

WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SITUATION REPORT

Issue n. 9

3 - 16 June 2009

WFP oPt at a glance

PRRO (West Bank) planned beneficiaries	413,000
EMOP Gaza planned beneficiaries	365,000
EMOP Food Voucher (West Bank) planned beneficiaries	31,000
Stock in Gaza (MT)	8,383 mt
Stock in West Bank (MT)	8,728 mt*

* Includes WFP warehouses only

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:

Operational Update

WFP delivered 109 mt of canned meat, wheat flour and salt into **Gaza** between 31 May and 13 June and was able to distribute over 692 mt to 26,589 beneficiaries in Gaza, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, CHF and the bakeries.

Between 2 and 15 June, the **Lo-**



Mohamed El-Jamaleh/WFP— Distribution of USAID-funded vegetable oil in Khan Yunis/Gaza, in cooperation with CHF, May 2009.

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). 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 **Logistics 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) 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).

Logistics Cluster was able to deliver 237 pallets of humanitarian cargo composed of household kits, bedding kits, blankets and mattresses, health kits, floor mats, baby hygiene kits, food parcels and kitchen kits, on behalf of four organizations. The Logistics Cluster notes that there has

been an improvement of access since mid-May, with clearance finally received for 530 pallets (approx. 500 MT) of humanitarian cargo consisting of Save the Children shelter/hygiene kits and Anera food parcels to enter Gaza. It should be noted that the Anera food parcels include previously

“prohibited items” such as macaroni, tomato paste and halva. This could mean the gradual implementation of the 22 March 2009 Cabinet decision on the movement of food supplies. Clearance was also received for 12 pallets of water heaters (kitchen kettles) to enter Gaza.

The **food voucher EMOP** continues to be implemented in the West Bank

in its full scope. A total of about 31,000 beneficiaries in Qalqilya, Habla, Yatta, Hebron and Nablus receive monthly food vouchers worth 200 NIS (eight vouchers of 25 NIS each, which are date specific [two per week]), to be used in selected retail shops located close to their residence. Beneficiaries exchange the food vouchers

against food commodities and choose from a list of six food items: bread, milk, lebaneh, yogurt, white cheese and eggs.

A food voucher project in Gaza is also expected to be launched in September, targeting around 15,000 beneficiaries in urban areas.

Focus on School Feeding activities in the West Bank

With the end of the 2008/9 school year, WFP's school feeding (SF) activities in both the West Bank and Gaza are now on hold – they will resume in October, after the summer holidays and Ramadan. Between November 2008 and May 2009, daily snacks were distributed to **53,664 children in 116 schools and 167 kindergartens throughout all 10 governorates of the West Bank**, i.e., almost 100 percent of the planned figures. The successful implementation of the activities would not have been possible without the schools teachers and management, and the daily efforts, through a cash-for-work scheme, of 136 workers in nine women associations (with the Near-East Foundation) and 28 workers in six bakeries, who baked the children's daily snacks.

A **field work evaluation** was conducted by WFP in May 2009 in a sample of schools and kindergartens (which were not identified for last year's project evaluation). Results of the focus group discussions with children, parents, women and bakers, and interviews with teachers show the substantial impact of the SF activities. Most of the teachers

observed a behavioural change in their classes, with children being more focused and less sleepy. While children report that they feel happy and more energetic, mothers feel reassured that their offspring is not hungry at school. Eating habits have changed, since children buy less unhealthy snacks, and nutritional awareness of the women and bakery workers has improved as a result of their participation in the project. In terms of socio-economic impact, in addition to the savings generated at household level thanks to the SF project, women and bakery workers are able to contribute to their family's expenses, and bakeries have seen their business increase as a result of their participation in the project, which also brings a positive impact on local economy.



A **workshop was conducted on 10 June** in Ramallah with all West Bank stakeholders and with the support of a SF expert from WFP Headquarters. The aim was to evaluate the management and implementation of the project, draw lessons and recommendations and obtain stakeholders feed-back to inform the formulation of the strategy for 2009/10.

Current and upcoming assessments

Following the qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Gaza conducted in January 2009, WFP, FAO and PCBS are conducting a **quantitative socio-economic and food security survey** in the oPt. Data collection is currently ongoing in Gaza, while it is completed in the West Bank. Preliminary results for

Gaza are expected at the beginning of August. The results will be combined with those of two other studies that will be conducted in the West Bank and in Gaza (market study and qualitative study on livelihoods and food security), before being compiled into a **Comprehensive Food security and Vulnerability**

analysis that will be published in November. **This will serve as the basis for the next WFP PRRO, expected to start mid-2010.** A **Food Security Atlas** is being prepared by WFP in collaboration with the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem and will be available by August 2009.

Besides the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Near-East foundation is WFP's main partner for school feeding activities in the West Bank.

