

Levant – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

2.1 MILLION	41,226	1.9 MILLION	674	\$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 – September 16, 2024</i>	<i>UN – August 7, 2024</i>	<i>UN – September 11, 2024</i>	

- Amid evacuation orders driving displacement, airstrikes on IDP-hosting areas in July and August generated significant casualties, heightened multi-sector needs, and highlighted protection risks.
- Health actors reported a confirmed case of polio in Gaza in August. A polio vaccine campaign reached its first-round goal of vaccinating 90 percent of children ages ten years and younger. Meanwhile, damage to health infrastructure and unsanitary living conditions among IDPs challenges disease prevention and response.
- The USG-constructed temporary pier—JLOTS—facilitated the delivery of approximately 8,800 MT of humanitarian commodities between mid-May and its conclusion of operations on July 16.



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

Operations Affecting IDP Shelters Result in Significant Casualties, Exacerbate Multi-Sector Needs

Continued intense fighting between Government of Israel (GoI) security forces and Hamas affecting protected civilian locations—including displacement sites, refugee camps, and schools—generated significant casualties and highlighted the persistent exposure of civilians, including children, to protection risks arising from active hostilities. An airstrike on a school sheltering thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gaza Governorate’s Gaza City on August 10—the eighth such strike on a school sheltering IDPs between August 1 and 16—resulted in an estimated 90 deaths, though verification of casualties remains ongoing, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). GoI security forces contested the casualty numbers and alleged that Hamas and other Gaza-based armed groups utilized this school and others as command-and-control centers. In July and August, strikes resulted in the deaths of at least 274 people, damaged several civilian sites, including a food kitchen and tents housing IDPs, and affected some areas within the GoI-designated “humanitarian zone” spanning coastal areas of Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates, according to the UN. In these and several other incidents, the strikes exacerbated IDPs’ dire food and shelter needs and overwhelmed health centers with mass casualties amid the facilities’ existing critical shortage of hospital beds, medications, and safe water, the UN reports. On September 1, GoI reported its forces recovered the bodies of six hostages executed by Hamas in a tunnel under the city of Rafah.

Evacuation Orders Constrain Humanitarian Operations Amid Repeated Displacement

Between August 1 and 25, a series of 16 evacuation orders for Deir al Balah and Khan Younis—where the vast majority of humanitarian infrastructure was based due to previous evacuations and displacements—reduced the “humanitarian zone” within these governorates by approximately 14 percent as of August 25. As a result of recent evacuation orders, relief actors lost the ability to access large amounts of critical humanitarian infrastructure—such as aid commodity warehouses—in affected areas and many humanitarian staff were displaced, severely constraining aid organizations’ ability to deliver life-saving assistance amid worsening conditions, according to the UN. To illustrate, the August 16 evacuation orders affected more than 120 IDP collective centers, IDP sites, and makeshift shelters, while the August 25 order further impacted 19 UN and nongovernmental organization (NGO) premises, including four UN warehouses, according to the UN. GoI security forces announced on August 29 and 30 that civilians could return to some areas of Deir al Balah and Khan Younis previously ordered to evacuate between August 16 and 25, thereby returning these areas to the “humanitarian zone,” and allowing some humanitarian organizations to resume operations.

In terms of the impact on populations in Gaza, multiple evacuation orders and ongoing hostilities in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis drove mass displacement, primarily into the designated “humanitarian zone,” including more than 200,000 people—approximately 9 percent of Gaza’s population—between July 22 and 28, as well as 75,000 people between August 8 and 11, with many experiencing repeated displacement, according to the UN. Insufficient access to food, hygiene facilities, shelter, and water exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and protection risks, poses significant risks of communicable disease transmission, and increases mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs for the estimated 1.5 million to 1.7 million IDPs sheltering in overcrowded conditions in the zone, the Health Cluster and UN World Health Organization (WHO) report.⁴ Notably, apart from the August 29 and 30 rescissions,

⁴ The Health Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

evacuation orders—which had affected approximately 89 percent of Gaza’s land area at least one time between October 7, 2023, and August 26, 2024—have not contained, or been followed by, clarification on when the orders are no longer in effect or when areas may become safe for residents’ return.

Health Conditions Worsen in Overcrowded Conditions; Relief Actors Respond to Detection of Polio

Health conditions continue to deteriorate among people in Gaza, largely due to overcrowded and unhygienic shelter conditions, the accumulation of waste in public spaces, poor access to water and sanitation services, and limited access to health care, with less than 50 percent of hospitals and primary health care facilities at least partially functional as of mid-August, according to WHO. Since October 7, 2023, WHO reports there have been more than 100,000 cases of suspected hepatitis A—a disease transmitted by contaminated food or water—in late July.

