



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief June 2019

In Numbers



270,901 people assisted
in June 2019

US\$ 2.47 m cash-based transfers made

386 mt of food distributed

US\$ 20.9 m six months (July-December 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 June, WFP assisted 220,250 and 50,651 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, with a combination of food and cash transfers. 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. Read [here](#) how WFP is making a difference in the lives of Azza, a Gazan single woman head of household who ventured into an income-generating activity to supplement her and her children's diet.
- WFP launched its fifth digital fundraising campaign for Palestine. Through '[Share the Meal](#)', an award-winning fundraising smartphone application, individuals can donate and provide meals to feed 4,500 children for three months in both Gaza and the West Bank. Since August 2018, more than USD 1 million has been mobilised thanks to the generosity of individuals around the world. Download the app and join us!
- In response to the deteriorating food security situation in Gaza, WFP is planning to extend its outreach and provide complementary food assistance to 12,000 vulnerable non-refugees receiving social cash-transfers from the Palestinian Authority. From July to September, each selected family will receive a WFP electronic food voucher with a monthly budget of USD 10 to buy the food of their choice in 200 accredited retail shops. The WFP e-card also enables the expansion of WFP's multi-wallet services to other humanitarian partners, such as the distribution of winter clothes, blankets, school uniforms, hygiene and sanitation products together with UNICEF earlier this year. Other partnerships are being sought to support in a holistic way the basic needs of vulnerable communities while injecting liquidities into the local economy.
- Similarly, following a scoping mission undertaken this month by its Headquarters, WFP will start looking at '[essential needs](#)' and '[minimum survival expenditures assessments](#)', recognising that vulnerable households need support across a wide range of sectors. The objective is to pave the way for an enhanced multi-sectoral and intra-agency humanitarian response delivering essential goods, services, and support in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

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Photo Caption: Vulnerable families use WFP cards to purchase a variety of nutritious foods. Azza chose fish for dinner that night!
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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
253.2 m	69 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July - December 2019)
48.6 m	20.9 m

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

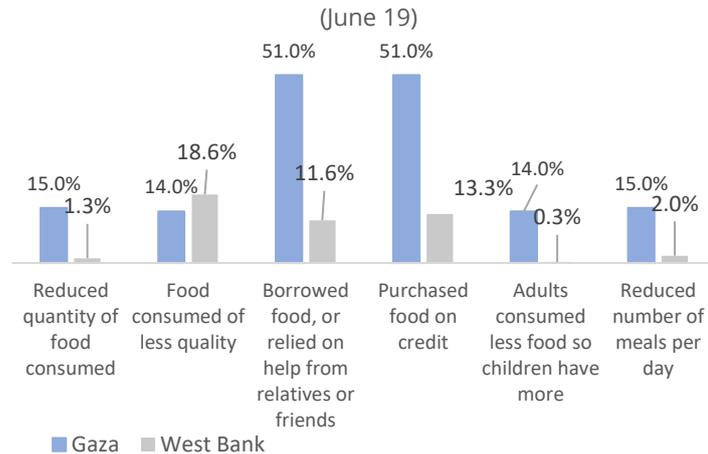
Activities:

- 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 June, WFP conducted 324 household visits in Gaza and 301 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6.2 and 5 members respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 22 percent of those visited. Around 26 percent of the families surveyed had at least one member with special needs. Fifty-one (51) percent received complementary social benefits, including cash transfers, from the Palestinian Authority.
- In Gaza, beneficiary households reported an average income of USD 222, corresponding to USD 1.19 per person per day (excluding social benefits), far below the national deep poverty threshold (USD 3.70). With limited economic opportunities, vulnerable communities have been resorting to negative coping mechanisms, and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs (see graph). More than 80 percent had debts within a range of USD 1,810-3,498 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, grocery shopping, and line of credit with friends and relatives. Forty-eight (48) 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 1.87 per capita. A smaller proportion had accumulated the afore-mentioned debts (48 percent) of an amount ranging from USD 1,796-3,418. Sixty-three (63) percent of those interviewed reported an increased trend in purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

WFP beneficiaries' food coping mechanisms



- Almost all visited households expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food assistance (99.8 percent), availability and variety of commodities in participating shops (96.9 percent) and considered the voucher value as essential in supporting their livelihoods or income (96.7 percent).

Funding and Pipeline update

- With the resources currently available, WFP will be able to provide food to 72,000 people in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank until the end of the year. However, WFP is only able to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 260,000 people until September. Funding limitations impede WFP to meet its CSP target (404,000) and extend its support to all food-insecure non-refugee people in Palestine (around 700,000 people).

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).

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](#).