



WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SITUATION REPORT

Issue n. 5

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Special points of interest:

- WFP Regional Director, Mr. Daly Belgasmi, will be in oPt from 3 to 8 May.

WFP in a glance

PRRO (WB) beneficiaries	320,000
EMOP Gaza beneficiaries	365,000
EMOP Food Voucher (WB) beneficiaries	30,000
Stock in Gaza (MT)	17,830
Stock in West Bank(MT)	4,650*

* It includes only 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 Operation (SO). The **EMOP** targets 365,000 beneficiaries (i.e. 80 percent of the non-refugee population in Gaza) and 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)



M. Dana/WFP - Regional Director, Mr. Daly Belgasmi, speaking to WFP Food Voucher beneficiaries in Hebron.

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

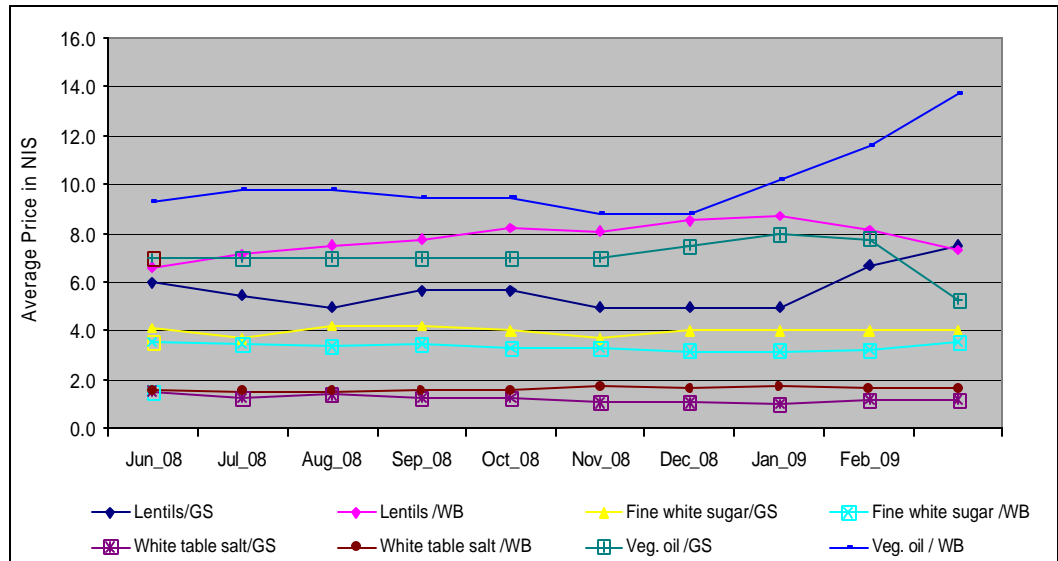
Food distributions are ongoing in the West Bank, with 977 mt distributed and 95,500 beneficiaries reached last week, in collaboration with the MoSA, MoE, CRS and the Near East Foundation (NEF). 13 truckloads (545 mt) were dispatched into the West Bank, transporting mainly wheat flour, while 175 mt (7 trucks) were delivered in Gaza, including salt, canned meat and milk. Distribution cycles in Gaza

have been completed in collaboration with MoSA, while CHF and OXFAM are on going. Israeli authorities continue to restrict access for humanitarian cargoes to Gaza. As a result, the Logistics Cluster is unable to transport approximately 200 mt of humanitarian relief items, which is 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.

Comparing average price of staple commodities in West Bank and Gaza

Source: PCBS



Food Security in oPt

As of March 2009, prices in Gaza are higher than those in the West Bank for most items, except for wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt. In order to factor out the seasonal fluctuations, the following analysis focuses on the changes that took place in comparison to last year.

Rice: In Gaza, after a significant decrease between July and August 2008 (approximately 7 percent), prices increased to reach NIS 163.33/25Kg in March 2009. In the West Bank, average prices decreased in the same period only by 0.3 percent, before increasing to reach NIS 168.29/25kg in March 2009. This is due to the increment of international prices, given that the oPt depends almost exclusively on imported commodities. Moreover, the closure of the Gaza Strip leads to shortages in commodities followed by increase in the prices.

