

West Bank and Gaza – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>5.3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – September 2022</i></p>	<p>2.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – August 2022</i></p>	<p>934,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Children in Need in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – August 2022</i></p>	<p>1 MILLION</p> <p>People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – December 2021</i></p>	<p>600,000</p> <p>People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in the West Bank in 2022</p> <p><i>UN – December 2021</i></p>
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- An escalation of violence between August 5 and 7 results in the deaths of 48 Palestinians in Gaza.
- Food prices remain significantly elevated, exacerbating rates of food insecurity.
- Nearly 480 Palestinians are displaced by demolitions from January to June.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the West Bank and Gaza Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$24,400,000
	State/PRM ²	\$33,100,000 ³
Total		\$57,500,000

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

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ State/PRM also provided nearly \$250 million in FY 2022 to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for its calendar year 2022 program budget and emergency appeals, a portion of which may be used in the West Bank and Gaza.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Two-Day Escalation in Gaza Exacerbates Humanitarian Needs, Results in at Least 48 Deaths

Hostilities in Gaza between Government of Israel (GoI) security forces and armed organizations—primarily the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)—flared between August 5 and 7 following preemptive GoI strikes on PIJ targets and the GoI's imposition of intensified movement restrictions beginning August 2, which impeded the movements of persons—including relief personnel and individuals seeking urgent medical care—as well as goods and fuel between Gaza and Israel. The fighting resulted in the deaths of at least 48 Palestinians—including 17 children—and injuries to more than 360 other Palestinians, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports. The fighting also resulted in injury to nearly 50 Israelis, according to international media. The clashes ended with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the Government of Egypt beginning on August 7.

The hostilities represent the most significant escalation of violence in Gaza since the 11-day escalation in May 2021. Gaza continues to recover from the effects of the May escalation, which resulted in the deaths of at least 261 Palestinians and 10 Israeli citizens or residents, as well as extensive damage to civilian infrastructure, OHCHR reports. In response to the August escalation, some USAID/BHA implementing partners were required to temporarily suspend programming, while others were able to actively respond to emergent humanitarian needs.

Elevated Global Food Prices Continue to Drive Food Insecurity

An estimated 1.8 million people, including approximately 1.1 million severely food-insecure individuals, are experiencing food insecurity in the West Bank and Gaza, according to the UN World Food Program, (WFP). Elevated food prices following the Government of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February have exacerbated food insecurity in West Bank and Gaza. Despite a slight improvement in price stability from May to June, the July 2022 food consumer price index was nearly five percent higher than July 2021 levels across the West Bank and Gaza, driven in part by global cereal and energy supply chain disruptions. From mid-February to June, fuel prices increased by 10 percent, vegetable oil prices by 15 percent, and wheat flour prices by 32 percent in the West Bank and Gaza, according to WFP. The elevated food prices in the West Bank and Gaza have limited people's ability to access food, resulting in the tripling of poor food consumption scores among cash-based assistance recipients in Gaza between January and June. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA provided \$19 million for programs utilizing various modalities to enhance food security in the West Bank and Gaza, helping more than 210,000 people meet their household food needs.

Psychological and Social Support Needs Growing in the West Bank and Gaza, Particularly Among Children

Reported mental health issues among Gaza residents increased following the August 5–7 escalation of violence, especially among children, according to the UN. The fighting—the fifth major escalation within 15 years—compounded the impact of deteriorating economic, political, and social conditions on the physical and psychological health of young people. More than 65 percent of the Gazan population lives below the poverty line, with residents commonly facing substandard living conditions, such as frequent cuts to electricity and safe drinking water supply, that contribute to psychological stress. Overall, an estimated 678,000 children in the West Bank and Gaza are in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and other child protection services. Despite increasing needs for psychosocial support, only one mental health hospital—with a capacity of fifty beds—serves the nearly 2 million residents of Gaza, the Protection Cluster reports. In response to MHPSS needs, U.S. Government (USG) non-

governmental organization (NGO) and UN partners are providing MHPSS services to conflict-affected Palestinians in schools and health care centers, among other locations.

