



# WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

## SITUATION REPORT

Issue n. 1

31 March - 7 April 2009

### Special points of interest:

- Launch of the Food Voucher Project in the West Bank;
- Food For Training started in the West Bank for 25,000 beneficiaries.

### WFP in a glance

PRRO beneficiaries	413,000
EMOP Gaza beneficiaries	365,000
EMOP Food Voucher beneficiaries	30,000
Stock in Gaza (MT)	13,600
Stock in West Bank (MT)	5,411*

\* It includes only WFP warehouses

### WFP operations in oPt

WFP's **PRRO** (Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation) started in September 2007 to meet the food needs of the most vulnerable non-refugees; it has covered both the West Bank and Gaza till December 08 and since January 09, following the conflict in Gaza and the launch of WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) Lifeline Gaza, it has been assisting beneficiaries in the West Bank only. The PRRO consists of four main interventions: (i) Emergency relief for the destitute (in partnership with the MoSA); (ii) Livelihood support for vulnerable households (poor farmers, unemployed workers and vulnerable women most affected by poverty and who have only partial means to cope with food insecurity); (iii) School feeding in the most food-insecure areas through cash-for-work activities, (nutritious snacks are prepared by bakeries and women centres which receive food commodities and cash from WFP); and (iv) Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for-

Training (FFT) to contribute to and promote self-reliance by preserving agricultural assets to restore livelihoods. Following the conflict in Gaza, two new operations were launched: the EMOP Operation Lifeline Gaza and the Logistics Cluster Special Operation (SO). The **EMOP** targets 365,000 beneficiaries (i.e. 80 percent of the non-refugee population in Gaza) and its main objectives are: (i) meeting urgent needs and improving food consumption for conflict-affected people through the timely provision of food rations and food vouchers; and (ii) maintaining enrolment of girls and boys in assisted schools at pre-crisis levels through school feeding coverage targeting 50,000 children. The **Logistic Cluster** is led by WFP and operates to support UN agencies, local/international NGOs and international organizations with: (i) cargo movement facilitation and transport to Gaza; (ii) civil/military coordination; (iii)



B. Conte/WFP - Food voucher distributions in Qualqilya

logistics information management; (iv) transit hub for cargo consolidation and preparation; and (v) Humanitarian Coordinator/UNRWA/OCHA liaison. To respond to the high food prices, WFP launched a **Food Voucher EMOP** in the West Bank (that will be implemented at a later stage in Gaza as well) covering approximately 5,500 families in urban areas, selected on the basis of two key studies conducted in 2008 (Safety Net Mission and Rapid Joint Food Security Assessment).

### Operational Update

Food distributions are ongoing in the West Bank, with 270 mt distributed last week, in collaboration with the MoSA and the Near East Foundation (NEF). 18 truckloads (540 mt) were dispatched into the West Bank transporting wheat flour, vegetable oil, peas and sugar. Food distributions are also ongoing in Gaza, with 700 mt distributed and about 76,000 beneficiaries reached last week. 1,170 mt

were delivered inside the Strip, including wheat flour, vegetable oil, canned meat, peas and sugar. Distribution cycles in Gaza have been completed in collaboration with CHF and MoSA, while the one in collaboration with OXFAM will start next week. Through the Logistics Cluster, during the reporting period WFP facilitated the access of 240 mt of hygiene and family kits for Save the Children

and food parcels and blankets for Give Gaza. The food voucher operation was launched in Qualqilya and Habla in the Northern West Bank last week. Food vouchers distributions were completed and this week beneficiaries could start using the vouchers in the selected shops.



