



## Food and cash assistance in Gaza

### Dignity and hope to the poorest of the poor

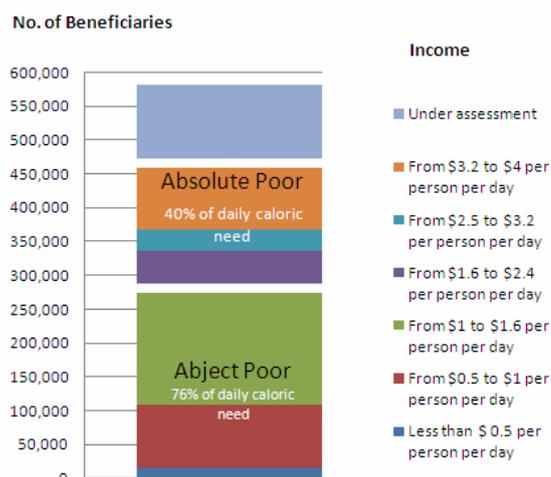
Four years of blockade have pushed Gaza into unprecedented unemployment and poverty. Lack of access to imports and restrictions on exports have decimated the private sector and turned the majority of people from self-sufficiency to an alarming level of aid dependency.

In the absence of livelihoods and prospects of income among ordinary people yearning to work, international assistance fills the gap between poverty and destitution. UNRWA in Gaza provides services to 1.1 million Palestine refugees and maintains an Emergency Programme to help those who are the most vulnerable.

Overwhelming reliance on emergency food and cash assistance attests to the depth of the human dignity crisis. Through efforts to assist the poorest of the poor, UNRWA gives hope beyond despair, based on universally shared values and rights, with a view to the future of Gaza, the occupied Palestinian territory, and the wider region.

### Providing food and cash

Through the provision of basic food items and cash assistance, UNRWA gives dignity and hope to those who are most affected by Gaza's socio-economic crisis. Beneficiaries are targeted through [survey](#) results representing best practice in poverty measurement. Our approach aims to ensure that assistance reaches the poorest while providing a cost effective aid program. Refugees who are unable to meet basic food needs ([abject poor](#)) receive the most assistance. Refugees who are capable of securing basic food needs ([absolute poor](#)) receive less.



### The food basket

Both abject and absolute poor refugees are provided with a quarterly food basket of flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, milk powder and canned meat. While abject poor receive quantities amounting to meet 76% of their caloric needs, absolute poor are provided with 40% of their daily caloric requirements. Food assistance is collected at 12 UNRWA distribution centres across the Gaza Strip, using a computerised poverty based system of eligibility verification.

### Cash assistance

Families living in the unbearable circumstances of abject poverty receive small cash grants to supplement the food ration. At \$780 per year, the grants are designed to help families buy routine items such as vegetables and soap and pay for basic utilities and critical transportation costs. Cash grants help ensure a more dignified existence for Gaza's most vulnerable families.

## Help us help the poorest of the poor

UNRWA's Emergency relief is entirely reliant upon donations. To continue to provide food and cash assistance to the poorest of the poor, UNRWA needs to raise \$93.5 million in 2011.

GAZA POVERTY SNAPSHOT		
Unemployment (adjusted)	39.5%	( <a href="#">PCBS</a> )
Food insecure and vulnerable	65%	( <a href="#">WFP/ FAO</a> )

UNRWA REQUIREMENTS SNAPSHOT			
Intervention	Annual cost per refugee	Refugees assisted	Funding needs
Food assistance	\$123	564,964	\$56.6million
Cash assistance	\$135	273,200	\$36.9 million

### Cash contributions

Cash contributions will be used towards the purchase of food items for abject and absolute poor and the provision of small grants to the poorest of the poor.

HOW IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE		
Contribution	Food assistance	Cash assistance
\$10 million	Feeds 60,000 families for 3 months	Provides for 50,000 families for 3 months
\$5 million	Feeds 30,000 families for 3 months	Provides for 25,000 families for 3 months
\$1 million	Feeds 6,000 families for 3 months	Provides for 5,000 families for 3 months

### In-kind donations

In-kind donations contribute directly to the food baskets provided to Gaza's abject and absolute poor. More details on making an in-kind donation can be found here: [specifications](#) and [shipment requirements](#).

2011 COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS		
Commodity	Quantity	Costs (millions)
Flour	71,284 MT	\$48.12
Rice	7,640 MT	\$6.16
Sugar	7,640 MT	\$6.33
Milk powder	3,082 MT	\$13.35
Sunflower oil	6.9 million litres	\$9.42
Luncheon meat	6.4 million tins	\$9.72

**Funds required for emergency food and cash assistance to Palestine refugees in Gaza, 2011:**  
**\$93.5 million**

