



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief November 2021

In Numbers

317,973 people assisted
In November 2021



US\$3.1 m in WFP cash-based transfers made

US\$10.1 m in cash-based transfers made through service provision

1,114 mt of food distributed

US\$36 m six-month (December 2021 – May 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Context

The month of May 2021 witnessed the most intense military hostilities in Gaza since 2014, against the backdrop of large-scale unrest in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank. A ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian armed groups that went into effect in Gaza on 21 May is still holding. In addition to the loss of life, many of which were children and women, the humanitarian consequences of the eleven days of fighting in Gaza have been devastating, exacerbating the impact of almost 14 years of an Israeli blockade, internal Palestinian political divisions, recurrent escalations, and an unabating COVID-19 pandemic. A Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), published on 6 July 2021, assesses there are up to USD 380 million in physical damage and USD 190 million in economic losses. Recovery needs have been estimated up to USD 485 million during the first 24 months. Restrictions imposed on Gaza since the escalation are slowly easing.

Before the outbreak of the recent hostilities and COVID-19, food insecurity in Palestine affected nearly a third of the population – about 1.7 million people - and is driven by high poverty and unemployment rates. This number was projected to have increased to 2 million, or 40 percent of the population, in early 2021. The number of food insecure Palestinians is almost equally divided between the refugee (55 percent) and non-refugee (45 percent) communities. More than 900,000 non-refugees are assessed to be food insecure in Palestine, 60 percent in Gaza and 40 percent in the West Bank.

WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian population. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, WFP scaled up food assistance to meet the needs of additional vulnerable people who have been affected. Most of the targeted families are headed by women, with elderly people, persons with disabilities and high ratio of dependents. WFP also provided emergency and recovery food assistance to people affected by the recent round of hostilities in Gaza.

Under the 2018-22 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP aims at providing food assistance to 435,170 of the most vulnerable non-refugees via in-kind food rations and cash-based transfers in the form of electronic food vouchers and multi-purpose cash. In contribution to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP's assistance goes beyond enhancing people's ability to meet their immediate food needs: it supports community resilience in the face of repeated shocks and increased hardships, contributes to maintaining peace and stability, and stimulates the local economy. WFP also works with national institutions to enhance the capacity of existing social safety nets to assist the poor and vulnerable.

Population: 5.2 million

2019 Human Development Index:
115 out of 189

Poverty rate: 31.1 percent

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

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP supported around 318,000 people in need through cash-based transfers and in-kind food support. Resilience and vocational training also continued, as did the operation's social behaviour change initiative.
- Through WFP's cash-based transfer support (CBT) WFP successfully assisted more than 100 percent of Gaza's beneficiaries and reached all the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank. In Gaza, in-kind food assistance reached 21,857 beneficiaries.
- WFP continued the provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer platform to other humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of projects. Through this service provision in November, WFP enabled assistance to about 628,141 individuals and the redemption/top-up of about US\$10.1 million.
- WFP's Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) project continued through cooking courses. The initiative focuses on knowledge and implementation of healthy eating habits to support reduction of anaemia amongst pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of five. In November, WFP reached around 400 people with this project throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- The Country Office initiated multi-office activities to support the international 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. WFP distributed banners of the campaign logo and shared information with participating stores in its cash programme. WFP continues to raise awareness on gender equality so that all stakeholders assume the collective responsibility of integrating gender equality into their work.
- WFP is developing its new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) set to launch in 2023, the guiding document for the subsequent five years that outlines the strategic approach to reaching the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs): SDG 2, Zero Hunger, and SDG 17, partnering to support the implementation of the SDGs, in Palestine.

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Photo Caption: WFP distribute logo banners of the Gender-Based Violence campaign to the participating stores in its cash programme. @wfp/Nizar

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirements (USD)		Allocated Contributions (USD)
358 m		271 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	2022 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (December 2021– May 2022)
116 m	49 m	9.2 m

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: Enhanced capacities of national institutions and systems to identify, target and assist food insecure vulnerable populations in Palestine 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

Strategic Outcome # 3: Palestinians benefit from the services provided to partners through WFP's delivery platform

Focus area : Resilience-building

Activity 04: Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- **WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with additional information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback.** In November, the hotlines responded to **almost 12,000 calls**. The operation also reaches the people it serves through SMS messaging to sensitize/inform about operational changes, top-ups, the start of distributions, and to remind those receiving cash assistance to redeem. During November, more than **1.1 million SMS messages** were sent to those supported by WFP and its service provision.
- **WFP conducted face-to-face and telephone monitoring interviews throughout November.** The sample included 190 interviews with recipients of cash-based transfer (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food in the West Bank; and 384 interviews with recipients in the Gaza Strip. Eighteen percent of the interviewed households are headed by women and 15 percent of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.
- Findings show that of the sampled households of those who receive assistance, 80 percent in Gaza and 67 percent in the West Bank had acceptable food consumption, while 5 percent in Gaza and 11 percent in the West Bank did not have access to adequate food, rich with protein, vitamins,

and minerals.

- Many families, particularly in Gaza, continued **negative coping mechanisms** to address their inability to fully meet their food needs. 38 percent of families in Gaza consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 19 percent purchased food on credit and 18 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. Meanwhile, 47 percent of families in the West Bank consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 38 percent purchased food on credit and 29 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. 23 percent in Gaza and 30 percent in the West Bank reported an increase in the pattern of purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.
- In the Gaza Strip, 79 percent of households headed by women; 80 percent of households headed by men stated that the food assistance from WFP partially covers their food needs. However, 21 percent of households headed by women and 20 percent of households headed by men said the food assistance did not meet their needs and requested an increase to the voucher value to cover all their food needs. Meanwhile in the West Bank, 23 percent of households headed by women; 43 percent of households headed by men stated that food assistance from WFP partially covered their food needs, while 77 percent of households headed by women and 47 percent of male headed-households believed that the voucher value did not correspond with their food needs. **It is worth highlighting that the planned voucher value is not intended to cover the full food needs of households, though these figures show a need for food support.**

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP Palestine seeks to provide food assistance to 435,170 of the poorest and most food-insecure Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and East Jerusalem. WFP requires US\$ 6 million a month to provide this assistance uninterruptedly.

Donors: Belgium, Canada, EU, France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, UAE, UK, UN Humanitarian Fund (HF), USA, Talabat and other private donors (Strategic Outcome 1). SDG Fund, Germany (BMZ) (Strategic Outcome 2). More information [here](#).

Vegetables from Sabreen: a story

In a small house in the Gaza Strip, Sabreen enjoys growing crops in her backyard in the wicking beds provided by WFP. Her favourite vegetable is lettuce, and her favourite herb is fresh mint! Next to the beds, Sabreen has a small tomato garden. She loves to pick fresh red tomatoes from there to make her family tasty salads.

Teamwork is important in Sabreen's house, where she and her family work hand in hand watering crops and taking care of all that grows. When there are extras, her family sells the surplus at the vegetable market, earning some extra income.



Photo Caption: Sabreen makes food for her family using freshly picked tomatoes from her garden. @WFP/AljJadallah