



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief June 2022



In Numbers



375,320 people assisted in June 2022

US\$ 3.5 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.7 m in cash-based transfers made through service provision

US\$ 24.7 m six months (July- December 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 food security and nutrition situation. As economic conditions worsened by the impact of 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 and food insecure Palestinian families.

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 the Gaza Strip 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 escalations of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups, and an unabating COVID-19 pandemic.

One third of the Palestinian population, 1.79 million people, suffer from food insecurity. Of those 1.1 million Palestinian are severely food insecure. Most of them (90 percent) live in the 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. In contribution to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP's is supporting community resilience in the face of repeated shocks and increased hardships, contributing to maintaining peace and stability, and stimulating 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 June, WFP supported around 375,320 people in need. Of those, 302,320 received cash-based transfers, reaching 104 percent of the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 98.4 percent in Gaza. Around 73,000 people are reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions in Gaza and the West Bank with 2,214 mt of chickpeas, lentils, wheat flour, vegetable oil, and salt.
- 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 June, WFP enabled assistance to 104,000 households and the redemption of about US\$9.7 million.
- Under the Social Behavior Change and Communication Initiative, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the non-governmental organization, Juzoor, held cooking competition in Gaza and the West Bank. The participants submitted healthy, low-cost, and iron-rich recipes. Monetary prizes were awarded for the three winning recipes.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, WFP, ILO, and UNICEF launched a one-time cash distribution project in Hebron for over 13,280 persons with disabilities. A total of US\$ 415,545 were redeemed, 99.5 percent of the assistance transferred. The collaborative partnerships, funded by the SDG Fund, help strengthen social protection services for elders and persons with disabilities, aiming to reduce inequality, increase food security, and enhance inclusion.
- According to market monitoring, the May average value of WFP food ration prices has increased by 14.8 percent since the beginning of Ukraine crisis and has increased by 23.9 percent compared to May 2021. The full report can be found [here](#).

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
506 m	440 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2022)
196.6 m	24.7 m

*This includes USD 120 million allocated for on-demand service to the UN Cash Assistance in Gaza, of which USD 60 million have been transferred so far to WFP for January-June 2022 distributions. Also, these resources include USD 31.4 million carryovers from 2021.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2)

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

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities 04:

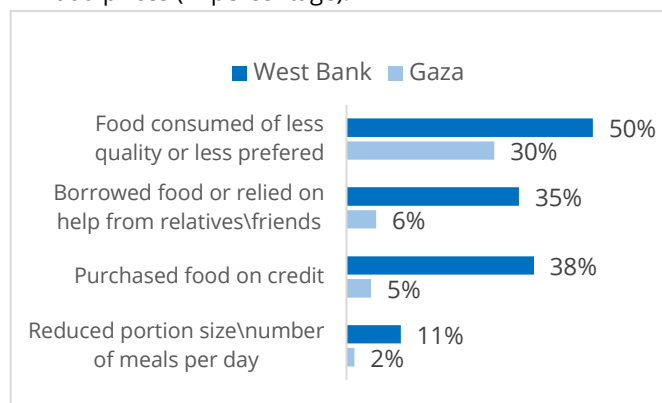
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In June, the hotlines responded to **over 12,100 calls**. Around **1.1 million SMS messages** were sent during June to those supported by WFP and its service provision to sensitize operational changes, top-ups, the start of distributions, and notify cash assistance recipients to redeem their entitlements.
- WFP conducted 759 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Seventeen percent of the interviewed families were households headed by women and

around 22 percent had at least one person with disabilities.

- Findings showed that, of the sampled households of those who receive assistance, 67 percent in the West Bank and 68 percent in Gaza had acceptable food consumption, while 13 percent in the West Bank and 10 percent in Gaza did not have access to adequate food, rich with protein, vitamins, and minerals.
- Many families continued to rely on **negative coping mechanisms** to meet their food needs. The percentages have increased due to the global surge in food prices (in percentage):



Challenges

- WFP requires approximately US\$24.7 million to sustain food assistance through December 2022 to 435,170 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.
- An additional US\$12 million is needed to increase the voucher of US\$ 10.3 by US\$ 5 per month, for around 304,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank for six months, as a complementary measure to offset the price increases.

Bread, Sustenance, and Hope

Making sure her children have a freshly baked loaf for breakfast is Samira's first task of the day. "The flour I receive from WFP covers our needs throughout the month. I also use lentils and chickpeas to make Falafel or soup, but when there is nothing left, bread saves the day and fills the children's tummies." For Samira, freshly baked bread fills the stomach and warms the heart.



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 info [here](#).

Photo Caption: Samira's son eating the freshly baked bread his mom made using the flour provided by WFP.
WFP/Ali Jadallah