 26.6 | 31.1 | Average age of household members |
| 41.6 | 37.9 | Percentage of children (under 18) |

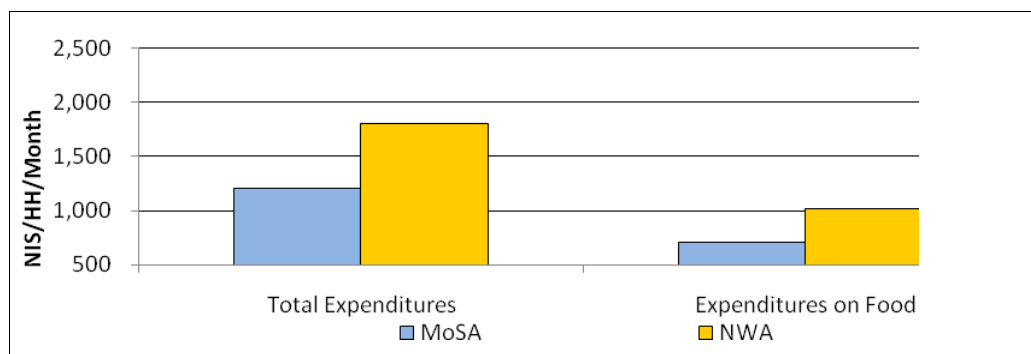


Figure 4: Expenditures: MoSA vs NWA

Food insecurity levels among MoSA beneficiaries stood at 57 percent — 19 percentage points higher than the national average. Moreover, only 15 percent of MoSA beneficiaries were found to be food secure compared to the national average of 36 percent.

Table 8: Food security levels: MoSA vs NWA

| Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food Insecure (percent) | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 36 | 12 | 14 | 38 | NWA |
| 15 | 13 | 15 | 57 | MoSA Beneficiaries |

As stated in the analysis above, this section of the population is consuming far less than the nationwide average (their absolute expenditures on food was 30 percent less than national average) and suffering high poverty and food insecurity. To cope with this, MoSA beneficiaries have reported employing a variety of coping mechanisms.

The most frequent short-term mechanism used was to shift to inferior and less expensive food (reported by 61 percent of these households), followed by limiting portion size (20 percent), and then borrowing food or relying on friends and relatives (15 percent).

Longer-term mechanisms were also employed by this group, including purchasing food on credit (50 percent) not paying bills (20 percent), taking loans (31 percent), regrouping family members (22 percent), and reducing health and education expenses (16 percent). Selling superfluous assets (eg jewellery) was not a mechanism available to this group of the population.

Impact of Food Aid

Despite the absence of the monitoring data on aid, we have evidence that the impact of food aid is significant. While no quantification of cash or food aid is available in this rapid assessment, specialized analysis on the food aid data provided by PECS series 2004-2006 showed food aid smoothes out the food consumption of those who receive it regularly (Al Hajj, Tareq, *Methodological Concerns in the Measurement of Undernourishment, Dietary Diversity and Household Food Insecurity*, Dec 2007).

2. Households with PA-Employed Heads (PAEHs)

This section will explore the socio-economic status and food insecurity levels of PA employees. Attention was devoted to this category because of the instability that had occurred in paying PA salaries in 2006 and to a lesser extent 2007. This category was also expected to have the most stable incomes and therefore be coping with price increases and economic deterioration better than others. This section aims to provide a descriptive analysis; the total number of cases within this category was 563 (27 percent of the total sample): the following analysis is therefore considered to be more reliable.

Table 9: Changes in income and expenditure: PAEHs vs NWA

| NWA | PAEHs | Changes in Income and Expenditures |
|-------|-------|--|
| -8.59 | -1.4 | Decrease in average income (percent) |
| 63.35 | 55.93 | Expenditure on food (percentage of total) |
| 31.7 | 13.9 | Percentage of households reporting decreased income |
| 48.5 | 34.6 | Percentage of households reporting decreased expenditure on food |

Being wage-employed, only very minor changes to the nominal incomes of PA employees took place during the reference period. Incomes in nominal terms remained the same between January and April 2008; however, these incomes were eroded by the continuing increase in the CPI (consumer price index).³

When compared to the national average, households with PAEHs were found to have better income levels, at 42 percent higher.

