



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Belgium join hands to support livestock-keeping households in the Gaza Strip

The escalation of hostilities in Israel and Palestine is drastically affecting all dimensions of food security. Even before the escalation, close to 60 percent of households in Gaza were considered food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Agricultural and agrifood activities in Gaza have largely collapsed since the onset of the ongoing hostilities and the interruption of water, food and fuel supply. In the current conditions, FAO considers all the civilian population in Gaza to be food insecure.

Livestock assets, such as small ruminants, are among the few remaining sources of sustenance. Nevertheless, the lack of critical production inputs, notably animal fodder, is forcing livestock-keeping households to adopt adverse coping strategies, including the premature slaughter of livestock. In this context, it is imperative to protect the remaining livestock capital of the most vulnerable households to enable them to reduce losses in their livelihoods and continue to feed their communities.

Moreover, the protection of livestock capital may contribute to mitigating the risk of zoonotic diseases (due to high numbers of animal carcasses).

Through SFERA, the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium contributed USD 850 000 to FAO to distribute animal fodder to 2 000 livestock-keeping households (11 000 people), who collectively own approximately 30 000 small ruminants. Once access allows, the distribution will target smallholders in the southern governorates of Gaza, in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture as well as local non-governmental organizations.

Contact

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org
fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

Office for the Coordination of the
West Bank and Gaza Strip Programme
FAO-PAL@fao.org
Jerusalem

