

Levant – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Armed groups based in Gaza attacked communities in southern Israel on October 7, resulting in the deaths of at least 1,200 people, injury to more than 3,600 others, and capture of more than 200 people.
- Ongoing armed conflict between Gol security forces and armed groups based in Gaza has resulted in the deaths of 11,078 people and displacement of nearly 1.6 million others in Gaza as of November 13, according to the UN, citing the *de facto* government’s Ministry of Health. Continued aerial bombardment, combined with a lack of food, water, and other resources, is generating significant humanitarian needs.
- In response to urgent humanitarian needs, USAID/BHA activated a DART and RMT on October 12 to coordinate USG relief efforts.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Levant Crisis Response in FY 2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$21,953,919
	State/PRM ²	\$66,000,000
Total		\$87,953,919³

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 launch attacks on communities in Israel, resulting in at least 1,200 deaths. Gol security forces begin aerial bombardment of Gaza in response.

October 8, 2023

Gol cuts off all electricity and water supply to Gaza. Some limited water flow is later restored.

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 13, 2023

The Gol issues an order for all civilians to evacuate northern Gaza for southern Gaza.

October 18, 2023

President Biden announces \$100 million in U.S. Government (USG) funding for the humanitarian response in Gaza.

October 21, 2023

First aid truck convoy since October 7 of 20 trucks enters Gaza.

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.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Attack by Gaza-Based Armed Groups Results in More Than 1,200 Deaths in Communities in Israel

Early on October 7, Hamas—a Palestinian armed group based in the Gaza Strip—and other armed groups launched attacks against Israel, conducting indiscriminate ground attacks against civilians in southern Israel and firing thousands of rockets toward population centers, according to international media. The attack resulted in the deaths of at least 1,200 people in Israel and injury to more than 3,600 others. Approximately 200 Israeli soldiers, Israeli civilians, and third-country nationals—including some children—were captured and forcibly taken to Gaza as hostages. Additionally, approximately 250,000 people in Israel remained displaced following the attacks as of late October, international media reports.

Escalated Hostilities Result in Deaths and Mass Displacement Across Gaza

Ongoing armed conflict since October 7 between Government of Israel (Gol) security forces and members of Palestinian armed groups based in the Gaza Strip—primarily Hamas—had resulted in the deaths of at least 11,078 people in Gaza and 181 people in the West Bank as of November 13, according to the UN, citing *de facto* government health officials in Gaza. The violence had also resulted in injury to nearly 27,500 people in Gaza and more than 2,600 Palestinians in the West Bank.

Continued insecurity—including Gol airstrikes and the start of the Gol's ground incursion into northern Gaza in late October—had resulted in the displacement of nearly 1.6 million people as of November 13, the UN reports. The Gol issued an evacuation order on October 13 directing civilians to leave northern Gaza and has encouraged residents of Gaza City to move south on several occasions in recent days. Of those displaced, more than 570,000 people are residing with host communities; approximately 787,000 people are staying in more than 150 emergency shelters administered by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); nearly 137,000 people are in hospitals, churches, or other public facilities; and more than 158,000 people are sheltering in Palestinian Authority shelters as of November 12, the UN reports. Severely overcrowded conditions in shelters administered by UNRWA—many of which are hosting more than four times their intended capacity—are creating urgent health and protection needs among internally displaced persons (IDPs), the UN agency notes. Meanwhile, many multi-story residential buildings in southern Gaza are hosting up to five times their intended capacity, according to relief organizations. Humanitarian organizations stress that despite repeated Gol evacuation orders since October 13, many people are unwilling or unable to safely relocate, including patients in hospitals, caretakers, older persons, and people with disabilities, partly due to a lack of alternative safe shelter options. Additionally, the UN has stated no area is safe for civilians in Gaza, as Gol

bombardment has continued to affect areas south of the designated evacuation line.

Health Services Severely Limited Due to Attacks, Deteriorating Medical Supplies, and Infrastructure Damage

The health system in Gaza is collapsing due to attacks on health care facilities and workers; the high number of patients with severe trauma and burn injuries; infrastructure damage; lack of fuel, electricity, and water; and a severe shortage of supplies and medicines, health actors report. Ongoing electricity blackouts due to insufficient fuel and cutoff of external electricity continue to limit hospital activities as facilities are reliant on backup generators and dwindling fuel supplies. Patients reliant upon medical equipment are at risk, including more than 130 newborn babies on incubator support, according to the UN and international media.

Since the escalation in hostilities on October 7, a reported 18 of Gaza's 36 hospitals with inpatient capabilities and 46 of 72 primary care facilities had shut down due to the adverse effects of hostilities and insufficient resources as of November 10, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. Remaining functional hospitals in Gaza are all operating beyond capacity and face critical fuel shortages; on November 2, the main electricity generator at Beit Lahia city's Indonesian Hospital stopped operating due to fuel shortages, while later that night the main backup generator at Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital ceased functioning due to a lack of fuel, according to health actors and international media. Amid the fuel and electricity shortages at health facilities in Gaza, surgeons are operating on patients in darkness using flashlights and prioritizing only the most essential services, relief actors report. In addition, Gol aerial bombardment continues to damage health facilities and transportation and result in casualties among health workers, with nearly 120 attacks on health care assets and facilities in Gaza leading to at least 16 on-duty health care worker deaths as of November 10, WHO reports.

