

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION

REVISION

|State of Palestine| country strategic plan, revision |06|

Gender and age marker code: 3

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	January 2018-December 2022	No change	January 2018-December 2022
Beneficiaries	426 000	9 170 ¹	435 170
Total cost (USD)	290 891 931	27 633 408	318 525 339
Transfer	241 907 067	26 143 546	268 050 613
Implementation	16 856 280	34 500	16 890 780
Direct support costs	14 374 616	0	14 374 616
Subtotal	273 137 963	26 178 046	299 316 010
Indirect support costs	17 753 968	1 455 361	19 209 329

1. RATIONALE

1. The State of Palestine continues to face protracted conflict, economic stagnation, high unemployment and poverty rates and gender inequalities. Restricted trade and access to resources, especially in the Gaza Strip, combined with the impact of civil unrest and conflict, present challenges to sustainable recovery and economic growth. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation as the population at large has been affected by lockdown restrictions.
2. The unemployment rate in the State of Palestine reached 25.9 percent in 2020 (22.5 percent for men and 40.1 percent for women).² Nearly one in three people (30 percent) is living below the poverty line of 2,470 NIS³ per family per month. The poverty rate has worsened in the Gaza Strip (53 percent) and to a lesser degree in the West Bank (14 percent).⁴ Poverty rates among individuals living in female-headed households stands at 30.6 percent compared to 29.2 percent for those living in male-headed households.⁵
3. According to the latest national socio-economic and food security survey (SEFSec), 26.9 percent of the Palestinian population is food insecure. The prevalence of food insecurity is much higher in the Gaza Strip (62.2 percent) than in the West Bank (9.2 percent).⁶ The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimates that two million Palestinians (refugees and non-refugees) are food insecure and will require food assistance and/or support in maintaining their farming, herding or fishing livelihoods in 2021. WFP is working with the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Food Security Sector to produce a new estimate of food insecurity in May 2021, based on post COVID-19 2020 SEFSec data.

¹ Compared with 2021 planning figures, increase of 121,170 beneficiaries.

² The Labour force survey results 2020, PCBS, 2021.

³ New Israeli Shekels.

⁴ Poverty profile in Palestine, 2017, Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics

⁵ Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics, Household expenditure and consumption survey report, May 2018.

⁶ Socio-Economic Food Security Survey (SEFSec) 2018, PCBS, WFP and FAO.

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4. According to a recent survey conducted by the PCBS to assess the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, 42 percent of Palestinian households lost at least half of their income during the lockdown period (March-May 2020), compared to February 2020. Consequently, 41 percent of households reported reducing their monthly expenditures on food during this period. The most desirable measures cited by households to tackle the fallout of COVID-19 are cash transfers and job creation activities respectively (29 and 21 percent). In the West Bank, food assistance came as the second preference.
 5. As of 12 March 2021, the number of detected COVID-19 cases is 232,665 (207,679 recovered, 2,467 deaths).⁷ The Palestinian Government declared a state of emergency as the health system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is unable to cope with the increased cases and is severely impaired by longstanding challenges and critical shortages of facilities and medical supplies. The situation is particularly severe in the Gaza Strip, where the health system has been undermined by the longstanding Israeli blockade, the internal Palestinian political divide, chronic power deficit and shortage of specialized staff, drugs, and health equipment. The Palestinian Authority did not progress with vaccination against COVID-19 due to delay in the receipt of vaccines, therefore delaying the lifting of movement restriction.
 6. As a preventive and protective measure for the most vulnerable and in accordance with the Ministry of social Development COVID-19 response plan, the United Nations socio-economic COVID-19 response plan and the HRP 2021, the Ministry of Social Development provided one-off cash assistance to 29,000 vulnerable families. WFP provided food assistance to an additional 26,000 vulnerable people affected by the current socioeconomic situation in the Gaza Strip.
 7. WFP continues to strengthen its livelihood portfolio in Palestine. The WFP Climate Resilient Agriculture Initiative was piloted between July 2019 and March 2020 in collaboration with the Ministries of Social Development and Agriculture. Climate-appropriate agricultural assets and technical trainings were provided to 200 vulnerable households to enhance their food security and livelihoods. The initiative demonstrated a positive rate of return, resulting in preservation of water, energy and soil and improved household food consumption through cultivation of vegetables or raising of livestock. 39 percent of the beneficiaries interviewed right after the completion of the first round reported earning additional income. Before the activity started, 7 percent of households in Gaza had a poor food consumption score. This rate decreased to 1 percent one year after receiving the inputs. In the West Bank poor consumption score decreased from 5 percent to 3 percent, and the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption increased from 78 percent to 86 percent.
 8. Based on the positive results of the first phase, a second phase was implemented from April 2020 to April 2021 and a third round of implementation is planned following the receipt of multi-year funding for this project. During phase 3 of the resilience activity, WFP and partners will focus more on female headed households and work on building skills and capacities of women with special needs through training on specific topics related to agriculture and food processing.

⁷ Total Estimated Population in Palestine is 5,227,193.

