



World Food Programme

WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY SITUATION REPORT

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WFP oPt at a glance (as of Nov. 2009)

PRRO West Bank	<i>Planned beneficiaries</i>
- General food distribution	249,600
-School feeding	62,000
-FFW/FFT	29,000
EMOP Gaza	<i>Planned beneficiaries</i>
- General food distribution	251,500
-School feeding	92,000
-Cash voucher	15,000
EMOP Food Voucher West Bank	31,000
Current stock for Gaza (MT)	7,490*
Current stock for West Bank (MT)	10,676*

* Includes WFP stocks only

WFP OPERATIONS IN OPT

WFP has been providing food assistance to the oPt since 1991. The Country Office is located in Jerusalem, and is supported by an office in Gaza, two sub-offices (Nablus and Hebron) and one port office (Ashdod). WFP employs over 100 staff in the oPt, both national and international.

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. Since January 09, following Operation 'Cast Lead' and the launch of WFP's Emergency Operation Lifeline Gaza (EMOP—see below), 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 Ministry of Social Affairs (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 Meals 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 and Food-for-Training to contribute to and promote self-reliance by preserving agricultural assets to restore livelihoods.



To respond to the high food prices, WFP launched in April 2009 a **Food Voucher EMOP** in the West Bank 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).

Following the military operation in Gaza, two new operations were launched in January 2009: the EMOP Operation Lifeline Gaza and the Logistics Cluster Special Operation (SO). In the aftermath of 'Operation Cast Lead' and until last month, the **EMOP** targeted 365,000 beneficiaries through general food distribution and school feeding, i.e., 80 percent of the non-refugee population in Gaza, aiming at meeting the immediate needs of the population affected by the conflict as well as improving the food consumption of families and individuals in need. As of October, WFP will assist over 296,000 beneficiaries through General food

distributions and vouchers. 15,000 beneficiaries will receive vouchers in urban areas of North Gaza, Gaza and Khan Younis. This will enable them to access a range of various commodities including protein-rich food (dairy products and eggs) directly from small and medium-sized shop keepers while saving cash for other essential food and non-food commodities. WFP also strives to maintain the enrolment of children in schools through the daily distribution of milk and biscuits. As of the end of Ramadan, 92,000 schoolchildren will be receiving a daily snack.

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.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

WFP delivered over 2,941 mt of food into the **Gaza Strip** in October and was able to distribute approximately 4,189 mt of food commodities to 248,143 beneficiaries in Gaza, in cooperation with CHF, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Oxfam,

CHF and the bakeries involved in WFP's programme.

In the **West Bank**, WFP delivered 3,328 mt (86 trucks) of food commodities during the reporting period and distributed 4,252 mt to 289,775 beneficiaries, in cooperation with the MoEHE, MSA, NEF,

CRS and CHF.

Since 25 January the **Logistics Cluster** has delivered 6,812 pallets of humanitarian cargo to the Gaza Strip through Kerem Shalom crossing, on behalf of 33 cluster participants.

Picture:

Sebastian Scheiner
Tunisian actress Hend Sabry visits WFP voucher project in Nablus on 20 October



The number of trucks-per-day entering the Gaza Strip increased from 76 in September to 79 in October, but remains well below the

operating capacity of 150 per day. 84 percent of the trucks are private.

WFP CELEBRATES THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW SCHOOL FEEDING YEAR

Fatima Haniyah, 25-year-old and a mother of 6 children, spouse to one the CHF beneficiaries in Gaza, married at the age of 14 before continuing high school. Fatima's family is receiving WFP's assistance for the first time. She finally managed to provide her children with quality food at least twice a day compared to the simple food they were initially eating once a day. Her eyes were full of tears when she spoke about her children and their needs. "Having six children to feed is really hard". WFP's food is the only assistance we get. The start of the school year is approaching and we are unable to buy uniforms, but at least we can provide them with food. My children are particularly happy with the biscuits, it is the only dessert they can have".

Story and picture by Inas Sesalim, WFP Gaza, August 2009



On 21 October, WFP celebrated the launch of the new school feeding year together with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and the Near East Foundation (NEF). The event took place at the Asira Ash Shamaliya Boys School in Nablus, and was attended by the Minister of Education and the WFP Regional Director



for the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, during his visit to the oPt.

