



World Food Programme

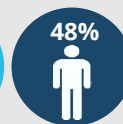
SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Palestine Country Brief July 2023



## In Numbers

201,396 people assisted  
in July 2023



USD 1.3m cash-based transfers made

USD 10.7m in cash-based transfers made to 693,800 people through WFP's cash-based transfers service provision to humanitarian and development partners

USD 41.6m six months (August 2023 - January 2024) 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 global food crisis, the purchasing power of Palestinians is further eroding and disrupting their access to food and other essentials. For vulnerable and food-insecure people in targeted communities in Palestine, WFP is the largest provider of food assistance.

In Gaza, 15 years of blockade, aggravated by one of the world's highest unemployment rates and deep poverty, has led to a dire humanitarian situation. 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.

According to the latest Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment of the State of Palestine 2022, one-third of the Palestinian population, 1.84 million people, suffer from food insecurity, of which, 1.1 million are severely food insecure; most of them (90 percent) live in Gaza.

Under the 2023-28 Country Strategic Plan, WFP aims to provide food assistance to 440,500 of the most vulnerable and food-insecure people 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, through livelihood support, 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 most vulnerable. WFP will also support humanitarian and development actors to better serve the most vulnerable people through its on-demand and interagency services, continuing to be the key enabler for the humanitarian response across sectors in Palestine through its cash-based transfers platform

Population: **5.4 million**

Poverty rate: **31.1 percent**

2021 Human Development Index: 109 out of 191

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

## Operational Updates

- In July, WFP supported 201,396 people in need in Gaza and the West Bank. Of those, 136,190 received cash-based transfers (CBT) and 65,206 people were reached through quarterly in-kind food distributions with wheat flour, chickpeas, lentils, salt, vegetable oil, and local olive oil. Around 263 mt of food commodities were distributed during July.
- WFP continued the provision of technical expertise and its CBT platform to eight humanitarian agencies to facilitate the implementation of their projects. Through this service provision in July, WFP enabled assistance to about 693,800 individuals in Gaza and the redemption of about USD 10.7 million.
- WFP and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to start a joint initiative to promote the economic and social inclusion of 100 young unemployed university graduates in Gaza. Graduates will be provided with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) accompanied by an internship to build their capacities towards self-employment.
- In preparation for the food assistance response in the summer camps, WFP's nutrition team conducted trainings for the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) staff and volunteers in the West Bank and Gaza on promoting healthy nutrition and eating habits among children and adolescents. The summer camps, managed by PRCS, will target over 1,950 children and adolescents with nutrition awareness activities.
- Following the military escalation in Jenin camp in July, WFP will launch an **Emergency Cash Plan** to provide e-vouchers of 550 New Israeli Shekel (NIS) (US \$150) per family to **2,862 of the most vulnerable people** who were significantly affected to help them meet their immediate food needs. Moreover, WFP conducted a market assessment to ensure the availability and accessibility of food products in local shops in the camp. Findings can be found [here](#).
- WFP continues to monitor market prices and food security in the State of Palestine. The monthly market dashboard can be found [here](#).

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**Photo Caption:** A young fruits and vegetables seller talking about the increase in prices to WFP staff in Gaza's market.  
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## Country Strategic Plan (March 2023- Feb. 2028)

| Total Requirements<br>(in USD)  | Total Received* (in USD)  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>608m</b>                     | <b>81m</b>  |
| 2023 Requirements<br>(in USD)** | Six-Month Net Funding<br>Requirements (in USD)<br>( August 2023 - January 2024) |
| <b>225m</b>                     | <b>41.6m</b>  |

\* Total received calculated excluding outstanding advances

\*\*This is the sum of the requirements of current CSP and CSP (Jan 2018- Feb 2023)

**WFP Strategic Outcome 1:** People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

**Country Strategic Plan Outcome #1:** Vulnerable and food-insecure people in Palestine have improved ability to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activity 1:** Provide unconditional food assistance and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) to vulnerable and food-insecure people.

