



# Socio-Economic Food Security Survey 2018 Preliminary Results

PCBS Ramallah, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## Presentation layout

- **What is new this round**
- **Food insecurity at national and WB-GS levels**
- **Food insecurity categories in GS**
- **Food insecurity by refugee status**
- **Food insecurity by location**
- **Food insecurity % changes by categories in GS**
- **Food insecurity comparison by categories**

# What's new – Improved Resilience analysis component

**POVERTY  
through ASSETS**

**FOOD  
DEPRIVATION**

**RESILIENCE  
RIMA II**

- Resilience Analysis has been improved: RIMA II is the current methodology. This method improves the depth and breath of dynamic (over time) analyses of the drivers of food insecurity.
- Compared to the previous version, it now provides a better estimate of the impact of shocks on resilience capacity.
- This also enables monitoring the evolution of HHs resilience, and their characteristics related to their food security status.

# Food Insecurity in Palestine, West Bank and Gaza Strip

changes  
2014→2018

% of food insecure households

Palestine

32.7

30.8

35.2

6.2%

West Bank

11.6

15.0

18.6

22.2%

Gaza Strip

68.5

59.1

61.0

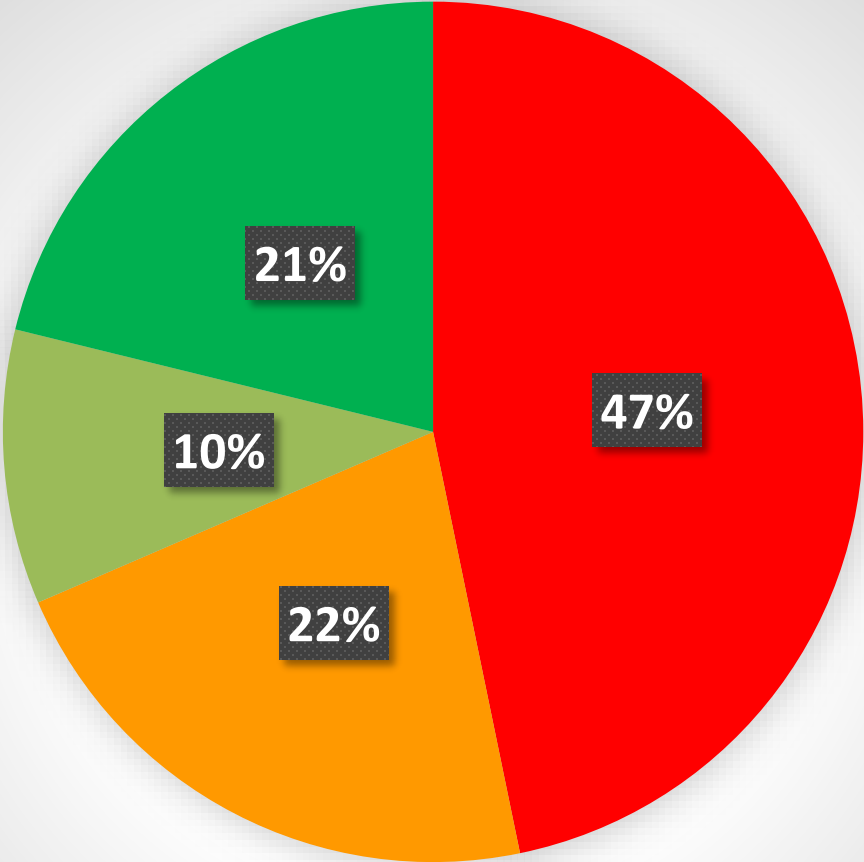
15.8%

2018

2014

2013

# Household food insecurity by severity, Gaza Strip 2018



- Severely Food Insecure
- Moderately Food Insecure
- Marginally Food Secure
- Food Secure

