



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief July 2019

In Numbers

320,967 people assisted
in July 2019



US\$ 2.6 m cash-based transfers made

1,646 mt of food distributed

US\$ 23.7 m six months (August 2019-January 2020) 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 assessed to be 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 404,000 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 210 local retail shops across Gaza (135) 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 July, WFP assisted 239,521 and 81,446 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, with a combination of food and cash transfers using electronic food vouchers. 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 and food-insecurity.
- In Gaza, [WFP expanded its beneficiary reach](#) providing food vouchers to an additional 12,000 people facing deep poverty and severe food insecurity. The increase in assisted beneficiaries came in response to a worrying rise in humanitarian and food security needs in the enclave.
- After a six-month gap, and in tune with the collective priorities of the wider humanitarian community, WFP resumed its food voucher assistance to 785 vulnerable people residing in the H2 area of Hebron, in the southern West Bank. WFP monitoring findings brought evidence of an increase in the use of negative coping strategies (food deprivation, debt accumulation, charity) among this group caused by the forced suspension of the assistance due to insufficient funding. A recent [humanitarian needs assessment spearheaded by OCHA](#) highlighted the numerous protection, education, shelter and food security challenges encountered by Palestinians in the area.
- Using the global Food Insecurity Scale (FIES), the [2019 State of Food Insecurity \(SOFI\) in the World](#) evaluates food insecurity in Palestine to affect more than one-fourth of the population (26.3 percent), representing an estimated 1.3 million people. This is within the range of the latest 2018 national estimates and calls for enhanced action toward fulfilling Palestinians' fundamental human right to food.
- In contribution to SDG 17 'Partnerships for the SDGs', WFP signed two new agreements wherein its cash-based transfer platform, network of accredited shops, and subsequent monitoring and oversight services, will be made available for the use of the international NGOs Action Against Hunger and Global Communities as they provide their own assistance to vulnerable Gazan communities. Through Global Communities, a total of 800 families received food in July.

Photo Caption: In July, WFP provided food vouchers to more than 113,000 vulnerable children across Palestine, including Yasmine and Samah (centre) in Yatta, West Bank. ©WFP/Yasmine Abu Ellassal.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
268.4 m	85.8 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (-August 2019 – January 2020)
65.3 m	23.7 m

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

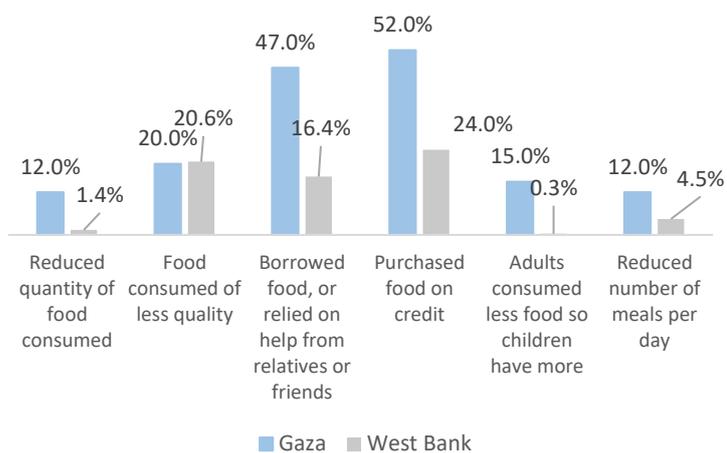
Activities:

- 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 July, WFP conducted 369 household visits in Gaza and 287 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6.1 and 4.7 members respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 25 percent of those visited. Around 23 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs. Forty-six (46) percent received complementary social benefits, including cash transfers, from the Palestinian Authority.
- In Gaza, beneficiary households reported an average income of USD 224, corresponding to USD 1.22 per person per day (excluding social benefits), far below the national deep poverty threshold (USD 3.70). With limited economic opportunities, vulnerable communities have been resorting to negative coping mechanisms, and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs (see graph). Around 78 percent had debts within a range of USD 1,660-3,500 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and line of credit with friends and relatives. Twenty (20) percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.
- In the West Bank, assisted people reported relying on a daily income of USD 2.25 per capita. A smaller proportion had accumulated the afore-mentioned debts (51 percent) however they were of a higher amount ranging from USD 2,440-4,160. Forty-four (44) percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

WFP beneficiaries' food coping mechanisms (July 19)



- Almost all visited households expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food voucher assistance (99.6 percent), availability and variety of commodities in participating shops (97.6 percent) and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (96.7 percent).

Funding and Pipeline update

- With the resources currently available, WFP will be able to provide food to 72,000 people in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank until the end of the year. However, WFP is only able to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people until mid-October. Funding limitations prevent WFP from meeting its CSP target (404,000) and extend its support to all food-insecure non-refugee people in Palestine (around 700,000 people).

Partnerships

- WFP provides food assistance and supports the Palestinian Authority to meet the essential needs of the poorest groups of the non-refugee population. Around 188,000 people in Gaza (127,000) 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 aims to reach 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).

2019 Donors WFP is grateful for the support of: Canada, European Union (ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait Red Crescent, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, United Nations Central Emergency Fund, multilateral and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1).

More information [here](#).