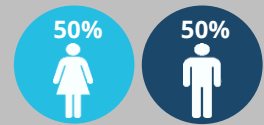




WFP Palestine Country Brief July 2021

In Numbers

304,121 people assisted
In July 2021



US\$3.36 m in cash-based transfers made

749.7 mt of food distributed

US\$11.6 m six month (August 2021 – January 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Context

The month of May witnessed the most intense military hostilities in Gaza since 2014 at the backdrop of a large-scale unrest in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank. A ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian armed groups that went into effect in Gaza on 21 May is still holding. However, the security situation remains volatile. In addition to the loss of life, many of which were children and women, the humanitarian consequences of the 11-days of fighting in Gaza have been devastating, exacerbating the impact of almost 14 years of an Israeli blockade, internal Palestinian political divisions, recurrent escalations, and unabating COVID-19 pandemic. A [Rapid damage and Needs Assessment \(RDNA\)](#), published the 6 July 2021, reveals up to USD 380 million in physical damage and USD 190 million in economic losses. Recovery needs have been estimated up to USD 485 million during the first 24 months.

Already before the outbreak of the recent hostilities and COVID-19, 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. This number was projected to have increased to 2 million, or 40 percent of the population in early 2021. The number of food-insecure Palestinians is almost equally divided between the refugee (55 percent) and non-refugee (45 percent) communities. More than 900,000 non-refugees are assessed to be food insecure in Palestine, 60 percent in Gaza and 40 percent in the West Bank.

WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian non-refugee population. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, WFP scaled up food assistance to meet the needs of additional vulnerable non-refugees who have been affected. Most of the targeted families are headed by women, with elderly people, persons with disabilities and high ratio of dependents. WFP also provided emergency and recovery food assistance to people affected by the recent round of hostilities in Gaza.

Under the 2018-22 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP aims at providing food assistance to 435,170 of the most vulnerable non-refugees via in-kind food rations and cash-based transfers in the form of electronic food vouchers and multi-purpose cash. In contribution to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, 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.

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP provided food assistance through Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in the form of electronic food vouchers to 280,324 poor and severely food insecure Palestinians both in the West Bank (54,054) and in Gaza Strip (226,270). Every household received a monthly credit of USD 10.3 per capita to purchase food of their choice from 328 local retailers across Gaza (200) and the West Bank (128).
- WFP's regular in-kind food assistance under the third quarter (April-June) were completed in the Gaza Strip in June reaching 33,340 people, while in the West Bank distribution were completed in July reaching 37,506 Bedouins and herders who live in Area C. Distributions under the third quarter (July-September) will take place in August in the Gaza strip and in September in the West Bank.
- WFP, together with NGO Juzoor as its cooperating partner and the private local advertising company Zoom, is finalizing preparations to launch its nutrition Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities in Gaza and the West Bank during the third quarter of 2021. Nutrition SBCC is a set of interventions that systematically combines elements of interpersonal communication, social change and community mobilization activities, mass media, and advocacy to support individuals, families, and communities in adopting and maintaining high-impact nutrition behaviours or practices. Effective nutrition SBCC leverages enablers of behaviours and reduces barriers to adopting and maintaining behaviours over time. The preparations phase included pre-testing at the individual, family and community levels in both Gaza and the West Bank allowing further review and adjustment of the planned interventions. WFP's nutrition SBCC activities will focus on reducing anemia amongst pregnant and lactating women and mothers of children under the age of five years. They will initially target 400 female and male participants in Gaza and the West Bank for a period of six months during which participants will engage various interactive discussions and information sharing via face-to-face and WhatsApp groups, cooking sessions and cooking contests. Participants will also receive kits and training on how to grow vegetables and fruits at home-gardens to improve their families' dietary intake. As part of interventions which target the wider communities, high-iron food products will be marked at shops in Gaza and the West Bank and messages on iron-rich diet will be disseminated through social and mass media.

Photo: (WFP/Nizar Khader): Russaila collecting Molokhia leaves which she picked from green houses that WFP provided to her under the resilience home-based agricultural activity. She has now many customers who come to her house in Jericho City or at female farmers markets she attends in Ramallah to buy Molokhia and prepare this famous and delicious Arabic dish.

