



FAO'S ROLE IN EMERGENCIES:

- **PROTECT**—We protect the most vulnerable households from basic food insecurity and long-term reliance on food aid
- **RESTORE**—We restore the food security, local food production capacity, coping mechanisms, rural livelihoods and self-sustainability of rural communities
- **ENHANCE**—We enhance agricultural, livestock and fisheries production for a quick and lasting recovery

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

NOVEMBER 2009 WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

Building a "Shared Vision" for Agricultural Development

In line with the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MoPAD) guidelines, the agricultural community in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGs) is developing its own "Shared Vision", which will include strategic options and intervention priorities, with the aim of reducing vulnerability of farmers and herders to the effects of socio-economic, political and climatic problems. Through an intensive consultative process, led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and supported by FAO, the sector is formulating a new strategy or "Shared Vision" in order to adapt to emerging challenges. This process engages all actors including PA-line ministries, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, the private sector, local community representatives and donors, to devise the strategy which will feed into the new cycle of the Palestinian Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2013. Tailored, in-depth sub-sector reviews are being prepared by top-notch local experts in order to enrich the strategy and help the MoA properly position itself as the state actor, and hence identify its mandate and capacity building needs, in a participatory approach.

TORs have been developed to address the four key pillars of the agricultural sector : 1) plant production; 2) livestock; 3) land and water management; and 4) agricultural services.

In addition, FAO has been providing the technical support to MoA in its efforts to strengthen its capacity for efficient planning and service delivery to the agricultural sector. In this framework, as kick-off start, TORs for national and international consultancies have been developed to assess the MoA capacity building needs, priorities and approaches to be followed.



One of the consultative workshops on the formulation of the "shared vision" for the development for the agricultural sector. Nablus. September 7, 2009 FAO



Current Donor partners:



FAO Leads Agriculture Sector in the CAP

FAO, as the agriculture sector lead agency, successfully brought together 45 stakeholders from across the WBGS to develop a cohesive response plan that addresses the critical issues facing the sector. As coordination efforts were centrally located in the West Bank, a specialized workshop was held in Gaza to focus on the special concerns afflicting the Gaza Strip's vulnerable agriculture communities and livelihoods. After agreeing upon a Sector Response Plan, agencies submitted project proposals which were vetted through a panel consisting of representative stakeholders, namely



One of the CAP 2010 session

(UNDP), Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) representing the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), and ACTED as chair of the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) Agriculture Subcommittee (ASC). In total, 44 projects worth USD 45 million were approved through the vetting panel and submitted for review by the Humanitarian Coordinator. Building upon the success of previous years, FAO organized the agriculture sectors' coordination struc-

ture for the humanitarian Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2010. The CAP is a funding mechanism led by UN Agencies, with overall management conducted by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which produces a single document to guide donors' assistance. The CAP also complements other national development strategies including the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP). Full participation of the national authorities and the NGO community, both international and local, are key elements towards identifying the sector's strategic humanitarian priorities. The CAP will be launched in December 2009 by the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon.

GDP:
Gross Domestic Product

GAP:
Good Agricultural Practices

16 October 2009 Bethlehem
FAO speaks on World Food Day



World Food Day 2009

On 16 October, FAO focused the world's attention to food insecurity and hunger as one of the most pressing issues affecting the poor today. The global economic slump, low investment and productivity of agriculture, water scarcity, high population growth, abnormally high food and fuel prices are all

food insecurity in the world. FAO-Jerusalem organized local events to raise awareness of the food insecurity crisis that afflicts 25% Palestinians in the West Bank and 60.5% in the Gaza Strip (SEFSec, FAO/WFP, 2009). An exhibition of products made by rural women was held in the Gaza Strip for the second year to highlight the talents and hard-work of Palestinian women in agriculture (see page 1 for more details and photos). The World Food Program (WFP) coordinated a celebration of the opening day of school feeding programmes at the Almanshiya

School in Bethlehem. Dr. Az-zam Saleh, Senior Agriculture Advisor to FAO spoke at the opening, as did the Assistant Deputy Minister of MoEHE and the Italian Cooperation. The Italian Cooperation, in cooperation with FAO, organized an event at their offices in Jerusalem to promote products made by Italian NGOs working in the field of agriculture and food security in WBGS. These events emphasized the critical role of agriculture in regaining secure access to food during times of crisis.



Results of FAO/WFP SEFSec Report for West Bank and Gaza Strip Re-

The November release of FAO's Socioeconomic and Food Security Monitoring System (SEFSec) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the first, beyond ad hoc surveys and analyses in a now regular monitoring of the food security situation in the WBGS. SEFSec monitors income expenditure, consumption levels and the impact of specific constraints, such as the separation barrier in West Bank and the Operation "Cast Lead" in Gaza Strip. Main findings:

- 25 percent of West Bank households are food insecure and an additional 11 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity.
- 31 percent of West Bank households had received assistance in the last six months of 2008.
- The total value of the assistance needed to cover the aggregate consumption gap of food insecure households in the West Bank is USD 579,224 per day.
- Households which remained food insecure, even after receiving assistance, are unable to fully cover their basic needs as their own income and



FAO images

humanitarian assistance leave a significant gap.

- Food insecure households who reported that they did not receive any assistance have a higher proportion of their daily basic needs covered by income.
- Irregular wage work (41%) is the highest source of income for food insecure households.
- 60.5 percent of Gaza households are food

insecure and an additional 16.2 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity.

