

# WFP SITUATION REPORT ON THE CRISIS IN GAZA

WFP Situation Report N. 24

29 January 2009

## UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - OPT

### Security

Ceasefires declared by Israel and Hama's militants and allied groups in Gaza have been in effect since 18 January 2009.

Home-made rockets and mortar shells were fired to-

wards Israeli targets. An Israeli Air Force fighter jet struck a target east of Rafah shortly after militants fired a rocket at Israel. Israeli media reported that Israeli warplanes bombed an open area in the southern

Gaza Strip early on Thursday, shortly after militants fired a rocket at Israel.



WFP - Gaza/Christine van Nieuwenhuysse

### WFP's Operations & Logistics

Since the air strikes started, WFP has been able to deliver more than 4,500 mt of food into Gaza as of 29 January. In addition, WFP delivered 30 mt of meals ready-to-eat (MREs) on behalf of WHO, to be distributed to hospitals, as well as nearly 600 mt of wheat flour as a loan to UNWRA.

WFP warehouses are currently storing approximately 4,024 mt of WFP food commodities, after the confirmation of receipt for nearly 240 mt of WHF delivered yesterday in Gaza. Karni warehouse remains inaccessible, due to

possible presence of UXO. The staff are finalizing the physical count together with the cooperating partners, in order to identify the losses and damages caused by the war.

After rectification of figures that were miscalculated yesterday, the number of beneficiaries reached by WFP with a two-month ration (from the regular caseload) since 27 Dec. now stands at 217,512.

In addition, following the re-opening of schools in Gaza on

Sunday, WFP started its School Feeding programme on Monday. 30,000 school children are targeted in 48 schools in Gaza; they will be receiving rations covering 100 percent of their daily food needs. Rations will initially include High Energy Biscuits (HEBs), milk and canned meat - as well as date bars, until access to cooking gas is made available to the Gazans.

\*This includes updated figures from MoSA distributions that were previously unavailable.

#### WFP Emergency Operation in Gaza

Current planned caseload in Gaza	365,000
Estimated number of beneficiaries reached since 27 Dec (regular caseload—2 month ration)	> 217,512
Planned number of school children under the School Feeding programme	30,000
Estimated number of beneficiaries reached since 27 Dec (emergency distributions)	> 154,000
Total WFP MT dispatched into Gaza since 27 Dec **	> 4,500
Total MT distributed since 27 Dec	3,020.37
Current Stock in Gaza (Mt)	4,024

#### Highlights:

- Ramiro Lopez Da Silva, WFP Deputy Chief Operations Officer, Country Director Christine van Nieuwenhuysse and Senior Emergency Advisor Coordinator Gemmo Lodesani visited Gaza today. Mr Lodesani will remain in Gaza for the coming weeks to lead WFP's response.
- WFP now has two international staff permanently based in Gaza;
- The WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) for Gaza has been approved and will assist 365,000 non-refugees. The EMOP's operational requirement is of US\$ 77,800,000.

\*\* This does not include loans to UNWRA and WHO.

The programme will be implemented until April (May being the month of the final exams) and will start again in September 09 until December.

An additional 154,000 Palestinians have been reached through: 1) emergency bread distributions in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya (northern Gaza), 2) ready to eat food to 6,000 patients in 13 hospitals, 3) Date bars and HEB distributions.

It is estimated that an additional 300,000 Palestinians (refugees and non-refugees) in Gaza will need humanitarian assistance; out of this number, WFP added 100,000 people to its regular food distribution programme. In order to respond to the current situation and mitigate the effects of the crisis, WFP now provides a full ration to its beneficiaries and has increase the previous ration (1,400

kcal/day) to 2,100 Kcal/day for at least three months.

With the aim of meeting the needs of people who have not received full WFP rations, WFP is also providing a one-month supply of nutritious date-bars and HEBs to a planned 200,000 individuals, prioritizing the ones in the shelters, in collaboration with CHF.

Since its establishment, the WFP-led logistics cluster has provided facilitation and coordination with the Coordination Office for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to six humanitarian organizations.

**Yesterday**, only 9 WFP truckloads (270 mt) out of the 30 (900 mt) ready at Karem Shalom for crossing into Gaza were allowed to access Gaza by the Israeli authorities, because Karem Shalom was not operational at its full capacity.

This resulted in a backlog of 21 WFP truckloads waiting at Karem Shalom crossing.

WFP distributed 1.12 mt of food to 14 households in Gaza city in collaboration with CHF, as well as 59 mt to 877 households in Gaza city and Middle Area with the MoSA.

**Today**, WFP did not receive IDF's green light to have the food commodities waiting outside Karem Shalom enter Gaza. Therefore, 37 trucks loaded with 1,110 mt of various WFP items are waiting at the crossing point. This quantity will be used to cover the requirements of 66,000 beneficiaries.

WFP distributed 29 mt of food to 399 households in Gaza city with the MoSA. WFP/CHF distribution figures are not yet available.



## Staffing

14 WFP staff inside Gaza are safe. Last week, they resumed working at the office.

Two WFP national staff based in Ashdod were instructed to resume working at the office.

Mr. Ramiro Lopez Da Silva, WFP Deputy Chief Operations Officer is in Opt since the beginning of the week and is meeting with partners and Israeli and Palestinian government officials

The Senior Emergency Coordinator and the Senior Emergency Advisor assigned to the Gaza Office have arrived in Gaza today.

A Security Officer and a Reporting Officer have arrived in Jerusalem and will be deployed to Gaza as soon as they receive clearance.

An Assessment Officer arrived on Monday to provide support to the WFP/FAO/UNWRA

Emergency Food Security Assessment that is taking place in Gaza.

On 24 Jan. a Mine Action Officer arrived in Jerusalem, to clear the Gaza WFP premises of any unexploded ammunition.

## Funding

Funding requirements for WFP's Gaza operation currently stand at US\$ 81.2 million including US\$ 77.8 for the EMOP and US\$ 3.4 million for the Special Operation. This does not include the funds required in 2009 for WFP's activities in the West Bank under the existing PRRO.

So far, Italy, Australia, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, CERF, Japan and Slovakia confirmed contributions in support to the population in Gaza, for a total of about US\$ 11.6 million.

UK confirmed a contribution of US\$ 1.4 million to the Special Operation.

### WFP Financial Requirements for 2009

Emergency Operation (Gaza)	US\$ 78,900,000
Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (West Bank)	US\$ 76,000,000
Special Operation—Logistic Cluster	US\$ 3,344,884

*For more information: Barbara Conte – WFP oPt – [barbara.conte@wfp.org](mailto:barbara.conte@wfp.org)*

*Mobile: +972 54 5918151*