

**State of Palestine**

**National Food and Nutrition Security Policy**

**2019-2030**

**Final Draft**

**SDG2 Working Group**

**Facilitated by the  
FAO-EU Programme Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience,  
Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST)**

*18 January 2019*



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## **Foreword**

## **Acknowledgements**

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>EQA</b>	Environment Quality Authority
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FIRST</b>	Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation
<b>FNS</b>	Food and Nutrition Security
<b>FWL</b>	Food Waste and Losses
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GoP</b>	Government of the State of Palestine
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MoA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>MoEHE</b>	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoL</b>	Ministry of Labor
<b>MoLG</b>	Ministry of Local Government
<b>MoNE</b>	Ministry of National Economy
<b>MoSD</b>	Ministry of Social Development
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NM</b>	Nautical Miles
<b>NPA</b>	National Policy Agenda
<b>PACI</b>	Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institution
<b>PADRRIF</b>	Palestinian Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund
<b>PCBS</b>	Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics
<b>PMO</b>	Prime Minister Office
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>PWA</b>	Palestinian Water Authority
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>RF</b>	Results Framework

<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEFSec</b>	Palestinian Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WG</b>	Working Group



## **Executive Summary**

The **National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP)** is a strategic policy consisting of a comprehensive and coordinated set of measures needed to ensure food and nutrition security in Palestine over the years 2019-2030.

NFNSP was developed through a broad-based and deep consultation process that started in early March 2018 and ended in September 2018. Effective stakeholders' involvement and active participation guarantee a high degree of ownership.

In developing the NFNSP, a huge amount of studies available on food and nutrition security (FNS) and related topics in Palestine have been reviewed. Moreover, all existing policy frameworks have been analyzed to ensure harmonization and alignment with the fourth Palestine National Development Plan 2017-2022.

Being a strategic document, NFNSP provides the broad architecture for operational plans such as programs and projects. Specifically, the NFNSP is part of a package including also a National Investment Plan (NIP) for food and nutrition security that will be developed from September 2018 on. These two documents are a coordinated set of policy tools aiming at pursuing food and nutrition security in Palestine.

## ***Background***

Palestine is the country recording the world longest contemporary conflict. This situation of protracted crisis has a profound impact on many, if not all, aspects of Palestinian society and economy. As a result of the Israeli occupation every Palestinian is vulnerable to some degree. Although every Palestinians is negatively affected by the Israeli occupation, some of them – such as the refugees, people living in the Gaza Strip and people living in Area C – are more severely impacted.

Palestine is scarcely endowed of natural resources. This 'natural' scarcity is exacerbated by the heavy burden of the Israeli occupation that severely constrains availability and access to natural resources. Climate change is expected to further worsen this situation.

Restrictions on the movement of people and goods severely impair the Palestinian economy and its potential for growth that has been volatile and sluggish over the last decade or so. With economic stagnation comes high unemployment, especially among youth and women, and high informality of the labor market. The economy remains highly dependent on its public sector, which in turn is highly dependent on external budgetary support.

Furthermore, recent changes in international policy – such as declining international assistance and cutting support to UNRWA and to Palestinian government – compound an already critical situation further limiting the effectiveness of policy interventions.

Those are the key underlying factors that make Palestinians vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

## ***Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine***

The most recent available data show that more than one fourth of Palestinians are severely or moderately food insecure, with marked differences among geographic areas (i.e. Gaza Strip vs. West Bank and Area C vs. Area B and A in the West Bank), locality (i.e. rural vs. urban vs. camp), and vulnerability status (e.g. refugees, female-headed households, etc.).

Stunting (or height-for-age), which is an indicator of long-term food insecurity, is assessed at 7.4% of children under the age of five in 2014 and before. Vice versa, the prevalence of wasting (or weight-for height), which is a measure of short-term food insecurity, was only 1.2%. Palestinians are also facing malnutrition: the prevalence of overweight was 8.2% among children under 5 years of age and 7.5% among students in 2014-2016 and micronutrient deficiency is concerning among the most vulnerable group of population such as pregnant or lactating women and children.

The institutional set-up of food and nutrition security (FNS) in Palestine is a complex cobweb of organizations and policy frameworks whose governance involves many governmental, non-governmental, civil and private institutions. The legal framework is based on several pieces of legislation rather than an umbrella food and nutrition security law. Thus, it is uncoordinated and results in functional overlap between authorities thereby compromising the effectiveness of food and nutrition security interventions.

Three important issues deserve specific attention, namely: (i) filling the regulatory gaps in important areas that could improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of FNS interventions; (ii) identifying and implementing more effective and efficient mechanisms of coordination for FNS interventions, and (iii) filling the gaps in terms of human and financial resources within the administration.

## ***Food and Nutrition Security Issues***

Israeli occupation is a key driver of food insecurity by constraining the lives and the agency of people as well as by limiting and encroaching upon the policy space of the government. However, improving the governance of FNS in Palestine can produce some significant beneficial effects even within the limits imposed by the occupation.

Food and nutrition insecurity is the immediate consequence primarily of the lack/loss of individual's labor entitlement that prevents access to food. This is particularly severe for the most vulnerable groups earning their livelihood through labor entitlement, including the youth, women and the disabled.

A second determinant of food insecurity is related to the lack/loss of the so-called own production entitlement, that is those people who gained their own livelihood producing directly a significant share of the food they consume and for some reasons cannot anymore produce this food. This is the case of other vulnerable groups such as Bedouins and herders living in Area C, people living in the Seam Zone, farmers whose farms are in the buffer zone in the Gaza Strip and more generally all farmers, herders and fishermen who face a lack of access to productive resources.

From the nutrition viewpoint, the most important issue is the reported coexistence of micronutrient deficiency and overweight especially among children. A better-balanced diet and access to safe and nutritious food is key to addressing this issue.

In conclusion, the NFNSP needs to address the following major issues:

- a) **increasing food availability**, that calls primarily though not exclusively for increasing domestic production through improvements in farm productivity (access to factors and markets, production technology) and reducing food loss and waste;
- b) **enhancing food access**, that among others include interventions aiming at creating employment, generating income, providing social protection, and increasing farm profitability;
- c) **improving food utilization**, that requires focusing on food education and awareness campaigns, addressing food safety issues along the whole supply chain, and implementing various nutrition-oriented interventions (e.g. fortification and micronutrient supplementation programs, etc.);
- d) **building resilience and improving responses to shocks** that needs to be streamlined in all availability and access-oriented interventions through the improvement of early warning systems, the development of contingency plans to be better prepared should a shock occur, the diversification of the portfolio of livelihood activities, etc.;
- e) **improving the institutional environment**, working to provide a comprehensive legal framework for FNS, enhancing the coordination across different institutional actors, improving the provision of public goods and services, and strengthening the innovation food system.

### ***National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Design***

The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) addresses the above issues as comprehensively as possible. The development of the NFNSP considered all policy frameworks relevant to FNS at different levels – National Policy Agenda (NPA), sector strategies, cross-cutting strategies (e.g., food safety, nutrition), including their content whenever relevant to FNS and ensuring consistency between the NFNSP and these policy frameworks. As a result, through pursuing food and nutrition security, NFNSP contributes to the achievement of NPA objectives.

In doing this, NFNSP qualifies also as the Palestinian strategy for achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG2). However, NFNSP contributions go well beyond this goal. It identifies interventions that can develop synergies with other sector interventions, catalyze achievement of national objectives and deliver results across multiple goals and targets of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

In summary, the NFNSP design aims at:

- a) being as comprehensive as possible in terms of content, addressing all relevant issues of Palestinian FNS,
- b) ensuring consistency with the current practice of policy-making in Palestine and coordination with existing policy frameworks, and
- c) making possible an effective monitoring and evaluating of interventions, proposing a Results Framework.

The NFNSP identifies interventions able to address the underlying causes of food and nutrition insecurity while building household and community resilience, primarily to food and nutrition insecurity and indirectly to other forms of vulnerability.

### ***Vision***

The NFNSP vision is **‘Food and Nutrition Secure Resilient Communities and Households in Palestine’**, pursuing the overall objective of a country where enough and nutritious food is accessible for everyone, in which natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support current and future population needs. In this vision, communities and households actively participate in, and benefit from, equitable economic development, have decent employment conditions and are more resilient to natural, economic and political shocks.

### ***NFNSP Strategic Objectives and Sectoral Results***

The NFNSP is organized in six Strategic Objectives (SOs) further disaggregated into 18 Sectoral Results (SRs). This structure mirrors SDG2 articulation in so far the Strategic objectives correspond to the first five SDG2 targets plus a sixth ‘institutional-oriented’ strategic objective that includes all measures aiming at creating the enabling institutional environment to make possible the interventions under the first five Strategic Objectives to thrive. They offer a thread that knits the many dimensions of FNS with Palestine’s broader development objectives encompassing poverty eradication, job creation, health improvement, natural resource conservation, and institutional reforms.

**SO1 - By 2030, hunger ended in Palestine.** Although hunger in Palestine is not as widespread as in other countries, this objective is relevant in so far it is directly related to poverty and to the access dimension – primarily economic and social access – of food security. It is of paramount importance for the most vulnerable groups, among which are refugees living in abject poverty, households headed by women, communities in Area C, Bedouins and herder communities living in Area C, persons living in the Seam Zone, and small-scale farmers, herders and fisher folk.

This Strategic Objective is articulated in three Sectoral Results:

**SR1.1** - Livelihood enhanced through social protection;

**SR1.2** - Marginalized people empowered and equality of opportunities ensured;

**SR1.3** - Resilience to man-made and natural risks enhanced.

**SO2 - By 2030, all forms of malnutrition ended in Palestine.** Malnutrition – and all its outcomes such as undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases – imposes unacceptably high economic and social costs on Palestinians. Addressing these issues requires typical cross-cutting interventions involving many ministries (e.g. MoA, MoH, MoEHE, MoSD) and many stakeholders (e.g. public bodies and agencies, consumer organizations, media operators, etc.). Creating ‘nutrition-sensitive’ agriculture and food systems requires acting at all stages of the food chain in order to deliver all year round safe and nutritious food and a balanced diet to consumers.

This Strategic Objective is articulated in three Sectoral Results:

**SR 2.1** - Programs promoting nutrition effectively implemented;

**SR 2.2** - Food safety ensured along all food supply chains;

**SR 2.3** - Nutrition education and awareness enhanced.

**SO3: By 2030, agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers doubled.** Palestine faces a structural deficit of its domestic food supply vis-à-vis food demand. While self-sufficiency cannot be a food policy objective given the country's limited resource endowment and occupation-constrained access to key resources (land and water), increasing current agricultural output is possible and is an imperative both in terms of food availability and food access. Despite the country's constraints, there are opportunities to address food insecurity calling Israel to fulfill its obligations in terms of right to land and water for Palestinian people, focusing on more efficient use of water and land resources, developing farmers' capacity, and favoring their access to markets and food value chains.

This Strategic Objective is articulated in three Sectoral Results:

**SR 3.1** - Access to agricultural productive resources and services improved;

**SR 3.2** - Smallholders participation in domestic and international markets enhanced;

**SR 3.3** - Producers' knowledge and capacities developed.

**SO4 - By 2030, sustainable food production systems ensured and resilient agricultural practices implemented.** In a country such as Palestine, endowed with limited natural resources and heavy human pressure on the few accessible resources, ensuring environmental sustainability is a precondition in order to achieve also economic and social sustainability. This is even more important for food production systems that crucially depend on natural resources and in view of expected climate change impacts.

This Strategic Objective is articulated in three Sectoral Results:

**SR 4.1** - Access to management of land and water resources enhanced;

**SR 4.2** - Food loss and waste reduced and use of renewable energy resources promoted;

**SR 4.3** - Climate change challenges addressed and farming systems adapted.

**SO5 - By 2022, the diversity of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture maintained.** The Palestine's rich agrobiodiversity heritage is threatened. Drivers such as farming system oversimplification, land-use change and land degradation, pollution, invasive alien species, degrading habitats and climate change are reducing the number of species, impoverishing their genetic diversity and stressing ecosystems, often beyond their capacity. Diversifying agricultural production, conserve biodiversity, improve soil and plant health and reduce exposure to pests, diseases or extreme-weather events need to be complemented with active conservation of cultivated plants and domesticated animals and their related wild species.

This Strategic Objective has only one Sectoral Result:

**SR 5.1** - Agrobiodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection mainstreamed.

**SO6 - By 2022, an enabling environment for FNS created.** A fundamental premise for delivering food and nutrition security in Palestine is the creation of an enabling policy environment, changes in sectoral ministries way of working, and policy coordination across government. The transition to more sustainable and equitable food systems requires action that builds political alliances and coalitions with actors beyond food and

agriculture. This crucially depends on government collaboration and stakeholder dialogue. Policymakers need to manage trade-offs and set out concrete measures for better aligning multiple objectives and incentive structures. Multi-stakeholder mechanisms and new forms of participatory governance structures will bolster policy ownership while helping to mobilize capacities, information, technologies and access to financial and production resources.

This Strategic Objective is articulated in five Sectoral Results:

**SR 6.1** - Agrifood innovation system strengthened;

**SR 6.2** - Public investment oriented to FNS increased;

**SR 6.3** - Adequate human and financial resources allocated to FNS;

**SR 6.4** - Policy dialogue and coordination on FNS matters enhanced;

**SR 6.5** - FNS legal and institutional framework strengthened.

### ***NFNSP Results Framework***

The NFNSP Results framework is made by two coordinated components, namely:

- a) a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to measure progress in achieving the six NFNSP Strategic Objectives, and
- b) the Results Framework matrix that shows how specific interventions can contribute in achieving the NFNSP Strategic Objectives.

Both components are consistent with the breakdown of six Strategic Objectives.

The NFNSP KPI are the 13 indicators that have been identified in the UN Agenda 2030 as SDG2 target indicators plus two indicators that have been added to SO6 – Creating an enabling environment for FNS where, besides the interventions related to the three UN ‘means’ targets (SDG2a to SDG2.c), some more institution-oriented interventions that focus on the regulatory framework and the coordination mechanisms are considered.

The KPI baseline values exist for only 6 out of 15 indicators. PCBS is working in order to fill this informational gap. Similarly, the target values are still lacking because the value at year 2030 are policy targets that have not been set yet by the Government of Palestine. As soon as the Government will set those targets, the KPI table will be completed.

Annex 4 presents the RF matrix structure. Per each level of the results chain, the relevant indicator statement, baseline value and corresponding year, 2022 targets (deadline for the first NIP implementation), 2030 targets, and means of verification (including the data source, key provider institution, other contributing institutions and frequency of data collection) are reported. The SDG2-WG identified 41 indicators. However, the baseline and target values exist only for 34 indicators and it is likely that missing data will not be available by the time the NFNSP will be endorsed by the Cabinet. From an operational viewpoint, this means that one of the key activities to be carried out over the first year of NFNSP implementation is filling the information gap.

### ***Alignment to NPA, Sectoral and Cross-sector Strategies and SDGs***

The NFNSP development modalities ensure NFNSP consistency with the NPA. The same applies to Sector or Cross-sector Strategies. The NFNSP is harmonized and

aligned to all these policy frameworks, contributing to their objectives and being influenced by their interventions in a fruitful two-way relationship.

The NFNSP contributes also to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with specific reference to SDG2. However, progress resulting from an effective implementation of NFNSP significantly contributes also to many other Sustainable Development Goals.

### ***Intervention priorities***

Although prioritizing interventions is more meaningful at operational level, there are a few interventions whose expected outputs are key for the success of NFNSP because of the urgency of the issues to be addressed and/or their leverage effect on other interventions. The stakeholder consultations prioritized the following interventions, all under the SO6:

- filling the gaps in terms of **human and financial resources** within the administration (**SR6.3**);
- identifying and implementing more effective and efficient **mechanisms of coordination** for FNS interventions (**SR6.4**)
- filling the **regulatory gaps** in important areas that could improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of FNS interventions (**SR6.5**).

From the content viewpoint, the issues that emerged as deserving top priority are the following:

- ensure **access to land and water resources**, that are currently impaired by Israeli occupation, and enhance management of these resources, also through technical and institutional innovations to relax the constraints on sustainable agricultural production (**SR4.1**): this will act directly on food availability;
- enhance livelihood, especially of the most in need and marginalized, through **social protection** interventions (**SR1.1**), specifically creating job opportunities and increasing people employability: this will act directly on food access;
- promote dietary diversification and healthy eating habits through **nutrition education and awareness** campaigns (**SR2.3**), targeting primarily girls, women and families with small children, can determine tremendous achievements even within the current boundaries of food availability and access: this will act directly on food utilization;
- enhance **resilience to man-made and natural risks** (**SR1.3**) through the diversification of portfolio of activities, better preparedness to shocks and, in post-disaster situations, asset rehabilitation and restoration of food production capacities to ensure people's livelihoods: this will act directly on food stability.

### ***Strategic risks***

The most important strategic risks for achieving NFNSP objectives include:

- vulnerability to the political downturns stemming from the turbulent political situation in Palestine, primarily the adverse evolution of international politics towards Palestine, tightening of Israeli occupation, the internal political divide and the uncertainty about the future leadership. Any effort must be made to keep the cause of Palestinians alive in international fora and stabilize the political situation within the State of Palestine;
- lack of political support and delayed policy action that may prevent effective coordination among all relevant stakeholders and undermine the continuity of actions

required by the long-term change envisioned by NFNSP. All efforts should be made to ensure the needed political support and direction at the highest level; and

- lack of support by the society at large due to a poor understanding of the role that food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture can play. Continuous awareness raising, communication campaigns and dialogue with all involved stakeholders are key to favoring a new social contract gaining broad political support for NFNSP.

### ***Implementation arrangements***

The NFNSP is a strategy whose breadth extends beyond the mandate of a single Ministry. Its implementation requires the strong involvement of a large number of Ministries, Agencies, Authorities and other institutions. This calls for changes in the way of doing business by these institutions as well as the identification of effective coordination mechanisms among them.

Essential actions need to be taken both within and outside the various involved Ministries. Internally, this calls for significant investments in developing human capacities (more and better trained staff) in key areas (planning, management, statistics, information and communication) and streamlining responsibilities deriving from the NFNSP mandate (and possibly changing the internal structure of some Ministries). Externally, engagement in policy dialogue with stakeholders having widely recognized political visibility and a mandate in the national context (e.g. international organizations, CSOs) as well as wider communication towards the Palestinian society and international audiences.

The SDG2-WG has been recently established as a technical-level coordination mechanism involving relevant ministries and public institutions focusing on FNS. Although its composition is in principle appropriate to discuss FNS-relevant issues, its role is limited to monitoring progress towards the achievement of SDG2. This is far away from an effective coordination role, both in terms of planning and management responsibilities.

The creation of a high-level Food and Nutrition Council, made by representatives of all relevant Ministries, having the political power to make policy decision, is crucial to ensure an effective governance of food and nutrition security in Palestine.

In this framework, the NFNSP governance could be envisaged as follows:

- the **Ministry of Agriculture** will be responsible for initiating and convening inter-institutional coordination and policy dialogue on the different subjects to be addressed by the NFNSP;
- the **SDG2 Working Group** will play the technical role of monitoring and evaluating FNS-oriented interventions;
- the **High-level Food and Nutrition Council** is the political locus where the decisions will be made at inter-ministerial level, it will be responsible for coordinating NFNSP/NIP interventions, it will oversee the NFNSP implementation and achievement of results, and it will provide services (e.g. dossier preparation) for higher political level deliberative body.

### ***NFNSP and its National Investment Plan***



The NFNSP is a strategic document defining the vision to which all stakeholders should be aligned to, long-term objectives to be pursued and interventions to be implemented over the period 2019-2030. The National Investment Plan (NIP) for food and nutrition security represents the planning stage of an investment cycle in which NFNSP's intervention priorities are translated into a shared framework that should be adopted by all key stakeholders at operational and financial level (designing and implementing projects, fundraising, etc.).

The NIP is aligned with the multi-year planning framework adopted by the Government of Palestine. The first NFNSP-NIP is consistent with the fourth National Development Plan 2017-2022, covering the years 2019-2022. After this period, on the basis of the results achieved and lessons learned, a new NIP will be prepared and implemented for the next planning period, and so on until 2030.

Being the operational arm of NFNSP, the NIP operates at three different levels, namely:

- **alignment and harmonization of investments:** it helps frame investments according to NFNSP structure, avoiding overlap and looking for synergies in a consistent framework;
- **advocating for investment:** it emphasizes priority areas of investment and highlights possible investment gaps, paving the way for a more comprehensive and effective set of investments; and
- **M&E of investments:** it matches, at investment level, the NFNSP Results Framework structure; it thus contributes to measuring progress and informing the Government and other stakeholders about NFNSP achievements.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Definition of FNS

According to the most accepted definition (FAO, 1996), ‘food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life’. This definition points out that food security encompasses the following four dimensions:

- **availability** of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid);
- **access** by individuals to adequate food both in terms of quantity and quality: this depends on physical, economic and social access;
- **utilization** of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met;
- **stability** over time of both food availability and access, which means that to be food secure a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times.

This definition implies not only a merely quantity notion of food intake (i.e. how much food one eats in order not to be undernourished) but also that of quality of diet (i.e. the safety and balance of various foods). However, in order to emphasize the key role played by the latter in achieving individual wellbeing, the original concept has been recently dubbed as ‘food and nutrition security’ (FNS).

Food and nutrition security is a key policy area in which a country’s commitment on policy coherence for development applies. In fact, FNS is a multi-dimensional concept that cuts across various sectors. It crucially requires a comprehensive political, legal and regulatory framework, advancement of competence of the involved public actors, and collaborative efforts across various stakeholders to be effective.

