

WFP SITUATION REPORT ON THE CRISIS IN GAZA

WFP Situation Report N. 33

3—9 March 2009

UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME - OPT

Security

During the reporting period, 25 Palestinians were injured. On 4 March, an IDF airstrike in the Jabaliya Refugee Camp, North of Gaza, resulted in the death of two Palestinians. On 3 March, the IDF fired six bombs along the Gaza-Egypt border, in response to the rocket firing from Palestinian militants; six Pal-



WFP - Gaza
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WFP's Operations & Logistics

Since December 27th, WFP reached about 346,000, targeted through regular food distributions, school feeding and one-off emergency distributions of bread, HEBs, date bars and ready-to-eat meals (MREs). So far, WFP has been able to deliver more than 11,100 mt of food and has a stock of about 9,000 mt in Gaza. Since the beginning of the new distribution cycle (on 19 February), WFP distributed about 1,378 mt of food to 51,000 beneficiaries, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). CHF and OXFAM distributions will start on the last week of March. During the reporting period, through the logistics cluster, WFP coor-

ordinated the crossing into Gaza of 10 trucks transporting food and non-food items; the logistics cluster has served 28 organizations so far. On 3 March, a shipment of 704 packets of washing powder was rejected by Israeli Authorities at Kerem Shalom crossing because the cargo did not have any "environmental certificate". The washing powder is part of hygiene kit distribution by World Vision in Gaza, which could be delivered to Gaza through Kerem Shalom crossing on 26 February. Two pallets of UNICEF t-shirts were also refused clearance to Gaza on 3 March on the grounds that this is not a humanitarian priority.

The Humanitarian Community has compiled an updated list of sector priorities to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief reflects the needs of the conflict-affected population in Gaza. This list will be presented to COGAT by the Logistics Cluster on behalf of the humanitarian community, with a request to respect the humanitarian nature of this cargo and to ensure timely delivery. On 2 March, Mercy Corps were informed by COGAT that their shipment of 90 mt of macaroni (with an additional 125 mt of flour) would not get clearance to enter Gaza. Last week COGAT had stated that the

WFP Emergency Operation in Gaza

Current caseload in Gaza	365,000
Number of school children under the School Feeding	40,000
Number of Palestinians reached since 27 Dec	346,000
Number of beneficiaries reached under the current distribution cycle	51,000
Total WFP MT dispatched into Gaza since 27 Dec	10,178
Total MT distributed since 27 Dec	5,050
Current Stock in Gaza (Mt)	9,235

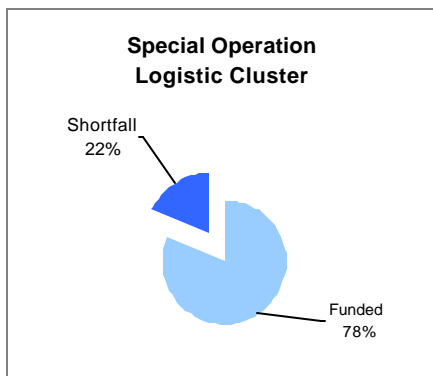
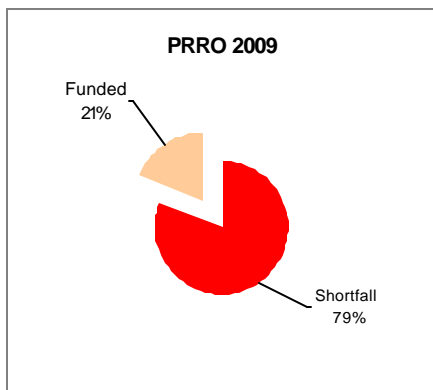
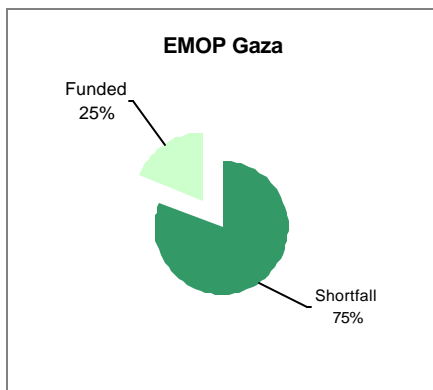
Highlights:

- Donors pledged US\$ 4.5 billion for the reconstruction of Gaza at the Egyptian-sponsored "Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza", held on 2 March in Sharm-El-Sheikh.

macaroni would be cleared for transport on Thursday 26 February. Mercy Corps will now look to distribute the humanitarian aid in Egypt as they are not able to continue to pay detention for the cargo in El Arish. According to the bi-weekly market survey conducted by WFP and completed on 2 March, availability of basic food is currently acceptable for both fresh and dry foods, whereas accessibility remains particularly problematic for red meat, poultry meat and eggs due to high prices. During the reporting period, cattle access to

Gaza continued to be denied. As of 25 February, the total stock of wheat flour in Gaza mills is 11,700 mt which is enough to cover the needs of the total population for approximately 26 days, until 22 March 2009. Shortages of animal feed and gas have contributed to the increase of prices of chicken in the market from 12 to 19.75NIS/Kg last month. The price of meat has decreased after the war by 0.5%. Vegetables are available and prices have decreased, with the only exception of tomato prices. However, food availability in the GS is volatile, dependent on: 1) opening of border crossing for both humanitarian and commercial goods; 2)

resumption of local production - the availability of fresh food is highly dependent on the ability and timeliness of the agricultural sector to recover and is at relatively high risk of shortages or economic access difficulties (high prices of imported fresh food, if such imports are allowed at all). A crucial factor influencing food security in the weeks/months to come is the resumption of the cash economy and employment. Unless it recovers quickly, income and consumption poverty will prevail among most Gazan families, who will continue to depend on food aid, cash assistance and emergency temporary job creation schemes.



Staffing

WFP presently has 23 staff members in Gaza (19 nationals and 4 internationals). Five WFP logistic officers have been temporarily transferred to oPt (Jerusalem) to support the Logistic Cluster, and one, also to Jerusalem, to reinforce the current operations. Further potential support staff have been identified. The Deputy Emergency Coordinator is now based in the Gaza office. The

Emergency Coordinator terminated his mission in oPt last Wednesday. 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. In addition, WFP's requirements for the West Bank PRRO in 2009 amount to US\$ 52 million. So far, Saudi Arabia, Japan, France, UK, CERF/UN Response Fund, EC, Jordan, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Slovakia have confirmed contributions in support to the population in Gaza, for a total of about US\$ 20.2 million. However, the Gaza EMOP remains only 25% funded. UK, Friends of WFP-Japan and the UN Response Fund/CERF confirmed contributions amounting to US\$ 2.7 million to the Special Operation.