



**USAID grant 294-IO-13-00002
WFP Palestine**

Annual Report

14 March 2013 - 30 September, 2014

DISCLAIMER

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Background

On 14 March 2013, the USAID grant 294–IO-13-00002 valued at US\$50 million was awarded to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Palestine for the period 14 March 2013 – 13 March 2016.

Below is the chronology of cash contributions under this grant:

- March 2013 –USD 15.5 million
- March 2013 –USD 10.0 million
- July 2014 – USD 5.8 million
- August 2014 – USD 3.5 million

WFP has also received contributions from Food for Peace (FFP):

- February 2014 – USD 7.4 million (in-kind wheat grain)
- July 2014 – USD 2.5 million

All US-funded activities were implemented in the West Bank and Gaza with Global Communities (formerly CHF) as WFP`s implementing partner. While WFP took full responsibility for food procurement and weekly top up of vouchers, the cooperation with Global Communities was on several levels such as beneficiary targeting, food distribution, voucher distribution and field monitoring.

In the West Bank and Gaza, one of WFP`s programmes is the assistance to Vulnerable Groups (AVG) programme, which helps meet basic food needs and improves dietary diversity of the most vulnerable and food insecure non-refugee population. This is done through two mechanisms: direct food distribution, and food vouchers. This operation contributes to the Millennium Development Goals (Reduce poverty and eradicate hunger), as well as to the U.S government Humanitarian Assistance Plan`s objective to provide “Protection, Assistance, and Solutions” for vulnerable populations.

Under this grant, USAID continued to support the standard food rations for direct food distributions, including fortified wheat flour, pulses (mainly chickpeas), enriched vegetable oil, sugar and iodized salt. In Gaza, 85,000 beneficiaries received General Food Assistance/food (GFA/Food) and the food ration covered approximately 70-90 percent of a person`s daily caloric needs. The food rations which were distributed every two months were proportionally adjusted to the size of the eligible families:

Table 1: GFA/food ration per family category in Gaza:

Commodities	Ration per category (The ration covered beneficiaries` needs for two months)			
	CAT 1 (1-2 members)	CAT 2 (3-5 members)	CAT 3 (6-8 members)	CAT 4 (9 and above members)
Wheat flour (kg)	50	100	150	200
Pulses (kg)	2	5	8	12
OIL (liter)	4	8	12	16
Sugar (kg)	2	5	8	12
Salt (kg)	1	1	2	3
Total food ration (kg)	59	119	180	243

In addition, a total of 10,000 people received food assistance through the combined food/voucher modality. Those beneficiaries received US-funded in-kind food of wheat flour combined with a reduced value-based voucher which has been funded by other donors.

Table 2: combined food/voucher US-funded wheat flour ration per family category in Gaza:

Commodities	Ration per category (the ration covered beneficiaries` needs for two months)			
	CAT 1 (1-2 members)	CAT 2 (3-5 members)	CAT 3 (6-8 members)	CAT 4 (9 and above members)
Wheat flour (kg)	-	100	150	200

The goal of the combined food/voucher assistance modality is to reach vulnerable households which have few resources to improve their food consumption and close dietary gaps.

In July/August 2014, the 51-day conflict in Gaza resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. WFP has provided internally displaced people (IDPs) who stay in UNRWA shelters ready-to-eat food, reaching at the peak of the conflict more than 331,000 IDPs in August 2014. With the announcement of a prolonged ceasefire on 26 August 2014, the number of IDPs decreased gradually. Thanks to US funding WFP was able to procure canned meat, canned tuna, biscuits, UHT Milk, canned peas, wheat flour and food parcels to IDPs who took refuge in UNRWA shelters in the five governorates of the Gaza Strip. WFP is planning to continue providing food assistance to the IDPs until June 2015 based on needs assessments.

The food ration that WFP provided to the IDPs was part of a collective effort with UNRWA that complemented it with other types of basic food such as fresh vegetables, cheese, halwa (sweet sesame) and UNRWA-sourced canned meat. WFP took responsibility for procuring the food and delivering it to UNRWA warehouses and distribution points while UNRWA was in full charge of the distribution of the food to the IDPs inside the shelters.

