

# West Bank and Gaza – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 4, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>2</b> <b>MILLION</b>	<b>2.1</b> <b>MILLION</b>	<b>1.3</b> <b>MILLION</b>	<b>1</b> <b>MILLION</b>	<b>600,000</b>
Estimated Population of Gaza	Estimated Number of People in Need in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022	Estimated Number of People in Need in the West Bank and Gaza due to the May 2021 Hostilities	People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza in 2022	People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in the West Bank in 2022
<i>UN – December 2020</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>UN – May 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>

- The UN launched the 2022 HRP in mid-December, requesting \$510 million to respond to the needs of 1.6 million people in the West Bank and Gaza.
- On December 30, 2021, State/PRM announced \$10 million in funding for UNRWA’s operations in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022.
- Clashes between Gol security forces and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza resulted in the deaths of 324 Palestinians in 2021, a significant increase compared with the 30 and 135 Palestinian deaths recorded in 2020 and 2019, respectively.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the West Bank and Gaza Response in FYs 2021–2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$20,500,000
	USAID/ME <sup>2</sup>	\$20,200,000
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$100,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140,700,000</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Bureau for the Middle East (USAID/ME)  
<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **UN Launches 2022 HRP for West Bank and Gaza; UNRWA Requests \$406 Million in 2022**

The UN launched the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the West Bank and Gaza on December 16, 2021, requesting \$510 million to respond to the needs of 1.6 million people affected by ongoing conflict, the health and socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and limited access to basic services. While the HRP cites a total of 2.1 million people in need of assistance in 2022, it aims to reach 1.6 million people with the highest severity of need due to anticipated challenges in receiving funding sufficient to reach all people in need. The HRP requests \$380 million to reach 1 million individuals with assistance in Gaza—approximately half of the population of Gaza—and \$130 million to reach 600,000 individuals in the West Bank, with food security, shelter and related relief commodities, health and nutrition, and protection as key response sectors. The 2022 HRP reflects both an increase in requested funding—due to the heightened severity of needs as well as increased cost of commodities—and a decrease in the humanitarian caseload compared with the 2021 HRP for the West Bank and Gaza, which requested \$417 million to reach 1.8 million individuals. The decreased 2022 humanitarian caseload reflects the findings of the inaugural July 2021 household-level Multi-Sector Needs Assessment for the West Bank and Gaza and a new method of caseload calculation, which enabled more precise calculations compared to previous years, the UN reports.

Moreover, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) requested approximately \$406 million to provide emergency food, cash assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), health care, protection services, and shelter support for an estimated 1.2 million vulnerable Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. On December 30, 2021, State/PRM announced \$10 million in funding for UNRWA's operations in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022, representing the first tranche of U.S. Government (USG) funding for the UN agency in FY 2022.

### **Violence in 2022 Results in More Civilian Deaths Than 2020 and 2019**

Intermittent clashes between Government of Israel (GoI) security forces and Palestinians continued in the West Bank and Gaza throughout 2021, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries, the UN reports. Violence leading to civilian deaths in 2021 surpassed 2019 levels, after a year of significantly decreased violent deaths in 2020 likely due to the outbreak of COVID-19, according to relief actors. From early to mid-December 2021 alone, altercations with GoI security forces resulted in the deaths of two Palestinian civilians and injuries to nearly 350 Palestinians, including more than 100 children, the UN reports. Overall, from January to mid-December 2021, clashes with GoI security forces caused 324 deaths in the West Bank and Gaza, a 140 percent increase compared with the 135 Palestinian deaths recorded from January to December 2019. In 2020, only 24 violent deaths due to clashes in the West Bank and only six in Gaza were recorded, likely due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.

Increased violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers in 2021 also continued to affect Palestinians; from January to October, the UN recorded 410 attacks by settlers against Palestinian individuals and property, compared to nearly 360 attacks in all of 2020 and nearly 340 attacks in all of 2019. In response to ongoing insecurity, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland addressed the UN Security Council on November 30, underscoring the risk that unchecked conflict, increased Israeli settler violence, and expanding Israeli settlements pose for humanitarian conditions in the West Bank and Gaza.

## December Exits via Erez Crossing Reach Highest Levels Since February 2020

In December, exits and entries via the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel reached the highest levels recorded since February 2020, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 and related imposition of movement restrictions, the UN reports. At least 25,000 Palestinians, including nearly 21,000 traders, exited Gaza at Erez during December 2021, a significant increase compared to just 1,500 exits during December 2020, reflecting the Gol's reduction of COVID-19-related movement restrictions and increases to the Gol's trader permit quotas from 7,000 to 10,000, the highest number of trader permits since 2004, relief actors report. Relatedly, on December 29, 2021, Gol Minister of Defense Benny Gantz announced the provision of 600 additional Palestinian trader permits—essential for the restoration of livelihoods and access to income—following a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, international media report.