This is what the Government of Palestine intends to do through the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) 2019-2030, which is a strategic document aiming at contributing to and enhancing effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the fourth National Development Plan 2017-2022<sup>1</sup> with specific reference to food and nutrition security and Sustainable Development Goal no. 2 (SDG2) on ‘Ending hunger’.

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<sup>1</sup> The fourth National Development Plan 2017-2022 consists of two key components. The first component is the National Policy Agenda (NPA), which represents a high-level policy document that sets out the national vision, priorities and policies. The second component is the 18 national sector strategies, along with three cross-sector strategies, developed by Ministries, Agencies or Authorities.

## 1.2. Justification

Ensuring that ‘all Palestinians, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life’ is not only a valuable policy objective per se, but also a matter of national security having profound economic and political implications.

This explains the long-lasting interest by the Government of Palestine in developing a National Food and Nutrition Security Policy that dates back at least to September 2013 when the then Minister of Agriculture sent a letter to FAO requesting support in doing this. However, it is only in 2016 within the framework of the development of the National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022 and related sectorial and cross-sector strategies, that concrete steps towards the development of a NFNSP were taken.

In fact, ‘Ensuring Food Security’ is considered in the NPA as one of the Policy Interventions to ‘Meeting the Basic Needs of Communities’ that need be reflected in the relevant ‘Sector and Crosscutting Strategies’ to support ‘Resilient Communities’.<sup>2</sup>

Just before the preparation of the NPA the so-called ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ was launched by the United Nations, proposing a global rethink on how to achieve sustainable development and setting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>3</sup> that will shape national development plans until year 2030.

The concurrence of the launching of the UN 2030 Agenda with the preparation process of the NPA 2017-2022 presented a conducive opportunity to work towards integrating the SDGs into the NPA from the onset of deliberations. The Palestinian Council of Ministers established a national team to lead the implementation of the SDGs under the overview of the Prime Minister Office (PMO), and to support the National SDG Team, 12 SDG working groups were established to allow different partners to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in all stages of the process.

Each Working Group is led by a Ministry supported by a UN Agency counterpart. The SDG2 Working Group (SDG2-WG) – led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and supported by FAO – is in charge to stimulate actions and monitor progress towards the achievement of the SDG2 – ‘End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’ that sets the target to end hunger by year 2030.

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<sup>2</sup> This is only the most direct link to FNS in the National Policy Agenda. For a more detailed analysis of the links between NFNSP and NPA, cf. Section 5.3.

<sup>3</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) span all development dimensions from ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change and sustaining natural resources, food and agriculture (UN, 2015).

In the light of the above, in June 2017 the Government of Palestine signed an agreement with FAO and the EU asking support for developing the NFNSP within the framework of the FIRST program.<sup>4</sup> This requires a coordinated and focused policy action, which means that only by aligning country and stakeholder efforts and strengths the root causes that keep the hungry, food insecure and malnourished trapped in a vicious circle of chronic deprivation can be wiped out.

### 1.3. NFNSP Development Methodology

NFNSP was developed through a broad-based and deep consultation process that started in early March 2018 and ended in September 2018. The consultations involved routine meeting of the SDG2-WG, interviews with key stakeholders and a series of national workshop that took place on June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. Stakeholders' involvement and active participation (cf. Annex 1) guarantee a high degree of ownership.

In developing the NFNSP, the SDG2-WG reviewed the huge amount of studies available on FNS and related topics in Palestine. Moreover, all existing policy frameworks were analyzed to ensure harmonization and alignment with the fourth Palestine National Development Plan 2017-2022. Specifically, the SDG2-WG analyzed the following policy frameworks:

- a) the National Policy Agenda;
- b) nine sector/cross-sector strategies elaborated by the relevant Ministries of the Government of Palestine (GoP):
  - the National Agricultural Sector Strategy (MoA),
  - the Social Development Sector Strategy (MoSD),
  - the National Nutrition, Policy, Strategies and Action Plan (MoH),
  - the National Health strategy (MoH),
  - the National Strategy for Food Safety (Interministerial),
  - the National Cross-sectoral Strategy to Promote Gender Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women (MoWA),
  - the Education Sector Strategic Plan (MoEHE),
  - the Labor Sector Strategy (MoL), and
  - the Sectoral Strategy for the Development of the National Economy (MoNE);
- c) six strategies/plans developed by governmental Agencies/Authorities:
  - the Palestinian Agricultural Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund Strategy (PADRRIF),
  - the Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institute Strategy (PACI),
  - the Environmental Sector Strategy (EQA),
  - the National Water Sector Strategic Plan and Action Plan (PWA), and
  - the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (EQA),

<sup>4</sup> FIRST is the acronym of the FAO-EU Programme 'Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation'. It is a policy assistance and capacity development facility to strengthen the enabling country's capacity to achieve Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture, that is SDG2.

- the National Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics (PCBS).

In addition, the policy frameworks of major international partners – e.g. the UN's Development Assistance Framework, the FAO's Country Programming Framework, the WFP's Country Strategic Plan, and the EU Commission Joint Strategy – were considered as well.

The resulting NFNSP is a strategic policy that is consistent with NPA and other existing policy frameworks and includes all sector strategies' interventions relevant to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. Being a strategic document, it provides the broad architecture for operational plans such as programs and projects.

Specifically, the NFNSP is part of a package including also a National Investment Plan (NIP) for food and nutrition security that will be developed from September 2018 on (cf. Section 6.4). Operationally, these two documents are a coordinated set of policy tools aiming at:

- consolidating policy frameworks (identifying gaps, priorities, indicators, targets);
- coordinating (and demarcating) actions by different policy actors;
- prioritizing interventions.

#### **1.4. Contents of the NFNSP**

The NFNSP is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly analyzes the context with specific reference to food and nutrition security issues, emphasizing the problems to be addressed by the NFNSP. Section 3 sketches the NFNSP strategic framework, showing the role it plays within the current policy setting, the principles adopted in developing it, and the rationale behind its vision and articulation. Section 4 details the NFNSP structure, identifying Strategic Objectives and Sectoral Results to be achieved, and providing examples of specific interventions envisioned to achieve them. Section 5 explains how the NFNSP results framework is organized, its relationship with the National Development Plan and SDGs, identifying key performance indicators. Finally, Section 6 deals with some recommendations on how to implement the NFNSP, focusing on intervention priorities, risk management issues, implementation arrangements and NFNSP relationship with the National Investment Plan for food and nutrition security.

## 2. Context Analysis

### 2.1. Background

#### *Policy context*

Although every Palestinians is negatively affected by the Israeli occupation and colonization, for some of them – such as the refugees, people living in the Gaza Strip and people living in Area C – the impact is particularly severe. The building of the separation wall and restrictions to movement of people and goods severely impair the potential for economic growth. Furthermore, recent changes in international policy – such as declining international assistance, cutting support to UNRWA and to Palestinian government – compound an already critical situation further limiting the effectiveness of policy interventions.

**Refugees.** There are 6 million Palestinians forcefully removed from their homeland, one third of them living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where UNRWA provides them with basic services. However, UNRWA is facing a severe financial crisis that undermines its ability to sustainably provide services to refugees. This threatens a large number of refugees to slide into poverty, unemployment, marginalization, social exclusion and food and nutrition insecurity. Indeed, in the West Bank the share of households living in refugee camps being moderately or severely food insecure is significantly larger than the share of food insecure households living in urban or rural areas (10.2% vs. 4.6% and 6.8%, respectively). In the Gaza Strip, the percentage of food insecure households in refugee camps (26.2%) is larger than the share of food insecure rural households (21.1%), though slightly less than the share of food insecure urban households (29.0%) (FAO-WFP, 2016).

**Gaza Strip blockade.** The ongoing blockade for past 11 years and three wars have devastated socio-economic conditions in the Gaza Strip through heavily restricted imports and exports, blocking the construction of vital infrastructure and denying Palestinians in Gaza Strip access to economic resources. The blockade has isolated Gaza Strip from the rest of the world, including the West Bank, and further deteriorated socio-economic conditions into unlivable conditions as the blockade has resulted in poor access to safe and clean water, interrupted electricity supply, vast unemployment, substandard housing, and widespread food insecurity with a share of population being moderately or severely food insecure 2.5 times larger than in the West Bank (FAO-WFP, 2016). Total prevalence of stunting is of alarming magnitude in the Gaza Strip achieving 19.6% of children aged 2-5 years (El Kishawi et al., 2017).

**Area C.** This Area, accounting for more than 60% of the West Bank, surrounds Areas A and B and is fundamental to the contiguity of the West Bank and the

viability of the Palestinian economy.<sup>5</sup> Israeli settlements, military zones, nature reserves, and the separation wall make up 70% of Area C (or about 44% of the overall West Bank). The remaining 30% is heavily restricted. In particular, settlements continue to spread and expand rapidly across Area C. While these illegal settlements exploit Palestinian natural resources, Palestinians are simultaneously denied from accessing these same resources being denied permission to construct even the basic economic and social infrastructure.<sup>6</sup> As a result, the Palestinian communities suffer from deteriorating living conditions, deepening poverty levels and further increasing vulnerability (World Bank, 2013). The share of people living in Area C who are moderately or severely food insecure is much larger (26.0%) than the average share of food insecure people living in Areas A and B (17.0%) (FAO-WFP, 2016).

**Separation wall and the Seam Zone.** Restrictions to movements of people and goods are implemented through a complex system of checkpoints, permits, military roadblocks, settlements, a bypass road system, parallel legal regimes and the separation wall.<sup>7</sup> Such restrictions have created isolated communities, undermined social cohesion, ruptured a common identity and impaired the ability of the private sector to function, let alone thrive and generate employment. The wall not only separates West Bank Palestinians from Israelis but also Palestinians from each other entrapping over 350,000 people and 10% of the West Bank in the Seam Zone<sup>8</sup> and making impossible to have access to their own land to many Palestinians. As a result, the Palestinian economy and its potential for growth is severely limited. Restrictions to movement significantly affect also food security: as shown by the SEFSec 2013-14 (FAO-WFP, 2016), the more limitations placed on the freedom of movement and access, the higher the likelihood of being food insecure.

**Restrictions to trade.** Trade barriers have been in place since Israel imposed its external trade and fiscal regime after the occupation in 1967. The flow of Palestinian labor and goods to Israel was allowed under non-reciprocal restrictions and imports to the occupied Palestinian territories were subjected to Israeli tariff structures and quotas. Palestinian producers became increasingly cut off from their traditional trading partners and had to reorient trade towards the Israeli economy. Over time, Palestinian exporters lost much of their competitive edge while Israeli products enjoyed unhindered access to Palestinian markets (UNSCO, 2016). Particularly important for food security is agriculture where constraints on trade have deprived the sector of low-cost inputs and markets for

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<sup>5</sup> As part of the 1995 interim Oslo II agreement, the West Bank (except East Jerusalem) was divided into three administrative areas, referred to as Area A, B and C. Area A has full Palestinian civil and security control, Area B has full Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control and Area C has full Israeli civil control and control over security, planning and construction.

<sup>6</sup> For example, Israel controls all shared surface and ground water resources and utilizes 80% of the West Bank's estimated potential water resources, leaving only 20% for Palestinian use (GoP, 2018).

<sup>7</sup> A barrier of 25-foot-high concrete walls, fences, ditches, razor wire, groomed sand paths, an electronic monitoring system, patrol roads, and a buffer zone has been constructing by Israel since 2002.

<sup>8</sup> Areas in the West Bank situated between the separation wall and the original Green Line correspond to the so-called Seam Zone.

its products. Bans by Israel on the import of items deemed 'dual use', such as fertilizers, significantly reduce productivity and profitability of Palestinian farming.<sup>9</sup>

**International policy.** Since the Palestinian Authority does not have its own currency and cannot borrow money in the international market, the only way for it to finance its deficit is through domestic borrowing and international aid. In particular, given the unique conditions of the country, it is no surprise that Palestine features the highest foreign aid/development assistance per capita ratio in the world. However, international aid to Palestine has been on a sharp decline since 2011, severely affecting the Palestinian government's ability to operate. A political context characterized by stalled peace negotiations, the recent United States' decision to halt financial assistance to the Palestinian government and dramatically reduce aid to UNRWA, and declining development and humanitarian aid, will render Palestinian domestic debt and ultimately its finances unsustainable and will severely affect the wellbeing of many Palestinian households, mainly the most vulnerable ones.

**Policy effectiveness.** The persisting Israeli occupation and the lack of a final agreement after the Oslo Accords severely constrain the policy space of the Government of Palestine whose action is limited in terms of control over its borders and customs revenues, monetary authority, monetary and fiscal policy, and local governance. As a result, Palestine's control over its development prospects remains highly circumscribed. The situation is further complicated by the internal political divide, eroded political legitimacy and limited public sector accountability. In such a situation the effectiveness of policy interventions is limited, significantly restricting the ability of the Palestinian Government to deliver on its obligations as a duty bearer to its people.

### ***Socio-economic context***

Restrictions on economic and productive activities, including restrictions on the movement of people and goods, severely impair the Palestinian economy and its potential for growth. As a result, economic growth over the last decade or so has been volatile and sluggish. With economic stagnation comes high unemployment, especially among youth and women, and high informality of the labor market. The economy remains highly dependent on its public sector, which in turn is highly dependent on external budgetary support. Widespread poverty rates and low standards of living are the most striking manifestations of this situation. Agrifood and fishery sectors, though tiny in terms of contribution to GDP, are key pillars of the Palestinian society.

**Population.** The population of Palestine was 4.733 million in 2017, of which 1.876 million were living in the Gaza Strip and 2.857 million in the West Bank

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<sup>9</sup> UNCTAD (2015) estimates that agricultural productivity has declined by 20% to 33% since Israeli's enforcement of restrictions on fertilizer import.



(PCBS, 2018a). This is the result of a sustained dynamics that led to a total population increase of almost 27.3% over the last decade. The present rate of natural increase of population remains as high as 2.5%. According to the most likely scenario, the total population in Palestine would be 6.9 million in 2030 and achieve 9.5 million in 2050 that is almost twice as much the 2017 population. Rapid population growth will dramatically increase demand for employment and the need to create new jobs for large numbers of the working age population. In addition, there will be an increasing pressure on natural resources, especially land and water.

**Economic growth and human development.** Palestine is a lower-middle income economy with per capita gross national income (GNI) of USD 3,431 in 2017, that is USD 5,560 percapita in purchasing power parity current international dollars (World Bank, 2018). The most recent data of Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.684 in 2015, placing Palestine in the 'medium' HDI category and 114<sup>th</sup> of 188 countries and territories (UNDP, 2017). Unemployment continues to be high (28.4% in 2017) and labor force participation low, with structural problems of inclusion particularly for young people (only 42% of the youth between 15 and 29 were active in the labor market) and women (only 19.2% active). The gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate was 3.1% in 2017. The economy is projected to grow at 3.5% per year in the medium-run, but with significant downside risks due to doubts surrounding donor flows and the potential for increased tensions to spill over into unrest. Given the expected population growth, this implies a near stagnation in per capita incomes.

**Poverty.** The poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line was estimated at 29.2% in 2017 (PCBS, 2018b) according to the monthly consumption patterns of the family, well above the share of poor in 2011 (25.8%). The proportion of the poor was 13.9% in the West Bank and 53.0% in the Gaza Strip. Results showed that 16.8% of Palestinians lived in extreme poverty according to monthly consumption patterns (almost four percentage points more than in 2011), including 5.8% of the population in the West Bank and 33.8% of the population in the Gaza Strip. The increase in overall poverty percentages between 2011 and 2017 was the combined effect of two diverging dynamics: while standards of living dramatically worsened in Gaza Strip with a jump of the poverty rate of 15 percentage points, poverty decreased by four percentage points in the West Bank.

**Agrifood sector.** With an agricultural value added of roughly USD 390 million in 2017 (or 2.8% of Palestinian GDP) and the agro-industry contributing some more USD 361 million (2.8% of GDP), the agrifood sector accounts for about 6.4% of the GDP (FAO, 2018). However, it constitutes almost a third of the GDP generated in tradable activities. The agrifood sector plays a significant role in balancing trade through exports (27.5% of total exports in 2015) and by minimizing the rapidly growing proportion of food imports. The agrifood sector accounts for roughly 11% of the Palestinian employment out of which about 30%

are women, thus constituting an important livelihood source, especially for some of the most vulnerable groups, such as the poor and women, and is a key pillar of the Palestinian society.

**Fishery and aquaculture.** The fishery sector in the Gaza Strip is a small but important sector both economically and socially. Unfortunately, its performance has been heavily constrained by the blockade and recurrent conflicts that have affected the Gaza Strip since 2007. In 2014 the year's total fish catch amounted roughly to 2800 metric tons, still less than the total catch in 2008 and only 96% of the total catch in 1999 (PCBS, 2016). Over the years, open sea fishing has become non-reliable and a sinking source of fish supply due to continuing political conflict, restricted fishing zones within 3 to 6 NM from Gaza coast line, lack of harbor resources and facilities and lack of regulation and law enforcement. This has led to large-scale fish import. In such a context, aquaculture may be an alternative and sustainable source of fish. However, though promising, the aquaculture-mariculture sector is facing several challenges, such as the risk of political unrest, dependency on neighboring countries for inputs, freshwater scarcity, and unfavorable coastal sea conditions.

### ***Environmental context***

Palestine is scarcely endowed of natural resources. This 'natural' scarcity is exacerbated by the heavy burden of the Israeli occupation that severely constrains availability and access to natural resources. Those are the key underlying factors that, combined with high population growth and inefficiencies in resource management, put Palestinian natural resources under pressure and in some cases at risk of depletion. Climate change is expected to further worsen this situation increasing the vulnerability of Palestinians to food and nutrition insecurity.

**Water.** The water currently used for agriculture in Palestine does not exceed 150 million cubic meters annually (60 million in West Bank and 90 million in Gaza Strip), which represents 45% of total Palestinian water consumption (MoA, 2016). The critical situation and performance of the water sector is reflected by the limited irrigated agricultural areas, constituting only 12% of agricultural land in the West Bank, while it accounts for 77% in the Gaza Strip. In an environment characterized by the lack of significant surface water sources along with the restrictions placed on Palestinian investment in infrastructure for water resource development in Area C, groundwater remains the primary source of water in Palestine. Overall, extraction of groundwater largely exceeds the renewable quantities, increasing the water table depth and determining a high concentration of chloride in the Jordan Valley (PWA, 2013) and saltwater intrusion and high concentrations of nitrate ion in the Gaza Strip (PWA, 2015). Non-conventional water use has a significant but as yet untapped potential in Palestine.

**Land.** Area C, which represents the largest part of West Bank land and falls under Israeli civil and military control, accounts for almost two thirds of the West Bank's agricultural land. Similarly, some 40% of agricultural land in the Gaza Strip is prevented to be accessed. This has a heavy impact on both agricultural production and biodiversity conservation. Cultivated land area, which was 1,034 km<sup>2</sup> in 2010–2011 (PCBS, 2017), has been decreasing over the years because of the expansion of Israeli settlements, restricted access to water, urban expansion at the expense of agricultural land and construction of the separation wall (UNCTAD, 2015). Another area where occupation is having a heavy impact is nature and biodiversity conservation. Most of the protected areas are located within Area C where the segregation zones isolate and/or fragment approximately two thirds of the natural reserves in the West Bank. This determines a great threat to the biodiversity because of its negative impacts on the movement of terrestrial fauna by adding further to the fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats and by cutting the natural ecological corridors.

**Sea.** Sewage pollution and overexploitation of fisheries are the two most important threats to the sustainable use of the sea. The functionality of wastewater networks in the Gaza Strip has suffered from military incursions and the effects of the blockade. Most of the wastewater treatment plants in Gaza Strip are overloaded and are working beyond their designed capacities. This means that about 89 million liters per day of untreated or partially treated sewage is discharged into the sea resulting in toxic compounds and long-lived pathogens contamination that put at risk water and seafood quality and safety. The main and central challenge to fishery is the extremely limited fishing zone within 3 to 6 NM from the Gazan shore, which affects not only the economic viability of the industry, but also the long-term sustainable exploitation of fisheries. This has determined an overexploitation of the small pelagic stocks (i.e. anchovy and sardine) living within the three-mile fishing area.

**Climate change.** Climate change projections show that in the future temperatures will increase, annual mean precipitation decrease and intra-seasonal variation in rainfall become more extreme, thus suggesting longer drought periods in Palestine (EQA, 2016). In general, the impacts of climate change include ongoing deterioration of freshwater habitats, decline of shrubland and woodland areas, and increased frequency and severity of forest fires. Heat and drought stresses will reduce productivity of major crops (wheat, barley, corn). In addition to reductions in crop yields, more frequent and severe occurrences of climate extremes as well as the more severe incidence of vector- and water-borne diseases are expected to increase the frequency of periods of rapid cereal price increases, thus increasing the vulnerability of the Palestinian agricultural sector as well as food insecurity and malnutrition especially amongst the poor.