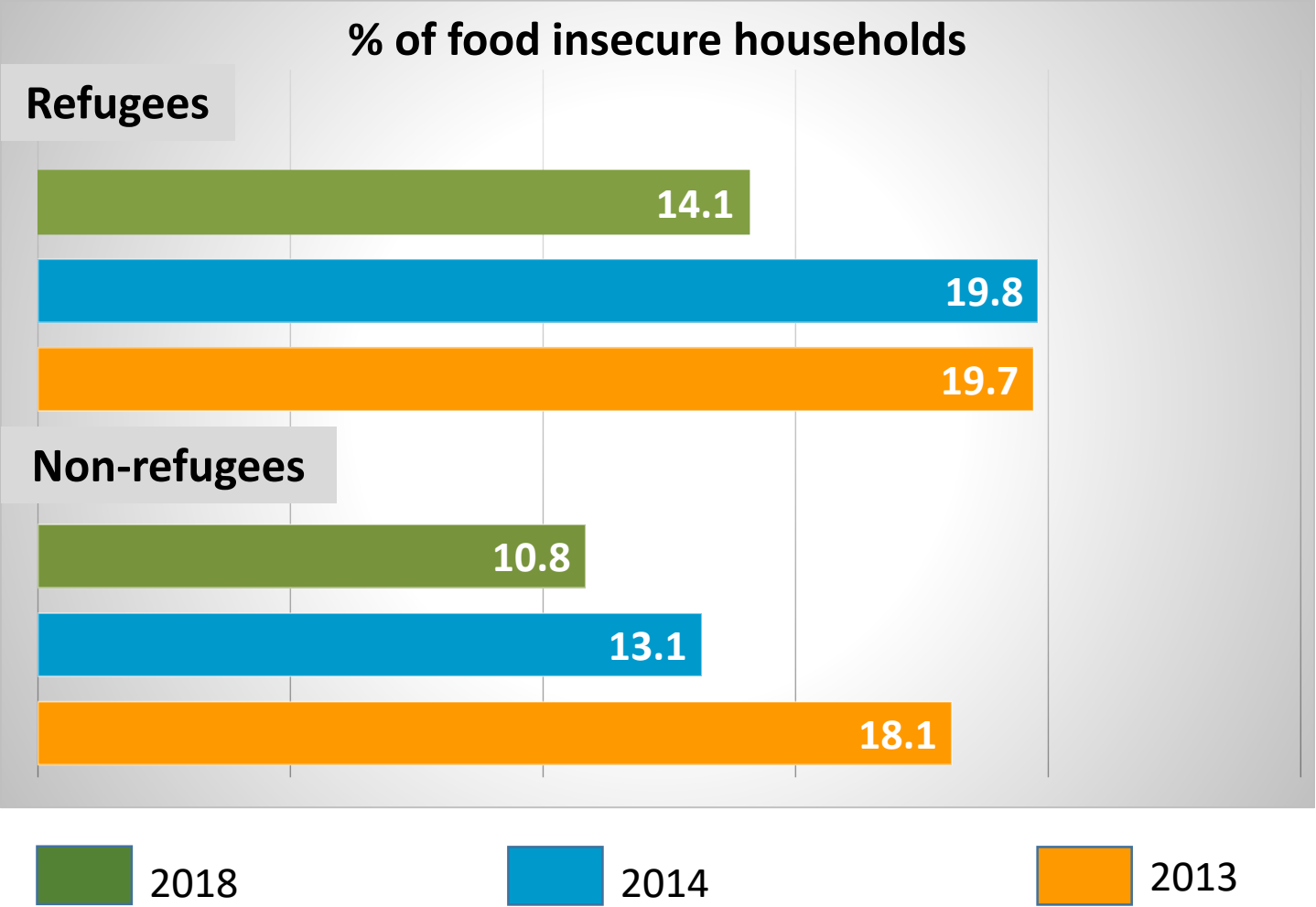
# Household food insecurity by refugee status, West Bank

