



## World Food Programme

### WFP oPt at a glance (as of Oct. 2009)

<b>PRRO West Bank</b>	<i>Actual beneficiaries</i>
- General food distribution	305,008
- School feeding	62,392
<b>EMOP Gaza</b>	<i>Actual beneficiaries</i>
- General food distribution	296,812
- School feeding	92,336
<b>EMOP Food Voucher West Bank</b>	31,119
Current stock for Gaza (MT)	7,485*
Current stock for West Bank (MT)	9,590*

\* Includes WFP stocks only

Picture: Ancel Kats/WFP—WFP-UNRWA food distribution to marginalized families in area C of the West Bank, 10 September 2009.

# WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY SITUATION REPORT

Issue n. 15

1-15 September

## 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 thrives 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 334 mt (10 trucks) of food into the **Gaza Strip** between 30 August and 12 September and was able to distribute approximately 2,608 mt of food commodities to 101,880 beneficiaries in Gaza, in cooperation with CHF, the Ministry of

Social Affairs (MoSA) and the **bakeries** involved in WFP's programme.

In the **West Bank**, WFP delivered 1,461 mt (38 trucks) of food commodities during the reporting period and distributed 864 mt to 42,932 beneficiaries, in cooperation

with the MoSA, 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. The Cluster is awaiting clearance for items



**Mohammad Abed Rabbo**, 55 years old, lost his house and all his possessions when three missiles randomly hit his house in Beit Lahia in January 2009. Mohamed could only save what is most valuable to him, his family. 'Operation Cast Lead' left Mohamed injured in his leg, abdomen and hand, therefore unable to work, and his four sons homeless. They received temporary shelter and few donations from various charity groups, and WFP was of the first organizations that could reach and support them with food. A few weeks after the war, with the help of his neighbours and supporting agencies, he could build a small shelter next to his destroyed house, made of old shipment containers and few mats. Mohamed is no longer able to work, "In the past, I used to work in a factory and we had a small garden where we planted our own food, but now all has gone. I rely totally on WFP regular food assistance to cover our food needs."

Story and pictures by Inas Sesalim, WFP, August 2009

which have been waiting for up to 140 days; of particular concern are urgent medications which have been

awaiting clearance since over 65 days. The number of trucks entering Gaza per month has been on the decline since March 2009. The number of working days has also

shown a downward trend. Furthermore the percentage of private sector goods entering Gaza has been rising since July.

## FOCUS ON PCBS/WFP/FAO'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY SURVEY IN THE GAZA STRIP—PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

During Operation 'Cast Lead', the Gaza population reached a sudden peak in food insecurity with over 75 percent of Gaza Strip households' experiencing food insecurity, according to WFP's Rapid Food Security Assessment conducted in February 2009. While the report of the Socio-economic and food security survey conducted in May/June 2009 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in close cooperation with WFP and FAO is yet to be finalized, the preliminary findings show that **food insecurity now affects 60.5 percent of people in the Gaza Strip** (892,769 persons). This represents an increase of 4.5 percent since 2008.

At Governorate level, **Rafah is the worst affected one, with 66.1 percent of food insecure population**, followed by Gaza and Khan Younis with above 60 percent of food insecure population. Rural

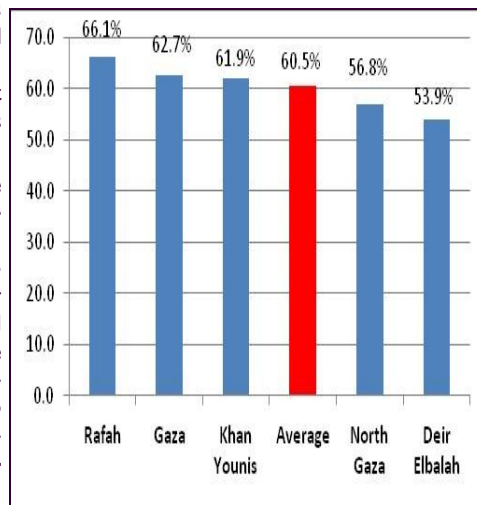


areas are more affected than urban areas by 6.7 percent, and refugee camps are more affected than urban areas by 2.3 percent. In addition, 16 percent of the population in the Gaza Strip is vulnerable to food insecurity.

