



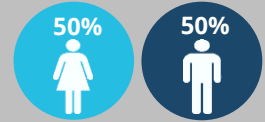
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief September 2019

In Numbers



315,757 people assisted
in September 2019

US\$2.7 m distributed through cash-based transfers

1.4 mt of food distributed

US\$17.8 million six months net funding requirements (November 2019 – April 2020)

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) delivers 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 enhancing people's ability to meet their immediate food needs; it supports community resilience and empowerment, 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 US\$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 September, WFP assisted 244,513 and 71,244 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.
- WFP included 50 additional local shops in its network of accredited outlets where assisted people can spend their cash assistance in Gaza, bringing the total number of accredited outlets to 203. Among other criteria, all newly-contracted shops were thoroughly assessed according to minimum hygiene standards and their capacity to offer a sufficient variety of food items. The enrolment of new shops contributes to increasing people's freedom of choice and their purchasing power, while supporting the local private sector and fostering market competition.
- WFP, Oxfam Novib and the local NGO Culture and Free Thought Association are joining forces to raise awareness on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and gender equality in general amongst WFP-assisted people. The campaign, which will take place in all Gaza governorates from September to December, will feature a range of creative activities using interactive awareness-raising tools such as quiz competitions, cooking and stand-up comedy shows. There will be a closing event to celebrate the '16 days of activism against GBV'.
- WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were engaged in the preparations of a new Barrier Analysis of infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition behaviours in Gaza. Building on the findings of a [recent nutrition survey undertaken earlier this year by the two agencies and Save the Children](#), the research will aim at identifying the causes and nature of barriers to behaviour change that, if adopted, would have a significant positive impact on the health, nutrition and well-being of the affected communities. The research will inform the design of a multi-sectoral and multi-year action plan that integrates prevention, preparedness and response to address gaps and improve food security, health and nutrition condition of the poorest.

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Photo Caption: Salma has been receiving agricultural inputs, assets (wicking bed units) and training from WFP to grow her own vegetables and become more self-sufficient. WFP/Hildegard Lingnau

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
268.4 m	101.8 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Nov 2019 – Apr 2020)
65.3 m	17.8 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

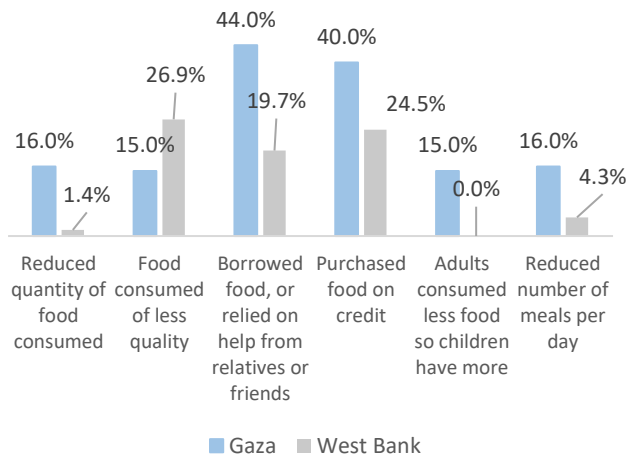
Activities:

- 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 the Government (Service provision and platforms activities)

Monitoring

- In September, WFP conducted 307 household visits in Gaza and 208 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6.2 and 5.1 members, respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 22 percent of those visited. Around 24 percent of surveyed families had at least one member with special needs. Thirty-seven (37) percent were enlisted in the national social welfare programme and are entitled to receive cash transfers from the Palestinian Authority.
- In Gaza, beneficiary households reported an average monthly income of US\$206, corresponding to US\$1.11 per person per day (excluding social benefits), which is far below the national deep poverty threshold of US\$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 89 percent had debts within a range of US\$1,030-2,266 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and line of credit with friends and relatives. 16 percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month. Thanks to WFP's assistance, 68 percent of the interviewed households had acceptable food consumption of different food groups during the seven days preceding the survey.
- In the West Bank, assisted people reported relying on a daily income of US\$2.22 per capita. A smaller proportion (44 percent) of people had accumulated debt but for a higher amount.

WFP beneficiaries' food coping mechanisms (September 19)



(US\$1,510-3,140) than in Gaza. 45 percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month. 74 percent had acceptable food consumption.

- Almost all visited households expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food assistance (99.7 percent), availability and variety of commodities in participating shops (99.4 percent), and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (95.8 percent).

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP is currently funded to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people until early December 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 from extending 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 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](#).