

Levant – Complex Emergency

JULY 11, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

2.1 MILLION	38,193	1.9 MILLION	553	\$774.5 MILLION
Projected Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity from June to September	Palestinian Deaths Reported in Gaza Since October 7	People Displaced in Gaza Since October 7	Palestinian Deaths Reported in the West Bank Since October 7	In USG Humanitarian Funding for the West Bank and Gaza Since October 7, 2023
<i>IPC – June 25, 2024</i>	<i>UN – July 8, 2024</i>	<i>UN – July 3, 2024</i>	<i>UN – July 8, 2024</i>	

- The USG announced more than \$594 million to support multi-sector humanitarian assistance—including emergency food, health, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance—for Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and across the region during June and July.
- Gaza is facing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity and a high risk of Famine through September, with approximately 96 percent of the population requiring food assistance, the IPC reports.
- Hostilities, military operations, and criminality continue to generate humanitarian needs across Gaza, especially following the mass displacement of civilians from southern Gaza’s Rafah Governorate in May and June.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Levant Response in FY 2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$350,654,568
	State/PRM ²	\$409,200,000
Total		\$759,854,568³

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

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 U.S. Government (USG) has announced approximately \$774.5 million in humanitarian funding since October 7, 2023; this includes \$14.6 million in funding obligated in FY 2023 and not included in the FY 2024 total.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USG Announces More Than \$594 Million in New Humanitarian Funding in June and July

USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced an additional \$100 million for Palestinians in dire need throughout Gaza and the West Bank on July 11, bringing the USG's total humanitarian funding announced for Palestinians since October 2023 to more than \$774 million. The funding will support the UN World Food Program (WFP) to deliver urgently needed food assistance and malnutrition treatment to vulnerable populations facing severe levels of acute food insecurity. The announcement follows U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's June 11 commitment of approximately \$404 million in new humanitarian assistance for Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and across the region, which included \$340 million from State/PRM to support the delivery of health, protection, shelter, water assistance, and other social support services, as well as \$64 million in USAID/BHA funding for emergency food assistance and critical logistics support to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian commodities to and within Gaza. In addition, USAID Administrator Power announced more than \$90 million in USAID/BHA funding for emergency food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Gaza and the West Bank on June 5.

The UN released a flash appeal on April 17, calling for approximately \$2.8 billion between April and December to support the needs of 3.1 million people, including the entire population of Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank.

96 Percent of Population Acutely Food Insecure, Slight Improvement Shows Value of Access

More than 2.1 million people, or 96 percent of Gaza's population, will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3— or worse levels of acute food insecurity requiring humanitarian assistance from mid-June through September, while a high risk of Famine—IPC 5—persists throughout all areas of Gaza, according to an expert-level IPC snapshot analysis released on June 25.⁴ Of this total, more than 495,000 people will likely experience Catastrophe—IPC 5—conditions, characterized by an extreme lack of food, exhaustion of coping strategies, starvation, and death. A further 795,000 people are expected to experience Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes. Sustained hostilities and restricted humanitarian access have contributed to the high level of food needs across the enclave by disrupting access to emergency assistance and life-sustaining infrastructure, including health and WASH facilities. The IPC report notes a cessation of hostilities, in conjunction with sustained humanitarian access, is needed to reduce the risk of Famine in Gaza; specifically, the analysis calls for unimpeded humanitarian access and assistance deliveries, malnutrition prevention services and treatment, and efforts to restore food production and market systems.

While the previous IPC report—released on March 18—forecasted Famine likely occurring between March and July, increases in the volume of food and non-food commodities entering northern Gaza in May and the expansion of health, nutrition, and WASH assistance helped temporarily avoid this outcome, the Famine Review Committee reports. However, the analysis underscored that the situation

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. A Famine classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

in Gaza remains volatile, and any significant change in the access or conflict context could result in a rapid decline into Famine, especially as nearly nine months of continued conflict have increased the vulnerability of Gaza's population by compounding food, health, WASH, and nutrition needs.

