



# Gaza Analysis Update

Week 1: Pre-war context

November 3, 2023

# Outline

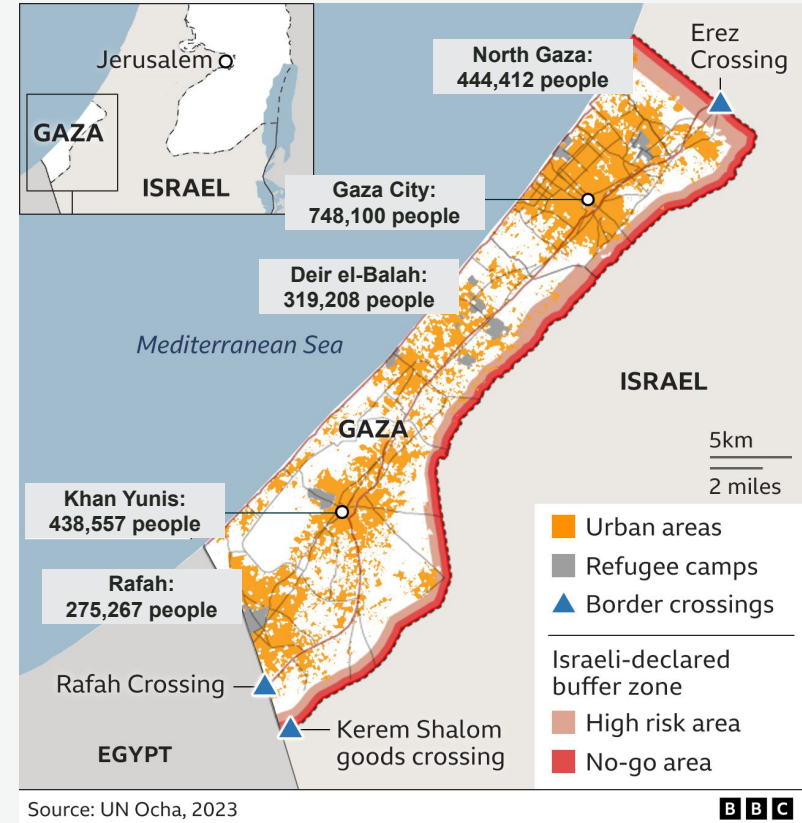
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- Demographics
- Food security context
- Key food and income sources
- Pre-war levels of food assistance
- Food security outcomes in 2022



# Demographics

- **Total Population:** 2.23 million people, including 1.7 million registered Palestinian refugees
  - Most refugees are from central and southern areas of pre-1948 Palestine and have resided in Gaza since shortly after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war
  - Refugees live in both urban and semi-rural areas, inside and outside camps. The camps are part of the overall urban area and the people have integrated with the overall urban population, making it difficult to differentiate the two.
- Share of population that is **urban**: 77%
- Share of population that is **semi-rural**: 23%
- Share of population **under 18**: [47%](#)
- Average **household size**: 5.5 ([PCBS, 2022](#))
- **Poverty level**: [53% to 59%](#) of Gaza residents live below the poverty line

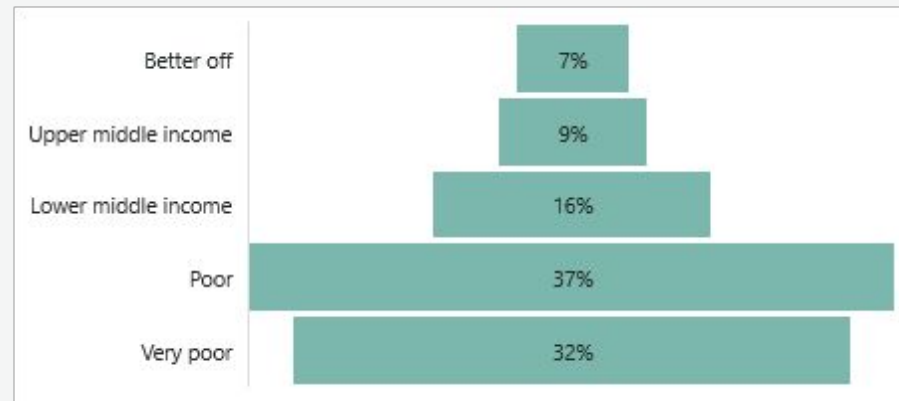
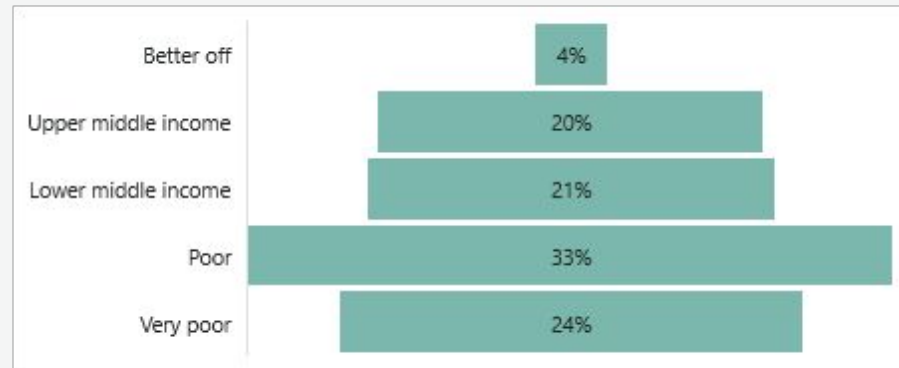


