



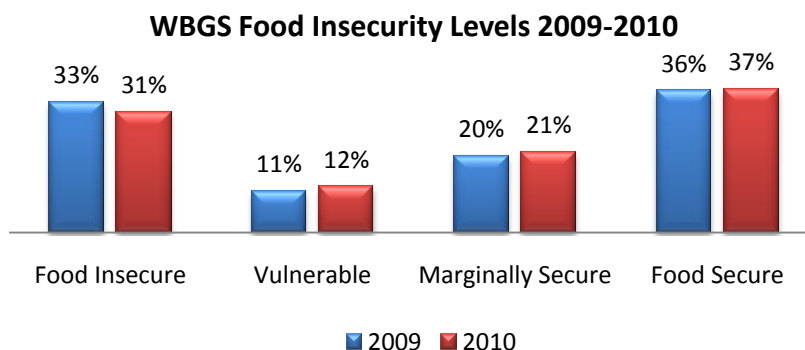
Farming Households' Food Security in West Bank and Gaza Strip **An Overview¹ - 24 November 2010**

Methodology

This overview includes a set of charts showcasing some key findings of the latest Socio-Economic and Food Security (SEFSec) 2010 survey, with a sample of 7,500 households. SEFSec is a FAO/WFP/PCBS partnership. SEFSec measures food insecurity on the basis of household income, expenditure and socio-economic vulnerability. The socio economic vulnerability is determined through clustering households against seven pre-determined socio-economic indicators (including refugee status, household size, receiving aid, future expectations on financial resources, and impact on food, non food and total expenditures). The three resulting clusters (highly, medium and low impacted population groups) are then cross tabbed with incomes and expenditures per adult. Finally, the food insecurity levels are determined on the basis of the PCBS deep and relative poverty thresholds. In 2010, PCBS published the regional Consumer Price Index (CPI) in order to account for the purchasing power differences between WB, GS and East Jerusalem, with a general deflating effect on expenditures and incomes. This spatial CPI was also factored into the food security analysis.

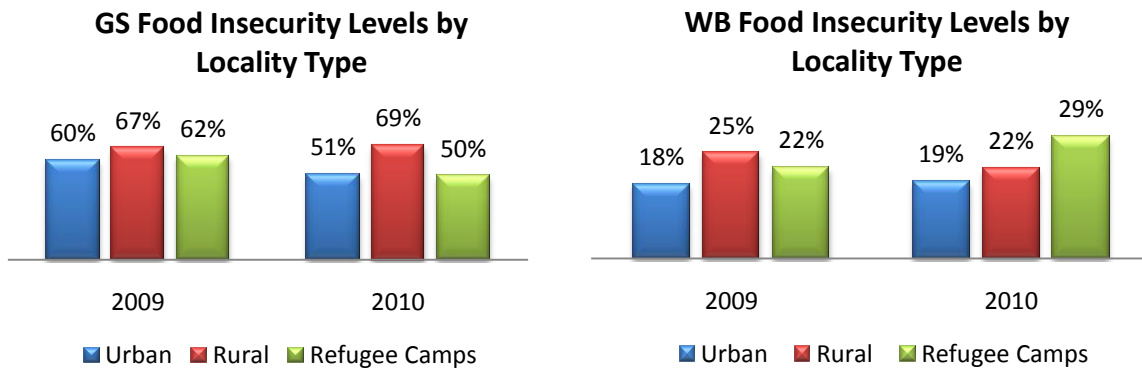
Food Insecurity in WBGs: late 2008/early 2009 vs. first half 2010

Compared to previous SEFSec data referring to late 2008/early 2009, a slight decline in overall food insecurity levels is registered in 2010, despite the significant changes in the dynamics of food security at the geographical level. The improvement could be attributed to the positive impact of the social safety nets reform by Ministry of Social Affairs, WFP and UNRWA on targeting and a substantive increase in aid to the Gaza Strip. In some of the WB governorates, localized economic improvement during 2009-2010 occurred, due to the changes in the closure regime. The below figure 2 shows the percentage of households across the food insecurity levels between late 2008/early 2009 and first half of 2010 in WBGs.

