



World Food Programme

WFP oPt at a glance

PRRO (West Bank) planned beneficiaries 413,000

EMOP Gaza planned beneficiaries 365,000

EMOP Food Voucher (West Bank) planned beneficiaries 31,000

Current stock in Gaza (MT) 2,430*

Current stock in West Bank (MT) 5,110*

* Includes WFP warehouses only

Picture: Arafat Abus Rass MoSA. 12/08/2009, WFP-Japan (JICA) signing ceremony for a USD 2.8 million support to the WFP operation in the oPt

WFP OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SITUATION REPORT

Issue n. 13

4 August – 18 August

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 the conflict in Gaza 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 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 and Food-for-Training to contrib-



ute to and promote self-reliance by preserving agricultural assets to restore livelihoods.

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). The **EMOP** targets 365,000 beneficiaries — which represents 80 percent of the non-refugee population in Gaza. The operation aims 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. WFP also thrives to maintain the enrolment of children in schools through the daily distribution of milk, biscuits and canned meat to around 50,000 children in selected schools. This figure will raise to 92,000 at the beginning of the next school year.

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 is to be implemented in Gaza as well as of October) 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

WFP delivered around 311 mt of vegetable oil, salt and sugar into the **Gaza Strip** between 2 and 15 August and was able to distribute approximately 2,195 mt of food commodities to 75,920 beneficiaries in Gaza, in cooperation with the MoSA, CHF and the bakeries involved in WFP's programme.

Between 2 and 15 August, the **Logistics Cluster** transported into Gaza 63 pallets composed of hygiene and kitchen kits, empty plastic jerricans, on behalf of one organization; this brings the total of commodities transported into Gaza by the Log Cluster to 6,746 pallets since 25 January 2009, on behalf of 28 organizations.

In the **West Bank**, WFP delivered 1,173 mt (31 trucks) of food commodities during the reporting period and distributed 2,194 mt to 50,847 beneficiaries in Jericho, Hebron, Tubas, Jenin, Qalqiliya, Yatta and Bethlehem governorates, in cooperation with the MoSA, CRS and CHF.

Memorandums of Understanding with partners are currently being revised, extended and/or finalized with the MoSA (EMOP Gaza and PRRO West Bank), Oxfam (urban voucher project UVP) in Gaza as of October), CHF and

CRS (operations in Gaza and the West Bank). Preparations for the next school year are also ongoing with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Near East Foundation.

On 12 August, a WFP-Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signature event took place in Ramalah with the local press, for a US\$ 2.8 million support from Japan to the WFP operation in oPt. The following day, WFP Country Director met with the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Ismail Daiq, in order

to strengthen the cooperation between the Ministry and WFP's current and coming activities related to food security. Ranging from review of food for work activities to local procurement and climate change issues, areas of enhanced collaboration have been

discussed to fit into the Minister's eight priorities for the Agricultural Sector in the oPt.

Beneficiary families

Hebron city	899
Nablus city	221
Bethlehem city	650
Jenin city	223
Total	1,993

FOCUS ON WFP'S BREAD PROJECT IN THE WEST BANK

In the course of 2007, in the framework of its assistance to the destitute implemented in cooperation with the MoSA, WFP observed that urban dwellers in general prefer to **buy bread rather than bake it, in light of the high cost of electricity and gas**. In addition, the nature of these beneficiaries themselves (elderly, handicapped, etc.) often implies that **a good proportion of those assisted do not have the ability to bake bread**. Following a joint MoSA/WFP assessment on the beneficiaries' habits in terms of wheat flour and bread usage review, which confirmed field observations, WFP and MoSA agreed to include a bread distribution **pilot project in Hebron city** – which was launched in **September 2007**. Given its success in better meeting the needs of beneficiaries in cities, confirmed by a project review conducted by WFP in February 2008, the bread project has since been **expanded to Nablus and Bethlehem cities in April 2009 and Jenin last month**.

The modalities of the project, jointly implemented by WFP and the MoSA,

are as follows: The MoSA provides the list of destitute beneficiaries in each of the cities, which are continuously being reviewed. The lists are then organized by household size and clustered by neighborhood. In each of the cities, WFP delivers wheat flour to bakeries (at a fixed exchange rate that was established by WFP and satisfying to the bakeries), which in turn bake the bread before delivering it to various distribution points in the city selected by WFP and the MoSA. Instead of receiving wheat flour, the beneficiaries receive coupons (based on the household size) that are exchanged three times a week at selected grocery stores in their neighborhood. Against a compensation for their participation in the project, store owners sign receipt vouchers from bakers, collect coupons from beneficiaries and ensure that the bread is kept in good conditions. The whole process is carefully monitored and continuously adjusted by WFP and the MoSA. Signs outside stores indicate their participation



in the project and posters providing entitlement information are displayed in the stores.

Overall, the project currently assists **1,993 families in the four cities**, i.e. approximately **10,970 people**. **Five bakeries** are currently contracted by WFP, as well as **68 distribution points**. Since its inception and as of June 2009, **over 723 mt of bread** has been distributed to the beneficiaries.

The project, using WFP's own resources, enables the beneficiary population to cut down their household expenditures, while supporting small businesses. WFP is now looking at the feasibility, real needs and modalities to ex-

Photo: Majdi Dana & Nizar Khadder/WFP, May 2009, Bethlehem

CURRENT 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 data collection is completed in Gaza, with data cleaning currently ongoing, the main findings for West Bank are available

and have been shared by WFP (available on WFP's website). Preliminary results for Gaza are expected in the first half of September. 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 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

SHORTFALLS & NEEDS

We thank our donors for their generous contributions; at the moment the top five donors to WFP oPt for 2009 are USAID, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Russia and the European Commission.

