



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Palestine Country Brief February 2023

### 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 global food 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 new 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

**367,669 people assisted**  
in February 2023



**US\$ 3 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 9.1 m** in cash-based transfers made to 625,826 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to humanitarian and development partners

**US\$ 35 m** six months (March- August) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In February, WFP supported 367,669 people in need. Of those, 296,912 received cash-based transfers (CBT) of US\$ 3 million; 70,757 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 CBT platform to four humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of their projects. Through this service provision in February, WFP enabled assistance to about 625,826 individuals in Gaza and the redemption of about US\$9.1 million.
- Under the social behavior change communications project (SBCC) to promote nutritional health and awareness, WFP, in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, held a community health day in the West Bank and Gaza where over 250 women received nutritional counseling, haemoglobin testing, and health assessments conducted by health professionals. The majority of the women are active participants in WFP's SBCC project for pregnant women and lactating mothers. As part of its capacity-strengthening objective, WFP conducted training for the Ministry's clinic health workers on fortification and iron absorption.
- As part of its efforts to sustain livelihoods and build communities' resilience against climate shocks, WFP refurbished eight water ponds for farmers supported by WFP. It also installed four solar panels for women's cooperatives sites and built a greenhouse for a women's agricultural cooperative across the West Bank. These assets help communities earn an income through sustainable food production.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security. In January, wheat flour prices relatively stabilized compared to the previous month, but forecasts warn of an increase in the price of lentils and chickpeas imported from Turkey due to February's devastating twin earthquakes. The monthly market dashboard can be found [here](#).

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

**Photo Caption:** Almaza preparing lunch for her family  
WFP/Mostafa Ghroz

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received* (in USD)
<b>542 m</b>	<b>479 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March-August 2023)
<b>150 m</b>	<b>35 m</b>

\* 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:

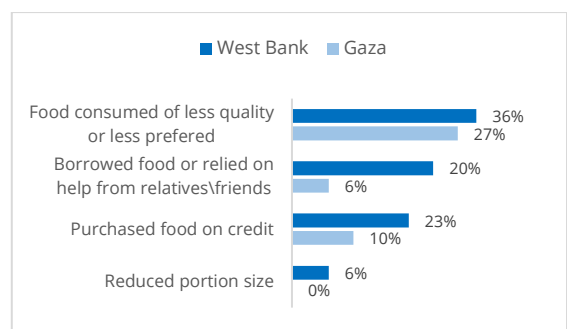
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

## Monitoring

- WFP has dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In January, the hotlines responded to **over 7,650 calls**. Around **700,000 thousand** short message service (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 439 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, 22 percent were households headed by women and around 30 percent had at least one household member living with disabilities.

- WFP's findings from the food consumption scores (FCS) monthly monitoring showed similar trends to the previous months; 16 percent of the households in Gaza and 9 percent in the West Bank had poor FCS, while 57 percent in Gaza and 62 percent in the West Bank had acceptable scores.
- Overall, 39 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 currently available funding enables WFP to continue providing assistance for one more month. By the end of April, WFP will have to suspend food assistance for 375,000 people unless new funding is received.

## Tomato dish

"Life was harsh on me. I am a single mom. I raised my children and am now helping them raise their children. For years the only cash that got into the house was from working in delivering food to people's houses.

Now I am too old for that." Says Almaza, who is a mother of six and a grandmother of 30 lovely children. Almaza is living in a one-room house, with extremely limited access to clean water, electricity, and cooking gas. **"If not for the WFP voucher, we would have no access to food!" she adds.**



"The voucher allows us to buy vegetables. Yesterday I bought tomatoes for lunch and made *Qalayet bandora* (a Palestinian dish of tomatoes, onions, hot peppers, olive oil, and salt). The kids love it!"

**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:** Almaza making Qalayet Bandora for her grandchildren.  
Photo credit: WFP/Mostafa Ghroz