

# West Bank and Gaza – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>\$502</b> MILLION	<b>2.1</b> MILLION	<b>1</b> MILLION	<b>1.15</b> MILLION	<b>450,000</b>
Required for the West Bank and Gaza HRP in 2023	Estimated Number of People in Need in the West Bank and Gaza in 2023	Estimated Number of Children in Need in the West Bank and Gaza in 2023	People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza in 2023	People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in the West Bank in 2023
<i>UN – January 2023</i>	<i>UN – January 2023</i>	<i>UN – January 2023</i>	<i>UN – January 2023</i>	<i>UN – January 2023</i>

- Humanitarian actors responded to a large-scale Gol military intervention in the West Bank’s Jenin refugee camp on July 3 and 4 with emergency assistance.
- The continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank is forcing Palestinian communities to leave their homes and grazing lands, resulting in displacement and increasing humanitarian needs.
- UNRWA and WFP face significant funding shortfalls, threatening the food security of vulnerable Palestinians dependent on international assistance, particularly in Gaza.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the West Bank and Gaza Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$19,014,398
	State/IO <sup>2</sup>	\$75,000,000
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$17,100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$111,114,398</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> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Humanitarian Actors Respond to Urgent Needs Following Military Intervention in Jenin Camp**

A large-scale air and ground military intervention by the Government of Israel (GoI) in the West Bank's Jenin refugee camp resulted in the death of 12 Palestinians—the highest number of Palestinian fatalities the UN had recorded in a single operation in the West Bank since 2005—and injury to more than 140 others on July 3 and 4, as well as displacement and increased humanitarian needs, according to the UN and international media. Despite increased humanitarian needs during and immediately following the military intervention, response teams reported severe access impediments due to significant destruction of roads leading to Jenin camp. Israeli airstrikes during the operation caused significant damage to apartment buildings and houses in Jenin camp and the surrounding neighborhood, and temporarily displaced an estimated 500 Palestinian households which comprises more than 3,500 people. At least 40 households remained internally displaced as of mid-July, as housing units remained uninhabitable or severely damaged, the UN reports. The airstrikes also severely damaged the camp's main water supply and three main electricity transformers, prompting concerns on households' ability to access to safe drinking water, according to the UN. In response, the Palestinian Water Authority, in coordination with Jenin Municipality, has repaired the main water pipeline of the camp as of July 25; however, 40 percent of households continue to rely on water trucking services. Additionally, the camp's only health clinic—supported by State/PRM partner the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)—sustained extensive damage and remained closed as of late July, according to the UN agency.

Israeli security forces lifted restrictions on entering Jenin camp on July 5, permitting humanitarian actors to conduct a rapid multi-sector needs assessment and begin delivering emergency assistance in coordination with local authorities. Ongoing response efforts have largely focused on mitigating risks from unexploded ordnances, repairing infrastructure, and resuming essential services including cash assistance deliveries and health care services. Due to extensive damage to the health clinic, UNRWA established a temporary health facility and had assisted approximately 2,900 individuals as of July 20. Other health actors continue to replenish depleted medical supplies for local health facilities as of July 25, the UN reports. UNRWA also distributed cash-based assistance to more than 500 affected households who sustained damages to their shelters and more than 40 households who were displaced and provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for 1,700 children in Jenin camp through the agency's education department, as well as counseling services through its health department. Additionally, one USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner—through a crisis modifier mechanism enabling the adaptation of activities to meet emerging humanitarian needs—provided approximately \$440 in multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 500 affected households in mid-July.

### **UN Launches Needs Assessment Amid Increased Israeli Settlement Expansion and Violence Against Palestinians in the West Bank**

Displacement and resultant humanitarian needs have continued to rise among Palestinians in 2023 following Israeli authorities' continued demolition of Palestinian homes and infrastructure, loss of access to grazing land amid Israeli settlement expansion, and Israeli settler violence throughout Area C of the West Bank, according to the UN. Israeli settler violence since 2022 had displaced nearly 400 Palestinians across seven communities as of August 4, further reducing Palestinian access to basic services, food security, and livelihoods, the UN reports. In early August, 90 individuals—the only remaining Palestinians in the community of Ras Al-Tin—fled their homes, citing harassment and intimidation by Israeli settlers

who forcibly took over the community’s grazing lands, international media report. Additionally, the establishment of an Israeli settlement in Al Baqa’a community and associated violence forced all nine of the community’s Palestinian households—comprising nearly 40 individuals—to leave their community in July, according to the UN. More than 25 Palestinian households of the Ein Samiya community also fled their homes due to ongoing threats of settler attacks in May.

