



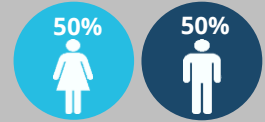
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief May 2019

### In Numbers



257,845 people assisted  
in May 2019

US\$ 2.49 m cash-based transfers made

110 mt of food distributed

US\$ 16.5 m six months (June-November 2019) net  
funding requirements

### Operational Context

The humanitarian context in the State of Palestine remains directly tied to the impact of the Israeli occupation. Restricted movement of people, access to resources and basic social services, together with recurrent expropriation of land, settler violence, civil unrest and periodic large-scale armed hostilities have resulted in economic stagnation, high unemployment, poverty and food insecurity.

WFP provides food assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the Palestinian non-refugee population while the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is mandated to deliver a wide range of relief and social services, including food, to Palestinian refugees. According to the [latest national estimates \(December 2018\)](#), food insecurity in Palestine affects nearly a third of the population – about 1.6 million people - and is driven by high poverty and unemployment rates. The number of food-insecure Palestinians is almost equally divided between the refugee (55 percent) and non-refugee (45 percent) communities. More than 700,000 non-refugees are assessed to be food insecure in Gaza (465,000) and the West Bank (235,000), including 404,000 in a severe state.

The provision of WFP's assistance goes beyond serving the purpose of enhancing people's ability to meet their immediate food needs; it supports community resilience and empowerment in the face of repeated shocks and increased hardships, contributes to maintaining peace and stability, and [stimulates the local economy](#).

Under its [2018-22 Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\)](#) and in contribution to SDG 2, WFP aims at providing food assistance to 404,000 of the most vulnerable non-refugees via in-kind food rations and electronic food vouchers topped up with a monthly credit of USD 10 per person. Assisted communities can redeem their entitlements in a network of 210 local retail shops across Gaza (135) and the West Bank (75). WFP also works with national institutions to enhance the capacity of existing social safety nets to assist the poor and vulnerable. WFP launched its [2019 funding appeal and awareness-raising video campaign on Gaza's spiralling humanitarian needs](#).

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 May, WFP assisted 207,271 and 50,574 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, with a combination of food and cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP's food assistance is a fundamental safety net that enables poor households to meet a share of their daily food needs and prevents them from falling into deeper poverty and food-insecurity.
- Concurrent with the rise in food security needs identified in Gaza (2018 SEFSec - Socio-Economic & Food Security Survey), WFP increased its planned 2019 response and overall budget with the aim of assisting up to 404,000 people, i.e. 90,000 people more than initially planned for and corresponding to the estimated number of non-refugees assessed to be *severely* food-insecure. The [budget revision](#) also factors the downscaling of in-kind food distributions and extension of CBT interventions. The ability of WFP to meet its new targets will be contingent on receiving sufficient resources.
- A [Nutrition Multi-sectoral Assessment](#) jointly undertaken by Save the Children, WFP and UNICEF highlighted the scale of a number of nutritional issues and basic nutrition knowledge gaps faced by infants, children and their mothers in the poorest, most marginalized areas of Gaza. The findings will inform the design of a strengthened multi-sectoral and multi-year action plan that links prevention, preparedness and response to address gaps and improve the food security, health and nutrition condition of the poorest communities.
- WFP included 52 additional local shops in its network of accredited outlets participating in the CBT assistance in Gaza. Among other criteria, all newly-contracted shops were selected following a thorough capacity assessment of their ability to meet minimum hygiene standards and offer sufficient variety of food items. The diversification and enrolment of new shops serves the purposes of supporting the local private sector, fostering market competition, increasing people's freedom of choice and enhancing their purchasing power.
- As part of a supplemental nutritional and protein-rich support provided to beneficiaries during the month of Ramadan, WFP distributed canned tuna to 110,000 people in all five governorates of Gaza.

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**Photo Caption:** Caretakers playing with children after a nutritious breakfast with milk, eggs and bread in one of the 34 WFP-supported special needs institutions, Gaza. ©WFP/Yasmine Abuellassal

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>268.4* m</b>	<b>83.3 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June - November 2019)
<b>65.3* m</b>	<b>16.5 m</b>

\* According to CSP budget revision (BR) 5, aiming at assisting up to 404,000 people.

#### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2)

**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: Support to the implementation of the SDGs (SDG 17)

**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 May, WFP conducted 315 household visits in Gaza and 345 in the West Bank. The average family size was 5.4 members in each locality. Women-headed households accounted for 31 percent of those visited. Around 27 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs. Fifty-four (54) percent received complementary social benefits, including cash transfers, from the Palestinian Authority.
- In Gaza, beneficiary households reported an average monthly income of USD 216, corresponding to USD 1.33 per person per day (excluding social benefits) and therefore far below the national deep poverty threshold (USD 3.70). With limited economic opportunities, vulnerable communities have been resorting to coping mechanisms, and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs. More than 61 percent had debts within a range of USD 1,850-3,480 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and line of credit with friends and relatives. Forty (40) percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.
- In the West Bank, assisted people reported relying on a daily income of USD 2.00 per capita. A smaller proportion had accumulated the afore-mentioned debts (50 percent),

however, they were of a higher amount (USD 2,590-4,170) mainly due to the higher cost of living. Fifty-seven (57) percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

- Almost all visited households expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food assistance (98.4 percent) and the availability and variety of commodities in participating shops (98 percent), and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (98 percent).

## Funding and Pipeline update

- With the resources currently at its disposal, WFP will be able to sustain its in-kind food activities and provide food parcels to 72,000 people in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank until the end of the year. However, it is only able to distribute its electronic food vouchers to its current caseload of 260,000 people until September.

## Partnerships

- WFP provides food assistance and supports the Palestinian Authority to meet the essential needs of the poorest groups of the non-refugee population. Around 166,000 people in Gaza (115,000) and the West Bank (51,000) receive complementary food assistance from WFP on top of their national social benefits, including direct cash-transfers. Due to funding limitations, the welfare system is currently unable to support all those in need, resulting in an extensive waiting list.
- Through its other implementing international non-governmental organization (INGO) partners Global Communities and Oxfam, WFP reaches 157,000 people among the most vulnerable and severely food-insecure, whose access to social protection had been curtailed. WFP also works with UNWRA to meet the food needs of mixed refugee and non-refugee Bedouin and herding communities in Israeli-controlled Area C of the West Bank (37,000 people).
- Complementary to the provision of food assistance, WFP delivers nutrition and health education sessions all year round with locals NGOs in both Gaza and the West Bank.

## Donors

- WFP is grateful for the support of: [Canada](#), [European Union \(ECHO\)](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Japan](#), [Kuwait Red Crescent](#), [the Republic of Korea](#), [Switzerland](#), [the Russian Federation](#), [Spain](#), [the United States of America](#), [multilateral and private donors \(Strategic Outcome 1\)](#).

More information [here](#).