



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief November 2018

## In Numbers

232 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.64 m cash based transfers made

US\$ 22.4 m six months (December-May 2018) net funding requirements, representing 76% of total

282,071 m people assisted  
in November 2018



WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

## 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 UN 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), while 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 [Country Strategy Plan \(2018-2022\)](#), WFP aims to provide 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 with SDG 2 'Zero Hunger' and 17 'Partnerships for the Goals'.

Population: **4.9 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **119 out of 188**

Poverty rate: **29.2 percent**

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

## Operational Updates

- In November, WFP assisted 282,071 of the poorest and most food insecure people: 208,542 people in Gaza and 73,529 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 their reduced purchasing power. It is a fundamental safety net that keeps families from falling into deeper poverty and allows them to spend their meagre resources on other essentials.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, WFP organised a special event in Gaza entitled "[A Taste of Food, A flavour of Hope](#)", celebrating the World Food Day and honouring the artistic and culinary talent of men and women participating in WFP's nutrition awareness activities. The event rewarded the winners of a WFP cooking competition, calling for the healthiest, cheapest and most innovative meal recipes. The two finalists - whose recipes were selected by a high-level panel featuring the Palestinian Minister for Women Empowerment, a renown nutritionist and two professional chefs - showcased their cooking skills and prepared their dishes on-stage. An art exhibition and fundraising event featuring 65 WFP's beneficiary paintings, and a fair of local foods produced by women cooperatives supported by WFP and UN Woman, were also organised.
- WFP's nutrition awareness activities are implemented all year round across Gaza and the West Bank. They include interactive sessions on hygiene, sanitation, cooking healthy food on a budget and best child feeding practices. The training also addresses cross-sectoral topics aimed at spreading awareness on human rights, gender equality and women empowerment. Feedback from female former participants informed that these learning experiences have been a catalyst to increase household participative decision making beyond the scope of meal preparation and initiate key changes in their lives, as some felt encouraged to resume their studies or set up their own businesses.
- As part of these, WFP organized a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness week, targeting 4,400 women in Gaza and the West Bank. Beneficiaries were invited to partake in creative workshops and discussions around the forms and ways to act against GBV. The colour orange was a key theme unifying all activities in all community-based organisations where the classes took place.

**Contact info:** Raphael du Boispean ([raphael.duboispean@wfp.org](mailto:raphael.duboispean@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Stephen Kearney

Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/state-palestine](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/state-palestine)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement  
(in USD)

240.3 m

Allocated  
Contributions (in  
USD)

52.2 m

Six Months (December 2018-  
May 2019) Net Funding  
Requirements (in USD)

22.4 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

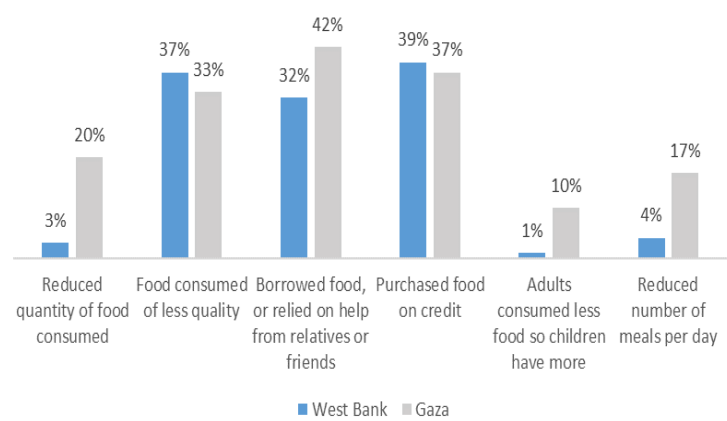
## Activities:

- 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 November, WFP conducted 316 household visits in Gaza and 249 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6 members.
- 59 percent of the beneficiary households surveyed in Gaza this month were found to be heavily indebted, with an average accumulated debt of USD 5,130 for electricity, grocery shopping and money borrowed from friends and relatives. In the West Bank, 66 percent of the surveyed families declared being in debt for an average amount of USD 4,520.
- WFP beneficiary heads of households in Gaza and the West Bank reported working 6.3 and 8.8 days this month for an average monthly revenue of USD 177 and USD 320 respectively. This represents USD 0.98 and USD 1.77 per person and per day respectively – without social assistance - while the deep poverty line is set at USD 3.7.
- Findings show that WFP beneficiaries continue to adopt negative coping mechanisms (see table) in trying to meet their daily food needs and fill their consumption gap after receiving WFP's assistance. These mechanisms are persistent for an acutely vulnerable population.

Food coping mechanisms of WFP beneficiaries  
(Nov. 2018)



## Challenges

- WFP will be able to sustain its operations in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of the year, thanks to 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 without an increase in funding.

## 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 Inسان, 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](#).

**Photo credit:** WFP recipe contest winners Sabah and Hala receive their prize. More than 2,000 people participated in WFP's competition. [WFP/WFP Palestine](#)