The school feeding programme in the Palestinian territory originally started in the West Bank in Janu-

ary 2007 in partnership with the MoEHE, UNIFEM and the NEF for 23,171 pupils receiving nutritious biscuits/pastries. Since then, then number of beneficiaries has only grown. During this new school year, WFP reaches 46,465 pupils in 148 basic schools in the West Bank, in addition to 17,164 children in 210 kindergartens. In Gaza, WFP ensures school feeding for 92,000 pupils enrolled in 156 basic schools, representing a total of 155,629 children in the occupied Palestinian territory.



Through school feeding, WFP addresses short-term hunger, enhances the educational achievement and concentration of the students, providing incentives to parents to keep their children in schools. Moreover, the programme provides an additional safety net for vulnerable families.

In addition to flavoured milk, there are 4 types of biscuits/snacks used in the programme: Date biscuits, sesame

biscuits, cinnamon rolls and za'tar pastry.



The school feeding programme enhances the local economy as the biscuits and pastries distributed in the West Bank are prepared by women centers and local bakers. The milk that is distributed in the West Bank and Gaza is procured for by dairy factories in the West Bank.



ONGOING AND UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

WFP, FAO and PCBS have carried out a quantitative **socio-economic and food security survey in the oPt**. While for Gaza preliminary findings are available and the full report is under impression, the final report for West Bank has been widely distributed and is available on WFP's and OCHA's websites (<http://www.wfpal.org/foodsecurity.aspx>).

The results will be combined with a **Market study** that has been carried

out in Gaza and the West Bank and the report is currently being finalized and will be available by the end of November. The results of the studies and assessments will be compiled into a **Comprehensive Food security and Vulnerability analysis** that will be published in the end of November. This will serve as the basis for the next WFP 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 in January 2010.

In the framework of the joint UNRWA/WFP **Bedouin assistance project in Area C** of the West Bank, UNRWA carried out a food security and nutrition survey in the areas of implementation, with the support of WFP and UNICEF. The data is being analyzed and the final report is expected in December.

Film Star Goes To Market With Palestinian Family

Nablus, 20 October 2009.

Tunisian actress Hend Sabry saw the impact of WFP's first food voucher scheme in the Middle East recently when she spent a day with a Palestinian family in Nablus. Her presence also put a smile on faces at a market where thousands of Palestinians spend the vouchers.

The Tunisian superstar walked through the bustling market in the old city of Nablus to the shop where Amal Bashir, a 45-year-old mother of five, regularly exchanges her WFP food voucher for milk eggs and cheese.



"I had been extremely embarrassed over the past year as I couldn't afford to buy the food my children need. I have been forced to feed my children on bread and oil with no protein which has really affected their health," Amal told HEND, as her five-year-old daughter looked on.



Hend Sabry was in Nablus to experience for herself the life of a WFP beneficiary in the West Bank. Spending a whole day with Amal, she witnessed her daily toil and, at the same time, she was able to gauge the impact of a ground-breaking WFP voucher scheme.

"The voucher has brought me back to the market and I am able to buy milk, eggs and cheese -- items which otherwise I could not afford. I really hope this programme doesn't stop as I don't know what I will do without it," she said.



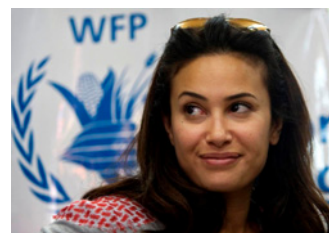
Amal's husband continues to do his best to meet the family's daily needs in difficult economic circumstances, going around on his cart selling vegetables. But it's never quite enough. That's why the family was recently enrolled in the urban voucher programme; before that they received no assistance at all.



"In the West Bank the main problem for people is money to buy food -- rather than food availability," said HEND, who was visiting the occupied Palestinian territory for the first time and had been in Ramallah for two days before arriving in Nablus. "The voucher programme really tackles this issue well, restoring a basic sense of dignity and allowing them to spend their money on other things they really need like medicines or school."

The voucher programme started in the West Bank last April as a pilot project targeting poor individuals living in urban areas. The scheme is designed to provide nutritional support to the poorest families and at the same time to promote local businesses and local producers.

The project now supports some 31,000 people in the West Bank and 15,000 people in the Gaza Strip.



Hend Sabry, 29, studied law and is in fact a syndicated lawyer. She says acting is only a hobby. Her popularity peaked across the Arabic-speaking world after starring in a popular 2008 television series. She is proud of her involvement with WFP. "I am honored to lend my voice to improve the lives of others. Celebrities can do a lot to raise awareness about human suffering around the world," she says.

Pictures: Sebastian Scheiner

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