Meanwhile, the flows of goods at the Kerem Shalom crossing between Gaza and Israel increased to approximately 9,600 import shipments per month, on average, in both November and December, the highest number of shipments per month since before the escalation of hostilities in May, the UN reports. Relief actors continue to welcome the easing of movement restrictions, enabling the rehabilitation and reconstruction of structures destroyed in Gaza during the May escalation.

## Ceasefire Continues to Hold Despite Rocket Exchange in Late December

While no major military operations have been reported since a ceasefire took effect on May 21, 2021, ending the 11-day period of intense hostilities between the Gol and Hamas, Gol security forces launched strikes against Gaza in late December 2021 following reports of rocket fire from Gaza toward the Mediterranean Sea. The exchange of hostilities did not result in casualties; relief actors continue to monitor conditions and changes to humanitarian needs on the ground.

### KEY FIGURES



**\$9 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for food assistance in FY 2021



**7,000**

People supported with USAID/BHA-funded protection assistance

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

Through funding to UNRWA and the UN World Food Program (WFP), the USG is helping food-insecure Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza meet their basic food and nutrition needs. With State/PRM and other donor funding, UNRWA plans to distribute food parcels to more than 1.2 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza affected by deteriorating socio-economic conditions in 2022. In addition, with USAID/BHA support, WFP assisted nearly 318,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza with cash-based transfers and in-kind food assistance in November, prioritizing female-headed households, older persons, and persons with disabilities or chronic health conditions.

### PROTECTION

The USG supports a range of humanitarian protection programs for at-risk populations in the West Bank and Gaza, with a focus on the needs of women and children. Through international non-governmental organization (INGO) partner International Medical Corps (IMC), USAID/BHA funding helps increase access to protection-related health care services and expand MHPSS for conflict-affected Palestinians in Gaza, with a focus on psychological first aid and in-person counseling services. In 2021, IMC reached more than 7,000 individuals with protection assistance. State/PRM

partner UNRWA also supports children and families with MHPSS services in schools and health care centers, with an emphasis on the prevention of gender-based violence.



**27,300**

People supported with  
UNRWA-provided  
MPCA

### **MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE**

With funding to Mercy Corps and UNRWA, the USG supports the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help households meet their basic needs in times of crisis. With State/PRM and other donor support, UNRWA reached nearly 27,300 refugees in the West Bank with MPCA as part of its Emergency Appeal programming from January to June 2021, while USAID/BHA partner Mercy Corps supported Gazans affected by the May escalation with emergency MPCA.



**\$8.6 Million**

In dedicated USG  
funding for life-saving  
health care activities in  
FY 2021

### **HEALTH**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support health programming throughout the West Bank and Gaza to reduce the transmission of disease and bolster health care capacity. INGO partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) utilizes USAID/BHA funding to train health care staff and improve infection prevention and control measures at health care centers, with a specific focus on preventing COVID-19 transmission. USAID/BHA partner IMC also provides training to health care staff and provides trauma referral services at six health care centers in Gaza, helping ensure continuity of health care amid the recent escalation of conflict. From early October to mid-November alone, IMC reached nearly 5,800 individuals with health consultations.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Protracted conflict, restricted access to basic services, and the adverse health and socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have generated significant humanitarian needs in the West Bank and Gaza. Nearly 2.1 million Palestinians—approximately 40 percent of the combined population of the West Bank and Gaza—were in need of humanitarian assistance as of December 2021, according to the UN. The figure includes the 1.6 million people targeted for assistance in 2022, more than 60 percent of whom reside in Gaza.
- In mid-May, active conflict between Gol forces and Hamas exacerbated humanitarian needs and resulted in civilian casualties and population displacement in Gaza, as well as violence and unrest throughout Israel and the West Bank. Approximately 1.3 million people required humanitarian assistance due to the escalation of violence, some of whom were already relying on humanitarian assistance prior to the hostilities, the UN reports. On May 21, parties to the conflict implemented a ceasefire agreement, ending the 11-day period of active conflict.
- On December 29, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Nides renewed the disaster declaration for the West Bank and Gaza for FY 2022 due to the urgent humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNRWA	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Food Assistance, Health, Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
CRS	Health	West Bank and Gaza	\$6,000,000
IMC	Health, Protection	Gaza	\$3,100,000
Mercy Corps	MPCA	Gaza	\$2,400,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Vouchers	West Bank and Gaza	\$9,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$20,500,000</b>
<b>USAID/ME</b>			
WFP	Food Assistance—Vouchers	West Bank and Gaza	\$20,200,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$20,200,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			

UNRWA	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Food Assistance, Health, Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$90,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING<sup>3</sup></b>			<b>\$90,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$130,700,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022</b>			<b>\$140,700,000</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 4, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> State/PRM provided an additional \$50,000,000 in FY 2022 to UNRWA for its 2022 program budget, a portion of which may have been used in the West Bank and Gaza.

<sup>3</sup> State/PRM provided an additional \$181,200,000 in FY 2021 to UNRWA for its 2021 program budget, a portion of which may have been used in the West Bank and Gaza.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)