Table 10: Income and expenditures: PAEHs vs NWA

| Difference (percent) | NWA | PAEHs | Income and Expenditures |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 42.3 | 1,667 | 2,373 | Average income (NIS) |
| 32.8 | 1,805 | 2,397 | Average expenditure (NIS) |
| 25.7 | 1,015 | 1,276 | Average expenditure on food (NIS) |

Percentage of total income spent on food within this category of the population was 56 percent, 7 percentage points less than the national average, indicating a better-off status when compared to the rest of the population. This was also evident by looking at the absolute average spent on food, where data shows that the households with PAEHs spent 26 percent more on food than the national average.

³ Total consumer price index has increased by 12 percent between January-07 and June-08.

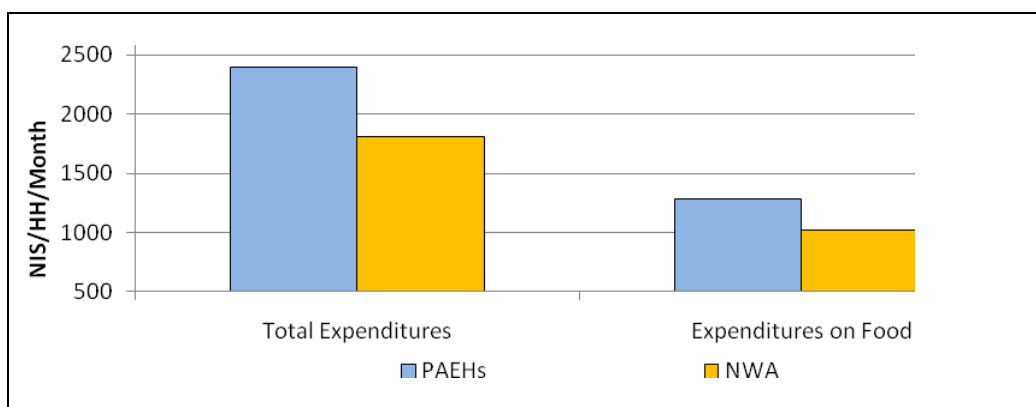


Figure 5: Expenditures: PAEHs vs NWA

Moreover, when asked about reducing spending on food, only 35 percent of the households with PAEHs had positive answers (compared to a 49 percent NWA), among which the majority reduced the quantity of meat consumed (95 percent), with 89 percent reducing the food quality and 86 percent reducing the quantity of fruits. These proportions are consistent with the national average.

Table 11: Expenditure reductions: PAEHs vs NWA

| NWA (percent) | PAEHs (percent) | |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| 75 | 68 | Reduced quantity of food |
| 88 | 89 | Reduced quality of food |
| 95 | 95 | Reduced quantity of meat purchased/consumed |
| 88 | 86 | Reduced quantity of fruits purchased/consumed |
| 70 | 62 | Reduced quantity of milk purchased/consumed |

Receiving aid was reported by 43 percent of the households with PAEHs, 2 percentage points lower than the national average. Moreover, the frequency of aid received was also lower than the national average (2.3 times compared to 2.6 times)

Table 12: Aid: PAEHs vs NWA

| NWA | PAEHs | Aid |
|-----|-------|--|
| 45 | 43 | Percentage receiving aid |
| 2.4 | 2.0 | Average number of times assistance was received during the past 3 months |

Non-reliance on aid was reported by a significantly higher proportion of the households with PAEHs (29 percent) than the national average (16 percent). At the other end, on a national level, four times as many people rely either totally or extensively on aid (44 percent) as compared to households with PAEH-employed heads (11 percent).

Table 13: Reliance on Aid: PAEHs vs NWA

| NWA (percent) | PAEHs (percent) | Reliance on Aid |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 16 | 29 | I do not rely |
| 40 | 57 | Partially rely |
| 23 | 6 | Rely extensively |
| 21 | 5 | Rely totally |

Unemployment among households with PAEHs reached 24 percent (8 percentage points less than the national average) and only an average of 14 percent of household members of working age were found to be unemployed in this group.

Table 14: Unemployment: PAEHs vs NWA

| NWA (percent) | PAEHs (percent) | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 32.1 | 24.2 | Unemployment (ILO standards) |
| 26.5 | 14.5 | Unemployed family members |

The following table summarizes the average household size and age structure of the category under analysis. The data reveals that the average household size is very close (slightly higher) to that of the sample average, with households of a younger age and with more children, which makes the poverty line for both very close. However, higher education levels prevail among households with PAEHs, leading to a better-off status.

