



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief July 2018



Operational Context

Food insecurity in Palestine affects 22.5 percent of the population – about 1.3 million people- and is driven by limited economic access to food, arising from restrictions of movement, trade and investment, and high unemployment rates. Food prices are driven by Israeli markets, where people's average purchasing power per person is six times higher than in Palestine, and therefore too high for poor Palestinian families to afford. As poor and vulnerable Palestinians spend more than half of their income on food, WFP's assistance is critical to meet their food needs and prevents further deteriorations in their food security and livelihood status.

Gaza continues its trajectory of de-development. All socio-economic indicators and humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, owing to the cumulative effects of a twelve-year economic -land, sea, air- blockade (since 2007), three armed hostilities (2008, '12,'14), the introduction of Israeli restrictions on the entry of goods with a dual civilian/military use (since 2010) limiting economic growth and post-conflict reconstruction, Egypt's closure of the smuggling tunnels curtailing the informal economy (since 2013), the cuts and delay in the payment of salaries for public sector workers and the current energy crisis (2017-18): 53 percent are poor, at least 39 percent are food insecure, 49.1 percent are unemployed- the highest rate in the world. The U.N. foresees that Gaza will be "unliveable" by 2020.

Under the [State of Palestine Country Strategy Plan \(2018-2022\)](#), WFP aims at providing cash-based transfers (CBT), using an electronic food voucher system (60 percent), and in-kind food assistance (40 percent) reaching up to 314,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable non-refugees to food insecurity in Palestine, primarily in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank where the prevalence of food insecurity is the highest. All WFP-assisted people live below the national deep poverty line of less than US\$ 3.7 per day. The CSP is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 2 'Zero Hunger' and 17 'Partnerships for the Goals'.

Population: **4.9 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **114 out of 188**

Poverty rate: **25 percent**

Chronic malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

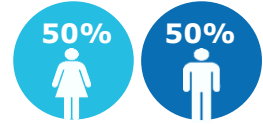
In Numbers

0 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.7 m cash-based transfers made

US\$10.8 m six months (August 2018 - January 2019) net funding requirements, representing 5% of total

279,863 people assisted in July 2018



Operational Updates

- In July, WFP assisted 279,863 poor and food insecure people: 206,262 people in Gaza and 73,601 people in the West Bank with food and cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP's food assistance enables poor households to meet a share of their daily food needs and alleviates the decline in their purchasing power. It is a fundamental safety net that keeps them from falling into deeper poverty, as well as a critical form of economic transfer allowing families to spend their meagre resources on other essentials.
- In Gaza, WFP provided cash assistance through Cas Based Transfers to 35,000 people who had previously been receiving in-kind food entitlements over the first semester of the year. At a time of harsh economic deprivations, WFP has been gradually scaling up its cash assistance and is now delivering 85 percent of its interventions in Gaza through electronic food vouchers (210,000 people) with a view to supporting the local economy and induce positive secondary effects on Gaza's social and human capital.
- WFP is engaged in the preparation of a new study aimed at measuring the secondary economic impact of cash-based transfers (CBT) on the local economy. The two previous assessments (2014, 2016) evidenced the trickle-down and multiplier effect of vouchers along the food supply chain with increased sales and investment reported among participating retail shops and dairy factories.
- In July, WFP distributed emergency food voucher assistance to 12 Bedouin families (63 people) from the Abu Al Nawar community in East-Jerusalem following the destruction of their houses. Each family received around USD 70. Under the lead of OCHA, WFP and other United Nations agencies provided emergency assistance to Palestinians affected by the demolitions and confiscations of their properties and livelihood-related structures under the Israeli-imposed planning and zoning regime in Area C and East Jerusalem.
- Thanks to [multilateral contributors](#), WFP maintained its cash assistance assistance in support of 78,000 extremely poor and severely food-insecure people in the West Bank in partnership with the NGO Global Communities (27,000) and the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Social Development (51,000).

