



Operation Lifeline Gaza

20 January 2009

Facts and Figures

People supported by WFP in Gaza:	365,000 people
Cost of WFP operations in Gaza:	US\$81.2 million (Food operations US\$77.8 million, Logistics US\$3.4 million)
Time frame:	January to December 2009

The current situation in Gaza

- On 27 December 2008, large-scale conflict broke out all over the Gaza Strip. The continued conflict is resulting in a serious humanitarian and food crisis. As of 15 January, 1,300 Palestinians have been killed and 5,300 injured.
- A unilateral ceasefire was declared by Israel at 0200 hrs (0000 hrs GMT) on 18 January. Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) troops remain inside Gaza, but have withdrawn from some of the most populated areas
- Basic commodities are in short supply and there is no more wheat grain at the mills. As a practical example of what this means to Palestinians, bakeries in Gaza are about to finish their flour stocks, and currently only nine bakeries remain open. People are waiting in six hour queues to get a small parcel of bread.
- The price of bread in many areas has doubled since the conflict began. Many people are running out of money to buy the limited stocks available in markets.
- An estimated 1.4 million people live in the Gaza Strip. Among these, 1,015,000 (750,000 UNRWA plus 365,000 for WFP) are targeted for food assistance.
- There is a serious shortage of both transport fuel and gas for cooking, as supply lines have been cut by the conflict.
- As of 18 January, an additional 100,000 people have access to running water, though approximately 400,000 Gazans still remain without running water. Sewage continues to flow in the streets in some communities.

WFP response

- Since the air strikes started, WFP has been able to deliver 3,774 mt of food into Gaza. WFP warehouses are currently storing 4,300 mt of food commodities which represents around 75 percent of their full storage capacity. However, because of security conditions, WFP only has access to 66 percent of existing stocks.
- WFP has distributed 1,850 mt of food to people in Gaza by WFP since 27 December. WFP has reached 150,500 people, with a two month ration of wheat flour and 40,000 people, with a one-off distribution of emergency rations of bread and high energy biscuits (including 6000 hospital patients) for a total of 190,500 people, or 52%. WFP is not yet able to operate at full capacity due to security conditions.
- A total of 85 truck loads carrying 2,550 mt of wheat flour and biscuits are poised to move from Israel to the Gaza Strip.
- In its capacity as lead agency of the humanitarian Logistics Cluster, WFP is also facilitating the consolidation, prioritization and dispatch of humanitarian relief items into Gaza on behalf of the overall aid community by setting up staging areas in Israel, the West bank and Egypt. The cost of these activities is US\$3.4 million.
- In light of the limited availability of cooking gas and water, WFP is providing immediately consumable foods such as ready-to-eat meals as well as high energy biscuits and date bars. 5,238 ready-to-eat meals moved to Israel from Egypt through the Nitzana crossing point on 14 January and WFP is negotiating clearance to move these urgent supplies into Gaza as soon as possible.
- WFP currently has 14 staff inside Gaza, with additional staff deployed in Israel and Egypt to support relief operations.
- WFP urgently requires additional contributions to continue providing urgent food assistance.

Resourcing Update

- Out of the US\$81.2 million, taking into account the recently confirmed contributions of US\$7.35 from Australia, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, WFP requires US\$73.8 million for its ongoing operations in Gaza.

Urgent Requirements include:

- Cash for purchase of commodities, and to support WFP and inter-agency logistics activities
- In-kind contributions of MREs, HEBs or date bars.
- Funding for the Special Operation (US\$3.4 million) to enable WFP to provide inter-agency logistics support.

Total amount still required US\$73.8 million.