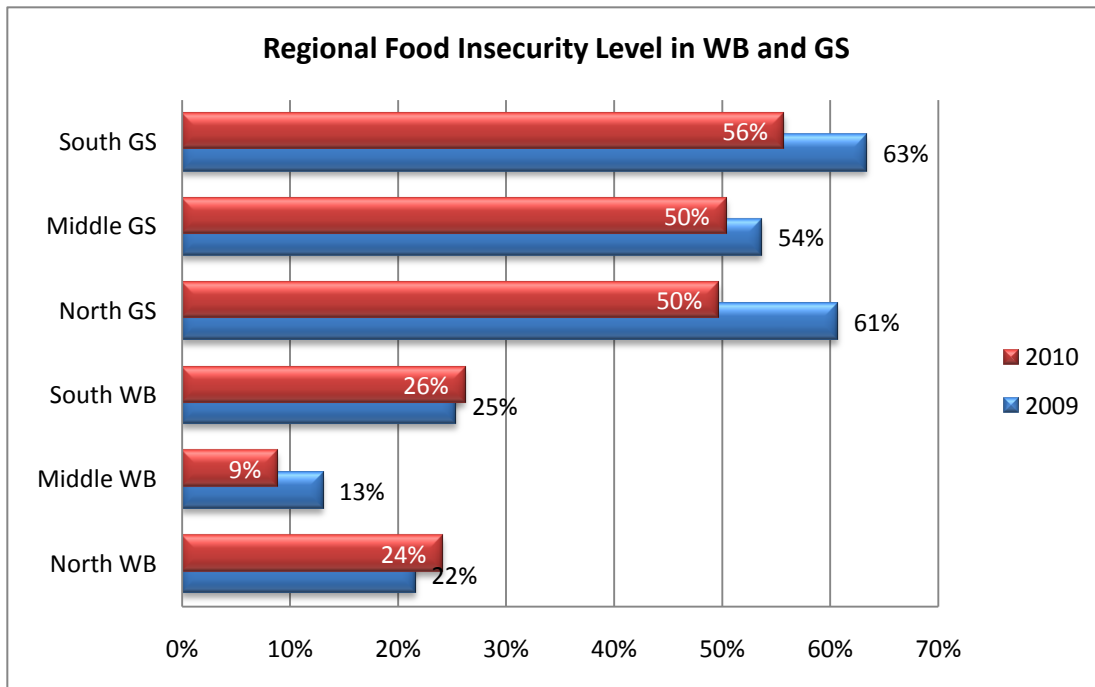


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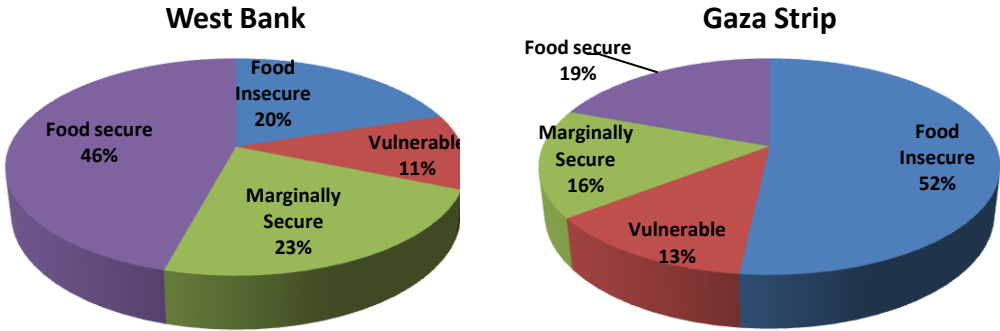
Rural population in Gaza suffered from asset destruction during the Operation Cast Lead (Dec. 08 - Jan. 09), very restricted access to land and sea (extended security zone), poor water availability/quality and inputs/equipment availability (due to blockade). Food insecurity levels in rural Gaza registered a slight increase contrary to the overall decrease in WBGS. In the WB however, the decrease in food insecurity levels is witnessed in rural areas, whereas an increase in food insecurity levels was evident among camps dwellers with a slight increase in urban food insecurity levels.



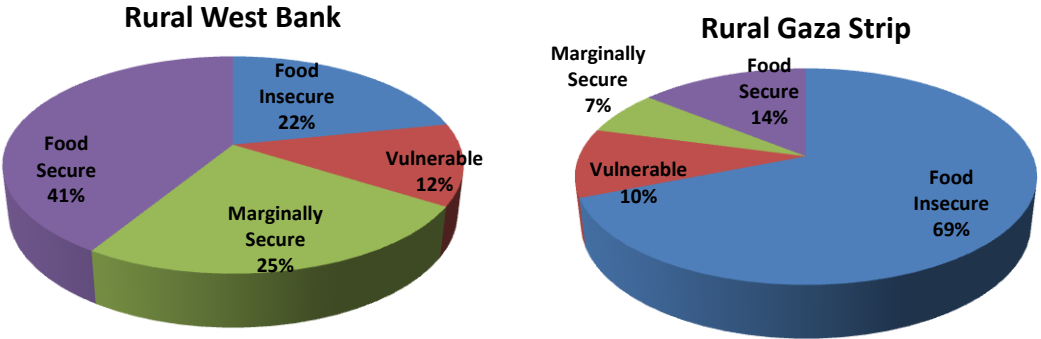
The regional breakdown reveals that the changing restrictions to access and movement of people and goods impact households' livelihoods and food security. An increase in food insecurity level is observed South and North WB while a significant decrease is observed in the middle of WB. For Gaza Strip the level of food insecurity had decreased overall, with the most significant decrease in the North followed by the South.



