

Regional Bureau for the Middle East Central Asia & Eastern Europe

Executive Board
First Session
9 – 13 February 2009



Operation Lifeline Gaza

Food Crisis as a Result of the Conflict

- Food Supply Chain collapsed.
- Many basic food items no longer available in the market.
- Shortages of cooking gas and fuel and frequent power cuts.
- The price of bread has doubled in many areas.
- Restricted access to land for agricultural activities.
- People running out of money to buy limited stocks available.
- At least 500,000 without access to running water, making household food preparation difficult.



Operation Lifeline Gaza



- Ramping up of WFP support to provide vital food assistance to Palestinians in Gaza.
- Use of ready-to-eat food products including date bars, high energy biscuits and MRE's given the lack of food supplies and inability to prepare food.
- Use of every available access route to ensure regular delivery of supplies including the Egyptian corridor.

How many people need help?

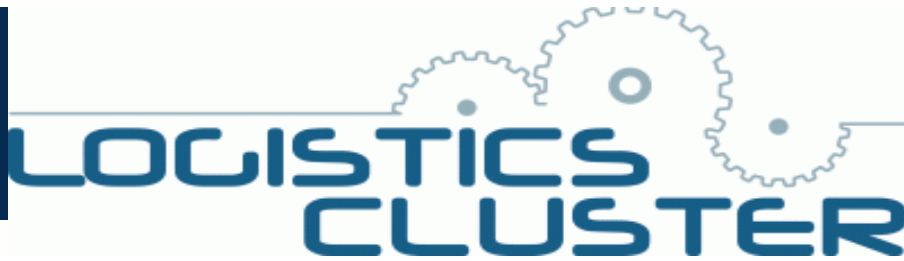


- Prior to the conflict WFP provided assistance to **265,000** of the non-refugee Palestinians and UNRWA gave food support to 750,000 of the total 1 million Palestinian refugees.
- It is estimated that an additional 300,000 Palestinians (refugees and non-refugees) over 80% of the total population of Gaza now need food assistance.
- Out of this number, WFP has added 100,000 people to its regular food distribution programme, to reach a total of **365,000**.

Who have we reached so far?



- ❖ Since 27 December, WFP has succeeded to distribute 3,165 mt of food commodities to vulnerable populations in Gaza.
- ❖ The number of beneficiaries reached by WFP with a two-month ration (from the regular caseload) since 27 Dec now stands at 221,000
- ❖ WFP re-started school feeding operations on 26 January, targeting **40,000 children** with full rations as well as date bars.



WFP Lead Agency

- ❖ WFP facilitating the consolidation, prioritization and dispatch of humanitarian relief into Gaza on behalf of the entire humanitarian community.
- ❖ Logistics cells established at all border entry points including Al Arish in Egypt.
- ❖ Deployment of logistics staff with coordination, civil-military liaison and information management expertise to support the humanitarian community



WFP Financial Requirements for 2009

- ❖ Gaza (Emergency operation) **US\$ 78.9 million**
- ❖ In-kind food contributions including wheat flour, cereals, pulses, sugar, salt, canned meat, fortified veg. oil, HEBs, MREs
- ❖ SO – Logistics Cluster **US\$ 3.4 million**
- ❖ Contributions received to date **US\$ 14 million**

Shortfall US\$ 68.3 million



WFP Reconstruction and Early Recovery Plans in Gaza



- Support restoration of the food pipeline and local markets including through cash vouchers schemes.
- Partnership with FAO to support local farmers and to promote food security.
- Reconstruction and housing and shelter projects where possible.