An estimated 60 Palestinian communities across the West Bank face heightened threat of forcible transfer due to Israeli violence and settlement expansion, the UN reports. Nearly 600 settler-related incidents had resulted in six Palestinian deaths and property damage between January and June, representing a 39 percent increase in the monthly average of such incidents compared to all of 2022. As of September 27, nearly 730 Palestinian structures had been demolished in 2023, of which 36 percent were structures supporting agriculture, affecting the livelihoods of Palestinians, and 28 percent were inhabited residential structures, increasing needs for shelter. In response, the UN—in coordination with additional humanitarian actors—launched an assessment of affected communities in August to identify urgent humanitarian needs. Displaced communities reported damages to water sources, a decrease in herders’ livestock and a reduction in cultivated grazing land, demolitions, the destruction of crops, obstacles to accessing health and education, and restricted access to grazing land due to administrative obstacles. Moreover, 95 percent of displaced communities had been forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms. The assessment noted the need for urgent support to Palestinian herders’ livelihoods, including to feed and protect their herds, and humanitarian assistance to address their basic needs for shelter, food, water, education, and healthcare.

## **Palestinians Face Risk of Food Insecurity as Funding Shortfalls Threaten UN Assistance Programs**

High rates of poverty and unemployment, due to persistent conflict and access restrictions for basic services and movement, have led to increasing dependence on international aid to meet basic needs. More than 1.8 million people in the West Bank and Gaza suffer from food insecurity, of which 90 percent reside in Gaza, according to the UN’s 2022 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment released in July 2023. UNRWA and the UN World Food Program (WFP)—two of the largest providers of food assistance in the West Bank and Gaza—face significant funding shortfalls in 2023, threatening the continuity of their programs and potentially widening the food insecurity gap. Global funding shortages forced WFP to suspend its assistance to 200,000 individuals—approximately 60 percent of people it aims to reach each month—across the West Bank and Gaza as of June 1. With a funding shortage of \$40.5 million, WFP is only able to distribute monthly food assistance to the most vulnerable 150,000 individuals in the West Bank and Gaza and has reduced the value of assistance to each household by approximately 20 percent. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, USAID/BHA provided \$5.4 million to WFP for food assistance activities and continues to monitor food assistance needs in the West Bank and Gaza.

### **KEY FIGURES**



**1.2 Million**

People UNRWA aims to reach with food assistance in the West Bank and Gaza in 2023

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

With U.S. Government (USG) funding, UNRWA and WFP support food-insecure Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to meet their basic food and nutrition needs through emergency cash assistance, electronic food vouchers, emergency cash-for-work programs, and in-kind food assistance. With support from State/PRM and other donors, UNRWA provides food assistance to more than 1.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Meanwhile, USAID/BHA support has enabled WFP to reach 180,000 food-insecure individuals with electronic food vouchers in 2023. In July alone, WFP reached nearly 201,400 individuals with food assistance in the West Bank and in Gaza, including approximately 136,200 individuals with cash-based transfers for food, and more than 65,200 individuals with quarterly in-kind food distributions of chickpeas, lentils, olive oil, salt, vegetable oil, and wheat flour.



**5,600**

Estimated number of people supported with USAID/BHA-funded psychosocial support services as of July

## 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 three USAID/BHA NGO partners and State/PRM partner, UNRWA. UNRWA supports children and families by providing MHPSS in health care centers and schools, 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 one 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 the West Bank, USAID/BHA partners also provide child protection programming, psychosocial support services, and protection training to humanitarian staff and key stakeholders.



**\$5.9 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for MPCA activities in FY 2023

## MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

USAID/BHA partners support the distribution of MPCA to enhance the resilience of vulnerable individuals in the face of future shocks as well as to help households meet their basic needs and reduce the use of negative coping strategies. With USAID/BHA support, one NGO partner disbursed five months of MPCA to nearly 1,800 households in Gaza between October 2022 and March 2023. Additionally, they distributed emergency MPCA to an estimated 500 households affected by the Gol-led operation in Jenin camp in early July.



**\$1.5 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for life-saving health care activities in FY 2023

## 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. UNRWA provides health services to vulnerable Palestinian refugees in Gaza, including nearly 356,000 telehealth appointments for Palestinian refugee patients in 2023. One USAID/BHA NGO partner 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 recent escalations of conflict.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Protracted conflict, restricted access to basic services, and persistent intervention from Israeli military forces 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 require humanitarian assistance in 2023, according to the UN. The figure includes the 1.6 million people targeted for assistance in 2023, more than 70 percent of whom reside in Gaza.
- On November 21, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Nides issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need for the West Bank and Gaza for FY 2023 due to the widespread humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers	West Bank and Gaza	\$5,400,000
Implementing Partners	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessments (HCIMA), MPCA, Nutrition, Protection	West Bank and Gaza	\$13,399,999
	Program Support		\$214,399
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$19,014,398</b>
<b>STATE/IO</b>			
UNRWA	Food Assistance	Gaza	\$75,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/IO FUNDING</b>			<b>\$75,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNRWA	Multi-Sector	West Bank and Gaza	\$13,500,000
UNRWA	Multi-Sector	West Bank	\$3,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$17,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>4,5</sup></b>			<b>\$111,114,398</b>

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> USAID/BHA also contributed \$1 million in ER4 funding, bringing the total USAID/BHA contribution to the West Bank and Gaza to more than \$20 million in FY 2023.

<sup>5</sup> State/PRM has provided nearly \$231 million to date in FY 2023 for UNRWA's calendar year 2023 program budget and projects, portions 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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

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