



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief November 2019



In Numbers

46 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$2.69 m cash based transfers made

US\$7.1 m six months (January- June 2020)

272,110 people assisted
in November 2019



**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

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 265 local retail shops across Gaza (190) 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.

Population: **4.9 million**

Human Development Index: **119 out of 189**

Poverty Rate: **29.2**

Severe and moderate malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP assisted 220,677 and 51,433 poor food-insecure people in Gaza and the West Bank respectively, predominantly through electronic food vouchers but also through in-kind food parcels. WFP's food assistance is a fundamental safety net that prevents poor households from falling into deeper poverty and food insecurity.
- WFP has launched an Essential Needs Analysis (ENA) in Gaza and the West Bank and currently is collecting data from a sample of 2,600 vulnerable households on their needs of food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter and life-saving health care which people need to meet to ensure survival and minimum level of physical and mental well-being. The aim of the ENA is to reach a better understanding of food security by looking beyond households' basic food consumption and adopt a holistic approach and harmonized response by different partners to their needs. Data analysis and an initial report are expected to be available by the end of the first quarter of 2020.
- Under the country joint "Together Against Violence" 16 Days against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign, WFP and partners, OXFAM and Culture and Free Thought Association (CFRA), organized activities in different areas of the Gaza Strip. Raising awareness messages on gender roles and equality have been placed on public buses across the Strip. An interactive community-led awareness session was also held in Beit Lahia in the Northern Governorate with the participation of women and men from different ages. The participants watched a movie (see [here](#)) telling the story of a family recipient of WFP electronic food vouchers and the impact of food assistance on gender role dynamics within the domestic sphere. Through food cooking competitions in Rafah, women, men and children were given a chance to interact and discuss the impact of cultural norms on specific gender behaviours and roles.
- A mission from WFP Regional Bureau Office visited Palestine to support ongoing work of the Country Office on gender mainstreaming, including through its underway Gender Transformative Plan (GTP). The GTP together with a participatory gender analysis that WFP commissioned the Ramallah-based Arab World for Research Development (AWRAD) to conduct, could enhance mainstreaming gender equality in the planning, design, programming and implementation of WFP operations.

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WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
268 m	112 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2020)
65 m	7.1 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

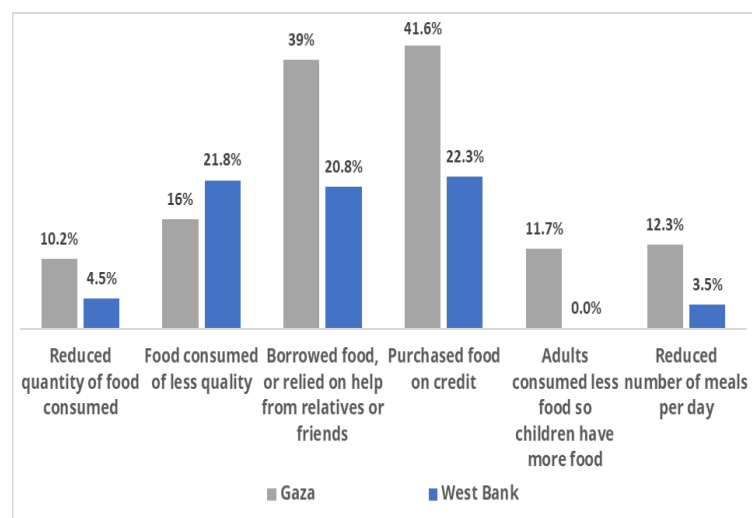
Focus area : Resilience-building

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 November, WFP conducted 332 household visits in Gaza and 202 in the West Bank. The average family size was 6.6 and 5.6 members, respectively. Women-headed households accounted for 17 percent of those visited. Around 25 percent of families surveyed had at least one member with special needs.
- With limited economic opportunities, vulnerable communities in Gaza have been resorting to consumption based coping mechanisms and falling into a cycle of indebtedness to meet their most pressing needs (see graph). Around 74 percent had debts of an average USD 1,220 worth of unpaid bills for electricity and water, and 91 percent owed an average USD 1,570 to friends and relatives. 10 percent of those interviewed reported increase in purchase of food on credit compared to the previous month. Thanks to WFP's assistance, 74 percent had acceptable food consumption of different food groups during the 7 days preceding the survey.
- In the West Bank, a smaller proportion of families reported debts for electricity and water bills (43 percent) but for a higher amount (USD 1,500) than in Gaza, and 54 percent said they have an average of USD 1,700 debts to friends and relatives. 28 percent of those interviewed increase in purchase of food on credit compared to the previous month. 79 percent had acceptable food consumption.



- Almost all visited households expressed their satisfaction with the quality of WFP food assistance (97 percent), 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 Updates

- Currently, WFP is funded to distribute its electronic food vouchers to 272,000 people until end of March 2020 and provide food to 72,000 people until the end of the second quarter of next year.
- Funding limitations prevent WFP from meeting 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 50 percent of total people WFP assists- 171,000 people in Gaza (120,000) 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 facing financial constraints to support all those in need, resulting in an extensive waiting list.
- Through its other implementing INGO partners, Global Communities and Oxfam, WFP aims to reach 130,000 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).
- WFP is partnering with OXFAM in Gaza and with the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ) in the West Bank implementing livelihood projects for 200 families. As the selection of the participating families has been completed, they are receiving training on the different livelihood activities including growing wicking bed units, livestock, poultry, green houses and hydroponics and will pursue the actual work in November and December.

2019 Donors: Canada, European Union (ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait Red Crescent, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, United Nations Central Emergency Fund, multilateral and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1). Joint SDJ Fund (Strategic Outcome 2) [More information here.](#)