- 76 percent of Gazan households had received assistance within the first six months of 2009.
- Only 1% of

the food insecure are exclusively decreasing the quantity of food they purchase (indicates that food insecure households who have not cut back on the quantity prefer to cut back on the quality and the majority of food insecure households who have already reduced on the quantity and can no longer do so and are cutting back on the quality). The majority of the Gazan households are unable to ensure their own food security. Humanitarian assistance is only able to protect most households from

food shortage, pushing Gazans into aid dependency in the absence of income and employment opportunities.

- Irregular wage work (38%) and self employment (21%) are the highest source income for food insecure households.

The SEFSec database supports in-depth analyses to address improved programming and is accessible to all interested agencies. SEFSec was conceptualized three years ago with the aim to institutionalize comprehensive food security monitoring as part of the work of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The findings of SEFSec will be shared online on the websites of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Local Aid Coordination Structure (LACS) and Agricultural Projects Information System (APIS), to inform and direct food security programming and the work of the humanitarian sector. The next SEFSec survey is scheduled for January/February 2010.



A Farmer Field School, Jenin

Regional IPM Project and the Farmers Field Schools 2009

Since 2004, Farmers Field Schools have been operating in the West Bank (such schools have since ceased in the Gaza Strip from 2007) and have been funded by the FAO special trust fund, 'Food Safety and Food Security', funded by the Italian government. The goal of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project is three fold; 1) to reduce pesticide use in agricultural crops; 2) protect the environment and; 3) reduce hazards

For both farmers and consumers. The Farmers' schools exchange and transfer skills and knowledge with the end result of improved crop quality with fewer pesticides, yielding lower investment costs in product inputs as pesticides make up approximately 50 percent of input costs. In 2009 28 schools have been established, making a total of 35 Farm schools in the West Bank, with over 500 farmers currently enrolled in the schools. In addition, the project provided training on IPM techniques to over 200

staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture. The schools' curriculum in the is adapted to local needs and conditions and is continually evolving.

This year the project produced a 25 minute film which explained the concept of farmer field schools in Palestine and was aired on national television.



Crowds Gather at the 2nd Annual Rural Women's Gaza Marketing Exhibition

Since the beginning of its presence in the WBGS, FAO has greatly emphasized the development of agricultural skills of women and recognized and advanced the constructive role of women in supporting farming and food security. FAO incorporates women-centered activities in its projects wherever possible and has worked with more than 1 200 Palestinian women - mostly heads-of-household - since 2004. On 15-16 October, FAO organized its second annual Khayrat Blady to showcase the achievements of rural women in Gaza. The exhibition was a great success, attracting approximately 5 000 visitors and generating USD 9 000 (NIS 33 700) for the women associations that benefited from the project (Annual Rural Women's Gaza Marketing Exhibition; joint activity 806/ITA and 809/SPA funded by the governments of Spain and Italy). The skills transferred throughout the life of the project will be sustained by the women beneficiaries who will continue to process and market their products in the future.

Food processing and effective marketing can empower women to improve their household economic and food security situation. FAO provided women beneficiaries in Gaza with both training and inputs to help them to identify marketing opportunities for income generation. Over 360 women and girls received training

on how to make cakes and biscuits, jams, pickles, dry vegetables and fruit, juices and dairy products, as well as how to best freeze and package food. The inputs and training enabled the beneficiary women to buy fruit and vegetables when they are at their cheapest, at the end of the season, and preserve them for other times of the year. FAO worked on marketing issues by training on marketing skills like packaging and market-oriented labeling, numeracy, book-keeping as well as cash-flow and savings, to become more competitive on the local market. In general, women are faced with the challenge of financially supporting the household and finding alternative income-generating opportunities in order to cope with household economic insecurity and due to the continued closure on the Gaza Strip. FAO believes it is essential to promote the participation of women in the social and economic life of their communities by empowering them to initiate and conduct entrepreneurial activities in agriculture and therefore improve food security.



The opening of the exhibition 15/10/09 FAO

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Some of the FAO team



helping to build a world without hunger



Current Donor partners:



FAO Deputy Project Manager Speaks at International Rural Women's Day Event



**Project Manager,
Ms. Intissar Eshtayah
15/10/09 FAO**

On 15 October 2009, the FAO Gender/Youth Deputy Project Manager, Ms. Intissar Eshtayah, visited Anata, a rural town in central West Bank, to address a crowd of women and community leaders gathered to celebrate the International Rural Women's Day. Ms. Eshtayah spoke about women's promi-

nent role in agriculture, "nearly 70 percent of agricultural work is done by women... despite this major contribution, 48 percent of rural Palestinian women carry out unpaid work, which means that their production is not calculated in the GDP and that they are not considered as part of the workforce". Recent surveys in WBGS consistently indicate higher probability of food insecurity among rural households, women-headed households, families with higher proportion of female and child members. FAO worked with

2,400 Palestinian women since 2007 through four gender-targeting projects. Ms. Eshtayah said that speaking at Rural Women's Day was a "good chance to raise and highlight FAO's role in promoting the role of women in rural areas".

Organized by UNIFEM at the Anata Sabaya Center, the 'United Nations Day' recognizes the critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. It is celebrated on the eve of World Food Day, in order to highlight the role played by rural women in food production and food security. It was important to mark this day in Anata to demonstrate solidarity with Palestinian rural women and voice their particular needs and concerns.



Helping to build a world without hunger

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