Population: 5.2 million

2019 Human Development Index:
115 out of 189

Poverty rate: 29.2 percent

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

Contact info: [Yasmine Abuellassal \(yasmin.abuellassal@wfp.org\)](mailto:yasmin.abuellassal@wfp.org)
Country Director: [Samer Abdeljaber \(samer.abdeljaber@wfp.org\)](mailto:samer.abdeljaber@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/palestine

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)
319 m	217 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (August 2021– January 2022)
76 m	11.6 m

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

Monitoring

- WFP conducted face-to-face and telephone monitoring interviews throughout July. The sample included 159 interviews with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food in the **West Bank** and 288 interviews with recipients in the **Gaza Strip**. Twenty-three percent of the interviewed households are headed by women and 23 percent have at least one member with special needs.
- Findings show that of the sampled beneficiary households, 89 percent in **Gaza** and 73 percent in the **West Bank** had an acceptable food consumption, while 11 percent in Gaza and 27 percent in the West Bank did not have access to adequate food, rich with protein, vitamins, and minerals.
- Many families, particularly in Gaza, continued using **negative coping mechanisms** to address their inability to fully meet their food needs. 81 percent of families in Gaza consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 66 percent purchased food on credit and 53 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. Meanwhile, 60 percent of families in West Bank consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 28 percent purchased food on credit and 30 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. Three out of 10 households in the West Bank and around 2 out of 10 households in the Gaza Strip reported increase in the pattern of purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.
- In the **Gaza Strip**, most of the interviewed heads of households stated that the food assistance from WFP partially covers their food needs (74

percent of households headed by women; 75 percent of households headed by men). However, 23 percent of households headed by women and 24 percent of households headed by men said the food assistance did not meet their needs and requested an increase to the voucher value to cover all their food needs. Meanwhile in the **West Bank**, around half of interviewed heads of households (56 percent of households headed by women; 50 percent of households headed by men) stated that food assistance from WFP does not correspond with their food needs.

- Monitoring results of the pilot Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in the Gaza Strip during the period from November 2020 until July 2021 show that a significantly higher percentage of the targeted families (1,144) reported that they were mostly or fully able to meet the following essential needs compared to pre-assistance period: 96 percent (vs. 6 percent) met food needs, 94 percent (vs. 9 percent) met hygiene needs, 85 percent (vs. 11 percent) met health needs and 83 percent (vs. 7 percent) met transportation needs. However, results show that food remained the first priority household expenditure representing around a third (32 percent) of the households' overall monthly expenditure, compared to 31 percent in pre-assistance period. Household expenditure on housing continued to be their second priority spending, representing 20 percent of the households' monthly expenditure, compared to 29 percent during the pre-assistance period. Notably, households increased their expenditure on repayment of debts, from 2 percent during the pre-assistance period to 10-14 percent after receiving the MPCA. Meanwhile, households' reliance on negative coping strategies declined but continued to be high: 53 percent (vs. 71 percent) purchased food on credit, 57 percent (vs. 83 percent) consumed food of less quality or less preferred and 32 percent (vs. 55 percent) borrowed or relied on help from relatives or friends. The pilot MPCA in the Gaza Strip was completed in July. Every household of the targeted 1,144 households received monthly cash assistance amounting to USD 336 using Bank of Palestine ATM card to cash out money or use it at accredited shops to purchase commodities at their choice. WFP and the Gaza Protection Consortium partner will jointly carry out an evaluation of the MPCA pilot during the third quarter to inform future design and implementation of WFP's multi-purpose cash assistance in Palestine.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP seeks to provide food assistance to 435,170 of the poorest and most food insecure non-refugee Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and East Jerusalem. USD 76 million in funding is required to provide this assistance throughout 2021, and USD 11.6 million over the next six months (August 2021-January 2022).
- Meanwhile, WFP seeks to sustain food assistance to around 351,000 of the poorest and most food insecure non-refugees who regularly rely on this assistance for their survival. With available resources, WFP will be able to provide (i.) CBT (electronic food voucher) assistance to 272,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of November 2021; and (ii.) in-kind food assistance to 72,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of 2021.

Donors: Canada, ECHO, France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, UAE, UK, UN Humanitarian Fund (HF), USA and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1). SDG Fund (Strategic Outcome 2). [More information here.](#)