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SPR Reading Guidance



Food Assistance for the Food-Insecure Populations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Palestine, State of (PS)



World Food Programme

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Country Context and WFP Objectives

Achievements at Country Level

In 2017, WFP assisted nearly half a million poor and food insecure Palestinians across Gaza and the West Bank, all living below the national deep poverty line on less than USD 3.2 per day [1]. These included, among others, households headed by women, single parent families, people living with a disability, internally-displaced persons in Gaza. WFP food assistance was instrumental in meeting their immediate food needs and improving/stabilising their dietary diversity as well as mitigating the devastating and a cumulative impact of decades of conflict on their living conditions. This assistance represents a fundamental safety net for the poorest and those most vulnerable to food insecurity as their socio-economic hardships went unabated; in Gaza, where a precarious humanitarian situation prevailed as a result of an acute energy crisis leading critical basic services (including hospitals, water supplies and sewage treatment), industries and businesses struggle to function at minimum capacity.

WFP successfully pursued its strategy to invest in the local economy and strengthen local food systems by purchasing a majority of its commodities from Palestinian suppliers. Building on the effectiveness of cash-based transfers (CBT) in improving dietary diversification and addressing the micro-nutritional deficiencies of assisted households, and on the robustness of its oversight, protection and accountability mechanisms, WFP continued to scale-up the use of value vouchers and expand the list of purchasable food commodities in participating retail shops. Food items in the WFP voucher list provided at least 30 and 60 percent of people's daily micro-nutrient and caloric needs respectively. This contributed to strengthening the capacities and opening new markets for small-scale farmers and food processors, including women cooperatives, along the food supply chain. Since 2011, WFP has invested nearly USD 170 million in the Palestinian economy using this modality of assistance.

Attesting to strengthened partnerships, WFP enhanced the use of, and made available, the CBT platform to the broader humanitarian community, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in both Gaza and the West Bank. Since 2014, WFP's electronic card has been used and recognised as an efficient, cost-effective and flexible common delivery platform allowing for other stakeholders to transfer their assistance, for example in the education, water and sanitation sectors. These multi-sectoral partnerships have been instrumental to foster aid coordination and operational effectiveness, and address humanitarian needs in a holistic approach.

Recognising the benefits to women and households nutrition and health awareness, WFP increased the coverage of its nutrition sensitisation sessions in Gaza by 60 percent compared to last year, whilst also introducing them for the first time in the West Bank. The classes were specifically tailored to all household members, children, men and women, with a view to promoting a common understanding of healthy eating. Participants attended interactive discussions and presentations on diet, micro-nutrient deficiencies, hygiene, cooking, purchasing healthy food on a budget, caring for infants and psycho-social support by trained experts. The classes had a positive impact on participants' dietary diversity and led to an improved knowledge of healthy eating habits amongst attendees.

WFP supported the Palestinian Authority in delivering its food assistance commitments under the umbrella of the National Food Safety Net, including the introduction of CBT in Gaza, and lending its technical expertise and know-how in areas such as vulnerability analysis, targeting and monitoring and evaluation, to various national stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of the national protection system.

WFP enhanced its contingency planning with the United Nations and government partners in Gaza, and supported in the West Bank the capacity of the Palestinian Civil Defence in emergency preparedness and response by establishing and transferring a set of information management tools and building government staff capacity for better planning and coordination during natural disasters.

WFP's multi-layered response to food insecurity was instrumental to meet humanitarian needs, render the Palestinian socio-economic fabric more resilient to the protracted crisis, and pave the way for longer term recovery.

[1] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The deep poverty line reflects a budget for food, clothing and housing amounting to 1,830 New Israeli Shekels for a family of 5 members, representing USD 3.2 per person and per day (estimate).

Country Context and Response of the Government

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict led to one of the most protracted protection crisis in the United Nations' history. The humanitarian context in the State of Palestine is directly affected by the impact of the Israeli occupation, which

entered its 50th year. Restricted access to resources in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, combined with the cumulative impact of civil unrest and armed hostilities, have resulted in economic stagnation, high unemployment and poverty, and profoundly undermined the living conditions of Palestinians. Against this backdrop, 25.8 percent of the Palestinian population are found to live in poverty, with less than USD 4 dollars per day, with a higher prevalence in Gaza (38.8 percent) than in the West Bank (17.8 percent) [1].

Political, economic and geographical separation between Gaza and the West Bank have eroded market and employment opportunities. The effects of the conflict have made the Palestinian economy highly dependent on its public sector, which relies heavily on external budgetary support funded by the international community, as well as on trade with Israel. Over the past five years (2012-16), Israel accounted for more than 60 percent of Palestinian trade [2], and continued to be an important employer of labour for Palestinians living in the West Bank (18.6 percent in 2016) [3].

The State of Palestine is a net importer of food, with Israel as the main market of origin. Restrictions of movement, trade and investment, and access to land and water resources have led to continued de-agriculturalisation, illustrated by the low contribution and steady decline of the Palestinian agricultural sector in the National Gross Domestic Product (less than 3 percent). Only 21 per cent of cultivable land is utilised and a high 93 per cent of cultivated land is not irrigated. In the West Bank, 60 percent of the land, including 63 percent of the agricultural area, remains under Israeli civil and security control, and out of reach for Palestinian farmers [4]. Periodic armed conflicts in Gaza have crippled its economy, and the ten-year sea, land and air blockade has led to a progressive collapse of all the main productive sectors, leading to a record unemployment rate of 46.6 percent [5].

Food insecurity stems from lack of access to food, linked to poverty and lack of employment opportunities. Food prices are largely driven by Israel, where the average purchasing power per person is six times higher than in Palestine, and remain too high for poor families to afford [6]. The latest national survey [7] found that almost one quarter of the Palestinian population – 22.5 percent or 1.3 million – is either severely or moderately food insecure, with a higher concentration in Gaza (39 percent) than in the West Bank (13 percent). The prevalence of food insecurity among households headed by women is 15 percentage points higher than that among households headed by men – 36 versus 21 percent. Palestinians are facing a high level of micro-nutrient deficiencies, and growing overweight and obesity. The latest evaluations have found that nearly 50 percent of those assessed had very low levels of essential minerals and vitamins [8]. The situation is particularly alarming for female adolescents in Gaza, where 72 and 64 percent of them respectively suffer from Vitamin D and Vitamin A deficiencies. Depleted levels of iron were found in 20 percent of lactating women in the West Bank and in 28 percent in the Gaza Strip. According to World Health Organisation standards, anaemia is a moderate public health problem in Palestine, as are being overweight and obese. Pregnant and lactating women are particularly affected, with respectively, 31 and 26 percent of them being overweight and obese.

Poverty reduction is a major pillar of the Palestinian Authority's 2017-2022, National Policy Agenda (NPA) and the first objective set forth in the Palestinian Authority's Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS) covering the same time-frame. The NPA and SDSS have identified the continued provision of food assistance to poor food insecure populations as a priority to alleviate poverty, in alignment with SDGs 1 and 2. The Palestinian Ministry of Social Development is the key government body tasked with managing the SDSS. It is also responsible for creating, implementing and managing social protection policies in both the West Bank and in Gaza. The National Food Safety Net, under which WFP and the Ministry partner assist the most food-insecure populations, is an important pillar of the SDSS, along with other social services. Under its new 2018-22 Country Strategic Plan, WFP will continue to support the Ministry of Social Development's efforts to further develop the existing National Food Safety Net, and engage in new partnerships around the provision and further development of WFP's cash-based transfers platform.

2017 was a particularly challenging year for Gazans with the reduction of salaries for 62,000 public sector workers paid by the Palestinian Authority in March. In addition to this, the slow reconstruction process, due to reduced donor funding and continued import restrictions, and the effects of an acute energy crisis, has left the enclave's two million inhabitants with four to six hours of electricity supply per day since April. The crisis had a particularly heavy toll on the poorest, including people assisted by WFP, who increased the use of negative coping strategies, such as increasing debt and cutting meals. Two new reports published in July by the United Nations Country Team and United Nations Development Programme evidenced the deterioration of all socio-economic indicators. It further highlighted Gaza's continued trajectory of reversed development and becoming uninhabitable by 2020 [9]. As the humanitarian situation in Gaza deteriorated in 2017, food insecurity is expected to have increased. A key indicator to poverty and food insecurity corroborates this analysis: the unemployment rate in Gaza steadily increased over the first three quarters of 2017 (41.1, 44 and 46.6 percent).

Demolitions and seizures of Palestinian houses and agricultural assets by the Israeli authorities continued across the West Bank, mainly on the grounds of lack of building permits. The majority of those evicted from their land were Bedouins and herders living in Israeli-controlled Area C. These communities continued to face access restrictions to basic commodities and services, such as water, electricity, food, health and education. A new needs assessment

carried out by WFP and the United Nations Relief Works for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) found evidence of a deterioration in their food security status, with 61 percent assessed to be food-insecure [10].

[1] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011 census

[2] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Development in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories, 2017

[3] International Monetary Fund. Report to the ad-hoc Liaison Committee, 2017

[4] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Development in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories, 2017

[5] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, July-September 2017

[6] 2016 Human Development Index. The gross national income per capita in Palestine (USD 5,256) is six times less than that of Israel (USD 31,215, using the 2011 Purchasing Power Parity measure)

[7] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics: Socio economic and food security survey (SEFSec), 2016

[8] Palestinian micronutrient survey and the multiple indicator cluster survey, 2014

[9] United Nations Country Team. Gaza ten years later, July 2017

[10] United Nations Development Programme. Three years after the 2014 hostilities, May 2017

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

In November 2016, WFP's 2014-2016 Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), with an approved budget of USD 150 million, was extended for another year at an additional cost of USD 60 million.

Humanitarian and development actors, including WFP, support the National Palestinian Authority in the provision of various forms of cross-sectoral assistance to vulnerable segments of the non-refugee population, while the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA) is mandated to respond to the needs of refugees.