**WFP Strategic Outcome 2:** People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

**Country Strategic Plan Outcome #2:** Vulnerable people in Palestine, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities have improved access to livelihood opportunities and resilience to shocks by 2028.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

**Activity 2:** Provide livelihood support (including skills training, asset creation and income-generating opportunities) to vulnerable people, with a focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities.

**WFP Strategic Outcome 4:** National programmes and systems are strengthened.

**Country Strategic Plan Outcome #3:** National institutions in Palestine have enhanced capacities to enable more sustainable, inclusive and integrated national systems and services, including social protection, by 2028.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

**Activity 3:** Provide technical expertise, capacity strengthening and support to national institutions to facilitate the implementation of national strategies and plan

**WFP Strategic Outcome 5:** Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

**Country Strategic Plan Outcome #4:** Humanitarian and development actors in Palestine have access to efficient and effective services and support throughout the year

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

**Activity 4:** Provide cash-based transfer platform services to humanitarian and development partners to enable them to meet the needs of targeted populations

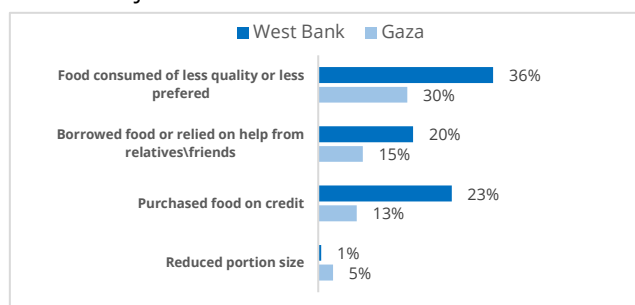
**Activity 5:** Provide inter-agency services and technical expertise to regional and national institutions and humanitarian actors

## Monitoring

- WFP has established toll-free hotlines to provide information and collect feedback on assistance. In July, these hotlines received over 15,700 calls. Additionally, around 589,000 SMS messages were sent during July to individuals supported by WFP and service provision partners. These messages informed people about suspensions, operational

changes, and distribution dates.

- WFP conducted 590 face-to-face interviews** with recipients of CBT (electronic vouchers) and in-kind food across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Around 28 percent of the interviewed families were households headed by women and 24 percent had at least one person with disability. Findings showed that 13 percent of the households in the West Bank and 9 percent in Gaza had poor food consumption scores (FCS). Some 62 percent in Gaza and 57 percent in the West Bank had acceptable score. Overall, 47 percent of the interviewed families continued relying on negative coping mechanisms to meet their food needs due to the global surge in food prices and the assistance cuts which started in June:



## Funding Challenges & Impact

- WFP Palestine requires **USD 41.6 million** to continue assisting 438,000 people until the end of January 2024. In June, WFP suspended assistance to around 200,000 people, 60 percent of the current caseload, and will be forced to cease its operations in November if no funding emerges.
- After the suspension of WFP food assistance in June, monitoring showed that **97 percent of the interviewed beneficiaries phased out**, experienced a decline in their food consumption, reducing or eliminating food items.

## Kindling Strength from Happier Times

Zikrayat draws strength from her name (memories in Arabic) and happier times she lived in Jenin. In a simple house devoid of furniture, utensils, and basic needs but filled with love and warmth, she raised six kids. For as long as she remembers, the warm food she served to the family came from the ingredients she redeemed monthly from the WFP voucher. "I try to put the little ingredients I have into nourishing dishes for the kids". A month ago, Zikrayat's happy memories were mixed with heart-wrenching memories of destruction and suffering as violence escalated in Jenin. A month before, she lost a lifeline that lent her a hand to carry the sky above her. Severe funding shortfall forced WFP in Palestine to make the hard decision of halting assistance to thousands of families, including Zikrayat's.



## Donors

Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, UAE, UN Humanitarian Fund (UHF), USA, and other private donors: Bank of Palestine, Talabat, and Share the meal (Strategic Outcome 1). SDG Fund, Germany (BMZ) (Strategic Outcome 2). More information [here](#)

**Photo Caption:** Zikrayat and her children in their almost-empty house. Photo credit: ©WFP/Mostafa Ghroz