



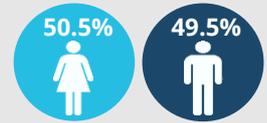
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief August 2022



In Numbers



370,846 people assisted
in August 2022

US\$ 3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9 m cash-based transfers made through service provision

US\$ 20.9 m six months (September 2022-February 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Palestine, protracted conflict, economic stagnation, restricted trade and access to resources, coupled with high unemployment and poverty rates, continue to pose serious challenges to the food security and nutrition situation. As economic conditions worsened due to the Ukraine crisis, the purchasing power of Palestinians is further eroding and disrupting their access to food and other essentials. For vulnerable and food insecure non-refugees in Palestine, WFP is the largest provider of food assistance.

In Gaza, the recent August 2022 escalation of violence left many additional families in need of assistance. This has exacerbated the dire humanitarian situation in the strip after 15 years of the Israeli blockade, aggravated by having one of the world's highest unemployment rates and deep poverty. In the West Bank, settlement activity and related violence, loss of land, destruction of property, and restricted access to basic services continue undermining Palestinians' livelihoods. One-third of the Palestinian population, 1.79 million people, suffer from food insecurity, of which, 1.1 million are severely food insecure; most of them (90 percent) live in Gaza. WFP regularly provides food assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure groups of the Palestinian population.

Under the 2018-22 Country Strategic Plan, WFP aims to provide 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. In contribution to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP is supporting community resilience in the face of repeated shocks and increased hardships, contributing to maintaining peace and stability and stimulating 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**

2020 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 August, WFP assisted 370,846 people in need. Of those, 297,846 received cash-based transfers, reaching 99 percent of the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 97.9 percent in Gaza. Around 73,000 people are reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions in Gaza and the West Bank with 2,458 mt of chickpeas, lentils, wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt.
- WFP continued the provision of its technical expertise and cash-based transfer (CBT) platform to other humanitarian agencies including SOS Children's Village, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Islamic Relief Worldwide and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to facilitate their implementation of projects. Through this service provision, in August, WFP enabled assistance to about 644,544 people and the redemption of about US\$ 9 million.
- In August, WFP Palestine partnered with other humanitarian actors to meet needs on the ground. Additional 912 beneficiaries were assessed and included in the existing WFP lists and were provided emergency voucher assistance for up to three months following the escalation of violence in Gaza in the month.
- The first phase of the Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) campaign was completed, reaching 259 beneficiaries including pregnant and lactating women and mothers of children under five in Gaza and the West Bank. WFP started selecting potential participants from the beneficiary list of the General Food Assistance to reach 659 women in the second phase of the project.
- In August, 31 local shops, in addition to the 182 existing WFP contracted shops, were newly assessed and sensitized on voucher cash-out, product pricing, store cleanliness, and conducts towards beneficiaries to be contracted and meet beneficiaries' needs.

Contact info: Alia Zaki (alia.zaki@wfp.org)
Country Director: Samer Abdeljaber (samer.abdeljaber@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/palestine

Photo Caption: A field visit to the Bedouin community "Bereen" in the West Bank.
WFP/Mostafa Ghroz

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
506 m	451 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2022 – February 2023)
196.6 m	20.9 m

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

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

Focus area: *Resilience-building*

Activities 04:

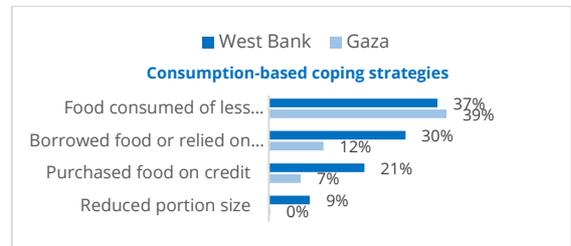
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- WFP has in place dedicated hotlines ready to provide information on available support, targeting criteria, and to receive feedback. In August, the hotlines responded to **over 10,200 calls**. Around 79 percent of calls received after the escalation were requests for assistance such as shelter, food, and cash.
- Around **1 million SMS messages** were sent out by WFP during August to those assisted by WFP, and to those benefiting from its service provision. The messages aimed to sensitize operational changes and top-ups, provide details on the start of distributions, and to notify cash assistance recipients to redeem their entitlements.
- **WFP conducted 658 face-to-face interviews** with

recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for needs assessment. Around 19 percent of the interviewed families were headed by women and around 21 percent had at least one household member with disabilities.

- According to WFP's monitoring, 74 percent of the beneficiaries interviewed in the West Bank and 15 percent of those in Gaza reported witnessing an increase in prices of most food commodities with only 30 percent of those in the West Bank and 22 percent of those in Gaza reported being able to buy the same amount of food as they did during the previous month. The full report can be found [here](#).
- WFP findings showed that 12 percent of the households in Gaza and 11 percent in the West Bank had poor food consumption scores (FCS), while 63 percent in Gaza and 68 percent in the West Bank had acceptable FCS.
- Many families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices (in percentage):



Challenges

- As a complementary measure to offset the price increases experienced in Gaza due to the Ukraine crisis, the closure of borders, and the recent August escalation, an additional USD 12 million is needed to increase the value of the voucher of USD 10.3 by USD 5 per month, for around 304,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank for six months.

Local businesses take part in saving lives

As soon as beneficiaries started going to his store to cash out their vouchers, Rafat realized that he was taking part in saving vulnerable families' lives and reviving his business, too. *"When people started coming to my shop to redeem their vouchers, I made sure they feel welcomed and comfortable while shopping. I would always ask them if there's a product they wish to see next time they come or if there's anything I could do better."*



While adding Rafat's shop to the list of WFP contracted shops made it easier for beneficiaries to redeem their vouchers, it helped Rafat to get back on his feet and earn better.

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](#).