



providing emergency food assistance in the gaza strip

Supporting UNRWA's **Emergency Food Assistance programme** in Gaza will make a vital contribution to the lives of the most vulnerable refugee families who are dependent on food assistance to meet their daily subsistence needs.

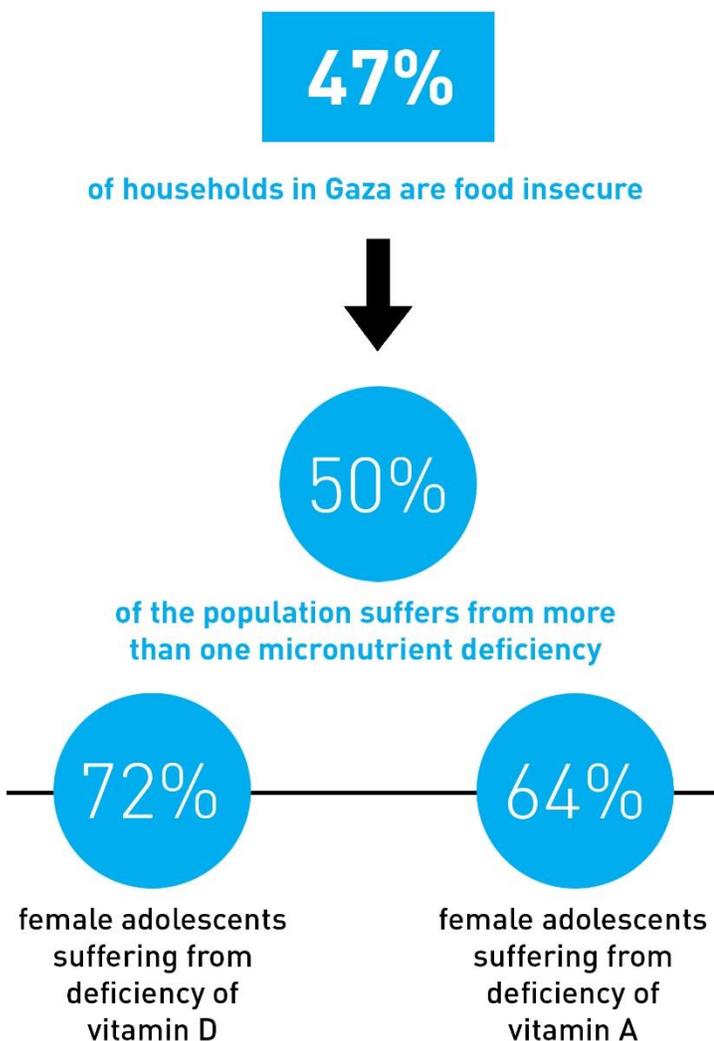
At this time when Palestine refugees continue to face a human development and protection crisis, with increasing food shortages, poverty, and unemployment, they deserve global solidarity and look to individuals and organizations to help protect their humanity, dignity and rights.

Project snapshot	
Field(s):	Gaza Field Office
Total Proposed Budget:	US \$963,964
Specific Expected Results to be achieved:	<p>The Emergency Food Assistance Programme in Gaza contributes to the Agency's strategic goal: Refugees lead a long and healthy life, are knowledgeable, have a decent standard of living and enjoy human rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of food parcels for up to 54,730 poor Palestine refugees (10,946 poor families)
Duration:	3 months (calendar quarter)

1. executive summary

UNRWA will focus on delivering our Zakat certified food and cash assistance programmes, including **Emergency Food Assistance**, to reach Palestine refugees who are financially unable to meet their basic needs. **We hope you will support our zakat-certified Food Assistance programme through making a grant towards our life-saving work for children and adults in Gaza.**

In 2017, the National Zakat Foundation Worldwide, a neutral entity, **certified UNRWA food and cash assistance programmes as Zakat eligible**. In addition, the Higher Islamic Council of Jerusalem issued a fatwa confirming that UNRWA meets all Sharia compliance metrics to receive Zakat donations in support of vulnerable Palestine refugees. UNRWA ensures that zakat funds are spent in compliance with Sharia law. Zakat contributions are segregated into a special sub-account set up specifically for Palestine refugees and will be administered within one lunar year.



2. emergency food assistance programme in the gaza strip

The Gaza Strip is home to a population of approximately 1.9 million people, including some 1.4 million Palestine refugees^[1].

