



Press Release

MAS Launches a National Dialogue on Food Security and Nutrition



Ramallah, Monday, 20 February 2017: The Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) held today its second ad hoc workshop on the challenges of food and nutrition insecurity in Palestine. The workshop is part of the “Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine”, being carried out by MAS and commissioned by the World Food Programme (WFP). One of the key elements of this process is a comprehensive diagnostic study MAS is preparing so as to examine the Palestinian experience in meeting the challenges of food insecurity, international experiences in financing food aid programs, and policies adopted to date, as well as efforts by national and international institutions – public and non-governmental – to address challenges in this vital sector. The event brought together more than 40 representatives and experts from Palestinian governmental agencies (the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Social Development, and National Economy, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and Environment Quality Authority) and from non-governmental and private



sector organizations in a candid and detailed dialogue on different technical, statistical, political, and institutional aspects affecting the performance of the Palestinian food security sector.

The three-hour discussion was moderated by the Review Dialogue Facilitator and Rapporteur, Dr. Mohammed Nasr, Professor of Economics at Birzeit University. He explained the aims of the Strategic Review, stressing the importance of such a dialogue to help draw up national policies that serve as guidelines for international food security programs. The workshop was also attended by members of the technical team in charge of preparing the Strategic Review chapters: Dr. Belal Falah, Dr. Mohannad Kafri, Dr. Mahmoud Dodein, and Mr. Yasser Shalabi. The final product, expected to be ready by late April, will aim to develop new tools to determine the scale and nature of the problems of food security and nutrition in the Palestinian context where the Israeli occupation is a root cause that hampers food and agricultural production, restrains access of the poor to food, and represses efforts to provide proper and stable food.