changes  
2014 → 2018



28.9%

17.5%

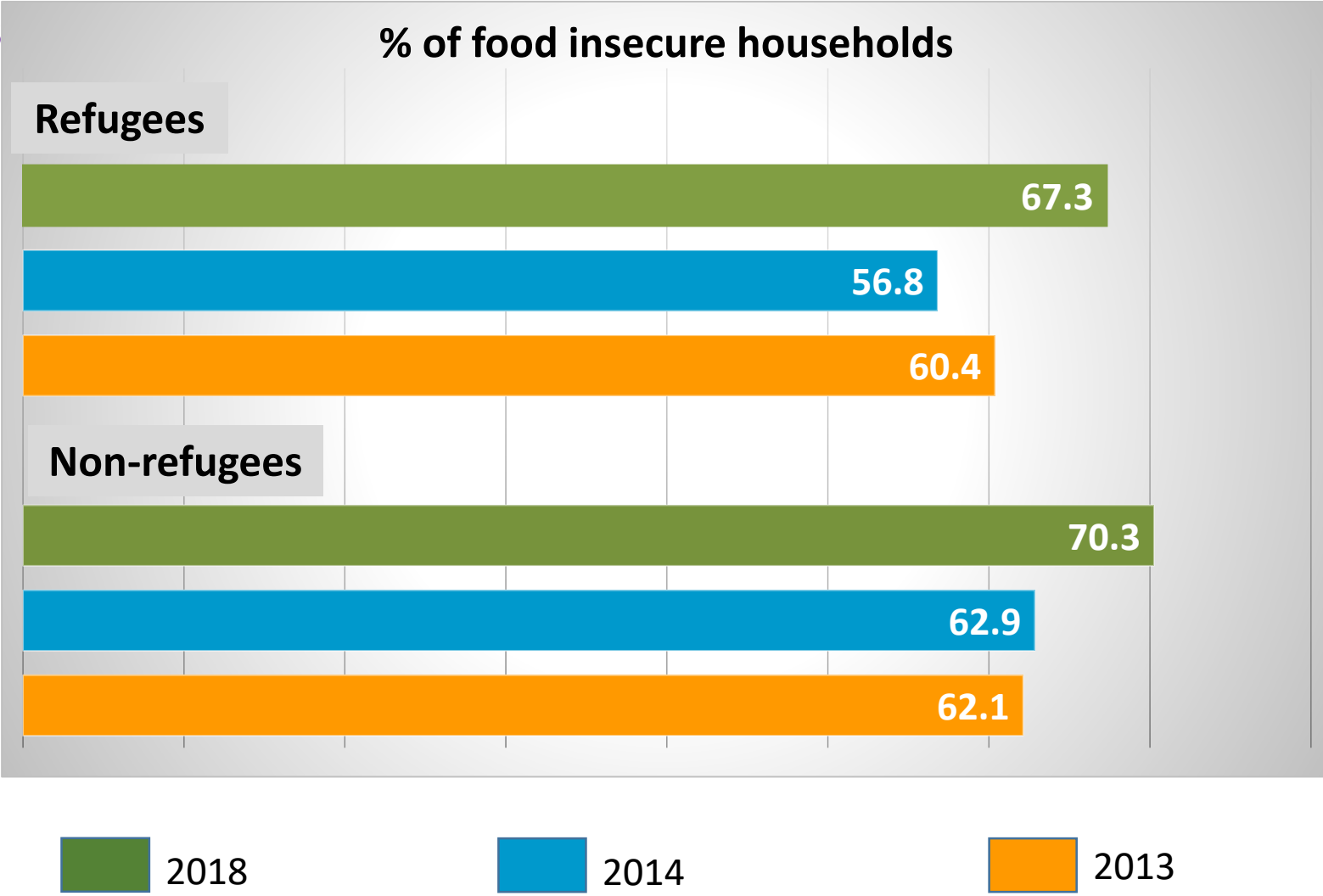


# Household food insecurity by refugee status, Gaza Strip

changes  
2014 → 2018  
↓

18.5%

11.8%



