



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief September 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

Population: **4.9 million**

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

Poverty rate: **29.2 percent**

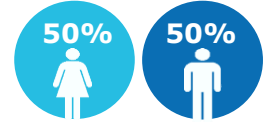
Chronic malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 2.7 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 19.9 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

290,107 people assisted
in September 2018



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP assisted 290,107 of the poorest and most food insecure people: 217,647 people in Gaza and 72,460 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.
- WFP was able to sustain its operations in Gaza and the West Bank through multilateral funding and an emergency loan allocated by WFP’s Headquarters from flexible donors. Should the gap between available resources and food security needs continue to widen, WFP will be forced to significantly downsize its operations in 2019.
- Since the beginning of the year in Gaza, WFP gradually scaled-up its CBT response, now distributing its assistance to around 210,000 people through local retail shops, with a view to support an ailing economy and have greater impact on people’s food security status. Since July, WFP’s voucher recipients account for 85 percent of all assisted families, compared to 35 percent at the beginning of the year.
- WFP is currently in the process of expanding the number of participating shops to provide greater freedom of choice, boost the buying power and improve the capacity of households to meet their daily food and dietary diversity needs. The enrollment of additional retail outlets is expected to generate further positive spill-over effects on the local economy.
- Under the lead- assessment of OCHA, WFP distributed emergency food voucher assistance to 4 Palestinian families (14 people) living in East-Jerusalem (Beit Hanina, Anata) following the destruction of their houses. Each family received around USD 100. Since the beginning of the year, WFP provided CBT assistance worth USD 1,520 to a total of 19 households (102 beneficiaries) affected by the demolitions and confiscations of their properties and livelihood-related structures in Area C and East-Jerusalem.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (October 2018- March 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
240.3 m	48.7 m	19.9 m*

*The Net Funding Requirements include the repayment of IRA allocation of USD 10 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

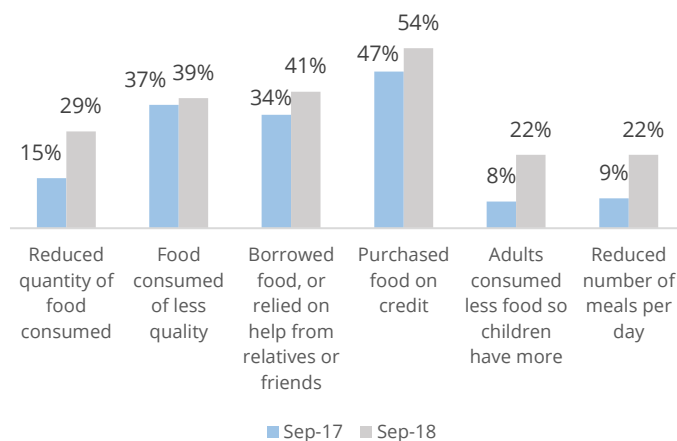
Activities:

- 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 September, WFP conducted 443 household visits in Gaza and 227 in the West Bank. The average family size was of 7 and 8 members respectively.
- 86 percent of the beneficiary households surveyed this month in Gaza were found to be heavily indebted, with an average accumulated debt of USD 5,160 for electricity, grocery shopping and money borrowed from friends and relatives. In the West Bank, 70 percent of the surveyed families declared being in debt for an average amount of USD 5,510.
- WFP beneficiary heads of households in Gaza and the West Bank reported working 6 and 10 days this month for an average monthly revenue of USD 162 and USD 330. This represents respectively USD 0.77 and USD 1.37 per person and per day – without social assistance- whilst the deep poverty line is set at USD 3.7.
- Findings showed that the food coping mechanisms of WFP household beneficiaries in Gaza are on the rise compared to last year at the same period (see table). In the West Bank, poor food-insecure communities continued to purchase food on credit (40 percent), consume food of lower quality (39 percent) and rely on family support (33 percent).

WFP's Gaza beneficiaries- food coping mechanisms



Challenges

- WFP requires an additional USD 10 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.

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](#).