



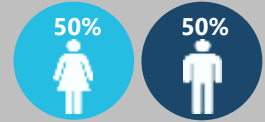
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief September 2020

### In Numbers



**373,500 people assisted**  
In September 2020

**US\$3.5 m** cash-based transfers made

**1,292 mt of food** distributed

**US\$49.5 m** six months (Nov 2020 – April 2021) net funding requirements

### Operational Context

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis in Palestine has exacerbated the deteriorating health and socio-economic conditions of Palestinians, particularly the most vulnerable groups, including elderly people, persons with disabilities, woman-headed households and children. Restrictive measures forced thousands of Palestinians out of their work, significantly impacting their livelihoods. The World Bank projects a year GDP decline of at least 7.6 percent and up to 11 percent due to restrictions related to COVID-19. Coupled with the rise in unemployment, poverty will increase in the West Bank from 14 percent to 30 percent and in Gaza from 53 percent to 64 percent. A UN Women report shows that a staggering 95 percent of women-owned businesses are negatively impacted by COVID-19, and 27 women-owned businesses have already shut down.

Prior to COVID-19, the humanitarian context in Palestine has been 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 and periodic 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, but account to almost 20 percent of families suffering from extreme poverty. Adolescent boys and girls living in poverty have lower access to quality services.

WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian non-refugee population. Since May, WFP scaled up food assistance to meet the needs of additional vulnerable non-refugees who have been affected by COVID-19. The majority of the targeted families are headed by women, with elderly people, persons with disabilities and high ratio of dependents. Already before the outbreak of COVID-19, the food insecurity in Palestine affected 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%) and non-refugee (45%) communities. More than 700,000 non-refugees are assessed to be food insecure in Palestine, 465,000 in Gaza and 235,000 in the West Bank.

Under 2018-22 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP aims at providing food assistance to 426,000 of the most vulnerable non-refugees via in-kind food rations and electronic food vouchers. Assisted communities can redeem their entitlements in a network of 335 local retail shops across Palestine. The provision of WFP's assistance goes beyond enhancing people's ability to meet their immediate food needs; it supports community resilience in the face of repeated shocks and increased hardships, contributes to maintaining peace and stability, and stimulates the local economy. 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: 110  
out of 189

Poverty rate: 29.2 per cent

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

### Operational Updates

- WFP and its implementing partner Oxfam launched on 15 September door-to-door in-kind food distributions to 5,140 families (35,000 people) in Khan Yunis and North Gaza governorates. This aims at avoiding gatherings at distributions sites. 22,542 people received their three-months (July-September) food entitlements by the end of September. The distributions will be completed by 10 October.
- In-kind food distributions to Bedouin and herding communities in Area C of the West Bank were completed in mid September. 36,970 people received their July-September food entitlements consisting of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, chickpeas, lentils and iodised salt.
- In September, WFP provided food assistance through Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in the form of electronic food vouchers to 333,074 poor and severely food insecure Palestinians. Among the CBT recipients more than 57,225, of whom 55 percent are women and girls, are affected by COVID-19. Most of the newly registered beneficiaries (99 percent) reside in the West Bank where the impact of job loss linked to anti-COVID-19 closures and lockdowns was most pronounced.
- The CBT assistance included 254 families (1,616 people) who live in H2 area of Hebron City in the southern West Bank. Here the assistance is provided alongside Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities which are targeting mothers, pregnant and lactating women through different virtual tools such as WhatsApp sessions.
- WFP and the NGO ARIJ finalized the selection of 100 families in the West Bank who will receive climate-smart agricultural assets under the second round of resilience strengthening activities. Targeted assets include hydroponics, livestock and home gardens. Also, the projects of 40 families will be further developed under the second round.
- While WFP continues prioritizing sustaining food assistance to the pre-COVID-19 targeted households in Gaza and the West Bank, WFP looks to further scaling up assistance to people newly affected by COVID-19. WFP is facing critical funding shortfalls which threaten cutting CBT assistance in Gaza and the West Bank as early as November. (*see page 2 for more details*)

Photo: preparation of WFP food for door-to-door distributions in Gaza.  
(WFP/ Ali Jadallah)

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2)

**Strategic Outcome # 1:** Non-refugees, poor and severely food-insecure people 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.