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Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/state-palestine

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Months (August-January 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 240.3 m | 41.2 m | 10.8 m |

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome # 1: Non-refugees, poor and severely food-insecure people (primarily in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank) have improved dietary diversity by 2022

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provision of unconditional food assistance – including through cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind modalities- and nutrition information to poor and food-insecure households (Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food).

Strategic Result 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 2: State of Palestine institutions have enhanced capacities and systems to identify, target and assist food-insecure vulnerable populations by 2022

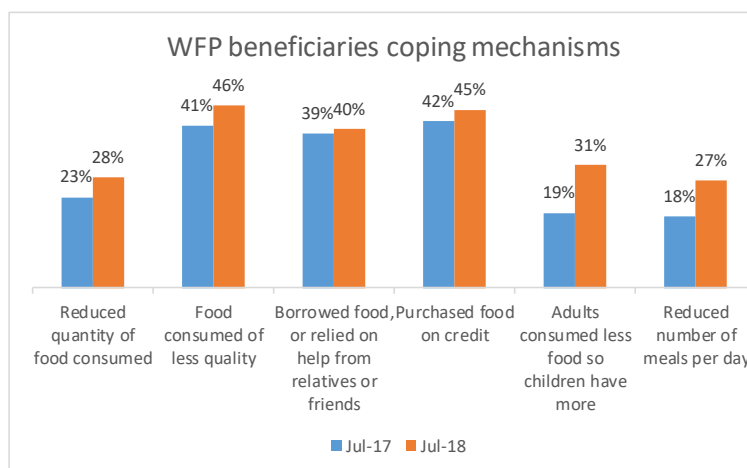
Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:

- Provision of technical support to national ministries and institutions for implementation of the food security strategy
- Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government (Service provision and platforms activities)

Monitoring

- Findings showed that WFP household beneficiaries continued to adopt negative food strategies. These mechanisms, which are persistent for an acutely vulnerable population whose dwindling resources are on the verge of exhaustion, have been on the rise since last year at the same period- see graph below.



75 percent of the beneficiary households surveyed over the first six months of the year were found to be heavily indebted, with an average accumulated debt of USD 4,370.

On average WFP beneficiary heads of households worked 6 days/month for a monthly revenue of USD 155. This represents USD 0.74 per person and per day – without social assistance- whilst the deep poverty line is set at USD 3.7.

- Resourcing limitations continue to hamper WFP’s ability to meet all food needs without discontinuation and reduce the coping mechanisms of assisted households in the face of increased socioeconomic hardships (Strategic Outcome 1). When continuously provided, WFP’s food assistance is a fundamental safety net for the poorest and most vulnerable people, whose ability to move out of poverty is obstructed by increased economic access restrictions to basic services.
- In today’s challenging funding environment, WFP is prioritizing its resources to deliver assistance in Gaza as per the greatest needs. Without additional contributions, WFP will be forced to suspend its food assistance in Gaza as early as October 2018. This will impact the food security and welfare of 245,000 extremely poor and severely food-insecure people.

Partnerships

- WFP and other humanitarian and development actors support the Palestinian National Authority in the provision of assistance to vulnerable segments of the non-refugee population. WFP works closely with the Government through the Ministry of Social Development, non-governmental organisations, such as Global Communities, Ard El Insan, Palestinian Medical Relief Society, and UNRWA, to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable food insecure populations in Gaza and the West Bank.
- WFP food assistance interventions are aligned with national plans and strategies, namely the National Policy Agenda and the Social Development Sector Strategy covering the period 2017-2022. These guidelines have identified the provision of continued food assistance to poor and food insecure non-refugee populations as a key priority to alleviate poverty, as well as contributing to the strengthening of the Palestinian Authority’s social protection system.
- WFP’s support to SDGs 2 and 17 is embedded within the 2018-2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and 2018-2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in Palestine, recognising support for SDG 1.

Donors

- WFP is grateful for the support of: Canada, European Union (ECHO), Japan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United States of America, and multilateral and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1). More information [here](#).