

Publication of Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine, 2017

Press Release

English Version

Ramallah, XX December 2017. Today the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) is publishing the “Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine, 2017”, prepared by MAS at the request of the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations (UN) and for the benefit of all stakeholders involved in this sector. The main goal of this Strategic Review was to enable the government of Palestine to accelerate progress towards eliminating food insecurity and malnutrition in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, to which the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) committed in the National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022. The Review includes: a comprehensive mapping of the food security and nutrition situation; review of the progress that has been made in the legislative and policy framework and in the programs of the relevant government and international agencies; assessment of the resourcing situation of the food and nutrition security sector; and proposals of a set of prioritized actions required to meet response gaps and accelerate progress towards food security by all involved stakeholders.

The methodology for completing the Strategic Review was two-fold, benefiting from the synergy between using available secondary data (review of literature on Palestine and international best practices) and collecting new primary data. Intensive, in-depth consultations were held with all relevant stakeholders – national and international – in order to look into and analyze the current situation as well as the existing needs and response gaps; the involved partners, their current roles and institutional capacities; and the present policies and programs in an objective, well balanced manner. The research work was completed between January and June 2017.

The Review has confirmed that while the food security crisis in Palestine has abated since the heights of humanitarian emergencies in the past decade, the underlying fragility and distortions in food and nutrition security continue to pose serious risks to the social welfare of the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, and to the national economic security. While the Palestinian government and civil society have accorded food and nutrition security policy attention and the resources available, this is only one of a range of socio-economic challenges in the broader context of ensuring the basic needs of the poorest, strengthening livelihoods and resilience, and building a productive economy that can assure food and good nutrition for all and confront the root causes of hunger, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The tasks in the coming years are daunting; yet it is clear from this Review what the various partners need to do in order to tackle them in a concerted and systematic framework that embraces the issue of food and nutrition within the widest possible lens. While Palestinian public resources can cover some of the needs in this sector, they cannot compensate for the losses caused by occupation and lack of sovereignty, hence calling for sustained donor engagement.

In the Foreword to the Strategic Review, Dr. Nabeel Kassis, Director General of MAS, wrote, “It is our sincere hope that this Review will help to energize Palestinian stakeholders in increasingly

taking the lead in efforts in this sector and will encourage international partners to sustain their generous support of the sector. This is required for humanitarian considerations alone, if for nothing else. However, a renewed Palestinian national strategy is called for, given food security's pivotal position at the intersection of agricultural production and trade, food processing industry and food safety, household poverty and social protection, nutrition and public health, regional development disparities, and national economic security and food sovereignty."

In her message, Ms. Daniela Owen, Country Director of the WFP for the West Bank and Gaza, wrote, "Since the recommendations and conclusions are beyond any single actor, we hope that the review will pave the way for a wider partnership-based approach and strengthened synergies with all national and international actors collectively engaged in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 2 in Palestine."

To read the full report in English, click [here](#).

To read the full report in Arabic, click [here](#).