Severe Water Shortages Persist Across Gaza; Exacerbate WASH Concerns

Following the escalation of hostilities, Gol authorities suspended electricity and water supplies to Gaza on October 7 and 9, respectively, increasing health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) concerns. This included the suspension of three water connection points from Israel, which previously provided approximately 13 percent of Gaza's water, while Gaza's internal desalination plants were forced to shut down operations due to a lack of electricity and fuel by mid-October. The Gol resumed the flow of water to the Bani Souhaila connection point in southern Gaza on October 15, and subsequently resumed water flow to the central Gaza connection point at Bani Saeed on October 23. However, intermittent outages and infrastructure damage has halted the flow of water into Gaza multiple times as of November 4, and populations in northern Gaza remain without water piped from Israel. Additionally, two of Gaza's three desalination plants resumed operations at limited capacity in late October through the delivery of fuel remaining in Gaza provided by UNRWA and other UN agencies.

The Gol has not permitted any fuel deliveries into Gaza since October 7, and deteriorating fuel reserves in Gaza are being utilized to maintain a minimal level of critical life-saving services. Despite populations in southern Gaza receiving a partial water supply through connection points with Israel, severe water shortages in the area persist, driven by a lack of sufficient fuel to operate critical WASH infrastructure and damage to WASH networks. Approximately 80 percent of Gaza's water supply is contained in wells and groundwater aquifers, which is brackish, and requires fuel for extraction and desalination. In central and southern Gaza, approximately 120 public wells reportedly shut down due to a lack of fuel on November 2, the UN reports. Gaza's two remaining operational desalination plants were functioning at approximately 15 percent capacity as of November 8, according to the UN.

USG Announces \$100 Million in Funding for Humanitarian Response in Gaza and the West Bank

During an October 18 visit to Israel, U.S. President Joseph Biden announced that the United States will provide \$100 million in humanitarian assistance for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. The funding will help support displaced and conflict-affected populations with life-saving food, health, WASH, and other assistance. The funding comprises \$34 million for USAID/BHA—including \$11 million for food aid and \$8 million for logistics support—and \$66 million for State/PRM to provide multi-sector assistance.

UN Requests \$1.2 Billion to Support Humanitarian Response in Gaza and the West Bank

The UN, including UNRWA and other relief organizations, released a revised flash appeal for humanitarian funding on November 6, requesting \$1.2 billion to support 2.7 million people—including the entire population of Gaza and 500,000 people in the West Bank—with humanitarian assistance. The appeal includes more than \$300 million in food assistance for 2.3 million people, nearly \$228 million to support the provision of health assistance for 2.5 million people, nearly \$210 million to provide shelter assistance for 1.4 million affected people, and nearly \$149 million in WASH assistance for more than 2.5 million people.

The UN's original flash appeal—launched on October 12—requested more than \$290 million to support nearly 1.3 million people but was issued before increased aerial bombardment and the Gol's evacuation order on October 13 that prompted mass displacement from northern Gaza into southern areas.

Humanitarian Truck Convoys Provide Critical Assistance to Gaza

Following a period of approximately two weeks during which no humanitarian assistance entered Gaza, on October 21 the first convoy of 20 trucks carrying aid delivered essential food, water, and medical supplies to humanitarian organizations in Gaza for further distribution, according to the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Since October 21, approximately 1,100 trucks have entered Gaza carrying life-savings supplies provided by donor governments and various relief actors, including UN agencies, the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and several NGOs, the Logistics Cluster reports. In accordance with border authorities' authorization and relief actors' operational capacity in Gaza, the humanitarian community intends to send up to 120 aid trucks per day into Gaza. In recent weeks, ongoing fighting; limited telecommunications connectivity; lack of fuel and basic resources; and other adverse effects of the hostilities have hindered UN agencies' ability to receive, store, and distribute aid packages in Gaza. Despite the resumption of aid convoys, the flow of assistance is severely insufficient to meet humanitarian needs, the UN reports, as prior to October 7 approximately 500 trucks, commercial and humanitarian, were entering Gaza daily. Moreover, as of November 13, no fuel had entered Gaza due to Gol restrictions; relief actors cite a lack of fuel as one of the largest challenges limiting humanitarian operations presently in Gaza.

