



Press Release
MAS Continues the National Dialogue on Food Security and Nutrition with International Agencies and Organizations



Ramallah, Monday, 28 February 2017. Today the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) held a third workshop within the framework of “Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine” project, which MAS is currently commissioned by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to carry out. This workshop gathered United Nations (UN) agencies and international non-governmental organizations (iNGOs), which are active actors in the field of mitigating food insecurity and malnutrition and meeting the challenges on the way to food and nutrition security in Palestine.

One of the key elements of the Strategic Review is conducting a comprehensive diagnostic study of the obstacles that achieving food insecurity in Palestine faces, through the examination of the Palestinian public, private, and civil sectors’ experience in responding to such challenges and the international actors’ experiences in implementing and financing food aid programs in the Palestinian context.

The workshop brought together representatives of stakeholders from a number of international agencies and organizations, including: the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the WFP, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) , Action Against Hunger (ACF), and the Islamic Relief as well as a representative of the Food Security Sector (FSS) in Palestine.



The discussion was lively and frank and pertained to different aspects of the challenges that hinder achieving food security, the role of international agencies and NGOs, and an evaluation of the programs and interventions they have adopted in Palestine. The discussion addressed the pillars and facets of food insecurity in the Palestinian case, which is characterized by a lack of sovereignty necessary for the un-intermittent provision of food at stable prices, in contrast to other countries with high levels of food insecurity despite their independence and sovereignty over their resources and economy. Thus, it can be inferred that the high levels of food insecurity in Palestine, estimated at 27% of households in 2014, is the result mainly to the occupation's measures, which controls the majority of the Palestinian natural resources, productive means, and flow of trade.

Also during the workshop, the participants assessed Palestinian and international policies and programs for meeting food security challenges, the legal framework affecting the sector, and the national and international institutional capabilities for designing, managing, and coordinating the existing programs.

The three-hour dialogue was moderated by the Review Dialogue Facilitator and Rapporteur, Dr. Mohammed Nasr, Professor of Economics at Birzeit University. At the beginning of the workshop, Dr. Nasr explained the goals of the Strategic Review, highlighting the importance of such a dialogue to help draw up national policies for accelerating the progress towards food security and thus also serve as guidelines for national and international food security programs. The Strategic Review, which is expected to be ready by the end of April, will come up with a comprehensive assessment of the scale and nature of the problems of food security and nutrition in Palestine and propose specific recommendations for all relevant actors on how to secure stable and proper access to food and nutrition to all groups.