



World Food Programme

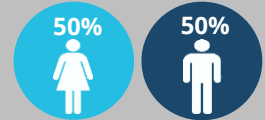
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief June 2020

Photo Credit: WFP Khaled Abu Shabaan

### In Numbers



**388,867 people assisted**  
in June 2020

**US\$4.4 m** cash-based transfers made

**1820 mt of food** distributed

**US\$21.7 m** six months (August 2020 – January 2021) net funding requirements

### Operational Context

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis in Palestine has exacerbated the deteriorating health and socio-economic conditions of Palestinians, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable groups, including elderly people, persons with disabilities, women-headed households and children. Necessary measures to contain the COVID-19 forced thousands of Palestinians out of their work, significantly impacting their livelihoods.

Prior to COVID-19, the humanitarian context in Palestine has been 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. The prolonged conflict has disproportionately affected women, men, girls and boys. Women headed households represent 11 percent of the total households in Palestine; however, they account to almost 20 percent of families suffering from extreme poverty. Adolescent boys and girls living in poverty have lower access to quality services. Unilateral Israeli moves, including the annexation of parts of the West Bank, threaten to further exacerbate the humanitarian conditions of Palestinians.

WFP provides food assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the Palestinian non-refugee population. According to the [latest national estimates \(December 2018\)](#), food insecurity in Palestine affects nearly a third of the population – about 1.7 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 [2018-22 Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\)](#), WFP aims at providing food assistance to 404,000 of the most vulnerable non-refugees via in-kind food rations and electronic food vouchers. Assisted communities can redeem their entitlements in a network of 335 local retail shops across Gaza (200) and the West Bank (135). 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**

2019 Human Development Index: 110 out of 189

Poverty rate: 29.2 per cent

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

### Operational Updates

- In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), WFP continued sustaining food assistance to its 345,000 pre-COVID beneficiaries and scaled up its Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) assistance to meet the immediate food needs of targeted 67,600 newly registered non-refugees. Forty-nine per cent of these beneficiaries are female, and sixty per cent of the elderly beneficiaries (sixty years and above) are women.
- WFP continued providing an **extra monthly cash top up (USD 5) to 170,000 of its CBT recipients**, allocated for purchase of locally produced agro-foods. This alleviates some of the COVID-19 constraints on livelihoods of the most vulnerable in Palestine, while simultaneously injecting cash flow into the local economy and stagnated agro-industry.
- In-kind food assistance under the April – June 2020 quarterly distributions continued uninterrupted reaching 32,703 people in Gaza and 25,024 Bedouins and herders in Area C of the West Bank. At distribution sites, WFP and implementing partners' staff continued limiting mass gatherings through increased distribution times and using hygiene and sensitization materials with personal protective equipment to ensure their and the beneficiaries' safety.
- WFP has been providing **Common Services** through its leadership of the **Logistics Cluster** activated due to the COVID-19 emergency. The Logistics Cluster is working with the Palestinian and the Israeli Authorities to ensure a functioning humanitarian corridor so that essential goods can reach those in need. WFP assisted large humanitarian supply chain operations including for UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), and INGO American Near East Refugee Aid (Anera).

**Contact info:** Yasmine Abuelassal ([yasmin.abuelassal@wfp.org](mailto:yasmin.abuelassal@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Stephen Kearney  
Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/state-palestine](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/state-palestine)

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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

**Strategic Outcome # 1:** Non-refugees, poor and severely food-insecure people 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.

### 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:** Technical support to national ministries and institutions on food security strategy; Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		Funding Requirements
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	
<b>268 m</b>	<b>144 m</b>	
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – Dec 2020)	
<b>48 m*</b>	<b>21.7 m</b>	

\*pending revised budget approval

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP has available funding to maintain food assistance to the regularly assisted beneficiaries in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of September 2020. **WFP needs an additional USD 23 million to be able to continue providing food assistance until the end of 2020.**
- The USD 23 million **include 9.5 million that WFP needs to sustain assistance** under the Coronavirus (COVID-19) context beyond July to the newly registered beneficiaries until the end of 2020.