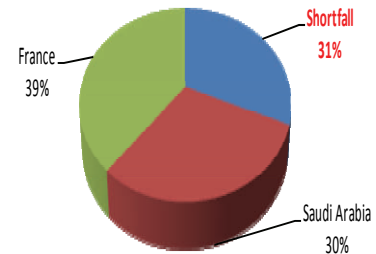
Operational requirements for the EMOP Gaza and the PRRO have been recalculated until June 2010. While needs for both operations are mostly covered until the end of 2009, WFP continues to seek US\$33 million and US\$25 million to

cover respectively the PRRO and the EMOP until June 2010. Contributions for the first semester of 2010 should be confirmed at the latest in November 2009 in order to allow WFP to procure and transport food commodities.

A reduction of WFP operations in the West Bank and/or Gaza would have severe consequences on the food security level of the Palestinian families who are in need of and highly dependent on food assistance.

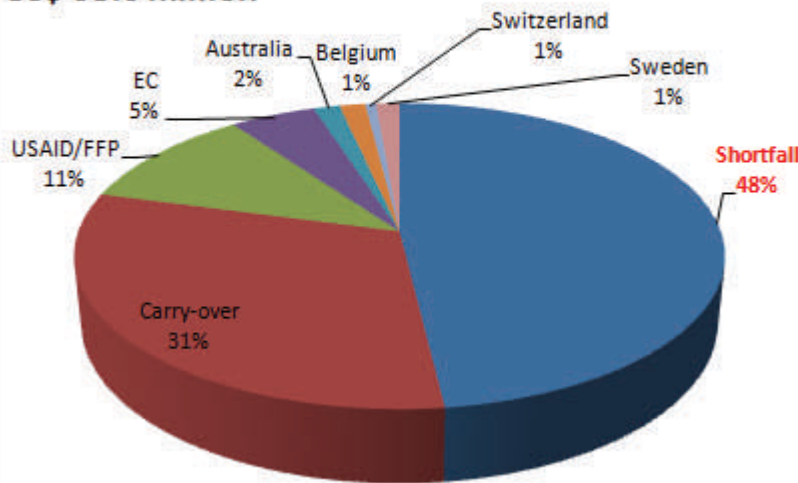
Food Voucher EMOP - West Bank

Total requirements 2009: US\$ 6.6 million



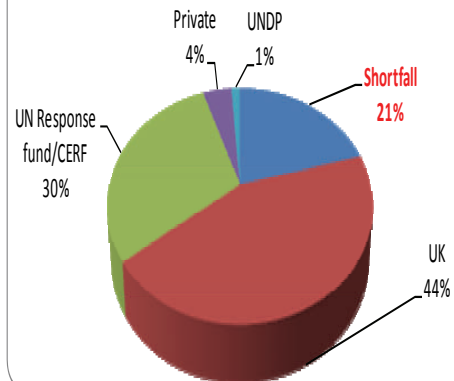
PRRO - West Bank

Total requirements Jan.2009-June 2010: US\$ 68.6 million



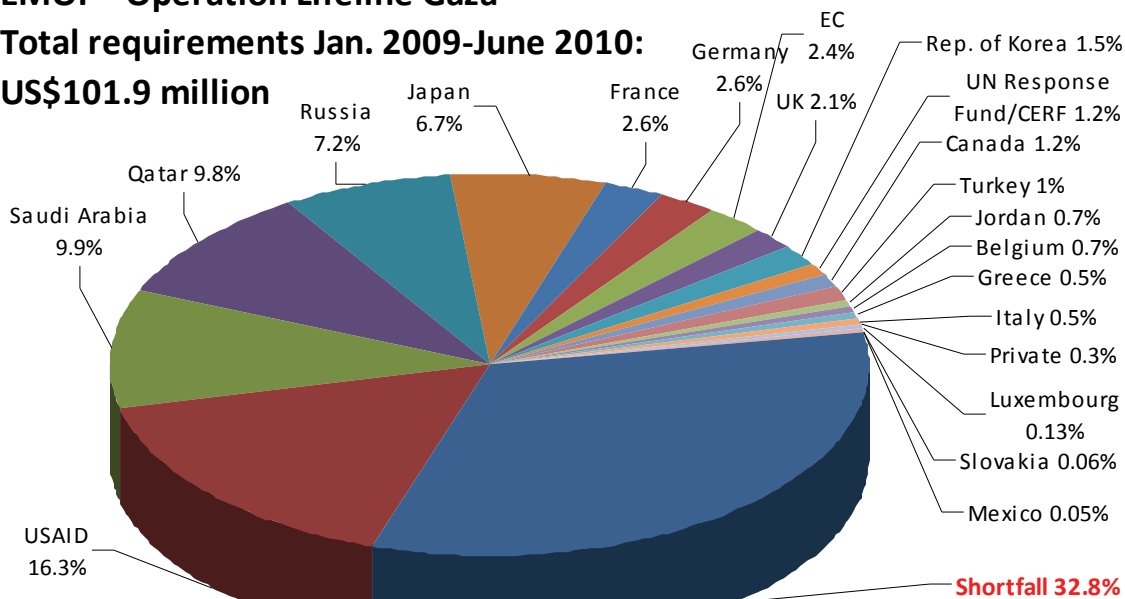
Special Operation - Logistic Cluster

Total requirements 2009: US\$ 3.3 million



EMOP - Operation Lifeline Gaza

Total requirements Jan. 2009-June 2010: US\$101.9 million



For comments or questions on the content of this report, please contact Ancel Kats, Reporting Officer

Ancel.kats@wfp.org
0546-773128