

Levant – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 7, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

16,248

Palestinian Deaths
Reported in
Gaza Since October 7

UN – December 2023

1.9
MILLION

People Displaced
in Gaza Since
October 7

UN – December 2023

253

Palestinian Deaths
Reported in the West
Bank Since October 7

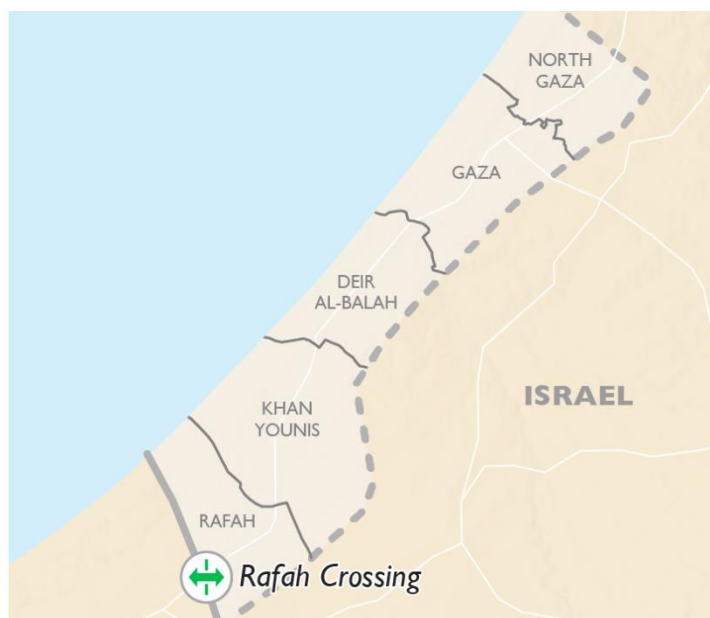
UN – December 2023

1,200

Deaths Reported
in Israel Since
October 7

UN – November 2023

- USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced nearly \$21.4 million in additional USAID/BHA funding for the humanitarian response in Gaza and the West Bank on December 5, bringing the total USG funding for the response to more than \$109.3 million.
- After a weeklong pause in hostilities from November 24 to November 30, conflict between Gol security forces and Gaza-based armed groups resumed on December 1.
- Hostilities between Gol security forces and Gaza-based armed groups displaced nearly 1.9 million people between October 7 and December 4, according to the UN. More than 1.2 million IDPs are sheltering in nearly 160 UNRWA facilities, with overcrowding driving increased health and protection risks.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Levant Crisis Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA¹ \$43,314,285

State/PRM² \$66,000,000

Total \$109,314,285³

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

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 The \$100 million in USG funding announced in October 2023 includes USAID/BHA funds obligated in FY 2023 and not included in the FY 2024 total.

TIMELINE

October 7, 2023

Armed groups in Gaza launched attacks on communities in Israel, resulting in at least 1,200 deaths. Gol security forces begin aerial bombardments of Gaza in response.

October 12, 2023

USAID/BHA activates a DART and corresponding Washington D.C.-based RMT to coordinate relief efforts in Gaza and the West Bank.

October 21, 2023

President Biden announces \$100 million in U.S. Government (USG) funding for the humanitarian response in Gaza. Rafah border crossing opens for limited humanitarian assistance.

November 6, 2023

The UN releases a revised flash appeal requesting \$1.2 billion to support the humanitarian response in Gaza and the West Bank.

November 21, 2023

The Gol and Hamas agree to a humanitarian pause in hostilities.

November 24, 2023

The humanitarian pause begins with the release of 24 Israeli hostages.

December 1, 2023

Hostilities between Gol security forces and Gaza-based armed groups resumed.

December 5, 2023

USAID Administrator Power announced an additional \$21.4 million in funding for humanitarian activities in Gaza.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USAID Announces Additional \$21.4 Million in Funding

USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced nearly \$21.4 million in additional USAID/BHA funding for the humanitarian response in Gaza and the West Bank during a visit to Egypt on December 5. With this funding, USAID/BHA partners—including UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)—will provide essential food, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to people in need throughout Gaza, along with multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA). While in Egypt, Administrator Power also met with representatives from the UN and Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERC) and the Governor of Egypt's North Sinai Governorate, Mohamed Abdel-Fadil Shousha, to discuss ongoing humanitarian response coordination and increasing needs in Gaza.