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9. Different stakeholders use WFP's platform for provision of assistance. In 2020, WFP provided services to seven stakeholders.⁸
 10. This budget revision relates only to year four (2021) of the CSP. Specifically, this budget revision will:
 - Increase activity 1 budget and planned beneficiaries and adjust the food and CBT requirements. The budget for capacity strengthening increase USD 215,000 for social behavioral change (SBCC) initiatives.
 - Increase activity 2 budget and continue implementation of round three of the resilience building component and the Joint Sustainable Development Goal Programme on Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons with UNICEF and ILO. This programme experienced significant delays in 2020 due to COVID-19 and shifting government priorities. Some activities have been re-programmed to address the changing conditions on the ground and the implementation process will be accelerated in 2021.
 - A new strategic outcome 3 and activity 4 are introduced under strategic result 8 for the on-demand cash transfer service provision.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

11. The budget revision introduces a new strategic outcome under strategic result 8 for on-demand cash transfer services.
12. Previous BRs:
 - a. BR01, 2017: Technical revision to amend indirect support costs (ISC).
 - b. BR02, 2018: Technical revision for the budget simplification exercise.
 - c. BR03, 2018: Increase in 2019 planned beneficiaries by 54,700 people (from 314,000 to 368,000 beneficiaries).
 - d. BR04, 2019: Increase in 2019 planned beneficiaries by 90,000 people (from 314,000 to 404,000 beneficiaries); increase in CBT transfers (more beneficiaries received CBT assistance in lieu of in-kind food)
 - e. BR05, 2020: Increase in 2020 planned beneficiaries by 112,000 people (from 314,000 to 426,000 beneficiaries); and increase in CBT transfers (more beneficiaries received CBT assistance).

Strategic outcomes

New strategic outcome 3: Palestinians benefit from the services provided to partners through WFP's delivery platform.

New activity 4: Service provision of WFP's delivery platforms to partners.

⁸ UNICEF, UNRWA West Bank, UNFPA, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Mercy Corps, Terre des Hommes and Action Against Hunger.

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis:

13. The overall planned number of beneficiaries under activity 1 for 2021 is increased by 121,170 people (from 314,000 (CSP original plan) and 426,000 (2020 figures) to a total of 435,170 beneficiaries). WFP increased the planned beneficiaries' numbers in response to the increase needs and to mitigate the negative impact of COVID. WFP will continue targeting people below the deep poverty line of NIS 1,974 per family per month⁹ with poor to borderline food consumption score. Priority for food assistance will be given to the disabled and elderly people who have been identified by the Ministry of Social Development as the most vulnerable groups. In coordination with relevant ministries, poor families with agricultural assets and relevant experience in agriculture will be targeted under the Climate Resilient Agriculture Initiative.

Transfer modalities:

14. Between the years 2020 and 2021, the provision of assistance through CBTs modality (e-voucher) is built on the functionality of the market, availability of financial service provider, beneficiaries' preference, and donor's conditions.
15. All additional beneficiaries under activity 1 will receive unconditional cash assistance through CBT (vouchers), while the number of beneficiaries receiving in-kind food assistance will remain unchanged.

M&E:

16. WFP has taken necessary measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during monitoring. To ensure continued data collection on key programme indicators, WFP has shifted its monitoring from household visits and face-to-face interviews to remote phone-based interviews. Since remote data collection is carried out by existing staffing capacity, no additional costs are being incurred. WFP will consider to gradually revert to household visits COVID-19 situation permitting, considering the safety of beneficiaries and staff.

Risk Management:

17. WFP Palestine regularly updates its risk register to capture contextual changes and adjust risk mitigation measures, including risks related to COVID-19. The main strategic risk is a further deterioration of the economy in Palestine, leading to deterioration in food security and increased needs. WFP is increasing planned beneficiary figures to support the Government's response plan. On an operational level, risks related to beneficiaries' safety have been identified and mitigated through several measures including the use of personal protective equipment by all WFP partners, at shops and during food distributions and changing the CBT voucher redemption modality from four to two times per month to avoid crowds at shops.
18. A deterioration in the security situation may delay or restrict WFP operations in affected areas. Implementation of appropriate corporate prevention and mitigation measures, including update of contingency plans supported by security analysis and early warning, have guided WFP operations. WFP will continue to improve security risk management capabilities of its partners.