## **2.2. Food and Nutrition Security in Palestine**

Palestine is the country recording the world longest contemporary conflict. This situation of protracted crisis has a profound impact on many, if not all, aspects of

Palestinian society and economy (World Bank, 2011). As a result of the Israeli occupation every Palestinian is vulnerable to some degree. Food insecurity is one of the most evident and frequent manifestations of such vulnerability.<sup>10</sup>

The most recent available data (PCBS, 2014) show that more than one fourth of Palestinians are severely or moderately food insecure,<sup>11</sup> with stunting (or height-for-age), which is an indicator of long-term food insecurity, being assessed at 7.4% of children under the age of five in 2014-2016 (and 7.5% among school students who constitute one third of the population), but recent studies report of alarming trends placing stunting at 10.9% with Gaza badly performing.<sup>12</sup> Vice versa, the prevalence of wasting (or weight-for height), which is a measure of short-term food insecurity, was only 1.2%. Palestinians are also facing malnutrition: the prevalence of overweight was 8.2% among children under 5 years of age and 7.5% among students in 2014-2016 (PCBS 2015) and micronutrient deficiency is concerning among the most vulnerable group of population such as pregnant or lactating women and children.

The four FNS dimensions qualify as follows in Palestine.

**Availability.** The demand for food in Palestine has long exceeded domestic agricultural production. This is the combined effect of a still fast-growing population<sup>13</sup> and shrinking agricultural output as a result of the structural change of the economy that has not been accompanied by an increase in agricultural productivity.<sup>14</sup> With domestic production lagging behind consumption requirements, the country has increasingly depended on the world market to meet its basic food needs. This gap has become structural, with an import dependency rate as high as 71.4% in 2015.<sup>15</sup> High import dependency increases

<sup>10</sup> Among the twenty more vulnerable, and systematically at a greater disadvantage, groups identified by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNSCO, 2016), five of them are directly linked to food and nutrition insecurity, namely: food insecure households headed by women, communities in Area C, Bedouins and herder communities living in Area C, persons living in the Seam Zone, and small-scale farmers, non-Bedouin herders, fisher folk. The remaining vulnerable groups may suffer from food and nutrition insecurity as an indirect effect of other vulnerabilities.

<sup>11</sup> The last Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (FAO-WFP, 2016) reports a share of 26.8% of total households classified as severely or moderately food insecure in 2014, while the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FAO-IFAD-UNICEF-WFP-WHO, 2017) was 29.9% in 2014-16 (of which, 9.5% severely food insecure).

<sup>12</sup> However, there are marked differences among geographic areas (i.e. Gaza Strip vs. West Bank and Area C vs. Area B and A in the West Bank), locality (i.e. rural vs. urban vs. camp), and vulnerability status (e.g. refugees, female-headed households, etc.).

<sup>13</sup> The Palestinian demographic transition, particularly its fertility component, continues to lag behind with a total fertility rate of 4.1 children per woman at reproductive age (UNFPA, 2016). As a result, the rate of natural increase of Palestinian population is still as high as 2.8%.

<sup>14</sup> This depends on the misallocation of resources to non-tradable sectors as a result of limitations on the movement of goods (UNCTAD, 2016) and real exchange rate appreciation as well as on the lower profitability of Palestinian agriculture as a result of inadequate access to land and water and the low rates of fertilization, restricted marketing conditions and limited integration with the rest of the economy (UNCTAD, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> The import dependency is the percentage value of the following ratio: agrifood import / (agrifood value added + agrifood import - agrifood export). The corresponding values to compute this ratio for year 2015 are the following (PCBS, 2016a, 2016b and 2016c): agrifood value added = USD 811 million (USD 450

vulnerability of Palestinian people not only to international price shocks but also to the political risk linked to Israeli control on borders.

**Access.** Palestinian people experience a wide range of barriers that prevent their physical (e.g. limits to the movement of people and goods, lack of infrastructure), economic (e.g. unemployment, low income), and social (e.g. gender-based inequalities) access to sufficient and nutritious food. Although these locational, economic and socio-cultural drivers of vulnerability often work together and compound their negative impact, food and nutrition insecurity in Palestine is primarily an economic challenge.

There is a direct relationship between poverty and food insecurity: poverty is largely determined by the 'employability' of household members and food security is largely dominated by individual's labor entitlement. In 2014 the share of household that have insufficient dietary intake in the poorer quartile of population was 50.7%, while in the upper quartile the share was only 6.4% (Romano et al., 2017).<sup>16</sup> Gender inequalities play a significant role in the food security and nutrition status of individuals: the prevalence of food insecurity among households headed by women is 15 percentage points higher than that among households headed by men (WFP, 2017) because of women's lower participation in the labor market, higher unemployment rates and lower wages.

In the West Bank, more than 60% of the land, including 63% of the agricultural area, remains under Israeli civil and security control, with significant movement restrictions resulting in poor access to public services and productive land (World Bank, 2013; UNSCO, 2016). Bedouin, small-scale farmers and livestock herders living in Area C have limited access to markets and inputs, including land and water for animal husbandry and irrigation.

**Nutrition and Utilization.** With regards to nutrition and food utilization malnutrition-related conditions are observed and around a third of Palestinian households report insufficient dietary quantity and almost as many report poor diet quality. This partly depends on poor access and partly on low food education and awareness. The share of households having a 'poor and borderline' Food Consumption Score<sup>17</sup> (FCS) was 23.6%. These households not only have a lower food caloric intake as compared to food secure households, but they also consume less of important food items such as vegetable, fruits, meat and dairy products (FAO-WFP, 2016). This food consumption pattern translates in a high

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million for agriculture and USD 361 million for agroindustry), agrifood import = USD 1,391 million, and agrifood export = USD 255 million.

<sup>16</sup> This is assessed according the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS). The HFIAS was developed by the USAID under the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project (Coates et al., 2007). This indicator was devised to obtain information about quantitative aspects of food security through responses about reduction of the frequency and amount of consumed meals.

<sup>17</sup> The FCS is a composite score measuring dietary diversity, frequency of consumption and relative nutritional importance of different food groups. A 'borderline' food consumption consists of cereals (bread and rice), potatoes, sugar and oil consumed on a nearly daily basis, vegetables 5 times during the 7 days prior to the survey and very rare consumption of animal products and fruit (WFP, 2008).

level of micronutrient deficiency and very low levels of essential minerals and vitamins.<sup>18</sup> This problem comes along with growing overweight and obesity with 23.5% of male children (6 to 59 months) and 20.2% of female children (6 to 59 months) being overweight or obese (MoH-UNICEF, 2015).<sup>19</sup>

Micronutrient deficiency and obesity are major concerns with 50 percent of the population suffering from more than one micronutrient deficiency and overweight and obesity consistently affecting more than 20% of children and adolescents boys and girls.

**Stability.** Most Palestinian households face risks and are vulnerable to shocks. The most significant and more frequent shocks are military violence due to occupation, high cost of food supply (90% of total households in 2014, cf. FAO-WFP, 2016), shortage of water and delay of payment of salary. To cope with these shocks, Palestinian households resort to a number of coping strategies such as consuming less expensive food items, purchasing market leftovers, purchasing food on credit, and reducing the portions and the number of meals. Defaulting on payment of utility bills and reducing health and education expenses are the most frequently adopted nonfood coping strategies. This is worrisome because reducing health and education expenses might be the prelude to a poverty trap where poverty and destitution become an irreversible condition (FAO-WFP, 2016).

### 2.3. Institutional set-up

The institutional set-up of FNS in Palestine is a complex cobweb of organizations and policy frameworks whose governance involves many governmental, non-governmental, civil and private institutions.

#### ***Stakeholders relevant to FNS***

##### *Governmental bodies*

The most important governmental bodies involved in FNS are the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in addition to the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA).

<sup>18</sup> Some data on prevalence of micronutrient deficiency among pregnant and lactating women as well as children between the ages of 6-59 months are reported below for the whole country, recalling that there are marked territorial (i.e. West Bank vs. Gaza Strip) and gender differences (i.e. girls vs. boys) (MoH-UNICEF, 2015):

- vitamin A deficiency: pregnant women 54.8%, lactating women 28.7%, children 72.9%;
- vitamin D deficiency: pregnant women 99.3%, lactating women 98.7%, children 60.1%;
- vitamin B12 deficiency: pregnant women 62.8%, lactating women 20.6%, children 10.9%;
- vitamin E deficiency: pregnant women 21.6%, lactating women 44.1%, children 64.3%;
- iron deficiency: pregnant women 17.1%, lactating women 11.2%, children 20.9%;
- zinc deficiency: in pregnant women 71.1%, lactating women 90.7%, children 55.6%.

<sup>19</sup> The proportions of overweight and obese pregnant women (before the 17<sup>th</sup> gestation week) are 31.3% and 26.2%, respectively, while these proportions in lactating women are 36.9% and 23.3%, respectively (MoH-UNICEF, 2015).

The MoA is responsible for regulation and management of the agricultural sector in addition to the oversight, supervision and delivery of certain basic services. Furthermore, the Palestinian Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund (PADRRIF) and the Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institution (PACI) were recently established with the mission of creating a conducive operational environment for Palestinian farmers by protecting them from various natural and human-made disasters through agriculture insurance and supporting them through credit and investment. As a result, MoA is the key institution for the availability dimension of FNS.

The MoSD is responsible for social protection interventions. In partnership with other ministries, NGOs, the private sector and international organizations, it provides social protection for the Palestinian people, through programs in the areas of protection, care and prevention, empowerment and awareness-based interventions. As a result, MoSD is the key institution for the access dimension of FNS.

The MoH is responsible for ensuring public health and, with specific reference to food and nutrition security, plays a key role in monitoring nutritional issues as well as food safety and zoonotic disease.

The MoH and the MoEHE jointly carry out food education programs as well as food awareness campaigns. In addition, the MoEHE runs about 2530 school canteens providing food to students while they are at school. As a result, MoH and MoEHE are the key institutions for the utilization dimension of FNS.

The PWA is responsible for regulating the management of water sector and sanitation in Palestine. It aims to achieve an optimal and equitable use of water resources to ensure water and food security and economic development.

Other governmental bodies relevant to FNS in Palestine are:

- the Ministry of National Economy (MoNE), which is responsible for Palestinian trade and industry policy (including agricultural inputs and food products), promotes local products, registers companies and related activities, and prepares specifications and standards. Moreover, its Consumer Protection Department focuses on food safety aspect and carries out food price controls;
- the Ministry of Labor (MoL), which supervises the functioning of the labor market, is responsible for the registration of agricultural cooperatives and develops strategies and laws for cooperatives;
- the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) whose mission is the advancement and empowerment of Palestinian women emphasizing the integration of gender issues in national and sectoral policies and plans;
- the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), which is responsible for territorial planning (at regional, municipal and rural level) and oversees the wholesale markets and slaughterhouses;

- the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) whose mandate is to ensure the protection of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources. Its activities include carrying out environmental assessments as well as awareness and environmental education campaigns. It also contributes to the development of specifications and standards related to the environment and acts as focal point for climate change;
- the Palestine Standards Institution (PSI), which is responsible for technical regulations and quality standards for agriculture inputs and outputs as well as for food and feed;
- the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), which is the main producer of official statistics in the service of citizens and policy-makers, including many dimensions relevant for FNS such as agricultural, environment, health, economic, and social statistics.

### *Non-governmental bodies*

There are many Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)<sup>20</sup> that play an essential role contributing with public bodies, international organizations and bi-lateral cooperation agencies in pursuing food and nutrition security in Palestine. Their activities, fields of work and geographical coverage vary, noting that a large portion of the donors' funds is channeled through NGOs that are the implementers of many projects/programs working directly with beneficiaries.

### *Private sector organizations*

The private sector is represented by all economic actors along the food value chain from farm to fork:

- agricultural producers are organized into more than 200 cooperatives and more than 110,000 holdings (PCBS, 2011);
- food industries are coordinated by the Palestinian Food Industries Union that represents approximately 200 companies and works on promoting and improving locally manufactured food products;
- agrifood trade involves almost 29,000 establishments, comprising roughly 1,050 wholesale trade establishments and almost 28,000 retail stores and shops (PCBS, 2018c).

### *Donors and international institutions*

A large number of projects have been implemented to support enhanced food and nutrition security, a task shared by the Palestinian Government, Palestinian CSOs, international organizations such as FAO, WFP and UNRWA, and donors.

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<sup>20</sup> Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are any non-market, non-state organizations outside the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain, including social movements, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and member-based organizations. According to this definition, the term CSOs covers a wide set of organizations ranging from small, informal, community-based organizations to national NGOs and the large high-profile international NGOs working through local partners.



The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is the operational tool that mainstreams protection through programming protection focusing interventions and advocacy efforts. This is a mechanism of intervention targeting Palestinian most vulnerable groups.

#### *Inter-institutional coordination bodies*

The Food Security Sector (FSS), co-led by FAO and WFP, is a multiple stakeholder platform managed by development partners in cooperation with the MoA and the MoSD and including strong representation of civil society. It is the cornerstone of the humanitarian system coordination architecture, which aims to strengthen food security analysis and response. It focuses mostly on humanitarian interventions although some attempts have been made to include also development-oriented interventions.

The Agriculture Sector Working Group (ASWG), co-chaired by the MoA and Spain, constitutes an important mechanism that coordinates efforts of immediate agricultural stakeholders. It includes representatives of Palestinian organizations, donors and international institutions.

The SDG2 Working Group (SDG2-WG), led by the MoA, is an inter-ministerial body whose role is to consider strategies, policies, and interventions related to SDG2 for possible follow-up at the Ministerial or Governmental levels.

#### ***Policy frameworks***

The Fourth National Plan 2017-2022 sets the vision for the development of Palestine in close relationship with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. This Plan is the coordinated set of two components developed at national level as well as sector/cross-sector level. The national level policies of Palestine are developed in the National Policy Agenda (NPA), while the sector level policies are built up in the strategies of the relevant Palestinian Ministries and other agencies/authorities.

A thorough matching between SDG2 targets and the interventions of NPA as well as sector/cross-sector strategies has been carried out by the SDG2-WG with the aim of highlighting possible overlap, conflicts or gaps existing in these frameworks with specific reference to FNS.

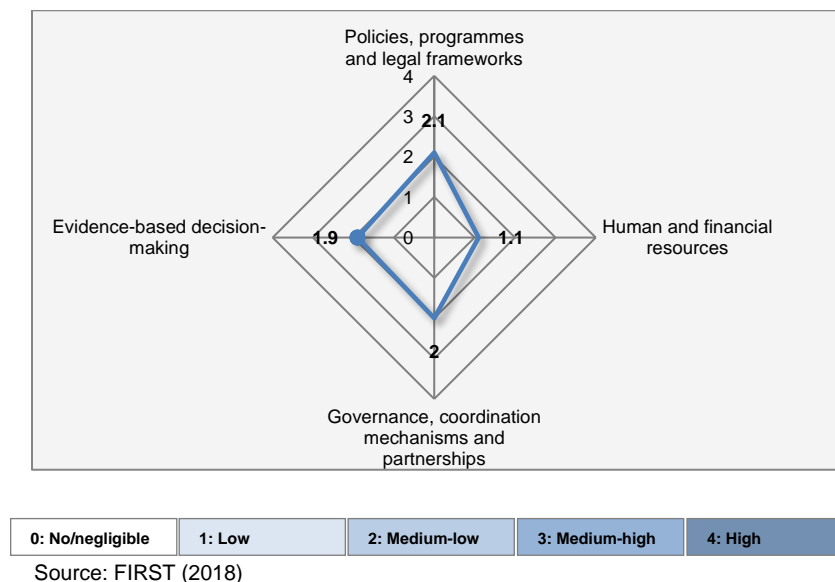
The conclusion is that although the Palestinian legal system lacks explicit rules on the protection of the right to food (MAS, 2017), the existing policy frameworks somehow provides a broad coverage of FNS issues, addressing all SDG2 targets. Moreover, there is no overlap or conflict among the analyzed policy frameworks in terms of contents. However, there are some gaps – such as the absence as a national priority in the NPA of explicit commitment to eliminating

food and nutrition insecurity in Palestine or the lack of a clear link between improving agricultural practices and improving environmental outcomes in sector strategies (cf. Annex 2) – that need to be addressed by the NFNSP to contribute to the achievement of food and nutrition security as well as to develop sustainable agriculture in Palestine.

### ***An assessment of the FNS institutional set-up***

The above overview of stakeholders and policy frameworks highlights the complexity and fragmentation of FNS governance in Palestine. The legal framework is based on several pieces of legislation rather than an umbrella food and nutrition security law. Thus, it is uncoordinated and results in functional overlap between authorities thereby compromising the effectiveness of food and nutrition security interventions.

A recent assessment (FIRST, 2018) shows that the institutional commitment and capacities to address FNS issues in Palestine is quite low (Figure 2.1).



**Figure 2.1.** FNS commitment and capacity in Palestine

Specifically, the evaluation of the four dimensions against which commitment and capacities have been assessed can be summarized as follows:

- **Policies, programs and legal frameworks** (medium-low): the sector strategies provide a multi-sector coverage of FNS dimensions. However, this coverage is quite dispersed across the various strategies and the NPA does not provide a high-level policy or governance system to secure the pressing needs of the population in this regard. The government acknowledges the

need to adopt a balanced approach – i.e. covering both humanitarian and developmental aspects – in the design and implementation of FNS programs. However, the limited public financial resources are limiting the effectiveness of this approach, forcing a focus on short-run, mostly humanitarian-oriented interventions.

- **Human and financial resources** (low): the Palestinian government performs weakly in terms of the human and financial resources needed to address the existing FNS issues. Depending heavily on donor support, which has been shrinking over the last years, the human and financial resources allocated by the Palestinian government to FNS related matters is inadequate and severely hamper the government ability to provide effective responses to the population needs.
- **Governance, coordination mechanisms and partnerships** (medium-low): the government has some program coordination and policy dialogue mechanisms whose effectiveness may be improved. Indeed, the Food Security Sector is mostly devoted to humanitarian response. Moreover, there is no identifiable accountability mechanism in the FNS sector. The SDG2 Working Group has been recently established as a technical-level coordination mechanism involving relevant ministries and public institutions focusing on FNS. Although its composition is appropriate to technically discuss FNS-relevant policies, its role is limited to monitoring progress towards the achievement of SDG2 with virtually no power to influence public policy (e.g. setting the required FNS policies or at least assuring their implementation).
- **Evidenced-based decision-making** (moderate-low): significantly more work is needed in this regard, especially in terms of translating ideas into action. There is abundant data, information and analysis on FNS matters at the technical and policy levels and regular dialogue. However, data and policy priorities are not compiled and organized in a single, structured information system or cross-sector/ministerial policy and programming framework owned by the government but open at various points including governmental institutions and UN agencies. The mapping of FNS actions is not conducted on regular basis. Only occasionally the Palestinian government uses available FNS relevant information and analysis for decision-making and policy design.

This assessment shows that there is room for action at institutional level in order to better serve the ones who are at risk of food insecurity. In view of this, three important issues deserve high priority of intervention, namely: (i) filling the regulatory gaps in important areas that could improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of FNS interventions; (ii) identifying and implementing more effective and efficient mechanisms of coordination for FNS interventions, and (iii) filling the gaps in terms of human and financial resources within the administration.

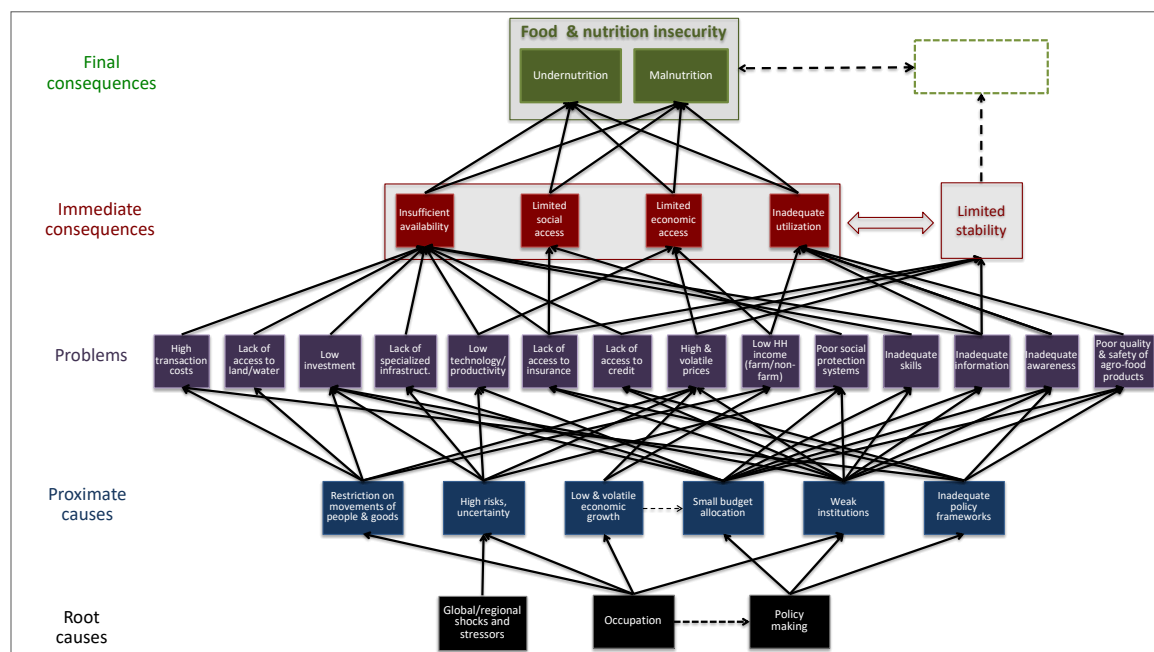
## 2.4. Problem analysis

The current FNS situation in Palestine has been discussed in a participatory manner and validated through stakeholder consultations identifying the most important issues to be addressed.