Source: BBC & UN OCHA (2023), Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2022)

# Demographics

## Wealth group distribution in Greater Gaza Urban (top) and Gaza Semi-Agriculture (bottom)

Zone	Governorate/Locality
Greater Gaza Urban Livelihood Zone <sup>7</sup>	<b>North Gaza:</b> Beit Lahyia, Jabaliya <b>Gaza:</b> Zaytoun, Tufah, Shate Camp <b>Middle:</b> Al Nuseirat Camp, Deir al Balah <b>Khan Yunis:</b> Al Amal, Balad <b>Rafah:</b> Balad, Suwaydiya, Saboura, Garbiye, Jenina, Shokat
Gaza Semi-Agriculture Zone	<b>North Gaza:</b> Beit Hanoun <b>Gaza:</b> Al Mughraqa <b>Middle:</b> Az Zawayda, Al Musaddar, Wadi as Salqa <b>Khan Yunis:</b> Al Qarara, Al Fukhkari, Kuz'za



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)



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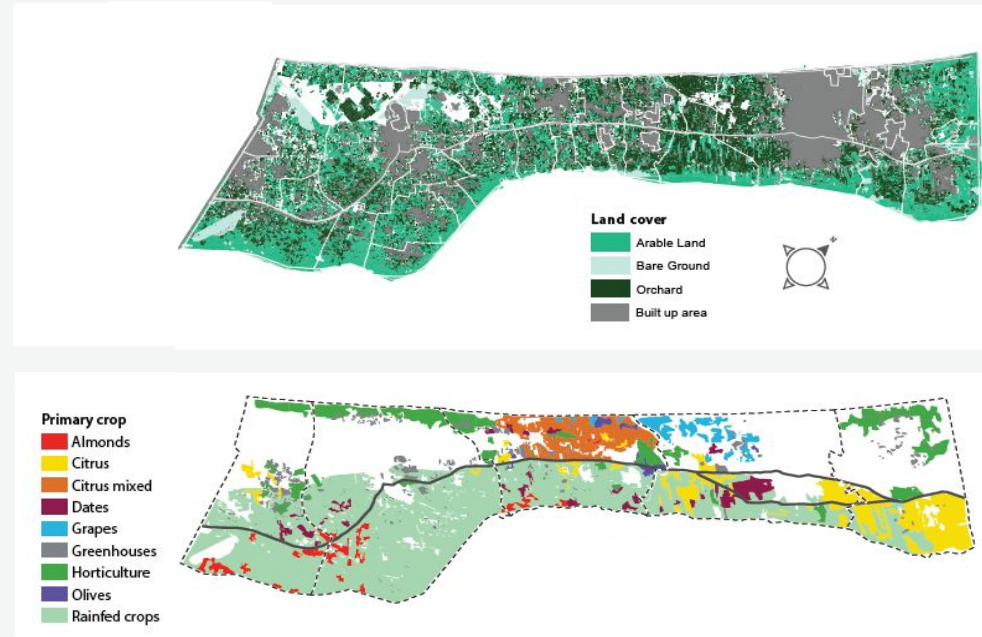