In addition, on November 28 and December 5, USAID/BHA delivered nearly 31 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian assistance—including date bars and High Energy Biscuits (HEBs), ready-to-use therapeutic food for the treatment of acute malnutrition, medical supplies, and winter clothing—on behalf of several UN agencies via two U.S. Department of Defense cargo flights from Amman, Jordan, to Egypt's El Arish International Airport, the main reception point for humanitarian assistance intended for Gaza.

Hostilities Resume After Weeklong Humanitarian Pause Enables Temporary Increase of Aid into Gaza

Hostilities between Government of Israel (Gol) security forces and armed groups in Gaza resumed on December 1 following a weeklong humanitarian pause in hostilities that began on November 24. Since the end of the pause, hostilities in Gaza have resulted in at least 687 deaths and 1,905 injuries, according to de facto authorities in Gaza. In total, hostilities in Gaza between the Gol and Gaza-based armed groups resulted in at least 15,523 deaths between October 7 and December 3, including at least 130 UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) staff, marking the highest number of UN aid workers killed in a single conflict in UN history. The pause in hostilities allowed for a temporary expansion of humanitarian access and aid deliveries throughout Gaza, as well as the exchange of 105 hostages held by armed groups in Gaza for 240 Palestinians held by the Gol in Israel, international media report. More than 34,000 gallons of fuel entered Gaza each day during the pause, allowing medical facilities, telecommunications, and WASH infrastructure to resume some operations. Prior to the pause, the Gol allowed nearly 32,000 gallons of fuel into Gaza every 48 hours, approximately 50 percent of the fuel required to maintain a minimal humanitarian response across Gaza, according to UNRWA.

Between November 25 and December 1, relief actors delivered humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected individuals in northern Gaza, an area which was largely inaccessible to humanitarian actors prior to the temporary pause in hostilities. UN agencies and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) distributed nearly 1,100 MT of ready-to-eat food to four UNRWA shelters across northern Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp. PRCS and UN agencies also delivered 890 MT of bottled water—the first delivery to occur in northern Gaza since Gol ground operations began in Gaza in late October—and 186 MT of blankets and tents to several northern Gaza aid distribution sites, as well as 164 MT of medical supplies to Gaza City's Al Ahli Hospital on November 26, the UN reports. Overall, humanitarian organizations distributed approximately 4,850 MT of food, including wheat flour, rice, and canned food; 1,700 MT of blankets and mattresses; 1,110 MT of bottled water; 148 MT of medical supplies; and nearly 8,000 gallons of fuel to UNRWA shelters, hospitals, and warehouses in northern Gaza during the pause, the UN reports. Additionally, between November 27 and 28, the UN continued providing daily fuel deliveries to key service providers—including hospitals, water and sanitation facilities, and internally displaced person (IDP) shelters—to operate backup generators; however, due to insufficient fuel, operations remain limited, leaving hospitals without electricity and forcing IDPs to use water from unsafe sources. The delivery of bottled water on November 26 was the first to take place in northern Gaza since Gol security forces began ground operations in Gaza in late October. A lack of safe drinking water in Gaza continues to drive significant health risks among conflict-affected populations, with an unconfirmed number of hepatitis A cases reported in a displacement shelter in southern Gaza during late November, likely due to poor WASH conditions, including a lack of safe drinking water, relief actors report. Water desalination plants and water connection points between northern Gaza and Israel remained non-operational as of December 5, leaving conflict-affected populations without access to safe drinking water, according to the UN.