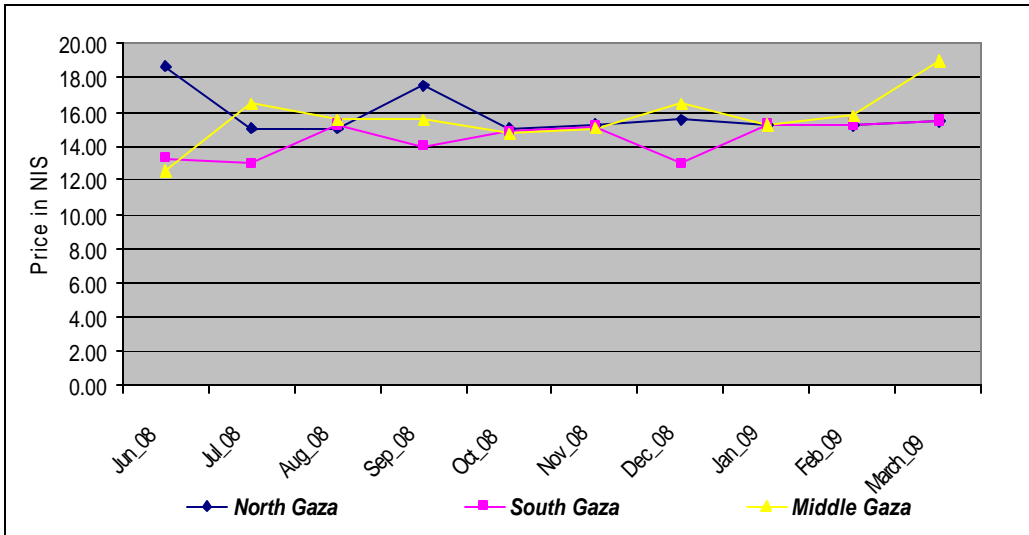
Wheat flour: The average price of wheat flour in the West Bank was higher than that in Gaza during the period June-October 2008. Prices in March 2009 are lower by 18.5 percent in the West Bank and by 16.9 percent in Gaza than those of March 2008, due to the decrease of prices on the international market. **Sugar:** While 6.7 percent higher in March 2009 than a year earlier, the average price has remained stable in Gaza over the

last three months. In the West Bank, however, its price is lower by 5 percent in March 2009 than in March 2008. **Lentils:** The average price in lentils fluctuates more in the West Bank than in Gaza, although it increased by 66.7 percent in Gaza between March 2008 and March 2009, while the increase in the West Bank amounted to 26.8 percent over the same period. **Vegetable oil:** Its price increased by 45.7 percent in the West Bank between March 2008 and March 2009, but decreased by 18.2 percent in Gaza. It is also worth mentioning that surge in prices in Gaza is not parallel to the increase of wages (which is less than half that in the West Bank). Combined to the lack of cash in Gaza - individuals can only withdraw a maximum of NIS 1,000-2,000 monthly - these factors are severely affecting the purchasing power of the Gazan population. While the price of **fresh chicken** varies between governorates (particularly at the beginning of the war in December 2008), the price trend was the same across all governorates in January and February 2009. In March 2009, its price increases across the Strip, but with serious variations between governorates: from 1 per-

cent in Northern and Southern Gaza to 21 percent in the Middle area. March 2009 prices are substantially higher than those in March 2008: they increase by approximately 28 percent in Southern Gaza, 49 percent in the Middle area and 3 percent in Northern Gaza. Poultry is now available in the market at pre-war prices (NIS 11.5-12/kg). The fluctuation in prices of chicken is due to the damage inflicted on the poultry sector during the military offensive. The shortage of **fresh meat** in the Gaza market has led to an increase of the prices by 40 percent in Southern Gaza, 33 percent in the Middle area and 20 percent in Northern Gaza between March 2008 and 2009. The average price of fresh meat is NIS 60/kg in Middle and Northern Gaza and NIS 62/Kg in Southern Gaza. These high figures are explained by the restrictions imposed by the Gol for more than a year on cattle import through border crossings, leading to a shortage in fresh meat in the market and, consequently, an increase in prices. However, a small number of cattle enter Gaza through the El Arish tunnels at high prices (JD 120/30 kg sheep).

