

WFP SITUATION REPORT ON THE CRISIS IN GAZA

WFP Situation Report N. 32

24 February—2 March 2009

UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - OPT

Security

During the reporting period, a number of home made rockets were fired by Palestinian militants towards Israel.

On 1 March, a total of 7 home made rockets were fired against Western Negev area. No casual-

On 28 February, two tunnels collapsed on the Egypt - Gaza border area, resulting in 5 casualties.



WFP - Gaza/
Wafa Zaqout

WFP's Operations & Logistics

During the reporting period, WFP and its cooperating partners have reconciled actual distribution figures from 27 December to date. The number of beneficiaries excluding overlap totals 346,000, targeted through regular food distributions, school feeding and one-off emergency distributions of bread, HEBs, date bars and ready-to-eat meals (MREs). So far, WFP has been able to deliver about 10,000 mt of food and has a stock of about 8,300 mt in Gaza. Since the beginning of the new distribution cycle (on 19 February), WFP distributed about 135 mt of food to 5,665 beneficiaries, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs

(MoSA). CHF and OXFAM distributions will start in March. During the reporting period, through the logistic cluster WFP coordinated the crossing into Gaza of about 158 mt of food and non-food items (about 5 trucks); the logistic cluster served 28 organizations so far.

On 23 February, Logistics Cluster members endorsed the continuation of Logistics Cluster transportation services for at least one additional month, on a cost recovery basis. The humanitarian community also requested the continuation of Logistics Cluster coordination and advocacy services for access of humanitarian relief to Gaza.

The Logistics Cluster continued to request clearance from COGAT for transportation of UNICEF stationery items, UK MAP medical equipment and FAO veterinary supplies. Permission has not yet been received for temporary import of 9 UNMAC trucks from Lebanon to increase the capacity of the Logistics Cluster to transport cargo for cluster members.

COGAT has lifted the recent suspension of import of macaroni, chick peas and lentils. 124 pallets of macaroni had been held up in El Arish since 16 January and 30 MT of chick peas had been delayed since 05 February.

WFP Emergency Operation in Gaza

Current caseload in Gaza	365,000
Number of school children under the School Feeding	40,000
Number of Palestinians reached since 27 Dec	346,000
Number of beneficiaries under the distribution cycle	5,665
Total WFP MT dispatched into Gaza since 27 Dec	10,023
Total MT distributed since 27 Dec	3,600
Current Stock in Gaza (Mt)	8,290

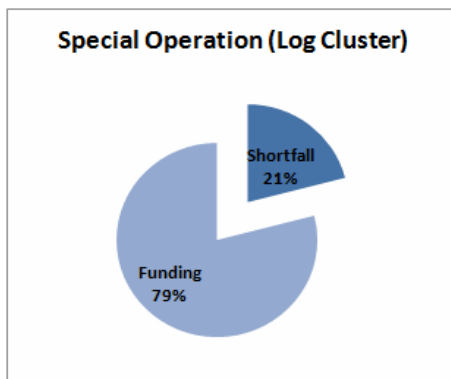
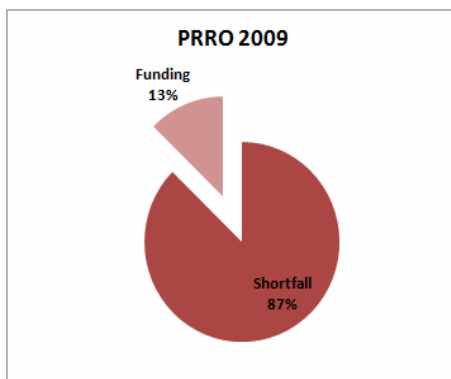
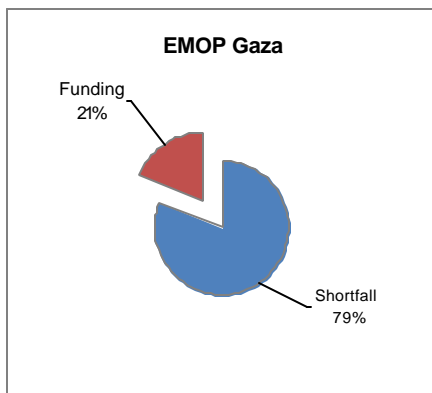
Highlights:

- The Egyptian-sponsored "Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza" is being held today in Sharm-El-Sheikh. The event will be attended by UNSG Ban Ki-Moon, members of the Quartet for the Middle East Peace Process, EU HRSG Javier Solana and delegations from 75 countries.
- On 3 March, WFP and FAO will brief donors and partners on the findings of the recent Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) at OCHA. Office in Jerusalem.

Tomorrow, WFP and FAO will brief donors and partners on the findings and recommendations of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted in January in Gaza. A mission aiming at assessing the feasibility a food voucher component in the Gaza Strip will soon be organized (next couple of weeks). The main findings from the Labour Force Survey Results (October- December, 2008) issued by the Palestinian Central Bu-

reau of Statistics show that: 1) The unemployment rate increased from 27.5% in the third quarter of 2008 to 27.9% in the fourth quarter of 2008, compared with 22.2% in the fourth quarter of 2007. Unemployment rate in the West Bank decreased from 20.7% in the third quarter of 2008 to 19.8% in the fourth quarter of 2008, while it increased in the Gaza Strip from 41.9% in the third quarter of 2008 to 44.8% in the 4th quarter of

2008 to 44.8% in the fourth quarter of 2008, 2) All economic activities in the Gaza Strip were affected by the border closure imposed by Israel, resulting in a decrease of those who are working in the agriculture sector from 10.6% in the third quarter of 2008 to 7.1% in the fourth quarter of 2008, 3) The public sector employees represent one fourth (25.0%) of the total employed in oPt, 15.4% in the West Bank and 53.8% in Gaza Strip.



Staffing

WFP presently has 23 staff members in Gaza (19 nationals and 4 internationals). Five WFP logistic officers have been temporarily transferred to oPt (Jerusalem) to support the Logistic Cluster, and one, also to Jerusalem, to reinforce the current operations. Further potential support staff have been identified.

The Deputy Emergency Coordinator is now based in the Gaza office. The Emergency Coordinator terminated his mission in oPt

last Wednesday. Security clearance of staff going into Gaza remains cumbersome. Further negotiations are required to raise the number of international staff authorized to drive into Gaza and to reduce the number of days required for the IDF clearance.

Border crossings are subject to delays for a variety of reasons, including limited opening hours, as well as logistics capacity in Gaza.

Funding

Funding requirements for WFP's Gaza operation currently stand at US\$ 82.3 million including US\$ 78.9 for the EMOP and US\$ 3.4 million for the Special Operation. In addition, WFP's requirements for the West Bank PRRO in 2009 amount to US\$ 76 million. So far, Italy, Australia, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, UK, CERF/UN Response Fund, Japan, Slovakia and France have confirmed contributions in support to the population in Gaza, for a total of about US\$ 16.4 million. However, the Gaza EMOP remains only 21% funded. UK, Friends of WFP-Japan and the UN Response Fund/CERF confirmed contributions amounting to US\$ 2.7 million to the Special Operation.