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# Food security context

- Since **2007**, when Hamas came into power, Israel has implemented a 16-year land, air, and sea blockade of Gaza
  - Only about 17,000 Gaza residents have permits to work in Israel
  - Formal trade of food, fuel, and medical supplies first pass through Israel to enter Gaza
  - Egypt also tightly controls the southern Rafah border, with limited access permitted to Palestinians
- 42% of Gaza's land is **arable land suitable for agriculture**, but over a third of farmland is inaccessible in the Israeli "no-go zones" along the northern and eastern borders
  - The destruction of Gaza's only power generation plant and main sewage treatment plant in 2008 and 2018 further hinder agricultural production
- **Fishing** is also restricted by the blockade, with only 15 nautical miles of sea access permitted in central and southern Gaza and 6 nautical miles in northern Gaza
- A **tunnel economy** facilitates high levels of illicit trade, including food, clothes, electronic items, fuel, and construction materials
- Livelihood hazards:
  - Recurrent **conflict** decreases access to market, disrupts commodity flows into Gaza, hinders access to cash
  - Staple food **price** shocks

## Map of land cover (top) and location of primary crops (bottom)



Source: UNHABITAT (2014) using data from ECHO and UNRWA



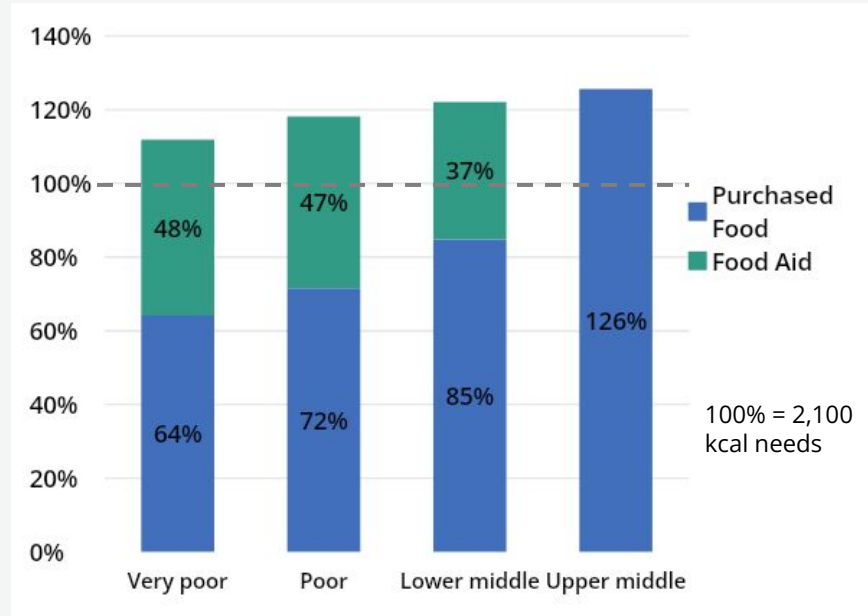
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# Key food and income sources: *urban*

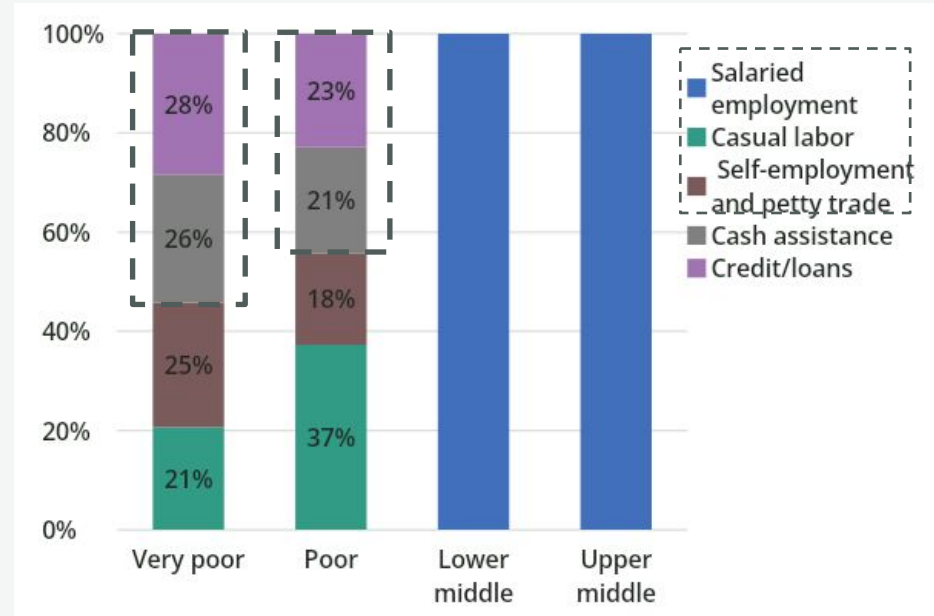
## Key sources of **food** shown by share of a household's minimum kilocalorie needs