WFP's role is to operationalise food security commitments of the Palestinian Authority through the National Food Safety Net, a major pillar of the national Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS) which oversees the provision of food assistance to poor, food insecure, and vulnerable households living below the deep poverty line, with less than USD 3.2 dollars per person and per day. WFP also lends its technical, programmatic and policy expertise to strengthen the capacity of the Palestinian Authority in its endeavours to improve the efficiency and build a cost-effective and protective National Food Safety Net, in close partnership with the Food Security Sector. Areas of WFP's support include vulnerability analysis, targeting, beneficiary management, and monitoring and evaluation. All WFP interventions are integrated into national plans (NPA and SDSS) and have been designed with a focus on eventual handover to the Palestinian Authority.

Since its inception in 2011, WFP has been supporting the development and implementation of the National Food Safety Net, gradually reaching, together with the Ministry of Social Development, a total of 214,000 people in 2017, 58 percent of whom resided in the West Bank and 42 percent in Gaza. Modalities of assistance included food (65 percent) and cash-based transfers (35 percent). WFP holds a strategic position in the delivery of assistance to people in need in Israeli-controlled East-Jerusalem, in Area C of the West Bank, and in Gaza, where access constraints prevent the Palestinian Authority to reach them directly.

WFP channels other aspects of its assistance through its international non-government organisation (INGO) partner, Global Communities, across Palestine, and UNRWA to supply joint food assistance packages to food insecure refugees, non-refugee Bedouins and herding communities in Area C of the West Bank.

WFP partners with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on a variety of issues, including monthly market price monitoring and food security assessments, such as the national Socio-Economic and Food Security survey. The Bureau, which has been internationally recognised as a leading statistical agency amongst developing countries, is a key partner of WFP, the Ministry of Social Development and the wider Food Security Sector in measuring the various dimensions of food insecurity in Palestine and informing WFP's scope of intervention.

Since 2012, WFP has been assisting the Palestinian Civil Defence in improving their institutional capacity to prepare and respond to natural disasters, with a focus on Information Management (development of Geo-spatial Infrastructure) and Emergency Response. This year, WFP completed the set up and transferred three operational centres in Qalqyia, Hebron and Ramallah in April.

WFP partners with local NGOs in raising awareness on best nutritional practices. It also collaborates with the private sector in the development of supply chains and inclusion of local products in food baskets. WFP coordinates

with the Food Security Sector on food security issues and with United Nations agencies on inter-cluster matters, contingency and emergency preparedness. Since 2014, WFP has been supporting United Nations agencies and international NGOs in delivering other forms of assistance: education, sanitation, hygiene, and health, to affected populations through its voucher platform.

WFP's interventions in Palestine were aligned and integral to the 2014-17 United Nations Development Assistance Framework, 2017 United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan and the inter-agency Food Security Sector, which it co-led with FAO, directly supporting SDGs 2 and 17. These plans were put in place to leverage the expertise, capacity and resources of United Nations agencies to support the implementation of the National Policy Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Funding to WFP has been steadily decreasing since 2015. This is commensurate with the general decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Palestine. Explanatory factors include restrictive ODA budgets among government partners, resource reprioritization towards other regional crises, and increased fragmentation of resources resulting from growing competition in an expanding humanitarian community. In 2017, WFP secured USD 43 million of resources, marking a decrease of 4 percent compared to 2016, which also experienced a drop of 15 percent relative to 2015.

To accommodate the various donor conditionalities, WFP channeled its assistance through two main implementing partners, namely the Palestinian Authority and the INGO Global Communities, using two different modalities of assistance: cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind food entitlements in both Gaza and the West Bank. These constraints led WFP to use eight different streams of assistance, with uneven resourcing levels. Amidst such context, the assistance channelled through the Ministry of Social Development was recurrently the most underfunded.

Amidst limited flexible funding, with only 9 percent of all directed contributions not tied to specific conditions (5 percent in the overall PRRO), and against the backdrop of declining resources, ensuring an equitable distribution of assistance based on the greatest needs remained a challenge. Indeed, insufficient and tied resources limited the ability and flexibility of WFP to respond to a surge in needs, as occurred in the Gaza Strip, when humanitarian conditions deteriorated due to an acute energy crisis. Flexible multilateral contributions, including from the Immediate Response Account, were therefore of paramount importance to ensure continuation of assistance to those most in need.

To make the best use of available resources, WFP continued its gradual augmentation to a CBT response, with the Ministry to assist an additional 11,000 people in Gaza who were selected based on their acute vulnerability, in a bid to avert an interruption of assistance that would have put at risk their livelihoods. In the same vein, WFP replaced in-kind food packages with vouchers to sustain its support to 12,000 people with special needs in the last trimester of the year.

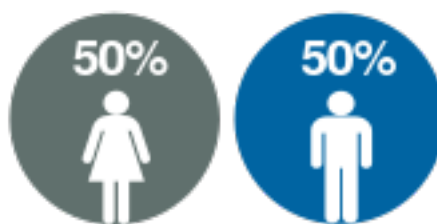
WFP will continue to advocate for sufficient, predictable and flexible resources among existing and prospective partners to allow for a further scale-up of its voucher interventions and advance its strategic objectives, as recommended by the last 2011-15 Country Portfolio Evaluation. Similarly, WFP has expanded its strategic partnerships with sister Agencies: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Relief Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA) that used the Common Card to deliver humanitarian supplies across sectors in Palestine, fostering complementary assistance, cost-effectiveness and increased impact on improving people's livelihoods and resilience to the protracted crisis.

WFP made progress in increasing the quality, and therefore, effectiveness of its CBT operations, by closely monitoring the performance of its suppliers, strengthening its oversight, fraud-control and accountability mechanisms, and further adapting its food baskets to the preferences of beneficiaries.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	22,993	20,494	43,487
Children (5-18 years)	94,973	87,475	182,448
Adults (18 years plus)	132,962	140,959	273,921
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	250,928	248,928	499,856



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	29,530	1,450	1,937	-	765	33,682
Total Food Distributed in 2017	29,530	1,450	1,937	-	765	33,682



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	-	22,581,164	-
Total Distributed in 2017	-	22,581,164	-

Supply Chain

WFP continued to use its purchasing power to invest in the local economy; contracting with Palestinian food processors when economically beneficial and considering the structural and conjunctural limitations of the Palestinian agricultural sector. Due to the effects of the occupation (restrictions on access to land, water, agricultural inputs and markets), Palestine is a net importer of food with low agricultural production and productivity (see country context section). WFP also used local retail shops for the procurement and distribution of commodities, 95 percent of which was locally produced, processed or packaged, in a bid to support local food systems and empower business stakeholders along the value chain. WFP's cash-based transfers (CBT) assistance had been a catalyst to support small-scale food processors, including women-headed businesses, cooperatives and associations, in their endeavours to bolster their income-generating activities and expand their market outlets.

Participating CBT shops were selected by WFP's shop committee based on the following criteria: readiness of the owner to comply with the programme requirements, including administrative and financial obligations, availability of sufficient supplies and stock capacities, proximity with the beneficiary households, compliance with general quality and hygiene standards, registration with the tax authorities, adequacy of equipment, such as refrigerators and cold chain for appropriate storage of dairy products. To foster competition and allow for more freedom of choice for beneficiaries, contracted shops were required to have at least three different brands for each of the 15 food items available for redemption.

Since 2011, WFP has invested more than USD 263 million in the local economy, through local purchases (USD 93 million) and cash-based transfers (USD 170 million). In 2017 alone, WFP injected USD 22.5 million through CBT in the local economy, representing an increase of 28 percent compared to last year (USD 17.6 million).

Building on last year's achievements, when 65 percent of the in-kind food distributed to assisted people were procured from Palestinian suppliers, WFP continued to prioritise and increase, 50 percent beyond its planned target, the share of local purchases (75 percent) in its total commodity supplies, diversifying its base of eligible vendors for transportation, storage and handling (LTSH) services by extending the coverage and duration of its 'Expression of Interest' to identify suppliers who wished to participate in a competitive tendering process, and thus take advantage of competitive prices. This enabled WFP to save on ocean transport, port clearance and other logistics costs. As an example, the LTSH cost rates applied for locally-sourced commodities were nearly three times less than for imported ones.

While the pulses (chickpeas, lentils) and vegetable oil were imported from international producers, approximately 80 percent of the fortified wheat flour, the main staple of WFP's food basket, was internationally procured from local suppliers. The salt was purchased locally from a Palestinian producer in the West Bank. Imported food commodities were shipped and received at the Israeli ports of Ashdod and Haifa. Due to blockade-related constraints however, those items destined for food assistance in Gaza were re-packed and palletised before going through the Israeli-managed border crossing point of Kerem Shalom, in application of the policy set by the Israeli's Ministry of Defence, and pre-positioned in the WFP-contracted warehouse in Gaza. Around 47 percent of the cargo destined for WFP's West-Bank operations were routed through the Beir-Zeit storage facility, in the Ramallah Governorate, while the remainder was delivered directly to the warehouses of cooperating partners. All movements of food throughout the West Bank were preliminary authorised by the Israeli administration. WFP ensured that all commodities were received at ports and/or warehouses at least three weeks before the start of the planned distributions to mitigate the risk of delayed permits granted by the Israeli authorities.

Efficient partnerships with cooperating partners and logistics service providers were instrumental for WFP to maintain the highest quality standards and assurances of transportation, storage and handling of commodities, while minimising the risk of losses along the supply chain. Most of the commodity losses accounted for (0.07 percent of the total handled) occurred during transportation and deducted from the final payments made to contractors.