# Household food insecurity by location, West Bank

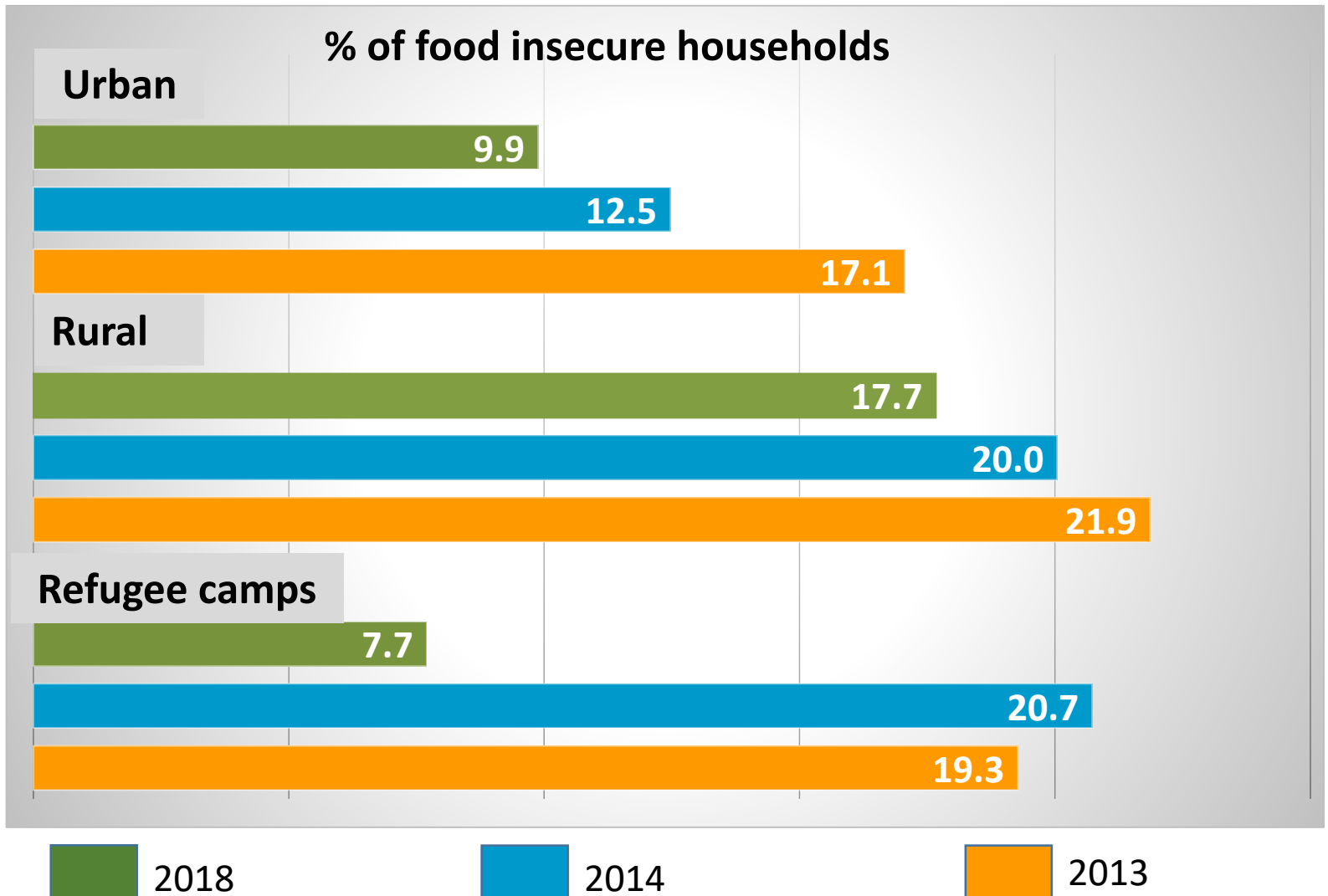
changes  
2014 → 2018



20.8%

11.8%

62.9%





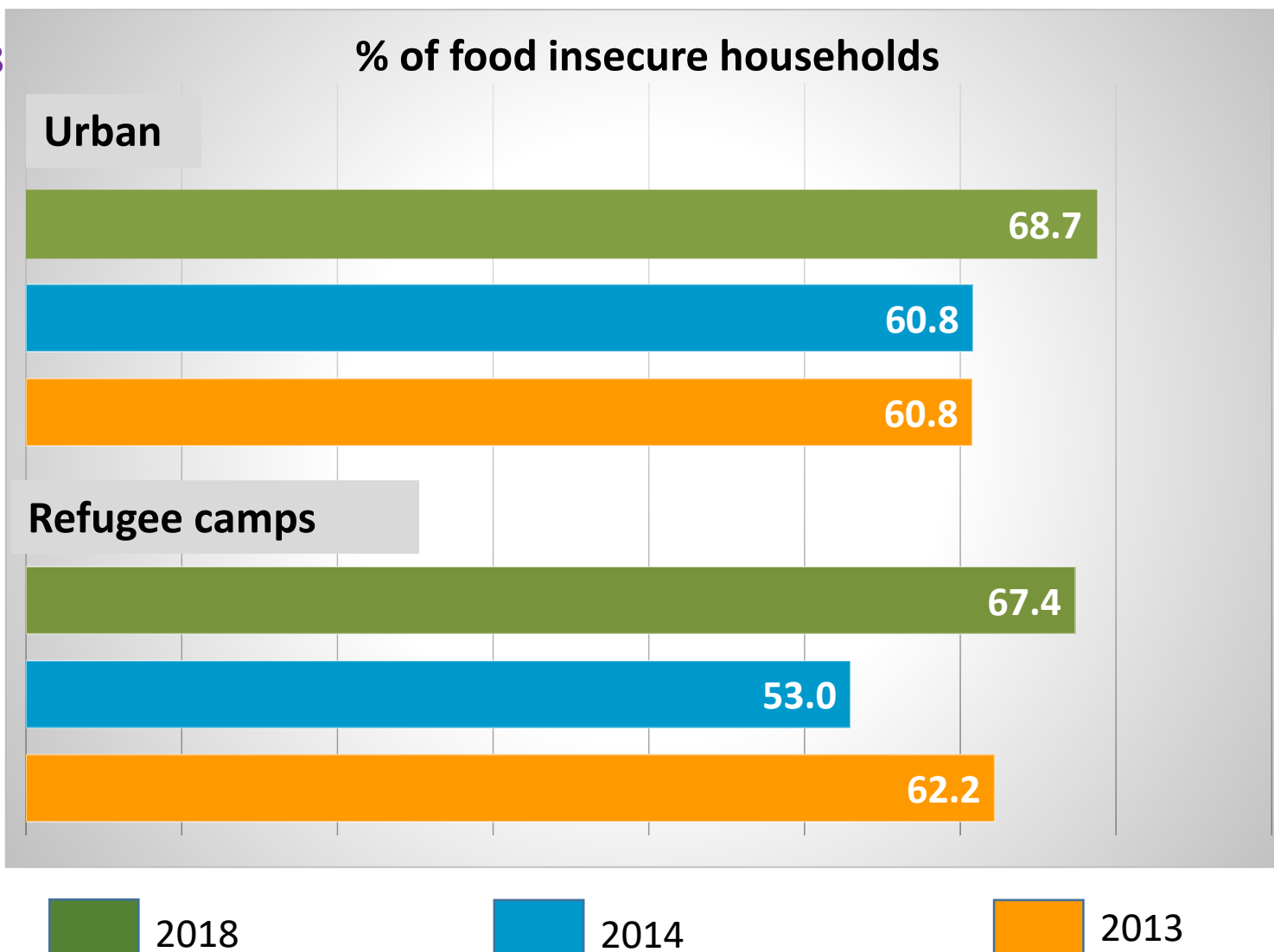
# Household food insecurity by location, Gaza Strip