Table 15: Household structure: PAEHs vs NWA

| NWA | PAEHs | |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6.5 | 6.6 | Average household size (persons) |
| 9.0 | 10.2 | Average years of education |
| 26.6 | 24.8 | Average age of household members |
| 41.6 | 42.5 | Percentage of children (under 18) |

Food insecurity among the households with PAEHs was found to be much better than that of the national average, at around half the amount. The food insecurity level stood at 19 percent, with 55 percent food secure, 14 percent marginally secure, and 12 percent of households vulnerable.

Table 16: Food security status: PAEHs

| Food secure | Marginally secure | Vulnerable | Food Insecure | Food Insecurity |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 55 | 14 | 12 | 19 | PAEHs (percent) |

The most frequent coping mechanisms employed by PAEH households were purchasing food on credit (50 percent), depending on inferior food (48 percent), not paying bills/utilities (25 percent), and finally taking loans (23 percent). Selling assets was a mechanism employed by only 8 percent of this group; however, 34 percent reported that this mechanism was exhausted, 12 percent reported that it would be a possibility in the future, while 46 reported that the mechanism is not available to them.

3. Rural West Bank Households (RWBHs)

Eight years of economic crisis have led to deterioration in the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinians. Living standards have dropped considerably and levels of poverty, deprivation and unemployment are increasing rapidly throughout the WB. Rural communities have also been impacted by several additional factors, including the network of checkpoints and roadblocks which restrict their access to economic centres, as well as the separation barrier blocking access to their traditional labour and agricultural markets and to their lands behind the wall.

This section will focus on this subgroup “Rural West Bank Households” and examine their socio-economic, consumption and food security status in comparison to the national average. The number of cases in this category was 592 households, allowing for some in depth analysis with reasonable representativeness.

Table 17: Changes in income and expenditures: RWBHs vs NWA

| NWA | RWBHs | Changes in income and expenditures |
|-----|-------|--|
| -9 | -9 | Change in average income (percent) |
| 63 | 59 | Expenditure on food (percentage of total) |
| 32 | 34 | Percentage of households reporting decreased income |
| 48 | 42 | Percentage of households reporting decreased expenditure on food |

RWBHs have faced the same overall percentage decrease in income as the national average (9 percent); however, a lower percentage of RWBHs have reported facing a decrease in their income (34 percent). Moreover, RWBHs have reported spending a lower proportion of their income on food than the national average (59 percent compared to 63 percent). Looking at absolute income levels shows that average rural income is 14 percent higher than the national average and therefore the percentage spent on food, despite being lower, is higher in absolute terms: RWBHs spend 4 percent more on food compared to national average.

Table 18: Income and expenditures: RWBHs vs NWA

| Difference (percent) | NWA | RWBHs | Income and Expenditures |
|----------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 14 | 1,667 | 1902.166 | Average income (NIS) |
| 12 | 1,805 | 2020.28 | Average expenditure (NIS) |
| 4 | 1,015 | 1055.128 | Average expenditure on food (NIS) |

Despite rural households being in general better off than those in urban areas and camps, it is crucial to remember that there exist pockets of extreme poverty and vulnerability in rural areas. Herding communities and farmers affected by natural calamities (drought, frost) and access and movement restrictions (especially in Gaza) are particularly badly affected.

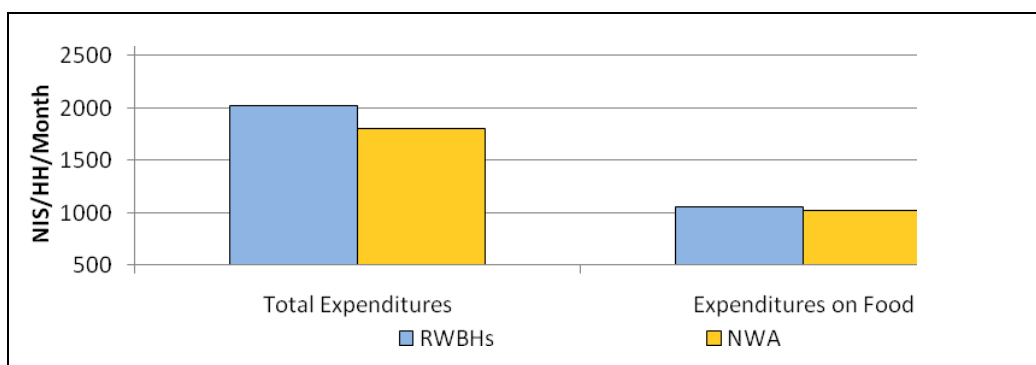


Figure 6: Expenditures: RWBHs vs NWA

Decreasing expenditure on food as reported by 42 percent of RWBHs was mainly achieved by reducing the quantity of meat consumed, whilst the reduction in the overall quality and quantity of food consumed was lower than that of the national average.