In the West Bank, the US-funded beneficiary caseload received GFA/Food assistance every three months, covering around 60 percent¹ of the daily caloric requirements. Similar to the implementation in Gaza, food rations are adjusted to four different household size:

¹ Due to funding shortfalls WFP distributed food ration that covered 40 percent of the GFA/food beneficiaries during the period 1 April- 30 June 2014.

Table 3: GFA/food ration per family category in the West Bank:

Commodities	Ration per category (the ration covered beneficiaries` needs for three months)			
	CAT 1 (1-2 members)	CAT 2 (3-5 members)	CAT 3 (6-8 members)	CAT 4 (9 and above members)
Wheat flour (kg)	50	100	150	200
Pulses (kg)	2	5	9	12
OIL (liter)	4	8	12	16
Sugar (kg)	1.5	4	6	8
Salt (kg)	1	2	3	4
Total food ration (kg)	58.5	119	180	240

Another WFP`s activity which has been covered by this USAID grant is the General Food Assistance/Voucher (GFA/Voucher) in the West Bank. Vouchers (in the form of electronic cards) give the beneficiary in urban and semi-urban areas a small amount of credit per week which can be used to purchase from a pre-determined list of staple food at a local shop. This list consists of 13 different food products including: eggs, bread, milk, yogurt, Labaneh (yogurt cream), white cheese, all types of pulses, all types of cereals, salt, canned fish, Tahina (sesame paste), vegetable oil and olive oil.

The Palestinian voucher programme is designed not only to provide an additional food transfer, but also to: 1) promote national production, through the inclusion of Palestinian-produced or processed food products²; and 2) to support the micro-economy, through participating local grocery stores. Both these objectives have an impact on supporting livelihoods and employment.

Under the continued monitoring and evaluation of the voucher programme, results of the November 2014 `Secondary Impact of WFP's Voucher Program in Palestine' confirmed a strong direct and secondary impact of the voucher programme on beneficiary households, participating retailers, and local dairy producers whose commodities are redeemed through the electronic vouchers. Some of the key findings of the impact of the voucher programme are shown below including:

- Nine percent (9%) improvement in households' dietary diversity in comparison in kind recipients;
- Every voucher dollar generates 40 cents of additional sales at participating shops;
- Participating shops have stimulated the local economy through \$772,000 of investments;
- A total of 485 new jobs in participating shops and affiliated producers were created since the start of the program;
- More than US\$64,000 of VAT revenue for the government is generated every month; and,
- 65 percent (65%) of participating processors attribute increased sales to greater distribution through the programme.

Beneficiary eligibility:

² Approximately 90 per cent of the predetermined list of food staples under the GFA/voucher programme in the West Bank are locally produced.

WFP's General Food Assistance (GFA), through both in-kind food and food voucher, targets households below the extreme poverty line with low or borderline food consumption scores (FCS), and who are not receiving social assistance transfers from the national social safety net. Priority is given to vulnerable, food-insecure groups: the elderly and chronically ill, families with disabled members and women-headed households. Periodic retargeting ensures that WFP's beneficiary lists are updated regularly and that WFP's assistance is targeted at the households who most need food assistance.

The targeting is a process carried out using a Proxy Means Test Formula (PMTF). The formula estimates households expenditure by associating indicators, or 'proxies', with household expenditure or consumption. The targeting application form also collects household food consumption information which provides data used to calculate a household's FCS. The FCS estimates the amount and variety of food consumed in the households during the seven days preceding the survey, by counting the number of times specific food items (grouped in specific food groups) are consumed. Three groups are constructed by applying thresholds that define a 'poor' food consumption pattern, 'borderline' food consumption, and 'acceptable' food consumption. WFP is using the FCS in order to determine the most appropriate transfer modality, i.e. to the GFA/voucher programme or to GFA/food programme, noting that the voucher modality can only be implemented in urban or semi-urban areas.

The result of the targeting process is two indicators—estimated household expenditure and food consumption score—are then used by WFP to target and provide food assistance to households with insufficient access to food. WFP does not determine eligibility based on poverty alone, but also considers the FCS of households, as WFP focuses its assistance on improving and ensuring adequate food consumption.

In the West Bank, in 2010, WFP combined the PMTF with the FCS methodology when targeting the beneficiary caseload, and in the Gaza Strip, the first retargeting exercise took place in the period between June and November of 2011.