Fresh chicken's (1 kg) fluctuations in Gaza

Source: PCBS



Assessments

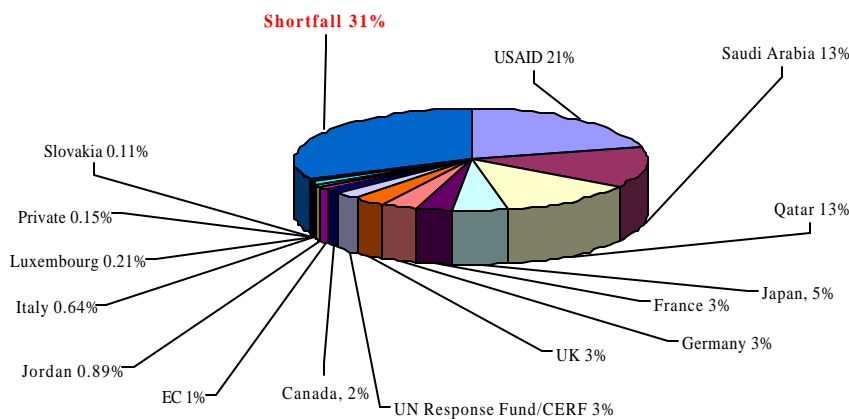
Following the Rapid Food Security Assessment in Gaza held in January 2009 in collaboration with FAO, a Food Security Assessment is now taking place in Gaza in collaboration with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and FAO. The data collection is ongoing and the preliminary results will be shared in July.

The data collection of a similar Food Security Assessment, also in collaboration with PCBS and FAO, has just been completed in the West Bank. Preliminary results are available and are being integrated in the analysis section of the oPt CAP. More comprehensive results will be available at the end of this month.

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.

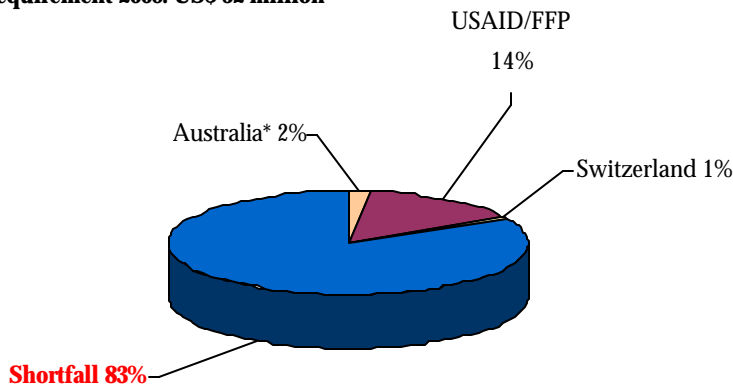
EMOP - Operation Lifeline Gaza

Total Requirement 2009: US\$ 78.9 million



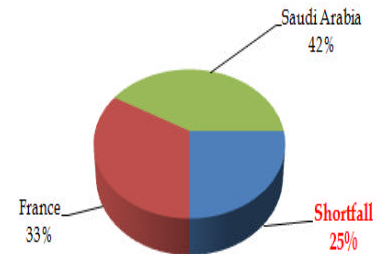
PRRO - West Bank

Total Requirement 2009: US\$ 52 million



Food Voucher EMOP (West Bank)

Total requirement: US\$ 6 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.

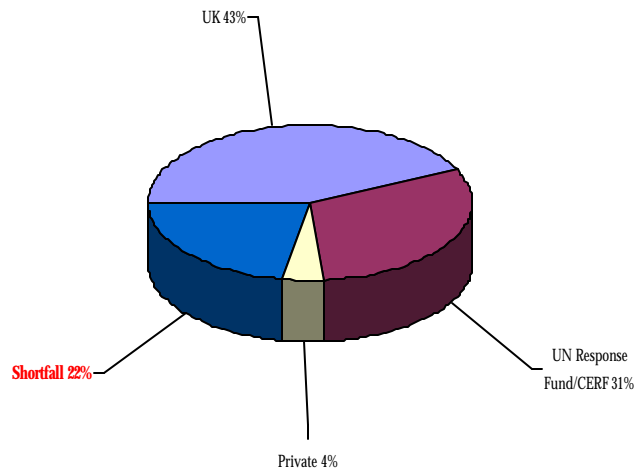
Shortfalls & Needs

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 situa-

tion of the West Bank PRRO is quite worrisome, with a pipeline break expected by July. 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.

Special Operation - Logistic Cluster

Total Requirement 2009: US\$ 3.4 million



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

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