2017 WFP wfp.org

Food Insecurity is on the Rise amongst Bedouins and Herders in Area C of the West Bank

WFP-UNRWA Joint Food Assistance is Critical to Meet their Basic Food Needs & Protect their Livelihoods

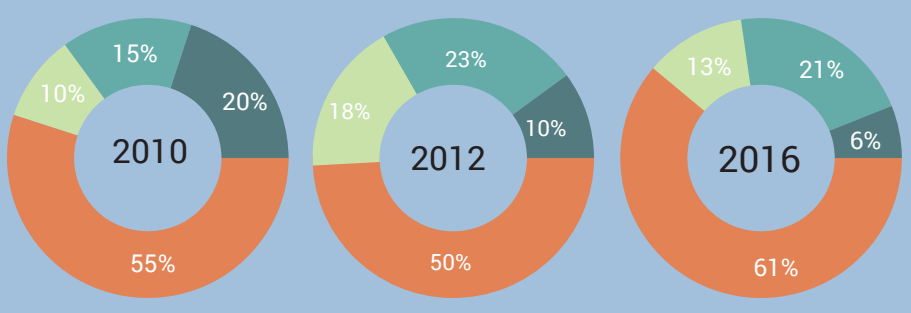
A 2016/2017 survey conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), together with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), found that more than 60 percent of the Bedouin and herding communities living in Area C of the West Bank were food insecure, marking a deterioration in their food security status compared to a 2012 survey (50%). The sample of the assessment which was conducted in October 2016 - February 2017 consisted of nearly 500 Bedouin/herding households.

Key reasons for food insecurity: movement restrictions, shrinking grazing lands and livestock, demolition of structures and displacement, scarcity of water and limited food resources.

Since 2009, WFP and UNRWA implement a joint emergency food assistance programme to Bedouins and herders. As needs increased over the years, WFP and UNRWA provided regular in-kind food entitlements to more than 35,000 Bedouins and herders in 2017.

Food Security Level

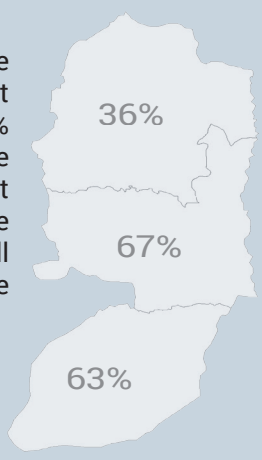
The new survey found evidence of an overall increase in the prevalence of food- insecurity amongst households, from 55% in 2010 to 61%. The percentage of food- secure households dropped from 20% to 6%.



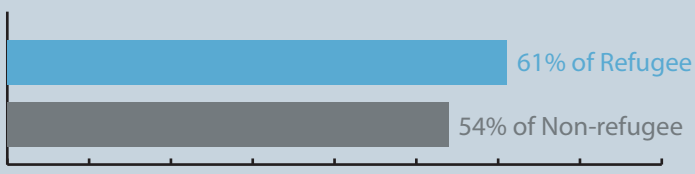
Food insecure
Vulnerable food insecure
Food secure
Marginal food secure

By Area

Bedouins and Herders living in the center[1] and the south[2] of the West Bank are more food insecure (67% & 63% respectively) than those living in the north[3] of the West Bank (36%), and significantly more food insecure than the overall food insecure population of the West Bank (13%).



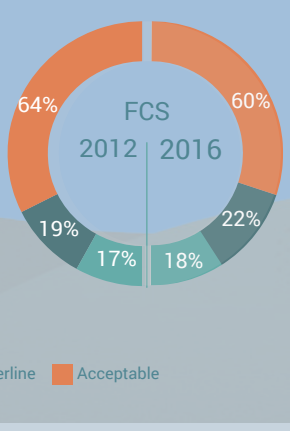
By Refugee Status



The majority of the Bedouin and herding communities living in Area C of the West Bank are refugees (53%). The prevalence of food insecurity is higher amongst refugees (61%) than amongst non-refugees (54%)

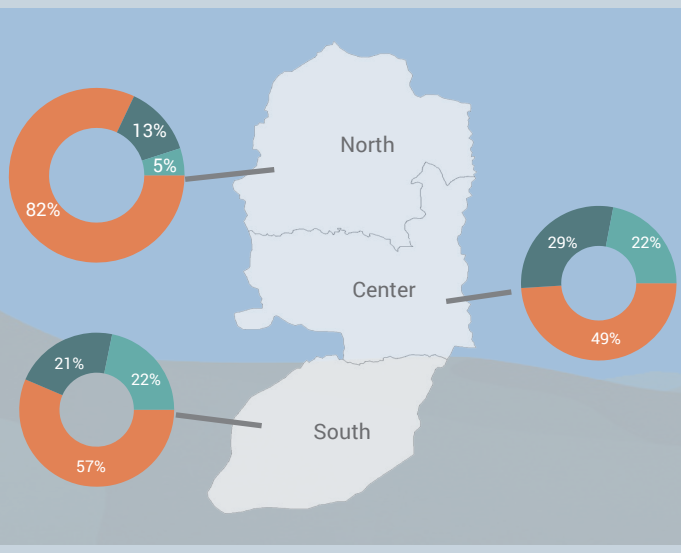
Food Consumption Score

In 2016, The surveyed populations were found to have a poorer food consumption score than in 2012.