WFP had a lower purchasing power than last year due to insufficient resources received. This reflected in the volume of commodities purchased (22,000 mt), including from local suppliers (16,600 mt), a decreased of 43 and 35 percent compared to last year (38,500 mt and 25,000 mt respectively). Consequently, WFP could not carry forward its food distributions with the Ministry of Social Development in the fourth quarter of the year in the West Bank. Instead, it distributed reduced food entitlements in Gaza throughout the full year, negatively impacting the food security and livelihoods of 137,000 people. Over the course of its PRRO (2015-17), WFP has periodically been forced to reduce or suspend food entitlements of people in need, commensurate with the year-on-year decline in donor funding.

Since 2009, WFP has been using local retailers for the purchase and distribution of a wide spectrum of nutritious items, including protein-rich dairy products and eggs, bread, frozen vegetables, cereals, olive oil and tahini. In 2017, WFP successfully expanded its CBT response, using electronic food vouchers, backed by evidence demonstrating positive impact on the food security of assisted households. Two WFP studies (2014, 2016) highlighted the multiplier and trickle-down effect of vouchers along the food supply chain, leading to increased sales, investment (including job creation) and profits generated among participating shops, food processors and dairy farmers. WFP's CBT response to food insecurity in Palestine has helped increase the coping mechanisms of assisted people and resilience of the economic fabric against the continuous shocks and effects of the protracted crisis.

According to a 2017 WFP study commissioned by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on the market absorption capacity for CBT in Gaza, all operating dairy factories in Gaza (11) that have been supplying white cheese, labneh and yoghurt to WFP's participating shops have doubled their production in the last four years. In addition to this, about 80 percent of WFP contracted shops have hired at least one full-time worker following their inclusion in the programme. These findings demonstrate the multi-layered impact of WFP's CBT assistance along the food supply chain.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Canned Fish	-	217	217
Chickpeas	-	504	504
Iodised Salt	175	-	175
Lentils	-	306	306
Vegetable Oil	-	560	560
Wheat Flour	16,478	3,852	20,330
Total	16,652	5,439	22,091
Percentage	75.4%	24.6%	

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

WFP built on its in-country experiences and comparative advantages to provide support to the Palestinian Authority in its endeavours to meet national food security objectives. The recommendations of the external Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) of its assistance during the period 2011-15 provided critical guidance to this end.

As reflected in the one-year extension of the PRRO, WFP did not pursue its repeatedly under-funded school-meals activity, nor food-for-assets/training activities, with the aim of making best use of declining resources and prioritising the most pressing needs of vulnerable populations through General Food Assistance. By recognising the demonstrated multi-layered benefits of its cash-based transfers assistance (CBT) on people's food security status and nutrition awareness, and positive secondary effects on the local economy, WFP expanded its use of this innovative instrument within the existing National Food Safety Net (NFSS). In partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, 11,000 people in Gaza received food vouchers in lieu of food entitlements from March onwards. This was the second consecutive year that WFP increased coverage of its CBTs; building on last year's success wherein the modality was first introduced in the NFSS in Gaza. WFP prioritised those most vulnerable living in (semi) urban food-insecure areas with the poorest diet to receive this new form of assistance. Complementary nutrition and health awareness sessions were also delivered increase their knowledge about the benefits of diversifying their eating habits. This change of modality was guided by donor preferences and restrictions. WFP had insufficient resources available to provide uninterrupted in-kind food assistance to all those jointly assisted with the Ministry. It however, had sufficient financial capacity to implement its CBT interventions. This re-orientation enabled WFP to better support the Government-led agenda and national food security objectives, in applications of the CPE recommendations.

As evidenced in the results of two WFP studies on the socio-economic benefits of CBTs (2014, 2016), vouchers were found to have a stronger impact than in-kind food in improving the food security status of assisted people, in addition to expanding market outlets of business stakeholders in the agro-food industry with positive spill-over effects for the local economy at large. The voucher modality has demonstrated a multiplier effect along the whole food value chain, as shown by the increase in sales, investment and job creation witnessed in the retail, dairy and farming. The success of the CBT modality in Palestine was highlighted by the International Development Studies which recommended to expand the CBT modality to all beneficiaries of the National Social Protection System [1]. The study lauded the effectiveness of CBT in making a 'significant difference in people's lives and promoting local businesses'. Since the introduction of cash-based transfers in 2009, WFP has gradually expanded the coverage of its assistance through this modality, from reaching 51,500 (representing 6 percent of its total beneficiaries) to more than 200,000 in 2017 (40 percent). This is 5 percent more than in 2016 (189,000 people).

As recommended by the CPE, WFP increased the scope of its nutrition awareness sessions in Gaza, reaching families in two new Governorates (Raffah and Khan Younis), and introduced them for the first time in the West Bank, in the Hebron Governorate where the prevalence of food insecurity was found to be the highest with the findings of the new 2016/2017 Socio-Economic and Food Insecurity Survey.

Based on the recommendations of various programme reviews held with cooperating partners, and preferences of assisted people, collected through household monitoring visits and the feedback mechanisms at their disposal, WFP increased the range of food items listed in its CBT, incorporating tomato paste and Zaatar, and a local sesame paste in their food baskets. Furthermore, the recommendations of a new WFP market assessment conducted in

2017 [2], all voucher recipients were given the choice and flexibility to redeem their entitlements in all participating shops, instead of being assigned to a dedicated food outlet in the last quarter of the year. In addition to this, WFP allowed shop retailers in Gaza to apply market prices onto all commodities purchasable with its vouchers. WFP will also ease the purchase restrictions of all CBT recipients in 2018 in application of these recommendations. These initiatives were implemented to foster competition and increase people's freedom of choice and purchasing power to further empower them as drivers of change.

In the State of Palestine, WFP has had an instrumental role in delivering targeted food assistance and developing a common humanitarian delivery platform, i.e. CBT, to support the activities of other humanitarian actors and integrate it to the NSSN system, as was noted by the CPE. In 2017, WFP further expanded its strategic and multi-sectoral partnerships with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), both agencies used WFP's CBT to deliver their own services (UNRWA's food assistance in the West Bank) and/or provide other complementary forms of assistance to populations assisted by WFP. In addition to these, UNICEF provided three tranches of winter clothes, wash, education and sanitation support to Gazan families receiving food through WFP. These partnerships demonstrated the ability of United Nations agencies to 'deliver as One' for greater humanitarian impact.

A joint assessment conducted by WFP and UNRWA outlined the deterioration in the food security status and livelihoods of the Bedouins and Herding communities, as well as their reliance on WFP/UNRWA assistance to meet their basic food needs and strengthen their ability to cope with increased hardships. Their vulnerabilities exacerbated by the scarcity of grazing land, and access restrictions to basic services such as water, electricity, education and health services. They also incurred the risk of having their homes demolished and being forcibly evicted. In 2017, 423 structures were demolished and 7,285 people displaced, of which approximately 75 percent of whom were women and children [3]. Repeated disruption of their livelihoods has led to entrenched poverty and increased aid dependency. With more than 60 percent of food insecurity within these communities, the survey findings provided evidence that WFP should continue prioritising this highly-vulnerable group in case of funding shortages.

In case of an armed conflict in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority would be one of the main actors managing government shelters (public schools) hosting affected Internally Displaced People (IDPs) after UNRWA-managed shelters exhaust their capacity. Social workers from the Ministry of Social Development were appointed to manage all food assistance duties in the event of armed conflicts in Gaza. As such, one important preparedness action for social protection was the planning for awareness sessions given to Government shelter managers on food and nutrition needs and best practices in emergencies. The training, provided by WFP's local NGO partner, Ard El Insan, addressed topics related to special nutritional needs for the most vulnerable persons, and provided a comprehensive background to shelter managers on food quality and safety during emergencies. Managers were taught how to promote breastfeeding, introduce preventive measures of food borne diseases such as diarrhea and food poisoning, maintain personal hygiene. They were also instructed in educate on adequate food preparation and storage, avoraisedid water borne diseases and awareness on the nutritional needs of vulnerable groups .

[1] Social Protection and Safety Net in Palestine. December 2015.

[2] WFP market assessment in the Gaza Strip: is the market of the besieged enclave conducive to a CBT scale-up? June 2017

[3] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Nutrition classes open new horizons for Palestinian women

Manar, 29, is a mother of four who married young but never forgot her dream of pursuing higher education. “I used to listen to the educators during the nutrition awareness sessions, prepare homework and actively participate in the discussions as if I am attending university,” she says.

After attending WFP's Nutrition Education that the Palestinian NGO Ard El Insan implements, Manar was selected as “Mother Leader”. While the title does not capture the full scope of the women's capabilities and potentials, it gives recognition of excellence and merits to many women who struggle in Gaza's confined nature and limited opportunities.

“Now I became an educator assistant and I deliver sessions to other women. I even regularly volunteer to share my knowledge with children at elementary schools and kindergartens. I want to take my destiny into my own hands. I do not want to be just a housewife. The day I was selected as a Mother Leader was the happiest day in my life,” says Manar. Her husband also supports her and takes care of their four children when she is away giving presentations or classes.

Randa, 27, is another Mother Leader whose personal story echoes Manar's. She dreamed of becoming a journalist, but because of her family's limited resources, her brothers were given priority to higher education. She never had the opportunity to pursue that dream.

“I believe every woman has the right to realise her ambitions,” Randa says. “The nutrition awareness classes paved the way for me to pursue other goals”. She has recently registered at the Al-Aqsa College to study nutrition.

The nutrition education is primarily aimed at maximizing the impact of the in-kind food and electronic food vouchers assistance that vulnerable Palestinian households receive from WFP. Nevertheless, it contributes to exposing Gazan women to the outside world, expanding their social networks and strengthening their roles in their domestic circles.

Sana, 27, did not know how much her life would change when she set out to attend these classes. “I did not like the idea of participating in education sessions,” she says. “The first class, however, has changed my mind completely; I learnt about gender issues and how we deserve to be treated as equals to men and develop our self-confidence.”