2010 Profile of Food Insecurity



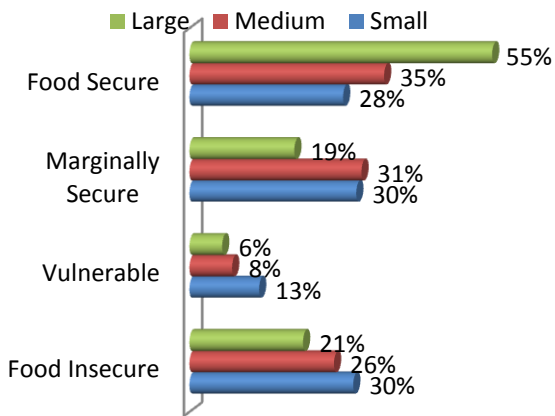
Prevalence of food insecurity in West Bank and Gaza Strip show massive disparity and remains very high in the Strip. Food insecurity levels in GS is 52 percent, with additional 13 percent of the households vulnerable to food insecurity. In the WB a relatively high food insecurity levels persist, with a 20 percent food insecurity and an additional 11 percent vulnerable. However, almost half of the population in the WB is food secure compared to only one fifth of the Gaza population.



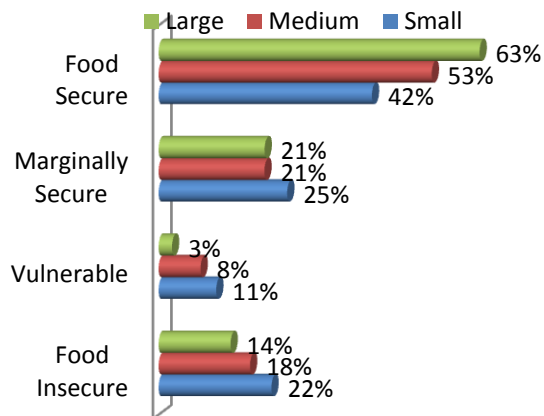
Higher disparity exists in the prevalence of food insecurity between rural WB and rural GS. Data shows that 69 percent of rural GS households are food insecure compared to 22 percent of rural WB households. Despite that, in absolute terms the number of food insecure households in the WB is five times as much as those of GS (25,000 compared to 5,000 households), as the rural population in Gaza Strip is small.

Herders' and crop farmers livelihoods and food insecurity is mainly influenced by their asset base (herd size, land size). However, the severity of food insecurity is less in the case of crop farmers as many small/medium land holders have other livelihood opportunities. However, agriculture-based livelihoods remain closely associated with high food insecurity and vulnerability.

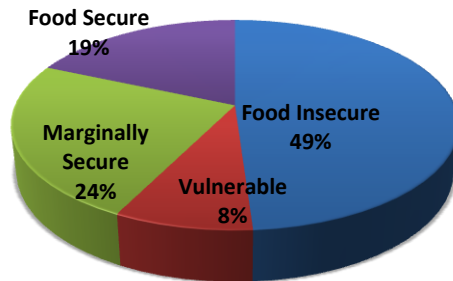
Herders Food Insecurity by Herd Size



Crop Farmers Food Insecurity by Land Size

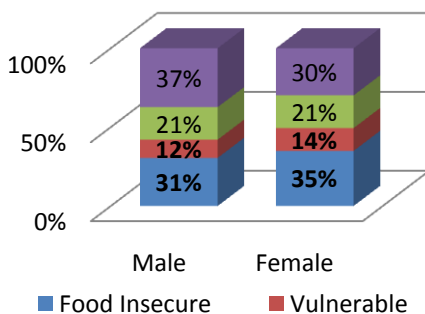


Food Insecurity Among Housheolds with more than 50 percent Income Derived from Agriculture

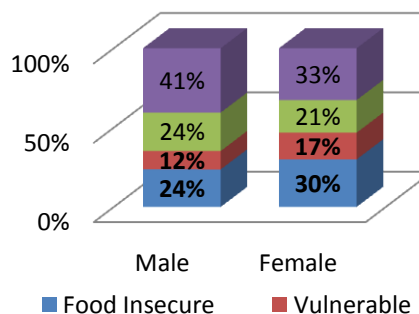


In general, women headed households enjoy lower levels of food insecurity than their male headed counterparts, as they are generally well covered by formal and informal safety nets. However, in rural communities' women headed households are affected by high prevalence of food insecurity, as their access/entitlements to assets is complicated by cultural, social and legal features.

