

SITREP number 2
WFP occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)
Operation: PRRO 10387.1

Reporting period: 1th – 2th January 2009
Date of the report: 2th January 2008
Planned caseload: 665,000 beneficiaries (265,000 in Gaza strip)



Country: SITREP
WFP Palestinian Territories
Impact of the air strikes in Gaza on WFP staff and operations

1) Significant events:

On 27 December, at around 11:30 AM, the IDF launched a large-scale air attack on the Gaza Strip called, "Operation Cast Lead". According to the Israeli government, the operation was in response to the escalation of the Palestinian rocket and mortar fire into Israel since the expiry on 19 December of the Egyptian negotiated "calm".

The death toll since the Israeli attacks began Saturday has reached 420 with more than 2000 injured. The IDF is ready for a ground operation and it is very likely that such operation could take place in the next few days.

There is no more stock of wheat grain at the Mills .Mill owners confirmed that the Ministry of National Economy in Gaza ordered them to allocate the available wheat flour to bakeries and distribute it under its supervision. As of today, fewer than 20 bakeries throughout the Gaza Strip are operational, due to lack of flour and cooking gas.

2) Security

As Operation "Cast Lead"entered its 7th day continued Israeli air-strikes struck smuggling tunnels along the Gaza-Egypt border, Office of the Interior Minister, Council of Ministries building, and other targets.

Militants continue to fire rockets and Israeli sources reported that rockets have reached beyond 40 kilometres, landing in urban centres of Yavne, Gan Yavne, Ashdod, Beersheba, Ofakim and Qiryat Malaki. UN staff movements into these areas are coordinated very closely.

IDF shelled tunnels on the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip Tuesday night. 12 heavy missiles landed inside the tunnels. This is the second Israeli attack on the Rafah border and the tunnels beneath the area.

3) Implementation

Since the reopening of Kerem Shalom days before the bombing, WFP has been able to bring in 1,600 MT of food. WFP has now filled 70% of its warehouse capacity in Gaza. The remaining 30% if/when relative security prevails in these areas. The situation is especially difficult in Karni (2,500 mt capacity) because of its proximity to the border and now declared a military zone. The food stored in the warehouses will be enough to resume distributions that

were to cover needs from October to December. No stocks have been built for needs covering January onwards.

WFP's distribution to 265,000 beneficiaries is ongoing. As soon as food is distributed, the stock will be replenished. In addition, WFP began on 31 December, a blanket emergency distribution of bread in Beit Hanoun for approximately 3,000 families. This area in the north of Gaza was chosen since it is one of the poorest areas in Gaza and it has been heavily affected by the current conflict. The bread distributed is produced by local bakeries with wheat flour provided by WFP. The distribution is organized by local committees under the supervision of CHF.

Thanks to an Italian contribution received in the aftermath of the crisis, WFP started to distribute biscuits and canned meat, to approximately 2,000 women and children patients in hospitals.

The field observation shows shortages in some food items including flour, rice, sugar, dairy products, milk, canned foods and fresh meats. The availability of non-basic food items is affected not only by the closure but also by the recent destruction of many tunnels along the border with Egypt, through which these items were being imported.

UNRWA resumed its food distribution program on 1 January in six distribution centers throughout the Gaza Strip after a two weeks long suspension. Long queues, including large numbers of people not registered as beneficiaries, were reported at distribution centers. In one incident that occurred at the Beach Camp distribution center, two UNRWA vehicles were damaged when a person attacked these cars. Long queues, up to 300 meters long, continued to be reported at the few remaining open bakeries.

CO is estimating that an additional 9 million US\$ will be required to cover the additional needs of the vulnerable population in Gaza related to the current violence since 27 of December. CO will do a B/R of our current PRRO to reflect these additional requirements.

4) Finance and Staffing

WFP staffs inside Gaza (total 14 staff) are safe, yet living in constant fear and anxiety. Sub Office in Gaza remains closed since 27.12.2008, staff is instructed to stay at home. Staff are working from their homes. The only mean of communication with them is mobile phones.

2 WFP national staffs who are based in Ashdod (Israel) have been informed to work from their homes because of the rocket attacks. Their residences have safe rooms installed whereas no safe rooms are available at the office in Ashdod.

5) Pipeline

With the current confirmed contribution, and if we increase our level of activities in Gaza as mentioned above (point 3) , WFP will face a break in the pipeline in April

6) Logistics

- Logistics Cluster with WFP as lead agency has been activated. First logistics cluster members meeting took place on 31st January. Concept of operation and cluster ToR has been prepared and shared with cluster members to be adopted in the next meeting on 4th January.
- Current stocks in WFP /IP warehouses inside Gaza are 3300 mt, with another 5000 ready for delivery in Ashdod .
- 12 mt of HEB are delivered to Hospitals, another 32 mt are inside Gaza (at UNRWA store) ready to deliver.
- 65 mt delivered to bakery for free bread distribution.
- WFP has signed today the loan agreement for 2000 Mt of food to UNRWA