

WFP State of Palestine
Country Brief

Highlights

- Lack of sufficient resources may result in a delay of WFP distributions and see a reduction in the food entitlements of 89,000 people in Gaza from October-December. Additional donor support (USD 4.5 million) is urgently sought from November onwards.
- In October, thanks to contributing partners, WFP assisted more than 480,000 food insecure non-refugees in Gaza and the West Bank through both cash-based transfers, using an electronic voucher redeemable in local shops, and direct food assistance. Women and children accounted for 70 percent of those reached.

WFP Assistance

Food Assistance for Food-Insecure Populations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip PRRO 200709** (Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2016)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	151.4 m	117.7 m (78%)	26.6 m (84%)

*November 2016 – April 2017
** Budget revision ongoing

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200709

Resources permitting, WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200709 aims to assist 496,000 non-refugees in Palestine, amongst the most vulnerable: 249,000 people in Gaza and 247,000 in the West Bank, through food distributions and Cash Based Transfers (CBT) using electronic vouchers. The PRRO has three main objectives: meeting the food needs of the most vulnerable non-refugee populations; fostering early recovery and enhancing the resilience and coping mechanisms of fragile communities in the face of economic hardship and restricted freedom of movement; and supporting the Palestinian Authority's (PA) capacity in delivering its national food safety net.

WFP links its social transfers to local production and uses its purchasing power to foster agricultural development and connect small-scale producers, food-processors, retailers and consumers. Since 2011, WFP has invested more than USD 200 million in the Palestinian economy, including USD 125 million through CBTs. The vast majority of WFP food items available through CBTs are produced and/or processed locally.

In 2009, WFP Palestine pioneered in devising the first CBT platform of its kind in the Middle-East. The platform has since been upgraded taking advantage of new technologically-advanced systems and processes to allow for rapid scale-up, real-time payment and monitoring. 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. During the 2014 Gaza conflict, WFP was able to reach 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 same WFP platform. CBTs are also effectively used in recovery contexts: since the war, WFP continued to partner with UNICEF and teamed-up and/or lent its CBT technology to Oxfam, Help Age and Médecins du Monde. 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 households led by women. To strengthen the nutritional impact of its CBTs, 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 CBTs in Gaza. Interactive sessions have been instrumental to strengthen women's role as autonomous decision-makers and promote a common understanding of the importance of a healthy diet. The programme is critical as 50 percent of the population suffers from more than one micronutrient deficiency. Since 2011, 4,850 women and their families have benefitted from the training.

WFP's interventions in Palestine are aligned with the National Development Plan, the Ministry of Social Development's Business Plan and the Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan. They are integrated in the 2014-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, directly supporting Sustainable Development Goals 2: Zero Hunger and 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

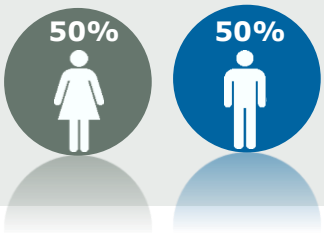
In Numbers

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

745,000 non-refugees in need of food assistance

65,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gaza following the 2014 war

481,283
People assisted in October*



* Including 35 percent through CBTs. Conditional activities and school feeding have been interrupted due to lack of funding.

Main Photo Credit: WFP Palestine
Caption: Al Minthar Cooperative Society produces and supplies dairy products to WFP's CBT participating shops in Hebron. WFP's CBT programme has proven to have a positive secondary impact on the local economy and the dairy value chain actors.

ONE FUTURE #ZeroHunger

October 2016

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP assisted 481,283 poor and food insecure people (244,739 people in Gaza and 236,554 people in the West Bank) with food assistance and CBTs. Almost 45 percent of them (214,000) are assisted in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development under the Palestinian Authority's social protection system.
- WFP successfully concluded the last sessions of its 2016 nutrition awareness training in Gaza, reaching an overall 3,500 participants, of which 70 percent were young and/or nursing women. The new cycle is planned for January 2017 and will be expanded to the West Bank. Increasing nutritional awareness contributes to strengthening the resilience among the poor and food insecure communities in Palestine.
- WFP and UNICEF jointly assisted 3,700 households with food and WASH items, using WFP's One Card. This is the fourth time this year that WFP and UNICEF have joined to provide an integrated package of assistance to people in need: three tranches of food-WASH assistance (January and September/October), and one tranche of food-education assistance in February.
- WFP is extending the PRRO (200709) in Palestine until the end of 2017 in order to ensure alignment with the Palestinian Policy Agenda and Sectoral strategies (2017-2022). This is being prepared by the Palestinian Authority together with all UN agencies, as well as with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) scheduled to start in 2018. Concurrently, WFP and UNICEF are working together with the Ministry of Social Development to prepare the Social Development Sector Strategy for 2017-2022, taking into consideration the SDGs and the National Policy Agenda (2017 – 2022).
- Recognising the multi-layered effect of its voucher assistance, WFP is preparing to scale-up its CBT to reach an additional 20,000 people currently receiving in-kind food entitlements. The switch in type of assistance will be effective as of early 2017. Through WFP's voucher platform, the number of people receiving CBTs will grow from 50,000 in 2009, when it was first implemented, to close to 200,000 in 2017, marking a 300 percent increase.
- The PRRO extension takes into account the recommendations of the 2015 Country Portfolio Evaluation, with a focus on scaling up CBTs and nutrition education, prioritising people with high vulnerability, including households led by women, Palestinians in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank, and supporting the government's social safety net.

Challenges

- Deterioration of the security and socio-economic situation in Palestine, and potential sudden onset of natural disaster, continues to pose major risks that could increase food insecurity and the number of people requiring assistance.
- Reduced funding is hampering WFP's ability to operate and meet the immediate food needs of a highly-vulnerable population. In Gaza, WFP needs immediate resources of USD 4.5 million to provide a full food basket to 89,000 people assisted, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, from October to December distribution cycles. Due to lack of funding, the distributions have been postponed to end November.
- As available financial resources will be exhausted by the end of the year, WFP urgently requires additional funds to be able to deliver timely and sufficient food assistance to people in need in early 2017.

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 is mostly due to a lack of economic access: food prices are mainly driven by Israel and out of reach for many poor households - the GDP per capita in Palestine (USD 4,700) is six times less than that of Israel (USD 30,000).

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 food security and livelihood status, and prevents negative coping mechanisms.

WFP targets 600,000 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: **4.4 million**	2015 Human Development Index: **113 out of 188**
Income Level: **Lower middle**	Chronic malnutrition: **7.4 % of children between 6-59 months**

Partnerships

Supporting enhanced food security is a task shared by WFP, the PA and UNRWA with close links to activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF and other partners. WFP works closely with government, NGOs (Oxfam GB, Global Communities) and UN partners (UNRWA) to successfully deliver food and CBT assistance in Gaza and the West Bank. WFP co-leads, together with UNRWA and FAO, the Food Security Sector which aims to strengthen food security analysis and response, and link humanitarian and development interventions for the Palestinian Authority.

Donors

WFP is grateful for the unwavering support of its longstanding partners, namely: Belgium, Canada, ECHO, France, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, OCHA, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, and multilateral donors. Additional resources are critical to enable WFP to build on its achievements and prevent a deterioration in the food security and nutrition status of the poorest Palestinian

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