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

## Key sources of **income** shown by % of total

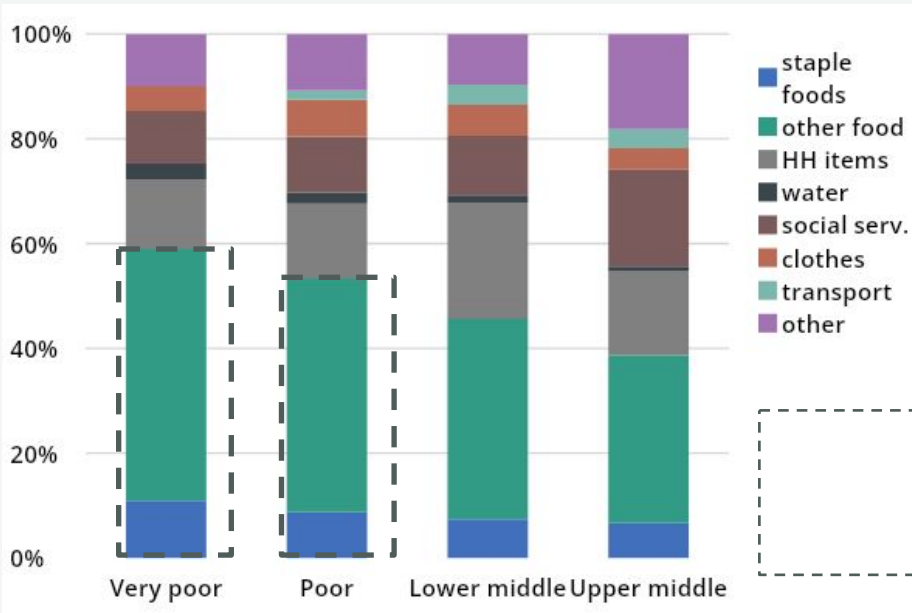
given the diverse income sources of households in the same wealth group in urban areas, the variations in the graph should be seen as indicative patterns of income



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

# Key food and income sources: *urban*

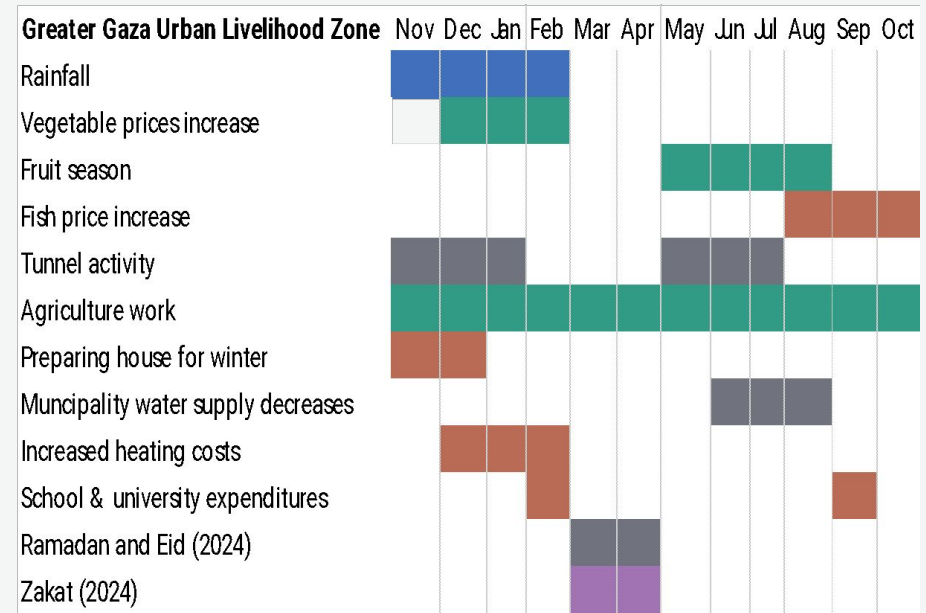
## Expenditure patterns shown by share of total household spending



