



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



The high rate of food insecurity in Palestine is driven by poverty and unemployment. Protracted insecurity, continuing economic decline and prolonged restrictions on trade and access to markets combined with the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic have worsened the food security situation for Palestinians in 2020.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Sector to:

- Protect the livelihoods of vulnerable households and restore or enhance their resilience, food security and productive capacity.
- Provide assistance to households suffering from limited access to food and income opportunities so that they can meet their basic food needs.
- Strengthen Food Security Sector coordination.

Activities



Support women and youth in herding communities

drought-tolerant seeds | rangeland rehabilitation | water cisterns | animal sheds | small-scale farming inputs | dairy processing equipment | market accessibility through upscaling the capacity of the livestock market | awareness campaigns



Restore agricultural assets and productive capacities

farms and damaged productive assets (wells, irrigation systems, cisterns, greenhouses) | fertilizers | solar energy units | plant pest control | conditional cash transfers



Protect the livelihoods of fishers

echo sounders | GPS devices | drift nets | fishnets | cooperatives and social business



Strengthen food security coordination

food security information monitoring and needs assessment | intervention planning | information sharing | stakeholder coordination | disaster risk reduction | resilience building

Palestine

Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



to assist
43 540 people



FAO requires
USD 13.7 million



period
January–December 2021

Palestinian households affected by the protracted crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic need urgent support to build their resilience and enhance their food security and productive capacity.

Number of people who are moderately or severely food insecure (2021)



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. OPT: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021. [online]. New York, United States of America. [Cited 16 February 2021]. https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hno_2021.pdf

Situation analysis



2 million people are food insecure



68.5% of households are food insecure in the Gaza Strip



49% unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip

Impact on food security

Palestinians have endured recurrent shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate-induced shocks that have compromised their resilience and led to soaring food insecurity. In the West Bank, the agriculture sector has suffered as a result of demolition and destruction of productive assets and limited access to land and water resources. In the Gaza Strip, prolonged restrictions on trade and access to markets for inputs and exports, combined with repeated violent confrontations and persistent energy shortages, continue to limit agricultural production and income-generating opportunities.

Urgent and essential health-related restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 have been associated with an economic decline that has led to rising unemployment and under-employment and to decreasing purchasing power. This has reduced livelihood opportunities and incomes of vulnerable families. The restrictions have disrupted national agrifood supply chains, negatively impacting households and other food system stakeholders. Small-scale and marginal producers are facing unprecedented challenges in securing production inputs and accessing credit and

markets, constraining their production capacity. Moreover, they have seen a reduction in the demand for their produce. Consequently, some of these producers have resorted to destocking or have produced less with a lower quality. Many are finding it difficult to resume their production after the restrictions were lifted.

Agriculture is an important source of livelihood for thousands of families, and it is critical to the resilience of Palestinian households and communities. Providing inputs to farmers, fishers and herders as well as to food processors, along with relevant capacity building and increased access to markets, will boost incomes, contributing to self-reliance and dignity. Furthermore, restoring productive assets and installing solar-powered energy systems will revitalize the sector's infrastructure and its productive capacity. This will ensure that livelihoods are not irreversibly lost.

Contact

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