



WFP State of Palestine Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Food Assistance for Food-Insecure Populations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	4 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200709 (Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2017)	210 m	162 m (77 %)	3.2 m

*September 2017 – December 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200709

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200709, with an approved budget of USD 210 million over 2015-2017, WFP has three objectives: 1) meeting urgent food needs and enhancing the food consumption and dietary diversity of the most vulnerable non-refugee populations; 2) supporting livelihoods, fostering early recovery and enhancing the resilience and coping mechanisms of fragile communities in the face of socio-economic hardships; 3) supporting the Palestinian authority's capacity to deliver cost-effective and protective national safety nets, and strengthening its readiness to respond to external shocks, in collaboration with United Nations agencies.

Each month, WFP provides food assistance to nearly half a million poor food insecure Palestinians, the great majority living below the deep poverty line on less than USD 3.2 per person per day. WFP food assistance proved to be critical in meeting their daily food needs, but also in protecting their livelihoods and mitigating the devastating and accumulative impact of decades of conflict on their socio-economic status.

The Palestinian Authority is a core WFP partner in Palestine. WFP supports the Ministry of Social Development in the development and delivery of an integrated and needs-based National Food Safety net, reaching 214,000 people with in-kind food and cash-based transfer assistance (CBT), using an electronic food voucher. WFP also provides technical support towards programme design, beneficiary targeting, monitoring and evaluation to the Ministry of Social Development.

By purchasing the majority of its food supplies locally and using retail shops for the procurement and distribution of food assistance, WFP aims at strengthening the resilience of local food systems and the wider Palestinian economy to the protracted crisis. Since 2011 and to date, WFP has invested more than USD 242 million in the economy,

Credit: WFP/ Asmaa Nassar

Caption: WFP supports the National Social Safety Net Programmes through which food assistance is delivered to the poorest of the poor non-refugee Palestinians, including children, women, elderly people, and those suffering from chronic diseases. Noura and her family are amongst them.

Main Photo

Highlights

- WFP assisted 473,000 food insecure non-refugees in Gaza and the West Bank in August, through both cash-based transfers (CBT) - using an electronic card redeemable in local shops - and in-kind food assistance. Women and children accounted for 70 percent of those assisted.
- The humanitarian situation in Gaza keeps deteriorating in the wake of an acute energy crisis. Thanks to additional donor support, WFP was able to provide almost continuous assistance to the most vulnerable.

including USD 154 million through CBTs and 88 million through local purchases. Approximately 96 percent of WFP food items available through CBTs are produced and/or processed locally.

WFP's CBT platform allows for a flexible, rapidly-scalable and multi-stakeholder humanitarian response in times of crisis, fostering aid complementarity, cost-effectiveness and impact. Use of an "electronic wallet" made it possible for other organisations to deliver assistance through the same card. During the 2014 Gaza conflict, WFP reached more than 300,000 people in less than two weeks with CBTs, including 84,000 who received complementary water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance from UNICEF through the WFP card. CBTs are also effectively used in recovery contexts: since the conflict, WFP continued to partner with UNICEF and teamed-up and/or shared its CBT technology to Oxfam, Help Age and Médecins du Monde in Gaza. In the West Bank, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has been using WFP's voucher platform to deliver its food assistance to 47,000 refugees since 2015.

WFP's activities in Palestine promote and support women's empowerment and gender equality in all its interventions. Food distribution points and partner retailers are easily accessible for women and are located in areas close to women-headed households. WFP together with the local NGO Ard El-Insan and UNICEF run nutrition education classes to selected WFP beneficiaries. The programme is critical as 50 percent of the population suffers from more than one micronutrient deficiency. The sessions have a long-term positive impact on levels of nutritional and dietary knowledge and healthy cooking habits among participants.