Table 19: Expenditure reductions: RWBHs vs NWA

| NWA (percent) | RWBHs (percent) | |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| 75 | 73 | Reduced quantity of food |
| 88 | 79 | Reduced quality of food |
| 95 | 95 | Reduced quantity of meat purchased/consumed |
| 88 | 82 | Reduced quantity of fruits purchased/consumed |
| 70 | 65 | Reduced quantity of milk purchased/consumed |

Paid work was found to be the main source of income for 62 percent of RWBHs, self employment for 16 percent, and transfers from family and friends for 6 percent.

Table 20: RWBHs' sources of income

| RWBHs (percent) | Households' Main Sources of Income |
|-----------------|--|
| 62 | Paid work (wages, salaries, overtime etc) |
| 16 | Self employed/ income from own business (non-agricultural) |
| 6 | Transfers from relatives/friends (internal remittances) |
| 5 | Income from plant production |
| 3 | Regular financial aids/ income from MoSA payments |
| 7 | Other |

Table 21: RWBHs' employment

| RWBHs (percent) | Sector of Employment of Household Head |
|-----------------|--|
| 26 | Employed by the private sector |
| 22 | Government employee |
| 16 | Employed in Israel/settlements |
| 16 | Other self-employed |
| 21 | All other |

21 percent of these households reported receiving aid — half of the national average. However, the frequency of aid received was the same as the national average, standing at 0.8 times per month.

Table 22: Assistance: RWBHs vs NWA

| NWA | RWBHs | Assistance |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 45 | 21 | Percentage receiving aid |
| 2.4 | 2.4 | Average number of times assistance was received during the past 3 months |
| 75 | 61 | Average income of those receiving assistance, as a percentage of the average |

Moreover, reliance on aid among RWBHs who receive aid was reported to be at a higher rate than the national average: 46 percent indicated that they rely extensively or totally on aid and 42 percent rely partially on aid.

Table 23: Reliance on aid: RWBHs vs NWA

| NWA (percent) | RWBHs (percent) | Reliance on Aid |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 16 | 12 | I do not rely |
| 40 | 42 | Partially rely |
| 23 | 26 | Rely extensively |
| 21 | 20 | Rely totally |

Comparing the average income of those who receive assistance with the average income of the whole category of RWBHs reveals that the average income of those who receive assistance is 39 percent lower.

Table 24: Income: RWBHs vs RWBHs receiving assistance

| Difference (percent) | RWBHs receiving assistance | RWBHs | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| -39 | 1,159 | 1,902 | Average income (NIS) |

The most common source of aid received by RWBHs was reported to be in the form of social solidarity by family, friends and neighbors (reported by 60 percent of those who receive aid), followed by MoSA (31 percent) and other PA sources (9 percent). Note that many families receive aid from more than one source. Cash was reported to be the main type of aid received (79 percent), as family transfers usually come in this form. Food aid was second, received by 67 percent.

Table 25: Sources of assistance for RWBHs

| Percentage of RWBHs | Source of Assistance |
|----------------------------|--|
| 31 | MoSA |
| 6 | Zakat committees |
| 9 | Other PA |
| 60 | Family friends and neighbours |
| 6 | UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) |

Table 26: Types of assistance for RWBHs

| Percentage of RWBHs | Type of Assistance |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 79 | Cash |
| 67 | Food |
| 22 | Health services |

With more employment in the form of paid work and self employment, the unemployment rate among RWBHs stood at 22 percent, 10 percent lower than the national average. Moreover, on average only 17 percent of the members on household level are unemployed compared to a sample average of 26.5 percent.