The last retargeting exercise in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was conducted according to the below timeline:

Table 4: WFP's retargeting exercise timeline in Gaza and the West Bank

October–December 2013	Data collection and verification in the West Bank
January – March 2014	Data collection and verification in the Gaza Strip
February 2014	Initial results available for West Bank voucher beneficiaries.
April 2014	Initial results available for Gaza Strip
April – May 2014	Final retargeting results available
May – July 2014	WFP and partner programme teams in West Bank and Gaza Strip inform beneficiaries of any changes and make operational adjustment as needed
September – October 2014	New beneficiary list applied in West Bank assistance activities: July/September GFA/food distribution cycle and GFA/voucher (as of 1 October 2014)

While the results of the retargeting were implemented according to the set timeline in the West Bank-- the GFA/food beneficiary caseload starting from July/September food distribution cycle, and the GFA/voucher as of 1 October 2014-- the implementation of the results of the retargeting was put on hold in Gaza due to the outbreak of the July/August

conflict which could have impacted the level of needs. WFP and partners will conduct another re-targeting exercise during the first quarter of 2015 calendar year to capture new needs as a consequence of the conflict.

A number of rules and regulations govern the implementation of this grant. These are embodied in the following documents:

- USAID WB/Gaza Mission Order 21 on anti-terrorism procedures, (Notice 2006-WBG-13, which includes vetting forms, prohibition against support for Terrorism, restrictions of facility names, in addition to Notice 2009-WBG-11 issued on June 30, 2009.
- The standard implementation procedures for USAID-supported food assistance activities under the WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in the West Bank and Gaza. The Standard Implementation Procedures (SIP) for USAID-supported food assistance activities in the West Bank and Gaza have been last updated in June 2013.
- Prohibition on financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority.
- Value added tax and customs duties.

US-funded Activities in Fiscal Year 2013:

WFP and the USAID signed the US\$50 million grant on 14 March 2013; however, surplus of funding from the previous USAID contribution covered food assistance activities until a latter period. In Gaza, the GFA/food and the combined food/voucher activities were implemented with funding from the old grant until the end of September, and in the West Bank the GFA/food activity until the end of September 2013 and the GFA/voucher activity until mid-July 2013.

US-funded activities in Gaza FY 2013:

GFA/food and combined food/voucher: The food basket provided to the target beneficiaries did not change in terms of quantity and type throughout FY 2013. Nevertheless, given the surplus of funding from the old grant, WFP utilized money from the new grant to procure only 1,100 metric tons of wheat flour for food assistance activities in Gaza.

During the reporting period the target number of beneficiaries was 95,000, consisting of 85,000 GFA/food beneficiaries and additional 10,000 beneficiaries under the combined food/voucher programme. However, as the target number of GFA/food beneficiaries was 115,00 until 31 December 2013, WFP reached in FY 2013 a total of 124,889 food insecure people³.

In Gaza, GFA/food assistance was implemented in three governorates in a total of 21 localities: Gaza (11 localities), North Gaza (4 localities) and Khan Yunis (6 localities):

Table 5: GFA/food distribution in Gaza areas FY 2013

	Governorate	Localities
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³ 115,000 GFA/food beneficiaries and 9,889 combined food/voucher beneficiaries.

US-funded GFA/food programme GS	Gaza	11
	North Gaza	4
	Khan Yunis	6
	Total	21

US-funded activities in the West Bank FY 2013:

GFA/food: The food basket provided to the target beneficiaries did not change in terms of quantity and type throughout FY 2013. Similar to the situation in Gaza funding surplus from the USAID old grant allowed WFP to implement the activity until the end of September 2013. The number of target beneficiaries was 45,000 and during FY2013 WFP reached 44,948 beneficiaries, nearly 100 per cent of the planned beneficiary caseload.

In the West Bank, GFA/food assistance was implemented in five governorates and in 108 localities:

Table 6: GFA/food distribution in the West Bank areas FY 2013

US-funded GFA/food programme WB	Governorate	Localities
	Hebron	59
	Nablus	14
	Tulkarem	18
	Jenin	16
	Tubas	1
	Total	108

GFA/voucher: During FY 2013, funding of the GFA/voucher programme was secured through the USAID old grant funds until mid-July 2013. The remaining period of FY 2013 - part of July, August and September 2013- was covered with funds from the new grant.