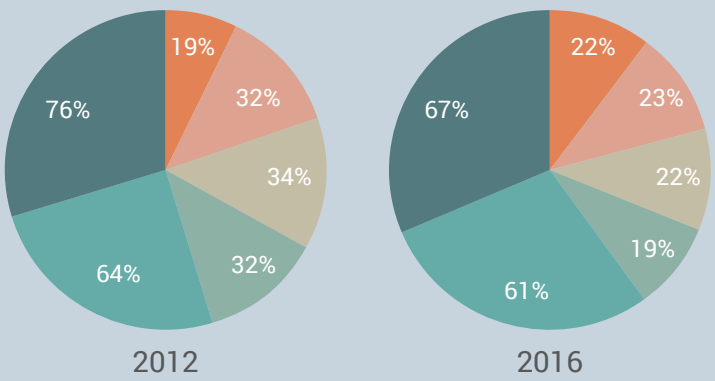


Poor
Borderline
Acceptable

By Area



Food Coping Strategies



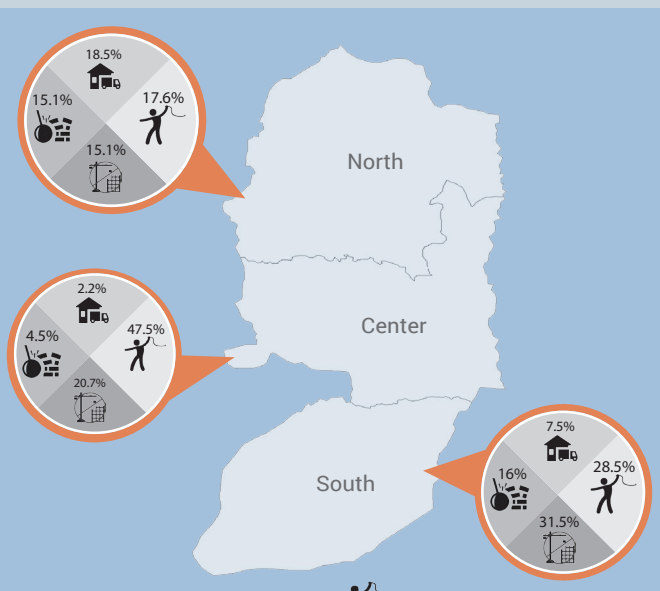
The survey found evidence of continued use of negative strategies to cope with the deterioration of their livelihoods and socio-economic conditions.

- Asked for and received assistance from friends and/or relatives
- Reduced the portion of meals for all household members
- Reduced number of daily meals
- Reduced portion of food for adults in favor of children's
- Purchased low quality market Items
- Bought and consumed fewer types of food items "less expensive"

Protection

In the past six months, 32.7% of the surveyed population had been subject to violence or harassment, 23.7% received building halt or demolition orders, 11.6% had their homes demolished and 8.2% had to relocate (see details by geographical areas)

Forcible displacements and relocations occurred following eviction orders (39%), home demolitions (22%), settlers' and Israeli Defence Force violence and harassment (17.1%), restrictions of access to services or natural resources (9.8%), separation wall (2.4%), sabotage or bulldozing destruction of irrigation systems and confiscation of agricultural land (2.4%) among other reasons (7.3%).



Demolition of home or other structures
Obliged to move their place of residence.
Halt to building or demolition orders
Experienced violence or harassment

Conclusion & Recommendation

The joint assessment found clear evidence of deterioration in the food security status and livelihoods of the Bedouins and herding communities, as well as their reliance on WFP/UNRWA assistance to meet their basic food needs and strengthen their resilience in the face of increased hardship. Providing regular food parcels of wheat, salt, legumes and vegetable oil ensures basic food needs are met and households can direct their scarce cash resources towards other expenses as their alternative coping strategies are steadily ground down by the cumulative impact of the policies and practices restricting their movements.

Humanitarian food assistance to these communities is all the more critical as their access to other basic services remains challenging. The regular United Nations presence has also positive secondary impacts on the safeguard of their protection.

1. Center Governorates: Jerusalem, Jericho, Ramallah
2. North Governorates: Jenin, Tulkarem, Tubas, Qalqilia, Nablus, Salfiet
3. South Governorates:Bethlehem, Hebron