

SITREP number 1
WFP occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)
Operation: PRRO 10387.1

Reporting period: 27th – 31th December 2008
Date of the report: 31th December 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 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". At the time of publication, Israeli fighter planes, helicopters and drones had bombed over 240 targets throughout the Gaza Strip. The majority of these attacks occurred within the first hour of the operation. Palestinian militants responded by firing over 100 rockets and mortars towards Israel.

The death toll since the Israeli attacks began Saturday has reached 375 with more than 1,720 injured. According to MoH, out of 13 public hospitals only ten are able to admit wounded persons.

Due to the depletion of wheat in the Gaza, all major Gaza mills were forced to shut down. Long queues of people at functional bakeries were reported. UNRWA stock of wheat grain is still at zero. Only 30- 40 % of all bakeries in Gaza are working now.

Israel has rejected international calls for a 48-hour truce in the Gaza Strip to allow in humanitarian aid, says a government spokesman.

2) Security

The third day of the IDF "Cast Lead" operation on the Gaza Strip began with an Israel Air Force attacks on a number of targets in the Gaza Strip resulting in additional casualties.

IAF 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.

Egyptians announced closure of the crossing following Israeli threats to shell the area.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in a speech Tuesday afternoon that his country would not open the Rafah crossing unless it is controlled by the PA and European monitors.

The WFP's cooperating partner's (MoSA) warehouse in Beit Lahiya (north of the strip) has been affected by air strikes on 29.12.2008: the door of the warehouse is blown and stocks are at the risk of being looted as there is no security around the warehouses (since MSA staff is a target of IDF)

UNSCO Compound in Gaza City sustained severe damage when an IAF aircraft struck the President Guest House. Also, UNRWA Field Office sustained damage when the Islamic University was hit by IAF missiles.

Because of the new threat of Grad type rockets which are being used which are now reaching Ashdod, shipping companies are re-diverting their ships to Haifa instead of Ashdod.

3) Implementation

WFP has already been forced to temporarily suspend most of its humanitarian work in Gaza because of the bombing, and the programme which feeds 265,000 people has also been put on hold. Immediate humanitarian breathing space is requested in order to start distribution of humanitarian aid.

In order to respond to current situation, and in order to mitigate the effects of late distribution WFP is planning to provide a full ration to its beneficiaries and increase the current 1400 kcal ration to 2100 Kcal for at least 3 months. In addition WFP anticipate that we will need to cover additional needs increase the number of beneficiaries in Gaza by about 53,000 people for six months

The CO is planning to use an Italian contribution received in the aftermath of the bombing to distribute High Energy Biscuits to hospital and discharged patients, as well as to displace people as an emergency ready to eat food. (One truck was delivered to the MoH yesterday).

Arrangements are being put in place for delivery of 30 mt WHF to a bakery in Gaza for distribution of bread parcels to families in Beit Hanun. Today 1000 parcel will be distributed to the people.

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 today, staff is instructed to stay at home. The only mean of communication with them is mobile phones.

2 WFP national staffs who are based in Ashdod have been informed to work from their homes. The reason the decision was taken for the staff to work from home instead of the office is because their residences have safe rooms installed whereas no safe rooms are available at the office.

DCD is breaking his annual leave and back to the country today.

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

WFP Stocks Inside Gaza as of 22 Dec were 4600 mt; enough for 2 months consumption for 225,000 beneficiaries (3463 WHF, 340 Sug, 392 Oil, 67 Sal, 190 canned meat). It is estimated that 20% of distribution has been completed until the date the air strikes started.

44 WFP trucks were delivered during the last three days. This brings total deliveries since Saturday (the day air strikes began) to 1413 mt. The commodities are delivered to UNRWA store in Rafah for temporary storage, 16 Trucks are scheduled for today, 450 mt of wheat flour and 21 mt HEB.

Upon the request of the humanitarian team the logistic cluster has been activated and WFP has taken the lead in organizing its set up. An interagency logistic meeting is scheduled today to discuss and agree the Logistics Cluster Concept of Operation.

5,200 mt is stock in WFPs stores in Israel and ready to deliver to Gaza (4367 WHF, 180 Sug, 305 PEA, 200 Oil, 187 HEB).

In order for UNRWA to resume its operations in Gaza that have been halted since 18 of December , WFP has offered a loan of up to 2000mt of wheat flour. Details of this loan are being worked out with UNRWA