



World Food Programme

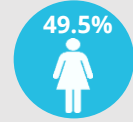
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Palestine Country Brief September 2022



In Numbers

374,333 people assisted
in September 2022



US\$ 2.9 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 8.9 m in cash-based transfers made through service provision

US\$ 27.5 m six months (October 2022- March 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 there 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, 1.78 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**

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 September, WFP supported 374,333 people in need. Of those, 301,333 (80 percent) received cash-based transfers, reaching 100 percent of the prioritized beneficiaries in the West Bank, and 99 percent in Gaza. Around 73,000 people are reached through the quarterly in-kind distributions in Gaza and the West Bank with 2,052 mt of chickpeas, lentils, and wheat flour.
- WFP continued to provide its technical expertise and services on its cash-based transfer (CBT) platform to other humanitarian agencies including SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF, UNFPA, Islamic Relief Worldwide and the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO). Through this service provision, in September, WFP enabled assistance to 609,085 individuals through the redemption of US\$ 8.9 million through its CBT platform.
- WFP Palestine welcomed a contribution of US\$ 1.5 million from the government of Japan which will help provide in-kind food rations to over 73,000 of the poorest and most food-insecure Palestinians for three months. The signing ceremony took place on 7 September at the Ministry of Social Development in the presence of WFP Palestine Representative and Country Director, the Palestinian Minister of Social Development, and the Japanese delegation.
- The Palestinian Grape Festival, an annual farmers' market for grape farmers in Palestine, was co-funded by WFP this year. This fund comes as part of WFP's efforts to encourage innovation in the agriculture sector and support smallholder farmers and local businesses.
- In August 2022, the average value of WFP food ration prices has increased 19.89 percent since the beginning of the Ukraine crisis (February 2022), and by 30.80 percent compared to the previous year. The full report can be found [here](#).

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 WFP Palestine's local salt supplier in the Dead Sea area, which is the only Palestinian-owned factory there. WFP/Mostafa Ghroz

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
506 m	453 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2022 - March 2023)
197 m	27.5 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:

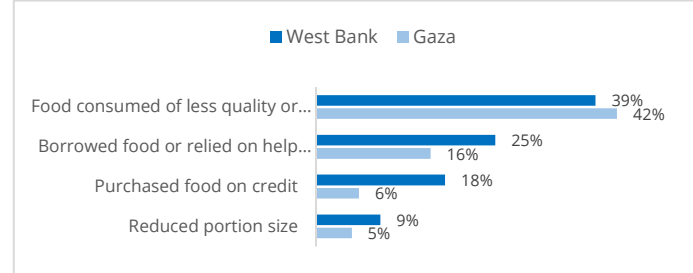
- Service provision of WFP's delivery platform to partners

Monitoring

- Beneficiaries contact WFP through dedicated hotlines ready with information on available support, targeting criteria, and feedback. In September, the hotlines responded to **over 14,700 calls**. Around **1 million SMS messages** were sent during September to those supported by WFP and its service provision to sensitize operational changes, top-ups, the start of distributions, and notify cash assistance recipients to redeem their entitlements.
- **WFP conducted 696 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of cash-based transfers (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Of the interviewed families, 19 percent

were households headed by women and around 22 percent had at least one household member with disabilities. The findings showed that 14 percent of the households in Gaza and 12 percent in the West Bank had poor food consumption scores (FCS), while 59 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): **Negative coping mechanism use in West Bank and Gaza - WFP survey, August 2022**



Challenges

- WFP is currently facing a funding shortfall of US\$ 27 million for the next six months. WFP urgently requires funding to avoid suspension of food assistance for 180,000 vulnerable people in Gaza and the West Bank beyond the end of November 2022.

Rising Prices. Retrieving Hope.

At the start of the year, Fahed used to cash his voucher all at once at the beginning of the month. He would buy the food items that his family consumes the most. "I usually start with wheat flour because if it is present at home, the rest is less of a concern."



Photo credit: WFP/Ali Jadallah

Now, Fahed only buys canned beans, tomatoes, vegetable oil, and some lentils and rice every time he cashes out the voucher. Sometimes his kids get bored of having the same food over and over, but "the high prices are limiting our choices. Buying fresh vegetables or chicken would mean letting go of a bag of wheat flour or vegetable oil – both last longer." The price of wheat flour has shot up in the Gaza Strip after the Ukraine crisis, pushing basic food items out of reach for thousands of Palestinian families like Fahed's.

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.](#)