



World Food Programme

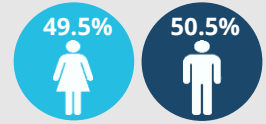
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief October 2022



In Numbers

373,423 people assisted
in October 2022



US\$ 2.3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.2 m in cash-based transfers made
through service provision

US\$ 28.3 m six months (November 2022-April
2023) 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 due to the Ukraine crisis, the purchasing power of Palestinians is further eroding and disrupting their access to food and other essentials. For vulnerable and food insecure non-refugees in Palestine, WFP is the largest provider of food assistance.

In Gaza, the recent August 2022 escalation of violence left many additional families in need of assistance. This has exacerbated the dire humanitarian situation there after 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of the world's highest unemployment rates and deep poverty. 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.

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. The Plan has been extended until the end of February 2023. 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

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP supported 373,423 people in need. Of those, 300,423 (80 percent) received cash-based transfers. 73,000 (20 percent) were reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions in Gaza and the West Bank with 2,030 mt of wheat flour, chickpeas, lentils, and vegetable oil.
- WFP continued the provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer (CBT) platform to other humanitarian agencies including SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF, and UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), to facilitate the implementation of their projects. Through this service provision in October, WFP enabled assistance to about 613,480 individuals and the redemption of about US\$ 9.2 million.
- In the continuation of the social behavior change communications (SBCC) campaign, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, completed the installation of six greenhouses and implementation of basic farming and nutritional awareness sessions to 870 students across six schools in Gaza and the West Bank.
- As part of its livelihood's interventions, WFP launched a training programme for 46 fisherpersons in the Gaza Strip. The training will provide technical expertise and tools (fishing supplies and uniforms) to enhance their skills and opportunities for income. The training will include boat construction and manufacturing component for youth. WFP has also collaborated with The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to provide safety and first aid during the training.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security. In September 2022, the cost of staple food commodities provided by the in-kind WFP ration has increased by 25 percent. WFP continues to provide in-kind rations to the most vulnerable families, including Bedouin and herding communities in the West Bank to compensate for the loss of purchasing power. The monthly market dashboard can be found [here](#).

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Photo Caption: Freshly picked honey by Aisha, from the beehives provided to her by WFP, sold during the World Food Day Farmers' Market. WFP/Mostafa Ghroz

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received* (in USD)
506 m	453 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2022-April 2023)
195 m	28.3 m

* Total received calculated excluding outstanding advances

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:

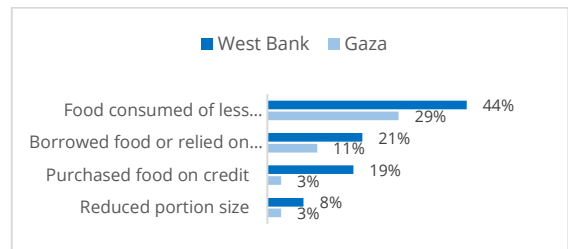
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In October, the hotlines responded to over 13,100 calls. Around 1.2 million SMS messages were sent during September 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 506 face-to-face interviews with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 31 percent of the interviewed families were households headed by women and around 18 percent

had at least one household member with disabilities.

- WFP findings showed that 13 percent of the households in Gaza and 12 percent in the West Bank had poor food consumption scores (FCS), while 59 percent in Gaza and 60 percent in the West Bank had acceptable FCS.
- Many families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices (in percentage):



Challenges

- WFP is currently facing a funding shortfall of US \$28.3 million for the next six months. Unless new donor funding comes through, 435,170 vulnerable people will not receive food assistance. WFP urgently needs funding to be able to continue providing electronic food vouchers to 180,000 vulnerable people in Gaza and the West Bank in December 2022.

Hope as a last resort

To build a home and move out of the tent they used to live in, Ibtisam and her husband sacrificed a lot. "We built this house, but we fell into debt that burdened my husband for months that our children went without food for days," says Ibtisam. There were days when the family had nothing to eat and depended on whatever was provided from relatives and neighbours. "But I always wished for a dignified assistance."



When Ibtisam received the message that she was eligible to receive WFP's monthly e-voucher assistance, she rushed to her sister-in-law. "My sister-in-law cried and hugged me," says Ibtisam. Her relatives knew better than anyone how badly Ibtisam and her family of ten needed the assistance.

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](#).

Photo credit: WFP/Ali Jadallah