Demolitions, Evictions, and Increased Restrictions Affecting Palestinians Continue

Since an Israeli judicial decision issued in early May permitted the forced eviction of residents from closed military areas in the West Bank’s Masafer Yatta community, 25 structures have been demolished, affecting 64 individuals, the UN reports. Masafer Yatta was initially designated as a closed military zone by Gol authorities in the 1980s, placing residents at risk of forced eviction, demolition of homes and infrastructure, and transfer. Overall, approximately 1,200 Palestinians living in Masafer Yatta, including nearly 570 children, have faced imminent risk of forced eviction and displacement since the May decision. Israeli authorities issued nearly thirty-five demolition orders between early May and September 1, affecting 77 structures—including 34 donor-funded structures—the UN reports. Since May, heightened movement restrictions in and around the community have impeded the movement of residents and aid workers. Recently, movement restrictions have affected travel via vehicle in Masafer Yatta, affecting students’ and teachers’ access to schools, prompting some to walk long distances to avoid vehicular checkpoints. In late August, an Israeli court rejected a legal petition to stop a mass demolition of structures.

Gol-mandated demolitions and evictions of Palestinian structures also continued across other locations in the West Bank, with nearly 480 Palestinians displaced by demolitions from January to June, the Protection Cluster reports. In June alone, Israeli authorities demolished or seized 96 Palestinian-owned structures—20 of which had been provided as donor-funded humanitarian aid—resulting in the displacement of 79 people and the livelihoods or access to services of nearly 6,400 others affected. All but two of the structures were targeted for lacking building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians in the West Bank to obtain. Humanitarian actors were also impacted by the demolitions and evictions: approximately 55 humanitarian-supported structures funded by the European Union or its member states received stop-work or demolition orders in June, representing the highest number of humanitarian facilities placed at risk of demolition in a single month since data collection began in 2009, according to the UN.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

People UNRWA intends to reach with food assistance in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

Through funding to two NGOs, UNRWA, and WFP, the USG is helping food-insecure Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza meet their basic food and nutrition needs through in-kind food assistance, emergency cash assistance, emergency livelihoods support, and emergency cash for work programs. With State/PRM and other donor funding, UNRWA provides food assistance to more than 1.2 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza affected by deteriorating socioeconomic conditions. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA support enables two NGOs and WFP to provide affected populations with electronic food vouchers, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), and emergency livelihoods support.



560

People supported with USAID/BHA-funded protection assistance in March

PROTECTION

The USG supports a range of humanitarian protection programs for at-risk populations in the West Bank and Gaza—prioritizing the needs of women and children—through UNRWA and an NGO. State/PRM partner UNRWA supports children and families by providing MHPSS in schools and health care centers, with an emphasis on the prevention of gender-based violence. Through dedicated State/PRM funding, UNRWA is also enhancing its capacity to identify and correct protection risks in its facilities. Separately, through an NGO partner, 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 August, a USAID/BHA NGO partner reached more than 400 individuals ages six to 18 years and more than 200 parents with child protection services through the provision of group activities and individual support services, as well as support services for parents and caregivers aimed at strengthening the protective environment for children and supporting their resilience and recovery.



\$9 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for MPCA activities in FY 2022

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the distribution of MPCA to help households meet their basic needs, reduce the use of negative coping strategies, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable individuals in the face of future shocks. With USAID/BHA support, in August an NGO distributed MPCA to nearly 1,130 vulnerable households prioritized for assistance.



\$2.1 Million

In dedicated USG funding for life-saving health care activities in FY 2022

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, contributing to reduced preventable mortality and morbidity. State/PRM partner UNRWA provides health services to vulnerable Palestinian refugees in Gaza, including nearly 768,000 telemedicine calls and more than 2.6 million in-person consultations for Palestinian refugee patients in 2022. A USAID/BHA partner NGO provides basic primary health care services to communities—including remote and underserved areas—across Gaza to minimize individuals' travel to already overwhelmed health facilities and to help overcome access barriers. The NGO also provides training to health care staff and trauma referral services at health care centers in Gaza, helping ensure continuity of health care amid the recent escalation of conflict.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Protracted conflict, restricted access to basic services, and the adverse health and socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease 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—are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, 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 2021, 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 issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need for the West Bank and Gaza for FY 2022 due to the urgent humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency.
- Hostilities between Gol security forces and armed groups flared between August 5 and 7, resulting in 48 civilian deaths. The clashes ended with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the Government of Egypt beginning on August 7.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Monitoring and Evaluation	West Bank and Gaza	\$300,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Gaza	\$5,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, Health, Protection	Gaza	\$5,100,000
Mercy Corps	Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Gaza	\$9,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	West Bank and Gaza	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$24,400,000
STATE/PRM			
UNRWA	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Food Assistance, Health, Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$33,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING²			\$33,100,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$57,500,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2022.

² State/PRM also provided nearly \$250 million in FY 2022 to UNRWA for its calendar year 2022 program budget, projects, and emergency appeals, a portion of which may be 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)