## Problem tree

There is a wide consensus among stakeholders that any discussion on FNS issues in Palestine must start by recognizing that there are three sets of root causes (Figure 2.2), namely:

- the Israeli occupation, that is the largest and most visible constraint to the development potential of Palestine and severely limits the room of maneuver for policy interventions. This is the most important single driver of food and nutrition insecurity;
- the governance of FNS as it emerges from the complex cobweb of organizations, rules and relationships among the many stakeholders operating in the areas of food and nutrition security and is largely affected by Israeli occupation; and
- other causes that do not depend on the first two, while also compounding them (e.g. international economic shocks, environmental shocks and stressors, regional political risks).



**Figure 2.2.** Problem tree of FNS in Palestine

These root causes constrain the lives and the capacity of individuals to act independently and make their own free choices (agency) restricting access and movements of people, constraining economic activities, limiting the government's policy space, determining insufficient budget allocation to agriculture and social development and a weak institutional set-up.

The above translate into environmentally unsustainable agricultural practices, low efficiency and profitability of agricultural production and ultimately insufficient domestic food production, high food import dependency and significant food loss and waste along the food supply chains: these are all determinants of inadequate food availability.

At the same time the constraints on economic activity and movement of goods and people determine high transaction costs, lack of access to key resources (land, water) and markets, low investment (public/private) for infrastructure (e.g. cold chains, etc.), low efficiency, high riskiness of economic activities and eventually high unemployment rates and low incomes: these determine a fundamental lack of access to food.

The poor access and the low levels of food education, practices and FNS awareness determine an inadequate food utilization that translates in a poor diet quality and nutritional problems such as micronutrient deficiency as well as overweight and obesity, particularly among boys and girls.

In a protracted crisis context such as Palestine, characterized by pervasive risks, it is not surprising that important strata of population are highly vulnerable to natural, economic and political risks: this determines a fundamental instability in food consumption, in particular for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Institutional specific issues – such as the lack of a comprehensive regulatory framework for FNS, the weak coordination capacity among public institutions on FNS matters and weak FNS statistics and information systems – compound with structural institutional issues – such as the weak capacities in policy planning, monitoring and evaluation as well as weak accountability of the public sector – contributing to determine the current situation.

The final consequence of this situation is high level of food and nutrition insecurity that contributes to and, at the same time, is magnified by other vulnerabilities.

### ***SWOT analysis***

The FNS environment is characterized by some strengths and many weaknesses (Table 2.1). Many of these weaknesses are beyond the reach of the Palestinian authorities being a direct consequence of the Israeli occupation and cannot be solved without addressing the issue of Israeli occupation. However, the stakeholders emphasized there are also some weaknesses – mostly institutional issues such as the lack of a comprehensive regulatory framework, weak coordination among public institutions, weak capacities and low accountability in the public administration, and weak statistics and information system – that largely depend on the governance of FNS in Palestine and can be addressed also within the current status of things.

Similarly, the future can bring both opportunities and threats that, again, depend on causes that are largely beyond control of the government of Palestine – such as the evolution of the broader political context or declining international aid – and on actions made at Palestinian level – such as an intelligent policy action advocating for the right of Palestinians to statehood, freedom and self-determination, the implementation of the NPA and sectoral strategies, etc.

**Table 2.1. SWOT analysis of FNS in Palestine**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good endowment of human capital</li> <li>▪ Active civil society organizations</li> <li>▪ Active international actors contributing to emergency response as well as development of the agrifood sector</li> <li>▪ Good experience in dealing with states of emergency and crisis management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limits to the movement of people and goods (e.g. access to resources and markets)</li> <li>▪ Lack of specific physical and immaterial infrastructure (e.g. cold storage, labs, surveillance system)</li> <li>▪ Scarce availability and high costs of agricultural inputs, weak R&amp;D system and agricultural extension service</li> <li>▪ Environmentally unsustainable agricultural practices</li> <li>▪ Water scarcity</li> <li>▪ Low efficiency and profitability of agricultural production</li> <li>▪ Insufficient domestic production and high food import dependency</li> <li>▪ Significant food loss and waste along the food the supply chains</li> <li>▪ High unemployment rates and low incomes</li> <li>▪ Low level of food education and FNS awareness</li> <li>▪ Vulnerability to natural, economic and political risks</li> <li>▪ Limited budgetary allocation to agriculture and social development</li> <li>▪ Lack of comprehensive regulatory framework for FNS</li> <li>▪ Weak coordination among public institutions on FNS matters</li> <li>▪ Weak capacities in policy planning, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>▪ Weak accountability of the public sector</li> <li>▪ Weak statistics and information systems for FNS</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocacy role by international organizations to relax constraints on Palestinian economy, especially in Gaza Strip and Area C</li> <li>▪ Increasing awareness about agrifood development in Palestine</li> <li>▪ Increasing availability of technological innovations to make more sustainable agricultural practices</li> <li>▪ Increase production and use of Unconventional Water Sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evolution of the international environment and related policies are not conducive to the two-state solution.</li> <li>▪ Tightening of the constraints imposed by the Israeli occupation (e.g. settlements, limits to movements of people and goods, land confiscation, constraints to access of water sources)</li> <li>▪ Continued political and physical division between the West Bank and Gaza Strip</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trade agreements concluded with Arab states and the EU</li> <li>▪ Start of a new national planning cycle (NPA and eighteen sector strategies)</li> <li>▪ Drafting of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) and its Investment Plan (NIP)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increasing adverse effects of climate change (more frequent drought spells, more extreme events)</li> <li>▪ Population growth and associated increased competition for natural resources, particularly water</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## 2.5. Issues relevant to food and nutrition security

Israeli occupation plays a key role in determining food insecurity by constraining the lives and the agency of people as well as by limiting and encroaching upon the policy space of the government. This calls for a specific attention to address the occupation issue in any discourse on FNS in Palestine. However, improving the governance of FNS in Palestine can produce some significant beneficial effects even within the limits imposed by the occupation.

Food and nutrition insecurity is the immediate consequence primarily of the lack/loss of individual's labor entitlement<sup>21</sup> that prevents access to food. This is particularly severe for the most vulnerable groups earning their livelihood through labor entitlement, including the youth, women and the disabled.

A second determinant of food insecurity is related to the lack/loss of the so-called own production entitlement, that is those people who gained their own livelihood producing directly a significant share of the food they consume and for some reasons cannot anymore produce this food. This is the case of other vulnerable groups such as Bedouins and herders living in Area C, people living in the Seam Zone, farmers whose farms are in the buffer zone in the Gaza Strip and more generally all farmers, herders and fishermen who face a lack of access to productive resources.

On the other hand, any household that has a reasonably unrestricted access to productive resources (land, home gardens) can use farming as a coping strategy in case of need, that is they can compensate the reduction in their labor opportunities (labor entitlement) and the reduced availability of food through direct production of foodstuffs (production entitlement) that can either be consumed or sold.

From the nutrition viewpoint, the most important issue is the reported coexistence of micronutrient deficiency and overweight especially among children. A better-balanced diet and access to safe and nutritious food is key to addressing this issue. However, this calls also for broader changes in people lifestyles, where socio-demographic factors and cultural norms play a major role.

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<sup>21</sup> Entitlements are defined as the set of all commodity bundles (including food) over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources). The 'labor' entitlement refers to the capacity to have command on a commodity bundle through labor. Similarly, the 'own production' entitlement refers to the capacity of an individual to directly produce that commodity bundle.

In conclusion, the NFNSP needs to address the following major issues:

- a) **increasing food availability**, that calls primarily though not exclusively for increasing domestic production through improvements in farm productivity (access to factors and markets, production technology) and reducing food loss and waste;
- b) **enhancing food access**, that among others include interventions aiming at creating employment, generating income, providing social protection, and increasing farm profitability;
- c) **improving food utilization**, that requires focusing on food education and awareness campaigns, addressing food safety issues along the whole supply chain, and implementing various nutrition-oriented interventions (e.g. fortification and micronutrient supplementation programs, etc.);
- d) **building resilience and improving responses to shocks** that needs to be streamlined in all availability and access-oriented interventions through the improvement of early warning systems, the development of contingency plans to be better prepared should a shock occur, the diversification of the portfolio of livelihood activities, etc.;
- e) **improving the institutional environment**, working to provide a comprehensive legal framework for FNS, enhancing the coordination across different institutional actors, improving the provision of public goods and services, and strengthening the innovation food system.



### 3. NFNSP Strategic Framework

#### 3.1. From analysis to proposals

The analysis carried out in Section 2 highlights that food and nutrition security issues in Palestine encompass all four FNS dimensions. The NFNSP needs to address these issues as comprehensively as possible identifying interventions able to address the underlying causes of food and nutrition insecurity while building household and community resilience, primarily to food and nutrition insecurity and indirectly to other forms of vulnerability.

This will be done consistently with current Palestinian policy-making practices, i.e. fitting with existing policy frameworks – primarily the NPA and relevant sectoral strategies – and improving the current governance identifying appropriate coordination mechanisms aiming at overcoming the existing fragmentation among actors and among policy frameworks.

A useful framework to guarantee comprehensiveness of contents, coherence with the current institutional set-up, and coordination of decision-making is represented by the SDG2 framework.<sup>22</sup> This framework sets the targets – five content-oriented (targets 2.1 to 2.5) and three on means of implementation (targets 2.a to 2.c) – that need to be achieved at country level to ensure food and nutrition security by year 2030.

As shown in Table 3.1, SDG2 targets encompass all dimension of food and nutrition security. As a result, pursuing SDG2 targets means addressing food and nutrition security.

<b>Table 3.1. SDG2 targets – FNS dimensions mapping</b>				
SDG2 targets	FNS dimensions			
	Availability	Access	Utilization	Stability
<b>2.1: Ending hunger</b>		X		
<b>2.2: Ending any form of malnutrition</b>			X	
<b>2.3: Increasing agricultural productivity and incomes</b>	X	X		
<b>2.4: Ensuring sustainable food production systems</b>	X			X
<b>2.5: Maintaining agrobiodiversity</b>	X			X
<b>2.a: Increasing investments</b>	X			
<b>2.b: Correcting trade restrictions and distortions</b>	X	X		
<b>2.c: Ensuring proper functioning of food commodity markets</b>		X		X

The design of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy takes place within a context plenty of policy frameworks relevant to FNS at different levels – NPA, sector strategies, cross-cutting strategies (e.g., food safety, nutrition). The development of the NFNSP has considered all of them, including their content

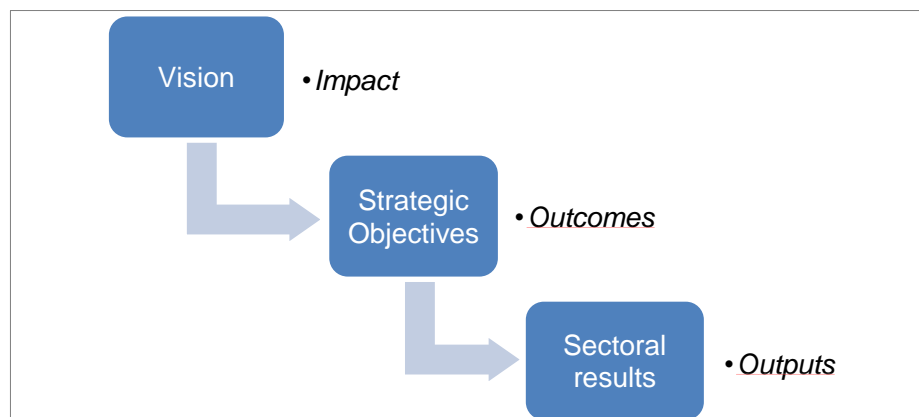
<sup>22</sup> SDG2, generally denoted as 'Zero hunger' goal, states 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'. For a detailed definition of SDG2 targets see Annex 3.A.

whenever relevant to FNS and ensuring consistency between the NFNSP and these policy frameworks.

Therefore, through pursuing food and nutrition security, NFNSP contributes to the achievement of NPA objectives (cf. Section 5.3) and, in doing this, NFNSP qualifies as the Palestinian ‘SDG2 strategy’. However, NFNSP contributions go well beyond this goal. It identifies interventions that can develop synergies with other sector interventions, catalyze achievement of national objectives and deliver results across multiple goals and targets of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (cf. Section 5.4).

### 3.2. Role within the current policy setting

The NFNSP of Palestine plays the role of a strategic framework for coordinating policies and programmatic interventions in the field of food and nutrition security. Within the policy development process, it corresponds to the highest level in the policy-making, reflecting a vision from which a clear structure of objectives and interventions are identified. Therefore, the contents of the NFNSP necessarily reflect a hierarchical articulation, moving from the vision towards the more operational programmatic level (Figure 3.1).<sup>23</sup>



**Figure 3.1.** The hierarchical articulation of NFNSP: from vision to sectoral results

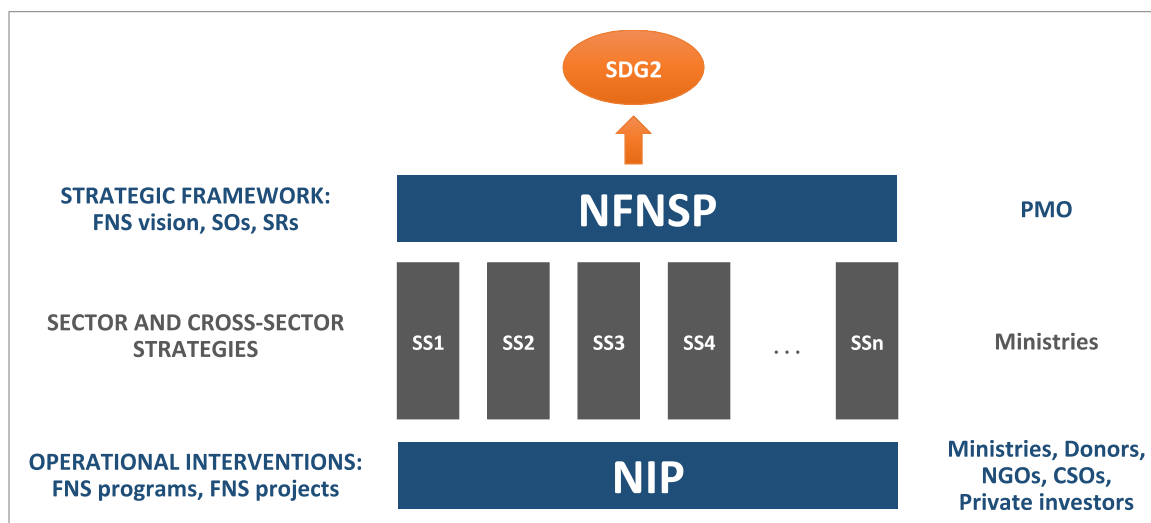
The various hierarchical levels involved in the NFNSP design as well as the relevant results expected at each level – to be monitored with the Results Framework (cf. Section 5) – can be summarized as follows:

- a) the **Vision** describes how food and nutrition security can contribute to Palestine’s overall development objectives: at this level, NFNSP impact is measured;

<sup>23</sup> Figure 3.1 reports per each level in the hierarchy the results to be achieved according to the indicator terminology – i.e. impact, outcomes, outputs – as well as the terminology adopted by the Government of Palestine in developing the Fourth National Plan 2017-2022 – i.e. strategic objectives and sectoral results.

- b) the **Strategic Objectives** (SOs) identify results to be achieved by groups of interventions pursuing similar objectives corresponding to the SDG2 targets: at this level, NFNSP outcomes are measured; and
- c) the **Sectoral Results** (SRs) are pursued through specific sets of actions, grouped under a common heading according to topics and/or methods of interventions<sup>24</sup>: at this level, NFNSP outputs are measured.

In short, NFNSP is a strategic document that has been built consistently with existing policy frameworks (e.g. NPA, sector strategies, etc.), with the overarching objective to contribute to and enhance efficiency in achieving SDG2. Moreover, being a strategic document, it provides the broad architecture for operational plans such as the National Investment Plan (NIP) for food and nutrition security (Figure 3.2).



**Figure 3.2.** NFNSP and NIP levels within Palestinian institutional set-up

### 3.3. Principles

In developing the NFNSP, the following principles were adopted:

- **Participation/Ownership**: ensuring the involvement and fostering consensus through participation of all key stakeholders to ensure ownership;
- **Consistency**: ensuring harmonization/alignment with existing relevant sectoral and inter-sectoral strategies and broader policy frameworks;
- **Comprehensiveness**: addressing the various sources of food and nutrition insecurity;

<sup>24</sup> Each of them may be further detailed in self-contained packages (programmes, projects) to ensure their manageability and effectiveness. However, detailing the actions of programs and projects is beyond the scope of the NFNSP and left to more operational stages such as planning at Ministry level (e.g. Action Plans) or the National Investment Plan for FNS (cf. below).

- **Feasibility:** acknowledging the existence of political, institutional and cultural constraints and exploiting the existing/workable room of maneuver;
- **Accountability:** planning from the outset for monitoring and evaluation, assessing the achievements of interventions and driving them towards intended results;
- **Flexibility:** sequencing interventions and allowing for gradualism in their implementation, allowing for revisions according to the evolution of the broader context.<sup>25</sup>

### 3.4. Rationale

The above principles represent a coordinated and consistent set of operating rules for all stages of NFNSP formulation. As a result, the rationale of NFNSP interventions can be summarized as follows:

- **Inclusiveness:** in a context featuring many types of exclusions (economic, social, etc.) 'leaving no-one behind', primarily the most vulnerable groups (women, youth, etc.), is a strategic objective;
- **Resilience-building:** in a fragile and protracted crisis context, any intervention must include a resilience-building component (even in emergency, interventions should not only aim to relief and rehabilitation but also to investment to increase resilience);
- **Sustainability:** in a context of limited, and often overexploited, natural resources, environmental sustainability is a pre-requisite of any intervention as well as for ensuring socio-economic sustainability (medium-long term viability) of activities;
- **Transformability:** notwithstanding the many constraints limiting people's agency, there are some on-going dynamics in Palestine: the NFNSP favors wellbeing-enhancing dynamics, preventing negative dynamics;
- **Multi-pronged interventions:** considering the multi-dimensional, cross-cutting nature of food and nutrition security it is acknowledged that many interventions are required to pursue the NFNSP vision (i.e., there is no 'silver bullet').

### 3.5. Vision

Addressing the FNS issues identified in the context analysis (cf. Section 2.5) will lead to the realization of the NFNSP vision, that is:

**'Food and Nutrition Secure Resilient Communities and Households in Palestine'**

that pursues the overall objective of a country where food is nutritious and accessible for everyone, in which natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support current and future population needs.

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<sup>25</sup> This is ensured mostly at operational level, through planning and implementation of five-year cycles of investments: at the end of each cycle, lessons learned over the concluding period will be used to design the next planning cycle (cf. Section 6).

In this vision, communities and households actively participate in, and benefit from, equitable economic development, have decent employment conditions and are more resilient to natural, economic and political shocks.

### 3.6. Structure

The NFNSP strategic framework is organized in six Strategic Objectives further disaggregated into 18 Sectoral Results (Table 3.2). This structure mirrors SDG2 articulation in so far the Strategic objectives correspond to the first five SDG2 targets plus a sixth ‘institutional-oriented’ strategic objective that includes all measures aiming at creating the enabling institutional environment to make possible the interventions under the first five Strategic Objectives to thrive. They offer a thread that knits the many dimensions of FNS with Palestine’s broader development objectives encompassing poverty eradication, job creation, health improvement, natural resource conservation, and institutional reforms.

**Table 3.2.** NFNSP contents

SDG2 targets	Strategic objectives	Sectoral results
1. Ending hunger (SDG2.1)	1. By 2030, hunger ended in Palestine	1.1. Livelihood enhanced through social protection
		1.2. Marginalized people empowered and equality of opportunities ensured
		1.3. Resilience to man-made and natural risks enhanced
2. Ending any form of malnutrition (SDG2.2)	2. By 2030, all forms of malnutrition ended in Palestine	2.1. Programs promoting nutrition effectively implemented
		2.2. Food safety ensured along all food supply chains
		2.3. Food and Nutrition education and awareness enhanced
3. Increasing agricultural productivity and incomes (SDG2.3)	3. By 2030, agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers doubled	3.1. Access to agricultural productive resources and services improved
		3.2. Smallholders participation in domestic and international markets enhanced
		3.3. Producers' knowledge and capacities developed
4. Ensuring sustainable food production systems (SDG2.4)	4. By 2030, sustainable food production systems ensured and resilient agricultural practices implemented	4.1. Access to and management of land and water resources enhanced
		4.2. Food loss and waste reduced and use of renewable energy resources promoted
		4.3. Climate change challenges addressed and farming systems adapted
5. Maintaining agrobiodiversity (SDG2.5)	5. By 2022, the diversity of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture maintained	5.1. Agrobiodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection mainstreamed

6. Creating an enabling environment for FNS (SDG2.a – SDG2.c)	6. By 2022, an enabling environment for FNS created	6.1. Agrifood innovation system strengthened
		6.2. Public investment oriented to FNS increased
		6.3. Adequate human and financial resources allocated to FNS
		6.4. Policy dialogue and coordination on FNS matters enhanced
		6.5. FNS legal and institutional framework strengthened

The policy matching between SDG2 targets and available policy frameworks provides information on the portfolio of possible interventions that have been consolidated into a unifying framework and allocated to each Strategic Objective and Sectoral Result.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> All existing policy frameworks developed within the National Plan 2017-2022 reflect a hierarchical articulation from vision to interventions. Although the language used to define different levels changes across policy frameworks, there is an adequate consistency of the breakdown adopted in each of them. The SDG2-WG in collaboration of the consulted stakeholders decided not to go below the first two levels in the hierarchy, corresponding to 'National priorities' and 'National policies' in the NPA, and to 'Strategic objectives' (sometimes labelled as 'Strategic goals' or 'Sector priorities') and 'Sectoral results' (sometimes labelled as 'Sectoral outcomes', 'Objectives', 'Sub-objectives' or 'Development policies') in sector strategies.