The target number of voucher beneficiaries throughout FY 2013 was 63,000 and with the US funds WFP was able to reach 61,768 in six governorates of the West Bank: Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus and Qalqilia.

Table 7: number of voucher beneficiaries per Governorate FY 2013

Number of reached voucher beneficiaries FY 2013			
WB	Governorate	Partner	Beneficiaries
	Bethlehem	Global Communities	3,960
	Hebron	Global Communities	38,005
	Jenin	Global Communities	5,207
	Jerusalem	Global Communities	1,019
	Nablus	Global Communities	10,308
	Qalqiliya	Global Communities	3,269

	Total	61,768
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In average, the value of a food voucher amounted to US\$13.6 per person per month. However, each recipient family received one voucher with a credit value adjusted to the family size:

- Category one: households with 1-2 members;
- Category two: households with 3-5 members;
- Category three: households with 6-8 members; and
- Category four: households with 9 and above members.

Table 8: Redemption rate and US\$ value of vouchers

Redemption rate and US\$ value of vouchers redeemed in West Bank (July-August-September 2013)	
Redemption Rate (%)	99.5%
Total Value (US\$)	1,524,600

As of 1 January 2014, the average value of an electronic food voucher was reduced from US\$13.6 to US\$10 per capita per month to adjust it to the value of the food basket distributed to beneficiaries under the GFA/Food programme.

US-funded Activities in Fiscal Year 2014:

In FY 2014, US funding continued to be allocated to GFA/food in Gaza and GFA/food and GFA/voucher in the West Bank. The target number of beneficiaries did not change; however, the reached number of beneficiaries was different from the planned numbers, in the West Bank due to funding shortfalls and in Gaza due to the 2014 summer conflict.

US-funded activities in Gaza FY 2014:

GFA/food and Combined Food/Voucher: The number of the US-funded regular beneficiary caseload remained 95,000 during FY2014, a total of 85,000 beneficiaries of GFA/food and 10,000 combined food/voucher. The food basket provided to the regular target beneficiaries did not change in terms of ration size and type of food. The food basket consisted of wheat flour, chickpeas, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. Beneficiaries targeted under the combined food/voucher programme continued receiving US-funded wheat flour alongside the non-US funded reduced value voucher.

Similar to FY 2013, WFP implemented the GFA/food and the combined food/voucher activities in three governorates and in 21 localities:

Table 9: GFA/food distribution in Gaza governorates/localities in FY 2014

US-funded GFA/food	Governorate	Localities
	Gaza	11
	North Gaza	4

programme GS	Khan Yunis	6
	Total	21

In FY2014, WFP reached a total of 95,107 beneficiaries (100.1%) out of the planned 95,000 beneficiaries: 85,285 through GFA/food and 9,822 through the combined food/voucher.

Table 10: Number of people assisted through GFA/Food FY 2014

Number of reached beneficiaries through GFA/food and combined food/voucher FY2014			
	Governorate	GFA/food	Combined food/voucher
GS	Gaza	45,352	4,907
	North	16,423	2,933
	Khan Yunis	23,510	1,982
		85,285	9,822
	Total	95,107	

The food commodities that were distributed to the beneficiaries were both US and non-US funded. A total of 14,805.66 metric tons were distributed, including more than 2/3 US-funded.

Table 11: US and non-US food commodities distributed in Gaza in FY 2014:

US and Non-Us funded metric tons of food commodities March 2013-September 2014		
Distribution Cycle	US	Non-US
Sep-Dec 2013	625.74	4,316.58
Jan-Mar 2014	2,244.268	233.971
Apr-Jun 2014	4,900.943	29.361
Jul-Sep 2014	2,453.80	0
	10,225.751	4,579.912
Total mt	14,805.66 mt	

Food assistance to IDPs in UNRWA shelters⁴: Two contributions from the USAID, US\$5.8 million and US\$3.5 million, were granted to WFP during Gaza Crisis to provide emergency and recovery food assistance to the entire internally displaced households who took refuge in UNRWA shelters. At the peak of the conflict WFP reached a total of 331,059

⁴ All figures related to IDPs, including number of beneficiaries and food distribution, are based on UNRWA database.

