



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Palestine Country Brief October 2018



## Operational Context

Food insecurity in Palestine affects 22.5 percent of the population – about 1.3 million people- and is driven by limited economic access to food, arising from restrictions of movement, trade and investment, and high unemployment rates. Food prices are driven by Israeli markets, where people’s average purchasing power per person is six times higher than in Palestine, and therefore too high for poor Palestinian families to afford. As poor and vulnerable Palestinians spend more than half of their income on food, WFP’s assistance is critical to meet their food needs and prevents further deteriorations in their food security and livelihood status.

Gaza continues its trajectory of de-development. All socio-economic indicators and humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, with more than half of the population living in poverty and without a job. The UN foresees that Gaza will be “unliveable” by 2020. In the West Bank, the prolonged period of slow economic growth, restrictions on movement, trade, investment and access to land and water resources, together with higher food prices, continue to erode the fragile livelihoods of poor Palestinians. Poverty (13.9 percent) and food insecurity (12.7 percent), while less widespread than in Gaza, are still entrenched and more localised to pockets of land, particularly in the Southern Governorates. More than 60 percent of the Bedouin and herding communities in Area C of the West Bank are food-insecure.

Under the [State of Palestine Country Strategy Plan \(2018-2022\)](#), WFP aims to provide food assistance to up to 314,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable non-refugees to food insecurity in Palestine, primarily in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank where the prevalence of food insecurity is the highest. All WFP-assisted people live below the national deep poverty line of less than US\$ 3.7 per day. The CSP is aligned with SDG 2 ‘Zero Hunger’ and 17 ‘Partnerships for the Goals’.

Population: **4.9 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **119 out of 188**

Poverty rate: **29.2 percent**

Chronic malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 2.7 m** cash-based transfers made  
**1,680 mt** of in-kind food distributed

**US\$25.8 m** six months (December 2018 - May 2019) net funding requirements

**333,959 people** assisted  
in October 2018



## Operational Updates

- In October, WFP assisted 333,959 of the poorest and most food insecure people: 232,999 people in Gaza and 100,960 people in the West Bank with food and cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP’s food assistance enables poor households to meet a share of their daily food needs and alleviates the decline in their purchasing power. It is a fundamental safety net that keeps them from falling into deeper poverty, as well as a critical form of economic transfer allowing families to spend their meagre resources on other essentials.
- WFP is engaged in the preparation of its 2019 operational plan, which will foresee a decrease in beneficiary numbers commensurate with the year-on-year decline of its resources. The upcoming new food insecurity estimates from the Food Security Sector (to be released in November) will guide WFP’s geographical targeting.
- To the same end, WFP is working with the Ministry of Social Development to identify the poorest and most food-insecure populations enlisted in the national social protection programme and thereby inform its prioritisation of assistance. This will entail a review and analysis of the indicators and criteria to be used for determining the eligibility for WFP’s food assistance and also for national social welfare entitlements. This exercise, which falls under the Palestinian Authority’s commitment to reform its Social Safety Net and WFP Strategic Objective 2, aims to further enhance the effectiveness of targeting and avoid duplications in the provision of assistance to targeted households.
- Together with the local NGO Palestinian Medical Relief Society, WFP delivered nutrition and health awareness training to 1,200 women, 400 men and 500 school-children within Bedouin communities living in the Hebron and Bethlehem governorates in the West Bank. Food and nutrition insecurity among these semi-nomadic populations reach 61 percent (source: WFP/UNRWA, 2016/2017). Across all five Gaza governorates and in partnership with the local NGO Ard El Insan, WFP trained 4,000 women, 1,500 men and 1,000 children on best nutritional practices and healthy eating habits.

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**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (December 2018-May 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>240.3 m</b>	<b>48.8 m</b>	<b>25.8 m</b>

\*The Net Funding Requirements include the repayment of IRA allocation of USD 10 m.

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome # 1:** Non-refugees, poor and severely food-insecure people (primarily in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank) have improved dietary diversity by 2022  
**Focus area :** Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Provision of unconditional food assistance – including through cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind modalities- and nutrition information to poor and food-insecure households (Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food).

