

WFP SITUATION REPORT ON THE CRISIS IN GAZA

WFP Situation Report N. 35

24-30 March 2009

UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - OPT

Security

During the reporting period, six home-made rockets were fired by Palestinian militants from Gaza towards Israeli targets. In five separate incidents, Israeli naval vessels opened fire at fishing boats; during one of them, four fishermen were arrested and released later; some injuries were reported. During the week,

Rafah Terminal was repeatedly opened to allow Palestinian patients to cross into Gaza Strip and out to Egypt. Clashes between Islamic jihad militants and IDF troops were reported, without injuries.



R. Fanelli/WFP Rome - School Feeding Programme in Gaza

WFP's Operations & Logistics

Since 27 December, WFP reached about 346,000 beneficiaries, targeted through regular food distributions, school feeding and one-off emergency distributions of bread, HEBs, date bars and ready-to-eat meals (MREs); WFP distributed about 6,600 mt of food into Gaza.

So far, WFP has also been able to deliver about 14,700 mt of food and has a stock of about 12,700 mt of different food commodities in the five Governorates.

Since the beginning of the new distribution cycle in February, WFP distributed 2,382 mt of food to 81,777 beneficiaries in collaboration with the Ministry of So-

cial Affairs; distributions have been already completed in the North Gaza, Middle Area, Khan Younis and Rafah, while they are still ongoing in Gaza city. CHF has started the distributing cycle of Feb-March allocation on 24 March; 456 mt have been distributed so far to 19,340 beneficiaries. OXFAM distributions will start next week, assisting 45,000 beneficiaries.

Since 24 March, WFP succeeded in facilitating 54 truckloads into Gaza, carrying about 1,800 mt of food commodities into Gaza. During the reporting period, through the logistics cluster, WFP coordinated the loading and crossing of trucks transporting milk, canned meat, sugar, rice, vegetable oil, beans and blankets into Gaza.

According to the WFP bi-weekly market report, the majority of staple food commodities is available in all markets over the Gaza Strip.

Prices of flour, sugar and salt are declining compared to the previous week; salt is available this week and in large quantities thanks to the clearance that the Israeli Government finally gave.

Fresh vegetables and fruits (i.e. bananas and apples) are available in the market in relatively large quantities at generally normal and affordable prices.

Fresh chicken is available in all markets over the Gaza Strip but prices have raised from 14-15 NIS per kg last week to 15.5-17 NIS per kg this week.

WFP Emergency Operation in Gaza

Current caseload in Gaza	365,000
Number of school children reached under the School Feeding	50,410
Number of Palestinians reached since 27 Dec in Gaza	346,000
Number of beneficiaries reached under the current distribution cycle	68,444
Total MT dispatched into Gaza since 27 Dec	14,714
Total MT distributed since 27 Dec	6,591
Current Stock in Gaza (MT)	12,768

Highlights:

- The availability of most basic food inside Gaza is currently acceptable for both fresh and dry food; however, this continues to be highly volatile. Items like fresh red meat, cleaning material and cooking gas are in short supply as of 30 March.

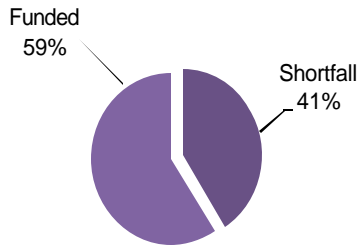
The price of fresh meat remains stable at 60 NIS per kg in all markets; thousands of small-sized sheeps (30 kg each) had been smuggled from El Arish into Gaza through the tunnels and are being sold at 120 Jordanian dinars (660 NIS), according to live-stock traders. Dairy products remain available in all markets at stable prices.

As of 25 of March, one out of the six

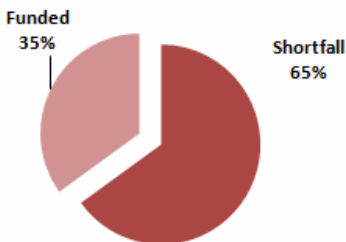
mills is still not operating (El Bader Mill) due to the considerable damages reported during the air strikes. The total stock of wheat flour at the Gaza mills is of 11,300 mt, enough to cover the needs of the population for approximately 25 days. Most bakeries in Gaza are operating at 70 percent of their capacity, due to shortage of cooking gas and insufficient food commodities required for baking.

Regarding fishing, the distance allowed continued to be three nautical miles only. This is causing a major loss to fishermen; last week, sardines were not available in the market while other types of fish (i.e. Asafeer 30 NIS per kg, Ghobos 20 NIS per kg, Ghozlan 35 NIS per kg and Deneiss 35-40 NIS per kg) were available because imported from Israel.

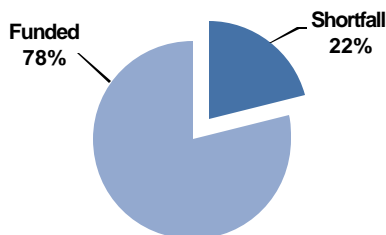
EMOP Gaza



PRRO 2009



Special Operation Logistics Cluster



Staffing

WFP presently has 22 staff members in Gaza (20 nationals and 2 internationals).

Three logistics officers and one Information Management Specialist are deployed to oPt and Israel to support Logistics Cluster activities. Three WFP staff (two logistic officers and one program officer) are temporarily transferred to Al-Arish Egypt to support cluster and WFP logistic operation.

One Security Officer has been deployed to Gaza until mid-May. Security clearance of staff going into Gaza remains cumbersome. 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. So far, USAID, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Japan, France, UK, CERF/UN Response Fund, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Jordan have confirmed contributions in support to the population in Gaza, for a total of about US\$ 50.5 million.

WFP's requirements for the West Bank PRRO in 2009 amount to US\$ 52 million and are now 35 percent covered.

UK, Friends of WFP-Japan and the UN Response Fund/CERF confirmed contributions amounting to US\$ 2.7 million to the Special Operation.