The mother of four girls says, she had suffered from deep depression and cried all the time because of her family's hard life and lack of money. She could not see the benefits of the classes until she attended them.

Sana', motivated and determined to change her life, found a part-time job as a dentist assistant. “The 300 shekels (equivalent to USD 85) I get every month allow me to cook chicken for my girls every Friday. We could not afford any kind of meat before and were completely dependent on the flour we had been receiving from WFP.” The classes were instrumental to boost her self-confidence and look for a job'.

Since 2011, WFP has been running the nutrition education across the Gaza Strip in collaboration with its implementing partner Ard El Insan, a Palestinian NGO that specialises in nutritional and health services, established in 1984 as an affiliate of the INGO Terre des Hommes before becoming independent in 1997. The organisation uses a holistic approach, offering mothers support in child nutrition, breast feeding, and other parenting skills. In 2017, more than 11,400 women, men and school children participated in the six-month courses. Women participants increased their knowledge about the best diet and cooking practices even on a small budget. In addition to these, they also attended special sessions on hygiene, caring for infants, mother's nutrition during pregnancy and breast feeding, and prevention of communicable diseases.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

In application of the recommendations formulated by the 2011-15 WFP Palestine Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE), the one-year extension (2017) of the PRRO (2015-16) approved by WFP's Executive Board in November 2016 did not include school-meal or conditional food assistance. Against the backdrop of a declining funding environment, and in a context of increased socio-economic vulnerabilities, WFP prioritised and concentrated its resources to implement its General Food Assistance (GFA) interventions, providing targeted poor food-insecure households with in-kind food entitlements (wheat flour, salt, pulses and vegetable oil), monthly cash-based transfers (CBT), using a prepaid magnetic card functioning in selected retail shops, or a combination of both. All with the aim to cover 60 percent of assisted peoples' daily calories needs.

GFA was delivered in both Gaza and the West Bank, respectively supporting WFP's Strategic Objective 1 ('Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies') and 2 ('Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies'). In Gaza, where people's deprivations and hardships were the most acute, the outcomes sought were to address the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable, and stabilise/improve their food consumption and dietary diversity (SO1). WFP food assistance was a fundamental safety net for people who had exhausted all of their resources in trying to cope with a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. In the West Bank, WFP aimed at maintaining people's adequate food consumption (SO2).

In-kind food entitlements were provided to targeted families in rural areas far from population centres and without proper electricity or internet connectivity. It suited their eating habits— for example, the practice of baking bread at home. Where appropriate and contingent on donor conditions, WFP prioritised CBT in all urban/semi urban context, based on market availability and functionality, as well as beneficiary preferences. To mitigate the impact of recurrently under-funded in-kind assistance channelled through the Ministry of Social Development in the West Bank and Gaza, WFP distributed food vouchers in lieu of rations to 23,000 people from March (11,000) and October (12,000) onwards. The populations targeted were selected based on their need to benefit from a more diversified diet, which the CBT modality best addresses, and their ability to access participating shops. Households headed by women and people with special needs were prioritised. WFP could not further scale-up its CBT due to insufficient funding and restricting donor conditions.

Since 2009, WFP has been using local retail shops for the purchase and distribution of a wide spectrum of nutritious items, most of them locally produced or processed. This includes protein-rich dairy products, eggs, bread, frozen vegetables, cereals, olive oil and tahini. Poor families received credit onto their cards every month at an average of USD 10.3 per person. The CBT food basket covered 30 percent of the daily micronutrient needs of assisted populations. The quality and safety of the food provided through CBTs were regulated and monitored by the Government and WFP's INGO partner Global Communities.

By investing in the procurement of local food items from Palestinian producers and relying on retail shops to distribute locally-produced/packaged commodities, WFP aimed at increasing the marketing opportunities of local producers and traders of agricultural products and meeting its Strategic Objective 3 ('reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs').

Complementing the provision of unconditional food assistance, community sensitisation activities on health and nutrition were delivered to targeted men, women, boys and girls, receiving either in-kind or cash-based transfers in both the West Bank (3,000) and Gaza (11, 400). The topics addressed e.g. preparation of healthy meals including for diabetes, prevention of obesity, food storage, best hygiene practices etc. had proven to be a catalyst in strengthening women's role as autonomous decision-makers in the selection of food and preparation of meals, and in building a common understanding of the benefits of eating healthy among all family members. This activity directly supported Strategic Objectives 1 and 2, and WFP's crosscutting result on gender equality and empowerment.

WFP relied on its strong and longstanding operational partnerships with the Ministry of Social Development, international (Global Communities) and local NGOs (Ard El Insan, Palestinian Medical Relief Society) and the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to deliver its food assistance and nutrition awareness sessions, and collaborated with the private sector for the development of the local food supply chain and promotion of Palestinian products. WFP also led and coordinated with United Nations agencies on inter-cluster matters, including contingency planning and emergency preparedness.

WFP went beyond the traditional partnerships by supporting United Nations agencies (UNRWA and the United Nations Children's Fund-UNICEF) in their efforts to provide food and other forms of assistance to affected populations through WFP's CBT platform. For the fourth consecutive year and on three occasions in 2017, UNICEF used WFP's electronic food voucher to provide essential winter clothes, water, sanitation and hygiene products to more than 7,600 poor families receiving food through WFP. In the West Bank, UNRWA distributed its food assistance to 47,000 refugees via the same modality of assistance. Following emergency assessments spearheaded by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP provided CBT assistance to 328 Bedouins and herders whose houses were demolished.

Throughout the year, WFP and UNRWA distributed food rations to around 38,500 Bedouin and herding refugee (56 percent) and non-refugee (44 percent) communities living together in 85 localities across the Area C of the West Bank, under Israeli civil and military control. Due to the homogeneity in size and needs of these highly vulnerable semi-nomadic populations, blanket food distributions have been prioritised irrespective of their legal status (refugee vs. non-refugee). Food assistance was essential for these populations at imminent risk of forcible eviction and whose socio-economic conditions have been compounded due to restrictions in land usage and access to basic services. The two agencies partnered together on a new food security assessment which highlighted the increase in the prevalence of food insecurity among these communities (61 percent as opposed to 50 in 2012).

These partnerships are a stellar example of United Nations agencies joining forces and delivering as one under SDG 17 to better help answer the various needs of the most vulnerable families, ensuring a cost-effective and holistic humanitarian response.

WFP's food assistance interventions are guided by bi-annual food security assessments, undertaken under the aegis of the Food Security Sector (FSS), and a common targeting mechanism called Proxy Means Test Formula (PMTF), developed by the World Bank and used by all stakeholders, including WFP, supporting the Palestinian Social Protection System (Ministry of Social Development, European Union, World Bank). PMTF surveys measure poverty by estimating household expenditures on basic services.

WFP, which co-leads the FSS with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), works with 40 partners, including UNRWA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on measuring the various dimensions of food insecurity in Palestine (poverty, food consumption and resilience) which are then captured in the national Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SEFSec). The SEFSec gives a snapshot of food insecurity at a governorate level and orientates the scope of WFP's interventions, based on assessed needs. The latest SEFSec, undertaken in 2017, revealed that the highest levels of food insecurity were found in Gaza (39 percent vs. 13 percent in the West Bank).

WFP targets poor food-insecure non-refugee households, i.e. those living below the national deep poverty line with poor or borderline food consumption scores (FCS). Urban or semi-urban households with a poor or borderline FCS are given priority to receive cash-based transfers. In partnership with Global Communities, WFP conducted two beneficiary vulnerability assessments in both Gaza and the West Bank, assessing the needs and eligibility for assistance of 72,000 households. The results enabled WFP to design its food assistance interventions under its new 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan.

WFP supported the capacity development of the Palestinian Authority to address national food security objectives (Strategic Objective 2). It provided policy and programme support to the design of the new Social Development Sector Strategy (2017-2022), and lent its technical expertise to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on food security analysis, needs assessments and multi-stakeholder coordination. In Gaza, WFP trained counterparts from the Ministry of Social Development in emergency planning in Gaza (data collection and vulnerability assessment of Internally Displaced Persons).

Palestine being prone to natural disasters such as weather hazards and earthquakes, WFP continued to support the capacity of the Palestinian Civil Defense, which acts as the operational arm of the Government in emergencies (Strategic Objective 1). In 2017, WFP increased its support by delivering additional emergency response equipment for use in day-to-day rescue incidents (firefighting, search and rescue, floods), and setting-up six Emergency Operation Centres used for coordination and communication in emergency response operations across the West Bank. The six facilities were established as per the Government priorities in three Governorates in the south (Hebron), centre (Ramallah) and north (Qalqiliya) to achieve full coverage of the populations and allow a rapid response.

Results

In spite of funding challenges, which resulted in reduced in-kind food and cash-based transfer (CBT) entitlements for affected populations, WFP demonstrated a high outcome-level performance and achieved its targets under

Strategic Objectives 1 and 2.

Due to the deteriorating humanitarian situation that prevailed in Gaza, WFP prioritised and allocated a higher share of its resources in Gaza (55 percent) over the West Bank (45 percent) for greater impact of assistance. This reflected the continued priority that WFP and donors gave to addressing the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable population.

WFP's in-kind food and CBT assistance in Gaza helped stabilise the food security and livelihood status of assisted communities - as reflected by the marginal increase in food consumption (FCS) and dietary diversity scores (DDS) of beneficiary households as compared to last year. WFP assistance was critical in preventing a further deterioration in their food security and livelihood status in the wake of an acute energy crisis and deteriorating socio-economic context. Indeed, WFP's monitoring findings in Gaza showed that people's FCS greatly deteriorated following cuts in assistance and significantly improved when distributions resumed over a span of two weeks in July. The continuous assistance and inclusion of other nutritious food items in the CBT food basket provided a fundamental safety net and mitigated the risk for the poorest to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing the number of meals per day. To mitigate the impact of reduced rations, WFP complemented its in-kind food distributions with canned protein-rich tuna and meat from its emergency stocks as their consumption dates were close to expiration. Due to the acuteness of the crisis, these food security indicators have however deteriorated since their baseline levels of 2014. In the West Bank, the proportion of assisted people, both female and male, with poor FCS decreased by 1 percentage point from last year and those with an acceptable FCS increased by 3 percentage points (from 80 percent in 2016 to 83 percent in 2017).