changes  
2014→2018



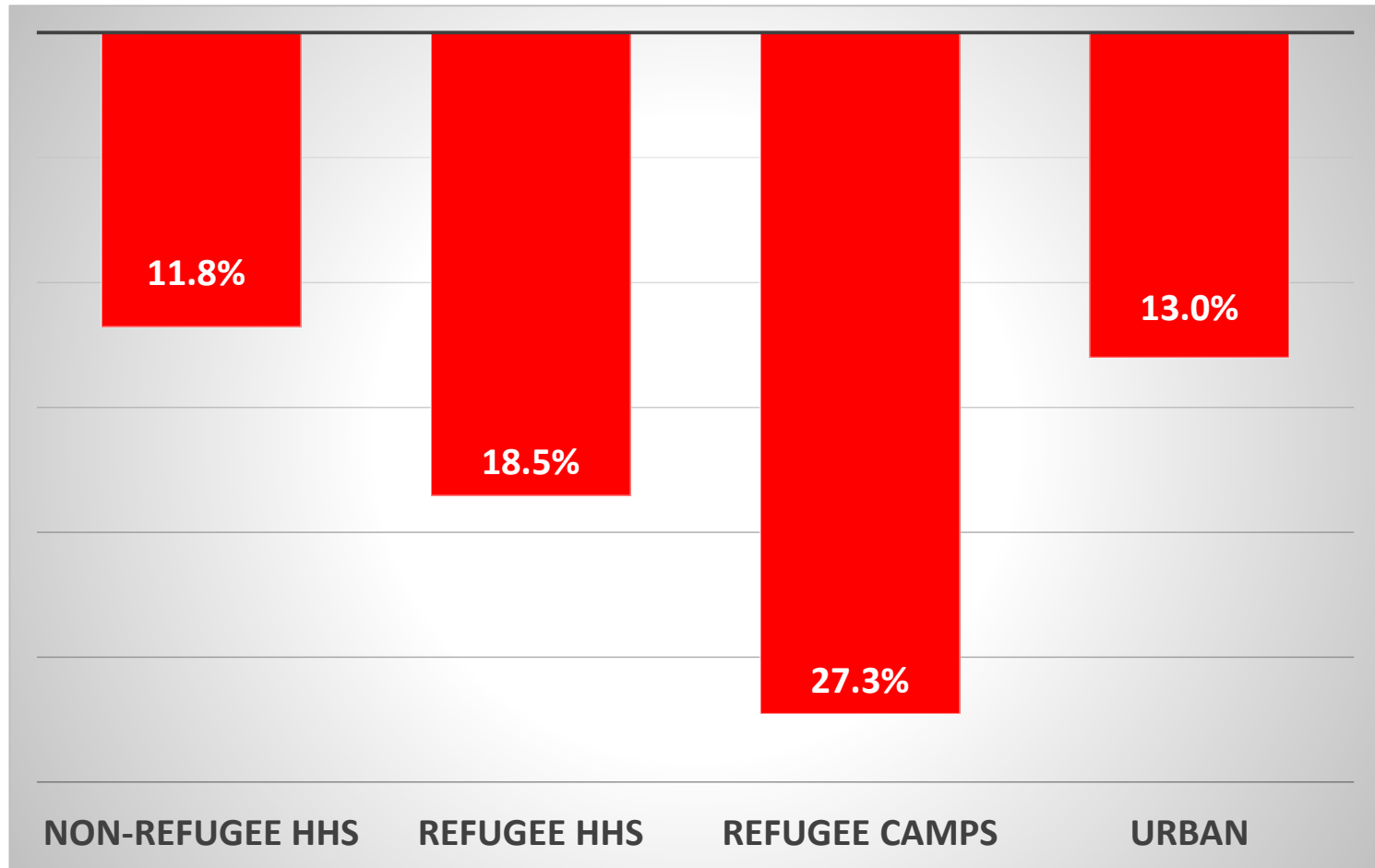
13.0%

27.3%



