In Numbers
368,670 people assisted in April 2022

US$ 3.2 m cash-based transfers made

US$ 9.1 m cash-based transfers made through service provision

US$ 17.2 m six months (May-October 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Context
In Palestine, protracted conflict, economic stagnation, restricted trade and access to resources, coupled with high unemployment and poverty rates, continue to pose serious challenges to the food security and nutrition situation. As economic conditions worsened by the impact of the Ukraine crisis, the purchasing power of Palestinians, particularly the most vulnerable, is further eroding and disrupting their access to food and other essentials. WFP food assistance is currently the only standing safety net for vulnerable poor and food insecure Palestinian families given the Palestinian Authorities’ unprecedented financial crisis.

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. WFP provided emergency and recovery food assistance to people affected by this conflict in Gaza. The situation in Gaza is increasingly dire after 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of world’s highest unemployment rates and deep poverty. The crisis is tied to prolonged occupation, internal Palestinian political divisions, recurrent escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups, and an unabating COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of the 5.3 million population in Palestine, 1.79 million Palestinians, or a third of the population, suffer from food insecurity. Of those, 1.1 million Palestinians are severely food insecure. Most of them (90 percent) live in Gaza. WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian population.

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 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 April, WFP supported around 368,670 people in need. Of those, 299,187 received cash-based transfers, reaching 98 percent of the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 99 percent in Gaza. 69,483 people are reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions. Resilience and vocational training also continued, as did the operation’s nutrition social behavior change initiative.

- WFP continued the provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer platform to other humanitarian agencies. Through this service provision in April, WFP enabled assistance to about 96,641 households and the redemption of US$9.1 million.

- As part of WFP’s monitoring efforts, a Secondary Impact Report has been compiled to monitor the impact of WFP’s e-voucher assistance. This report captures the multiplier effect of WFP’s voucher modality on local economy by tracking the changes in key business indicators for a selection of participating shops and dairy producers. On average, sales for shops participating in WFP’s e-voucher assistance increased by 27 percent across Palestine, and their client base increased by around 20 percent. In 2021, as a direct impact of the shops’ participation, 165 new job opportunities were created.

- WFP Palestine attended a strategic workshop to discuss the Digital Payment Ecosystem in Palestine, alongside Pragma, service providers, USAID, and the Palestinian Monetary Authority.

- According to market monitoring, the monthly average price of WFP’s food ration increased by 10.5 percent compared to March 2021, and the overall food price index increased by 9.6 percent compared to March the previous year. The full report can be found here.

- WFP requires US$ 17.2 million to sustain food assistance through September 2022 to 435,170 Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. An additional US$12 million is needed to increase the voucher by US$5 for six months, as a complementary measure to offset the price increases.

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>506 m</td>
<td>440 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196.6 m</td>
<td>17.2 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

**Activity 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 April, the hotlines responded to around **14,000 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 April, around **980,000 SMS** (short messages service) were sent to those supported by WFP and its service provision.

- **WFP conducted 624 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfer (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food. 223 in the West Bank; and 401 interviews in the Gaza Strip. Households headed by women account for 28 percent in the West Bank and 13 percent in Gaza. Around **23 percent** of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.

- Monitoring findings showed that **64 percent** of the households in the West Bank have **debts for food shops**, compared to **78 percent** of the households in Gaza. Of the interviewed households, 49 percent in the West Bank and 60 percent in Gaza increased purchasing food on credit.

- WFP monitoring findings indicated the extent to which beneficiaries found WFP assistance to be covering their food needs. The results are outlined below:

It is important to note that the planned voucher value is intended to cover 60 percent of beneficiary’s daily recommended calories.

**Rekindling hope and health**

In the south of Gaza, living in an old dumping ground, Sameh collects scrap metal to sell for US$2 on a good week. Ghurba and Sameh’s two-year-old daughter Layan, who suffers from thalassemia, undergoes regular blood transfusions at least once a month. The family’s inability to afford healthy and nutritious food made Lyan’s journey even harder.

"Since we started receiving the assistance, we managed to get iron-rich and nutritious food for Layan. The voucher is giving us healthy choices, and it has been 60 days since Layan’s last blood transfusion, Sameh says delightedly."

**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](#).