



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Palestine Country Brief April 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

**350,246 people assisted**  
in April 2023



**US\$ 3.6 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 9.7 m** in cash-based transfers made to 669,662 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to humanitarian and development partners

**US\$ 38.7 m** six months (May- October 2023) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In April, WFP supported 350, 246 people in need. Of those, 277,246 received cash-based transfers in the form of monthly e-voucher to the value of USD 12.4 per person. In Gaza and the West Bank, 73,000 people were reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions with 2,310 mt of wheat flour, chickpeas, olive oil, 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 April, WFP enabled assistance to about 669,662 individuals in Gaza and the redemption of about US\$ 9.7 million.
- Due to limited donor funding, as of 1 May, WFP was forced to reduce the standard value of the monthly e- vouchers from US\$ 12.4 to US\$ 10.3 per capita., As of 1 June, WFP will have to start suspending assistance to around 200,000 people, 60 percent of the current beneficiaries. Around 140,000 people who will continue receiving WFP assistance are female-headed households and households with disabilities.
- WFP signed an agreement with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), to support gender-based violence (GBV) and breast cancer survivors through its cash-based transfer platform with a contribution of US\$ 182,000, targeting 900 women in Gaza and the West Bank. This assistance will support women access to sexual reproductive health and GBV services which include psychological, health, legal, economic, and special needs services for women and girls with disabilities, in addition to counselling services and psychosocial support to women, men and girls.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security. In March, the average value of WFP food ration prices in local currency experienced a minor drop of 0.3 percent compared to the preceding month, but remained higher by 11.3 percent relative to the previous year. 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:** Local olive oil bottles being filled to be distributed to around 73,000 Palestinians as part of WFP's in-kind food basket starting from June 2023. ©WFP/Mostafa Ghroz

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received* (in US\$)
<b>534 m</b>	<b>46 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) ( May - October 2023)
<b>149.8 m</b>	<b>38.7 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 March, the hotlines responded to over **17,000 calls**. Around **1.3 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 490 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nineteen percent of the interviewed

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

- Six percent of the households in April reported that WFP's assistance does fully cover their food needs, while 78 percent said that it partially does, and only 16 percent of the households said it does not cover their food needs.
- According to WFP's monitoring in the first quarter of 2023, all (99 percent) of the households perceived WFP's assistance as important in supporting their livelihoods and income, which covers around 44 percent of their expenditure on food.

## Challenges

- WFP Palestine requires US\$ 51 million in order to continue providing assistance until the end of the year. If no funding is secured, WFP will have to start suspending assistance to over 200,000 people, 60 percent of its current beneficiaries in June and will entirely be forced to cease its operations by August.

## Day by day

Laila's life is a constant struggle to put food on the table for her four children. She bears the weight of the world on her shoulders and does everything she can to provide for her family. Despite her best efforts, she has been unable to secure a steady source of income. Without any job prospects, she is left with no choice but to rely on WFP's e-voucher assistance and the generosity of relatives.

"I wake up with the gnawing fear that there won't be enough food for the kids, and it's a fear that never really goes away," says Laila. Thanks to the WFP e-voucher every month, she can buy the food items that allow her to cook meals for her children every day.



The prices of essential goods and services have skyrocketed in Palestine in the past year. Even the simplest of things, like wheat flour and oil, have become unaffordable luxuries for families like Laila's. It is a vicious cycle that they are trapped in - the more they struggle to make ends meet, the deeper they sink into poverty.

## 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.](#)