Table 27: Indicators: RWBHs vs NWA

| NWA | RWBHs | Selected Socio-Economic and Demographic Indicators |
|------|-------|--|
| 32.1 | 21.8 | Unemployment (ILO standard, percent) |
| 26.5 | 17.2 | Percentage of unemployed members |
| 6.5 | 6.1 | Average household size (persons) |
| 9.0 | 8.55 | Average years of education |
| 26.6 | 27.5 | Average age of household members |
| 41.6 | 40.1 | Percentage of children (under 18) |

Despite the lower education status (compared to the national sample average) the better-off status could be a result of the lower unemployment rate (21.8 percent compared to 32.1 national sample average).

All in all, the analysis above shows those RWBHs are relatively better-off than the national average, with lower unemployment, lower poverty, more wage work and higher income and expenditure levels. This is also reflected in the food insecurity indicators: food insecurity affected 25 percent of RWBHs, 13 percentage points lower than the national average, with 45 percent food secure, 9 percentage points higher than the national average.

Table 28: Food security status: RWBHs vs NWA

| Food secure | Marginally secure | Vulnerable | Food Insecure | Food Insecurity |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 45 | 15 | 15 | 25 | RWBHs (percent) |
| 36 | 12 | 14 | 38 | NWA (percent) |

However, more than half of RWBHs have started to depend on less expensive and inferior food, with half of such households purchasing food on credit and 47 percent not paying their utilities and bills. Limiting portion sizes at meal times was used by 22 percent and taking loans by 20 percent. However, 46 percent have reported that selling assets was exhausted as a coping mechanism, 19 percent reported it as an available mechanism for the future, 11 percent have used it during the past six months, and 24 reported that this mechanism was not available to them.

4. Profiling of the Food Insecure

The section will try to profile the food insecure in terms of their location and socio-economic characteristics.

Demographic and socio-economic characteristics

In accordance with the results published by previous FAO studies, food insecure households were large, young and less educated, with an average household size of 7.9 persons compared to 4.1 among the food secure, with 6.5 the national average. Average years of education were 8 among food insecure households, compared to 10 among the food secure, with 9 the national average.

An examination of the average age of household members reveals that food insecure households had a lower average age - indicating that they are younger families (with lots of children) - of 24, compared to 30 for the food secure and 27 as the national average. This is also supported by the higher average percentage of children (under 18 according to statistical standards) among the food insecure households, which stands at 50 percent compared to 32 percent among the food secure and 42 percent national average.

Table 29: Demographic and socio-economic characteristics related to food security status

| NWA | Food secure | Marginally secure | Vulnerable | Food Insecure | Food Insecurity |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6.45 | 4.1 | 6.22 | 6.5 | 7.9 | Average household size (persons) |
| 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | Average years of education |
| 26.6 | 30.1 | 27.9 | 25.5 | 23.6 | Average household age |
| 41.6 | 32.3 | 38.8 | 43.6 | 50.0 | Percentage of children (under 18) |

At the first glance, as figure 7 below shows, food insecurity seems to be higher (41 percent as compared to the national average of 38 percent) among families with a 50 percent or higher prevalence of female members. Employment data suggest that the explanation for this is that, despite males and females having almost equal education levels, a very low percentage of women are formally participating in the labour market. Therefore a higher percentage of women within the household tend to mean a lower percentage of members in employment and a subsequently greater number of dependents, thus resulting in a higher likelihood of food insecurity.

