



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Palestine Country Brief October 2021

In Numbers

303,196 people assisted
In October 2021



US\$4.1 m in WFP cash-based transfers made

US\$10 m in cash-based transfers made through service provision

1,114 mt of food distributed

US\$27 m six-month (November 2021 – April 2022)

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.

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP reached about 303,196 people in need through cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind food support. The total cash delivered to people in need was fully redeemed, injecting the local economy with US\$ 4.1 million.
- WFP reached 99.6 percent of prioritized people in Gaza and 97 percent of prioritized people in the West Bank through CBT assistance. WFP also completed a trimestral in-kind food assistance distributions in the West Bank reaching 8,606 people.
- WFP continued provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer platform to humanitarian agencies, to facilitate different types of social assistance. In October, WFP channelled around US\$10 million for the redemption of assistance to about 596,000 people.
- WFP completed the distributions of its emergency multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). [Read how this critical cash assistance restored Fatema's hope.](#)
- WFP continued its resilience activities throughout the West Bank and Gaza and finalized enrolment of new people and institutions for upcoming activities.
- Abu Julia, a renowned Palestinian chef, spoke about WFP's work in Palestine on a World Food Day Instagram video ([Arabic](#)).
- WFP launched its nutritional Social and Behavior Change Communication activities. The project 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. The implementation began with WFP conducting two orientation days in both the West Bank and Gaza, reaching nearly 400 participants.
- WFP is taking the first steps to develop the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP), the guiding document for the next 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.

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

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Photo Caption: From the resilience-building interventions programme, a man receives agricultural training to enhance resilience and diversify income sources. ©WFP/Elias Halabi

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (USD)		Allocated Contributions (USD)
358 m		235m
2021 Requirements (USD)	2022 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (November 2021 – April 2022)
116 m	49 m	27 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: 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

Monitoring

- WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with additional information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In October, the hotlines responded to over 11,000 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 October, more than one million SMS messages were sent to those supported by WFP and its service provision.
- WFP conducted face-to-face and telephone monitoring interviews throughout October. The sample included 194 interviews with recipients of cash-based transfer (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food in the West Bank, and 109 in the Gaza Strip. Twenty-five percent of the interviewed households are headed by women and 14 percent of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.
- Findings show that of the sampled beneficiary households, 81 percent in Gaza and 68 percent in the West Bank had acceptable food consumption, while 3 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. Of those, 30 percent of families in Gaza consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 20 percent purchased

food on credit and 17 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. Meanwhile, 55 percent of families in the West Bank consumed less preferred food or food of lower quality, 41 percent purchased food on credit and 34 percent borrowed food or relied on help from relatives or friends. 10 percent in Gaza and 29 percent in the West Bank reported an increase in the pattern of purchasing food on credit compared to the previous month.

- In the West Bank, 44 percent of households headed by women and 56 percent of male-headed households stated that the monthly voucher value partially covered their food needs. 54 percent of households headed by women and 71 percent of male-headed households interviewed reported having accrued debt to cover their food needs. However, in Gaza, 3 percent of interviewed households believed food assistance value fully corresponded with their food needs; 60 percent of headed by women and 73 percent of male-headed households believed that it partially covered their food needs. 60 percent of female-headed and 71 percent of male-headed households respectively had debts for food at shops.

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 per month to provide this uninterrupted assistance.

WFP's aquaponics pilot

- In a greenhouse in Khan Younis, Gaza, a little world thrives. WFP's aquaponics pilot is up and running in Kareema's backyard: the fish living in the pond feed off azzola, a plant grown by Kareema's family. Nothing is wasted: fish waste is converted to fertilizer, which the family uses to grow crops such as cucumber, green pepper, mint and tomato. Electricity is strengthened through the solar panels provided to the family. And the fish, once fully grown, provide the family with important protein.
- [Watch the Gaza aquaponics pilot featured](#) in the *Life With Dignity* campaign.



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](#).