



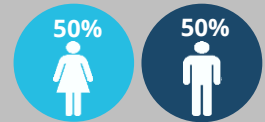
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief August 2019

### In Numbers



340, 523 people assisted  
in August 2019

US\$ 2.7 m cash-based transfers made

175 mt of food distributed

23.8 US\$ m six months (Oct. 2019 – Mar. 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 August, WFP assisted 252,421 and 88,102 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, with a combination of food and electronic food vouchers. WFP's food assistance is a fundamental safety net that prevents poor households from falling into deeper poverty and food insecurity.
- As part of a new resilience-building pilot in the framework of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP will be providing agricultural livelihood support to 200 households across Palestine to bolster their human and economic capital and improve their self-reliance. Under the national social protection programme, WFP is working in partnership with [Oxfam](#) and [ARIJ](#) on a beneficiary capacity assessment to identify the most sustainable modality of intervention, viz. animal husbandry, crop and fodder production using innovative climate smart techniques, such as hydroponics. The project, which is to be further scaled-up in the coming years, is expected to generate multiple short and longer-term socioeconomic benefits, such as enhancing the food consumption and nutrition intake levels of the poorest and strengthening their agricultural production skills, reducing aid and import dependency, and thereby mitigating the impact of the Occupation on shrinking natural resources available to Palestinians.
- As underpinned by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) [report](#) produced within the framework of a knowledge partnership with WFP, such livelihood investments are key contributions to fostering the prospects for peace, by means of supporting access to resources, improving service delivery and enhancing the inclusion and participation of marginalized groups in poverty alleviation programmes.
- In the coming weeks, WFP Palestine and interested Government agencies, civil society and international organisation partners will explore using [blockchain technology](#) to further improve targeting, enhance multi-stakeholder coordination, inform intersectoral responses and increase transfer controls. A main objectives is to join forces to integrate data and beneficiary information management to build a unified view of the people served using a single neutral network, free-of- charge and equally owned and operated by all participants.

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**Photo Caption:** Khaled, 9, is one of the 95,000 children benefiting from WFP's e-voucher assistance in Gaza. ©WFP/ Shaaban

# WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>268.4 m</b>	<b>97.1 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2019 – March 2020)
<b>65.3 m</b>	<b>23.8 m</b>

## 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

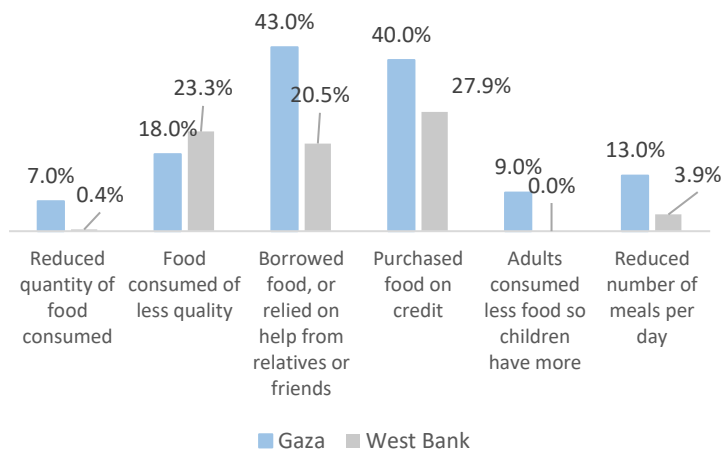
### Activities:

- 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 August, WFP conducted 188 household visits in Gaza and 258 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6.3 and 5.2 members, respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 24 percent of those visited. Around 29 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs. Sixty-one (61) percent had received complementary social benefits, including cash transfers, from the Palestinian Authority.
- In Gaza, beneficiary households reported an average monthly income of USD 215, corresponding to USD 1.13 per person per day (excluding social benefits), far below the national deep poverty threshold of 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 85 percent had debts within a range of USD 1,590-2,825 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and line of credit with friends and relatives. Seventeen (17) 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 2.06 per capita. A smaller proportion had accumulated said debts (43 percent) but for a higher amount (USD 2,530-4,490) than in Gaza. Forty-eight (48) percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

WFP beneficiaries' food coping mechanisms (August 19)



- Almost all households visited expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food assistance (97.8 percent), availability and variety of commodities in participating shops (96.9 percent) and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (93.4 percent).

## Funding and Pipeline update

- Currently, WFP is funded to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people until mid-November and provide food to 72,000 people until the end of the year.
- 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).
- Given its current resourcing challenges, WFP is exploring the way forward.

## 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 171,000 people in Gaza (120,000) 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 INGO partners, Global Communities and Oxfam, WFP aims to reach 130,000 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:** 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](#).