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

## Seasonal calendar in a typical year

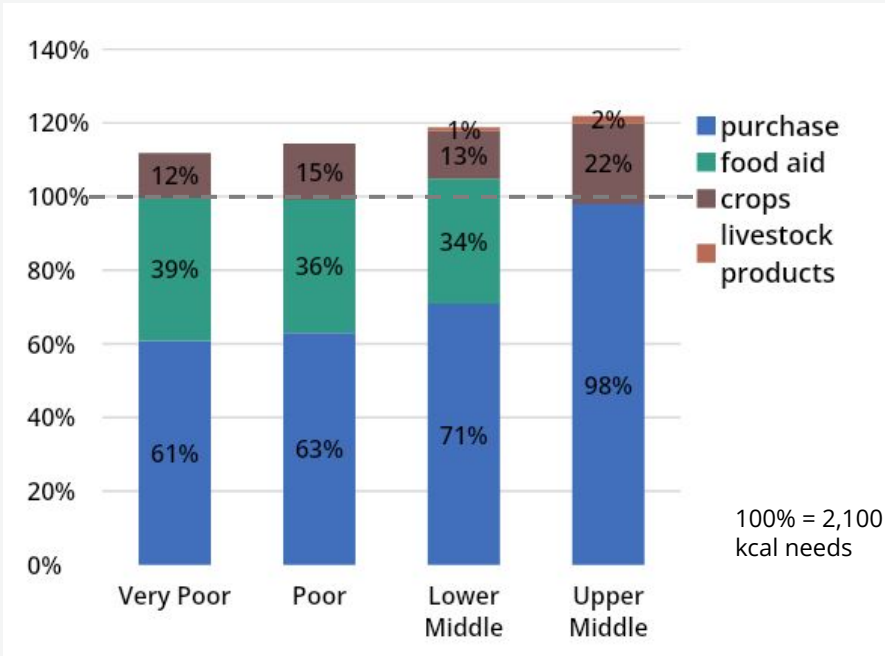
Months of Ramadan & Eid update for 2024



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

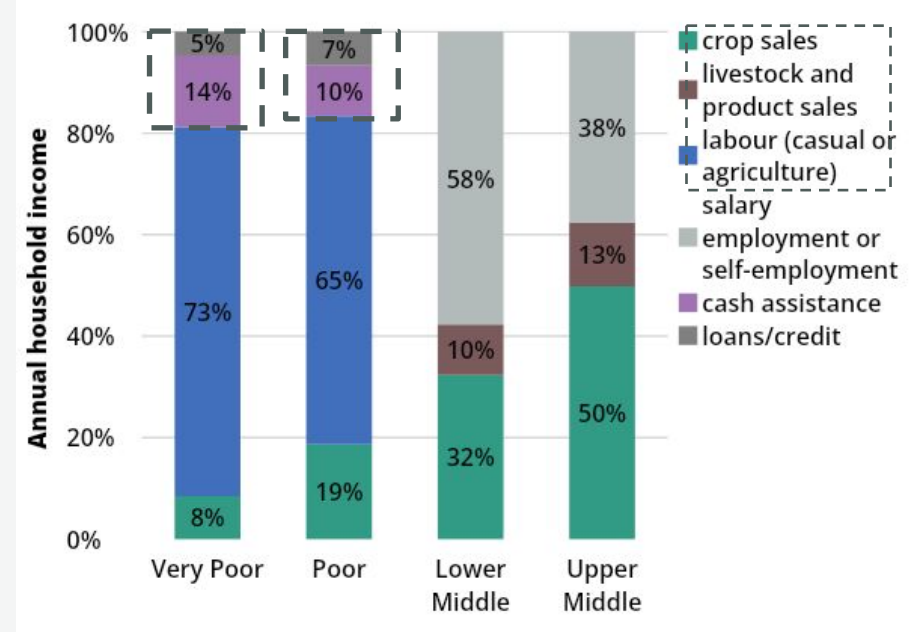
# Key food and income sources: *rural*

Key sources of **food** shown by share of a household's minimum kilocalorie needs