Food insecurity is higher among the following groups: (i) destitute families ('Social hardship cases under the Ministry of Social Affairs' assistance programme to the poorest); (ii) school children; (iii) poor farmers; (iv) fishermen; (v) four categories of unemployed (chronic unemployed, unemployed due to the closure of Gaza since 2007, unemployed due to 'Cast Lead' and the newly graduates); (vi) casual workers (earning less than 240 NIS/capita/month); (vii) families affected by the Cast Lead operation that lost their assets and/or housing and those who are still IDPs; and (viii) pregnant and nursing mothers and children under 5.

It is important to note that the **food insecurity rate of 60.5 percent is 'post-assistance'**, i.e. after food assistance and relief transfers were taken into consideration. The survey also shows that food insecurity is primarily a **con-**

**sequence of income poverty and livelihoods erosion, leading to increased difficulties of households to afford sufficient quantities of quality food, if available.** In Gaza, most staple foods in markets reach the Strip through the Rafah tunnels and food continues to represent 70 percent of imports, with many products still not allowed entry. A growing number of households have no economic means to access goods and are still relying on coping mechanisms. **There is limited scope for improved food security and employment if Israel maintains the closure policy in the Gaza Strip.**



## ONGOING AND UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

Following the qualitative Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Gaza conducted in January 2009, 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 those of two other studies that are being conducted in the West Bank and in Gaza (**Market study and Qualitative study on livelihoods and food security**), before being compiled into a **Comprehensive**

**Food security and Vulnerability analysis** that will be published in 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 by the end of October 2009.

## WFP AND UNRWA PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE TO BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES IN AREA C WEST BANK

Ar Ramadin, 10 September 2009.

Today, WFP and UNRWA launched the first distributions of a joint food assistance programme targeting Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank. These marginalized communities have been affected by subsequent years of dry spells combined with deteriorated range lands, poor access to water, mobility restrictions to access other grazing land and lack of diversified livelihoods. The high food prices and water scarcity have pushed the communities into a deeper cycle of indebtedness and increased risk of livelihood erosion, hence justifying the need to deliver food assistance as part of a broader set of mid-term activities geared at ameliorating their households' food security and their economic self sufficiency.

Ar Ramadin village, one of the distribution points, is located in Adh Dhahiriya. It was originally part of Beersheba's Bedouin community living in the Negev desert and all residents trace their origins to the Negev Bedouin. When Israel occupied the homelands of the Bedouin in 1948, they were forced to migrate to the Adh Dhahiriya area, near their original lands. When gazing over the endless desert hills, the beauty of the scenery is swiftly spoiled by rubble shacks built against the bushy slopes, in addition to a scenery of deserted and arid streets in Ramadin, clear evidence of economic poverty and isolation.



Ahmad, 45 and a father of four, is a Bedouin refugee. Like many other Bedouin families in Ramadin, dependent on livestock trade, he used to own land on which he would herd his sheep. When the Israelis built the West Bank barrier, he got separated from his only livelihood and his world collapsed. Ahmad is not hiding his desperation. He has been unemployed for years now and has no more income. "Nobody is here to help us, we need jobs and my family survives every day on tea and bread" he says, "the children go to school every morning without eating breakfast". Today, WFP and UNRWA are bringing him the food that he needs so much. Ahmad is clearly relieved. He can ensure the meals for his wife and children for the time being, but above all this newly arrived support is giving him the hope that one day, it will continue and help strengthen the self sufficiency of his people and provide jobs for all the men and women.

The US\$ 3.2 million programme targets 5,200 refugee and non-refugee Bedouin families (or 36,400 beneficiaries) in Area C. WFP provides the monthly food rations (composed of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and salt) which are distributed to the communities by UNRWA, in three cycles until the end of May 2010.

*Pictures by Ancel Kats, WFP*



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