These improvements can be attributed to the expansion of CBTs, which – as outlined in the external 2011-2015 WFP Palestine Country Portfolio Evaluation- have proven to be more effective than in-kind rations at improving people's food consumption scores and dietary diversity. In addition, WFP broadened its approach to improving nutrition by focusing on promoting adequate and healthy diets and using a range of tools to ensure the availability of, access to and demand for nutritious foods. In this regard, WFP expanded the scope of its nutrition and health awareness classes, provided leaflets on best nutritional and health practices at all food distribution sites and CBT participating shops, and diversified the food basket of those receiving vouchers. The WFP nutrition awareness classes led to a stronger sensitisation and involvement of women, and men and women together, in the choice of nutritious food items and preparation of healthy meals. By enrolling all women, men and children from the same families in these classes, WFP promoted a common understanding of healthy eating habits at the wider household level. Despite a small amelioration compared to last year, households headed by women in both Gaza and the West Bank remained more affected by food insecurity than those headed by men.

WFP invested resources in capacity strengthening to support the achievement of food security and nutrition outcomes. WFP delivered technical and financial assistance to national institutions in conducting assessments and enhancing the National Food Safety Net with a view to strengthen national control over the food security sector. WFP trained 20 male and female government counterparts from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on sex and age dis-aggregated data collection and gender-sensitive analysis on food security. The Bureau undertook a new national food security assessment (2017), which provided an analysis on the drivers of food insecurity in Palestine and was crucial to inform WFP's new scope of interventions in its 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan. WFP, together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), provided policy support to the Ministry of Social Development in the design of the 2017-2022 National Social Development Sector Strategy. The new WFP State of Palestine Country Strategic Plan (2018-22) will present an opportunity for WFP, within this institutional national framework, to strengthen its support to Palestinian institutions in their efforts to devise and implement a reformed National Food Safety Net that protects the incomes and assets of poor and vulnerable people. Based on the recommendations of the 'Strategic Review on Food and Nutrition Security' undertaken in 2017 by the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute on behalf of WFP, areas of improvement include needs-based targeting, vulnerability analysis, harmonised social transfers, monitoring and evaluation, and accountability and feedback mechanisms. These activities will endow Palestinian institutions with enhanced capacities and systems to identify, target and assist food-insecure vulnerable populations by 2022.

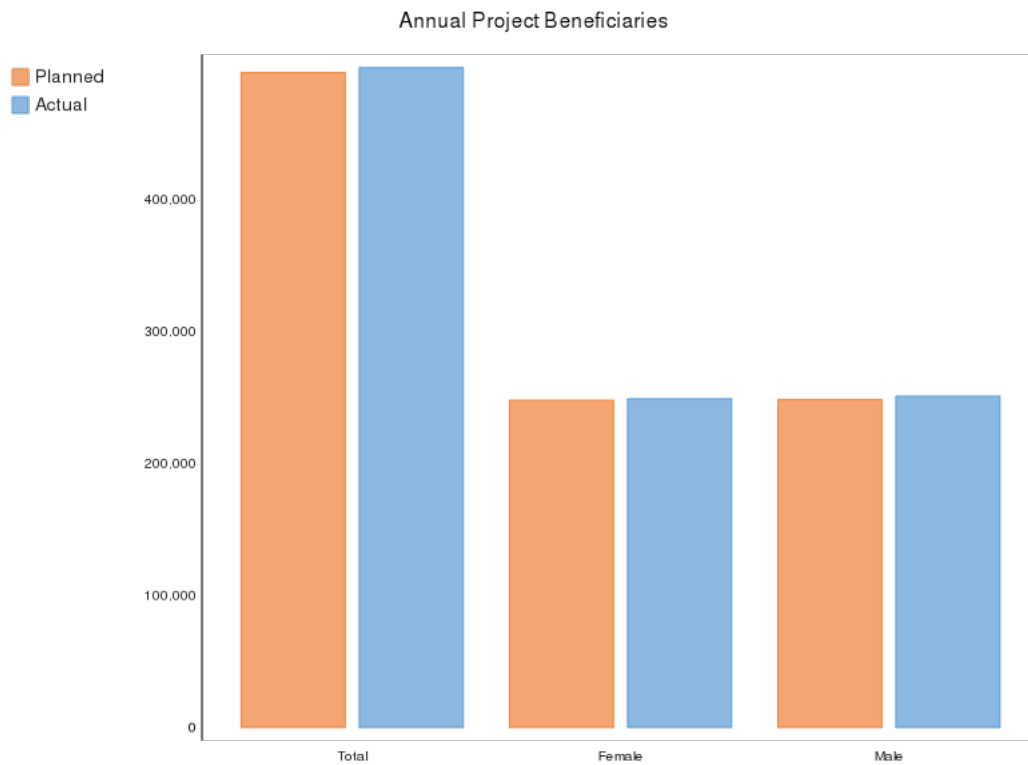
These results testify to the positive impact of WFP's multi-dimensional response to food insecurity and of the importance of providing continuous assistance to both institutional actors and individuals in support of food-insecure communities whose opportunities to move out of poverty have been hindered by the cumulative impact of decades of Occupation and a ten-year long economic blockade in Gaza.

Outcome-level performance was above the planned targets under Strategic Objective 3. By channelling its CBT assistance through local retailers, and procuring 75 percent of its food purchases from local suppliers, WFP made significant progress in stimulating marketing opportunities for local producers and traders. By linking its food assistance to local production, WFP's response to food insecurity was multi-layered and had a greater impact, supporting productive livelihoods and strengthening peoples' resilience in the face of socio-economic hardships and sudden shocks.

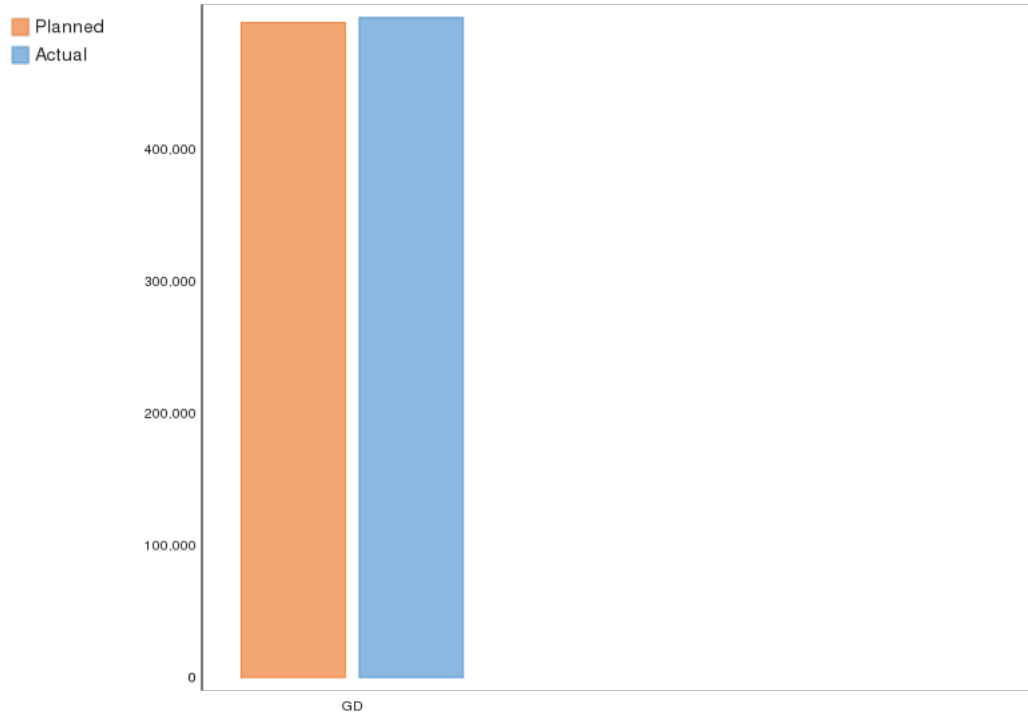
WFP actively supported national institutions and the humanitarian community to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies.

In Gaza, WFP participated in inter-cluster efforts for the update of the inter-agency contingency plan, including the planning for support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in public shelters during emergencies. WFP and the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) developed Standard Implementing Procedures for joint emergency response cooperation focusing on food procurement and delivery. Together with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP delivered a training session on IDP nutrition needs in emergencies to 150 social workers from the Ministry of Social Development who would have the responsibility of managing the humanitarian response in these shelters. Through the engagement and support of the United Nations Country Team, including WFP, the national authorities have shown an increased level of attention and capacity to lead the development of preparedness and response plans in Gaza, in close coordination with the Cluster system.

In the West Bank, WFP has been supporting the Palestinian Civil Defense acting as the national disaster management agency. WFP’s main support area focused on the setup and delivery of six Governorate-level emergency operations rooms equipped with information technology and telecommunication tools including very-high frequency radios, satellite phones, video conferencing equipment. The Palestinian Civil Defense was trained in the use of these tools and is expected to use these facilities to coordinate small to large scale emergencies together with other national, United Nations and private partners and stakeholders (output indicator under SO1).