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

Key sources of **income** shown by share of a household's total income

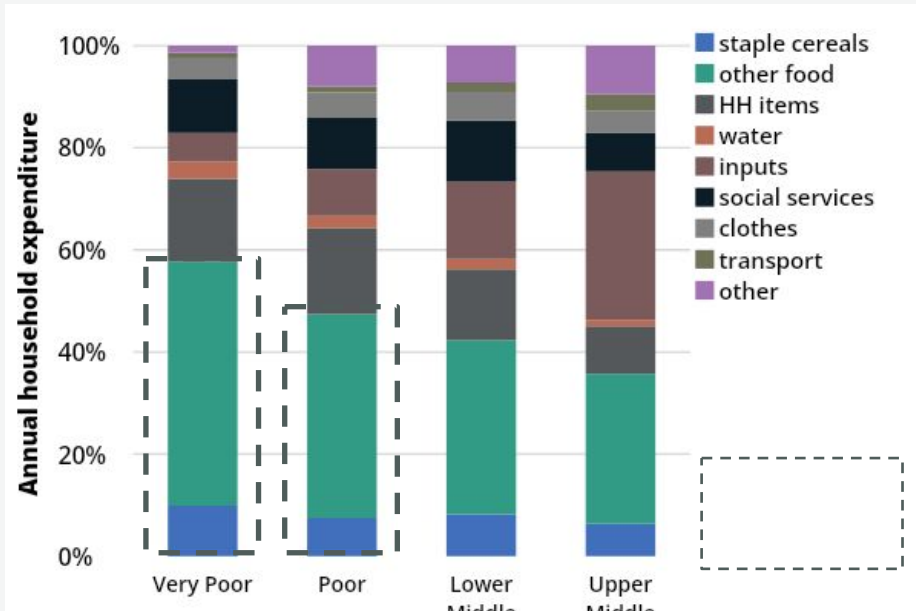


Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)



# Key food and income sources: *rural*

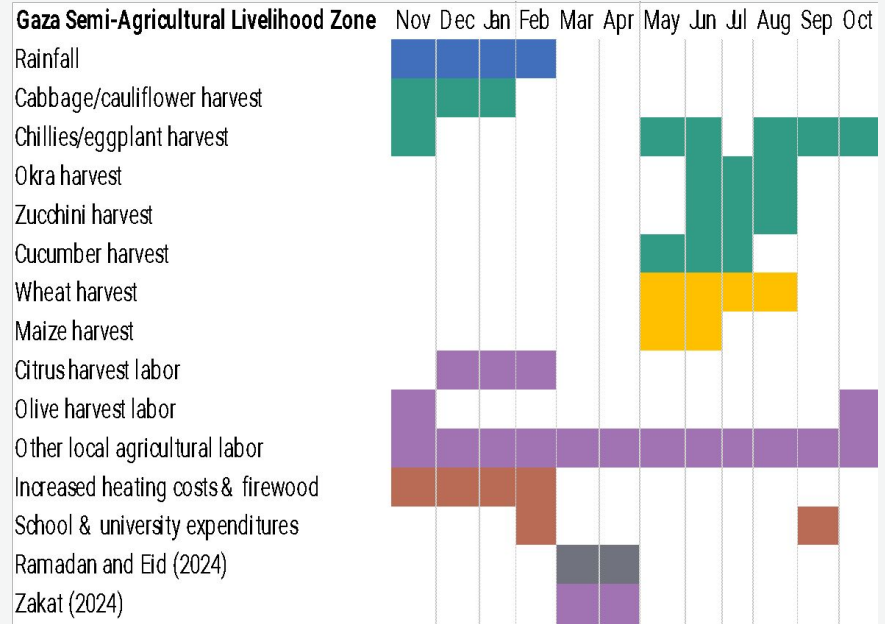
Expenditure patterns shown by share of total household spending



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

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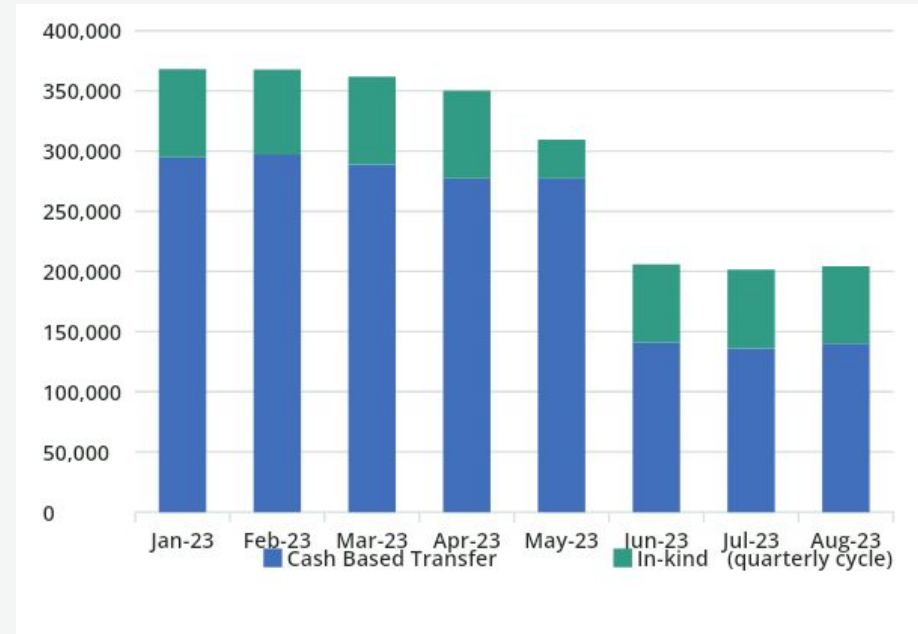


Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

# Pre-war levels of food assistance

- Information on humanitarian food assistance appears to be limited to WFP's monthly reporting on total beneficiaries reached per month
  - Disaggregated data for Gaza vs. West Bank unavailable
  - **10%** of population **received HFA** in Jun-Aug 2023
  - **80%** received **cash-based transfers**
  - **20%** received **in-kind food assistance**
  - The reach of assistance, both in terms of # beneficiaries and ration size, was declining prior to October due to inadequate funding
- UNRWA also provided food assistance to over 1.0 million Palestinian refugees, or **~75% of the refugee population**
  - Eligibility for is determined by a poverty assessment survey conducted through home visits by social workers
  - Around 620,310 refugees assessed to live below the abject poverty line of \$1.74 pp/day and received a quarterly ration of 1,675 kcal pp/day (80% of minimum caloric needs)
  - Around 389,680 refugees assessed to live between the abject poverty line and the absolute poverty line of \$3.87 pp/day received 907 kcal pp/day (43% of minimum caloric needs)

## Number of people reached with WFP food assistance in Gaza and the West Bank in 2023



Source: WFP monthly country briefs



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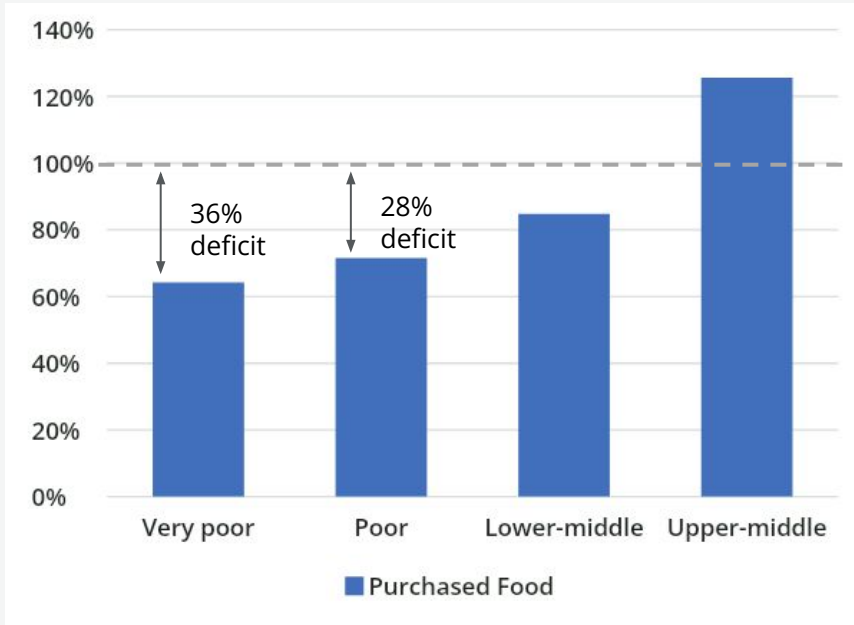


