



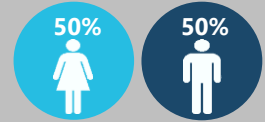
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief April 2020

### In Numbers



**346,486 people assisted**  
in April 2020

**US\$2.7 m** cash-based transfers made

**679 mt of food** distributed

**US\$15.8 m** six months (June – Nov. 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. The prolonged conflict has disproportionately affected women, men, girls and boys. Women headed households represent 11 percent of the total households in Palestine ;however, they account to almost 20 percent of families suffering from extreme poverty. Adolescent boys and girls living in poverty have lower access to quality services. Boys face higher rates of child labour and girls higher rates of child marriage.

WFP provides food assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the Palestinian non-refugee population while the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) assists Palestinian refugees. According to the latest national estimates (December 2018), food insecurity in Palestine affects nearly a third of the population – about 1.7 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 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 (135). 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**

2019 Human Development Index: **119 out of 189**

Poverty rate: **29.2 percent**

Severe and moderate malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

### Operational Updates

- In April, WFP assisted 258,144 and 88,342 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 CBT programme continued uninterrupted in Gaza and the West Bank. The 2020 first quarter in-kind food distributions to Bedouin and herders in Area C of the West Bank were completed through close collaboration with UNRWA.
- In response to the increase of needs due to the impact of COVID-19, WFP finalized preparations for the provision of Cash-Based Transfers (food vouchers) to 14,408 affected people (13,614 in the West Bank and 794 in Gaza) as of the beginning of May. These affected people, which were identified in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), consist of elderly people and persons with disabilities. For three months, the targeted affected households will be receiving USD 10.30 per person per month to purchase all types of food from designated shops.
- WFP continues working with the MoSD to provide CBT assistance to an additional 30,000 affected people by COVID-19 during May.
- Instead of distributing magnetic voucher cards, WFP activated a card-less system which enables targeted households to redeem their food entitlements at shops by using a seven-digit code that was sent to their cell phones. A small number of targeted affected households that did not have cell phones received electronic voucher cards.
- The scale up of CBT assistance was compounded with increasing the number of shops in the West Bank, from 78 to 135. The additional 54 shops are in the northern and middle governorates of the West Bank since WFP has provided regular CBT assistance in the northern governorates of the West Bank where food insecurity is more prevalent.
- WFP signed two service provision agreements enabling UN sister agencies to use its CBT platform for a rapid response to vulnerable people's essential needs: 1) UNICEF will provide hygiene materials to 6,300 households (51,782 people) in the Gaza Strip. The one-time assistance will provide the targeted families 139 Israeli Shekels (USD 39.50) in addition to the food assistance they receive from WFP; and 2) UNRWA will provide food to 10,445 refugee households in the West Bank for three months.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>268.4 m</b>	<b>136 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – Nov 2020)
<b>48 m*</b>	<b>15.8 m</b>

\*WFP is working on a budget revision to factor S\$66 funding requirements in 2020

#### 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

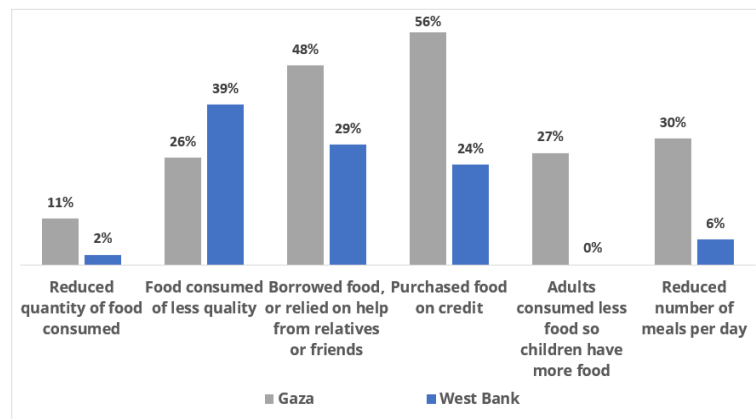
**Activities:** 1) Provision of technical support to national ministries and institutions for implementation of the food security strategy; 2) Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government (Service provision and platforms activities)

## Monitoring

- In April, WFP conducted 274 household phone interviews in Gaza and 104 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6 and 5 members, respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 24 percent of those interviewed. Around 32 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs, of which 39 percent were women and girls.
- Monitoring findings showed continued use of negative coping strategies by targeted households. (See graph). In Gaza, more than half of the surveyed households (56 percent) purchased food on credit, 48 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives and friends and 30 percent reduced their daily number of meals. Sixty (60) percent of those interviewed reported increase in purchase of food on credit and 38 percent reported no change to the previous month. Thanks to WFP's assistance, 78 percent had acceptable food consumption (FCS) of different food groups during the 7 days preceding the survey.
- In the West Bank, nearly 40 percent of the surveyed households consumed food of less quality, 29 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives and friends, and 24 percent purchased food on credit. Thirty-three (33) percent of those interviewed reported increase in purchase of food on credit compared to February. Sixty-one (61) percent had acceptable FCS.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP received an internal Immediate Response Allocation (IRA) worth of USD 5.70 million to respond to the needs of people



affected by COVID-19. This will enable WFP to provide CBTs to up to 65,000 new affected people and to provide an extra monthly CBT top up (USD 5) for 170,000 people from the existing beneficiaries for three months. This internal loan needs to be repaid.

- For the current beneficiary caseload, WFP is funded to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people and in-kind food parcels to 72,000 people until the end of July 2020.

## Partnerships

- WFP regularly 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- 174,200 people of whom 123,200 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 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 135,000 people among the most vulnerable and severely food-insecure, whose access to social protection had been curtailed. WFP also works with UNRWA 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 and partners, Oxfam in Gaza and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ) in the West Bank, continue preparations for launching the second round of resilience strengthening activities which are expected to be implemented as of mid-May 2020 until March 2021. Under this second round of resilience strengthening activities, 100 households in Gaza and another 100 households in the West Bank will receive agricultural assets such as wicking beds, hydroponics and home gardens to improve their dietary intake and to support income generation. WFP and partners are also exploring with the Ministry of Education the possibility of cultivating gardens in schools and providing wicking beds and hydroponic units in special caring institutions.

**2020 Donors:** Canada, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF), and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1). SDG Fund (Strategic Outcome 2). [More information here.](#)