



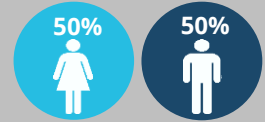
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief April 2019

In Numbers



259,531 people assisted
in April 2019

US\$ 2.5 m cash-based transfers made

36 mt of food distributed

US\$ 16.3 m six months (May-October 2019) net
funding requirements

Operational Context

The humanitarian context in the State of Palestine remains directly tied to the impact of the Israeli occupation. Restricted movement of people, access to resources and basic social services, together with recurrent expropriation of land, settler violence, civil unrest and periodic large-scale armed hostilities have resulted in economic stagnation, high unemployment, poverty and food insecurity.

WFP provides food assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the Palestinian non-refugee population while the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is mandated to deliver a wide range of relief and social services, including food, to Palestinian refugees. According to the [latest national estimates \(December 2018\)](#), food insecurity in Palestine affects nearly a third of the population – about 1.6 million people - and is driven by high poverty and unemployment rates. The number of food-insecure Palestinians is almost equally divided between the refugee (55 percent) and non-refugee (45 percent) communities. More than 700,000 non-refugees are food insecure in Gaza (465,000) and the West Bank (235,000), including 404,000 in a severe state.

The provision of WFP's assistance goes beyond serving the purpose of enhancing people's ability to meet their immediate food needs; it supports community resilience and empowerment in the face of repeated shocks and increased hardships, contributes to maintaining peace and stability, and [stimulates the local economy](#).

Under its [2018-22 Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\)](#) and in contribution to SDG 2, WFP aims at providing food assistance to 368,700 of the most vulnerable non-refugees via in-kind food rations and electronic food vouchers topped up with a monthly credit of USD 10 per person. Assisted communities can redeem their entitlements in a network of 160 local retail shops across Gaza (85) and the West Bank (75). WFP also works with national institutions to enhance the capacity of existing social safety nets to assist the poor and vulnerable. WFP launched its [2019 funding appeal and awareness-raising video campaign on Gaza's spiralling humanitarian needs](#).

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

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP assisted 208,957 and 50,574 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, with a combination of food and cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP's food assistance is a fundamental safety net that enables poor households to meet a share of their daily food needs and prevents them from falling into deeper poverty. This support is all the more critical as the poorest segments of the population have not been receiving their national social welfare entitlements since November 2018.
- Thanks to new contributions, WFP reinstated the full voucher entitlements for all 166,000 people who had been receiving reduced transfers since January – USD 8 per person per month instead of USD 10 – due to severe funding shortages. Albeit seemingly marginal, such an increase makes a tangible difference in improving the purchasing power, living and socio-economic conditions of poor families who usually devote more than half of their resources to food. This has been corroborated by a WFP impact assessment conducted in March that revealed an increase in the prevalence of food deprivation and reliance on credit and family support among those affected by the reduction.
- WFP completed its first quarterly distributions of in-kind food parcels to 35,000 people in Gaza. Each beneficiary household received a package of wheat flour, vegetable oil and pulses that are meant to cover 60 percent of their daily caloric needs for three months. The next distributions are scheduled to take place in June.
- The livelihoods of Gaza fishermen remain obstructed with many falling into a state of food-insecurity and becoming WFP beneficiaries, due to the enforcement of a fluctuating fishing zone currently limited to nine nautical miles (NM) (well below the 20 NM agreed under the 1993 Oslo Accords), decreasing fish stocks as sewage is pumped into the sea, import and export restrictions, rampant poverty and reduced market opportunities. Listen to their testimonies and challenges faced [here](#).

Photo Caption: The growth of Tahini's small venture in Gaza, since her inclusion as a retailer in the WFP's food voucher programme, in 2014: bigger premises, new machines, and the scale-up of her production of date-based-products, samosas, pastries and spices.
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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
253.2 m	79.3 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May - October 2019)
48.6 m*	16.3 m

*To undergo a budget revision to reflect the increase in severe food-insecurity levels recorded among the non-refugee population

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2)

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: Support to the implementation of the SDGs (SDG 17)

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

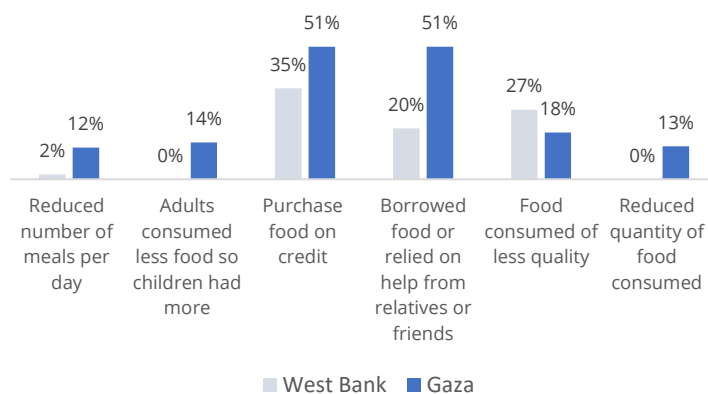
Activities:

- 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 April, WFP conducted 344 household visits in Gaza and 244 in the West Bank. The average family size was 5.6 and 5.5 members respectively. Female-headed households accounted for 31 percent of those visited. Around 30 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs. Fifty-three (53) percent are due but have yet to receive their social benefits, including cash-transfers.
- Beneficiary households reported having earned on average USD 210 of income, corresponding to USD 1.25 per person per day (excluding social benefits) and therefore far below the national deep poverty threshold (USD 3.70). With limited economic opportunities, vulnerable communities have been resorting to coping mechanisms (see table) and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs. More than 72 percent had debts within a range of USD 1,940-3,670 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and line of credit with friends and relatives.
- In the West Bank, assisted people reported relying on a daily income of USD 1.90 per capita. A smaller proportion had accumulated the afore-mentioned debts (50 percent), however, they were of a higher amount (USD 2,940-4,400). 68 percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

Food coping mechanisms of WFP beneficiaries (April 2019)



- Almost all visited households expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food assistance (99.6 percent), availability and variety of commodities in participating shops (98.4 percent), and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (98.2 percent).

Challenges

- With the resources currently at its disposal, WFP will be able to sustain its in-kind food activities and provide food parcels to 72,000 people in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank until the end of the year. However, it is only able to distribute its electronic food vouchers to its current caseload of 260,000 people until September. The monthly transfer value, i.e. USD 10 per capita, is currently under review.

Partnerships

- WFP provides food assistance and supports the Palestinian Authority in meeting the essential needs of the poorest groups of the non-refugee population. Around 166,000 people in Gaza (115,000) and the West Bank (51,000) receive complementary food assistance from WFP on top of their national social benefits, including direct cash-transfers. Due to funding limitations, the welfare system is currently unable to support all those in need, resulting in an extensive waiting list.
- Through its other implementing international non-governmental organization (INGO) partners Global Communities and Oxfam, WFP reaches 157,000 people among the most vulnerable and severely food-insecure, whose access to social protection had been curtailed. WFP also works with UNWRA to meet the food needs of mixed refugee and non-refugee Bedouin and herding communities in Israeli-controlled Area C of the West Bank (37,000 people).
- Complementary to the provision of food assistance, WFP delivers nutrition and health education sessions all year round with local NGOs in Gaza and the West Bank.

Donors

- WFP is grateful for the support of: [Canada](#), [European Union \(ECHO\)](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Japan](#), [Kuwait Red Crescent](#), [the Republic of Korea](#), [Switzerland](#), [the Russian Federation](#), [Spain](#), [the United States of America](#) and [multilateral and private donors](#) (Strategic Outcome 1). More information [here](#).