⁹ Ibid. 2

Beneficiary analysis

Strategic Outcome	Activity/transfer modality[1]	Period	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
			(18+ years)	(18+ years)	(0-18 years)	(0-18 years)	
1	1/Food	Current	21,973	22,192	14,089	14,746	73,000
		Decrease	0	0	0	0	0
		Revised	21,973	22,192	14,089	14,746	73,000
	1/CBTs-value voucher	Current	101,851	103,010	64,775	67,664	337,300
		Increase	2,760	2,788	1,770	1,852	9,170
		Revised	104,611	105,798	66,545	69,516	346,470
	1/CBTs-cash	Current	4,402	4,302	3,354	3,642	15,700
		Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
		Revised	4,402	4,302	3,354	3,642	15,700
TOTAL (without overlap)		Current	128,226	129,504	82,218	86,052	426,000
		Increase	2,760	2,788	1,770	1,852	9,170 ¹⁰
		Revised	130,986	132,292	83,988	87,904	435,170

Transfers

Strategic outcome	1		
Activity	1		
Beneficiary type	Food-insecure non-refugee Palestinians	Food-insecure non-refugee Palestinians	Food-insecure non-refugee Palestinians
Modality (indicate food or CBT)	CBTs - cash	CBTs – e-vouchers	Food
Cereals			300
Pulses			25
Oil			15
Salt			5
Canned-Tuna			19
Supercereal			
Supercereal Plus			
Micronutrient powder			
total kcal/day (to be completed for food and cash modalities)			

¹⁰ This change reflects the increase over the whole CSP period (compared to previous BR), the comparison is made with the originally planned for 2021, the increase is 121,170 beneficiaries.

¹¹ Verify that the ration is in line with WFP guidelines in terms of energy, protein, fat and micronutrient content, using the NUTVAL food basket calculator on the PGM, along with specific WFP programmatic guidance. For commodity vouchers and cash-based transfer values see the relevant manual.

% kcal from protein			
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day; use average as needed)	0.666	0.343	
Number of feeding days per year	360	360	360

Food type / cash-based transfer	Current Budget		Increase		Revised Budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	51 224	17 553 476	- 3 985	- 1 518 959	47 239	16 034 517
Pulses	4 357	4 900 689	- 332	- 177 802	4 025	4 722 887
Oil and Fats	2 561	2 985 255	- 199	- 198 762	2 362	2 786 493
Mixed and blended foods	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2 440	9 467 929	433	3 390 703	2 872	12 858 632
TOTAL (food)	60 582	34 907 349	- 4 084	1 495 180	56 498	36 402 529
Cash-Based Transfers (USD)		174 899 537		19 518 484		194 418 021
TOTAL (food and CBT value – USD)	60 582	209 806 886	- 4 084	21 013 664	56 498	230 820 550

3. COST BREAKDOWN

	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 5 / SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8 / SDG Target 17.16	TOTAL
Strategic outcome	01	02	03	
Focus Area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	21 155 546	1 400 000	3 588 000	26 143 546
Implementation	0	0	34 500	34 500
Direct support costs				0
Subtotal				26 178 046
Indirect support costs				1 455 361
TOTAL				27 633 408

OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)				
	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 5 / SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8 / SDG Target 17.16	TOTAL
Strategic outcome	01	02	03	
Focus Area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	259 263 018	5 199 596	3 588 000	268 050 613
Implementation	16 017 144	839 136	34 500	16 890 780
Direct support costs	13 914 328	294 917	165 370	14 374 616
Subtotal	289 194 490	6 333 649	3 787 870	299 316 010
Indirect support costs	18 797 642	411 687	0	19 209 329
TOTAL	307 992 132	6 745 337	3 787 870	318 525 339

Annex 1: Revised Line of Sight

Country	State of Palestine (2018 – 2022)		
Str. Result	SR 1 – Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)	SR 5 – Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG 17.9)	SR 8 – efforts to achieve the SDGs (SDG 17.16) Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country
Focus Area	Crises Response	Resilience	Crises Response
SO budget	SOI: USD 307 992 132	SOI: USD 6 745 337	SOI: USD 3 787 870
Outcome	OUTCOME 1: Non-Refugees, poor and severely food insecure people in Palestine (primarily in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank) have improved dietary diversity by 2022	OUTCOME 2: Enhanced capacities of national institutions and systems to identify, target and assist food insecure vulnerable populations in Palestine by 2022	OUTCOME 3: Palestinians benefit from the services provided to partners through WFP's delivery platform
Outputs	<p>OUTPUTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor and severely food insecure non refugees receive diverse and nutritional food in order to improve their dietary diversity (SDG1) Targeted population (women, men, boys and girls) receive information to raise nutritional awareness 	<p>OUTPUTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor and severely food insecure people benefit from improved institutional capacity to implement a reformed National Social Safety Net that protects income and assets of the poor and vulnerable (SDG1, target 1.3) Poor and severely food insecure people benefit from improved capacity of national monitoring system to monitor, analyse and build evidence on food insecurity and poverty (SDG 1) Poor and severely food insecure people benefit from an improved CBT and social protection delivery platform provided for partners in order to reduce poverty and food insecurity (SDG 1) 	<p>OUTPUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palestinians receive different types of assistance through the CBT platform (Output H)
Activities	<p>ACTIVITY 1</p> <p>Provision of unconditional food assistance (including through CBT and in-kind modalities) and nutrition information to poor and food - insecure households ("Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food")</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 2</p> <p>Provision of technical support to national ministries and institutions for food security strategy implementation and National Social Safety Net reform ("Strengthening institutional capacity")</p> <p>ACTIVITY 3</p> <p>Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government ("Service provision and platform activities")</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 4</p> <p>Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners (Service Provision and platform activities).</p>

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