More Than 1 Million People Displaced From Rafah Face Heightened Needs Amid Ongoing Protection Risks

Expanded Government of Israel (GoI) military operations, evacuation notices, and broader hostilities by Hamas in Rafah Governorate displaced more than 1 million people and led to high levels of civilian casualties between early May and late June, deepening the humanitarian crisis in central and southern Gaza and significantly affecting humanitarian aid movement, according to the UN. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) had previously fled to Rafah due to conflict and evacuation orders in other areas of the enclave since the escalation of hostilities on October 7, 2023. Whereas nearly 1.3 million people—more than four times Rafah's population prior to October 2023—were sheltering in the governorate in early May, fewer than 100,000 people remained in Rafah as of June 7, the UN reports. The majority of people displaced from Rafah sought shelter in already overcrowded and resource-depleted areas of Gaza's Khan Younis and Deir al Balah governorates, where IDPs remain in need of urgent food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance, relief actors report. The rapid and repeated displacement of large swaths of Gaza's population—particularly to areas previously damaged or destroyed by conflict since October—has increased population needs and vulnerabilities while also inhibiting humanitarian actors' ability to establish the necessary resources and systems to respond to rapidly increasing needs.

Displaced populations in Gaza remain under the constant threat of exposure to conflict or other security risks, exacerbating the likelihood of physical and psychological harm to civilians. For example, intense fighting between GoI security forces and Hamas, including during the course of a GoI hostage rescue operation involving airstrikes, led to several incidents of large-scale civilian casualties in Deir al Balah's Nuseirat refugee camp during June. Recent strikes have also adversely affected civilians sheltering in the GoI-designated "humanitarian zone" in southern Gaza's Al Mawasi coastal area that spans Khan Younis and Rafah, with a strike on an informal IDP site in Rafah resulting in the deaths of at least 25 people on June 21, according to international media and the UN. Relief actors continue to call on all parties to cease hostilities in and around protected sites, while emphasizing that no place is currently safe for populations in need throughout Gaza.

Ongoing Hostilities and Insecurity Impede Humanitarian Access in Gaza, Maritime Corridor Augments Land Crossings

Hostilities, insecurity, and criminality around the Kerem Shalom border crossing area, as well as the closure of the Rafah crossing since May 7, have adversely affected service delivery in south and central Gaza, where the majority of the population is sheltering, since early May. Notably, the flow of humanitarian aid supplies into Gaza decreased by nearly 70 percent in May due to several factors, including the GoI's closure of the Rafah crossing and a temporary pause by the Government of Egypt in deliveries of humanitarian assistance to Kerem Shalom, the UN reports. Since May 7, humanitarian access into Gaza has been limited to two primary land crossings for the entry of commodities and personnel, namely northern Gaza's Erez West crossing and southern Gaza's Kerem Shalom crossing, located at the point where Egypt, Gaza, and Israel intersect. Security incidents, stemming primarily from increased looting and criminal gangs, and mission approval delays since mid-May have prevented humanitarian trucks from collecting critically needed cargo from Kerem Shalom, precluding the full functionality of this essential crossing as of late June.

To increase the delivery of assistance during a time of severe need, the USG—in coordination with other donors—supported the establishment of a maritime corridor from Cyprus, including the construction of a temporary pier, which began operations on May 17 to support humanitarian organizations receive and deliver assistance throughout Gaza. While the pier has faced challenges due to severe weather and insecurity within Gaza, the USG had transferred more than 6,200 metric tons (MT) of aid to a beach transfer point on Gaza’s shore as of June 24 for collection and onward distribution. The USG remains committed to using every avenue possible to get urgently needed humanitarian assistance across Gaza. The maritime corridor serves as an additive measure, not a replacement, for land routes.

Aid Worker Safety Imperiled by Gol Military Operations, Hamas Attacks, and Looting

Gol military operations in Rafah, Hamas-led rocket fire on Kerem Shalom, wider hostilities across Gaza, and increasing incidence of looting of humanitarian commodities continue to endanger aid workers attempting to reach populations in need with life-saving assistance. As of July 11, hostilities had resulted in the deaths of at least 258 humanitarian aid workers in Gaza since the escalation of conflict on October 7, 2023, according to the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD). Following the April 1 strike against a World Central Kitchen convoy in Deir al Balah that killed seven international and national staff members, the Gol pledged improvements in deconfliction measures to enable the safe movement of humanitarian personnel. The AWSD reported Gaza remained the most dangerous context globally for aid workers as of June.