Kyrgyzstan Winter Emergency Operation



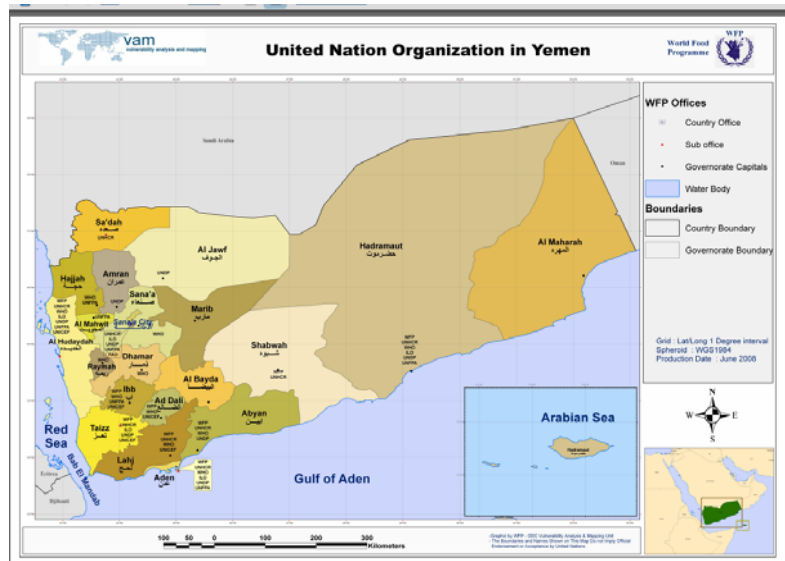
- Food insecurity resulting from downturn in remittances from expatriate workers in Russia and Kazakhstan.
- High food and fuel prices and harsh winters.
- Assessments reveal that 30 % of the country's population is food insecure, every fifth person severely.
- WFP Emergency Operation to meet the needs of some 580,000 of the most vulnerable, particularly those in remote high altitude villages.

Scaling up in Tajikistan



- Communities hit by high food and fuel prices combined with one of the coldest winters on record in 2008.
- Reduced remittances from abroad as a result of the economic crisis.
- 30 % of the country's population is food insecure 800,000 of them severely.
- Expansion of the WFP PRRO to meet the needs of over 1 million most affected under a UN Flash Appeal focused on food security.

Responding to Complex Crises in Yemen



- High food prices have affected food security (1 in 3) Yemenis now suffers from chronic hunger 7.4 million.
- Floods in Hadramout in October 2008 left 20,000 homeless and affected the livelihoods of some 700,000.
- A tense situation prevails in conflict – affected Saada Region

The WFP Response in Yemen



- Emergency Operation to respond to the needs of 511.000 of the poorest Yemenis affected by high food prices
- Assistance to flood-affected 25,000 people in Hadramout through an emergency flood operation.
- Food Assistance to 100,000 war affected people in the Saada.
- With the Country Programme and support to Somali Refugees, the total number of beneficiaries in Yemen now stands at **1.5 million**

Support to IDP and Refugee Operations

IRAQ



- A WFP/ Government Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) in November 2008 reveals that while overall food security in Iraq has improved, close to one million remain food insecure.
- WFP's Regional EMOP provides assistance to 750,000 IDPs inside Iraq and 362,800 displaced Iraqis in Syria.



Algeria

- General relief rations along with supplementary and school feeding to the most vulnerable among the refugees living in camps around Tindouf.



Iran

- General food rations to vulnerable Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in 16 camps throughout Iran, and oil incentive to primary and secondary school girls and teachers.

Support to IDP and Refugee Operations

Georgia



- WFP is continuing general food distributions to all newly displaced persons as well as IDPs already covered in the ongoing PRRO, who were also affected by the conflict.
- A direct cash transfer activity is being implemented as a joint programme led by WFP with UNICEF and UNCHR. The IDPs affected by the south Ossetia conflict will receive cash. Cash transfers will give beneficiaries the chance to purchase complementary food commodities to provide additional calories during the cold winter months.

Yemen

- Food assistance to 43,500 Somali refugees



Fostering Innovation

- Support to Government Development Plans with innovative projects and pilots under the new strategic plan
(Egypt, Jordan & Syria)
- Facilitate partnerships to support national food security and fortification plans and strategies
(Egypt & The South Caucasus)
- Capacity-building (nutritionists, food technologists, safety net experts) to support national and regional programmes.
- Piloting innovative, new programmes including cash vouchers. (OPT, Syria, Georgia, Tajikistan)



Fostering Innovation

- Cross fertilization of ideas and learning through exchanges and sharing of experience. Visits to the Regional Bureau and Egypt Country office projects from oPt, Jordan, Syria & Russia Counterparts.
- Identifying additional opportunities for national and regional procurement.