IDPs in the five governorates of the Gaza Strip. With a prolonged ceasefire coming into effect on 26 August 2014, the number of IDPs gradually dropped.

Table 12: number of IDPs reached in UNRWA shelters in FY 2014:

Governorate	Aug-14	Sep-14
	No of IDP's	No of IDP's
Gaza	75,359	10,612
North Gaza	135,199	25,425
Middle area	12,069	6,745
Khan Younis	54,574	12,762
Rafah	53,858	10,238
Total	331,059	65,782

Displaced people due to the conflict who were present at UNRWA shelters were eligible to receive this US-funded food assistance, regardless of their refugee and non-refugee status. In August 2014, the food ration per IDP per day consisted of 1,108 gram of: bread, canned meat/canned tuna, UHT milk, fortified biscuits and canned pulses. The food ration was reduced in September 2014 to 625 gram per IDP per day and consisted of: bread, UHT milk and canned pulses.

Table 13: food ration provided to IDPs in UNRWA shelters:

US-funded food item	Ration (g/person/day)	
	Aug-14	Sep-14
Bread	233	242
Canned meat	267	-
Or Tuna	185	-
UHT Milk	250	250
Biscuits (only for children 6-24 months)	40	-
Canned pulses	130	130
Total g/per person/per day	1,108	625

In addition, the US contributions covered the purchase of 25,000 food parcels (233.5 mt) from Egypt which were transferred into Gaza via Rafah crossing. The food parcels covered the needs of IDPs for one week during September 2014. Each 9.34 kg food parcel consisted of the following food staples: canned fish, canned meat, canned peas (foul), canned chick peas, Jam, Biscuits, sugar, tea, dates, tahini (sesame paste) and Halawa.

Internally displaced families consisting of 1-6 members received one food parcel while internally displaced families with 6 members and above received two food parcels.

Table 14: The content and weight of a food parcel:

Commodity	Unit weight in gram	Number of cans/units	Total weight in gram
Canned fish	160	6	960.00

Canned Meat	340	6	2,040.00
Canned Peas (Foul)	400	6	2,400.00
Canned chick peas	400	2	800.00
Jam	380	1	380.00
Biscuits	400	1	400.00
Sugar	1000	1	1,000.00
Tea (25 * 2 gram)	50	1	50.00
Dates	400	1	400.00
Tahinah (big size)	400	1	400.00
Halawa	200	2	400.00
Total			9,230.00

During Gaza Crisis, WFP was engaged in two-pronged approach to raise awareness amongst IDPs not to use UHT milk as a substitute for breastfeeding:

1. Posters, in Arabic language, hung at distribution points in shelters and flyers distributed to all families. The posters were hung in 91 UNRWA designated emergency shelters and the flyers were distributed twice over the fourth weeks of August to each family receiving UHT milk; and
2. *Information sessions were provided to all:* Breast feeding counseling took place in UNRWA shelters on daily basis through a partnership with UNICEF, Ministry of Health (MoH) in close collaboration with UNRWA. The community health workers and health promoters visited the shelters to give small group advice and provide one-on-one counseling.

US-funded activities in the West Bank FY 2014:

GFA/food: The target number of the US-funded regular beneficiary caseload remained 45,000 during the first half of FY2014. From 1 April 2014 until 30 June 2014, the planned number of GFA/food beneficiaries increased to 73,000 as a result of shifting 28,000 beneficiaries from the GFA/voucher programme, due to funding shortfalls. Under mitigation measures to cope with the funding shortfalls, WFP also reduced the food ration, which usually covers 60 percent of the beneficiaries` needs, by 1/3, covering 40 percent of the beneficiaries needs. The food basket provided to the regular target beneficiaries did not change in terms of type of food and each basket consisted of wheat flour, chickpeas, vegetable oil, sugar and salt

Until the end of March 2014, WFP implemented the GFA/food in 5 governorates and in 108 localities:

Table 15: GFA/food in West Bank governorates and localities until March 2014

US-funded GFA/food	Governorate	Localities
	Hebron	59
	Nablus	14
	Tulkarem	18

programme WB	Jenin	16
	Tubas	1
	Total	108

As the number of GFA/food beneficiaries was expanded to 73,000 from 1 April- 30 June 2014, the programme was implemented in 6 governorates and 129 localities:

