



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Palestine Country Brief March 2022

### In Numbers

**373,646 people assisted**  
In March 2022



**US\$3.4 m** in WFP cash-based transfers made

**US\$9.4 m** in cash-based transfers made through service provision

**US\$17.2 m** six-month (April – September 2022) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In March, WFP supported around 373,646 people in need. Of those, 304,163 received cash-based transfers, fully reaching the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 99 percent in Gaza. 69,483 people are reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions. Resilience and vocational training also continued, as did the operation's social behavior change initiative.
- 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 March, WFP enabled assistance to about 100,045 households and the redemption of about US\$9.4 million.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF to strengthen joint work on improving nutrition among the most vulnerable women and young children. The joint programme aims to support the national social protection systems, improve community accountability mechanisms, as well as support adolescents and youth for better employment opportunities through leveraging resources and collaboration.
- As per the agreement between WFP and UN Women, a study on Gender Dynamics in WFP Beneficiary Households was commissioned, focusing on the effect of household dynamics on expenditures patterns, coping strategies, incidences of gender-based violence, financial inclusion, and access to and control over resources. Initial findings indicate that women and men make decisions over the shopping almost equally, and around 85 percent of people find WFP assistance to have a positive impact on relations between spouses.
- WFP is monitoring price trends for the most consumed staple commodities and in Palestine, especially those impacted by the Ukraine crisis. In March, the average value of WFP food ration prices has recorded its highest level, increasing 8.62 percent compared to March 2021. The overall food Price Index (FFPI) increased 12.6 percent from February. The full report can be accessed [here](#).
- WFP is in consultation with its donors to increase the current monthly US\$10.3 per person voucher value by an additional US\$5 per month, for around 304,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank to mitigate the Ukraine crisis impact on their purchasing power. This increase will require additional US\$12 million for six months.

In Palestine, protracted conflict, economic stagnation and restricted trade and access to resources, coupled with high unemployment and poverty rates, continue to pose serious challenges to food security and nutrition situation. The Palestinian government is currently facing an unprecedented financial crisis. At a time when the already fragile economic situation is worsened by the impact of Ukraine crisis, the purchasing power of Palestinians, particularly the most vulnerable, is further eroding and disrupting their access to food and other essentials. WFP food assistance is currently the only standing safety net for many vulnerable poor and food insecure Palestinian families.

In May 2021, Gaza witnessed the most intense military hostilities since 2014, against the backdrop of large-scale unrest in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank. The situation in the Gaza Strip is increasingly dire after 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of the highest unemployment rates in the world and deep poverty. The crisis is tied to prolonged occupation, internal Palestinian political divisions, recurrent escalations of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups, and an unabating COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of the 5.3 million population in Palestine, 1.79 million Palestinians, or a third of the population, suffer from food insecurity. The number of food insecure Palestinians is almost equally divided between the refugee (55 percent) and non-refugee (45 percent) communities. More than 62 percent, or 1.1 million people, of the total food-insecure Palestinians, are severely food insecure. Most of these people (90 percent) live in the Gaza Strip. WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian population. WFP scaled up food assistance since the outbreak of the pandemic, and 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

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**Photo Caption:** Samira harvesting lettuce from her home-garden, with support from WFP. WFP/Nour Hammad.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)
<b>506 m</b>	<b>434 m</b>
2022 Requirements (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (April–September 2022)
<b>196.6 m</b>	<b>17.2 m</b>

## 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 01:** - 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 02, 03:** Technical support to national ministries and institutions on food security strategy; Provision of a CBT platform to multi-sectoral partners and Government

## Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs (SDG target 17.16)

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

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

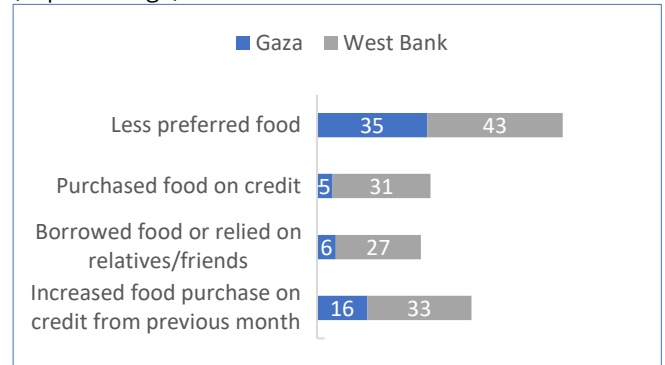
**Activity 04:** Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

## Monitoring

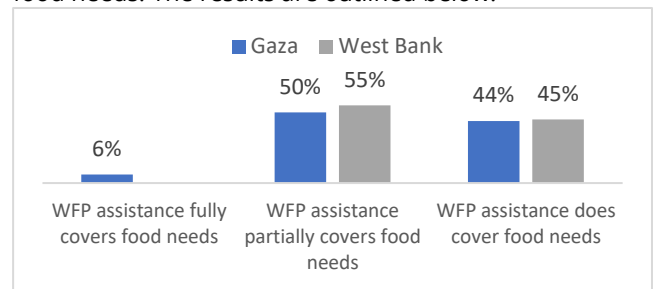
- **WFP is contactable through dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback.** In March, the hotlines responded to around **21,000 calls**. The operation also reaches the people it serves through SMS messaging to sensitize about operational changes, top-ups, the start of distributions, and to remind those receiving cash assistance to redeem. During March, more than **1 million SMS** messages were sent to those supported by WFP and its service provision.
- **WFP conducted 493 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfer (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food. 205 in the West Bank; and 288 interviews in the Gaza Strip. Households headed by women account for 25 percent in the West Bank and 24 percent in Gaza. Around 22 percent of the families interviewed had at least one member with special needs.
- Findings showed that of the sampled households of those who receive assistance, 72 percent in the West Bank and 70 percent in Gaza had acceptable food consumption, while 8 percent in the West Bank and 7 percent in the

Gaza did not have access to adequate food, rich with protein, vitamins, and minerals.

- Many families continued the use of **negative coping mechanisms** to meet their food needs, as shown below (in percentage):



- WFP monitoring exercise indicated the extent to which beneficiaries found WFP assistance to be covering their food needs. The results are outlined below:



It is important to note that the planned voucher value is intended to cover 60 percent of beneficiary's daily recommended calories.

## From garden to table

Akram spends his days in his home garden in the hills of Hebron, amidst the luscious greens, reminiscing his old farming days. The garden is blooming with lettuce, cabbages, avocados, and sprouting chestnut seeds. For his family, this means diversifying their food and ensuring that every meal is nutritious.

The gardening tools and seeds were given to Areej, his daughter-in-law. Areej is part of a WFP's social behaviour change programme, for pregnant and breastfeeding women. The programme aims at improving food security and nutritional levels for women and their families in the West Bank and Gaza.



**Photo Caption:** Akram and Areej in their home garden @Zoom

## 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](#).