



WFP State of Palestine Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Country Strategic Plan	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CSP PS01 Jan-2018-Dec 2022	240.3 m	10.6 m	17.5 m (92%)

*January-June 2018



WFP's three-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200709 was concluded end of December. As of January, WFP is implementing its Country Strategy Plan (2018- 2022), which focuses on two strategic outcomes: 1) Non-refugees, poor and severely food-insecure – primarily in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank – have improved dietary diversity by 2022; and 2) State of Palestine institutions have enhanced capacities and systems to identify, target and assist food-insecure vulnerable populations by 2022.

Each month, WFP seeks to provide under its CSP (2018-2022) CBTs and in-kind food assistance to 314,000 people including 220,000 severely food insecure non-refugees who have been identified as such by the National Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (2016/2017), in addition to the Bedouin and herding communities living in Area C of the West Bank (35,000). Funding permitting, WFP will also reach the most vulnerable moderately food-insecure women who are head of households. In 2018, WFP's work plan will prioritise assisting people in Gaza where the humanitarian and socio-economic situation continues to deteriorate. For greater continuity and impact, WFP's CSP is prioritizing Palestinians who are most affected by food insecurity in line with the findings and recommendations of the 2017 Strategic Review on Food Security and Nutrition in Palestine, which was undertaken by the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institution on behalf of WFP.. Also drawing from the Strategic Review, WFP will continue shifting from providing in-kind assistance to CBTs, using electronic food vouchers and cash assistance.

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 poor and severely food insecure people with in-kind food and cash-based transfer assistance (CBT), using an electronic food voucher. WFP also provides technical support towards programme design,

Credit: WFP/ Yasmine Abuelassal

Caption: Tahani (45) is one of dozens of women who lead small-medium businesses that WFP links to its food assistance. As the only breadwinner for her nine children, Tahani turned her small garden in Khan Yunis into a home factory. Together with five other women who head their vulnerable households, Tahani produces 1.5-2metric tons of food per month, including Maftoul, date paste and Za`tar and sells them to 28 participating shops in WFP's food voucher programme.

Main Photo

Highlights

- WFP continues linking its food assistance with local production. Since 2011 and to date, WFP has invested nearly USD 258 million in Palestine`s economy, including USD 167 million through Cash Based Transfers (CBTs) and 91 million through local purchases.
- WFP's new 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan is implemented starting 01 January 2018. WFP urgently needs additional resources to provide CBT assistance uninterruptedly to 80,000 severely-food insecure people in the first quarter of 2018 in Gaza. More than 59,000 people in Gaza received reduced in-kind rations and 50,000 people in the West Bank did not receive their in-kind food entitlements in the last quarter of 2017.

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 260 million in the economy, including USD 170 million through CBTs and 93 million through local purchases.

Guided by its Palestine Gender Action Plan, WFP integrated gender equality and women empowerment goals into all phases of its activities, throughout development, implementation and monitoring, in a bid to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, girls and boys were adequately captured, addressed and monitored. This endeavour was supported by the Palestinian Authority which adopted its first cross-sector national gender strategy in 2011 and committed to advancing gender equality and women empowerment.

WFP's activities in Palestine promote and support women's empowerment and gender equality. Food distribution points and retailers are easily accessible for women and are in areas close to female-headed households. WFP is running nutrition awareness classes for selected women, men and children who are WFP beneficiaries. In Gaza, WFP together with the local NGO Ard El-Insan provide sessions which have a long-term positive impact on levels of nutritional and dietary knowledge and healthy cooking habits among participants. WFP rolled out the same programme in the West Bank in October 2017 with the local NGO Palestinian Medical Relief Society. Until the end of December, 1,521 women and men were trained. Special sessions are also provided to 500 primary-school children.

In Numbers

1.6 m food-insecure Palestinians in need of food assistance.