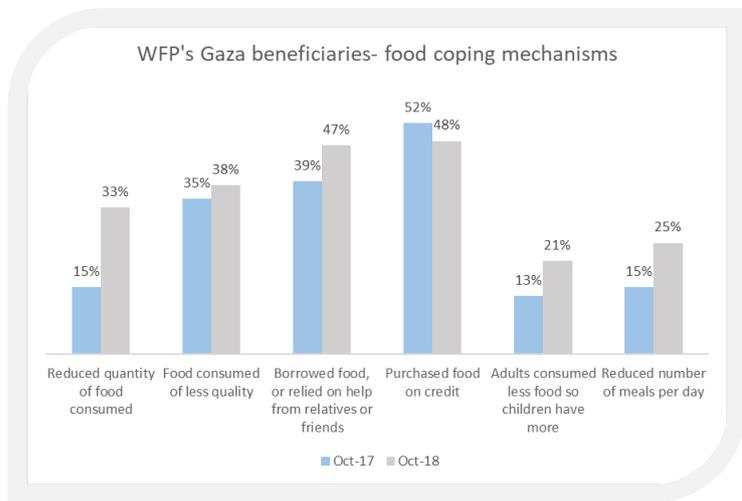
**Strategic Result 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs**

**Strategic Outcome 2:** State of Palestine institutions have enhanced capacities and systems to identify, target and assist food-insecure vulnerable populations by 2022  
**Focus area :** Resilience-building

- Activities:**
- Provision of technical support to national ministries and institutions for implementation of the food security strategy
  - Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government (Service provision and platforms activities)

**Monitoring**

- In October, WFP conducted 412 household visits in Gaza and 241 in the West Bank. The average family size was 7 and 6 members, respectively.
- 65 percent of the beneficiary households surveyed in Gaza this month were found to be heavily indebted, with an average accumulated debt of USD 4,860 for electricity, grocery shopping and money borrowed from friends and relatives. In the West Bank, 62 percent of the surveyed families declared being in debt for an average amount of USD 4,510.
- WFP beneficiary heads of households in Gaza and the West Bank reported working 6.4 and 7.4 days this month for an average monthly revenue of USD 177 and USD 313. This represents respectively USD 0.84 and USD 1.74 per person and per day – without social assistance - while the deep poverty line is set at USD 3.7.
- Findings showed that almost all negative food coping mechanisms of WFP household beneficiaries in Gaza are on the rise compared to last year at the same period (see table). In the West Bank, poor food-insecure communities continued to purchase food on credit (41 percent), consume food of lower quality (41 percent) and rely on family support (29 percent).



**Challenges**

- WFP will be able to sustain its operations in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of the year, thanks to multilateral funding and an emergency loan allocated by WFP's Headquarters from flexible donors. Should the gap between available resources and food security needs continue to widen, WFP will be forced to significantly downsize its operations in 2019.

**Partnerships**

- WFP and other humanitarian and development actors support the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the provision of assistance to vulnerable segments of the non-refugee population. WFP works closely with the Ministry of Social Development, UNRWA and NGOs (Global Communities, Ard El Inسان, Palestinian Medical Relief Society) to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable food insecure Palestinians.
- WFP's food assistance interventions are aligned with national plans and strategies, namely the National Policy Agenda and the Social Development Sector Strategy covering the period 2017-2022.
- WFP's support to SDGs 2 and 17 is embedded within the 2018-2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and 2018-2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in Palestine, recognising support for SDG 1.

**Donors**

- WFP is grateful for the support of: [Canada](#), [European Union \(ECHO\)](#), [Japan](#), [the Republic of Korea](#), [Switzerland](#), [the United States of America](#), and multilateral and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1).

More information [here](#).

**Photo credit:** Yasmine, Samah, Noora, Salah and Fuad can enjoy diversified meals, thanks to WFP's electronic food voucher assistance. *WFP/Raphael du Boispean*