



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)	7,966*
Stock in West Bank(MT)	3,630**

* in addition to 7,756 in WFP warehouses in Israel for Gaza

** 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: the EMOP Operation Lifeline Gaza and the Logistics Cluster Special



M. Dana/WFP - WFP Food Voucher beneficiaries 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 373 mt distributed to about 65,000 beneficiaries last week, in collaboration with MoE, CRS, CHF and Near East Foundation. The food voucher EMOP is now implemented in the West Bank in its full scale, targeting about 30,000

beneficiaries in five cities. Voucher distributions were launched in Qalqilya and Habla in April, followed by Yatta, Hebron and Nablus in May.

Over 686 mt of canned meat, peas and wheat flour were delivered by WFP in Gaza between 10

and 16 May. It is estimated that 2,176 mt of food commodities were distributed to 119,960 beneficiaries in collaboration with CHF, OXFAM, MoSA and MoE. WFP and partners are currently cross-checking caseloads to avoid duplications.



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

Due to a lack of clearance from COGAT no cargo has been delivered to Gaza by the **Logistics Cluster** since 15 April

2009. In an inter-agency meeting with COGAT on 14 May 2009, the Israeli Authorities reiterated to the humanitarian community the prohibition on delivery of construction material to Gaza. However according to a COGAT report for 10 May, 9 trucks containing cement, pipes and generators were transported through Kerem Shalom crossing by commercial companies. The WASH cluster reports that 30 trucks containing WASH material for CMWU have entered Gaza in the past two weeks.

COGAT confirmed that they have

not received any instruction to change the policy regarding food deliveries to Gaza, despite the 22 March Cabinet Decision.

Israeli Authorities continue to uphold restrictions on a range of humanitarian cargo with the result that the Logistics Cluster is unable to transport approximately 200 MT of humanitarian relief items to Gaza (baby toys, dry foodstuffs, wheelchairs, blankets, toothbrushes, baby napkins, bedding kits and floor mats). An additional two 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

The observed **decrease in rainfall over the years** has increasingly affected the Palestinian population living in the West Bank. In 2009, the rainfall currently stands at 78% of the historic annual average. Particularly affected are the governorates in the South, with Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron having received 60%, 62% and 67% of their historic average rainfall respectively. The eastern slopes areas (mainly grazing land) host some of the most vulnerable communities which rely on herding and rain-fed crops for their livelihoods. The progressive reduction in rainfall is likely to impact rural livelihoods in several ways: the lack of drinking water for livestock raises the need for expensive tankered water, while diminishing natural pasture areas contribute to

herders having to purchase increasing amounts of fodder and to a reduction in local animal products (dairy, meat). Similarly, rain-fed crops such as olive groves, citrus orchards, etc., are likely to yield lower outputs if water becomes scarce. Depletion of aquifers in the long run could also have an impact on the pumping capacity of wells and irrigation systems. Most herders and farmers in drought-affected areas have virtually no income to cover their basic needs and expenses, while assets are being liquidated to cover their urgent needs.

In order to mitigate the impact of this phenomenon, multi-sector assistance may be required if livelihoods are to be restored for the next agricultural season. While drought-affected population groups

sometimes overlap with the chronically poor, food insecurity for the majority can be considered as transitory. A combination of in-kind and cash assistance may be an adequate response for herders, as they might sell/exchange part of their ration to provide for their animals, as well as trainings in water harvesting and storage techniques. Assistance would need to be delivered to the affected population groups quickly to avoid further distress sales. While food aid in this context might help to prevent a further deterioration of the food security situation of affected households, other non-food assistance – mainly in the agriculture sector – would be required to restore livelihoods.