Displaced Populations Face Limited Access to Functioning Health Resources, as WASH Needs Rise

Health and WASH needs in Gaza remain dire, particularly among the 1.9 million IDPs who make up approximately nearly 90 percent of the enclave’s population as of July, according to the UN. Notably, the health system in Gaza has lost 70 percent of its bed capacity, the UN reported as of June 21. Only six hospitals remained partially functional in central and southern Gaza, where more than 1 million people have been displaced from Rafah since early May, alongside eight field hospitals as of July 2, according to the Health Cluster.⁵ More than 460 reported attacks adversely affected medical personnel and health care assets—including ambulances, health facilities, and hospitals—in Gaza between October 7, 2023, and June 11, 2024, further impeding the capacity of relief actors to provide life-saving assistance, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. In addition, the spread of communicable diseases, including acute jaundice syndrome, acute respiratory infections, chickenpox, diarrhea, scabies, and skin rashes, continues to escalate in part due to overcrowded and unsanitary shelter conditions amid mass displacement.

Access to safe drinking water remains limited, causing extensive queues for several hours and prompting some IDPs to rely on sea water for domestic use, including for newborns at one site, according to UN inter-cluster assessments of displacement sites in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah between June 7 and 14. Furthermore, the WASH Cluster reported the accumulation of more than 308,000 MT of solid waste across Gaza as of June 19, imperiling safe hygiene practices and forcing displaced populations to reside among garbage. Likewise, hostilities have resulted in the damage or destruction of approximately half of Gaza’s water and sewage treatment sites, international media report. In addition, fuel shortages have hampered aid operations and the functionality of essential health and WASH facilities, further deteriorating health outcomes for civilians. Between January and June, fuel levels were only 14 percent

⁵ The Health Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

of monthly fuel levels that entered Gaza prior to October 2023.

KEY FIGURES



1 Million

People in Gaza sheltering in or near facilities administered by UNRWA



1,200

People treated daily at the USAID/BHA-supported field hospital



1.1 Million

People reached by USAID/BHA partner WFP with general food assistance in May

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

DISPLACEMENT AND SHELTER

As part of the efforts to address essential shelter needs of IDPs in Gaza, a USAID/BHA international NGO (INGO) partner distributed critically needed hygiene kits—including toothbrushes, sanitary pads, soap, toilet paper, and other commodities—to nearly 1,000 people in Gaza Governorate between May 28 and June 18. The partner also distributed 400 bedding kits—comprising blankets, mats, and mattresses—to displaced households in northern Gaza between June 13 and 18.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to administer shelters—including at nearly all of 150 UNRWA schools—for IDPs across Gaza with funding from other international donors, providing multi-sector assistance in and around these facilities to conflict-affected populations. Following the expanded military operations in Rafah in early May, an estimated 800,000 IDPs moved north to existing and new UNRWA installations, abandoning many facilities in Rafah.

HEALTH

Due to increasingly unsafe operating conditions in Rafah, a USAID/BHA INGO partner relocated its field hospital from Al Mawasi to Deir al Balah on June 4, where it continues to provide critical health care services to up 1,200 persons per day. The INGO had increased the facility's capacity from 26 beds to 184 beds as of June 9, increasing access to life-saving care, including advanced mental health services, emergency obstetric and newborn care, physical rehabilitation, and surgical care for traumatic injuries. On average, the USAID/BHA partner was performing 30 major surgeries per day as of early June, in addition to supporting more than 18,000 consultations in the month.

Only ten of UNRWA's more than 20 health centers in Gaza remained operational as of July 10. UNRWA also provides health care to IDPs at shelters through nearly 100 medical points staffed by one to two doctors and one nurse. Collectively, the health centers and medical points treat between 20,000 and 25,000 individuals daily. UNRWA continues to support persons with disabilities with specialized assistance and devices.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

With nearly the entire population in Gaza facing acute food insecurity and a risk of Famine, USAID/BHA partner WFP continues to provide life-saving food assistance to people in shelters and communities across Gaza and the West Bank. The UN agency reached approximately 1.1 million people in need across Gaza and the West Bank with cash-based and in-kind food

assistance monthly as of May. In Gaza, the UN agency distributed more than 260,000 food parcels to IDPs and host community members, sufficient to support the needs of nearly 786,000 people for 10 days.

Although limited access and civil unrest continue to disrupt food deliveries and distributions in Gaza, 12 WFP-supported bakeries remained operational in central and northern Gaza as of June 22, with one bakery in northern Gaza's Jabalya area providing fresh bread to an estimated 3,000 families daily. In addition, UNRWA distributed flour to food-insecure households in southern Gaza residing outside shelters, reaching more than 380,000 families as of May 22.