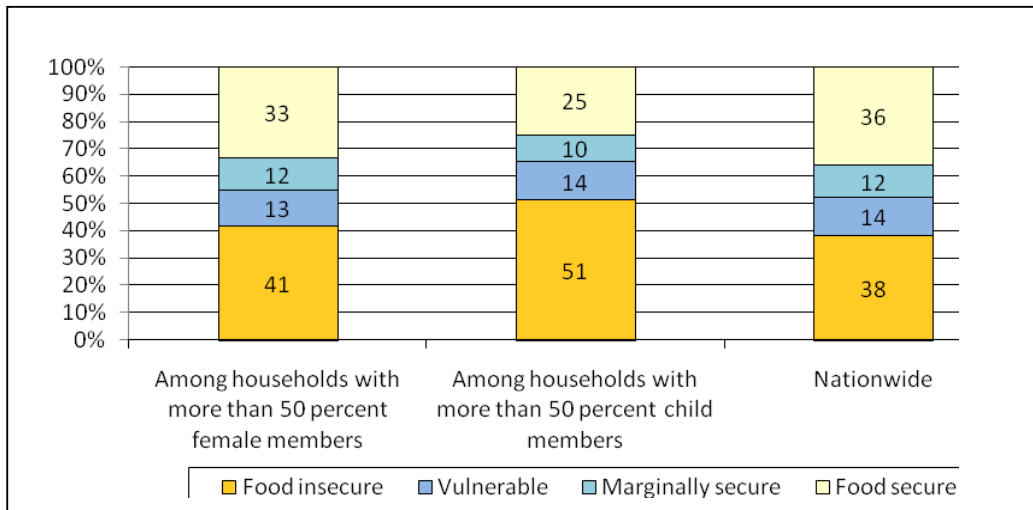


Figure 7: Food security status related to female and child prevalence

Table 30: Food security status related to education and employment levels

| Food Secure (percent) | | Food Insecure (percent) | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| Female >18 | Male > 18 | Female >18 | Male > 18 | |
| 13 | 68 | 3 | 38 | Employed |
| Food Secure | | Food Insecure | | |
| Female >18 | Male > 18 | Female >18 | Male > 18 | |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | Illiterate |
| 55 | 53 | 70 | 73 | Preparatory and less |
| 20 | 22 | 17 | 18 | Secondary |
| 16 | 23 | 5 | 6 | Intermediate diploma, bachelor's degree or higher |
| 9.94 | 11.89 | 8.84 | 9.84 | Average Years of Education |

Unemployment

Food insecure households were found to suffer from a much higher unemployment rate compared to the sample average: 52 percent unemployed compared to 15 percent among the food secure and the 32 percent sample average.

Table 31: Unemployment and food security

| NWA | Food secure | Marginally secure | Vulnerable | Food Insecure | |
|------|-------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|--|
| 32.1 | 15.1 | 25.0 | 27.9 | 51.5 | Unemployment rate (ILO standards, percent) |

Assistance

On average, 65 percent of food insecure families reported receiving assistance (compared to a 45 percent national average) from various sources; however, the most common source of assistance was given as UNRWA, reported by 64 percent of the food insecure households, followed by family and friends by 27 percent of such

households. 23 percent received aid from charities and 21 percent from MoSA. Other sources of assistance reported were other PA sources (13 percent), international agencies (11 percent), and Zakat committees (6 percent each). Note that many families were claiming assistance from more than one source.

Table 32: Sources of assistance for the food insecure

| Percentage | Source of Assistance for the Food Insecure |
|------------|--|
| 64 | UNRWA |
| 27 | Family friends |
| 23 | Charity |
| 21 | MoSA |
| 13 | Other PA |
| 11 | International Agencies |
| 6 | Political parties |
| 3 | Trade unions and local NGOs |
| 3 | Zakat committees |

Food aid was the main type of assistance received, reported by 91 percent of those who received assistance among the food insecure households, followed by the cash aid, reported by 56 percent of these households.

Consumption Levels

The food insecure households were found to devote more than 73 percent of their total expenditures on average to food. In comparison to the national average they spent 42 percent less in general and 30 percent less on food.