Nearly 1.9 Million Displaced in Gaza, Straining Shelter Capacity and Driving Needs

Since October 7, aerial bombardment and armed clashes across Gaza have displaced nearly 1.9 million people and damaged or destroyed more than 50 percent of the total housing stock in Gaza, including an estimated 46,000 houses destroyed, and more than 234,000 shelters damaged, as of November 24, according to the UN and Protection and Shelter clusters.⁴ In northern Gaza, more than 60 percent of buildings, roads, and other essential infrastructure were damaged as of November 26, hindering the ability of relief actors to assess humanitarian needs and conflict-affected populations' access to life-saving assistance. Approximately 1.2 million IDPs were sheltering across nearly 160 UNRWA facilities as of the same date, with the facilities hosting on average more than four times their capacity, the UN reports. Severe overcrowding in shelters south of Wadi Gaza, coupled with shortages of critical relief items and ongoing insecurity, have contributed to rising health and protection concerns, including the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and waterborne and other communicable diseases, relief actors report. Notably, an estimated 500,000 people who have remained in northern Gaza face substantial protection risks, including residing in damaged houses with no alternatives, the Protection and Shelter clusters report.

Additionally, WASH conditions continue to worsen in Gaza—particularly within overcrowded IDP shelters and camps—amid ongoing hostilities and fuel shortages, increasing health risks faced by vulnerable populations, according to the UN. As of late November, the entire population of Gaza—2.3 million people—required WASH-related humanitarian assistance, the WASH Cluster reports.⁵ WASH infrastructure in UNRWA shelters remained far below minimum standards, with an average of

⁴ The coordinating bodies for humanitarian protection and shelter activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

⁵ The coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

160 people sharing a single latrine and an average of 700 people sharing the same shower facilities as of November 23, increasing risks of disease transmission, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).⁶ Despite efforts to collect waste from refugee camps and emergency shelters during late November, more than 400 MT of waste continue to accumulate at shelters across Gaza each day, further exacerbating the risk of communicable disease transmission and highlighting the urgent need for fuel to operate sanitation trucks and other vehicles to transport waste.

Hospitals Resume Some Operations During Pause, Relief Actors Evacuate Patients and IDPs Sheltering in Health Facilities

During the pause in hostilities, relief actors transported critical medical supplies and fuel into Gaza, enabling expanded health care assistance and the reopening of some medical facilities. On November 27, following aid and fuel deliveries, Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital reopened its dialysis department, and on November 29, de facto authorities in Gaza announced on November 29 that the dialysis department at Beit Lahiya city's Indonesian Hospital would also reopen. The pause in hostilities also allowed relief actors to evacuate some patients from hospitals in northern Gaza to health facilities in southern Gaza. The UN and PRCS evacuated nearly 40 patients and approximately 30 other people from Gaza City's Al Ahli Hospital to the European Hospital in Khan Younis Governorate November 24–25 due to insufficient electricity, food, and medical supplies at Al Ahli Hospital.

Despite some improvements in health care assistance during the pause in hostilities, many health facilities continue to lack sufficient fuel and supplies to maintain operations, leaving patients, medical staff, and IDPs sheltering at the facilities with acute needs. Although Khan Younis' European Hospital accepted patients evacuated from Al Ahli Hospital on November 24 and 25, the European Hospital was operating at three times its intended capacity, according to WHO. Additionally, Kamal Adwan Hospital—one of five partially operational hospitals in northern Gaza as of November 29—urgently required medical supplies and specialized medical staff, including in the fields of obstetrics, orthopedics, pediatrics, and surgery, according to the UN. Eighty patients in critical condition at Kamal Adwan Hospital required immediate transfer to better-equipped health facilities in southern Gaza for their survival as of late November; however, as of December 5 their evacuation remained unconfirmed. Overall, 16 of Gaza's 36 hospitals—nearly 45 percent—were operational as of December 2, with limited electricity, food, fuel, medical supplies, and water, along with Gol security forces operations—including aerial attacks and ground operations—driving health facility closures, the UN reports. Approximately 120 people—including IDPs, hospital staff, and patients—remained in Al Ahli Hospital as of November 24, according to the UN.

