



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief March 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, 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of the world's highest unemployment rates and deep poverty, leaves the humanitarian situation dire. 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.

According to the latest Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment of the State of Palestine 2022, 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.

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, through livelihood support, 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 most vulnerable. WFP will also support humanitarian and development actors to better serve the most vulnerable people through its on-demand and interagency services, continuing to be the key enabler for the humanitarian response across sectors in Palestine through its cash-based transfers platform.

Population: **5.3 million**

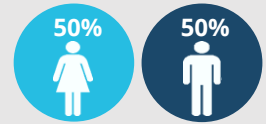
2021 Human Development Index: **109 out of 191**

Poverty rate: **31.1 percent**

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

In Numbers

361,663 people assisted
in March 2023



US\$ 3.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.9 m in cash-based transfers made to 675,655 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to four humanitarian and development partners

US\$ 41 m six months net funding requirements (April- September 2023)

Operational Updates

- In March, WFP supported 361,663 people in need in Palestine. Of those, 288,663 (80 percent) received cash-based transfers with USD 3.4 million transferred. While 73,000 (20 percent) were reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions with 2,306 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 March, WFP enabled assistance to about 675,655 individuals in Gaza and the redemption of about US\$ 9.9 million.
- In line with its commitment to support Palestinian farmers and local agricultural production, WFP finalized the purchase of 30 mt of local olive oil to be distributed in the in-kind basket for 73,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. The olive oil's significant nutritional value will be a healthy addition to their dietary consumption. Distributions are planned to take place during the second quarter of 2023.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a national private sector partner, the Bank of Palestine, to further strengthen cooperation on tackling food insecurity in Palestine. The partnership commenced with a generous contribution of US\$ 500,000 for a Ramadan campaign, targeting 5,000 families in Gaza and the West Bank with a one-time US\$ 100 e-voucher to purchase their needs in terms of groceries and other items needed for the month of Ramadan.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security. In February, the price of rice increased by around 10 percent compared to February 2022, reaching a new highest level in the local market. This is driven by the international increase in rice prices from the production countries. The monthly market dashboard can be found [here](#).

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Photo Caption: Zaina - In a school in north Gaza, girls are learning about gardening, and enjoying fresh food from that they have taken care of, as part of WFP's SBCC school interventions project.
WFP/Ali Jadallah

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received* (in US\$)
534 m	23 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April - September 2023)
149.8 m	41 m

* Total received calculated excluding outstanding advances

WFP Strategic Outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Country Strategic Plan Outcome #1: Vulnerable and food-insecure people in Palestine have improved ability to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity 1: Provide unconditional food assistance and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) to vulnerable and food-insecure people.

WFP Strategic Outcome 2: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Country Strategic Plan Outcome #2: Vulnerable people in Palestine, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities have improved access to livelihood opportunities and resilience to shocks by 2028.

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activity 2: Provide livelihood support (including skills training, asset creation and income-generating opportunities) to vulnerable people, with a focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities.

WFP Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened.

Country Strategic Plan Outcome #3: National institutions in Palestine have enhanced capacities to enable more sustainable, inclusive and integrated national systems and services, including social protection, by 2028.

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activity 3: Provide technical expertise, capacity strengthening and support to national institutions to facilitate the implementation of national strategies and plan

WFP Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Country Strategic Plan Outcome #4: Humanitarian and development actors in Palestine have access to efficient and effective services and support throughout the year

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activity 4: Provide cash-based transfer platform services to humanitarian and development partners to enable them to meet the needs of targeted populations

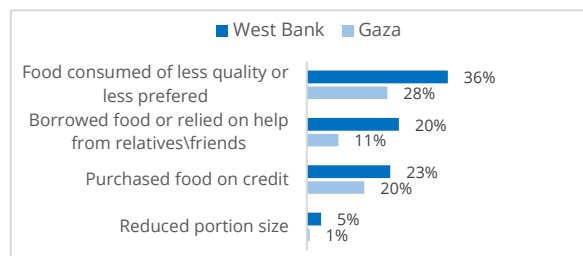
Activity 5: Provide inter-agency services and technical expertise to regional and national institutions and humanitarian actors

Monitoring

- WFP has dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback for beneficiaries. In March, the hotlines responded to **over 17,000 calls**. Around **1.1 million SMS messages**

were sent during March 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 395 face-to-face interviews with recipients of cash-based transfers (e-vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. **One quarter** of the interviewed families were households headed by women and around 25.6 percent had at least one household member living with disabilities.
- WFP food consumption score (FCS) findings showed that 7 percent of the households in Gaza and 12 percent in the West Bank had poor FCS, while 63 percent in Gaza and 67 percent in the West Bank had acceptable score.
- Overall, 47 percent of the interviewed families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices, as follows:



Challenges

- Without urgent funding, WFP will have to suspend assistance to 60 percent, more than 200,000 of the beneficiaries currently served, by 1 June 2023.

Small Victories

"We often had to give up essential food items like wheat flour to buy vegetables and chickpeas.", says Aziza. It is a daily struggle for her to keep her family fed and satisfied.

With Ramadan, a glimmer of hope sparked in Aziza's home. Aziza received a message that the amount of her WFP food voucher increased.



With the increased voucher, she is able to buy food items that her family had not tasted in months like frozen fish and meat. But even with this increase, Aziza's resources are stretched thin. She lacks the necessary tools to cook and prepare these dishes. Her kitchen has been without cooking gas for months. She has no choice but to cook using fire, a method that is not only outdated but also hazardous to her health. For Aziza, every meal is a small victory, a reminder that her family has not been forgotten and that there are still people who care about their well-being.

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 (SO) 1). SDG Fund, Germany (BMZ) (SO 2). More information [here](#).

Photo Caption: Aziza cooking using fire inside her own house.
Photo credit: WFP/Ali Jadallah