



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief January 2023



In Numbers

367,870 people assisted
in January 2023



US\$ 3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.5 m in cash-based transfers made to 631,386 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to humanitarian and development partners

US\$ 27.8 m six months (February-July 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, 1.84 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

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP supported 367,870 people in need. Of those, 294,870 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 humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of their projects. Through this service provision in January, WFP enabled assistance to about 631,386 individuals in Gaza and the redemption of about US\$ 9.5 million.
- Under resilience activities, WFP provided around 56 agricultural units to beneficiaries involved in the home gardening project for women and children aged 0-59 months with iron deficiency. Around 100 fishermen and fisherwomen were trained on boat building, maintenance, fishing net sewing, and were provided with fishing tools and nets ready for use. These interventions aim to strengthening and building the capacities of the beneficiaries and their families, and to improving their living conditions.
- WFP conducted a joint field trip with UN-habitat, FAO, and UNCO to showcase the current Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus interventions. In addition, WFP conducted a workshop with around 20 organizations in Gaza on HDP Nexus engagement and joint mapping to identify best practices, complementarities and collective outcomes.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security. In 2022, the FAO Food Index increased by 14 percent compared to 2021. The price of wheat flour increased by around 40 percent. 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](#).

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Photo Caption: Maradi baking bread in her clay oven in Gaza with the wheat flour she buys with WFP's E-voucher.
WFP/Mostafa Ghroz

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received* (in USD)
542 m	479 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February - July 2023)
150 m	27.8 m

* Total received calculated excluding outstanding advances

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

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 #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

Activities 04:

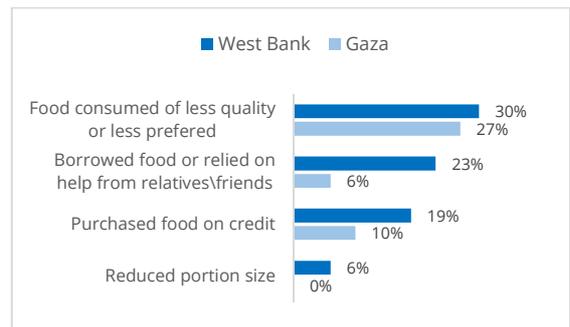
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- WFP has dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In January, the hotlines responded to **over 19,410 calls**. Around **1.1 million SMS messages** were sent during January to those supported by WFP and its service provision to sensitize operational changes, top-ups, the start of distributions, the verification exercise and notify cash assistance recipients to redeem their entitlements.
- **WFP conducted 467 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank

and the Gaza Strip. 22 percent of the interviewed families were households headed by women and around 30 percent had at least one household member living with disabilities.

- WFP food consumption scores (FCS) findings showed similar trends to last months; 16 percent of the households in Gaza and 11 percent in the West Bank had poor FCS, while 57 percent in Gaza and 67 percent in the West Bank had acceptable score.
- Overall, 36 percent of the interviewed families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices:



Challenges

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

It's Manaqish time at Maradi's home, and you're all invited

"It's like a gift from God."

Says Maradi, while baking manaqish that smelled heavenly in her home's front yard in north Gaza. Maradi's



amiable smile and welcoming manner makes her house the "go to" for relatives and neighbours' kids who also happen to be manaqish lovers. Maradi's generous spirit would feed all the hungry around the world, but unfortunately, her limited resources can barely feed her family. Before receiving the WFP voucher, Maradi's family would spend weeks depending on bread alone because no other food item is affordable. "It was never easy to buy what the kids want; the voucher is a true blessing from God." It was not the assistance that changed the course of her life, it is the resilience and hope she found in living for her family and loved ones even when she had nothing.

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: Maradi, happily baking manaqish that her kids love to eat. Photo credit: WFP/Mostafa Ghroz