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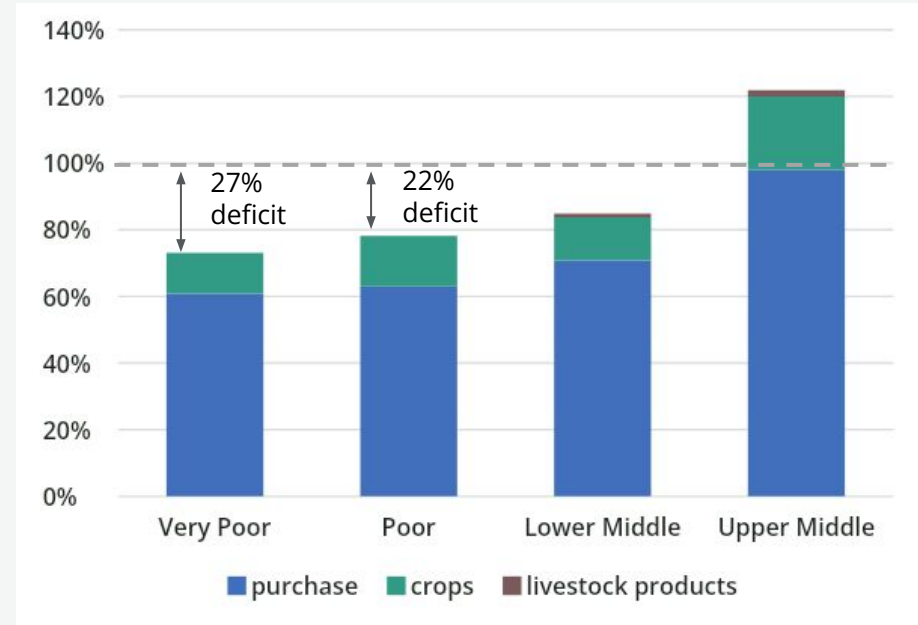
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# Pre-war levels of food assistance

Annual food consumption deficit among urban households when food aid is subtracted



Annual food consumption deficit among rural households when food aid is subtracted



Source: HEA Livelihood Baseline Report, Oxfam and FEG (2013)

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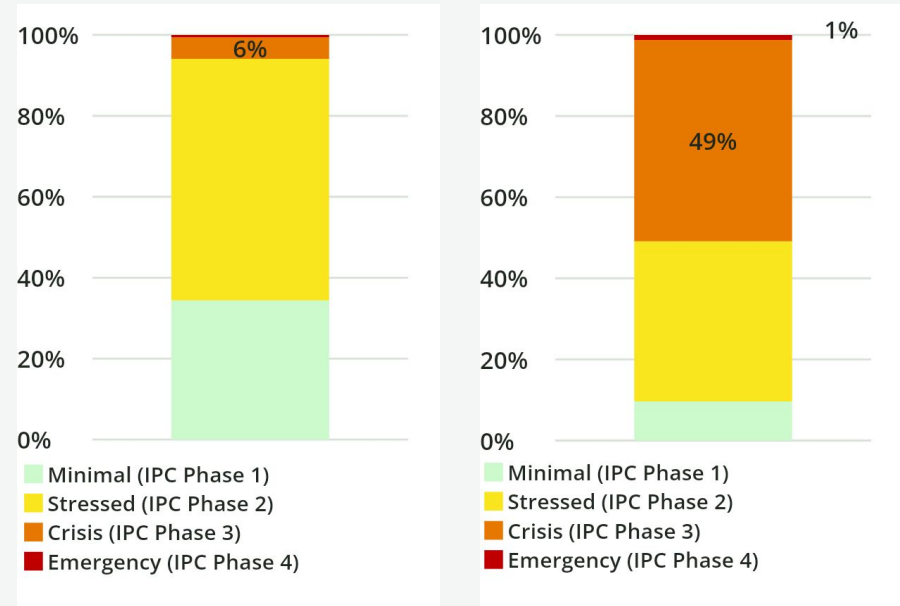
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# Pre-war levels of acute food insecurity

## Multisector needs assessment

- [Household survey conducted by REACH](#) in May-July 2022
  - 4,152 household interviews covering all 25 localities of Gaza & 8 refugee camps
- FEWS NET's analysis of the household survey data suggests **50%** of the population was in need of food assistance
- Key takeaways:
  - **55%** of household spending (in cash or credit) was reportedly dedicated to **food** in the 30 days prior to data collection
  - **6%** of households were experiencing a food consumption deficit based on convergence of the Food Consumption Score, Household Hunger Score, and reduced Coping Strategies Index indicators
  - **90%** of households reported employing **at least one coping mechanism** in order to access food in the 30 days prior to data collection due to a lack of food or money to buy it
  - The low share of households with food consumption deficits is likely due to a combination of HFA and

## FEWS NET's [matrix analysis](#) converging food consumption and livelihoods coping data



Source: FEWS NET analysis of [REACH Multisector Needs Assessment data](#)

# Agenda for upcoming briefings

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- **Week 1:** Summary of pre-war context
- **Week 2:** Current food security conditions
- **Week 3:** Scenario parameters