R. Fanelli/WFP - School Feeding in Gaza

## Food Security in oPt

According to the WFP bi-weekly market report of 29 March, the majority of staple food commodities is available in all markets over the Gaza Strip. Prices of flour, sugar and salt are declining compared to the previous week; salt is available this week and in large quantities thanks to the clearance granted by the Israeli Government. Fresh vegetables and fruits (e.g. bananas and apples) are available in the market in relatively large quantities at generally average prices. Fresh chicken is available in all mar-

kets over the Gaza Strip but prices have increased from 14-15 NIS per kg the previous week to 15.5-17 NIS per kg. The price of fresh meat remains stable at 60 NIS per kg in all markets. Dairy products remain available in all markets at stable prices. As of 25 of March, one out of the six mills is still not operating (El Bader Mill) due to the considerable damages reported during the air strikes. The total stock of wheat flour at the Gaza mills is of 11,300 mt, enough to cover the needs of the population for

approximately 25 days. Most bakeries in Gaza are operating at 70 percent of their capacity, due to shortage of cooking gas and insufficient food commodities required for baking. Regarding fishing, the distance allowed continued to be three nautical miles only. This is causing a major loss to fishermen; last week, sardines were not available in the market while other types of fish (i.e. Asafeer 30 NIS per kg, Ghobos 20 NIS per kg, Ghozlan 35 NIS per kg and Deneiss 35-40 NIS per kg) were available because imported from Israel.

## Assessments

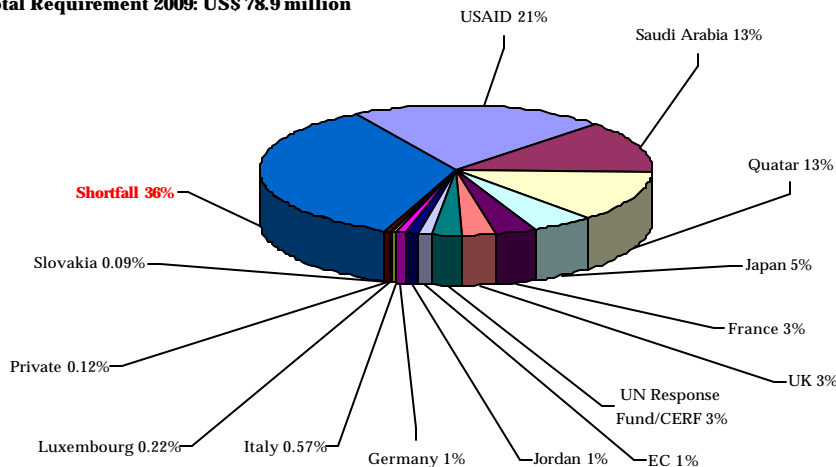
The results of the recently completed joint FAO/WFP Rapid Qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment in Gaza indicate that: 1) food availability is back to pre-war levels but the supplies of local fresh foods are anticipated to decrease by April-June 2009 due to the severe damages sustained by the agricultural sector during the war; 2) an increased number of households do not have the economic means to access food; 3)

the nutritional status of children is likely to deteriorate due to the lack of variety of the food they receive and the lack of appropriate nutritious food necessary for the development of young children; 4) coping mechanisms have been quick to resume and households' resilience is generally impressive, however to be sustainable they require a number of items which should be allowed in Gaza (construction materials, agricultural inputs, etc.) and at

the moment are not, due to the restrictions imposed by Israel. There is evidence of the positive effects of aid in mitigating the increase of Palestinians' food insecurity due to the war. However, food security remains poor and there are real imminent threats to the livelihoods and nutrition status of a growing proportion of the population.

