



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief August 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 with more than half of the population living in poverty and without a job. The U.N. foresees that Gaza will be "unliveable" by 2020. In the West Bank, the prolonged period of slow economic growth, restrictions on movement, trade, investment and access to land and water resources, together with higher food prices, continue to erode the fragile livelihoods of poor Palestinians. Poverty (13.9 percent) and food insecurity (12.7 percent), whilst less widespread than in Gaza, are still entrenched and more localised to pockets of land, particularly in the Southern Governorates. More than 60 percent of the Bedouin and herding communities in Area C of the West Bank are food-insecure.

Under the [State of Palestine Country Strategy Plan \(2018-2022\)](#), WFP aims at providing food assistance to 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 SDG 2 'Zero Hunger' and 17 'Partnerships for the Goals'.

Population: **4.9 million**

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

Poverty rate: **29.2 percent**

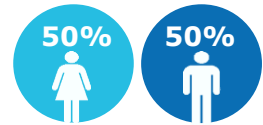
Chronic malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 2.3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 16.7 m six months September 2018 - February 2019) net funding requirements, representing 7% of total

277,155 people assisted
in August 2018



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted 277,155 of the poorest and most food insecure people: 206,214 people in Gaza and 70,941 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.
- Due to funding shortages, WFP was forced to discontinue its voucher assistance to 78,000 people in the West Bank over the first half of August. Support to this vulnerable group resumed on August 15 thanks to a WFP's emergency corporate loan from [WFP's Immediate Response Account](#) (IRA). However, such support is not sustainable.
- In a declining funding environment, WFP was able to carry forth its distributions in Gaza thanks to [multilateral contributions](#) allocated by Headquarters from flexible donors to support under-funded operations worldwide. More than a third of WFP's resources received this year stems from this funding source.
- The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen amid intensified and larger-scale armed hostilities, renewed demonstrations and increased trade and access restrictions for a highly-vulnerable population. The collapse of Gaza's economy continues unabated. Gaza's April-June unemployment rate reached an unprecedented [53.7 percent](#), the highest rate ever recorded by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics since 1999.
- In this fast- deteriorating socio-economic context, the prevalence of food insecurity, already at a high 39 percent in 2016, is expected to have attained new heights in 2018, commensurate with the surge in poverty (53 percent) witnessed this year. The preliminary findings of the [Food Security Sector's 2018 Socio-economic and Food Security Survey \(SEFSec\)](#) are foreseen to be released in early November.

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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 (September 2018-February 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
240.3 m	46.5 m	16.7 m*

*The Net Funding Requirements include the repayment of IRA allocation of USD10 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:

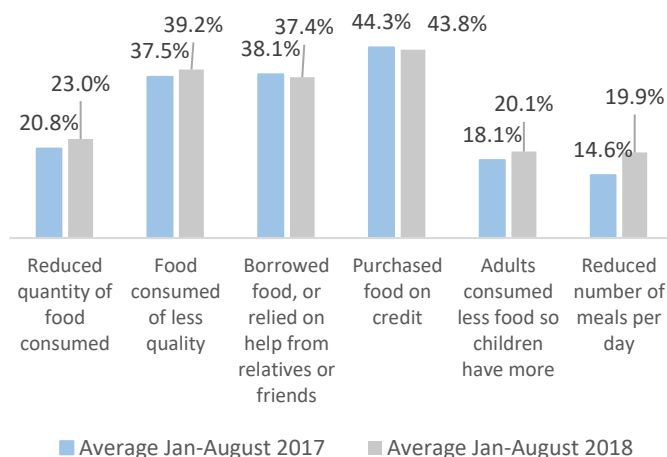
- Provision of technical support to national ministries and institutions for implementation of the food security strategy
- Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government (Service provision and platforms activities)

Monitoring

- In August, WFP conducted 359 household visits in Gaza and 101 in the West Bank. The average family size was of 7 and 6.5 members respectively.
- 75 percent of the beneficiary households surveyed this month in Gaza were found to be heavily indebted, with an average accumulated debt of USD 4,280 for electricity, grocery shopping and money borrowed from friends and relatives. In the West Bank, a fewer proportion (60 percent) had accumulated debts but they were of a higher amount (USD 5,040).
- On average WFP beneficiary heads of households in Gaza and the West Bank reported working 6.2 and 12 days for an average monthly revenue of USD 158 and USD 305. This represents respectively USD 0.75 and USD 1.56 per person and per day – without social assistance- whilst the deep poverty line is set at USD 3.7.
- Findings showed that WFP household beneficiaries in Gaza continued to adopt negative food strategies. Most of 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.

Photo credit: WFP /Wissam Nassar. Samah, a single mother in Gaza, is jobless and entirely dependent on WFP assistance to meet her household’s basic food needs.

WFP Gaza beneficiaries's food coping mechanisms



Challenges

- WFP needs an additional US\$ 10.8 million to sustain its food assistance until the end of the year in both Gaza (245,000 people) and the West Bank (115,000 people) and repay its emergency loan. Replenishment of WFP’s Immediate Response Account (IRA) is fundamental to support other underfunded emergencies worldwide. 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.

Partnerships

- WFP and other humanitarian and development actors support the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the provision of assistance to vulnerable segments of the non-refugee population. WFP works closely with the Ministry of Social Development, UNRWA and NGOs (Global Communities, Ard El Insan, Palestinian Medical Relief Society), to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable food insecure Palestinians.
- WFP’s 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.
- 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.

Other

- WFP launched a new online fundraising campaign for Palestine. Through ‘Share The Meal’, an award-winning fundraising smartphone application, individuals can donate and support the food needs of Palestinian children. Join us!

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](#).