



WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SITUATION REPORT

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Special points of interest:

The Voucher programme in the West Bank is now implemented in its full scale, targeting 30,000 beneficiaries.

WFP at a glance

PRRO (WB) beneficiaries	320,000
EMOP Gaza beneficiaries	365,000
EMOP Food Voucher (WB) beneficiaries	30,000
Stock in Gaza (MT)	18,048
Stock in West Bank(MT)	3,630*

* Only includes WFP warehouses

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: the EMOP Operation Lifeline Gaza and the Logistics Cluster Special



M. Dana/WFP - WFP Food Voucher beneficiary in Hebron, May 2009.

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).

Operational Update

Food distributions are ongoing in the **West Bank**, with 910 mt distributed to about 92,000 beneficiaries last week, in collaboration with MoSA, MoE, CRS, CHF and Near East Foundation; 21 WFP truckloads (654 mt) transporting all commodities were dispatched

to the West Bank. The food voucher EMOP is now implemented in the West Bank in its full scale, targeting about 31,000 beneficiaries in five cities. Voucher distributions were launched in Qalqilya and Habla in April, followed by Yatta, Hebron

and Nablus in May.

Over 218 mt of date bars and milk (20 trucks) were delivered by WFP in the **Gaza Strip** last week. MSA started its March/April cycle on 6 May, while CHF is expected to complete its March/April cycle



C. Francois/WFP -
WFP Food Distribution,
Bethlehem, April 2009

before the end of the month. From 3 to 9 May, 1,934 mt of food commodities were distributed to 113,291 beneficiaries in collaboration with CHF, OXFAM, MSA and MoE. The current stock in Gaza now stands at 18,048 mt; in the West Bank it is 3,630 mt (WFP warehouses only).

Israeli authorities continue to restrict access for humanitarian cargoes to Gaza. As a result, the **Logistics Clus-**

ter is unable to transport approximately 200 mt of humanitarian relief items currently stored in UNRWA and WFP Qalandia warehouses. The delayed UN and NGO shipments consist of household kits, recreation kits, wheelchairs, blankets, toothbrushes, baby toys, baby napkins, veterinary drugs and shelter items. An additional three truck-loads of window glass and wooden beams for Mercy Corps International shelter reconstruction programmes have been refused entry to Gaza by COGAT since 16 April 2009.

Food Security in oPt

High poverty rates continue to put strain on household coping strategies, leading to high levels of dependency on external assistance. **The preliminary results of a quantitative socio-economic and food security survey** jointly conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), FAO and WFP in the West Bank (4,960 households surveyed) during the first quarter of 2009 reveal that 32.9 percent of households in the West Bank have received aid during the second half of 2008, 63.1 percent of them having received in-kind assistance (food, medicines, clothing and shoes) and 36.9 per-

cent cash assistance.

Moreover, 96 percent of surveyed households in the West Bank reported that they have suffered from the rise in food prices during the six months prior to the survey. 41.6 percent of the surveyed families reported that they had to contract debts to cope with the difficult economic conditions. While 31.2 percent of households had to reduce the amounts of food consumed by the family during the week preceding the survey, 28.4 percent said that they had to resort to the purchase of lower quality food. Further results indicate that 47.8

percent of families in the West Bank have reduced their expenditures on clothing during the six months prior to the survey, 41.9 percent those related to electricity and water bills, 36.8 percent reduced entertainment or travel-related expenditures and 36.5 percent reduced food-related expenditures.

Preliminary results also indicate that 75.5 percent of surveyed households owning a land have had difficulties in reaching their land due to Israeli checkpoints and barriers within the West Bank, hampering their freedom of movement.

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 (see preliminary results in the above section). Preliminary re-

sults for Gaza are expected at the beginning of July.

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 in a **Comprehensive Food security and Vulner-**

ability analysis that will be published in November. **This will serve as the basis for the next 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.