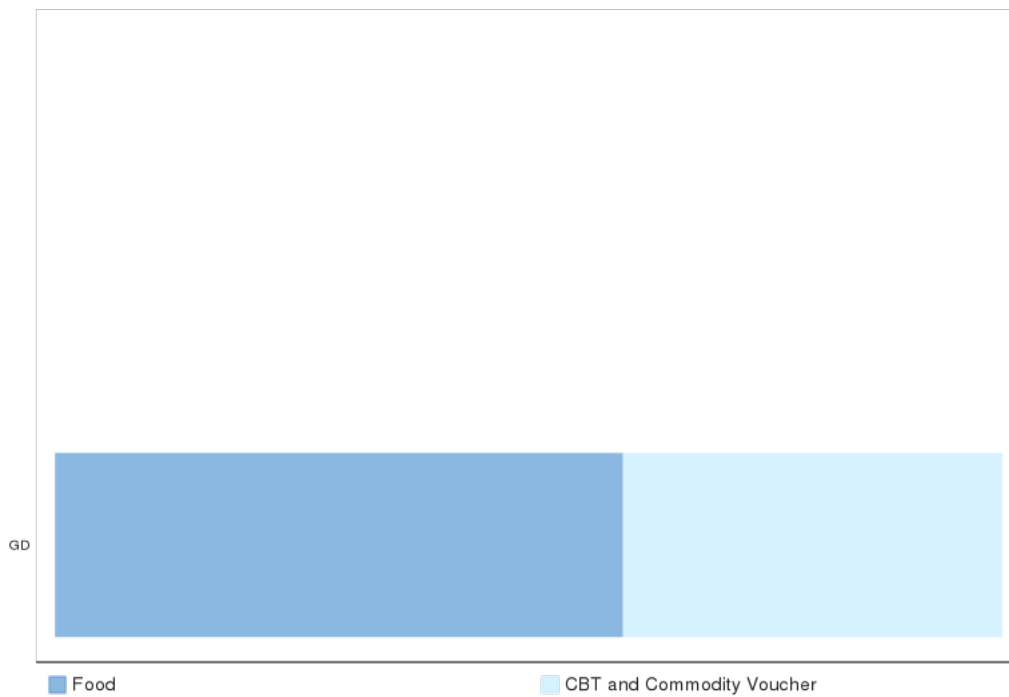


Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)

Modality of Transfer by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Canned Fish	-	172	-
Canned Meat	-	202	-
Canned Pulses	-	49	-
Chickpeas	1,571	1,066	67.8%
Iodised Salt	524	391	74.6%
Lentils	1,048	822	78.5%
Vegetable Oil	1,571	1,450	92.3%
Wheat Flour	32,508	29,530	90.8%
Total	37,222	33,682	90.5%



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Value Voucher	24,927,660	22,581,164	90.6%
Total	24,927,660	22,581,164	90.6%

Performance Monitoring

WFP relies on a set of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) instruments to examine the most critical element underlying the effectiveness, accountability and success of WFP's cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind food distributions in Palestine on three different layers, at the process, output and outcome levels.

Through process monitoring, WFP field monitors assess and report on the operational implementation of WFP's interventions and the risks that might adversely affect the achievement of the planned distributions (output). Process monitoring is conducted at food distribution points (240) and contracted CBT retail shops (225) across Palestine respectively on a trimestral and weekly basis.

In the West Bank, around 60 percent of all food distributions were monitored on a quarterly basis for each distribution cycle, and all 170 contracted shops were visited at least once a month by WFP and its implementing partners. In the Gaza Strip, which covers a smaller geographical area, WFP succeeded to monitor the distributions of in-kind food parcels in all five Governorates on a quarterly basis, and measure the compliance of all 87 participating shops with WFP's programmatic guidelines more than once a month.

WFP monitors the compliance of participating CBT shops with WFP's operational guidelines and anti-fraud/corruption policies, ensuring for instance that: quality and hygiene standards are met, the lists of all products available for redemption and their corresponding prices are adequately displayed and visible, stocks are available and kept in good condition, the registries of beneficiary identity with their entitlements are accurately handled or that the WFP feedback mechanisms are in place. Shop monitoring also enables WFP to report and fix any technical issues that participating shops might have with the equipment provided by WFP, for instance connectivity problems with the terminals and declined transactions.

The delivery of in-kind food to assisted people is also managed by WFP's cooperating partners, whose role is to ensure that distributions are fair, transparent, accountable and gender-sensitive. They supervise the receipt of agreed rations, ensure that crowd control mechanisms are put in place, that the most vulnerable, i.e. the elderly and women, are prioritised, and that information about the entitlements, method (by head of household) and timing of distributions is accurately conveyed to assisted populations. WFP conducts process-monitoring to ensure that an appropriate implementation of the distributions and that cooperating partners comply with its operational guidelines.

Field monitors used a digital tablet and a specific mobile application to collect process monitoring data at both food distribution points and CBT participating shops. Information was automatically sent and hosted in a centralized database, managed by the Country Office in Jerusalem. This automated component within the M&E database allowed WFP to be notified in real time about any issues of concern that need to be addressed for a smooth implementation of WFP's interventions.

Data on output indicators, i.e. number of people assisted, rations distributed or CBT entitlements redeemed, are consolidated through cooperating partners' monthly progress reports which allow WFP to monitor progress and achievements. All beneficiary and distribution outputs are uploaded into the WFP M&E database, feeding into COMET, the corporate monitoring tool, for monitoring achievements as well as follow-up and decision-making purposes.

Since 2011, WFP has been contracting a financial service company – a subsidiary of the Bank of Palestine called Palpay – to operate and manage the CBT platform. The system records all transactions performed by beneficiaries using their electronic vouchers and enables WFP to have full oversight of the nature, quantity, price of all food items purchased in real time and be aware of any dysfunctionality or abnormal practices. This allows WFP to manage the risk of fraud and diversion and ensure that the activity is fully compliant with WFP operational guidelines, rules and regulations. WFP also relied on the observations of field monitors at the shop and household level and feedback mechanisms (complaint boxes placed in shops, hotline) to identify and track non-compliant practices. WFP has Standard Operating Procedures in place to respond to any concerns observed by WFP and its cooperating partners during shop-monitoring visits. For instance, when a complaint is filed against a shop-owner, WFP meets other participants assigned to the same shop and investigates. If the allegation is confirmed, WFP issues a warning letter or terminates the contract of the shop depending on the degree of non-compliance.

WFP's financial systems use internationally-recognized processes and procedures to control risks, manage payments, and reconcile accounts based on transaction terminal slips, cooperating partners' financial records and outgoing payment to ensure full financial accountability. WFP has the right to exclude any shopkeepers should they be found to be in breach of WFP's legally-binding operational and financial guidelines (such as voucher exchange for unauthorized items or cash, or selling at prices exceeding the agreed price list). While no instances of diversion have been reported, WFP further strengthened its CBT control mechanisms by instituting a performance bond for all contracted retailers. Compensation in case of any verified instances of diversion will be drawn from the performance bonds.

WFP conducts post-distribution household monitoring (PDM) visits with a view to monitor the improvement or deterioration in the food security status of assisted people and assess the effectiveness of its interventions. WFP collects qualitative and quantitative data (outcome indicators) on people's diet, food consumption and coping strategies, and measures the satisfaction of families receiving assistance. The information collected is used to inform decision-making. Beneficiary satisfaction and involvement in programme design is a priority and at the core of all WFP's interventions in Palestine. Based on the preferences expressed by households through PDM surveys, WFP further expanded the list of purchasable food items with CBT, and allowed people to collect their entitlements in all contracted shops instead of being assigned to a dedicated one.

WFP field monitors use their electronic tablets and a specific questionnaire designed for PDM surveys. The findings are then automatically incorporated in WFP's database for analysis. In 2017, 6,458 beneficiary households were visited in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, representing an average of 538 per month. In Gaza, the questionnaire was modified to analyse the effects of the energy crisis on the living standards of beneficiaries. This allowed WFP to adequately capture and measure the associated coping strategies of assisted people in the face of increased hardships. Baseline and outcome data for food consumption and dietary diversity scores were based on the findings of the national socio-economic and food security survey (SEFSEC) in 2014, which provided representative data on the non-refugee food insecure population who receive WFP food assistance. Outcome data was captured through WFP's post distribution monitoring. Output and outcome data feed into United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Humanitarian Programme Cycle monitoring.

WFP supported the capacity of WFP's cooperating partners on monitoring, evaluation and reporting functions, providing training on gender and age disaggregated vulnerability data collection, use of tablets, data entry for harmonised and efficient M&E and reporting. In Gaza, WFP trained 150 government staff on IDP nutrition needs in emergencies in Gaza. These staff will be responsible for the management of designated emergency shelters in

times of emergencies. In addition, WFP trained 15 Global Communities staff on shop monitoring.

WFP also trained 150 Global Communities social workers in collecting, processing and analysing beneficiary vulnerability data in Gaza (60) and the West Bank (70) over 2016/2017. This allowed WFP to undertake two thorough beneficiary needs assessments in both Gaza and the West Bank where 37,000 and 35,000 households were respectively surveyed. The results helped WFP shape its food security interventions and identify the most food insecure populations whom WFP foresees to assist over 2018-2022 as per its new Country Strategic Plan.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Gender inequalities, resulting mainly in disadvantages for and discrimination against women and girls who are culturally expected to prioritise domestic responsibilities, remain a significant impediment to social and economic development in Palestine. Despite improvements in the past ten years, the labour force participation rate of women is at a low 19 percent; significantly less than that of men at 72 percent, with also strong disparities in wage levels. Women's participation remains concentrated in the informal sector and a narrow range of fields in the formal economy, despite their high primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolment rates. From 2011 to 2015, the unemployment rate among female heads of households increased from 28 to 39 percent, significantly more than for households headed by men (from 19 to 22 percent). Reduced access to the labour market or productive assets such as livestock and agricultural land is an explanatory factor as to why the poverty rate was higher among households headed by women (29 percent) than men (25)- [1].