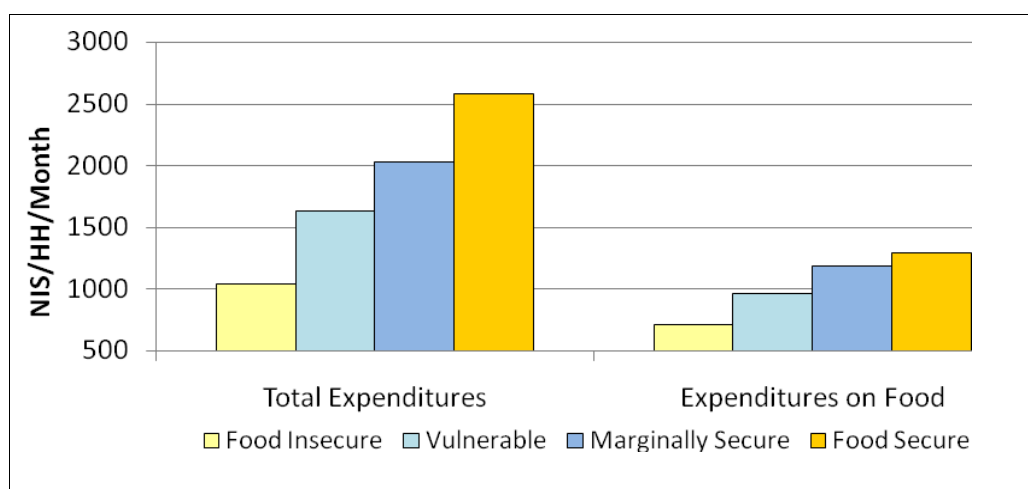


Figure 8: Expenditures related to food security status

Contribution to food insecurity by region/sub region

The prevalence of food insecurity in Gaza is more than double than in the West Bank (56 percent of the population there are food insecure, compared to 25 percent). Furthermore, out of the nationwide food insecure population, Gaza makes a disproportionate contribution, as 62 percent of the WBGs's food-insecure live in the Gaza Strip.

Table 33: Food security status related to region

| Total | Food secure | Marginally secure | Vulnerable | Food Insecure | |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 100 | 44 | 15 | 16 | 25 | West Bank (percent) |
| 100 | 24 | 9 | 11 | 56 | Gaza Strip (percent) |
| 100 | 36 | 12 | 14 | 38 | NWA (percent) |

Table 34: Geographical distribution of population related to food security status

| Food secure | Marginally secure | Vulnerable | Food Insecure | |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 72 | 68 | 67 | 38 | West Bank (percent) |
| 28 | 32 | 33 | 62 | Gaza (percent) |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | Total (percent) |

The sample size does not allow for geographical breakdown within the GS. It does allow, however for breakdown of the WB population into North, Middle and South regions. Most of the food insecure of the WB live in the north (52 percent), followed by South (32 percent), and finally Middle (16 percent). As regards each individual sub-region, the north has a high prevalence of food insecurity at 29 percent, the middle region 19 percent and the South 24 percent.

The differences between sub-regional prevalence and the contribution to the overall food security values for the WB is affected by the fact that the food insecure population in the north is much higher than in the other two regions.

Table 35: Geographical distribution of WB population related to food security status

| Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food Insecure (percent) | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| 42 | 46 | 42 | 52 | North |
| 28 | 17 | 18 | 16 | Middle |
| 30 | 37 | 40 | 32 | South |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Table 36: Food security levels by geographical region

| Total (percent) | Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food insecure (percent) | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| 100 | 41 | 15 | 15 | 29 | North |
| 100 | 57 | 11 | 13 | 19 | Middle |
| 100 | 40 | 16 | 20 | 24 | South |
| 100 | 24 | 9 | 11 | 56 | Gaza |

The data by locality type (i.e. urban, rural and camp) shows that food insecurity levels remain the highest among camp dwellers, with food insecurity affecting 50 percent. Food insecurity also remains high in urban areas, at 39 percent, and rural communities come last with 29 percent food insecure.

Table 37: Food security levels by locality type

| Total (percent) | Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food Insecure (percent) | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 100 | 35 | 12 | 14 | 39 | Urban |
| 100 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 29 | Rural |
| 100 | 27 | 11 | 12 | 50 | Camp |

The contribution to nationwide food insecurity levels is different, however. Out of the total food insecure population in the WBGs, urban households make up 51 percent. Camp households come second in their contribution to the food insecure population (even though their prevalence is much higher) and rural households contribute with 26 percent of the food insecure. As shown above, this is due to the fact that the urban food insecure populations are much larger than the camps’.

Table 38: Food security status distribution by locality

| Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food Insecure (percent) | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 48 | 48 | 49 | 51 | Urban |
| 36 | 34 | 34 | 23 | Rural |
| 15 | 18 | 17 | 26 | Camp |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Refugee status also increases the possibility of a household being food insecure, with data revealing that food insecurity prevalence among registered refugee households stands at 44 percent, 11 percentage points higher than among non-refugee households, of whom 33 percent are food insecure.

Table 39: Food security status related to refugee status

| Total (percent) | Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food Insecure (percent) | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 100 | 30 | 12 | 14 | 44 | Registered refugee |
| 100 | 40 | 13 | 1 | 33 | Non-refugee |
| 100 | 36 | 12 | 14 | 38 | Nationwide |

This difference however is less pronounced when it comes to the contribution to food insecurity at a nationwide level. In that respect, data shows that registered refugees make up 52 percent of food insecure households nationwide (ie 52 percent of the food insecure are refugees) while non-refugees contribute by 48 percent. Different absolute population figures will also account for these differences.