Overall Food Insecurity by Gender of Head of Household



Rural Food Insecurity by Gender of Head of Household



Profiles of the Food Insecure Rural Households by Gender

	Average Rural Male Headed	Average Rural Female Headed	Average National Male Headed	Average National Female Headed
Average household size	7.0	3.0	6.05	3.46
Average household head age	45.8	65.9	43.7	59.5
Average head's years of education	8.5	5.7	10.5	8.7
Average household age	25.4	51.8	24.2	43.4
Average household years of education	7.7	8.4	9.3	9.6
Average number of employed persons	0.9	0.3	1.1	0.6
Share of income from Agriculture	14%	4%	6%	3%
Share of income from other private sector	46%	8%	46%	19%
Share of income from public sector	8%	4%	19%	11%
Share of income from work in Israel	11%	2%	9%	1%
Share of income from Aid	15%	57%	11%	42%
Share of income from pensions/transfers	5%	21%	5%	18%
Share of income from other sources	1%	4%	1%	4%
Average income per adult per day \$US	3.0	3.2	7.3	6.6
Average expenditure per adult per day \$US	3.4	3.5	10.0	6.4

Food insecure rural female headed households are smaller in size, with older age, lower education level heads. Also these households are characterized by lower employment levels, with most of their income derived from aid and transfers. They have a slightly lower food insecurity gap as their income and expenditure per adult level is slightly better than food insecure rural male headed households. Both female and male headed households have significantly lower income and expenditure, compared to the national average.

Part of the reason for the low income among rural households resides in the low wage level in agriculture compared to other activities, as shown in the below table.

Nominal Average Wage in US\$ per day	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Agriculture	All Activities	Agriculture	All Activities	Agriculture	All Activities	Agriculture	All Activities	Agriculture	All Activities
Palestinian Territory	8.3	15	8.7	15.4	9	16.3	10.1	18.1	11.1	22.1
West Bank	10.1	16.2	11.2	16.4	11.8	16.6	12.7	19.1	14	23.8
Gaza Strip	7.5	13	7.3	13.8	7.2	15.7	6.9	15.9	7.8	17

Smallholder farmers, herders and fishermen

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) estimated that there are some 124,000 crop farmers, livestock owners and fishermen in WBGS, of which some 106,000 are considered small or medium size.

	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Crop Farmers	30,346	47,664	15,019	93,029
Average land holding (dunums)	0.7	3.8	284	48
Livestock Owners	21,676	7,119	2,150	30,945
Average herd size (heads)	4	27	127	18

The profiles of Food Insecure/Secure Crop Farmers and Herders are shown in the table below.

	Food Insecure Crop Farmers	Food Secure Crop Farmers	Food Insecure Herders	Food Secure Herders
Average household size	6.7	5.7	7.9	6.8
Average household age	31.2	30.2	23.8	25.7
Average household years of education	8.9	9.8	7.7	8.8
Average heads of household age	52.5	50.2	47.0	48.1
Average head of household years of education	8.9	11.1	8.0	10.3
Average number of employed	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.7
Own produced share of total expenditures	8.7%	7.6%	9.1%	10.8%
Share of income from Agriculture	23.7%	9.8%	20.0%	22.5%
Share of income from Private sector (other than agriculture)	35.4%	37.9%	45.4%	32.4%
Share of income from Public sector	7.1%	23.9%	5.8%	17.6%
Share of income from work in Israel	5.6%	11.5%	9.0%	16.0%
Share of income from Aid	17.0%	4.0%	12.2%	4.0%
Share of income from Transfers and Pensions	7.4%	7.6%	4.4%	5.3%
Share of income from Other sources	2.8%	4.6%	2.8%	1.9%
Income per adult per day \$US	3.1	11.7	2.9	10.8
Expenditure per adult per day \$US	3.6	11.9	3.2	10.1
Average land size (dunum)	1.7	1.9	-	-
Average herd size (heads)	-	-	13.1	27.6

Resilience by land and livestock ownership

Based on SEFSec data, FAO has developed the Household Resilience Analysis Model to measure the key household livelihood components -the results from SEFSec 2010 are shown in the radar charts below.

Small and medium-size farmers and herders, as well as fishers in Gaza Strip, have limited productive assets (A), low income and access to food (IFA), and low access to social safety nets (SSN) such as food assistance and social security. Their remoteness and the current Israeli-imposed restrictions result in a limited access to basic services (ABS) such as water, health care, electricity, etc. Their low adaptive capacity (AC) results from a low diversity of income sources and the limited number of coping mechanisms available to the household. Finally, smallholders are also characterized by limited professional skills, basic educational level, low employment ratio and a high number of household members that have lost jobs, thus a low stability (S).

Small herders live in remote areas and their access to basic services is very limited. Despite their higher asset base, their income is lower than small crop farmers as the latter have access to a more diversified livelihood.