⁶ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

People in Gaza sheltering in facilities administered by State/PRM partner UNRWA



370,000

Medical supply items delivered to a Gaza hospital by a USAID/BHA INGO partner



830,000

People reached by USAID/BHA partner WFP with in-kind food assistance and MPCA since October 7

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

DISPLACEMENT AND SHELTER

State/PRM partner UNRWA administers nearly 160 shelters for IDPs across Gaza, providing multi-sector assistance in and around these facilities to conflict-affected populations. UNRWA provides health care to IDPs at shelters through nearly 130 mobile medical teams which treat tens of thousands of individuals daily. UNRWA also continues to identify persons with disabilities in their shelters to support them with specialized assistance and devices.

HEALTH

Following an explosion on October 17 at Gaza City's Al Ahli Hospital that resulted in hundreds of deaths and injuries and structural damage to the hospital, one USAID/BHA international NGO (INGO) partner delivered nearly 530 cubic feet of medical commodities to Al Ahli on October 23. The delivery included antibiotics and pain relievers, as well as more than 370,000 medical supply items such as bandages, personal protective equipment, and syringes to support emergency and trauma care at the hospital, the partner reports. Since November 4, UNRWA has provided vaccinations for an estimated 12,000 children across Gaza, the UN agency reports. USAID/BHA is also supporting an INGO to augment Gaza's health system capacity. The INGO currently has an advance medical team in Gaza working to identify potential sites for a new field hospital.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide life-saving food and MPCA to people in shelters and communities across Gaza and the West Bank. On November 30, WFP delivered 74 MT of USAID/BHA-funded HEBs in Gaza for distribution to IDPs sheltering in UNRWA facilities in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah governorates. WFP continues to provide fresh bread, canned food, and date bars to IDPs in shelters, as well as food parcels—sufficient to support individual food needs for approximately 15 days—to more than 120,000 displaced people in host communities.

Despite these deliveries, a lack of fuel continues to hinder the ability of the UN to provide emergency food assistance in Gaza, disrupting food deliveries and distributions, along with the operability of WFP-contracted bakeries. As of November 28, only one WFP-contracted bakery—compared to more than 20 bakeries prior to October 7—had sufficient fuel to operate on an ad-hoc basis, reducing the number of people who receive fresh bread through WFP programs in Gaza by 90 percent.

PROTECTION

One USAID/BHA INGO partner is providing protection activities, such as psychosocial support services, in Gaza as the security situation permits. In mid-October, the organization in Gaza procured and packed 3,000 dignity kits to support women experiencing GBV. In addition, local staff are conducting psychological first aid for displaced persons, including children and caregivers. UNRWA counselors and social workers are also providing psychological first aid and other specialized protection services in shelters. Since October 7, UNRWA has provided psychological support, including family support and recreational activities, to nearly 90,000 individuals, more than 60 percent of whom were women. UNRWA counselors and social workers also provide psychological first aid and specialized protection services in shelters, reaching approximately 80,000 IDPs as of November 28.

LOGISTICS

USAID/BHA partners, including UN agencies and INGOs, are supporting ERC in its lead role to pre-position supplies and organize humanitarian truck movements from Egypt to Gaza, delivering life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations in Gaza. USAID/BHA, UN agencies, and INGOs continue to send the most urgently needed humanitarian supplies to Egypt's El Arish city for onward distribution in Gaza. USAID/BHA facilitated the air transportation of 197 MT of USAID/BHA-funded HEBs to El Arish for eventual distribution in Gaza via five cargo flights in mid-November. Additionally, on November 28 and December 5, two U.S. Department of Defense cargo flights delivered nearly 31 MT of food, medical, and nutrition supplies, along with winter clothing to El Arish to assist vulnerable populations in Gaza.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEVANT RESPONSE IN FY 2024⁶

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	West Bank and Gaza	\$11,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support	West Bank and Gaza	\$8,000,000
Implementing Partner #1	Food Assistance—LRIP, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$9,000,000
Implementing Partner #2	Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$9,000,000
Implementing Partner #3	Food Assistance—LRIP; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; MPCA; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$5,000,000
	Logistics Support		\$985,980
	Administrative and Program Support		\$328,305
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$43,314,285
STATE/PRM			
UNRWA	Food Assistance—LRIP, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$51,000,000
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Israel, West Bank, and Gaza	\$15,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$66,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEVANT RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$109,314,285

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 5, 2023.

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.
- The USG 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)