



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief December 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 vulnerable and food insecure non-refugees in Palestine, WFP is the largest provider of food assistance.

In Gaza, the 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 2023-28 Country Strategic Plan, WFP aims to provide food assistance to 440,500 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: **5.3 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

**369,580 people assisted**  
in December 2022



**US\$ 2.9 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 9.4 m** in cash-based transfers made to 632,934 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to humanitarian and development partners.

**US\$ 31.6 m** six months (January-June 2023) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In December, WFP supported 369,580 people in need. Of those, 296,580 (80 percent) received cash-based transfers. 73,000 people were reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions in Gaza and the West Bank with 2,249 mt of wheat flour, chickpeas, lentils, salt and vegetable oil.
- WFP continued the provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer (CBT) platform to four other humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of their projects. Through this service provision in December, WFP enabled assistance to about 632,934 individuals and the redemption of about US\$ 9.4 million.
- In December, WFP Palestine signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Palestine Civil Defense (PCD) to strengthen joint efforts in enhancing emergency preparedness in case of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, droughts, landslides, and floods. To strengthen capacity and information sharing, WFP Palestine and the Geographic Information System (GIS) team at WFP's Headquarters, delivered a GIS training to 17 PCD staff members. The training focused on data collection systems and desktop mapping.
- In partnership with the Bank of Palestine, WFP conducted a Financial Inclusion workshop for women who receive WFP assistance in Gaza and the West Bank. The training aims to increase women's financial literacy and deliver necessary knowledge on accessing and managing personal bank accounts. This is part of WFP's efforts to improve women's economic empowerment in Palestine.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security. In November 2022, the cost of wheat flour increased by 36.9 percent in the West Bank, and 27.2 percent in Gaza. WFP's assistance is mainly in the form of e-vouchers, but for the most vulnerable families, WFP provides in-kind food rations to compensate for the loss of purchasing power. The monthly market dashboard can be found [here](#).

**Contact info:** Alia Zaki (alia.zaki@wfp.org)  
**Country Director:** Samer Abdeljaber (samer.abdeljaber@wfp.org)  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/palestine](http://www.wfp.org/countries/palestine)

**Photo Caption:** *The German Representative in Palestine visited WFP's Resilience Projects in the city of Jericho. WFP/Mostafa Ghroz*

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received* (in USD)
<b>542 m</b>	<b>468 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January - June 2023)
<b>150 m</b>	<b>31.6 m</b>

\* 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:

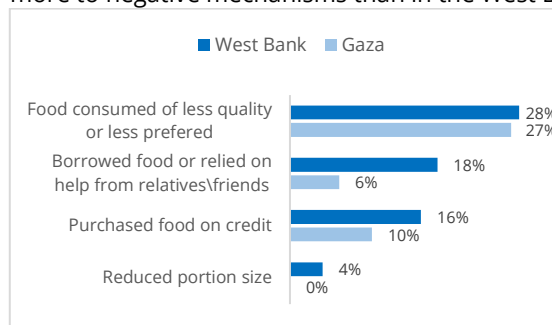
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

## Monitoring

- WFP has dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In November, the hotlines responded to **over 19,640 calls**. Around **1.1 million SMS messages** were sent during November 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 455 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Of the interviewed families, 19

percent were households headed by women and 25 percent had at least one household member with disabilities.

- WFP findings showed that 16 percent of the households in Gaza and 10 percent in the West Bank had poor food consumption scores, while 57 percent in Gaza and 72 percent in the West Bank had acceptable food consumption scores.
- Overall, 39 percent of the interviewed families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their needs due to global surge in food prices. Data indicated that households in Gaza resorted more to negative mechanisms than in the West Bank:

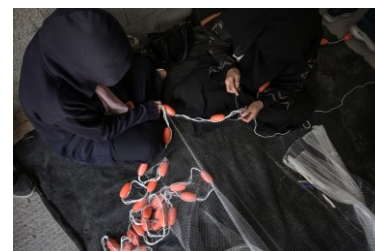


## Challenges

- The current available funding enables WFP to reach 375,000 people every month until March 2023. Beyond March, WFP will have to suspend all assistance unless new funding is received.

## Fishing for Hope

Reem, is a mother of six and a participant in the WFP net-making training for fisherpersons and their families in Gaza. "It was hard to see my children choose fishing over education, but it



was the only reasonable choice at the time. There are no jobs, and no other way we could afford to eat. My six sons sail with their father, but that still barely covers our family's needs. Fishing is not as profitable as it was a decade ago."

This WFP training taught me skills I can work with and was an opportunity to earn cash. I am happy that now I can help my husband with our expenses.

Netting is like embroidery, which I have been doing for 28 years. I love it, and I am good at it. Now, the instructor asks me to help her teach other women."

**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 Caption:** Reem participating in WFP's net-making training. Photo credit: WFP/Ali Jadallah