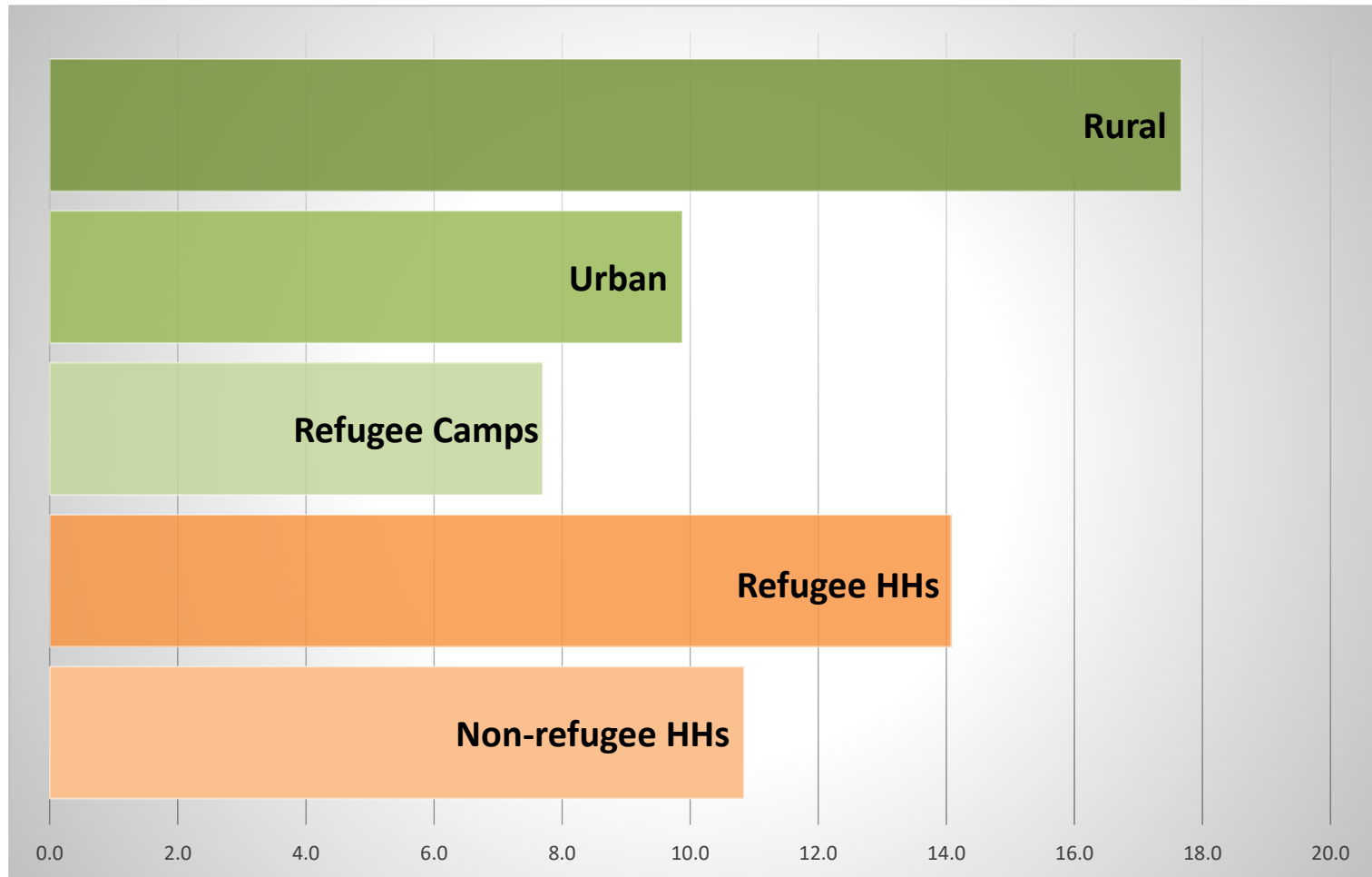
# Food Insecurity percentage change 2014→2018

