

WFP Palestine

Thank you Japan for your support to WFP and the Palestinian people

Japan and WFP's Partnership in Palestine

From
the People of Japan

Through Japan's support, WFP has met the food needs and strengthened the resilience of fragile, food insecure communities in the Gaza strip and the West Bank.

In Gaza, the support of the Japanese Government in 2016 was instrumental in providing fortified foods to approximately **90,000** of the most vulnerable people, and **57,000** with cash-based transfers in the West Bank, using electronic food vouchers.

Japan's support is highly appreciated in strengthening WFP's purchasing power as a means of fostering agricultural development and connecting small-scale producers, food-processors, retailers and consumers.

Thanks to Japan's support, WFP was able to purchase high-quality Japanese-produced canned tuna – an excellent source of protein and micronutrients, such as vitamin A, zinc, and iron – to build its contingency stock and be better prepared to respond to a sudden emergency.

WFP's assistance is critical

Decades of occupation coupled with severe restrictions on the movement of people and goods have undermined the living conditions for Palestinians and reduced their access to livelihoods. Today, more than 27 percent of them (1.6 million people) struggle to obtain sufficient nutritious food for themselves and their families.

As poor and vulnerable Palestinians spend more than half of their income on food, WFP's assistance and Japan's support are critical to meet their food needs. This prevents further deterioration in their food security and livelihood status, and avoids resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling off assets.

WFP's response In Numbers

500,000 poor and food-insecure Palestinians assisted in 2016

70% are women and children

Through **in-kind food** and **voucher assistance**

In **partnership** with the national government, national and international NGOs





WFP's e-voucher programme

In Gaza and the West Bank, WFP reaches **70,000 and 107,000 people** respectively with food vouchers every month.

Food vouchers help poor urban families purchase locally-produced nutritious foods in their local shops. People receiving the vouchers can choose from 15 different nutritious items, including bread, cereals, dairy products, eggs, olive oil and tahini. More than 99 percent of these food items are produced and/or processed locally. WFP vouchers have improved households' dietary diversity as well as addressing food sustainability.

WFP works with more than 170 local shops in the West Bank and 75 shops in Gaza. The participating shops use an electronic terminal, similar to a credit card machine, where beneficiaries swipe their vouchers to buy food.

Vouchers benefit people from a gender aspect, by promoting domestic harmony, providing choice when shopping for food and also preventing families from resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as purchasing food on credit, reducing the variety of food consumed and cutting daily meals.

Vouchers promote and support the Palestinian economy: since 2011, WFP has injected more than US$ 215 million into the economy, including US$ 135 million through the distribution of vouchers. The programme has also enabled participating shops to hire more workers and invest in their businesses.

WFP vouchers serve as a platform for inter-sectoral partnerships, fostering aid complementarity, cost-effectiveness and impact. WFP's *Onecard* was used by a large number of humanitarian and development partners to deliver complementary assistance, as with UNICEF.

WFP's food distributions

WFP assists more than **330,000 people with in-kind food in the Gaza strip and the West Bank**. Food is also provided to institutions such as hospitals and special care homes. A typical WFP food ration includes fortified wheat flour, iodized salt, fortified vegetable oil and pulses. The ration covers 60 percent of daily caloric requirements.

Besides high levels of food insecurity, the Bedouin and herding communities in Area C, which comprises of 60% of the West Bank, face mounting challenges to their livelihoods as well as pressure to relocate: demolition of homes and agricultural assets, land confiscation, displacement and violence from settlers. WFP/UNRWA joint food assistance has proven useful in helping to meet daily food needs as well as strengthening resilience in the face of increased hardships.

Empowering women

GENDER MARKER 2A

WFP's activities in Palestine were awarded a high Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Marker, which is testament to WFP's high involvement in promoting and supporting women empowerment and gender equality in all its interventions. Food distribution points and partner retailers are accessible for women as they are near households headed by women. To strengthen the nutritional impact of its voucher programme, WFP together with OXFAM, UNICEF and the local NGO, Ard El-Insan, runs a nutrition awareness campaign for 2,500 women and 1,000 men receiving vouchers in Gaza. WFP ensures that participating shops are also supplied by women's cooperatives and small enterprises led by women, reinforcing their resilience and empowerment.