



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief October 2019

In Numbers



299,531 people assisted
in October 2019

US\$ 2.6 m cash-based transfers made

885 mt of food distributed

21.1US\$ m six months (Dec. 2019 – May 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 275 local retail shops across Gaza (200) 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.

Population: 4.9 million

Human Development Index rank: 119
out of 189

Poverty rate: 29.2 percent

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

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP assisted 230,859 and 68,672 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, predominantly through electronic food vouchers but also through in-kind food parcels. WFP's food assistance is a fundamental safety net that prevents poor households from falling into deeper poverty and food insecurity.
- WFP celebrated the World Food Day "Feed My Life, Change my Future" in Gaza in collaboration with UNICEF with a focus on children's right for adequate and healthy food. Chef John-Gregory Smith from the UK and Palestinian cooking books author Laila El-Haddad participated in cooking workshops for families which showcased their passion for Gaza's rich traditional food.
- WFP is working with the Ramallah-based Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) on a participatory gender analysis which aims at facilitating the development of a gender-transformative strategy for WFP in Palestine. The results of the analysis will inform the specific needs, interests, priorities, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, men, girls and boys in Palestine to be mainstreamed in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of WFP activities that are effective, efficient and empowering.
- WFP is involved in the implementation of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Action Plan on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The action plan is a consultative process, bringing in specialized UN agencies, the government, INGOs, civil society and the local communities. Raising awareness on rights and complaints mechanism and the provision of victim assistance are among the key pillars of the action plan. WFP is leading the raising awareness activities.
- WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue working on a Barrier Analysis of infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition behaviours in Gaza. A WFP Social Behaviour Change and Communication consultant delivered trainings to staff from WFP and stakeholders on data collection and in-depth interviews. Findings of the analysis will inform the design of a multi-sectoral and multi-year action plan that links together prevention, preparedness and response to address gaps and improve the food security, health and nutrition condition of the poorest communities.

Photo Caption: Nisreen from Shajae'iyya neighbourhood in Gaza City proudly offering the traditional Gazan Rummaniya to the guests who attended the World Food Day event. Her recipe was among the best 12 dishes which participated in WFP's healthy cooking competition. WFP/ Falastinia CO.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 268 m | 105 m |
| 2019 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Nov 2019 – Apr 2020) |
| 65 m | 21.1 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

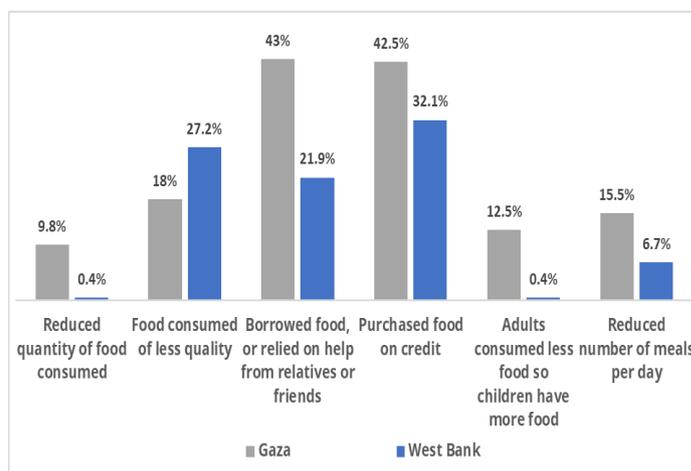
Focus area : Resilience-building

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 October, WFP conducted 367 household visits in Gaza and 224 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6 and 5 members, respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 18 percent of those visited. Around 21 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs.
- With limited economic opportunities, vulnerable communities in Gaza have been resorting to consumption based coping mechanisms, and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs (see graph). Around 87 percent had debts of an average USD 1,135 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, and 74 percent owed an average USD 1,535 to friends and relatives. 12.5 percent of those interviewed reported an increased in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month. Thanks to WFP's assistance, 73 percent of the interviews households had acceptable food consumption of different food groups during the 7 days preceding the survey.
- In the West Bank, a smaller proportion of families reported debts for electricity and water bills (40 percent) but for a higher amount (USD 1,470) than in Gaza, and 61 percent said they have an average of USD 1,912 debts to friends and relatives. 46 percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month. 71 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 (98.0 percent), and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (96.8 percent).

Funding and Pipeline update

- Currently, WFP is funded to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people until end of December and provide food to 72,000 people until the end of the first quarter of 2020.
- 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 50 percent of total people WFP assists- 171,000 people, of which 120,000 in Gaza and 51,000 in the West Bank - 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 facing financial constraints 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).
- WFP is partnering with OXFAM in Gaza and with the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ) in the West Bank implementing livelihood projects for 200 families. Selected families are receiving training on different livelihood activities including growing wicking bed units, livestock, poultry, greenhouses and hydroponics and will start the actual work in November and December.

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](#).