



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief August 2021

## In Numbers

**312,665 people assisted**  
In August 2021



**US\$3.36 m** in cash-based transfers made

**435.1 mt of food** distributed

**US\$ 18.5 m** six month (September 2021 – February 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.

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

### Operational Updates

- In August 2021, WFP reached **312,665 people in need** through cash-based transfer and in-kind support, reaching 95 percent of prioritized people for in-kind assistance and 99.6 percent of the cash-based support in Gaza, and 98 percent of the prioritized cash-based support in the West Bank. The total amount of cash delivered to beneficiaries was fully redeemed in August and thereby injected the local economy with USD 3.3 million.
- WFP and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of Health's Social Behavior Change and Communications (SBCC) National action plan, launch of which will take place mid-September.
- WFP, together with local private NGO Juzoor as its cooperating partner, will launch nutrition SBCC activities in Gaza and the West Bank. These targeted activities will focus on reducing anaemia amongst pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of five years. The project will tentatively support about 600 individuals, both women and men, and is set to launch in October.
- WFP resilience activities in the West Bank and Gaza continue: working closely with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), WFP finalized the selection of eligible support to scale up assistance both to new families and to those in previous phases of the activity affected by the May escalation of violence. Agricultural assets were distributed to vulnerable families.
- WFP's Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) ten-month pilot was completed at the end of July, reaching 7,343 people. WFP and other stakeholders involved in cash assistance in Gaza will conduct an evaluation of the pilot MPCA to inform future implementation. Meanwhile, in mid-August WFP began providing emergency MPCA (USD 265 per household per month) to around 24,000 people who were affected by the recent escalation in violence in May. This support is planned for three months.
- Logistics Sector:** The Logistics Sector in Palestine has been active since the May escalation in Gaza. Led by WFP Palestine, the Sector has been working on innovative ways to manage information for NGOs and UN Agencies. The Sector has launched a multisectoral digital data collection platform built to support the efficiency of the logistics response in Gaza and to help the humanitarian community identify gaps and bottlenecks in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

**Photo: (WFP/Asmaa Nassar):** A Gazan woman baking fresh homemade Palestinian bread with the wheat flour provided to her by WFP through the resilience project.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)
<b>358 m</b>	<b>222 m</b>
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (September 2021 – February 2022)
<b>116 m</b>	<b>18.5 m</b>

## 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.

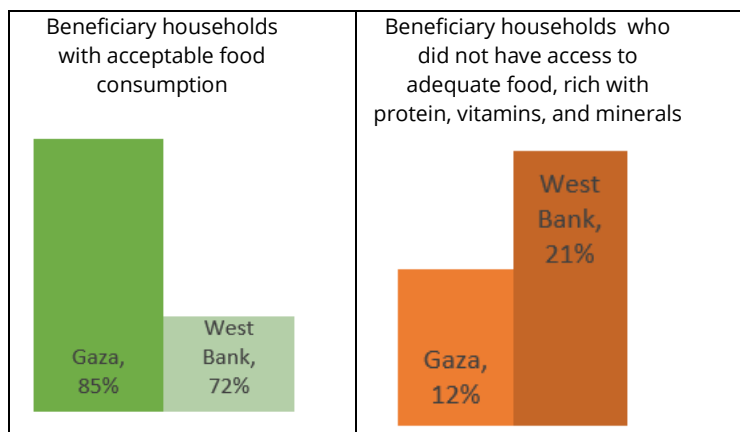
### Strategic Result 2: Support to the implementation of the SDGs (SDG 17)

**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

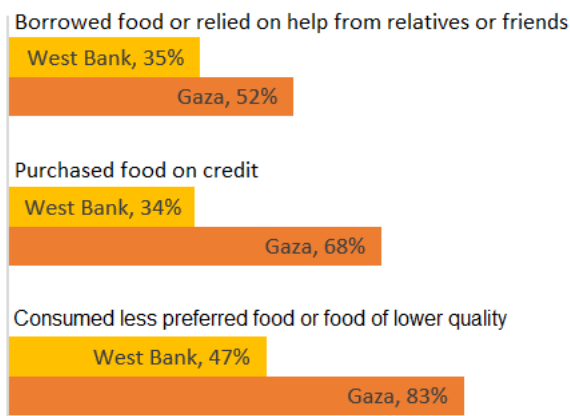
**Activities:** Technical support to national ministries and institutions on food security strategy; Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government

## Monitoring

- WFP conducted face-to-face and telephone monitoring interviews throughout August. The sample included 207 interviews with recipients of cash-based transfer (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food in the West Bank, and 242 interviews with recipients in the Gaza Strip. Twenty-two percent of the interviewed households are headed by women and 20 percent of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.
- Findings show that of the sampled beneficiary households, 85 percent in Gaza and 72 percent in the West Bank had acceptable food consumption, while 12 percent in Gaza and 21 percent in the West Bank did not have access to adequate food, rich with protein, vitamins, and minerals.



- Many families, particularly in Gaza, continued negative coping mechanisms to address the inability to fully meet their food needs. 83 percent of families in Gaza consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 68 percent purchased food on credit and 52 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. Meanwhile, 47 percent of families in the West Bank consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 34 percent purchased food on credit and 35 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. 14 percent in Gaza and 22 percent in the West Bank reported an 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 (70 percent of households headed by women; 83 percent of households headed by men). However, 30 percent of households headed by women and 14 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, a few of the interviewed heads of households (33 percent of households headed by women; 55 percent of households headed by men) stated that food assistance from WFP partially covered their food needs, while 67 percent female headed-households and 45 percent of male headed-households believed that the voucher value did not correspond with their food needs.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP Palestine 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. In order to sustain the operation, a total of USD 18.5 million over the next six months (September 2021- February 2022) is required.
- 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 December 2021; and (ii.) in-kind food assistance to 72,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of 2021.
- Considering the operation's additional service provision projects during the last part of 2021, WFP Palestine is working on a budget revision.

**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](#).