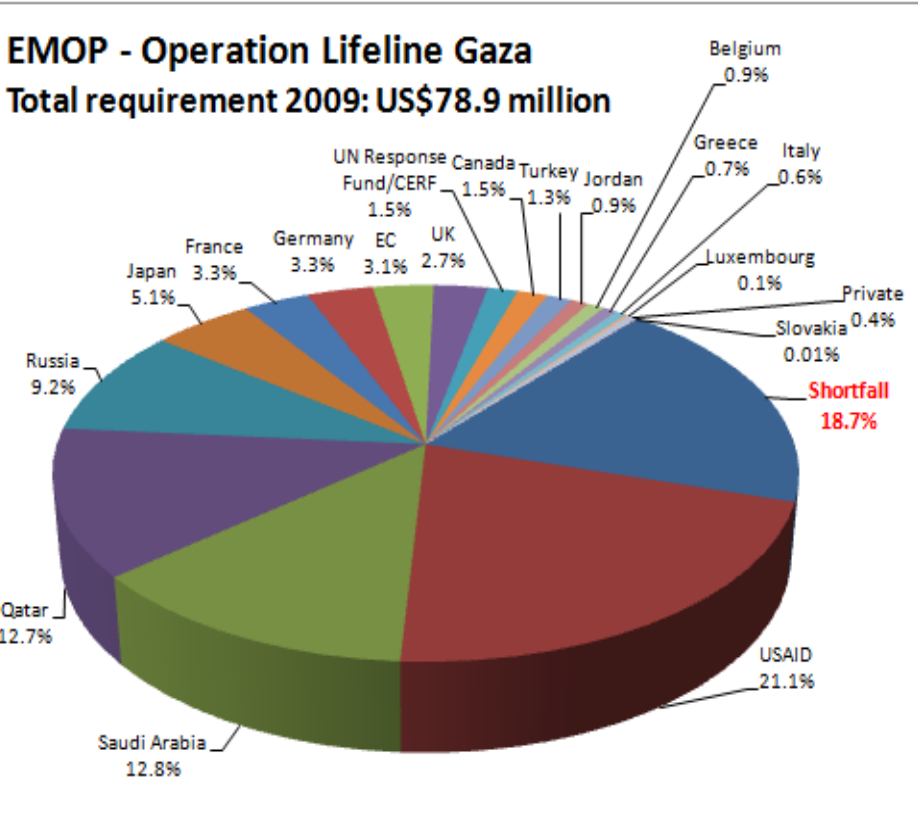
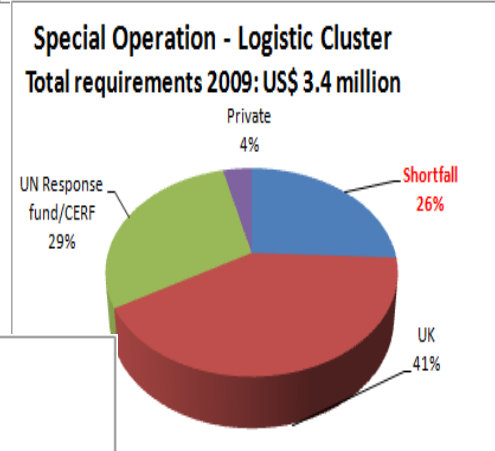
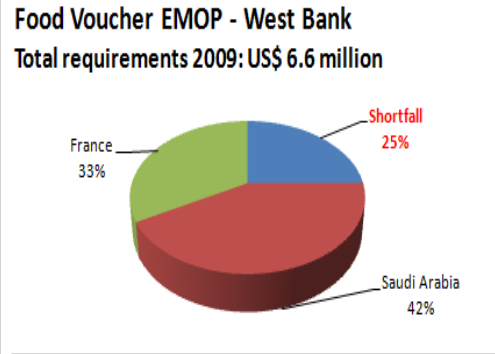
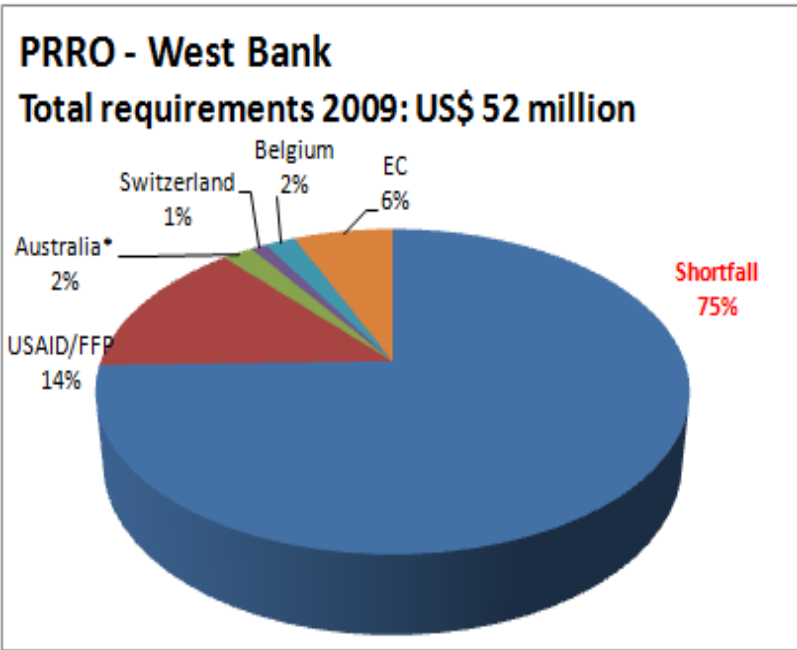
Photo: Caterina Galluzzi/WFP—Children receiving their daily snack, Nablus, May 2009.

Shortfalls & Needs

At the moment the top five donors to WFP oPt for 2009 are: USAID, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Russia and the European Commission. We thank our donors for their generous contributions to the Gaza EMOP,

for which the funding situation is better than that of the West Bank PRRO. 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.



*Australia's contribution was in support of the population in Gaza. When the donation was confirmed, the PRRO was the only WFP operation and, considered the funding situation in the West Bank, Australia kindly agreed to leave its generous contribution for the PRRO.

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

Please contact Celine Francois, Reporting Officer

**Celine.Francois@wfp.org
0546-773136**