



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief July 2022

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 due to the Ukraine crisis, the purchasing power of Palestinians is further eroding and disrupting their access to food and other essentials. For non-refugees in Palestine, WFP is the largest provider of food assistance for vulnerable and food insecure Palestinian families.

In May 2021, Gaza witnessed the most intense military hostilities since 2014. The situation in the Gaza Strip is increasingly dire after 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of the world's highest unemployment rates and deep poverty. The crisis is tied to prolonged occupation, internal Palestinian political divisions, and recurrent escalations of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups. In the West Bank, settlement activity and related violence, loss of land, destruction of property, and restricted access to basic services continue undermining Palestinians' livelihoods. In Gaza, the recent August 2022 escalation of violence left many families in need of assistance. It is expected to lead to greater humanitarian needs when global resources are already stretched.

One-third of the Palestinian population, 1.79 million people, suffer from food insecurity, of which, 1.1 million 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, WFP aims to provide 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 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**

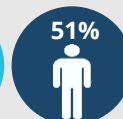
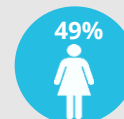
2019 Human Development Index: **115 out of 189**

Poverty rate: **31.1 percent**

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

In Numbers

371,293 people assisted
in July 2022



US\$ 3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.6 m in cash-based transfers made through service provision

US\$ 18.5 m six months (August 2022-January 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP supported around 371,293 people in need. Of those, 297,856 received cash-based transfers, reaching 98 percent of the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 98.4 percent in Gaza. Around 73,437 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 (CBT) platform to other humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of projects. Through this service provision in July, WFP enabled assistance to about 607,290 individuals and the redemption of about US\$ 9.6 million.
- To pilot the school interventions, WFP Palestine launched the Nutrition Ambassadors summer activity in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Juzoor, targeting around 80 schoolgirls aged between the ages of 11 and 14 from two schools in Gaza and the West Bank. The activities fall under four corners, designed and implemented using edutainment strategies: nutrition corner, sports and fitness corner, psychosocial corner, and health and environment corner. From nutrition-focused group discussions, cooking sessions, practical gardening sessions, arts and crafts lessons, sports and exercise classes to personal hygiene sessions, an entire community of professionals came together to support and implement activities that inspire young people to apply and advocate nutrition, health and climate-friendly practices in their homes, schools and community.
- According to WFP's monitoring, 60 percent of the beneficiaries interviewed in the West Bank and 41 percent of those in Gaza reported witnessing an increase in prices of most food commodities with only 25 percent of those in the West Bank and 29 percent of those in Gaza reported being able to buy the same amount of food as they did during the previous month. The full report can be found [here](#).

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Photo Caption: In-kind food distributions for the Bedouin communities at Jabal Al-Baba in Jerusalem
WFP/Nizar Khadder

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
506 m	448 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2022 – January 2023)
196.6 m	18.5 m

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:

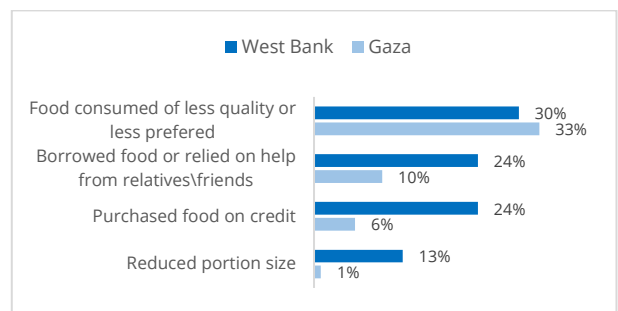
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In July, the hotlines responded to **over 9,500 calls**. Around **1 million SMS messages** were sent during July 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 530 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 14 percent of the interviewed families were households headed by women and around 19

percent had at least one household member with disabilities.

- WFP findings showed that poor food consumption scores among CBT recipients alarmingly tripled in the Gaza strip, going from 3 percent in the first quarter of 2022 to 8 percent in the second quarter of the same year. The food consumption score in the West Bank also showed a perilous rise from 12 percent to 19 percent.
- Although the percentages have changed from last month, many families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices (in percentage):



Challenges

- 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.

Freshly Baked Ka'ak and Daily Renewed Hope

Despite the piling challenges Samira's business is facing and the worsening economic conditions, Samira still makes Ka'ak. She bakes it with a heart filled with joy, hoping it will bring some joy to those who have it. "WFP training enabled me to keep my business running. People smell Ka'ak and it reminds them, like you and I, of good days, family love and joyful moments. That is enough for me to keep making it."



Photo credit: WFP/Ali Jadallah

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](#).