## Partnerships

- WFP continued lending its CBT platform to humanitarian actors to rapidly respond to essential needs of vulnerable people who have been affected by COVID-19. UNICEF, UNRWA and INGO Islamic Relief Worldwide are using WFP's CBT platform to provide food and hygiene assistance to affected people in the West Bank and Gaza.
- The SDG Fund Joint programme "Towards a universal and holistic social protection floor for people with disabilities and elderly people" was officially launched on 23 June at the Ministry of Social Development. Through this project, WFP is working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF to strengthen the national social protection system for people with disabilities and elderly people, in close

collaboration with the World Bank and the EU.

- WFP and partners ARIJ, Oxfam, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Agriculture initiated the beneficiary selection phase of the Resilience Project, to be completed by August 2020.

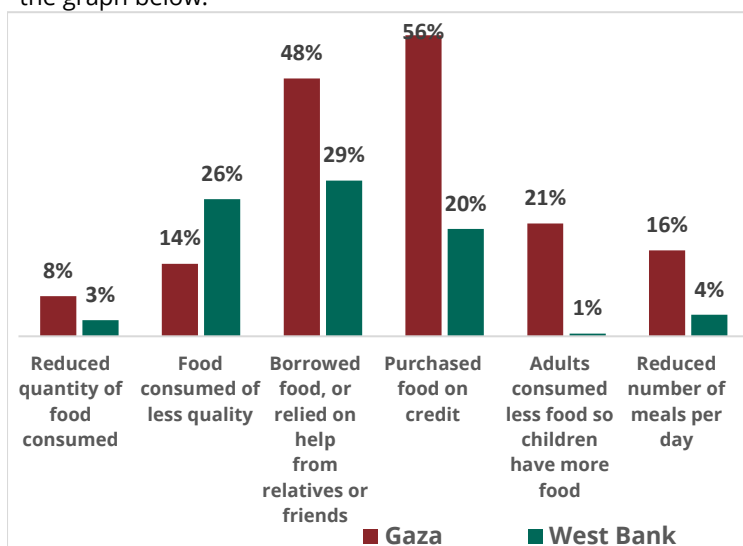
## Monitoring

Necessary precautionary measures due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continued reducing WFP's physical access to the targeted communities, as face-to-face data exposes field staff and beneficiaries to risk of contagion. WFP continued monitoring at household level via phone interviews.

- In terms of **Food Consumption Score (FCS)**, 78 per cent of interviewed households in the Gaza strip and 73 of those in the West Bank exhibited acceptable FCS. The acceptable FCS in the West Bank exhibited a significant improvement (from 66 percent in April). A decrease was observed in the percentage of Gaza households with poor FCS reaching an unprecedented level of 3 percent (from 5 percent in April). This could be attributed to the extra USD 5 WFP is providing to 170,000 beneficiaries.
- In the West Bank, in terms of **purchasing habits and debt**, 51 percent of households reported owing debt to grocery shops. Around a third of these households reported an increased pattern of purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month, while 61 percent reported no change in credit amount.
- In Gaza, 65 percent of interviewed households reported owing **debt to grocery shops** (3 percent increase from last month). For those households, 37 percent reported an increased pattern of purchasing food on credit compared to previous month, and 59 percent reported no change.
- Almost all the interviewed households **expressed their satisfaction** with the availability and variety of commodities in participating shops and considered the voucher value as **essential in supporting their livelihoods**.

**Beneficiary Sample:** In June, WFP conducted 306 household phone interviews in Gaza and 200 in the West Bank. Women-headed households accounted for 28 percent and 55 percent of those interviewed respectively. Around 22 percent of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.

Monitoring findings showed continued use of negative coping strategies by households in Gaza and the West Bank, as shown in the graph below:



**2020 Donors:** Canada, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, ECHO, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF), and private donors (Strategic Outcome 1). SDG Fund (Strategic Outcome 2). More information [here](#).