## 4. NFNSP Strategic Objectives and Sectoral Results

The sections below report per each Strategic Objective (SOs), the SO rationale, the relevant Sectoral Results (SRs) for which the rationale for intervening is reported and a non-exhaustive list of possible interventions based on interventions listed under the Palestinian sector/cross-sector strategies complemented with some interventions adopted in other countries as appropriate.

### 4.1. Ending hunger

**Strategic objective 1:** By 2030, hunger ended in Palestine.

Although hunger in Palestine is not as widespread as in other countries, this objective is relevant in so far it is directly related to poverty and to the access dimension – primarily economic and social access – of food security. It is of paramount importance for the most vulnerable groups, among which are refugees living in abject poverty, households headed by women, communities in Area C, Bedouins and herder communities living in Area C, persons living in the Seam Zone, and small-scale farmers, herders and fisher folk.

#### **Sectoral result 1.1. Livelihood enhanced through social protection**

Social protection plays a key role in reducing poverty and hunger. Measures such as cash and asset transfers provide liquidity and financial security to all poor people, giving them the means to invest in their future. Investing in social protection, particularly when combined with targeted pro-poor and agricultural interventions, can have far-reaching effects on poverty reduction, food security, economic growth and building resilient livelihoods. In particular, diversifying agricultural production can bring greater rewards to farmers and the local community through improved nutrition, job creation and income generation.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- invest in school feeding, cash transfers, cash-based transfers (food voucher), and health care, targeting particularly women and children living in hazardous environments;
- invest in human capital to increase labor productivity and employability, and reducing child labor;
- create employment opportunities in general and in more equitable sector (e.g. agriculture and agribusiness) in particular;
- invest to increase food availability to help keeping staple food prices low;
- invest in small businesses and improved income generating activities;
- build the institutional framework and strengthen links between formal and informal sectors;
- favor diversification of production (e.g. favoring farming systems that integrate different crops, livestock and fish) and income sources to help stabilize household income and reduce vulnerability to shocks;

- design and implement disaster risk reduction interventions to cope with emergencies and crises.

### **Sectoral result 1.2. Marginalized people empowered and equality of opportunities ensured**

The reasons why people can be disadvantaged in Palestine are many, spanning from location (e.g. people living in Area C, in the Seam Zone, in Gaza Strip) to economic (e.g. unemployment, inability to work because of disabilities) and cultural reasons (e.g. gender bias). The limited access to knowledge, information and resources, and restricted organizational capacity and bargaining power of marginalized people often leave them ill-prepared and unable to benefit from opportunities arising from economic growth. Policies and investments aimed at boosting the access to resources, decision-making and community participation can create the conditions for inclusive national growth.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- support small producer's participation in producer organizations, cooperatives and networks;
- target to reach out groups who are often disadvantaged in access to information, opportunities and resources such as women, youth, refugees;
- address gender, group and generational distortions in legal frameworks.

### **Sectoral result 1.3. Resilience to man-made and natural risks enhanced**

Palestine is a fragile and protracted crisis country and Palestinians are exposed to a plethora of political, economic, and environmental risks. The most impacting is the Israeli occupation that not only can evolve in an open war, but imposes far reaching negative consequences on the lives of Palestinians even when it unfolds as a daily low-intensity conflict. The recurrence of crises and disasters undermines the efforts to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition and to achieve sustainable development. Emergency situations mostly affect vulnerable people: when a crisis strikes, they are often in the eye of the storm, losing their limited productive assets. Thus, they are no longer able to sustain themselves and often fall in poverty irreversibly. As part of disaster-risk reduction and resilience-building efforts, vulnerable people need to be able to anticipate, respond to and recover from shocks and crises. People with resilient livelihoods are better able to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters on their lives. They can better withstand damage, recover and adapt when disasters cannot be prevented.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- favor the diversification of portfolio of activities (diversify cropping systems, favor the combination of farm and off-farm activities, diversify household assets and sources of income);
- improve access to knowledge, technologies and services for those most at risk;



- invest in early warning alerts and strengthen the governance framework for early warning and action;
- strengthen preparedness through contingency plans for the different sectors, coordination arrangements, public information and training;
- enhance institutional and technical capacities at all levels to deliver disaster-risk reduction;
- provide in-depth and regular information and analysis of vulnerabilities and resilience to support decision-making;
- bring together multiple stakeholders from government services to local authorities to private economic agents;
- in post-disaster situations, rehabilitate assets that form the basis of people's livelihoods and restore local food production capacities.

## 4.2. Ending any form of malnutrition

**Strategic objective 2:** By 2030, all forms of malnutrition ended in Palestine.

Malnutrition – and all its outcomes such as undernutrition (wasting and underweight), micronutrient deficiencies, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases – imposes unacceptably high economic and social costs on Palestinians. Addressing these issues requires typical cross-cutting interventions involving many ministries (e.g. MoA, MoH, MoEHE, MoSD) and many stakeholders (e.g. public bodies and agencies, consumer organizations, media operators, etc.). Creating 'nutrition-sensitive'<sup>27</sup> agriculture and food systems requires acting at all stages of the food chain in order to deliver all year round safe and nutritious food and a balanced diet to consumers.

### **Sectoral result 2.1. Programs promoting nutrition effectively implemented**

Malnutrition is a serious issue in Palestine as witnessed by data on children wasting and overweight rates as well as high level of micronutrient deficiencies and very low levels of essential minerals and vitamins in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Poor nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life – from a woman's pregnancy to the child's second birthday – can lock them into a lifetime of health and social challenges that are devastating and irreversible. During this critical period, if children don't get the vital ingredients they need to grow their bodies and develop their brains, they are not only more likely to get sick and die from diseases throughout their whole life, but they will also earn less than their peers when they enter adulthood. Small steps for both mother and child – such as promoting exclusive breastfeeding from birth through the first six months of the child's life, educating mothers about health and diverse diets for their babies and good hygiene practices, providing supplements for women during pregnancy and for infants after birth – can make a big difference

<sup>27</sup> Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems is a food-based approach to agricultural and food systems development that puts nutritionally rich foods, dietary diversity, and food fortification at the heart of overcoming malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies (FAO, 2014).

collectively. This is key not only in stable contexts, but can also be applied in the context of humanitarian response.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- implement interventions to prevent and treat micronutrient deficiencies (micronutrient supplementation, food fortification and dietary diversification);
- implement interventions to prevent and treat obesity and dietary-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs), enhancing the diet and physical activity program, reducing salt and trans-fatty acids and saturated fatty acids intake;
- meet the special nutritional and care needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. infants and children up to 5 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, school-age children, the elderly, NCDs patients, disabled people, youth and groups who are socio-economically or politically vulnerable);
- develop synergies between agriculture and nutrition, e.g. through school feeding programs that involve local producers providing fresh products thus improving the nutritional status of pupils;
- develop and implement food products and nutrition-related protocols, guidelines, legislation, regulations and registration;
- create appropriate coordination among key stakeholders (e.g. MoA, MoH, MoWA and MoEHE) to integrate of nutrition-related interventions across sectors;
- develop a unified nation-wide nutrition monitoring and surveillance system;
- strengthen the application of nutrition programs such as child growth control, government nutrition clinics, support, promote and protect breastfeeding as well as strengthen the nutritional monitoring program.

## **Sectoral result 2.2. Food safety ensured along all food supply chains**

Food safety in Palestine suffers of the same institutional weakness that characterizes the broader food and nutrition security field. Firstly, there is no primary or secondary legislation that covers all aspects of food safety at all levels of the food chain. The legal framework regulating food safety is fragmented and includes a number of legislations that cover various aspects of food safety but they are not harmonized. Furthermore, there is not a clear coordination mechanism to comply with the requirements of a modern legal framework for food safety that is in harmony with international standards. Food safety control systems in Palestine are characterized by the absence of mechanisms that ensure their effectiveness in times of emergency, in addition to weak official coordination, including with the private sector and NGOs, to mitigate and manage risks and prevent unwanted food safety practices. Besides the legal/regulatory issues, there is a weak awareness among producers and consumers about important food safety issues.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- improve performance of food safety control authorities through capacity building and laboratory capacities;

- create a framework of clear and risk analysis-based inspection procedures for an effective food safety management system;
- raise food safety awareness through campaigns targeting citizens as well as food industry operators;
- make risk management decisions transparent and obligatory on all stakeholders of the food sector;
- promote control over the food chain (from the farm to the table) within the framework of national legislation;
- entrust the Palestinian Council for Food Safety System with supreme powers to control food safety;
- identify effective coordination tools among different authorities to ensure good performance and active participation in control operations over food safety;
- enact legislation on food safety in compliance with international standards, national interests and needs;
- institutionalize knowledge, communication and monitoring systems and develop them to support and promote food safety control services;
- adopt food safety standards in harmony with international standards.

### **Sectoral result 2.3. Nutrition education and awareness enhanced**

Promote nutrition dietary diversification, healthy eating habits and proper food preparation style through behavior change is a crucial component of any strategy aiming at raising the profile of FSN interventions. Designing and implementing food and nutrition awareness raising, education and information, involving agriculture, social development and health stakeholders, targeting girls, women and families with small children in particular, can lead to a significant impact in improving household dietary habits. In the long run, these measures can lead to a shift in the perception of relevant stakeholders on the importance of human resource development for the realization of the right to food, especially among the most vulnerable such as girls, women and other underserved populations.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- produce TV, radio spots, flyers and other awareness raising materials regarding food diversity and promoting a shift to nutritious and safe diets;
- increase awareness of an appropriate diet among school children, training school staff and developing educational material (including audio-visual aids);
- favor nutrition awareness coordination with private sector aiming at including nutrition facts and health messages in food-product labels;
- promote consumption of locally grown nutritious food that helps improving people diet and foster the local economy;
- investigate the potential of underutilized food crops and animal species or breeds and promote diverse food consumption.

### **4.3. Increasing agricultural productivity and incomes**

**Strategic objective 3:** By 2030, agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers doubled.

Palestine faces a structural deficit of its domestic food supply vis-à-vis food demand. While self-sufficiency cannot be a food policy objective given the country's limited resource endowment and constrained access to key resources (land and water) because of occupation, increasing current agricultural output is possible and is an imperative both in terms of food availability and food access. Despite the country's constraints, there are opportunities to address food insecurity calling Israel to fulfill its obligations in terms of right to land and water for Palestinian people, focusing on more efficient use of water and land resources, developing farmers' capacity and favoring their access to markets and food value chains.

### **Sectoral result 3.1. Access to agricultural productive resources and services improved**

Improving productivity is key to transforming the livelihoods of farmers and their households as well as to improve the availability of food in Palestine. Yet many smallholder family farmers continue to lack access to resources and services. Without full access to productive resources and services, the producers are hindered from fully participating in the local economy, debilitated in pursuing entrepreneurial activity and limited in hopes of raising their income. Stuck in a vicious cycle of poverty, they are vulnerable to climatic shocks and often pushed into short-term practices that compromise natural resources. While this objective is severely constrained by the Israeli occupation and the resulting fragmentation of the country, any effort should be made to relax current constraints and improve access to productive resources and services given the current constraints.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- invest in infrastructure: roads, markets, land and water transportation, telecommunications and storage capacity;
- provide small-scale farmers with access to affordable, quality seeds and planting materials of suitable crop varieties;
- favor sharing of knowledge and technologies to improve post-harvest activities to increase farmers' incomes;
- bring rural youth back into agriculture to increase market-oriented and profitable farming;
- address gender bias in accessing productive resources, finance and services.

### **Sectoral result 3.2. Smallholders participation in domestic and international markets enhanced**

A fundamental part of any strategy towards more productive and sustainable agriculture and rural development is access for agricultural and food producers to markets with higher efficiency, transparency and competitiveness. More connected markets offer enormous opportunities to generate greater income, but there are also risks associated with longer food value chains in which external factors play a bigger role and smallholder farmers have less control over input and output prices. Nevertheless, enhancing market transparency and

competitiveness – especially at wholesale market level – is key for both the availability and access dimension of food security in Palestine.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- provide better infrastructure, public goods, regulations and policy and legal environments;
- favor provision of services, including improved market information and food safety guidelines by producer organizations;
- promote higher value-added production and marketing, leveraging on the producer organizations as service providers;
- build the entrepreneurial and business skills and capacities of smallholders to favor market participation and to take advantage of new opportunities;
- favor the adoption of information access technologies, like mobile phones and apps, to relay price information quickly, transparently and accurately.

### **Sectoral result 3.3. Producers' knowledge and capacities developed**

Unemployment, especially among the youth and women, is a key issue in Palestine. Moreover, agricultural productivity is lagging behind that of comparable countries, especially among smallholders. To generate better jobs and more decent work opportunities as well as improve agricultural productivity, knowledge-sharing and innovation in rural areas should focus on developing capacities. Sharing knowledge, building capacities and investing in innovative technology are all part of the transformation to sustainable food and agriculture systems. Recent years have witnessed a significant shift in the way of extending knowledge, from top-down and technology-oriented systems towards more integrated, market-oriented and farmer-driven methods, often involving multi-stakeholder participatory processes. In Palestine this process is lagging behind. However, this is crucial to better serve smallholder farmers and producer organizations can play a key role in providing services and giving a voice to farmers' concerns.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- improve agriculture vocational education, and provide youth with training and education on sustainable socio-economic entrepreneurship, including human skills and linking agriculture to industry and services;
- build smallholder business-oriented capacities that include a set of skills in managing the farm both at the production as well as the marketing stages;
- the government needs to play a role as coordinator and regulator rather than direct provider of services in the field of knowledge ensuring they are feasible, technically sound and balanced sustainably as well as targeted, demand-driven, addressing the specific needs of different categories of producers, while ensuring reach to those most left behind.

## **4.4. Ensuring sustainable food production systems**

**Strategic objective 4:** By 2030, sustainable food production systems ensured and resilient agricultural practices implemented.

In a country such as Palestine, endowed with limited natural resources and heavy human pressure on the few accessible resources, ensuring environmental sustainability is a precondition in order to achieve also economic and social sustainability. This is even more important for food production systems that crucially depend on natural resources.

#### **Sectoral result 4.1. Access to management of land and water resources enhanced**

Domestic food supply critically depends on access to natural resources, primarily land and water. This means that it is key to stand for the right to land and to water of Palestinians that is severely impaired by the Israeli occupation. Moreover, unsustainable land use practices and human pressures on resources are reaching critical limits. Overexploitation and poor farming methods are depleting soil nutrients faster than they are able to form. At the same time, water is frequently ill-managed and ever scarcer.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- improve water efficiency developing capacity at all levels: improved knowledge, research, innovation and implementation towards more sustainable use of water (e.g. water recycling, wastewater treatment, etc.);
- favor integrated approaches, such as watershed management and sustainable land management, to help in sustainably manage these resources.

#### **Sectoral result 4.2. Food loss and waste reduced and use of renewable energy resources promoted**

Food losses and waste in Palestine are estimated at 11% at the stage of post-harvest handling and storage while another 11% is lost in the distribution stage. This is mostly due to the lack of knowledge on post-harvest treatments and lack of proper infrastructure (e.g. cold storage and transportation). The resulting losses affect both consumers and producers by raising the price of food and decreasing the amount that can be sold. They constitute a threat to country food security, a waste of resources, ever-greater stress on ecosystems and a danger to the environment in the form of greenhouse gas-producing emissions. All actors in the food chain, from farm to fork, can play a role in reducing losses, reusing, recycling and promoting more sustainable consumption patterns.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- favor sharing of knowledge and technologies to improve post-harvest activities to improve the efficiency of food systems;
- reduce overproduction through nutrition education, promoting a shift to nutritious and safe diets with a lower environmental footprint and energy use;
- provide incentives for resilient and sustainable consumption and production throughout the value chain so consumers and producers are aware of environmental and social impacts when making decisions;

- identify and promote domestic renewable energy resources will contribute to reducing the energy footprint of food production and consumption.

### **Sectoral result 4.3. Climate change challenges addressed and farming systems adapted**

Farmers, pastoralists and fisher-folk depend on activities that are inextricably linked to climate. This is true all over the world but is particularly true for Palestine, where the impact of climate change is likely to be significant already in the near future. The effects of increasingly volatile and extreme weather patterns are already damaging harvests, jeopardizing fish stocks, eroding natural resources and endangering species. Therefore, achieving food security and sustainable agriculture and addressing the challenges of climate change are intertwined and need to be addressed in a coordinated manner. To be climate-resilient, farmers, pastoralists and fishermen will require greater access to technologies, markets, information and credit for investment to adapt their production systems and practices.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- implement the national climate plan for adaptation and mitigation;
- mainstream a 'climate-smart' approach to agriculture aiming to sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- promote awareness, innovation, capacity development and incentives based on a systematic assessment of expected impacts of climate change.

### **4.5. Maintaining agrobiodiversity**

**Strategic objective 5:** By 2022, the diversity of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture maintained.

Biodiversity is integral to ecosystem health, important to increase food production and necessary to sustain livelihoods. Today, however, the Palestine's rich agrobiodiversity heritage is threatened. Drivers such as farming system oversimplification, land-use change and land degradation, pollution, invasive alien species, degrading habitats and climate change are reducing the number of species, impoverishing their genetic diversity and stressing ecosystems, often beyond their capacity. Diversifying agricultural production, conserve biodiversity, improve soil and plant health and reduce exposure to pests, diseases or extreme-weather events need to be complemented with active conservation of cultivated plants and domesticated animals and their related wild species.

### **Sectoral result 5.1. Agrobiodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection mainstreamed**

Conserving and using a wide range of domestic plant and animal diversity, and their related wild species, provides adaptability and resilience in the face of climate change, emerging diseases, pressures on feed and water supplies and shifting market demands. The more elements that are integrated into a farming

system, the more resilient it becomes and the more ecosystem services are provided.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- promote integrated farming systems, which include mixed cropping, crop-livestock, agroforestry, tree-crop-livestock as well as aquaculture;
- address agrobiodiversity conservation investing in ex-situ and in-situ conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- monitor the biodiversity of plants and animals to identify plant varieties and livestock breeds at risk of extinction;
- build national institutions and create legislation to manage agricultural genetic resources.

#### **4.6. Creating an enabling environment for FNS**

**Strategic objective 6:** By 2022, an enabling environment for FNS created.

A fundamental premise for delivering food and nutrition security in Palestine is the creation of an enabling policy environment, changes in sectoral ministries way of working, and policy coordination across government. The transition to more sustainable and equitable food systems requires action that builds political alliances and coalitions with actors beyond food and agriculture. This crucially depends on government collaboration and stakeholder dialogue. Policymakers need to manage trade-offs and set out concrete measures for better aligning multiple objectives and incentive structures. Multi-stakeholder mechanisms and new forms of participatory governance structures will bolster policy ownership while helping to mobilize capacities, information, technologies and access to financial and production resources. At the same time, Palestine's economy requires important stimuli for a stronger and more dynamic participation of private actors at all stages of agrifood value chains. To do this, transaction costs need to be reduced and a structure of incentives rewarding positive behaviors – i.e. sustainability, efficiency, technological, institutional and social innovations – needs to be implemented.

##### **Sectoral result 6.1. Agrifood innovation system strengthened**

Innovation is key for food and nutrition security. It refers not only to technologies and practices, such as improved crop varieties, agroecological practices, biotechnologies and financial instruments, but also to organizational forms such as public-private partnerships and farmers' cooperatives. Despite recent progress, the poorer and disadvantaged remain excluded from the benefits of social and technical change. To redress this, governments and partners should encourage innovation that benefits them by addressing issues like improving sustainability and resilience, raising incomes and reducing risks, including by creating new market opportunities and encouraging diversification, and by reducing natural resource depletion and degradation.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:



- increase investments in agricultural R&D, extension and advisory services, as well as capacity development to improve national agricultural innovation systems;
- improve provision of information about innovations, both in the form of improved technological products and processes as well as social practices and organization.

### **Sectoral result 6.2. Public investment oriented to FNS increased**

Pursuing food and nutrition security involves making the case for how investment in sustainable food and agriculture production systems can materially contribute to broader national objectives. Evidence shows that public investment in R&D, education and access to information for producers and in infrastructure yields much higher returns than other expenditures, such as input subsidies, and can provide an incentive for economic agents to invest more. Poor access to financial and insurance services is a salient constraint on Palestinian agriculture.<sup>28</sup> Access to credit is compromised by the impact of the ongoing occupation and an unfavorable institutional environment. Moreover, Palestinian farmers have limited opportunities to enroll in agricultural insurance schemes. Inclusive finance and insurance can foster agribusiness development by easing liquidity constraints faced by many actors and lowering the risk they face.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- increase investment in infrastructure such as roads, water control or markets to provide an incentive for private economic agents to invest more;
- incentivize provision of public services, beyond extension, and review their inclusiveness and efficiency;
- explore and exploit new opportunities for inclusive agricultural and rural finance such as investment funds, investment promotion, guarantee funds and ICT, to increase the level of financing while lowering the risks to investors;
- assess PACI and PADRRIF operations in order to increase their effectiveness and efficiency as needed;
- promote financial literacy and management skills, in addition to producer organizations or community-based savings and loan groups, which allow for better risk management and improved access to financial services.