Table 40: Food security status distribution by refugee status

| Food secure (percent) | Marginally secure (percent) | Vulnerable (percent) | Food Insecure (percent) | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 38 | 45 | 44 | 52 | Registered refugee |
| 6 | 55 | 56 | 4 | Non-refugee |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Depending on inferior and less expensive food was relied on as a coping strategy by 65 percent of the food insecure. Moreover, 51 percent purchased their food on credit, and 27 percent had obtained loans to finance their consumption, while 28 percent have not paid their utility bills. Selling assets was used by 9 percent of the food insecure; however, 8 percent said it still can be used in the future, 35 percent reported that it was exhausted and 42 percent reported the unavailability of such a mechanism.

5. Profiling of the Food Insecure and the Vulnerable (FIV) in the West Bank by Locality Type

This section focuses on the food insecure and the vulnerable proportion of the population in the WB by the locality type (urban versus rural). Refugee camps were excluded from the analysis owing to a lack of adequate observation.

The analysis shows that unemployment was a determining factor of food security level in urban WB households, where a 31 percent unemployment level was observed. However, in rural WB households however, only a 17 percent unemployment level was observed. The percentage of unemployed household members was the same among the food insecure and vulnerable in both locality types.

Table 41: Unemployment among the FIV

| WB average | Rural | Urban | Food Insecure and Vulnerable in the WB |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| 23 | 17 | 31 | Percentage unemployment |
| 18 | 25 | 25 | Percentage unemployed within household |

Moreover, the highest percent of the food insecure were found to work for the private sector (44 percent urban, 31 percent rural) in accordance with the national average. However, few among the FIV work for the PA (where most of the food secure work): only 9 percent of urban and 7 percent of rural FIV work in the PA, compared to a 22 percent national average.

The second source of employment for the FIV in the urban WB was self-employment, while for the rural FIV it was employment in Israel.

Table 42: Sources of employment for the FIV

| WB average (percent) | Rural (percent) | Urban (percent) | Food Insecure and Vulnerable in the WB |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 31 | 31 | 44 | Employed by the private sector |
| 14 | 17 | 18 | Self-employed |
| 14 | 20 | 14 | Employed in Israel/settlements |
| 22 | 7 | 9 | Government employee |
| 19 | 24 | 15 | Other |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

However, statistics revealed that the urban FIV are in a worse financial position than those in rural areas, which can be explained by the higher unemployment rate among the urban FIV. Average monthly incomes and expenditures of the urban FIV were 19 and 13 percent less than of the rural FIV. In addition, the urban FIV devoted more of their total expenditure to food (71 percent versus 66 percent).

Table 43: Monthly income of FIV

| WB average | Rural | Urban | Food Insecure and Vulnerable in the WB |
|------------|-------|-------|--|
| 1,784 | 1,177 | 949 | Average monthly income (NIS) |
| 1,973 | 1,401 | 1,275 | Average monthly expenditures (NIS) |
| 60 | 66 | 71 | Percentage of income spent on food |

Socio-demographic profiling shows that both the urban and rural FIV have on average a similar ratio of children and females among their members; however, rural households are larger in size, with a higher average age and education level.

Table 44: Selected indicators of FIV

| WB average | Rural | Urban | Selected Indicators of FIV |
|------------|-------|-------|--|
| 39 | 47 | 47 | Number of children (percentage of whole household) |
| 52 | 52 | 52 | Number of females (percentage of whole household) |
| 5.89 | 6.14 | 5.65 | Household size (persons) |
| 8.50 | 7.85 | 7.53 | Average years of education |
| 28.23 | 24.94 | 25.53 | Average age of household members |

35 percent of the urban FIV reported receiving assistance, compared to 25 percent of the rural FIV and national average of 25 percent.

Table 45: FIV receiving assistance

| WB average | Rural | Urban | Food Insecure and Vulnerable in the WB |
|------------|-------|-------|--|
| 23 | 25 | 35 | Percentage receiving assistance |

For more information and comments, please contact:

Erminio Sacco

Chief Technical Adviser, FAO Jerusalem; Email: erminio.sacco@fao.org; Tel: +972 (0) 548026702

Rana Hannoun

Economist, Ramallah; Email: rana.hannoun@fao.org; Tel: +972 (0) 548026709

Rosalind Earis

Communication Officer, Jerusalem; Email: rosaling.earis@fao.org; Tel: +972 (0) 548026710