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 Vulnerability 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

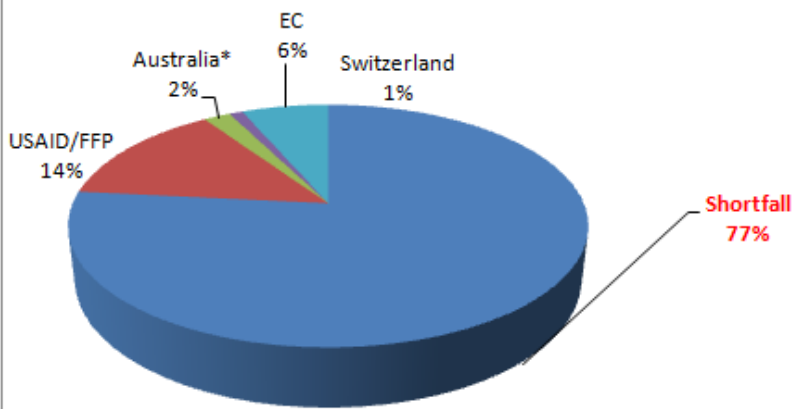
At the moment the top five donors to WFP oPt are: USAID, the European Commission, Saudi Arabia, Italy and Qatar. We thank our donors for their generous contributions to the Gaza EMOP. However, if the current funding level does not timely improve, WFP will be forced to reduce its beneficiary

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

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

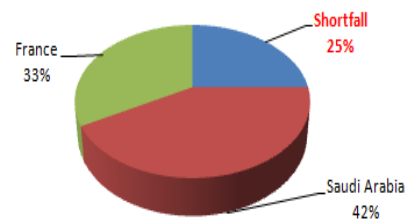
Total requirements 2009: US\$ 52 million



*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.

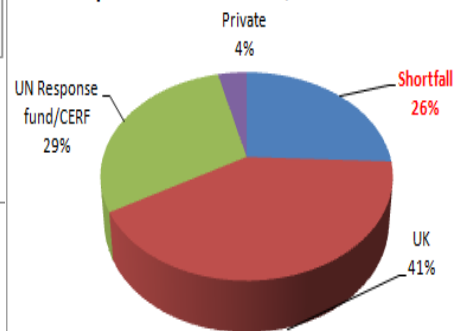
Food Voucher EMOP - West Bank

Total requirements 2009: US\$ 6.6 million



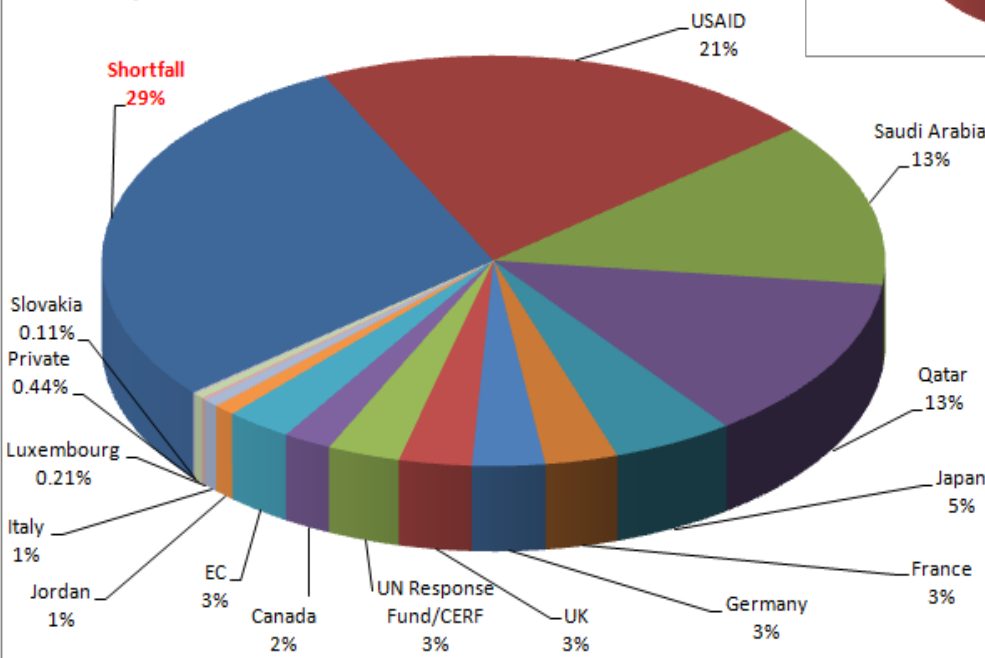
Special Operation - Logistic Cluster

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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