Shortfalls & Needs

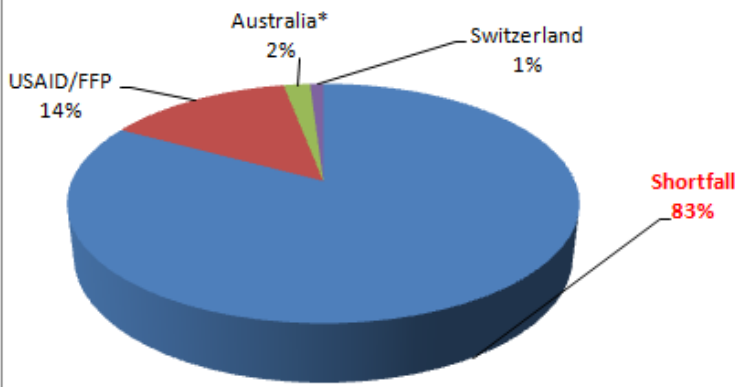
At the moment the top five donors to WFP oPt are: USAID, the European Commission, Saudi Arabia, Italy and Qatar. We thank our donors for their generous contributions to the Gaza EMOP. However, if the current funding level does not timely improve, WFP will be forced to reduce its beneficiary

caseload and/or the energy value of the food rations distributed in Gaza by September. The funding situation of the West Bank PRRO is quite worrisome, with a pipeline break expected by August.

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.

PRRO - West Bank

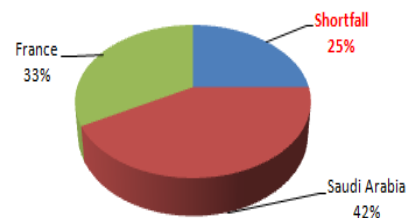
Total requirements 2009: US\$ 52 million



*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.

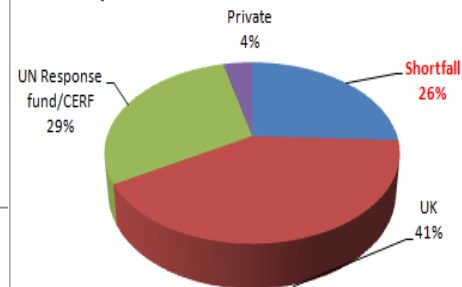
Food Voucher EMOP - West Bank

Total requirements 2009: US\$ 6.6 million



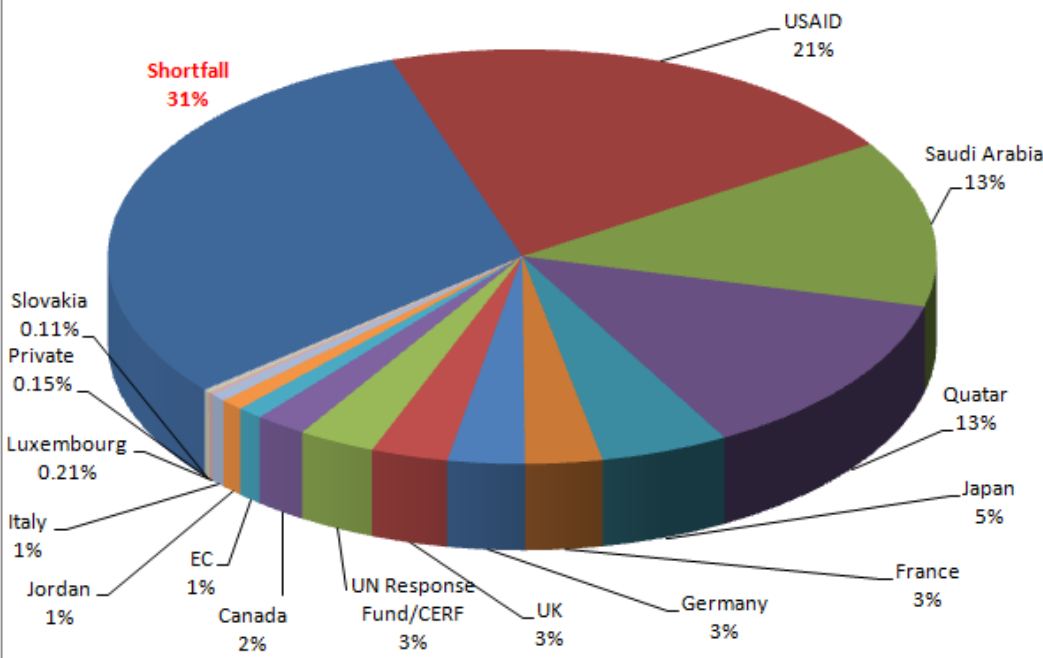
Special Operation - Logistic Cluster

Total requirements 2009: US\$ 3.4 million



EMOP - Operation Lifeline Gaza

Total requirement 2009: US\$78.9 million



You have a comment or a question on the content of this report? Please contact Celine Francois, Reporting Officer
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