36% of female-headed households are food insecure

23,500 IDPs in Gaza following the 2014 war, including **6,600** non-refugees

475,277

People assisted in December
(40 percent through CBTs)
Including 2,900 non-refugee IDPs



December 2017

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP assisted 475,277 poor and food insecure people: 193,111 people in Gaza and 182,893 people in the West Bank with food and CBTs. WFP food assistance was critical in meeting the immediate food needs of those most vulnerable, as well as stabilising their dietary diversity. In addition to this, WFP assistance also helps protecting livelihoods and mitigating the devastating and accumulative impact of decades of conflict on their socio-economic status.
- As of January 2018, WFP aims under its five-year [Country Strategy Plan \(2018-2022\)](#) to provide CBTs and in-kind food assistance to 314,000 people who are the most affected by food insecurity in Palestine (primarily in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank). This represents a reduction by a third compared to the target number of people (500,000) under PRRO 200709. WFP's ability to reach its CSP targets will be contingent on receiving sufficient resources.
- As part of WFP's continued effort to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the CBT modality and provide the assisted households more freedom of choice, all CBT recipients will be able as of January 2018 to redeem their cards for all types of food with the exception of soft drinks, chocolate, candies and snack food. Until December, CBT recipients could purchase only 17 predetermined types of food items.
- WFP, together with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued providing food assistance to nearly 37,000 vulnerable Bedouins and herders, of which 70 percent are women and children, living in Area C of the West Bank. With 61 percent food insecurity, high poverty and increasing hardships to their livelihoods, WFP-UNRWA joint food assistance is critical to these communities' food security and nutrition status and to their resilience.
- WFP catered to the specific food needs of poor elderly people, orphans and street children, people living with disabilities, pregnant and nursing women living permanently or semi-permanently in one of the more than 130 charitable or specialised health care institutions targeted in the most food-insecure areas across Gaza and the West Bank.
- WFP, together with other United Nations agencies, also provides emergency assistance to those whose houses have been demolished. Since the beginning of the year, following OCHA's recommendations and WFP's assessments, WFP assisted 338 people with emergency vouchers for a total value of USD 5,300. In December, WFP did not have to provide emergency voucher assistance to affected people.

Challenges

- WFP did not receive the needed resources to implement the final tranche of in-kind food commodities for 2017, as planned by the Ministry of Social Development in the West Bank. This resulted in 50,000 people without WFP food assistance over October-December. In Gaza, as a result of insufficient donor funding, WFP distributed reduced entitlements (36% of the planned food ration) to 59,000 people over the same timeframe.
- WFP is in urgent need of USD 10.6 m to implement its Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) and assist poor severely food insecure families until June 2018.

Country Background & Strategy

Food insecurity in Palestine affects 27 percent of the population – or 1.3 million people- and 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. As poor and vulnerable Palestinians spend more than half of their income on food, WFP's assistance is critical to meet their food needs and prevents further deteriorations in their food security and livelihood status. Gaza continues its trajectory of de-development. All socio economic indicators and humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, owing to the cumulative effects of a ten-year economic -land, sea, air- blockade (2006), three armed hostilities (2008, '12,'14), the introduction of Israeli restrictions on the entry of goods with a dual civilian/military use (2010) limiting economic growth and post-war reconstruction, Egypt's closure of the smuggling tunnels annihilating the informal economy (2013), the pay cuts of Palestinian Authority public sector workers and the current energy crisis (2017): 40 percent are poor, 39 percent are food insecure, 46.6 percent are unemployed. The U.N. foresees that Gaza will be "unliveable" by [2020](#).

As of January 2018, WFP targets 314,000 of the most vulnerable, food insecure non-refugees in Palestine who have been affected by the ongoing conflict and occupation and a steady decline in living standards. WFP's CSP 2018-2022 aligns with the Palestinian National Policy Agenda 2017- 2022, which has identified the provision of continued food assistance to poor and food insecure non-refugee populations as a priority, the 2018-22 United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the 2018-20 Humanitarian Response Plan. It focuses on achieving SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals). WFP has been present in Palestine since 1991.

Population: **4.9 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **114 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Partnerships

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, Palestinian Medical Relief Society) and United Nations partners (UNRWA) to deliver assistance in the form of in-kind food entitlements and CBT 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 interventions for the Palestinian Authority.

Donors

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

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