As revealed by the findings of the 2016/17 National Socio-economic and Food Security Survey, 36 percent of Palestinian households headed by women are food-insecure – compared to 21 percent among those headed by men. The survey showed that households headed by women live well below the national deep poverty line, set at 1,888 New Israeli Shekels (NIS) or the equivalent of USD 509 per month for a family of five, with an average monthly income of 1,666 NIS (USD 463). This is 20 and 50 percent less, respectively, compared to that of food insecure (2,107 NIS) and food secure households (3,170 NIS) headed by men. There was therefore a higher risk of malnutrition amongst pregnant and lactating women. Prior to this, a 2014 multi-cluster survey found that 50 percent of the population suffered from more than one micro-nutrient deficiency, with a higher prevalence for female adolescents in Gaza.

Guided by its Palestine Gender Action Plan, WFP integrated gender equality and women empowerment goals into all phases of its activities, throughout development, implementation and monitoring, in a bid to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, girls and boys were adequately captured, addressed and monitored. This endeavour was aligned and supported by the Palestinian Authority, which adopted its first cross-sector national gender strategy in 2011 and commitment to advancing gender equality and women empowerment.

WFP, together with the Food Security Sector, placed strong emphasis on integrating a gender dimension in the overall assessment of the food security situation in Palestine. The 2017 National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (SEFSEC) confirmed a greater prevalence of food insecurity amongst women and households headed by single parents.

WFP continued to collect data and rely on an extensive beneficiary profile database, disaggregated by age and sex, factoring in the various forms and degrees of socio-economic vulnerabilities of assisted populations with their specific needs. In 2017, WFP with its cooperating partner, Global Communities, conducted two vulnerability assessments in both Gaza and the West Bank to identify the needs of the most vulnerable people: single parents, divorced/abandoned women, elderly and people living with disabilities, households headed by women, and other marginalised groups. The exercise was conducted through a participatory and gender-sensitive approach, based on the findings of the SEFSEecC, with a view to better inform WFP's targeting to those most affected by food insecurity, i.e. women and single parents, could equitably access and benefit from its assistance. The findings will also help guide WFP's programmatic decisions should a prioritisation of assistance be needed in the event of funding shortfalls.

Courses on the value of nutrition served to empower women, who traditionally play a central role in making decisions about food and preparation of meals. This was critical in improving the quality of consumed food and dietary diversity of assisted households. Similarly, WFP expanded its nutrition and health awareness sessions, placing emphasis on enrolling women, and strengthen their roles as autonomous decision-makers. The courses also included men, in most cases their spouses, to promote a common understanding of healthy eating and foster sustainable behavioural changes. For the first time, WFP introduced topics specifically tailored for children and rolled out the courses in the West Bank, in response of the recommendations made by the 2011-2015 Country Portfolio Evaluation. Participants attended interactive discussions and presentations on diet, micro-nutrient deficiencies, hygiene, cooking, purchasing healthy food on a budget, and caring for infants. The sessions proved to

be particularly important in the Gaza context where 72 and 64 percent of female adolescents are deficient in vitamin D and A respectively. WFP also nominated former participant 'mother leaders' to participate in new classes, engage and share their experiences. As part of the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)' campaign, the classes introduced specific topics aimed at spreading awareness on human rights, gender equality, women empowerment as well as on the forms, scope and ways to act against GBV. Beneficiaries were invited to participate in creative workshops on around these subjects (storytelling, painting, drawing, and poetry writing) - the colour orange was a key theme unifying all activities in all community-based organisations where courses took place.

In consultation with the Ministry and through a gender-sensitive programming approach, WFP prioritised the most vulnerable urban households, i.e. the ill, elderly, households headed by women, with poor diets to receive food vouchers in replacement of their in-kind food entitlements. This transition of assistance, undertaken with their full consent, gave recipients flexibility to use their vouchers in shops near their homes and at their best convenience, thereby avoiding long waits in queues and the burden of carrying home large food parcels. At the same time, all households headed by women have their own vouchers. This enabled all men, under whose name the voucher was issued, to nominate an alternate family member, in most cases their spouses, to collect their food entitlements in participating shops. By using retail shops to deliver cash-based assistance, WFP also enabled local food processors, including cooperatives led by women, to benefit from sustainable market outlets, invest in their businesses and build human and economic capitals.

WFP's household visits and monitoring tools enabled the assessment of appropriateness and effectiveness of its response and/or chosen aid modalities (in-kind food rations vs cash-based transfers), and devise appropriate review- strategies for all segment of populations. As an example, through its online monitoring platform, WFP was able to track all purchases made by people receiving vouchers, and give specific attention to those redeeming excessive amounts of vegetable oil. Using this information, WFP prioritised the enrolment of these families in its nutrition awareness classes, giving special consideration to large households headed by single parents.

WFP's monitoring results showed that there has been substantial progress in women decision-making compared to 2015 when the PRRO was first implemented, as evidenced by the increasing share of decision-making made by only women over the use of food or vouchers, from 78 percent in 2015 to 84 percent in 2017 in the West Bank, and from 87 to 91 percent in Gaza over the same timeframe. The food consumption of families led by single female and male parents improved since last year. WFP sensitised and encouraged its cooperating partners and all represented groups (villagers, local leaders, municipality council members) to have an equal participation of men and women within these committees. The proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees in the West Bank also significantly increased (30 percent) since the start of the PRRO, reflecting a better gender balance and more female participation in the decisions that affected their lives. These improvements confirmed the empowerment of women and gender-transformative influence of WFP's interventions in Palestine.

WFP together with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development, delivered a training to male and female Ministry staff and social workers in Gaza on Electronic Data Collection in emergencies. This training was put in place to support the capacity of the Ministry to collect and use gender and age disaggregated data on the ground, with a view to better prepare and respond to the various needs of all categories of people during emergencies. WFP continued to give pregnant and lactating women, and children under 24 months, special consideration in its emergency response planning through CBT assistance, allowing for the distribution of food items that can address the nutritional requirements for these groups.

Around 40 percent of assisted households in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development have at least one family member living with a disability in the Gaza Strip and 30 percent in the West Bank. People living with disabilities are at a further disadvantage and faced with with an increased vulnerability factor; in its assistance, WFP takes those most at risk to food insecurity into consideration, targeting poor and food insecure households.

WFP catered to the specific food needs of poor elderly people, orphans, street children, people living with a disability, pregnant and lactating women living permanently or semi-permanently in more than 130 charitable or specialised health care institutions targeted in the most food-insecure areas across Gaza and the West Bank. As another example of WFP's gender and age sensitive programming, WFP started providing food vouchers in lieu of entitlements from October onwards. The switch of assistance was also a preventive measure to continue assisting the most at risk of falling into a deeper state of poverty, as no resources for in-kind food assistance had been received. It enabled children, especially those suffering from anaemia, and other marginalised groups, to benefit from a healthier and more diversified diet. It contributed to reinforce the concentration of those with a physical and/or cognitive disability during therapy or class. Acknowledging that food was an essential part of the care of people living with a disability, some partner institutions hired a nutritionist to prepare different menus corresponding to the various needs of their patients.

[1] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011 census

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Protection

WFP captured safety-related issues through its monitoring and targeting processes, on-site observations, and cooperating partners' assessments. Results of these evaluations guided WFP in its efforts to better tailor its food assistance interventions. Protection considerations were taken into account when deciding on the most appropriate transfer modality. For instance, when choosing between in-kind and cash-based (CBT) assistance, WFP considered among others the preferences of beneficiaries, their familiarity with technology (particularly cell-phone), their safe passage to distributions points, in addition to family and community dynamics. These criteria were integrated when WFP scaled-up its CBT interventions in Gaza in March.

WFP organised its food distributions in safe and easily-accessible locations to all, and establish crowd management mechanisms. WFP established multiple storage and collection points in quiet areas and monitored queues. The most vulnerable groups, such as the pregnant and lactating women (PLW), elderly men and women, and people living with disabilities, were prioritised and given additional support when necessary. All assisted communities were informed on the collection points and timing of distributions. Participating CBT shops were carefully selected to ensure that assisted people would not have to travel long distances to redeem their vouchers. During the last trimester, WFP enabled all families to redeem their entitlements in all participating CBT shops instead of being assigned to a dedicated one. This mitigated the risk of unfair practices from shop owners.

WFP collected beneficiaries' protection-related concerns through household post-distribution visits. Almost all of the men and women who were interviewed by WFP did not experience safety issues when travelling to/from or at WFP programme sites, with a few rare exceptions in Israeli-controlled area C of the West Bank.

WFP monitors protection risks related to WFP's food interventions at food distribution sites and with participating CBT shops (process-monitoring). This includes, the monitoring of act of violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation and disrespect to beneficiaries or programme participants. WFP's feedback mechanisms (complaint boxes and hotline) allow tracking of these behaviours and enable corrective actions. When a complaint is filed against a shop-owner, WFP meets other participants assigned to the same shop and investigates. If allegation were confirmed, WFP issued a warning letter and/or terminate the contract of the shop based on the degree of non-compliance.

The joint food distributions of WFP and the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to the Bedouins communities provided a regular United Nations presence in Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank; there were protection benefits for populations that are regularly subject to violence, harassment and intimidation from Israeli settlers and defence forces patrolling in these areas. WFP assistance is distributed within these communities away from checkpoints, settlements and main congested roads. This reduces the risk for beneficiaries to go purchase food far from their dwellings and be exposed to these risks. Distributions are monitored by UNRWA social workers.

In addition, WFP, together with other United Nations agencies, provided emergency assistance to those whose houses and other livelihoods assets were demolished or confiscated, and/or were forced to relocate. In 2017, WFP assisted 328 people with emergency vouchers for a total value of USD 5,350. WFP assistance was a fundamental safety net for those who were subject to forced displacements.