Table 16: GFA/food in West Bank governorates and localities from 1 April-30 June 2014:

US-funded GFA/food programme WB	Governorate	Localities
	Bethlehem	3
	Hebron	67
	Nablus	21
	Tulkarem	18
	Jenin	19
	Tubas	1
	Total	129

Table 17: Reduced⁵ GFA/food ration per family category in the West Bank April-June 2014:

Commodities	Ration per category (the ration covered beneficiaries` needs a period of three months April-June 2014)			
	CAT 1 (1-2 members)	CAT 2 (3-5 members)	CAT 3 (6-8 members)	CAT 4 (9 and above members)
Wheat flour (kg)	50	50	100	150
Pulses (kg)	2	5	9	12
OIL (liter)	4	7	10	12
Sugar (kg)	1.5	4	6	8
Salt (kg)	1	2	3	4
Total food ration (kg)	56.5	68	128	186

In line with the results of the re-targeting exercise that was conducted in 2014, WFP adjusted the number of eligible GFA/food beneficiaries to 53,605 as of 1 July 2014, and the food ration was reversed to cover 60 percent of the beneficiaries` daily caloric intake. Until the end of FY 2014, WFP implemented the GFA/food programme in five governorates and 102 localities.

Table 18: GFA/food in West Bank governorates and localities from 1 July- 30 September 2014:

	Governorate	Localities
	Hebron	53

⁵ See full GFA/food ration in the West Bank on page 4 of the report.

US-funded GFA/food programme WB	Nablus	12
	Tulkarem	17
	Jenin	18
	Tubas	2
	Total	102

In FY2014, WFP reached a total of 70,114 beneficiaries (96%) out of the planned 73,000 beneficiaries.

Table 18: Number of people assisted through GFA/Food in the West Bank in FY 2014

Number of people benefiting from US-funded GFA/food in FY 2014		
	Governorate	Beneficiaries
WB	Bethlehem	3,765
	Hebron	38,474
	Nablus	12,104
	Tulkarem	8,207
	Jenin	5,529
	Tubas	2,035
	Total	70,114

The food commodities that were distributed to the beneficiaries were both US and non-US funded. A total of 5,987.38 metric tons of food were distributed in FY 2014, including more than 80 percent US-funded.

Table 19: US and non-US food commodities distributed in FY 2014:

US and Non-US funded metric tons of food commodities		
	US	Non-US
Sep-Dec 2013	1,110.70	1,057.65
Jan-Mar 2014	1,169.16	0.20
Apr-Jun 2014	1,280.539	0
Jul-Sep 2014	1,369.13	0
	4,929.529	1,057.85
Total mt	5,987.38 mt	

GFA/voucher: The target number of the US-funded regular beneficiary caseload remained 63,000 during the first half of FY2014. During this period, WFP implemented the GFA/voucher programme in six governorates and in 87 shops. From 1 April 2014 until 30

June 2014, the planned number of GFA/food beneficiaries reduced to 35,000 as a result of shifting 28,000 beneficiaries from to the GFA/food programme, due to funding shortfalls.

Table 20: the total number of voucher beneficiaries per Governorate FY 2014

Number of reached GFA/voucher beneficiaries FY 2014			
	Governorate	Partner	Beneficiaries
WB	Bethlehem	Global Communities	3,960
	Hebron	Global Communities	38,005
	Jenin	Global Communities	5,207
	Jerusalem	Global Communities	1,019
	Nablus	Global Communities	10,308
	Qalqiliya	Global Communities	3,269
	Total		61,768

As the GFA/voucher programme was reduced from 63,000 beneficiaries to 35,000 beneficiaries from 1 April until 30 June 2014, the implementation was carried out in five governorates, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus and Qalqilia, with 56 participating shops.

In line with the results of the retargeting exercise in 2014, WFP provided food assistance through vouchers to a total of 36,397 people starting from 1 July until the end of FY 2014. The eligible beneficiaries were reached also in the aforementioned five governorates: Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus and Qalqilia.

The average redemption rate of voucher throughout FY 2014 reached 99.5 percent and the value of the redeemed vouchers amounted to more than US\$7 million.