## Gaza Strip

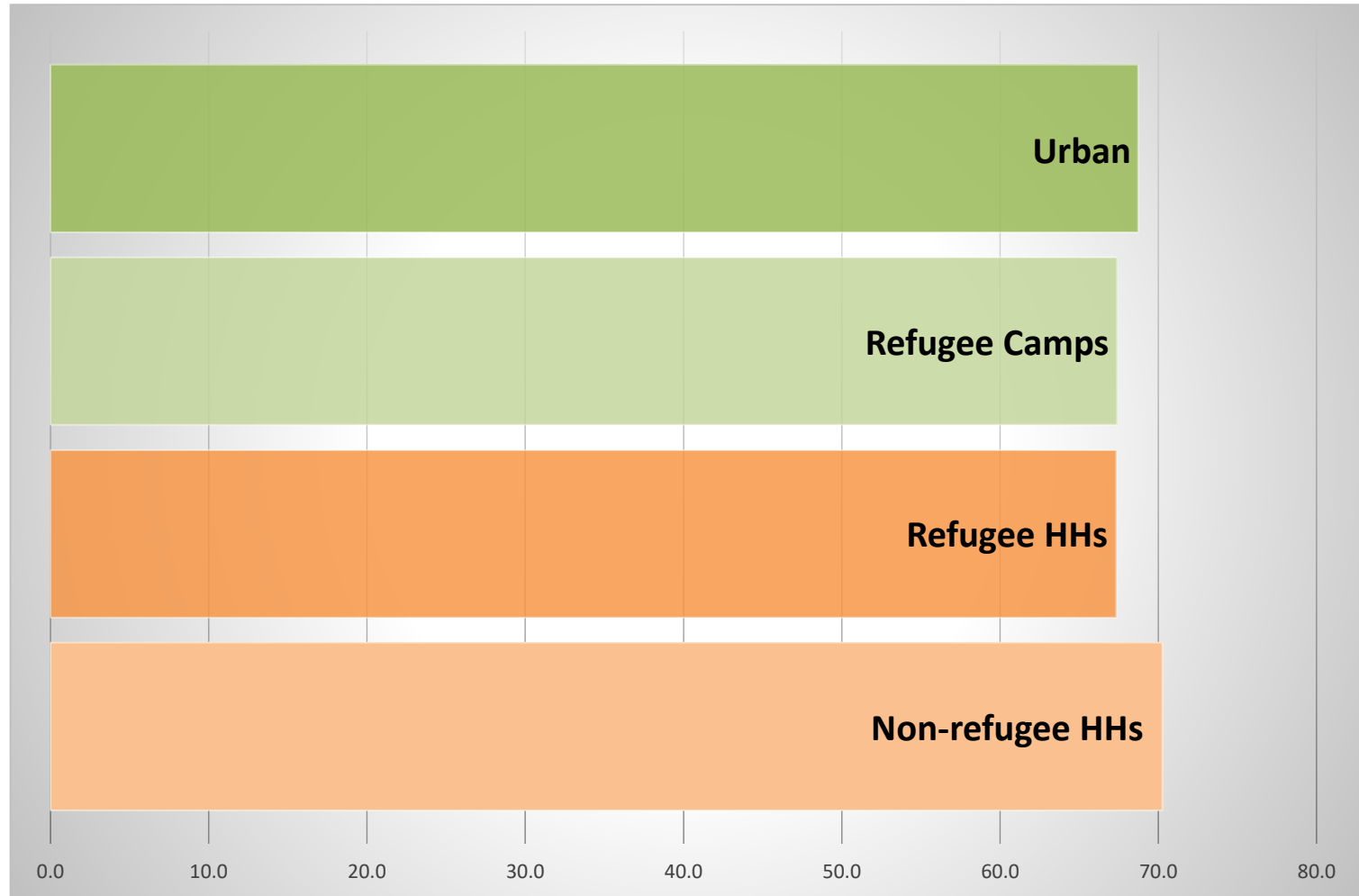


# % of food insecure households 2018 by category

## West Bank



# % of food insecure households 2018 by category Gaza Strip



# Notes to the preliminary results

- Data gathering took place during September 2018. This has some important implications to be considered. In fact, it is likely that the survey does not capture the **impact of UNRWA** reduction or interruption of services in the West Bank.
- The comparative analysis over three consecutive rounds of SEFSec comes with implications related to the **time-difference between round one and two, and round three**. In fact, the third round in 2018 implies that all accumulated changes over four years are embedded in it. This is why certain changes between 2014 and 2018 appears with a significant percentage value. Moreover, the three rounds are **analysed in a merged dataset**, providing updated results, and allowing comparability over years.
- The relationship between the different **socio-economic context pattern** for the last 4 years in both West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the food security status changes at household level should be **further investigated** and commented.
- **Next steps:**
  - further analysis (e.g.: FIES, gender, governorate levels)
  - Full report by mid-2019.

## UNRWA statement on 2018 SEFSec Preliminary Findings

12 December 2018

UNRWA congratulates PCBS and partners on the completion of the 2018 SEFSCEC survey which would provide partners and UN agencies a better planning tool to ensure that the humanitarian service is provided to the most vulnerable groups in the oPt.

UNRWA also wishes to underscore its deep appreciation for the strong partnership with UN agencies and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2018 SEFSEC findings. UNRWA wishes to present its observations about the results of the SEFSEC findings. The Agency expresses concern that the results of the survey show that food insecurity amongst Palestine refugees especially those residing in camps has shown an improvement despite the worsening socio-economic situation in the camps.

UNRWA West Bank Field Office would like to provide some observations and comments with regards to the refugee-related findings for the West Bank:

**Socio-Economic update:** While the overall food security situation in the West Bank may have improved, this may not sufficiently describe the situation among the most vulnerable categories especially the refugees. Observing other economic indicators such as the unemployment rates and average daily wages among refugees provide a different description; for examples:

- In Q3 2018 PCBS Labour Force Survey released that the unemployment rate among **refugees is higher than non-refugees (19 per cent, 17 per cent respectively)**; this is applicable also to the data disaggregated on the locality type; as it stood at **24 percent** in camps and 18 per cent in the urban and rural areas.