Over 68 per cent of households in the Gaza Strip, or about 1.3 million people, are severely or moderately food insecure, according to the preliminary findings of the latest Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SefSec) carried out in 2018.^[2] Approximately 50 per cent of the Palestinian population suffers from more than one micronutrient deficiency but the situation is particularly alarming for female adolescents in Gaza with 72 per cent suffering from Vitamin D and 64 per cent suffering from Vitamin A deficiencies^[3].

The conditions in Gaza and the effects of conflict have the greatest impact on the poor, who are increasingly unable to access even the most basic food staples for their families. UNRWA identifies these food insecure families and responds to Gaza's rising food insecurity through its Emergency food assistance programmes.

UNRWA projected that more than one million refugees in Gaza will require emergency food assistance in 2019, the increase in emergency needs is dramatic, a 12 fold increase

^[1]UNRWA, where we work, 21 May 2019, <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip>

^[2] The Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin, November 2019 The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), posted on 14 December 2018, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/food-insecurity-opt-13-million-palestinians-gaza-strip-are-food-insecure>

^[3]Humanitarian Needs Overview 2017, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Nov. 2016 https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/humanitarian_needs_overview.pdf

on the 80,000 refugees who required assistance at the start of 2000. **This includes the estimated 48 per cent of the population in Gaza who are children¹.**



UNRWA distributes food assistance to poor Palestine refugees in Gaza four times a year to mitigate their food insecurity and to help cover their daily needed calorific requirements. The food baskets distributed contain flour, rice, oil, sugar, milk, lentils, chick peas, and canned sardines. **For children in particular, this will supplement their diets and prevent the damaging effects of undernutrition, which can lead to stunting and other serious child development issues.**

A contribution of US\$963,964 will focus on partially supporting the cost of one calendar quarter, by offering food baskets to 54,730 abject and absolute poor Palestine refugees at a crucial time of unprecedented needs for Gaza's children and their families.

vital support for gaza's children



Most of Gaza's children have lived through three major conflicts in six years and have never been able to leave Gaza. Even in the absence of armed violence, the ongoing blockade has had a devastating impact on Palestine refugee children affecting their physical and mental health, as well as their learning environment. Increasing poverty, school closures, utility outages, food shortage and restrictions on their movement, all take a toll on children as they try to have a normal childhood and educate themselves for their future. (In Gaza, UNRWA operates the largest school system, 278,000 children are served by 274 UNRWA schools).

While lack of essential nutritious food impacts the entire family, it is the children who suffer the most as it damages their early mental, physical, emotional and spiritual development. With your generous contribution UNRWA can protect children and mitigate food insecurity by providing thousands of men, women and children with essential nutrition.

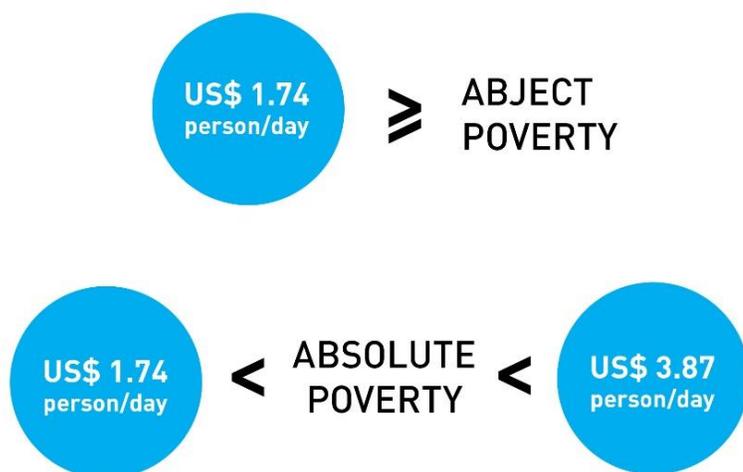
¹ PCBS 2017

The project's objective is to mitigate the severity of food insecurity among abject and absolute poor refugee households living in Gaza, through the regular distribution of in-kind food assistance. **With your generous donation, and UNRWA's nearly 70 years of experience in the region, we have the expertise to provide for the emergency needs of Palestine refugee families and Gaza's children.**

Thanks to your contribution, through one round of distribution of in-kind assistance in one quarter of the calendar year, around 54,730 food insecure persons living in the Gaza Strip will be able to meet their most basic food requirements for three months (one quarter). The programme will reach 34,480 abject poor refugees (those living on less than USD \$1.74 per day) and 20,250 absolute poor refugees (those living on less than USD \$3.87 per day).