### 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:** Technical support to national ministries and institutions on food security strategy; Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government

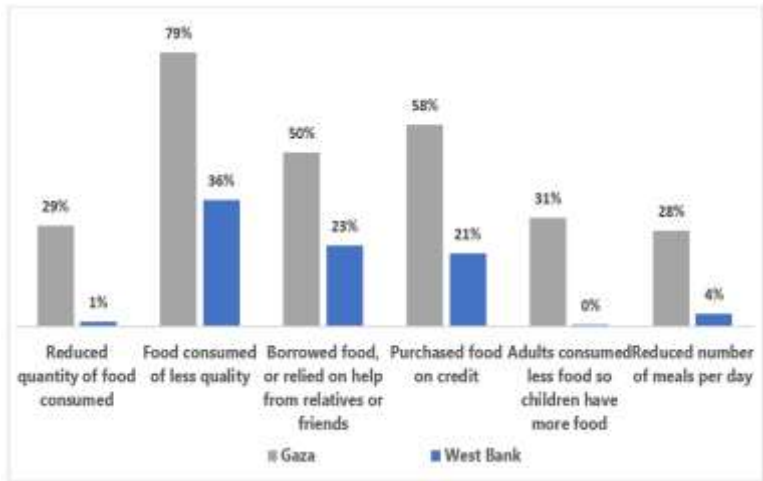
## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) Funding Requirements

Total Requirements ( USD)		Allocated Contributions (USD)
<b>291 m</b>		<b>147 m</b>
2020 Requirements (USD)	2021 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (November 2020- April 2021)
<b>71 m</b>	<b>48 m</b>	<b>49.5 m</b>

## Monitoring

- Throughout the month of September, WFP continued monitoring at household level via telephone calls.
- Beneficiary sample: 182 interviews and 320 interviews with beneficiary households in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively. 23 percent of the interviewed households are headed by women and 21 percent have at least one member with special needs.
- Findings show that the **Food Consumption Score (FCS)** of 76 percent of sampled beneficiary households **in Gaza** was acceptable, 19 percent borderline and 5 percent poor. **In the West Bank**, 65 percent of the sampled beneficiary households had acceptable FCS, 25 percent borderline and 10 percent poor.
- Many families, particularly in Gaza, continued using **negative mechanisms** to cope with their incapability to fully meet their food needs. Consuming food of less quality, purchasing food on credit and borrowing food or relying on help from relatives or friends were the most negative strategies used by the interviewed families: nearly 80 percent of surveyed families in Gaza consumed food of less quality, 58 percent purchased food on credit and 50 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friend. In the West Bank, 36 percent of surveyed families consumed food of less quality, 23 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends and 21 percent purchased food on credit.
- Almost **all interviewed households expressed their satisfaction with the quality (98 percent) and availability and variety of commodities (96 percent) in the CBT participating shops** and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods.

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## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP has available funding to maintain food assistance to the regularly assisted beneficiaries in Gaza and the West Bank until early November 2020. **WFP needs an additional USD 33 million to be able to continue providing food assistance in the next six months.**
- The USD 33 million **include USD 16 million that WFP needs to sustain the current CBT assistance until the end of December 2020** to 270,000 pre-COVID-19 beneficiaries, new COVID-19 beneficiaries that WFP started assisting in May and an estimated additional 125,000 people affected by the current spike in positive cases in Gaza since August

## Partnerships

- WFP is supporting the national Social Protection System by providing complementary food assistance to most vulnerable non-refugee communities enrolled in the National Safety Nets programme. Also, WFP is helping the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to respond to emerging food needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- WFP continues providing its CBT platform to a wide range of humanitarian actors to provide a variety of assistance to affected people. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, WFP opened its platform to UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA, INGO Islamic Relief Worldwide, INGO Action Against Hunger and INGO Terre des Hommes.
- With financial support from the UN's Joint Sustainable Development Goal Fund, WFP, along with UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO), continue working with the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to enhance the social protection system so that it is more inclusive and accessible to older people, and persons with disabilities, particularly women.. See [a story](#) of Falha (65) from Jericho City and how important for poor elderly people like her to to enjoy their right for tailored services so that they may lead long, healthy lives in security and dignity.WFP is partnering with Oxfam in Gaza and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ) to implement climate-smart agricultural resilience strengthening activities which aim at improving targeted families` dietary intake and for income generation.

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