



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

WFP News Video

UN AGENCY HEADS RAISE ALARM AT RISING LEVELS OF FOOD INSECURITY IN PALESTINE

Shot: West Bank

TRT 02:51

English

Released: 21 June 2013

Palestinians Face Rising Rates of Hunger

A third of all households in Palestine, or 1.6 million people, struggle to feed their families, falling into the “food insecure” category and numbers are rising.

A joint UN survey carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, WFP, UNRWA and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), found that in 2012, 34 percent of households in Palestine were food insecure, up from 27 percent in 2011. Contributing factors include high unemployment rates, stagnant economic growth, the financial problems of the Palestinian Authority, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza.

WFP reaches approximately 650,000 food-insecure, non-refugee, households in Palestine with programmes including distributions of food and electronic vouchers.

Vouchers can be redeemed to buy olive oil, salt and other groceries, most of which are produced locally in Palestine.

In the past three years WFP has injected more than US\$100 million into the Palestinian economy through local purchase and the redemption of electronic food vouchers. This investment supports local businesses and generates employment.

Shotlist:

0-00:05 Khan al Ahmar Bedouin village, Jericho, Palestine Shot 18 June 2013

long shot of the village

00:05-00:14

Khan al Ahmar Bedouin village, Jericho, Palestine Shot 21 June 2013

WFP trucks approaching the village

00:14-00:40

WFP food distribution including wheat flour, salt, oil

00:40-00:59

WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin and UNRWA Commissioner-General Filippo Grandi, visiting the village. The two agency heads signing a Memorandum of Understanding to expand cooperation in Palestine and the region.

00:59-01:12 SOT UNRWA Commissioner-General Filippo Grandi

"Our mandate will only be stronger if we partner with agencies that have specific global expertise in this area and this is what we want to achieve through the agreement with the World Food Programme"

01:12-01:32 Khan al Ahmar Bedouin village, Jericho, Palestine SHOT 18 June 2013

Bedouin Woman making the bread
Family eating bread

01:32-01:45 Food Shop in Jericho

SHOT 21 June 2013

WFP Executive Director meeting Palestinian woman participating in the WFP voucher programme

01:45 -02:10 SOT WFP Executive Director, Ms Ertharin Cousin

Jericho SHOT 21 June 2013

"Over the last three years WFP has provided over 100 million dollars in voucher support to ensure that Palestinian families who otherwise wouldn't have access to enough food have the access that is necessary to feed their children, and what is really important about this programme is that over 80 percent of the commodities that we provide are commodities produced by Palestinians for Palestinians"

02:10 - 02:33 Silet Al-Harthea , Jenin Governorate SHOT 19 June 2013

Woman participant in the WFP voucher programme buying food using the SAHTEIN card.

Vouchers in the West Bank provide \$13 per month per person

02:33 - 02:51 Silet Al-Harthea , Jenin Governorate SHOT 19 June 2013

Family eating

Joint News Release

21 June 2013

UN AGENCY HEADS RAISE ALARM AT RISING LEVELS OF FOOD INSECURITY IN PALESTINE

JERICHO – Two United Nations agency heads today expressed concern at deteriorating food security in the West Bank and Gaza where one in three Palestinian households now struggle to feed their families.

Ertharin Cousin, the Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Filippo Grandi, the Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) visited a Bedouin village between Jerusalem and Jericho where a food distribution carried out jointly by the two agencies was taking place.

“High food prices and low wages mean that 1.6 million Palestinians don’t know from where their next meal is coming,” said WFP’s Ertharin Cousin. “Yet food security IS security. Food security is a vital component for sustained peace across the region.” Cousin also welcomed a new agreement with UNRWA that will strengthen cooperation in Palestine and throughout the region and address the urgent needs of the population.

Preliminary results of a joint UN survey carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, WFP, UNRWA and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), found that in 2012, a total of 1.6 million people – or 34 percent of households in Palestine – were food insecure, a dramatic rise from 27 percent in 2011. Contributing factors include high unemployment rates, stagnant economic growth, the financial problems of the Palestinian Authority, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza.

In nearby Jericho, Cousin met shoppers using electronic vouchers from WFP to buy olive oil, salt and other groceries, most of which are produced locally in Palestine. In the past three years WFP has injected more than US\$100 million into the Palestinian economy through local purchase and the redemption of electronic food vouchers. This investment supports local businesses and generates employment.

WFP reaches approximately 650,000 food-insecure, non-refugee households in Palestine – the poorest of the poor. UNRWA provides food assistance to more than one million food insecure Palestine refugees across the Middle East.

During the visit to the village of Khan al Ahmar, the two agency heads signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in an agreement which will deepen and expand ties between the two agencies.

“As well as cooperating more in the fields of food security and nutrition, we can share expertise in logistics, supply chain management and other initiatives, not just in

Palestine, but regionally, particularly as we face up to the challenge of the Syria crisis,” said Commissioner-General Grandi.

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Broadcast-quality video from today’s visit to the village of Khan al Ahmar can be provided to interested news organizations. Please contact: jonathan.dumont@wfp.org or marco.frattini@wfp.org

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WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Last year, WFP reached more than 97 million people in 80 countries with food assistance.

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