### **Sectoral result 6.3. Adequate human and financial resources allocated to FNS**

The Palestinian government performs weakly in terms of the human and financial resources needed to address the existing FNS issues. According to stakeholders' opinions, public expenditure is not sufficient to achieve food and nutrition security targets. Moreover, the government staffing with technical knowledge dedicated to planning and implementing food security and nutrition responses is also inadequate. This largely depends on shrinking donor support over the last years.

<sup>28</sup> The Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institute (PACI) and the Palestinian Disaster Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund (PADRRIF) have recently been established, but it is not yet clear how effective they can be in achieving the stated objectives.

As a result, stakeholders perceive the above as a severe constraining factor for achieving the set FNS targets.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- advocate for donors' contribution to FNS-oriented interventions;
- advocate for a larger allocation to FNS in the Government budget;
- invest in capacity building in key FNS skills both at central and sub-national level.

#### **Sectoral result 6.4. Policy dialogue and coordination on FNS matters enhanced**

Pursuing FNS requires policies that systematically consider intersectoral linkages and support cross-sectoral communications and collaboration. Strategic partnerships between state and non-state actors are crucial to mobilize resources. This requires institutional structures that allow exchange of information and opinion, division of roles and responsibilities, and mechanisms for tracking results. Multi-stakeholder platforms create a common space to voice solutions towards shared objectives, helping to mobilize capacities, technologies, financial requirements and access to productive resources.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- establish partnerships that work within established normative frameworks and invest in state capacity to coordinate;
- utilize government's convening power to attract key stakeholders, create decision opportunities and consultations for public investment;
- engage with entrepreneurs and tap into the potential of the private sector, including farmer organizations, cooperatives, small and medium-sized enterprises along the food value chain, in addition to international corporations;
- increase the voice and agency of producers, especially small ones, in particular women and youth, leveraging on producer organizations to help small producers access services and strengthening collective bargaining power;
- develop and implement the National Investment Plan (NIP) for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture;
- identify/create a proper institutional mechanism to ensure coordination to design, implement and monitor all interventions in the field of FNS.

#### **Sectoral result 6.5. FNS legal and institutional framework strengthened**

FNS governance in Palestine needs to be improved. The coverage of FNS issues is scattered across the various strategies and the NPA does not provide a high-level governance system to secure the pressing needs of the population in this regard. Interventions are mostly humanitarian-oriented and a more balanced approach – i.e. covering both humanitarian and developmental aspects – need to be implemented. Policy making only occasionally makes use of available FNS information and analysis. There is abundance of data, information and analysis

on FNS matters but these data are not compiled and organized in a single, structured information system. FNS monitoring is not conducted on regular basis.

Examples of interventions under this heading are the following:

- recognize key actors' interests and conflicts and create mechanisms through which they can articulate perspectives and demands;
- follow-up the approval of the NFNSP by the Cabinet and implement it;
- follow-up the development of NFNSP results framework to monitor progress and build accountability;
- strengthen the capacities of the SDG2-WG as a technical body to provide secretariat services as well as monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the achievement of SDG2 targets;
- administer a nationally representative FNS survey on regular basis;
- create a national FNS information system to collect all existing information and knowledge currently dispersed and hardly accessible.

## 5. NFNSP Results Framework

A Results Framework (RF) is ‘an explicit articulation (graphic display, matrix or summary) of the different levels, or chains, of results expected from a particular intervention – project, program, or development strategy’ (World Bank, 2012: 7). It captures the essential elements of the logical and expected cause-effect relationships among inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact.

Results are defined by a statement describing the desired achievements, and measured through indicators, quantifiable and measurable or observable, as much as possible, accompanied by baseline values and expected targets. Moreover, it specifies the measures and responsibilities that will be used for data gathering, reporting and use in decision-making and communication.

The NFNSP Results framework is displayed as a matrix. It is made by two coordinated components, namely:

- c) a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to measure progress in achieving the six NFNSP Strategic Objectives as defined in Section 4 above, and
- d) the Results Framework matrix that shows how specific interventions – e.g. sector and cross-sectoral strategies interventions, project and programs financed under the NIP – can contribute in achieving the NFNSP Strategic Objectives.

Both components are consistent with the breakdown of six Strategic Objectives identified in Section 4 and reflect the intervention logic from specific interventions towards the achievement of food and nutrition security in Palestine. They constitute the necessary tool to monitor progress in achieving FNS at different level of disaggregation.

### 5.1. Key performance indicators

The NFNSP Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are the 13 indicators that have been identified in the UN Agenda 2030 as SDG2 target indicators plus two indicators that have been added to SO6 – Creating an enabling environment for FNS (Table 5.1) where, besides the interventions related to the three UN ‘means’ targets (SDG2a to SDG2.c), some more institution-oriented interventions that focus on the regulatory framework and the coordination mechanisms are considered.<sup>29</sup>

Table 5.1 reports the most updated values of these indicators that can be used as baseline and targets for monitoring FNS progress in Palestine. The baseline values exist for only 6 out of 15 indicators. The lacking values refer to indicators for whom a methodology has not been developed (Tier III) or although the

<sup>29</sup> Indicator 2.b.1 – Agricultural export subsidies is maintained in Table 5.1 although the government of Palestine currently does not control its borders and cannot implement trade policies, in case this authority will be gained by year 2030.

methodology has been established data are not easily available (Tier II). PCBS is working on both, in collaboration with the UN Statistical Office, in order to fill the informational gap. Similarly, the target values are still lacking because the value at year 2030 are policy targets that have not been set yet by the Government of Palestine. As soon as the Government will set those targets, the KPI table will be completed.

**Table 5.1. Key Performance Indicators per areas of intervention**

Areas of intervention / SDG2 Targets	Indicators	Baseline value (year)	Target value (2030)	Source
1. Ending hunger (SDG2.1)	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	-		-
	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale	29.9% (2014-2016)		FAO
2. Ending all forms of malnutrition (SDG2.2)	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children	7.4% (2014-2016)		World Bank on WHO methodology
	2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Wasting: 1.2% Overweight: 8.2% (2014-2016)		World Bank on WHO methodology
3. Increasing agricultural productivity and incomes (SDG2.3)	2.3.1 Volume of production per labor unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size			Tier III <sup>(a)</sup>
	2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status			Tier III <sup>(a)</sup>
4. Ensuring sustainable food production systems	2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture			Tier III <sup>(a)</sup>
5. Maintaining agrobiodiversity (SDG2.5)	2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or			Tier III <sup>(a)</sup>
	2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction			Tier II <sup>(a)</sup>
6. Creating an enabling environment for FNS (SDG2.a – SDG2.c)	2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	0,13 (2011)		UN Stats
	2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	21.1% (2015)		UN Stats
	2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies <sup>(b)</sup>			WTO
	2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies			Tier II <sup>(a)</sup>
	Endorsement of the NFNSP and its National Investment Plan	NO (2017)		(c)
	Resource gap for implementing the NFNSP-NIP (percent on total resource requirement)			(c)

<sup>(a)</sup> SDG indicators have been provisionally classified in three tiers, namely: (i) Tier I, for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available; (ii) Tier II, for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available; and (iii) Tier III, for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed and data are largely unavailable.

<sup>(b)</sup> This indicator is currently not relevant to Palestine due to the lack of control by the GoP on its borders and trade policies.

<sup>(c)</sup> These indicators are not included in the SDG2 target indicators.

## 5.2. NFNSP Results framework

Annex 4 presents the RF matrix structure, to be completed by the SDG2-WG to link specific interventions to NFNSP Strategic Objectives. Per each level of the results chain, the relevant indicator statement, baseline value and corresponding year, 2022 targets (deadline for the first NIP implementation), 2030 targets, and means of verification (including the data source, key provider institution, other contributing institutions and frequency of data collection) are reported.

Efforts have been made to select indicators that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, in short SMART indicators.<sup>30</sup> The SDG2-WG identified 41 indicators. However, the baseline and target values exist only for 34 indicators and it is likely that missing data will not be available by the time the NFNSP will be endorsed by the Cabinet. From an operational viewpoint, this means that one of the key activities to be carried out over the first year of NFNSP implementation is filling the information gap.<sup>31</sup>

In conclusion, it is worth emphasizing that the NFNSP-RF has not been developed once and for all. As any Results Framework, it is a living management tool, guiding corrective action, facilitating the coordination of development efforts, charting the course for achieving NFNSP's objectives and ultimately serving as the key accountability tool for evaluation.

## 5.3. Relationships with NPA and sector strategies

Although the NPA does not explicitly highlight the need to secure the access to food for all population at all times nor it sets adequate nutrition as National Priorities, the matching between NPA and various dimensions of FNS shows there are several NPA's 'National Policies' related to SDG2 targets (Annex 3.B.1). Specifically, the NPA 'National Policies' and 'Policy Interventions' relevant to the NFNSP are highlighted in Table 5.2.

The same applies for the most important Sector or cross-sector strategies. The National Agricultural Sector Strategy interventions as well as the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change relate to all SDG2 targets (Annex 3.B.2 and 3.B.3, respectively), while the Social Development Sector Strategy is mostly

<sup>30</sup> The acronym SMART as referred to indicators is meant to represent good indicators in so far as they are: *Specific* – i.e. they clearly and directly relate to the result that is to be monitored; *Measurable* – i.e. they are able to quantify or at least suggest the direction of change; *Achievable* – i.e. they are achievable if the performance target accurately specifies the amount or level of what is to be measured in order to meet the result; *Relevant* – i.e. they are a valid measure of the result and state what can realistically be achieved, given available resources; *Time-bound* – i.e. they must be attached to a time frame and state when they will be measured.

<sup>31</sup> In a few cases – e.g. 3.1.3 - Proportion of farmers satisfied by the services provided by different actors or 4.1.2 - Amount of water used to irrigate one donum of agricultural land, etc. – filling the informational gap requires the implementation of ad hoc studies/appraisals mostly in the form of rapid appraisal surveys to be carried out every three years.

related to SDG2 target 1 – ‘Ending Hunger’ (Annex 3.B.4). The National Health Strategy, the National Nutrition Policy, Strategies and Action Plan, and the National Strategy for Food Safety are all mostly related to the SDG2 target 2 – ‘Ending any form of malnutrition’ (Annex 3.B.4 to Annex 3.B.7).

**Table 5.2.** NPA’s national priorities, national policies and policy interventions relevant to NFNSP

National Priorities	National Policies	Policy Interventions
3. Strengthening Palestine’s international status	5. Broadening Palestine’s international participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulfill obligations arising from Palestine’s accession to international treaties and membership in international organizations</li> </ul>
4. Citizen-centered government	7. Responsive local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and protect national products, increase competitiveness and expand import substitution</li> </ul>
	8. Improving services to citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a government-wide service improvement strategy, with particular focus on “Area C” and East Jerusalem, in cooperation with our delivery partners</li> </ul>
6. Economic independence	11. Building Palestine’s future economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebuild Palestine’s productive sectors, focusing on manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and restoring Gaza’s industrial base</li> <li>• Attract domestic and foreign direct investment</li> <li>• Focus on construction, tourism, agriculture, energy and ICT sectors</li> <li>• Expand international trade and exports</li> <li>• Plan and invest in strategic infrastructure (water, electricity, transportation and telecom networks, airports, seaport and industrial parks)</li> </ul>
	12. Creating job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expedite job creation through public-private partnerships</li> <li>• Develop job creation programs for graduates, ensuring equal opportunities for women</li> <li>• Ensure that our youth are provided with opportunities for a successful future</li> </ul>
	13. Improving Palestine’s business environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and expand co-operatives</li> <li>• Cut red tape for business through smart regulation</li> </ul>
7. Social justice and rule of law	15. Escaping poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen economic and social empowerment programs benefiting vulnerable groups and the poor</li> <li>• Ensure that economic and social policies address the needs of vulnerable groups and the poor</li> <li>• Promote social integration by establishing job creation programs for excluded groups (disabled, youth, women, ex-prisoners)</li> </ul>
	16. Strengthening social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the effectiveness and coherence of our social protection system</li> </ul>
	18. Gender equality and women’s empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove barriers that prevent the full participation of women in community and economic development and public life</li> </ul>
8. Quality education for all	23. From education to employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align TVET and higher education with development and labor market needs, with equitable access to these opportunities</li> <li>• Upgrade and expand TVET infrastructure and facilities</li> <li>• Strengthen Palestine’s scientific research capacity</li> </ul>
9. Quality health care for all	25. Improve citizens’ health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen preventive health care, raise awareness and promote healthy lifestyles</li> </ul>
10. Resilient Communities	26. Ensuring community security, public safety and rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement measures to enhance community security and public safety</li> </ul>
	27. Meeting the basic needs of our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure food security</li> <li>• Expand community access to clean water and sanitation</li> <li>• Expand community access to reliable energy</li> <li>• Strengthen capacity for disaster response and crisis management</li> </ul>
	28. Ensuring a sustainable environment and adapting to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage, protect and promote sustainable use and conservation of natural resources (land, water and energy)</li> <li>• Expand wastewater management, treatment and reuse</li> <li>• Reduce and effectively control pollution and greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Strengthen capacity for disaster response and crisis management</li> <li>• Protect and support farmers, particularly in areas under threat</li> <li>• Keep Palestine green (conserve biodiversity, establish nature preserves and expand green spaces)</li> </ul>
	29. Revitalizing agriculture and strengthening our rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase agricultural plant and livestock production and develop value chains</li> <li>• Protect and support farmers, particularly in areas under threat</li> </ul>

The NFNSP is harmonized and aligned to all these policy frameworks, contributing to their objectives and being influenced by their interventions in a fruitful two-way relationship. These policy frameworks are the most closely related to the FNS, though they are not the only ones. Indeed, there are many other ministerial sector and cross-sector strategies as well as strategies and plans by governmental Agencies/Authorities that are related to the FNS and have been fully acknowledged in the NFNSP (cf. Section 1.3).

#### 5.4. Relationships with SDGs

The NFNSP contributes to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with specific reference to the Sustainable Development Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

However, it must be emphasized that the progress resulting from an effective implementation of NFNSP significantly contributes also to many other Sustainable Development Goals, as shown by Table 5.3 that reports also NPA's relevant National Policies per SDG.

<b>Table 5.3. Contribution of NFNSP to SDGs and alignment to NPA's National Priorities</b>	
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<b>NPA's National priorities</b>
SDG 1 – No poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escaping poverty</li> <li>• Strengthening social protection</li> </ul>
SDG 2 – Ending hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meeting the basic needs of our communities</b></li> <li>• <b>Revitalizing agriculture and strengthening our rural communities</b></li> </ul>
SDG 3 – Good health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving citizens' health and well-being</li> </ul>
SDG 4 – Quality education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From education to employment</li> </ul>
SDG 5 – Gender equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality and women's empowerment</li> </ul>
SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the basic needs of our communities</li> </ul>
SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the basic needs of our communities</li> </ul>
SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating job opportunities</li> <li>• Building Palestine's future economy</li> </ul>
SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving services to citizens</li> <li>• Strengthening social protection</li> </ul>
SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a sustainable environment and adapting to climate change</li> </ul>
SDG 13 – Climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a sustainable environment and adapting to climate change</li> </ul>
SDG 14 – Life below water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a sustainable environment and adapting to climate change</li> </ul>
SDG 15 – Life on land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a sustainable environment and adapting to climate change</li> </ul>
SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring community and national security, public safety and rule of law</li> </ul>
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsive local government</li> <li>• Broadening Palestine's international participation</li> </ul>



## 6. Recommendations

### 6.1. Intervention priorities

The interventions included in Section 4 represent a coordinated and comprehensive set of interventions able to implement the changes envisioned by NFNSP, that span over a 12-year horizon. Carrying out all interventions from the very beginning of NFNSP implementation is simply not feasible. Therefore, a sequencing of interventions must be identified.

Although prioritizing interventions is more meaningful at operational level – and this will be done in the National Investment Plan (NIP) 2019-2022 for the first three years of NFNSP implementation – there are a few interventions whose expected outputs are key for the success of NFNSP because of the urgency of the issues to be addressed and/or their leverage effect on other interventions.

During the consultations with the stakeholders, some key interventions that represent prerequisites for an effective and efficient implementation of NFNSP have been identified. Those interventions are all under the SO6 pursuing the creation of an enabling institutional environment for FNS, namely:

- filling the gaps in terms of human and financial resources within the administration (SR6.3);
- identifying and implementing more effective and efficient mechanisms of coordination for FNS interventions (SR6.4)
- filling the regulatory gaps in important areas that could improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of FNS interventions (SR6.5).

From the content viewpoint, the issues that emerged as the ones deserving top priority are the following:

- ensure access to land and water resources, that are currently impaired by Israeli occupation, and enhance management of these resources, also through technical and institutional innovations to relax the constraints on sustainable agricultural production (SR4.1): this will act directly on food availability;
- enhance livelihood, especially of the most in need and marginalized, through social protection interventions (SR1.1), specifically creating job opportunities and increasing people employability: this will act directly on food access;
- promote dietary diversification and healthy eating habits through nutrition education and awareness campaigns (SR2.3), targeting primarily girls, women and families with small children, can determine tremendous achievements even within the current boundaries of food availability and access: this will act directly on food utilization;
- enhance resilience to man-made and natural risks (SR1.3) through the diversification of portfolio of activities, better preparedness to shocks and, in post-disaster situations, asset rehabilitation and restoration of food production capacities to ensure people's livelihoods: this will act directly on food stability.

## **6.2. Strategic risks**

There are of course some risks associated with the achievement of the NFNSP objectives. The most important ones at strategic level include:

- vulnerability to the political downturns stemming from the turbulent political situation in Palestine, primarily the adverse evolution of international politics towards Palestine, tightening of Israeli occupation, the internal political divide and the uncertainty about the future leadership. This translates immediately in an economic risk because of reduced economic growth and financial revenue for public interventions, that is magnified by shrinking assistance from donors and international organizations. Any effort must be made to keep the cause of Palestinians alive in international fora and stabilize the political situation within the State of Palestine;
- lack of political support and delayed policy action that may prevent effective coordination among all relevant stakeholders and undermine the continuity of actions required by the long-term change envisioned by NFNSP. All efforts should be made to ensure the needed political support and direction at the highest level (Prime Minister Office); and
- lack of support by the society at large due to a poor understanding of the role that food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture can play. Continuous awareness raising, communication campaigns and dialogue with all involved stakeholders are key to favouring a new social contract gaining broad political support for NFNSP.

## **6.3. Implementation arrangements**

The NFNSP is a strategy whose breadth extends beyond the mandate of a single Ministry. Its implementation requires the strong involvement of a large number of Ministries, Agencies, Authorities and other institutions. Hence, identifying effective coordination mechanisms is a key issue for successfully achieving NFNSP objectives.

The SDG2-WG has been recently established as a technical-level coordination mechanism involving relevant ministries and public institutions focusing on FNS. Although its composition is in principle appropriate to discuss FNS-relevant issues, its role is limited to monitoring progress towards the achievement of SDG2. This is far away from an effective coordination role, both in terms of planning and management responsibilities.

This would require the identification of an organism within the Palestinian administration able to take the lead in planning and supervising NFNSP implementation and streamlining, coordinating public investments, stimulating related private investments and PPPs, coordinating with other key stakeholders and advocating other institutions to plan and implement interventions.

In order to do this, essential actions need to be taken both within and outside the various involved Ministries. Internally, this calls for significant investments in

developing human capacities (more and better trained staff) in key areas (planning, management, statistics, information and communication) and streamlining responsibilities deriving from the NFNSP mandate (and possibly changing the internal structure of some Ministries). Externally, engagement in policy dialogue with stakeholders having widely recognized political visibility and a mandate in the national context (e.g. international organizations, CSOs) is key as well as wider communication towards the Palestinian society and international audiences.

Moreover, the creation of a high-level Food and Nutrition Council, made by representatives of all relevant Ministries, having the political power to make policy decision, is crucial to ensure an effective governance of food and nutrition security in Palestine.

In this framework, the NFNSP governance could be envisaged as follows:

- the MoA will be responsible for initiating and convening inter-institutional coordination and policy dialogue on the different subjects to be addressed by the NFNSP;
- the SDG2-WG will play the technical role of monitoring and evaluating FNS-oriented interventions;
- the High-level Food and Nutrition Council is the political locus where the decisions will be made at inter-ministerial level, it will be responsible for coordinating NFNSP/NIP interventions, and it will oversee the NFNSP implementation and achievement of results, and it will provide services (e.g. dossier preparation) for the higher political level deliberative body.

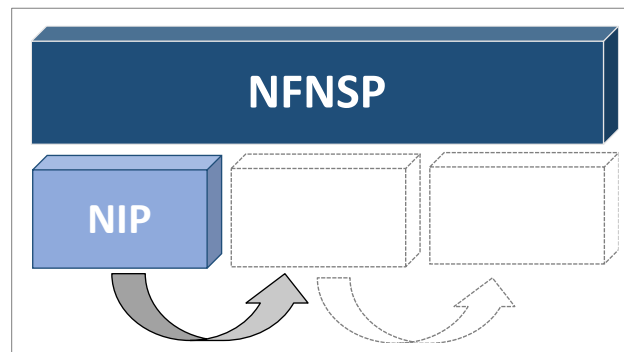
#### **6.4. NFNSP and its National Investment Plan**

The NFNSP is a strategic document defining the vision to which all stakeholders should be aligned to, long-term objectives to be pursued and interventions to be implemented. The National Investment Plan (NIP) for food and nutrition security represents the planning stage of an investment cycle in which NFNSP's intervention priorities are translated into a shared framework that should be adopted by all key stakeholders at operational and financial level (designing and implementing projects, fundraising, etc.).