- Also, the average daily wages, as of the first half of 2018, is lower among refugees if compared with non-refugees (129 NIS and 149 NIS respectively).

### **Discontinuation of cash transfer services in mid-2018 by biggest providers:**

Additionally, as of the second half of 2018, both the PA and UNRWA were directly affected by the financial cuts. The fact that the MoSD has not been able to disburse cash assistance in 2018 with the exception of one round, UNRWA believes, should have had an impact on those enrolled in the programme especially the most vulnerable. This may lead to a situation where general figures hide growing socio-economic inequalities within the population in the West Bank.

This is also applicable to UNRWA interventions whereby the Agency faced an unprecedented financial crisis which resulted in the suspension of some of its emergency interventions, including, in July 2018, the cash-for-work (cfw) programme in the West Bank. This has placed 90,000 refugees (48,000 of whom reside in camps) at risk of deepening poverty and food insecurity. As a result, UNRWA is currently assisting only the assessed abject poor in the camps with cash assistance under the Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP). This will mean that an increase in abject poor category is expected to occur especially among the households who were benefiting from CfW assistance as their income opportunities through CfW fall away unless alternative income sources are found. This is clearly shown through the significant increase of new SSNP applications received after the phasing out of the CfW programme to be enrolled under the SSN programme.

**In the last three months since the phase out of the CfW program, the SSN programme received more than 1,200 new applications. The same programme used to receive a maximum of 300 applications per quarter.**

Furthermore, UNRWA has completed a re-assessment of its emergency caseload both inside and outside camps by the end of 2018 which revealed that a high number of refugees are living in poverty. **186,579 refugees living in the West Bank were found to be below the poverty line, of whom more than 70,000 refugee individuals are living on less than \$1.79/day.** The overall number of poor refugees should be higher, as this number only represents the poor refugees that applied for UNRWA's services.

UNRWA would like to thank again PCBS and UN partners for their usual cooperation with UNRWA WB and their continuous support to UNRWA programming in oPt. We look forward for the opportunity to work together with PCBS on the refugee related data to better understand the drivers of this change. UNRWA hopes that the next survey can be carried out in two years to capture the recent changes that have taken place on UNRWA's emergency interventions.

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