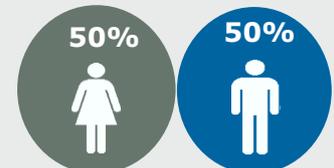
In Numbers

1.65 m food-insecure Palestinians in need of food assistance, including:

745,000 non-refugees in need of food assistance

29,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gaza following the 2014 war, including **8,120** non-refugees

473,500
People assisted in August
Including 40 percent through CBTs and 3,609 non-refugee IDPs



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted 473,500 poor and food insecure people: 247,000 people in Gaza and 226,500 people in the West Bank with food and CBTs. WFP food assistance was critical in meeting their immediate food needs and stabilising their dietary diversity, but also in protecting their livelihoods and mitigating the devastating and accumulative impact of decades of conflict on their socio-economic status.
- Thanks to additional donor contributions (United States, Switzerland, Spain, France, private sector donors), WFP's voucher funding requirements under the United Nations Gaza emergency appeal (USD 4 million) covering the period July-September have been secured. Through its network of 87 contracted shops, WFP was able to reach all 92,000 people with voucher assistance in all Gaza governorates. WFP's food assistance in Gaza is critical to support people's fragile livelihoods and coping mechanisms as humanitarian conditions keep deteriorating.
- Together with its cooperating partner Global Communities, WFP is conducting a beneficiary needs assessment in Gaza to review the eligibility of current food assistance recipients and assess the needs of other vulnerable poor food insecure people. The results, which are expected during the last quarter of 2017, will help WFP shape its food security interventions under its new 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan. The latter will be brought to WFP's Executive Board Members for approval in November 2017.
- Based on the findings of the National Strategic Review on Food and Nutrition Security, undertaken earlier this year the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute on behalf of WFP, and the recommendations of the external 2011-15 Country Portfolio Evaluation, WFP will prioritise assistance to the sole severely food-insecure populations by 2018 onwards. WFP will aim at further scaling-up cash-based transfers, including unrestricted cash, and phasing out of in-kind food rations.
- WFP, together with other United Nations agencies, also provides emergency assistance to those whose houses have been demolished. In August, WFP provided emergency voucher assistance to 26 people for a total of USD 500, following OCHA's recommendations and WFP's assessments. Since the beginning of the year, WFP assisted 232 people with emergency vouchers for a total value of USD 3,900.

Challenges

- WFP does not have the resources to carry forth its in-kind food distributions with the Ministry of Social Development in both the West Bank and Gaza over September-December. This will impact the food security and livelihoods status of 137,000 poor severely food-insecure people. WFP is in urgent needs of around USD 3.2 million to avert this situation.

Country Background & Strategy

Decades of occupation coupled with severe restrictions on the movement of people and goods have undermined the living conditions and reduced access to livelihoods for Palestinians. Food insecurity in Palestine is driven by limited economic access to food, arising from restrictions of movement, trade and investment, and high unemployment rates. Food prices are driven by Israel, where people's average purchasing power per person is six times higher than in Palestine, and therefore too high for poor families to afford.

The impact of the 2014 conflict in Gaza continues to be devastating to the Palestinian people and economy. Against this backdrop, more than 27 percent of the population – or 1.6 million people – suffers from food insecurity. In Gaza, one in two people are food insecure, and one in three is severely affected by food insecurity. As poor and vulnerable Palestinians spend more than half of their income on food, WFP's assistance is critical to meet their food needs. This prevents further deteriorations in their food security and livelihood status, and from engaging in negative coping mechanisms, such as selling their assets.

WFP targets nearly 500,000 of the most vulnerable, food insecure non-refugees in Palestine who have been affected by the ongoing conflict and occupation, a fiscal crisis and a steady decline in living standards. PRRO 200709 combines ongoing operations in the West Bank and Gaza to coherently address urgent humanitarian needs in Palestine, while supporting early recovery and sustainable, long term food security for non-refugees.

WFP has been present in Palestine since 1991.

Population: **4.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **114 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

Partnerships

The Palestinian national authority supports the non-refugee populations whilst the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is mandated to respond to the needs of refugees. Humanitarian and development actors, including WFP, support the national authority in the provision of assistance to vulnerable segments of the non-refugee population. WFP works closely with the Government, NGOs (Global Communities, Ard El Insan) and United Nations partners (UNRWA) to deliver assistance in the form of in-kind food rations and cash-based transfers in Gaza and the West Bank. WFP co-leads, together with FAO, the Food Security Sector which aims to strengthen food security analysis and response, and link humanitarian and development

Donors

WFP is grateful for the unwavering support of its longstanding partners, namely: [Belgium](#), [Canada](#), [ECHO](#), [France](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#), [Norway](#), [OCHA](#), [Russian Federation](#), [Spain](#), [Switzerland](#), [United Kingdom](#), [USA](#), multilateral donors.

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