



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief February 2022

In Numbers

370,188 people assisted
In February 2022



US\$3.4 m in WFP cash-based transfers made

US\$9.8 m in cash-based transfers made through service provision

US\$12.2 m six-month (March – August 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Palestine, protracted conflict, economic stagnation and restricted trade and access to resources, coupled with high unemployment and poverty rates, continue to pose serious challenges to food security and nutrition situation. In May 2021, Gaza witnessed the most intense military hostilities since 2014, against the backdrop of large-scale unrest in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank. The situation in the Gaza Strip is increasingly dire after 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of the highest unemployment rates in the world and deep poverty. The crisis is tied to prolonged occupation, internal Palestinian political divisions, recurrent escalations of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups, and an unabating COVID-19 pandemic. A [Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment \(RDNA\)](#), published on 6 July 2021, assessed up to USD 380 million in physical damage, USD 190 million in economic losses and USD 485 million in recovery needs during the first 24 months. Restrictions imposed on Gaza since the escalation are slowly easing.

Out of the 5.3 million population in Palestine, 1.79 million Palestinians, or a third of the population, suffer from food insecurity. The number of food insecure Palestinians is almost equally divided between the refugee (55 percent) and non-refugee (45 percent) communities. More than 62 percent, or 1.1 million people, of the total food-insecure Palestinians, are severely food insecure. The majority of these people (90 percent) live in the Gaza Strip. WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian population. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, WFP scaled up food assistance to meet the needs of additional vulnerable people 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: 31.1 percent	Severe and moderate malnutrition: 7.4 % of children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP supported around 370,188 people in need. Of those, 298,000 received cash-based transfers, fully reaching the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 99 percent in Gaza. 72,168 people are reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions. Resilience and vocational training also continued, as did the operation's social behaviour change initiative.
- WFP continued the provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer platform to other humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of projects. Through this service provision in February, WFP enabled assistance to about 102,213 households and the redemption/top-up of about US\$9.8 million.
- WFP continue to monitor price trends for the most consumed staple commodities and crops in Palestine. Monitoring analysis of January 2022 shows that WFP food ration prices increased by 9.17 percent compared to January 2021. The increase in vegetable prices can be attributed to cold weather conditions. The Ukraine crisis has increased wheat flour and vegetable prices and is expected to impact commodities prices and supply further. The full Market Dashboard is [here](#).
- The WFP-led National Logistics Sector conducted an Emergency Logistics Response training in Gaza and in Ramallah to strengthen capacity of humanitarian partners. The training was attended by 51 participants in Gaza and 30 participants in Ramallah, from across I/NGOs, UN Agencies, and the Red Cross.
- WFP has launched a Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) in the Gaza Strip as part of its resilience program to improve livelihoods and support economic potential. In February, WFP offered a Carpentry training and a Smartphone Maintenance training to enable women and youth to learn new employable skills and empowers them to start their own businesses after an internship with local enterprises.
- WFP requires US\$ 12.2 million to sustain food assistance through August 2022 to 435,170 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

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Photo Caption: Nour, a participant of WFP's Carpentry training, breaking stereotypes and learning new skills. @WFP/Nour Hammad

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)
506 m	434 m
2022 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (March– August 2022)
196.6 m	12.2 m

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 01: - 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: Enhanced capacities of national institutions and systems to identify, target and assist food insecure vulnerable populations in Palestine by 2022

Focus area : Resilience-building

Activities 02, 03: Technical support to national ministries and institutions on food security strategy; Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs (SDG target 17.16)

Strategic Outcome 3: Palestinians benefit from the services provided to partners through WFP's delivery platform

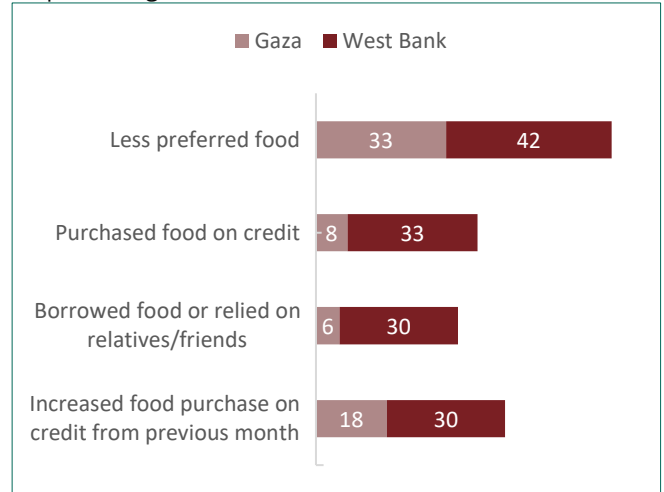
Focus area: Resilience-building

Activity 04: Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- **WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback.** In February, the hotlines responded to **over 22,000 calls**. The operation also reaches the people it serves through SMS messaging to sensitize about operational changes, top-ups, the start of distributions, and to remind those receiving cash assistance to redeem. During November, more than **1.2 million SMS messages** were sent to those supported by WFP and its service provision.
- **WFP conducted 251 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfer (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food in the West Bank; and 286 interviews in the Gaza Strip. Households headed by women account for 32 percent in the West Bank and 29 percent in Gaza. Around 20 percent of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.
- Findings showed that of the sampled households of those who receive assistance, 75 percent in the West Bank and 79 percent in the Gaza had acceptable food consumption, while 9 percent in the West Bank and 3 percent in the Gaza did not have access to adequate food, rich with protein, vitamins, and minerals.

- Many families continued the use of **negative coping mechanisms** to meet their food needs, as shown below (in percentage):



- In the Gaza Strip, 72 percent of women-headed households; 27 percent of men-headed households stated that the food assistance from WFP **partially covers their food needs**. In the West Bank, this was 39 percent and 48 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, 65 percent of households headed by women and 25 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. This was 61 percent and 52 percent in the West Bank. **It is worth highlighting that the planned voucher value is intended to cover 60 percent of each beneficiary's daily recommended calories.**

When there's food, there's hope

Yusuf believes that resilience and love can help his family through sweet and sour. In his small house, his grandchildren are always gathered around him playing and giggling. Although sometimes it is hard to feed everyone, Yusuf believes that sharing food is a sign of caring for loved ones.

Having no source of income is weighing the family down, but the WFP food voucher they receive gives them some hope in a better tomorrow.



Donors

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