Table 21: Redemption rate and US\$ value of vouchers in FY 2014

Redemption rate and US\$ value of vouchers redeemed in West Bank – FY 2014	
Redemption Rate (%)	99.5%
Total Value (US\$)	7,013,774

Monitoring:

The Country Office well-established M&E system includes outcome, output and process monitoring which are regularly updated. Data collection will be conducted through cooperating partner reports, and regular on-site food distribution, voucher shops, and beneficiary contact monitoring by WFP field staff.

As part of monitoring the implementation process (Process Monitoring), WFP Field Monitors monitor the compliance of the cooperating partners with programme guidelines in terms of

adequacy and appropriately using and filling distribution records, at both warehouses and distribution points. In terms of vouchers, Field Monitors monitor the adequacy of using e-voucher terminals ensuring that shop owners are correctly entering data in terminals. Monitoring findings in this regard have been used and follow up actions were taken by WFP and Cooperating Partners ensuring that shop owners abide to appropriately use terminals and other program guidelines. For Process Monitoring, WFP is using an automated component within the M&E database that would notify the respective WFP staff about any issues of concern in terms of implementation process. This component allows real-time data and taking corrective measures and follow up if the need be.

Post Distribution Monitoring is conducted following distributions, and on household level. The main objective is to monitor food acceptability and consumption patterns, and in terms of targeting ensure that targeted households are eligible to receive WFP food assistance. Household visits are conducted by WFP Field Monitors using a specific data collection tool designed specifically for this monitoring type. Collected data is then entered into WFP M&E database and then analysis is performed by WFP M&E team.

Outcome indicators are measured annually for monitoring the change and impact of WFP interventions on targeted beneficiaries. Output indicators are measured on regularly (monthly, bi-monthly, every three months) to allow monitoring progress and achievements.

Furthermore, WFP has developed a system to monitor the secondary impact of the voucher on local economy. The data collection is expected to take place on an annual basis to allow the comparison and monitor the change. Real time data and feedback allow for immediate corrective actions. Aggregate beneficiary distribution data and all output-related data is sex and age-disaggregated to the extent possible. Secondary impacts of the voucher programme on the local economy over time are measured annually.

The Effectiveness of the PMP in Measuring the Impact of the Programme

The Performance Management Plan (PMP) has been a living document since it was created, as it has been updated several times to ensure consistency with any operational change on the ground.

One of the key goals of the last update of the PMP was to add a new indicator in relation to US-funded temporary food assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) as a result of last summer conflict in the Gaza Strip. Also some of the targets for fiscal year 2015- output level indicators- have been changed in line with new target figures that resulted from the re-targeting exercise which was carried out in the West Bank in 2014.

Based on the simplified logical framework that is the basis of the PMP, there is an overall goal, and one specific objective and two results. WFP has a system in place that allows measuring the indicators that are set on the different levels as presented in the simplified logical framework.

The main outcome indicator which measures the impact of WFP assistance on beneficiaries is the household's Food Consumption Score (FCS). This indicator is included in the national Socio Economic and Food Security survey (SEFSec) that is conducted on a yearly basis, and which assists WFP in impact monitoring. The survey however was not conducted in 2013 due to a number of reasons and WFP relied in assessing the FCS on its monitoring system and data collection through the household visits that are regularly conducted by WFP field staff.

Overall, WFP did not face major challenges challenge in collecting FCS data, which has allowed tracking changes in trends. However there was one general challenge which was mirrored in persisting fluctuations in the economic situation in both West Bank and Gaza due to recurring shocks, such as military conflicts in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority`s fiscal crisis in the West Bank, which impact households` perception of the general situation thereby posing a challenge when measuring impact.

Other outcome indicators which are mentioned in the simplified logical framework were measured by WFP based on the progress reports that the implemented partner submitted to WFP and were uploaded into the M&E database. Results have been regularly shared with USAID, through the quarterly and annual reports.

In summary, the collected data to measure outcome and outputs was appropriate as data corresponded to the indicators and measurement methods as presented and explained in the PMP and the PIRS sheets.

Submitted by: Yasmine Abuelassal, Donor Relations.

Address: World Food Programme, 30 Al-Munther Street, Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem

Telephone: +972 (0)2 5401340 **Fax:** +972 (0)2 5401227

Email: yasminabuelassal@wfp.org