Accountability to affected populations

WFP informed all assisted households about the full scope of their entitlements at all distribution points. Each CBT participating shops displayed the list of products available for redemption, with their corresponding prices, and the dates at which cash was credited onto people's vouchers. Posters with the entitlements of each beneficiary groups, depending on the size of the households, were hung at all food distribution sites. WFP and its cooperating partners informed in advance all recipients of food assistance, mainly through mobile phone text messaging, banners at collection points, and implementing partners, about the reduction of their entitlements, delays in distributions and/or additional commodities in the food basket. The reasons for reduced or delayed assistance, such as insufficient funding received, were explained with the cooperation of its implementing partners. WFP pursued its strategy to scale-up the use of CBTs, delivering assistance in a dignified way. By enabling people to choose the food items they need the most, WFP gave them more control over the decisions that affect their lives.

Consultation with communities

The opinions and satisfaction of families were collected by WFP through local project management committees, focus groups during programme reviews, household post-distribution monitoring visits, and through two satisfaction

surveys conducted in Gaza and the West Bank where around 72,000 household were interviewed to assess their eligibility to receive WFP's assistance. Through these exercises, WFP aimed at refining its targeting methodology in a climate of reduced donor funding, and implement stronger transformative social protection interventions.

Based on consultation with families receiving assistance, WFP increased the volume of food items enlisted in its CBT programme, including tomato paste and Zaatar. It also replaced in-kind food rations with food vouchers for people living with disabilities living in specialised day-care centres, following a review of their needs and talks with these institutions.

WFP strengthened its existing complaints and feedback mechanisms for enhanced accountability. Complaint boxes were placed in every WFP participating shops and food-collection sites. WFP contracted the services of the private sector company REACH, a subsidiary of the Palestinian Telecommunication Group, to run a specialised call centre to receive and address complaints and feedback from WFP's beneficiaries across the West Bank and Gaza. This approach was particularly suitable because most Palestinians have access to mobile phones. The toll-free number was put in service in February and was also open to people not receiving but soliciting WFP's assistance. It was available 24 hours, seven day a week until September. To provide consistent and accurate messages about the specificities of WFP's assistance, WFP trained 3 operators with a social assistance background to be responsible for the helpline. The decision to hire social workers was made as WFP discovered that they were more likely to provide coherent and accurate information than regular operators and were better informed about WFP's assistance. On average, WFP received 150 calls per month, with a peak of 3,000 recorded in Gaza in May in the midst of an acute energy crisis (April-December 2017). All requests were tracked to allow for immediate follow-up. Most of the feedback received related to the inclusion of additional food commodities in the voucher list, the replacement of damaged/lost food vouchers and the request for larger entitlements. On average, 94 percent of assisted people in Gaza (95) and the West Bank (93) reported being aware of who was included, what they would receive, and where people could provide feedback and complaints.

WFP did not inform people assisted about the length of its assistance. However, families who qualified to receive food assistance were made aware that their entitlements were contingent on WFP receiving sufficient funding to carry forth its interventions. Households receiving their entitlements through the international NGO Global Communities can benefit from WFP's assistance over a period of two to three years, which can be renewed until a new re-targeting process is carried-out. The eligibility criteria and duration of assistance are communicated by WFP to those eligible. The families that are assisted by WFP through the Palestinian Authority are registered under the National Food Safety Net. The beneficiary lists are managed and regularly updated by the Ministry of Social Development whose social workers have the responsibility to communicate the duration of assistance and reasons for exclusion of the programme. This is done in close consultation with WFP.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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"I love to draw Gaza's fish in different shapes and colours." Nahed, a ten-year old girl, did not leave any wall or closet in her small and modest house in Beit Lahia without leaving her fingerprint through her drawings. She and her two sisters are raised by their mother Khayzaran, a single parent who makes ends meet thanks to WFP's assistance. Khayzaran is determined to provide her daughters the best education, despite all odds. As one of Gaza's icons, Nahed has a special affection for fish. Once you ask her to draw a picture, she hurries to create a fish even with the simplest available materials, such as plastic spoons and colourful wool threads.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	248,198	247,802	496,000	250,928	248,928	499,856	101.1%	100.5%	100.8%
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	19,840	17,856	37,696	22,993	20,494	43,487	115.9%	114.8%	115.4%
Children (5-18 years)	94,240	87,296	181,536	94,973	87,475	182,448	100.8%	100.2%	100.5%
Adults (18 years plus)	134,118	142,650	276,768	132,962	140,959	273,921	99.1%	98.8%	99.0%
By Residence status:									
Refugees	8,439	8,425	16,864	11,822	9,672	21,494	140.1%	114.8%	127.5%
Non-Refugees	239,760	239,376	479,136	239,181	239,181	478,362	99.8%	99.9%	99.8%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	291,000	205,000	496,000	299,678	200,178	499,856	103.0%	97.6%	100.8%
School Feeding (on-site)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	67,636	37,007	105,268	65,171	39,233	104,404	96.4%	106.0%	99.2%
School Feeding (on-site)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)									
People participating in general distributions	76,678	28,590	105,268	76,075	28,329	104,404	99.2%	99.1%	99.2%
Total participants	76,678	28,590	105,268	76,075	28,329	104,404	99.2%	99.1%	99.2%
Total beneficiaries	248,199	247,801	496,000	250,506	249,350	499,856	100.9%	100.6%	100.8%

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and/or individuals				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>16.00	14.00	16.00	15.00
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>18.00	14.00	18.00	17.00
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>15.00	14.00	15.00	14.00
Diet Diversity Score				
GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	<5.00	5.00	5.00	5.30
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	<5.00	5.00	5.00	5.30
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	<5.00	5.00	5.00	5.30
National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies				
EPCI: Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Index				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Consultations with WFP partners, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Consultations with WFP Partners, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP survey, Consultations with WFP Partners, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP survey, Consultations with WFP Partners	=3.00	2.60	3.00	3.00
SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Adequate food consumption reached or maintained over assistance period for targeted households				
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>15.00	15.00	15.00	13.00

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>7.00	5.00	7.00	6.00
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>19.00	15.00	19.00	18.00
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	>13.00	15.00	13.00	12.00
Diet Diversity Score				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	<5.00	5.00	5.00	5.40
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	<5.00	5.00	5.00	5.40
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
WEST BANK, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.01, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring	<5.00	5.00	5.00	5.40
SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Increased marketing opportunities for producers and traders of agricultural products and food at the regional, national and local levels				
Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country				
WEST BANK & GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Review of Procurement records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP survey, Documents Review and calculations, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP survey, Documents Review and calculations	=23.00	-	51.90	49.00
Fortified foods purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of fortified food distributed by WFP in-country				
WEST BANK & GAZA STRIP, Project End Target: 2017.12, Review of Procurement records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP survey, Documents review and calculations, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP survey, Documents Review and calculations	=24.50	-	54.90	53.00

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness and Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	6	6	100.0%
SO2: Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of food security and nutrition monitoring/surveillance reports produced with WFP support	report	1	1	100.0%
Number of government counterparts trained in data collection and analysis on food and nutrition security	individual	20	20	100.0%
SO3: Local Purchases				
Quantity of food purchased locally through local purchases	metric ton	11,166	16,652	149.1%

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Number of members of food management committees (men) trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	<40.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	<5.00	6.00	4.00	5.00
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	<5.00	19.00	17.00	12.00
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=70.00	87.00	92.00	91.00
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=70.00	78.00	79.00	84.00
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=25.00	7.00	4.00	4.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=25.00	3.00	5.00	4.00
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=30.00	1.00	30.00	30.00
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	>50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=80.00	92.00	89.00	94.00
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=80.00	79.00	93.00	92.00
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=90.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=90.00	100.00	99.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=80.00	88.00	88.00	95.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=80.00	84.00	96.00	94.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=90.00	100.00	99.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=90.00	100.00	99.00	99.70
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=80.00	90.00	90.00	95.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=80.00	83.00	95.00	93.00
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=90.00	100.00	99.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2015.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=90.00	100.00	99.00	99.80

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=450,000.00	542,623.00
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=385,000.00	385,000.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=1.00	1.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=1.00	1.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>GAZA, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=17.00	17.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
WEST BANK, General Distribution (GD), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12	=17.00	17.00

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
Canada	CAN-C-00528-01	Wheat Flour	-	397
Canada	CAN-C-00547-01	Chickpeas	-	36
Canada	CAN-C-00547-01	Iodised Salt	-	30
Canada	CAN-C-00547-01	Lentils	-	18
Canada	CAN-C-00547-01	Vegetable Oil	-	37
Canada	CAN-C-00547-01	Wheat Flour	-	950
Japan	JPN-C-00514-01	Canned Fish	-	217
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat Flour	-	36
Norway	NOR-C-00349-01	Vegetable Oil	-	118
Norway	NOR-C-00349-01	Wheat Flour	-	1,136
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00053-07	Wheat Flour	-	846
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00054-03	Wheat Flour	-	1,728
Switzerland	SWI-C-00583-13	Chickpeas	-	36
Switzerland	SWI-C-00583-13	Iodised Salt	-	40
Switzerland	SWI-C-00583-13	Lentils	-	18
Switzerland	SWI-C-00583-13	Vegetable Oil	-	109
Switzerland	SWI-C-00583-13	Wheat Flour	-	2,261
USA	USA-C-01084-04	Chickpeas	-	306
USA	USA-C-01084-04	Iodised Salt	-	105
USA	USA-C-01084-04	Lentils	-	216
USA	USA-C-01084-04	Vegetable Oil	-	203
USA	USA-C-01084-04	Wheat Flour	-	7,557
USA	USA-C-01232-01	Chickpeas	-	36
USA	USA-C-01232-01	Lentils	-	54
USA	USA-C-01232-01	Vegetable Oil	-	95
USA	USA-C-01232-01	Wheat Flour	-	1,749

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
USA	USA-C-01285-01	Chickpeas	-	90
USA	USA-C-01285-01	Wheat Flour	-	3,670
		Total	-	22,093