



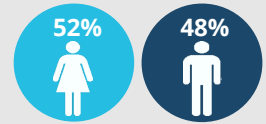
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief August 2023



In Numbers



204,259 people assisted
in August 2023

USD 1.4m cash-based transfers made

USD 9.7m in cash-based transfers made to 678,157 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to humanitarian and development partners

USD 43.2m six months (September 2023 - February 2024) 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 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 people in targeted communities in Palestine, WFP is the largest provider of food assistance. In Gaza, 15 years of blockade, aggravated by 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 and food-insecure people 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: **5.4 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

Operational Updates

- In August, due to funding shortfalls, WFP supported only 204,259 people in need in Gaza and the West Bank, representing 40 percent of the targeted beneficiaries. Of those, 139,959 received cash-based transfers (CBT) and 64,300 people (38,000 in the West Bank and 26,300 in Gaza) were reached through the quarterly in-kind food distributions with wheat flour, chickpeas, lentils, salt, vegetable oil, and local olive oil. Around 967 mt of food commodities were distributed during August.
- Amid a severe funding shortfall, WFP welcomed a vital and timely contribution of USD 1.5 million from the Government of Japan that will enable WFP to sustain the provision of in-kind food assistance to 27,000 food-insecure Palestinians in Gaza (part of the current reduced in-kind caseload) for a period of three months.
- WFP continued the service provision of its technical expertise and CBT platform to nine humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of their projects. Through this service provision in August, WFP enabled assistance to some 678,157 individuals in Gaza and the redemption of about USD 9.7 million.
- As part of its Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) interventions, WFP implemented 11 summer camps in Gaza and the West Bank, targeting 592 children and adolescents participating in nutrition, community work, and life skills activities, providing them with the foundation for better health outcomes in the future, and contributing to creating a healthier and more informed generation.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP will be supporting ten local olive oil cooperatives in the West Bank to deliver more than 60 mt of virgin olive oil to vulnerable families in Gaza and the West Bank. This comes as part of a larger WFP initiative aiming at empowering the agricultural cooperatives in general, and the olive oil cooperatives in particular.
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security in the State of Palestine. 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

Photo Caption: Mohammad picking cucumbers from the greenhouse in his school provided by WFP as part of the SBCC intervention.
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Country Strategic Plan (March 2023- Feb. 2028)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received* (in USD)
608m	93m
2023 Requirements (in USD)**	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2023 - February 2024)
225m	43.2m

* Total received calculated excluding outstanding advances

**This is the sum of the requirements of current CSP and CSP (Jan 2018- Feb 2023)

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

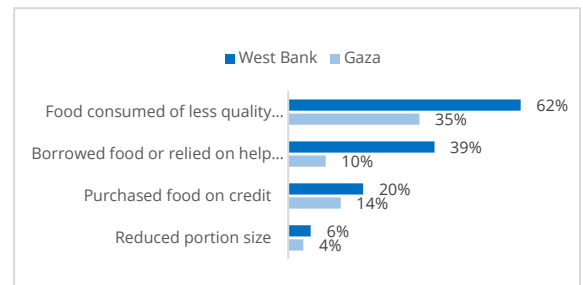
Activity 5: Provide inter-agency services and technical expertise to regional and national institutions and humanitarian actors

Monitoring

- WFP has established toll-free hotlines to provide information and collect feedback on assistance. In August, these hotlines received over 17,591 calls. Additionally, around 589,35 SMS messages were sent during August to individuals supported by WFP and service provision partners. These messages

informed people about suspensions, operational changes, and distribution dates.

- WFP conducted 430 face-to-face interviews with recipients of CBT (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Around 37 percent of the interviewed families were households headed by women and 27 percent had at least one person with disability. Findings showed that 19 percent of the households in the West Bank and 11 percent in Gaza had poor food consumption scores (FCS). Some 57 percent in Gaza and 56 percent in the West Bank had acceptable score. Overall, 49 percent of the interviewed families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices and assistance cuts which started in June:



Funding Challenges & Impact

WFP Palestine requires **USD 43.2 million** to continue assisting 438,000 people until the end of January 2024. In June, WFP suspended assistance to around 200,000 people, 60 percent of the current caseload, and will entirely be forced to cease its operations in November if no funding emerges.

One Seed At a Time

"Trees are just like us," said Hala. "They flourish with care and love." After picking the tomatoes, being the fruit of months of care and farming in the greenhouse, she and her friends enjoyed a

Palestinian breakfast with fresh ingredients. Hala, a young nutrition ambassador, shared the knowledge she had



learned from awareness sessions at her school. She was devoted to spreading this knowledge to her family and neighbours too, like seeds of wisdom planted in fertile soil. With every plant watered in the WFP-built greenhouse, the seeds of knowledge growing in the students' minds are also cared for. Through its SBCC interventions targeting schools, WFP is fostering an inclusive approach to food security. Fresh food, knowledge and technical support are provided, enhancing nutrition conditions for the younger generation while cultivating a deep love for an age-old farming heritage in Palestine.

Donors

Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, UAE, UN Humanitarian Fund (UHF), USA, and other private donors: Bank of Palestine, Talabat, and Share the meal (Strategic Outcome 1). SDG Fund, Germany (BMZ) (Strategic Outcome 2). More information [here](#).