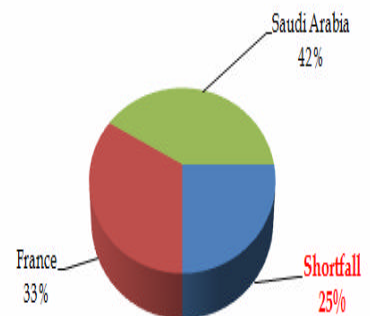
EMOP - Operation Lifeline Gaza

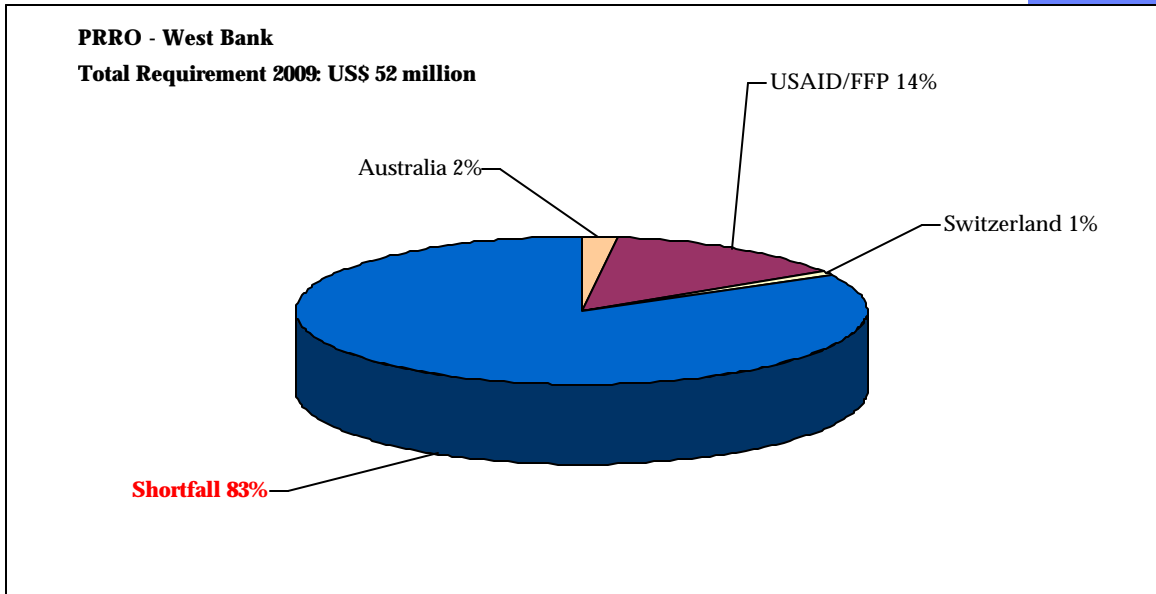
Total Requirement 2009: US\$ 78.9 million



Food Voucher EMOP (West Bank)

Total requirement: US\$ 6 million

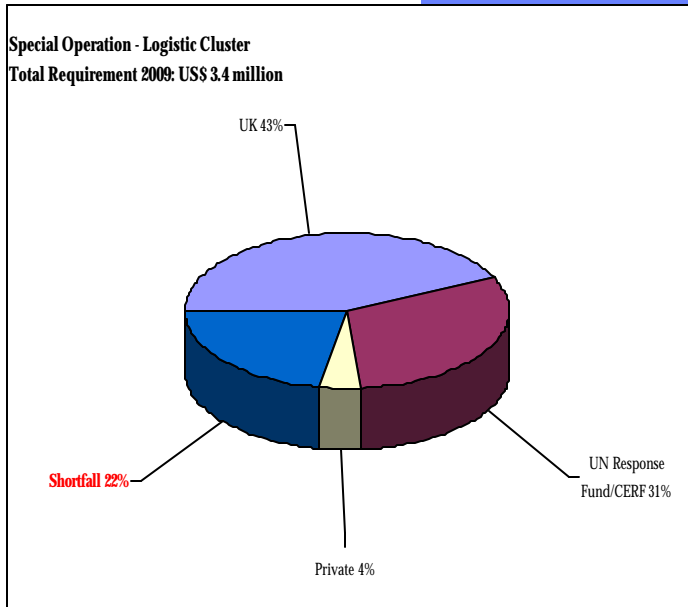




### Shortfalls & Needs

The top five donors to WFP oPt at the moment are: USAID, the European Commission, Saudi Arabia, Italy and Qatar. We thank our donors for their generous contributions to the Gaza EMOP. However, if the current funding level does not timely improve, WFP will be forced to reduce its beneficiary caseload and/or the energy value of the food rations dis-

tributed in Gaza by September and in the West Bank by July. A reduction/suspension of WFP operations in the West Bank and/or Gaza would have severe consequences on the food security level of the Palestinian families, which are in need of and highly dependent on food assistance.



*You have a comment or a question on the content of this report?*

*Please contact Barbara Conte, Reporting & Donor Relations Officer, at [Barbara.Conte@wfp.org](mailto:Barbara.Conte@wfp.org) or 054 591 81 51*