As such, the NIP reflects the NFNSP structure. Its aim is to summarize investment priorities and guide implementation of interventions, striving for agreement with, and commitment from, key stakeholders on the financial and organizational efforts each shall undertake to implement the NFNSP. It will budget the specific interventions to be implemented in the short and medium term, estimating the amount of resources that need to be allocated to the various interventions.

The NIP is aligned with the multi-year planning framework adopted by the GoP. The first NFNSP-NIP is aligned with the fourth National Development Plan 2017-2022, covering the years 2019-2022. After this period, on the basis of the results

achieved and lessons learned, a new NIP will be prepared and implemented for the next planning period, and so on until 2030 (Figure 6.1).<sup>32</sup>



**Figure 6.1.** Relationship between the NIP time frame and the NFNSP time frame

As such, the NIP has the advantage of being fully embedded in the standard budgeting and planning procedures existing in Palestine. This provides flexibility for NFNSP implementation, allowing for learning from the previous planning period and for considering achievements and possible changes in the operating conditions.

Shortly, the NIP is the operational arm of NFNSP indicating the necessary actions to achieve NFNSP objectives. It comprises an investment-guiding framework to orient public and private resource mobilization, implementation modalities and M&E arrangements that regularly inform on progress towards FNS. Specifically, it operates at three different levels, namely:

- **alignment and harmonization of investments:** it helps frame investments according to NFNSP structure, avoiding overlap and looking for synergies in a consistent framework;
- **advocating for investment:** it emphasizes priority areas of investment and highlights possible investment gaps, paving the way for a more comprehensive and effective set of investments; and
- **M&E of investments:** it matches, at investment level, the NFNSP Results Framework structure; it thus contributes to measuring progress and informing the Government and other stakeholders about NFNSP achievements.

Besides this, the NIP will also help in setting up rules for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. Building on the information and knowledge generated through M&E activities, it provides the GoP with the basic elements to

<sup>32</sup> Although the NFNSP aims to establish a road map for goals to be achieved until 2030, the detailed programming of investments can realistically be made only for a shorter period, as the outcomes of investment in the longer term are not completely predictable and planning needs to adjust to new realities (e.g., change in financing sources and fund availability).

change the rules of the game for investments in this field aimed at improving their performance.

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## Annex 1 – Stakeholders contributing to NFNSP development

<b>Annex 1.A. SDG2-WG composition</b>	
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Prime Minister Office</b>	Mahmoud Attaya
<b>Environment Quality Authority</b>	Ibrahim Alqouqa
<b>Ministry of Agriculture/Planning &amp; Policy</b>	Samer Titi, SDG2-WG Head
<b>Ministry of Agriculture/Gender</b>	Khitam Hamayel
<b>Ministry of Agriculture/Projects</b>	Maram Sawalha / Mahmoud Fatafta
<b>Ministry of Education and Higher Education</b>	Suzan Totah
<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Musa el Halayka / Lina Bahar
<b>Ministry of Labor</b>	Bashar Sawafta
<b>Ministry of National Economy</b>	Mohammad Al Tarawa
<b>Ministry of Social Development</b>	Khaled Barghouti
<b>Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institution</b>	Anas Samhan
<b>Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics</b>	Rania Abu Ghoush
<b>Palestinian Water Authority</b>	Rehab Thaer / Salam Abu Hantash
<b>Representative of the Civil Society/PARC</b>	Hasanein Hasanein
<b>Representative of the Private Sector/PFIU</b>	Ghada Breaka
<b>FAO</b>	Rana Hanoun / Pirro Tomaso Perri
<b>UN Women</b>	...

<b>Annex 1.B. Participants involved in NFNSP consultations</b>		
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<b>Suzan</b>	<b>Totah</b>	Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MoEHE)
<b>Amneh</b>	<b>Natshi</b>	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
<b>Lina</b>	<b>Bahar</b>	Ministry of Health (MoH)
<b>Kanar</b>	<b>Qadi</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
<b>Rana</b>	<b>Hanon</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
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<b>Naser</b>	<b>Maali</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

## **Annex 2 – Gap analysis between SDG2 targets, NPA and sector strategies**

**Target 2.1.** NPA does not explicitly highlight the need to secure the access to food for all populations at all times as a national priority. Thus, there is an absence of explicit national commitment to eliminating food insecurity in Palestine.

**Target 2.2.** Adequate nutrition and the consequent benefits are not set as a priority at the national level in the NPA, and there is no reference to the challenges of malnutrition and not meeting the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable populations.

**Target 2.3.** None of the Palestinian policies and/or interventions quantifies the target increase in agricultural productivity, unlike Target 3 of SDG2, which aims to double agricultural productivity in the next few years

**Target 2.4.** An important gap in the National Agriculture Sector Strategy, which fails to provide a clear link between improving agricultural practices and improving environmental outcomes. This issue is somewhat more satisfactorily tackled in the Sectoral Environment Strategy and even better tackled in the NAPCC.

**Target 2.5.** There is no explicit mention of seed and plant banks within the Palestinian policy framework, which is of major importance in preserving biodiversity. Moreover, maintaining genetic diversity requires some degree of research, which in turn requires the involvement of the MoEHE. The issue of maintaining genetic diversity and the other aspects of Target 4, nonetheless, are not addressed in the Strategy of the MoEHE for the current period.

**Target 2.a.** The issue of plant and livestock gene banks is not addressed in the existing strategic frameworks. Moreover, it could only be expected that the MoEHE has a role to play in developing agricultural research and improving agricultural production as universities are the major research centers.

**Target 2.b.** There is one important gap in the Palestinian policy framework with regards to contributing to eliminate global trade restrictions and distortions. The issue is not addressed in the Strategy of the MoNE, which is the main national institution managing and overseeing international trade in Palestine. Although the focus of Target 2.B is on trade with foods, and the Palestinian MoA has pertinently assumed its due role in the matter, the role of the MoNE cannot be overlooked.

**Target 2.c.** There do not seem to be any (significant) gaps as all major factors for the establishment of well-functioning commodity markets and the exchange of information are tackled in one way or another. However, as with the other targets within SDG2, the ability of the Palestinian government to implement the necessary actions to achieve zero hunger and sustainable food and nutrition security in Palestine remains contingent on achieving economic and policy independence from Israel.

## **Annex 3 – Matrix matching SDG2 targets, NPA and selected strategies**

### **Annex 3.A. SDG2 targets definition**

- **Ending hunger (target 2.1):** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- **Ending any form of malnutrition (target 2.2):** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- **Increasing agricultural productivity and incomes (target 2.3):** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
- **Ensuring sustainable food production systems (target 2.4):** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- **Maintaining agrobiodiversity (target 2.5):** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
- **Increasing investments (target 2.a):** Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.
- **Correcting trade restrictions and distortions (target 2.b):** Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.
- **Ensuring proper functioning of food commodity markets (target 2.c):** Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

### Annex 3.B.1. Matching between SDG2 targets and National Policy Agenda (NPA)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food market & information
<b>National priorities and national policies</b>								
<b>First National priority: Ending the Occupation; Achieving Our Independence</b>								
1. Mobilizing National and International Support								
2. Holding Israel to Account								
<b>Second National priority: National Unity</b>								
3. One Land; One People								
4. Upholding Democratic Principles								
<b>Third National priority: Strengthening Palestine's International Status</b>								
5. Broadening Palestine's International Participation							✓	
6. Expanding Palestine's Bilateral Relations								
<b>Fourth National priority: Citizen-Centred Government</b>								
7. Responsive Local Government	✓							
8. Improving Services to Citizens	✓							
<b>Fifth National priority: Effective Government</b>								
9. Strengthening Accountability and Transparency								
10. Effective, Efficient Public Financial Management								
<b>Sixth National priority: Economic Independence</b>								
11. Building Palestine's Future Economy			✓			✓		✓
12. Creating Job Opportunities	✓					✓		
13. Improving Palestine's Business Environment			✓			✓		
14. Promoting Palestinian Industry								
<b>Seventh National priority: Social Justice and Rule of Law</b>								
15. Escaping Poverty	✓							
16. Strengthening Social Protection	✓							
17. Improving Access to Justice								
18. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	✓	✓						
19. Our Youth; Our Future								
<b>Eighth National priority: Quality Education for All</b>								
20. Improving Early Childhood and Pre-School Education								
21. Improving Student Enrolment and Retention								
22. Improving Primary and Secondary Education								
23. From Education to Employment	✓	✓						
<b>Ninth National priority: Quality Health Care for All</b>								
24. Better Health Care Services								
25. Improve Citizens' Health & Well-Being								
<b>Tenth National priority: Resilient Communities</b>								
26. Ensuring Community Security, Public Safety and Rule of Law	✓							
27. Meeting the Basic Needs of Our Communities	✓							
28. Ensuring a Sustainable Environment				✓	✓			
29. Revitalizing Agriculture and Strengthening Our Rural Communities	✓		✓			✓		
30. Preserving Our National Identity and Cultural Heritage								



## Annex 3.B.2. Matching between SDG2 targets and the National Agricultural Sector Strategy (NASS)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food market & information
<b>Strategic objectives and outcomes</b>								
<b>First strategic objective: Female and male farmers' resilience and steadfastness on their lands enhanced</b>								
1. Farmers and producers who have sustained damages as a direct result of the Israeli occupation receive the needed support to ensure their steadfastness.	✓							
2. Farmers and producers who have sustained damages as a direct result of natural disasters and market crises receive the needed support to ensure their capacities to adapt, continue production and development.	✓							
3. International and United Nations organizations take stances that oppose Israeli occupation policies that undermine agriculture development, particularly the control of water resources, land and markets, and provide support to mitigate or reverse their impact.	✓							
4. Innovative youth, female farmers, and producers are engaged in sustainable and feasible agricultural and rural activities.	✓					✓		
5. Farmers whose rights are violated by Israeli army or settlers have access to legal recourse.	✓							
<b>Second strategic objective: Natural and agricultural resources sustainably managed and better adapted to climate change</b>								
1. Volume of water available to farmers and livestock breeders from traditional and non-traditional sources increased and more efficiently managed.			✓	✓				
2. Area of land cultivated or protected from degradation expanded annually.			✓	✓				
3. Farmers across all governorates access their lands and water resources easily and freely.			✓					
4. Administrative and technical procedures that enhance the management of and protect designated agricultural lands (including forests, rangelands, and natural reserves) adopted and enforced by governmental organizations and local authorities.				✓	✓			
5. Climate-smart and adaptive, biodiversity-protecting and desertification-combatting agricultural policies and technologies promoted and enforced.				✓	✓			
<b>Third strategic objective: Increased agricultural production, productivity, and competitiveness in local and international market, along with their contribution in gross domestic product and food security</b>								
1. Area of land newly cultivated with/used for production of strategic and high-value crops, as well as livestock farms increased.	✓		✓			✓		
2. Agricultural production technologies, cultivars and dynasties used by farmers and producers improved.	✓		✓			✓		
3. Type and safety of locally produced agricultural commodities of plant and animal origins adhere to the best international standards and are highly competitive in local and international markets.	✓	✓	✓					
4. Cost of agricultural production, in both plant and livestock sub-sectors, is more competitive.	✓		✓					
5. Plant and animal diseases are controlled and their spread mitigated.	✓		✓	✓				
6. The business enabling environment of agricultural production, processing and marketing attracts investment and entrepreneurs.	✓					✓		
<b>Fourth strategic objective: Female and male farmers and entrepreneurs access quality agricultural services needed for increasing value along agricultural value chains improved.</b>								
1. Agricultural extension and veterinary services, research, insurance and financial services, as well as business development services continuously developed and expanded.			✓			✓		
2. Agricultural marketing services, including wholesale markets, demonstrate good management and have adequate infrastructure to support quality service provision.			✓			✓		✓
3. Agricultural risk insurance tools are diversified and developed.						✓		
4. Links between knowledge produced by applied research and priorities of agriculture sector development strengthened.						✓		
<b>Fifth strategic objective: Effective and efficient institutional and legal frameworks developed</b>								
1. Agriculture-related legislations are coherent and support sustainable agricultural development.				✓		✓	✓	
2. Human and physical resources within agricultural organizations enhanced.						✓		
3. Palestine membership in international organizations and endorsement of international treaties and conventions related to agriculture is enhanced.						✓	✓	
4. Knowledge exchange, cooperation and partnership between organizations active in the agriculture sector enhanced, and contributes to improved results-based management and NASS implementation						✓		
5. Agriculture sector organizations adopt policies and procedures to ensure public health and safety of plants and plant production in fulfillment of market requirements.						✓		
6. Organizations and effective fora established and supported to bring together farmers and producers.						✓		✓

### Annex 3.B.3. Matching between SDG2 targets and the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food markets & information
<b>Theme/Sector and Adaptation options</b>								
<b>1. Agriculture</b>								
1. Enhance sustainable community-level irrigation schemes and infrastructure	✓		✓					
2. Climate-smart agriculture			✓	✓				
3. Improve water-use efficiency and using alternatives water resources			✓	✓				
4. Land-use planning and management - greening, afforestation, and rangeland development				✓				
5. Agricultural disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M)	✓			✓				
6. Increase the availability of animal feed (including plant and organic residues) at an affordable price			✓					
7. Improve livestock production pens			✓					
8. Establishment of farmers' support (subsidies, awareness training programs)	✓		✓					
<b>2. Coastal and marine</b>								
1. Rain-water harvesting			✓	✓				
2. Construction of detached breakwaters				✓				
3. Introduction of new saline tolerant crops			✓					
4. Entanglement of the fishing area and improve fishing equipment	✓		✓					
5. Provision of beach nourishment, reclamation and beach drift rehabilitation								
6. Provision of laboratories and equipment for data collection and analysis								
7. Fish packaging/preservation industry	✓	✓						
<b>3. Energy</b>								
1. Generation of solar electricity for medium-large scale commercial and industrial application								
2. Use of renewable energy such as solar to reduce imported energy								
3. Implement energy efficiency measures to reduce consumption, mainly for commercial and industrial application								
4. Implement energy efficiency measures to reduce consumption and hence imported energy								
5. Electricity grid upgrading								
6. Building fossil-fuel storage facilities								
7. Additional supply of energy from neighbouring countries								
8. Enhancing the equipment and efficiency of the Gaza Power Plant (GPP)								
<b>4. Food</b>								
1. Enhancing agricultural value chain and improving infrastructure for livestock production			✓					
2. Greenhouse management			✓					
3. Construction of large-scale cold storage			✓					
4. Construct large-scale steel silos for grain to enable import and storage during periods when prices on the international markets are low			✓					
<b>5. Gender</b>								
1. Increasing the awareness of people, particularly women, in waterpoor areas about measures they can take to help prevent major diseases related to water, sanitation, and food		✓						
2. Supporting improvements in efficient use of water in women's private small-scale agricultural projects			✓	✓				
3. Encouraging women to use their house gardens to produce food		✓	✓					
<b>6. Health</b>								
1. Development of water, food and sanitation monitoring and safety systems using high technology		✓						
2. Training health professionals and increasing the awareness of people, particularly women, in waterpoor areas about measures they can take to help prevent major diseases related to water, sanitation, and food		✓						
<b>7. Industry</b>								
1. Providing reliable electricity supply								
2. Replace imported raw materials with local materials whenever possible								
3. Improve water supply through wastewater collection and treatment systems								
4. Reducing energy consumption through introduction of modern production technologies								
5. Building fossil-fuel storage facilities								
6. Improve handling, fumigation, packaging, and storage techniques for raw materials intended for export								
7. Capacity building to enable industries to adapt to climate change								
8. Rehabilitation of industrial facilities								
9. Conducting energy audits in order to increase industries' use of energy efficiency measures								
10. Provision of suitable storage facilities for industrial products intended for export								
11. Rehabilitation and maintenance of industrial equipment								
<b>8. Terrestrial ecosystems</b>								
1. National network of protected areas, including 50 protected areas and 51 biodiversity hotspots					✓			
2. National network of protected areas, including Wadi Gaza and 3 biodiversity hotspots					✓			
<b>9. Tourism</b>								
1. Identify, design and implement flood management schemes for cultural heritage sites, where appropriate								
2. Identify, design and implement flood management schemes for eco-tourist attractions, where appropriate								
<b>10. Urban and infrastructure</b>								
1. Promoting green buildings								
2. Rehabilitation of resilient road infrastructure								
<b>11. Waste and wastewater</b>								
1. Improving waste collection system								
2. Improve management of leachate from landfill sites								
3. Reduce, re-use, recycle								
<b>12. Water</b>								
1. Rehabilitate water sources: wells, cisterns and springs			✓					
2. Control of leakage from distribution systems								
3. Allocate transboundary water resources equitably and reasonably between Israel and the State of Palestine								
4. Enhance the use of additional and alternative water resources for non-domestic purposes			✓					
5. Develop and improve stormwater systems and drainage infrastructure								
6. Increase share of imported water								
7. Enhance the use of alternative water resources for non-domestic purposes			✓					
8. Build a large desalination plant for Gaza								
9. Develop and improve stormwater systems and drainage infrastructure								

### Annex 3.B.4. Matching between SDG2 targets and Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food market & information
<b>Strategic objectives and outcomes</b>								
<b>First Strategic objective: Reducing poverty</b>								
1. Poor and vulnerable households are able to ensure their basic needs in appropriate quality and quantities.	✓	✓						
2. Women, men and youth from poor households are engaged in economic and collective empowerment projects.	✓							
3. Effective national and local social protection frameworks that protect poor and vulnerable women and men from shocks, crisis and disasters.	✓							
<b>Second strategic objective: Eliminating all forms of marginalization, violence and social exclusion in the Palestinian society</b>								
1. Protective policies and legislations that promote justice, equality and rights for all.								
2. Societal culture that promotes rights and accountability.								
3. The poor, vulnerable groups and gender based violence victims are able to access the justice system.								
4. Marginalized groups enjoy social, infrastructure and technology services.						✓		
5. Social, economic and political participation of marginalized groups.								
<b>Third strategic objective: Enhancing social cohesion</b>								
1. Expanded and effective voluntary interventions.								
2. Effective models of social responsibility at the local and national levels.								
3. Fair and inclusive economic policies.	✓							
4. Social upbringing systems promote human values.								
5. Efficient and effective social development institutions, as well as responsive to the needs of the community.	✓							

### Annex 3.B.5. Matching between SDG2 targets and the National Health Strategy (NHS)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food market & information
<b>Strategic objectives and outcomes</b>								
<b>First Strategic objective: Ensure the provision of comprehensive health services to all Palestinians, heading towards localization of health services in Palestine</b>								
1.								
2.								
3.								
4. Prevalence of child malnutrition for those under the age of five is reduced		✓						
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
<b>Second strategic objective: Promote the management of non-communicable diseases, preventive healthcare, community health awareness and gender related programs</b>								
1.								
2.								
3. The Salt content of bread does not exceed 1.0 gm. per 100 gm. of bread		✓						
4.								
5. Nutrition-Promotion programs are effectively implemented and contributing to enhanced healthy diets for children, youth, women and people of different ages		✓						
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								
<b>Third strategic objective: Institutionalize quality systems in all aspects of health services</b>								
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6. Hospitals offering maternity services are certified as baby-friendly hospitals		✓						
7. Maternity clinics are certified as baby-friendly clinics		✓						
8.								
<b>Fourth strategic objective: Promote and develop health workforce management system</b>								
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
<b>Fifth strategic objective: Strengthen health governance, including effective health sector management, laws and legislations development and enforcement, cross-sectoral coordination, ...</b>								
1.								
2.								
3.								
4. Adoption mandatory technical instructions regulating the marketing of foods containing saturated and hydrogenated fats and high sugar content are endorsed and effectively applied		✓						
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								
12.								
<b>Sixth strategic objective: Enhancing social cohesion</b>								
1.								
2.								
3.								

### Annex 3.B.6. Matching between SDG2 targets and the National Nutrition Policy, Strategies & Action Plan (NNPSAP)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food market & information
<b>Strategic objectives and outcomes</b>								
<b>First Priority: Identification of nutritional trends (nutritional surveillance) and underlying causes</b>								
1. Operationalize the National Nutrition Surveillance System at national level	✓	✓						
<b>Second Priority: Prevention and treatment of micronutrient deficiencies (micronutrient supplementation, food fortification and dietary diversification)</b>								
1. Implement food fortification policy and programs among population		✓						
2. Increase compliance with micronutrient supplementation among vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children up to 2 years, lactating mothers and schoolchildren		✓						
3. Promote nutrition dietary diversification through behavior change		✓						
<b>Third Priority: Prevention and treatment of obesity and dietary-related non-communicable diseases, enhancing the diet and physical activity program, reduction of carbohydrates, sugar, salt, fat, trans-fatty acids</b>								
1. Develop the national food-based dietary guidelines and physical activity guidelines		✓						
2. Application of "sport for all activities" in different settings								
3. Reduction of salt intake by 20% by 2018		✓						
4. Reduction of fat, trans-fatty acid intake by 10% by 2018		✓						
<b>Fourth Priority: Protection, promotion and support for exclusive breastfeeding (up to 6 months), appropriate, safely and timely complementary feeding of infants and diet diversity for children</b>								
1. Ensure universal exclusive breastfeeding (EB) up to 6 months of age and continue breastfeeding until 24 months		✓						
2. Introduce appropriate complementary feeding to infants at appropriate age		✓						
3. Implement the BFHI program in MOH MoH, UNRWA, NGOs and private hospitals								
4. Implementation of the National Regulation for Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes (NRMBS)								
5. Registration of all infant formulas, follow on formulas, infant and young child food and baby medical foods		✓						
6. Protect the breastfeeding during emergency		✓						
<b>Fifth Priority: Growth monitoring among children up to 5 years</b>								
1. Ensure effective growth monitoring system in all health care facilities								
2. Enhance the knowledge and practice of growth monitoring at all levels		✓						
<b>Sixth Priority: Food and nutrition services in hospitals</b>								
1. Create Food and Nutrition Services System (FNSS) in hospitals								
<b>Seventh Priority: Management of severe and moderate malnutrition through health facilities</b>								
1. Provide effective nutrition rehabilitation services at health facilities in Palestine								
<b>Eighth Priority: Prevention and identification of nutrition-related problems in schoolchildren</b>								
1. Develop and harmonize school nutrition guidelines and protocols		✓						
2. Raise nutrition awareness among schoolchildren and community		✓						
3. Identify schoolchildren who are at risk of malnutrition (poor growth, stunting, wasting, obesity and anaemia) according to standardized nutrition protocols								
4. Enhance targeted food fortification program to schoolchildren through expanding and improving school feeding program		✓						
5. Improve the nutritional value of food provided at school canteen		✓						
<b>Ninth Priority: Improvement and protection of food security</b>								
1. Monitor and mitigate nutrition-related outcomes of availability related food insecurity		✓	✓					
2. Monitor and mitigate nutrition-related outcomes of access related food insecurity	✓	✓						
<b>Tenth Priority: 10- Strengthen the registry system regard infant and follow on formula and addition of minerals and vitamins to food</b>								
1. ???								