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

KEY FIGURES



787,000

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



664,000

People reached by USAID/BHA partner WFP with food and market-based assistance since October 7

DISPLACEMENT AND SHELTER

State/PRM partner UNRWA administers more than 150 shelters for IDPs across Gaza, providing multi-sector assistance in these and other facilities. UNRWA provides health care to IDPs at shelters through more than 90 mobile medical points and provided care for almost 7,300 cases between October 7 and November 5. UNRWA counselors and social workers also provide psychological first aid and specialized protection services in shelters, serving more than 25,000 IDPs, as of November 5. UNRWA 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 approximately 15 cubic meters of pharmaceuticals 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, syringes, and personal protective equipment to support emergency and trauma care at the hospital, the partner reports. Nine of UNRWA's more than 20 health centers in Gaza remained operational as of November 13 and UNRWA continued to provide health services to IDPs in shelters through 90 mobile medical teams, attended to nearly 10,000 cases as of November 9. Updated figures are not available due to communications outages as of November 13.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

In response to urgent food needs, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide life-saving food and market-based assistance to people in shelters and communities across Gaza and the West Bank, reaching an estimated 664,000 people with assistance between the eruption of hostilities on October 7 and November 4, WFP reports. Approximately 50 trucks carrying WFP food assistance commodities arrived in Gaza between the opening of the Egypt–Gaza Rafah border crossing on October 21 and November 4, carrying nearly 920 metric tons (MT) of life-saving food supplies. WFP continues to provide fresh bread, canned food, and date bars to IDPs in shelters and has distributed food parcels—sufficient to support food needs for approximately 15 days—to more than 8,500 displaced people in host communities. Additionally, UNRWA is providing shelters with wheat flour for IDPs to make bread.

Despite these deliveries, WFP's capacity to meet food needs among populations in Gaza remains limited by lack of fuel, as only one WFP-contracted bakery—compared to more than 20 prior to October 7—had fuel to operate as of November 4, resulting in only 10 percent of targeted

people being reached with fresh bread, according to WFP. On October 29, crowds of desperate civilians entered a WFP warehouse in central Gaza and took food intended for distribution to displaced families. The warehouse had contained approximately 80 MT of mixed food commodities. To continue meeting the needs of more than 1.1 million conflict-affected people in Gaza until December, WFP reports that it requires \$112 million in additional funding as of November 4.

With USAID/BHA and USAID/West Bank and Gaza funding, one INGO has provided multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to nearly 10,000 households in Gaza since October 7 through vendors across the five governorates of Gaza. Another INGO partner has been providing market-based assistance to more than 3,600 households during the escalation in hostilities. The market-based assistance has helped vulnerable people meet their basic needs, such as through the purchase of food and water.

PROTECTION

One INGO USAID/BHA partner is providing some limited protection activities in Gaza as the security situation permits. In mid-October, the organization's staff in Gaza procured and packed 3,000 dignity kits to support women experiencing gender-based violence. In addition, local staff have been conducting psychological first aid for displaced persons, including children and caregivers. UNRWA counselors and social workers provided psychological first aid and specialized protection services in shelters. Since October 7, UNRWA has provided psychosocial support, including family support and recreational activities, to more than 36,000 individuals, more than 60 percent of whom were women.



1,096

Total number of trucks carrying aid commodities transported by relief actors into Gaza since October 21

LOGISTICS

USAID/BHA partners, including UN agencies and INGOs, are supporting the ERC in its leading role to pre-position supplies and organize humanitarian truck convoys to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations in Gaza. UN agencies and INGOs continue to send the most urgently needed humanitarian supplies to northeastern Egypt's El Arish International Airport for forward distribution in Gaza.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- In response to the attack by Gaza-based armed groups on October 7, the Gol began conducting aerial attacks in the Gaza Strip, launching airstrikes into Gaza on October 7 and mobilizing troops near the fence line of Gaza in preparation for a ground incursion. Gol authorities fully suspended electricity and water supplies to Gaza on October 7 and 9, respectively, with some water flow restored from Israel to central and southern areas in late October. On October 13, the Gol ordered civilians to evacuate the northern portion of Gaza—an area between the northern border wall with Israel and the Wadi Gaza seasonal riverbed, including Gaza City—to southern areas of Gaza, initially within 24 hours. Since then,

the GoI has repeatedly issued additional directives for civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate. GoI security forces sharply increased ground military activity within Gaza on October 27, with continuing operations as of November 13.

- On October 8, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires ad interim Stephanie L. Hallett issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need for the West Bank and Gaza in response to acute humanitarian needs generated by the protracted crisis, exacerbated by the October 7 escalation in hostilities.
- In response to urgent humanitarian needs generated by the Levant Complex Emergency, USAID/BHA activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in the region and a corresponding Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) on October 12 to coordinate USG relief efforts for affected populations in Gaza and the West Bank.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEVANT RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	West Bank and Gaza	\$11,000,000
	Logistics Support	West Bank and Gaza	\$8,000,000
Implementing Partner	MPCA	West Bank and Gaza	\$2,000,000
	Logistics Support		\$685,980
	Administrative and Program Support		\$267,939
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$21,953,919
State/PRM			
UNRWA	Food Assistance, Health, Relief Commodities, Protection, 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 2024²			\$87,953,919

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect committed or obligated funding as of November 9, 2023. Additional funding publicly announced by the USG is currently pending commitment or obligation.

² USAID has also invested nearly \$500 million in development and peacebuilding assistance since 2021. For more information on USAID’s broader development programming in the West Bank and Gaza, please visit <https://www.usaid.gov/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.
- 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

- 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)