4. activities

understanding poverty lines



1. Identification of eligible families

We use a poverty targeting system to identify eligibility for food assistance, the Poverty Assessment Survey (PAS). The PAS determines the poverty levels and eligibility of Gaza families and captures essential household characteristics such as age, sex, housing conditions, household composition, education, health and health related issues, attachment to the labour force, and assets.

The combination of the poverty line analysis and Proxy Means Testing Formula methodology provides uniform, objective and transparent criteria for all vulnerable Palestine refugees, taking into consideration the socioeconomic particularities of the field context, as well as family-specific characteristics and interventions. This ensures that every poor refugee family is treated equally, based on their poverty and welfare levels, and

ensures targeting of poor families, particularly those living below the abject poverty line. Data is collected through home visits by social workers. UNRWA assesses eligibility of all refugee families receiving or requesting food assistance on a two-year cycle through home visits to each household so as to maintain confidence in its caseload.

2. Purchase, delivery and preparation of food

In accordance with UNRWA's procurement procedures, food commodities are procured through international tendering managed by UNRWA Headquarters Amman Procurement Department. Food is procured every quarter, based on the current number of beneficiaries identified before the tender starts, and in consideration of any stock available from previous distributions and requisite buffer stock levels. Before commodities are to be delivered, quality controls take place at authorised laboratories and UNRWA Health Department to ensure adherence to UNRWA standards. Once approved, items are transported to the twelve distribution centres serving targeted areas.



Abed Al Hameed, a labourer participating in UNRWA's Cash for Work programme, does the essential work of distributing food to the local population at UNRWA Beach Camp Distribution Centre in Gaza City.

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3. Distribution of food commodities to beneficiaries through UNRWA's Distribution Centres

Before the start of each distribution round, beneficiaries may look up on the online system, or approach the information desk at the distribution centre, in order to find out when and where to collect their food parcels. On the day of the distribution,



5. project management

Emergency Food Assistance is jointly implemented by UNRWA's Relief and Social Services Programme (RSSP) and the Department of Procurement (HQ Amman) and Logistics. The RSSP team includes more than 200 social workers responsible for assessing each family applying for food assistance or re-assessing the status of those already considered eligible. They are supported by Poverty Survey focal points, who are the most experienced social workers who supervise and ensure the accuracy and consistency of data collection. Notification of assessment outcome and management of the appeal process is also the responsibility of the RSSP, which produces the final list of beneficiaries for each distribution round.

6. monitoring and evaluation

In order to ensure that donor funded projects are monitored at different levels, UNRWA Gaza Field Office established the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (MEU) in 2008 as an independent team from the implementing programmes within the Field Office. They are responsible for supervising the implementation of control procedure and system for various components of UNRWA's activities, including the Emergency Food Assistance Programme. It supports the programmes' evidence-based management and planning through the collection, collation and analysis of data on issues of relevance.

7. visibility

Contributions toward UNRWA's Emergency Appeal in the Gaza Strip are made known to the beneficiaries, the local authorities and NGOs as well as to the donor community on a continuing basis. This takes the form of general periodic reports on the emergency programmes, including on the Agency's web-site, a generic photos of food distribution will be shared with donor.

8. budget

Funding received for this project will be used to cover the food needs for absolute and abject poor families for one round of the annual emergency food distributions. The actual expenses (i.e. prices of commodities) covered by the requested funding will depend on the availability of commodities, receipt of in-kind donations, and commodity costs during the procurement process.

Service delivery	Total cost (USD\$)
Food Commodities *	900,901
Total direct cost	900,901
Project Support Costs – 7 per cent	63,063
Total project costs	963,964

* Depending on the availability of the fund during receiving the approval on the proposal, types and quantities of commodities to be covered by the grant will be determined.

Note: UNRWA is a unique UN Agency, in that it directly implements all programmes, including education, healthcare and social services, without subcontracting to implementing partners. The majority of UNRWA's 30,000 staff members (99 per cent), are Palestine refugees themselves and proudly deliver all the programmes mentioned. UNRWA maintains its own entire infrastructure and support structures, and covers the full indirect costs associated with security, oversight functions, legal support, HR, finance, project offices, monitoring and evaluation, external relations, public information, ethics office etc. International staff (1 per cent) at UNRWA are covered by funding from the UN Regular Budget. Moreover, the Agency's programs rely majorly on voluntary annual contributions from UN Member States, and multilateral organizations as well as collaboration with the private sector, foundations and the philanthropic community, including Islamic social financing.

Your contact at UNRWA: We look forward to discussing this proposal with you. For further information, please contact Abdi Aynte on: a.aynte@unrwa.org / +962 79130 0860