

# WFP Palestine: Spotlight on Gender

## Providing equal chances in food assistance

### Gender equality: foundation for a peaceful and prosperous world

Goal #5 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender equality is widely considered a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

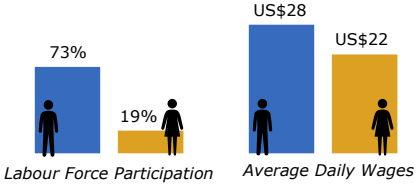
Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in decision-making will fuel sustainable economies and benefits society.

### Ensuring that different needs of women, men, girls and boys are met

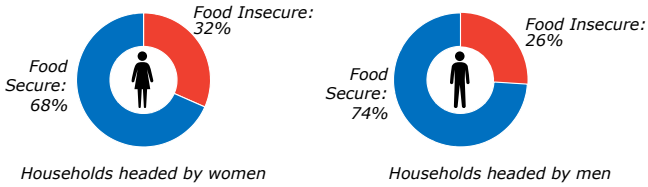
The WFP gender policy aims at integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its work and activities, to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are met. The WFP gender objectives include: food assistance adapted to different needs, equal participation, decision-making by women and girls, and gender and protection.

### In Palestine, one third of households headed by women are food insecure

As in many parts of the world, chances for women in Palestine are unequal to those of men. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, wage levels are considerably lower and labour force participation of women is only a fraction of that of men.




In Palestine, roughly 10 percent of households are headed by women - in most cases they are widowed or divorced. These households are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity.




The *2015 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey* indicates that one third of households headed by women are food insecure, compared to a quarter of households headed by men.



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## Our role







### Gender mainstreaming across WFP Palestine's activities

GENDER MARKER 2A

As reflected by its high IASC Gender Marker, WFP Palestine is successfully mainstreaming gender equality principles across its activities to better empower women and girls and meet WFP's global gender objectives:

1. To adapt assistance to gender-specific needs, all monitoring data is collected and analyzed per gender and age group;
2. To reach equal participation, targeting focuses on the inclusion of women: roughly half of beneficiaries are women and girls;
3. To facilitate decision-making by women and girls, ration cards are issued in women's names when possible and women's empowerment is supported through education;
4. To ensure protection, distribution sites are organized in a way that minimizes risks for women, food is packaged in small packages to reduce the burden for women, and emergency preparedness takes into account the special needs of pregnant women.

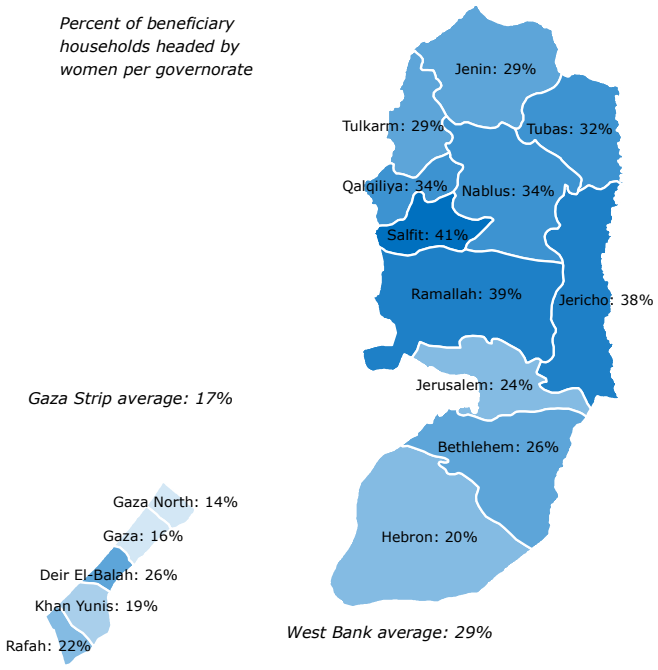
### Reaching households headed by women across Palestine

Currently WFP's activities are targeting roughly one third of all food-insecure households headed by women in Palestine.

They are equally distributed across in-kind and voucher food assistance: In both cases a quarter of households supported are headed by women. However, they are more focused in the West Bank than in the Gaza Strip (29 and 17 percent respectively).

This is due to the fact that in the West Bank WFP supports the government's Social Safety Net focusing on hardship cases, and thus reaching a high number of households headed by women. Almost half of the people this project supports live in households that are headed by women, compared to 25 percent of WFP beneficiaries overall.

*Percent of beneficiary households headed by women per governorate*




### Improving family health through the Nutrition Awareness campaign

Another activity with a focus on women is the Nutritional Awareness Campaign in Gaza. Its main objective is to contribute to improved family nutrition through the diversification of diet and behavioural change. Knowledge on best nutritional practices is transferred through regular training sessions for both women and their husbands. Currently, 2,500 women and 1,000 men benefit from the training.

WFP monitoring data indicates that in more than 80 percent of beneficiary families, women take food-related decisions. Thus, a behavioural change of women would lead to a positive change for the whole family.

The Nutrition Awareness campaign also aims at contributing to women's empowerment by strengthening support networks. In 2016/2017, WFP plans to expand the campaign to the West Bank.