### Annex 3.B.7. Matching between SDG2 targets and the National Strategy for Food Safety (NSFS)

SDG2 Targets	2.1 Hunger	2.2 Malnutrition	2.3 Agricultural productivity	2.4 Sustainable food prod.	2.5 Genetic diversity	2.a Investments	2.b Trade distortions	2.c Food market & information
<b>Strategic goals and sectoral results</b>								
<b>First strategic goal: to harmonise Palestinian legislation with national needs and international standards and frameworks relevant to food safety</b>								
1. Decision by cabinet to create Palestinian Council for Food Safety that is mandated with higher powers to control food safety.		✓						
2. Palestinian legislation on food safety that is in compliance with international standards, national interests and needs is enacted.		✓						
3. Supplementary legislation relevant to food safety is completed in harmony with the food safety law.		✓					✓	
<b>Second strategic goal: to improve performance of food safety control authorities within the framework of an effective food safety management system</b>								
1. A group of specialised employees with experience in food safety are recruited in accordance with an organisational structure.		✓						
2. Means, tools and logistics are provided to employees in monitoring authorities to fulfil their duties.		✓						
3. Good performance culture among food safety control authorities is promoted.		✓						
4. Employees in monitoring authorities adopt administrative best practices.		✓						
5. Laboratory capacities in Palestine are in harmony with the requirements of modern food monitoring.		✓						
6. Knowledge, communication and monitoring systems are institutionalised and developed to support and promote food safety control services.		✓						
7. Food safety standards are adopted in harmony with international standards.		✓					✓	
<b>Third strategic goal: promote control over the food chain (from the farm to the table) within the framework of national legislation</b>								
1. Programmes and interventions of food safety monitoring authorities are amended in harmony with the guidelines of the Palestinian Council for Food Safety.		✓						
2. Food safety policies are founded on a scientific basis and on the farm to table methodology for all national and imported products.		✓						
3. Food inspectors acquire necessary expertise, legal authority, scientific knowledge and capacity for auditing.		✓						
4. Food inspectors work within a framework of clear and risk analysis-based inspection procedures.		✓						
5. Food industry sector is familiar with the requirements of food safety laws, regulations and standards.		✓						
6. Palestinian citizens are aware of their role in promoting food safety and public health.		✓						
<b>Fourth strategic goal: to enable food safety regulators to utilise optimal means and scientific guides in risk management relevant to food safety</b>								
1. Food safety monitoring authorities and ministries utilise risk assessments effectively and efficiently.		✓						
2. Risk management decisions are transparent and obligatory on all stakeholders of the food sector.		✓						
<b>Fifth strategic goal: to promote work in accordance with international standards relevant to food safety and coordinate and cooperate with relevant international organisations</b>								
1. Specialised bodies in food safety work on the achievement of the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in all domains relevant to food safety and quality.		✓						
2. Effective contribution to setting goals and formulating policies on the regional level relevant to food safety		✓						
3. Bilateral and multilateral relations with regional and Arab organisations to promote knowledge and exchange of experience for Palestinian cadre		✓						

## Annex 4 – Results Framework

Results	Responsibility	Indicator	Meaning/ rationale	Baseline	Year	Target 2022	Target 2030	Frequency (Years)	Means of verification	Source of Verification	Comments
1- Ending Hunger		2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment									
		SDG2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)									
	1.1. Livelihood enhanced through social protection	1.1.1 Number of households receiving benefit from the MoSD's social assistance (by category of HH and gender HH-headship)	# Household	110,000 Female: 42% Male: 58%	2017	100,000 Female: 40% Male: 60%	80,000 Female: 40% Male: 60%	Yearly	Database of beneficiary HHs	MoSD	This only captures a purely quantitative dimension. The inclusion of an indicator capturing the quality dimension of social security is warmly recommended
	1.2. Marginalized people empowered and equality of opportunities ensured	1.2.1 Proportion of marginal HH assisted by the MoSD through the DEEP Program on total registered vulnerable HHs (by category of marginal HH and gender HH-headship)	# Supported HH out of Applicant HHs	Tot: 24% (2,422 out of 10,000 HHs) Women: 30% Disabled: 45%	2017	Tot: 20% (2,000 out of 11,000 HHs) Male 42% Female: 58% Disabled: 45%	Tot: 15% (2,000 out of 13,000 HHs) Male 42% Female: 58% Disabled: 45%	Yearly	DEEP Files	MOSD/ UNDP	
	1.3. Resilience to man-made and natural risks enhanced	1.3.1 Proportion of HH compensated by the MoSD on HH applying for a compensation	Percentage	92% (2,400 out of 2,600)	2017	92% (3,000 HHs)	92% (4,000 HHs)	Yearly	Database of beneficiary HHs	MoSD	
		1.3.2. Average time between HH application for compensation and compensation given to HH	Number of days	270	2017	50	30	Yearly	Database of beneficiary HHs	MoSD	
		1.3.3 Number of farmers served by PADRRIF per year	Number/year	2,000	2018	4,000	5,000	Yearly	PADRRIF annual reports	PADRRIF	Same as indicator 3.1.5
		1.3.4. Average time between farmer's application for compensation and compensation given to farmer	Number of days	300	2018	70	30	Yearly	Database of beneficiary HHs	MoSD	Out of 4000 applicants since 2015, less than half were paid. The other farmers are still waiting
2- Ending any form of malnutrition	MoH	SDG2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age									
	MoH	SDG2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)									
2.1. Programs promoting nutrition effectively implemented	MoH & MoEHE	2.1.1 Proportion of micronutrient deficiency in the relevant population of vulnerable groups or micronutrient category	Percentage	<b>Pregnant women:</b> Vitamin A: 54.8% Vitamin B12: 62.8% Vitamin D: 99.3% Vitamin E: 21.6% Iron: 17.1% Zinc: 71.1% <b>Lactating women:</b> Vitamin A: 13.7% Vitamin B12: 20.6% Vitamin D: 98.7% Vitamin E: 44.1% Iron: 11.2% Zinc: 90.7% <b>Children:</b> Vitamin A: 57.9% Vitamin B12: 10.9% Vitamin D: 60.1% Vitamin E: 64.3% Iron: 20.9% Zinc: 56.6% <b>Adolescents (15-18 Y)</b> Vitamin A: M: 42.6% F: 57.1 Vitamin B12: M: 28.8% F: 25.1 Vitamin D: M: 47 F: 88 Vitamin E: M: 51.9 F: 97.2 Iron: M: 21.9% F: 23.6 Zinc: M: 72.9% F: 83.6	2013	<b>Pregnant women:</b> Vitamin A: 39.8% Vitamin B12: 47.8% Vitamin D: 94.3% Vitamin E: 6.6% Iron: 2.1% Zinc: 66.1% <b>Lactating women:</b> Vitamin A: 13.7% Vitamin B12: 0.6% Vitamin D: 83.7% Vitamin E: 29.1% Iron: 0% Zinc: 75.7% <b>Children:</b> Vitamin A: 57.9% Vitamin B12: 0% Vitamin D: 45.1% Vitamin E: 49.3% Iron: 5.9% Zinc: 40.6% <b>Adolescents (15-18 Y)</b> Vitamin A: M: 38% F: 51 Vitamin B12: M: 27% F: 23 Vitamin D: M: 47 F: 88 Vitamin E: M: 65 F: 53% Iron: M: 20% F: 21 Zinc: M: 65% F: 75	<b>Pregnant women:</b> Vitamin A: 14.8% Vitamin B12: 22.8% Vitamin D: 59.3% Vitamin E: 0% Iron: 0% Zinc: 0% <b>Lactating women:</b> Vitamin A: 0% Vitamin B12: 0% Vitamin D: 58.7% Vitamin E: 4.1% Iron: 0% Zinc: 50.7% <b>Children:</b> Vitamin A: 32.9% Vitamin B12: 0% Vitamin D: 20.1% Vitamin E: 24.3% Iron: 0% Zinc: 15.6% <b>Adolescents (15-18 Y)</b> Vitamin A: M: 38% F: 51% Vitamin B12: M: 27% F: 22 Vitamin D: M: 46 F: 87% Vitamin E: M: 65 F: 52% Iron: M: 20% F: 21 Zinc: M: 65% F: 74%	Ad hoc survey	MoH-UNICEF, Palestine Micronutrient Survey	MoH	Survey to be conducted every 5 years
	MoH	2.1.2 Exclusive breastfeeding rate	Percentage	38,6%	2014	55,0%	80,0%	Yearly	National nutrition Surveillance System (NNSS) Report/ PCBS's MICS Report	MoH/ PCBS	PCBS's MICS Report is issued once every 4 years. In Future will be issued by (NNSS) yearly

Results	Responsibility	Indicator	Meaning/ rationale	Baseline	Year	Target 2022	Target 2030	Frequency (Years)	Means of verification	Source of Verification	Comments
2.2. Food safety ensured along all food supply chains	MoH/MoNE/MoA	2.2.1 Proportion of food samples matching standards on total tests per Ministry	Percentage	MoNE: 73% MoH: 88% MoA: 25%	2017	MoNE: 77% MoH: 90% MoA: 30%	MoNE: 82% MoH: 90% MoA: 50%	Yearly	Ministries' Reports	MoH/MoNE/MoA	MoNE and MoH for any food, MoA only for animal foodstuff (veterinary tests) MoA rate includes samples uninfected animals
2.3. Nutrition education and awareness enhanced	MoH/MoEHE/ MoA/EQA	2.3.1 Number of Environmental Clubs (EC) established at school & community levels	Number	3000 (circa)	2018	3150	3450	Yearly	EQA annual report	MoEHE/EQA	EC are for environmental and nutrition awareness at school level.
	MoEHE/MoH	2.3.2 Number of conducted awareness raising campaigns and education activity about healthy diet, physical activity for school children and teams per year	Number/year	MoH: 10,000 MoEHE: 15,000	2017	MoH: 15,000 MoEHE: 17,000	MoH: 20,000 MoEHE: 20,000	Yearly	MoH Annual Report MoEHE annual report/ School Health Report	MoH/ MoEHE	<b>Campaign:</b> activities implemented in mostly several geographic area during several days/ weeks <b>Activity:</b> smaller in size, duration, location, and target group <b>School children and teams.</b> School children are the students. The school teams are the teachers, educationalists and other operating staff.
3 - Increasing agricultural productivity and incomes		SDG2.3.1 Volume of production per labor unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size									
		SDG2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status									
3.1. Access to agricultural productive resources and services improved	MoA	3.1.1 Number of cisterns and dams built by the Government per year	# cisterns/dams	Cisterns: 1,115 Dams: 3	2015-2017	Cisterns: 1,500 Dams: 4	Cisterns: 2,000 Dams: 7	Yearly	MoA annual reports	MoA and other partners	
	MoA	3.1.2 Amount of seedlings/ seeds distributed to farmers by the Government per year	Seedling	600,000	2017	1,000,000	1,500,000	Yearly	MoA annual reports	MoA	MoA only
	MoA	3.1.3 Amount of agricultural roads built by the Government per year	Km/year	200 km/year	2015-2017	300 km/ year	300 km/year	Yearly	MoA annual reports	MoA and other partners	Baseline and targets need to be checked
	PACI	3.1.4 Number of farmers served by PACI per year	Number/year	0	2018	4,000	6,000	Yearly	PACI annual reports	PACI	PACI's expected targets for 2022 & 2030 are not official
	PADRRIF	1.3.3 Number of farmers served by PADRRIF per year	Number/year	2,000	2018	4,000	5,000	Yearly	PADRRIF annual reports	PADRRIF	Same as indicator 1.3.3
	MoA	3.1.3 Satisfaction of farmers about the services provided by different actors	Percentage	NA	2017	50%	70%	Every 3 years	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	MoA	Include this indicator upon implementation of a specific rapid appraisal assessment by MoA to be administer every 3 years
3.2. Smallholders participation in domestic and international markets enhanced	MoA/MoNE	3.2.1 Proportion of small farmers having access to wholesale markets by regions	Percentage	90%	2017	100%	100%	Every 3 years	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	MoA	Include this indicator upon implementation of a specific rapid appraisal assessment by MoA to be administer every 3 years
	MoA/MoNE	3.2.2 Proportion of small farmers exporting on international markets (e.g. through cooperative/consortia/ associations)	Percentage					Every 3 years	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	MoA	Include this indicator upon implementation of a specific rapid appraisal assessment by MoA to be administer every 3 years
3.3. Producers' knowledge and capacities developed	MoA	3.3.1 Number of farmers trained on new techniques per year	Farmers/year	1,340	2017	2,000	2,200	Yearly	Field Report	MoA- Extension Dept	
		3.3.2 Number of demonstrations arranged and implemented for farmers on new agricultural techniques per year	Number/year	115	2017	150	200	Yearly	Result Report	MoA M&E	This indicator captures more or less the same information of indicator 3.3.1: consider to drop it
4 - Ensuring sustainable food production systems		SDG2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture									
4.1. Access to and management of land and water resources enhanced	MoA/EQA/PWA	4.1.1 Total agricultural irrigated area	Donum	228,000 Gaza: 60% West Bank: 40%	2017	360,000 Gaza: 60% West Bank: 40%	500,000 Gaza: 60% West Bank: 40%	Yearly	PWA Files	PWA	
	MoA/EQA/PWA	4.1.2 Amount of water used to irrigate one unit of agricultural land	m3/donum/year	918	2010	730	730	Yearly	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	PWA	Rapid appraisal survey conducted by MoA/PWA every three years.
		4.1.3 Reclaimed or rehabilitated land areas that became suitable for agricultural use	Donum	120,000	2017	135,000	170,000	Yearly	Achievement Report	MoA- Land Development Dept	



Results	Responsibility	Indicator	Meaning/ rationale	Baseline	Year	Target 2022	Target 2030	Frequency (Years)	Means of verification	Source of Verification	Comments
4.2. Food loss and waste reduced and use of renewable energy resources promoted	MoA/FAO	4.2.1. Average food loss and waste in the tomato and cucumber supply chains per value chain stage and total	Percentage	<b>Tomato:</b> Farmers: 11% Wholesaler: 1% Middlemen: 0% Retailers: 10%  <b>Cucumber:</b> Farmers: 11% Wholesaler: 1% Middlemen: 0% Retailers: 10%	2017	<b>Tomato:</b> Farmers: 10% Wholesaler: 1% Middlemen: 0% Retailers: 10% Consumers: ... %  <b>Cucumber:</b> Farmers: 10% Wholesaler: 1% Middlemen: 0% Retailers: 10% Consumers: ... %	<b>Tomato:</b> Farmers: 9% Wholesaler: 1% Middlemen: 0% Retailers: 9% Consumers: ... %  <b>Cucumber:</b> Farmers: 10% Wholesaler: 1% Middlemen: 0% Retailers: 10% Consumers: ... %	Every 3 years	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	MoA/FAO	Rapid appraisal survey conducted adopting the FAO methodology every three years. Baseline based on a Pilot study on Tulkerem supply chain estimating only food loss (Bencivenni 2017)
	MoA/EQA	4.2.2. Proportion of farms using renewable energy resources	Percentage	WB: 0.06 % Gaza: 0 %	2013	WB: 10 % Gaza: NA	WB: 20 % Gaza: NA	Every 3 years	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	MoA/EQA	Rapid appraisal survey conducted by MoA/EQA every three years. Same as indicator 4.3.2
4.3. Climate change challenges addressed and farming systems adapted	MoA/EQA/PWA	4.3.1 Percentage of treated wastewater (TSE) over Effluent (SE) used by agriculture	Percentage	Gaza: 5,000 West Bank: 8,000	2017	Gaza 24,700 West Bank: 52,300	NA	Yearly	PWA Files	PWA	
	MoA/EQA/PWA	4.3.2. Proportion of farms using renewable energy resources	Percentage	WB: 0.06 % Gaza: 0 %	2013	WB: 10 % Gaza: NA	WB: 20 % Gaza: NA	Every 3 years	Ad hoc rapid appraisal	MoA/EQA	Rapid appraisal survey conducted by MoA/EQA every three years. Same as indicator 4.2.2
	MoA	4.3.3 Number of early warning reports issued to farmers per year	Number/year	21	2017	25	25	Yearly	Early warning reports	MoA	
5 - Maintaining agrobiodiversity		SDG5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities									
		SDG5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction									
5.1. Agrobiodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection mainstreamed	UWAC BFGS HLSS	5.1.1 Number of plant and animal local accessions conserved in the UAWC gene bank	Kilogram (KG) of Seeds	UAWC: 3,065 BFGS: 300, HLSS: 616	2018	UAWC: 4,825 BFGS: 500, HLSS: 620	NA	Yearly	UAWC reports	UWAC	To be included as soon as the gene bank will be operational
	BFGS UWAC HLSS	5.1.2 Number of farmers involved in participatory breeding programs	Number	BFGS: 100 UAWC: 370 HLSS: 25	2018	BFGS: 150 UAWC: 1500 HLSS: 30	NA	Yearly	Their reports	BFGS UWAC HLSS	
	PNARC	5.1.3 Number of plant and animal local accessions conserved in the PNARC gene bank	KG of Seeds # Semen	Plant: 1,700 Animal: 500	2018	Plant: 2,000 Animal: 700	Plant: 2,200 Animal: 900	Yearly	PNARC Database	PNARC	
6 - Creating an enabling environment for FNS		SDG2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures									
		SDG2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector									
		SDG2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies									
		Endorsement of the NFNSP and its National Investment Plan									
		Resource gap for implementing the NFNSP-NIP (percent on total resource requirement)									
6.1. Agrifood innovation system strengthened	MoA	6.1.1 Number of patented new plant varieties and breeds	Number	0	2017	NA	NA	Every 5 years	Ad hoc study	MoA	Study conducted by MoA at the end of every planning period (every five years).
	MoA/MoNE	6.1.2. Number of collective labelling for agri-food products established	Number	31	2017	41	NA	Every 5 years	Ad hoc study	MoA/MoNE	
	MoA/MoNE	6.1.3. Number of agreements signed by actors (e.g. farmers, processors, distributors) within the agri-food value chains	Number	NA	2017			Every 5 years	Ad hoc study	MoA/MoNE	
6.2. Public investment oriented to FNS increased	MoA	6.2.1 Resource gap in implementing the NIP	Percentage		2018			Yearly	NIP report	MoA	To be populated as soon as the NIP for FNS will be endorsed
6.3. Adequate human and financial resources allocated to FNS	MoA/MoH/MoSD	6.3.1 Annual budget of donor-financed programs/projects in MoA, MoH and MoSD	US Dollars/year	MoA: 17,000,000 MoH: 1,000,000 MoSD: 5,460,000	2017	MoA: 25,000,000 MoH: 3,000,000 MoSD: 8,000,000	MoA: 30,000,000 MoH: 5,000,000 MoSD: 10,000,000	Yearly	Program/project reports	MoA/MoH/ MoSD	Given the difficulties in enucleating FNS-oriented budgets in the relevant ministries, this is the best proxy to it
6.4. Policy dialogue and coordination on FNS matters enhanced	PMO	6.4.1 FNS High Level Council established and working	Y/N	No	2018	Yes	Yes	Once	Cabinet decision	PMO	
	PMO/MoA/FSS	6.4.2 Number of FNS High Level Council, SDG2-WG and FSS meetings per year	Number	FNS-HLC: 4 SDG2-WG: 48 FSS: 8	2018	FNS-HLC: 4 SDG2-WG: 12 FSS: 10	FNS-HLC: 4 SDG2-WG: 12 FSS: 12	Yearly	Meeting minutes	MoA/FSS	Baseline year: 2017 for FSS, 2018 for SDG2-WG, and, as soon as the FNS-HLC will be established
6.5. FNS legal and institutional framework strengthened	MoA	6.5.1 Endorsement of the NFNSP	Y/N	No	2017	Yes	Yes	Once	NFNSP approved by Cabinet	Ministry of Justice	
	MoA	6.5.1 Implementation of the National Investment Plan	Y/N	No	2017	Yes	Yes	Once	NIP regularly implemented	MoA	