2,000

Children reached by USAID/BHA INGO partner protection activities via child-friendly safe spaces during May

PROTECTION

One USAID/BHA INGO partner is providing protection assistance, such as mental health and psychosocial support services, through seven child-friendly spaces in Gaza. During May, the INGO reached more than 2,000 children with its sessions, providing participants the space to express their feelings and reduce stress through art, music, and open discussions. The child-friendly spaces also host protection-related awareness raising and risk mitigation activities.

UNRWA's medical teams are also providing psychological first aid and other specialized protection services in shelters. As of February 19, UNRWA had provided psychological support services to more than 106,000 IDPs since the onset of hostilities. In addition, more than 95,000 IDPs had participated in awareness raising and family and community support sessions.



108,000 MT

Of food assistance transported into Gaza by WFP since escalation of hostilities as of June 26

LOGISTICS

As the lead supporter of humanitarian logistics, WFP facilitated the transport of approximately 7,800 MT of food assistance into Gaza via more than 500 trucks between June 1 and 26, bringing the total amount of food assistance that has entered Gaza to more than 108,000 MT via approximately 6,000 trucks since October 7, 2023. The USG also continues to support the delivery of food and other critical assistance through the maritime corridors since the temporary pier became operational in mid-May.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Protracted conflict and restricted access to basic services have generated significant humanitarian needs in Gaza and the West Bank.
- On October 7, 2023, Hamas and affiliated Gaza-based armed groups carried out an attack on civilian and military targets in Israel that resulted in an estimated 1,200 deaths and the abduction of approximately 240 people, according to the Gol. In response, the Gol commenced a large-scale military campaign in Gaza, including ground operations and widespread airstrikes. The October 7 attack and subsequent

hostilities represent a major escalation of conflict in Gaza and have led to increased tensions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including Gol hostilities and settler violence which had resulted in at least 553 deaths and approximately 5,500 injuries as of July 8.

- On October 8, 2023, then-U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Stephanie L. Hallett renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for the West Bank and Gaza for FY 2024 due to current and projected humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency.
- On October 12, USAID/BHA activated a regionally based Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response.
- The Gol began issuing evacuation orders in Rafah Governorate on May 6, directing IDPs to resettle in southern Gaza’s coastal Al Mawasi area spanning Khan Younis and Rafah governorates, according to the UN. As of early May, an estimated 1.3 million people had previously fled to Rafah due to evacuation orders and hostilities in other areas of Gaza and were receiving assistance through numerous humanitarian actors. The expansion of Gol military operations in Rafah and the closure of the Rafah crossing, a major aid entry point located along the Gaza–Egypt border, on May 7 limited humanitarian access in southern Gaza to Kerem Shalom and resulted in mass displacement.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEVANT RESPONSE IN FY 2024⁶

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partner #1	Food Assistance— Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (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	\$38,000,000
Implementing Partner #3	Food Assistance—LIRP; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$5,000,000
Implementing Partner #4	HCIMA, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$6,000,000
IOM	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$28,500,000
OCHA	HCIMA	West Bank and Gaza	\$2,000,000
UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	Nutrition, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$4,000,000
UNDSS	HCIMA	West Bank and Gaza	\$2,000,137
WHO	Health	West Bank and Gaza	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, LRIP, Logistics, Nutrition	West Bank and Gaza	\$240,328,953
	Logistics Support		\$12,579,444
	Administrative and Program Support		\$2,246,034
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$350,654,568
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza	\$115,400,000
UN Office for Project Services	Multi-Sector Assistance	Israel, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza	\$70,000,000
UNRWA	Food Assistance—LRIP, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	West Bank and Gaza	\$51,000,000
Implementing Partner	Shelter	Egypt, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza	\$81,000,000
International Humanitarian Organization	Multi-Sector Assistance	Israel, West Bank, and Gaza	\$91,800,000

TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING⁷	\$409,200,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEVANT RESPONSE IN FY 2024	\$759,854,568

⁶ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 11, 2024.

⁷ State/PRM has also contributed nearly \$71 million to UNRWA's regional program budget and special projects, some of which may be directed towards crisis-related needs in 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.
- 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.usaid.gov
 - 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)