Relief actors also remain concerned regarding the recent detection of a variant of poliovirus in Gaza amid deterioration of the health care system and severely limited response capacity. WHO confirmed at least one case of polio—in an unvaccinated child younger than one year of age, who is now partially paralyzed—as of August 28. Previously, health actors’ testing of environmental samples from Deir al Balah and Khan Younis in July had detected circulating variant poliovirus type 2, a strain of poliovirus that has undergone a change from the weakened form contained in vaccines that can cause infection and paralysis in under-immunized or unimmunized populations. Hostilities have also interrupted routine immunizations for many children, particularly those born since the onset of hostilities, increasing their risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases, WHO reports. To stop the spread of the disease, WHO provided more than 1.6 million doses of polio vaccine and is leading efforts to conduct a systematic immunization campaign in Gaza that began on September 1. On August 28, WHO announced a preliminary commitment from the GoI to pause hostilities for eight hours daily on three days each in central, northern, and southern Gaza to facilitate the campaign. WHO had reached more than 550,000 children with the polio vaccine as of September 11, reportedly achieving its first-round goal of reaching 90 percent of the population ages ten years and younger.

USG Temporary Pier Delivers More Than 8,800 MT of Commodities, Aid Distribution Challenges Continue

The USG concluded use of the temporary pier for delivering aid to Gaza—also referred to as the Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS) operation—on July 16. Since its launch in May, the JLOTS pier facilitated the delivery of more than 8,800 metric tons (MT) of aid from Cyprus to Gaza for distribution by humanitarian partners amid access challenges via land crossings. Beyond the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, JLOTS operations supported multinational cooperation and improved coordination between GoI authorities and humanitarian partners.

As commodities arrive at Gaza’s two operational land crossings—Kerem Shalom in the south and Erez East in the north—as of mid-August, significant challenges constrain relief actors’ ability to collect aid from crossings and distribute it to populations in need, including ongoing hostilities, severe fuel shortages, and a breakdown of public order enabling periodic looting by unknown armed actors and removal of relief commodities by crowds of desperate individuals. Insecurity and hostilities along routes, long waits at checkpoints, and restrictions on convoys’ use of certain roads also continue to delay and occasionally result in the cancellation of humanitarian movements, in addition to increasing security risks to aid workers, OCHA reports. Due to these factors, an average of 77 truckloads of aid supplies were collected daily from crossings for onward movement within Gaza between July 1 and 29, representing an approximately 42 percent decline compared with the daily average of 132 trucks between January and

April 2024. Additionally, Kerem Shalom routinely records a backlog of approximately 500 truckloads of commodities—such as food, medical supplies, and shelter materials—as of mid-August, according to the UN. The UN and Gol continue to explore solutions to resolve impediments, including more streamlined checkpoint procedures and the use of alternative routes for certain relief commodities.

KEY FIGURES



1 Million

People in Gaza sheltering in or near facilities administered by the UN



16,000

Health consultations at one USAID/BHA supported field hospital between July 15 and 31

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 and shelter supplies—such as bedding and tarps—to approximately 19,800 people in North Gaza and Gaza governorates during July and August.

The UN continues to respond to urgent needs in Gaza, administering shelters for IDPs across Gaza providing multi-sector assistance in and around these facilities to conflict-affected populations.

HEALTH

A USAID/BHA INGO partner continues to operate a field hospital in Deir al Balah as of August, where it provides critical health care services to thousands of individuals per day. The INGO increased the field hospital's capacity from approximately 180 beds in early June to more than 250 beds as of August, increasing access to life-saving care, including advanced mental health services, emergency obstetric and newborn care, physical rehabilitation, and surgical care for traumatic injuries. The USAID/BHA partner opened a second facility associated with the Deir al Balah field hospital in mid-July to expand the INGO's capacity to provide emergency and primary health care. In the second half of July, the new comprehensive primary healthcare facility conducted more than 16,000 outpatient health consultations while the main facility handled nearly 6,000 emergency cases during the reporting period.

Only ten of a UN agency's 27 health centers in Gaza remained operational as of August 28. UN health centers provide primary health care, including dressings for wounds and treatment for non-communicable diseases, as well as prenatal and postnatal care for newborns and mothers. The UN agency provided more than 5.2 million medical consultations in health centers and other medical points across Gaza between October 7, 2023, and August 18, 2024. The UN also continues to provide vaccines, reaching more than 130,000 children with immunizations in 2024 as of August 7.



1.4 Million

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

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

With nearly the entire population in Gaza facing acute food insecurity and a risk of Famine, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (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 1.4 million people in Gaza and the West Bank with in-kind assistance and cash transfers for food during July. In Gaza alone, WFP provided 15-day food packages to more than 1.2 million IDPs and, with other donor funding, provided an estimated 11.5 million hot meals through a network of 70 community kitchens. Although limited humanitarian access and civil unrest continue to disrupt food deliveries and distributions in Gaza, WFP-supported bakeries in Gaza provided more than 1.8 million bread bundles—totaling nearly 5,500 MT—to people in the enclave. In the West Bank, the UN agency reached approximately 166,000 people with vouchers in July, bolstering recipients’ ability to purchase food from local markets.

In addition, a separate UN agency distributed flour to more than 380,000 households, or nearly 1.9 million people, across Gaza between the escalation of hostilities and August 7. The UN agency had also reached nearly 1.2 million people in southern Gaza with food packages—including chickpeas, fish, lentils, and rice—during the reporting period.



6

Number of USG partners providing protection assistance within the Levant response

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA supports four NGO partners providing protection assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, such as child-friendly spaces (CFS) and MHPSS services. During the last two weeks of July, one INGO reached nearly 2,600 children and caregivers with child protection support, including case management and psychological first aid. USAID/BHA-supported CFS provide 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.

One UN agency’s medical teams are also providing psychological first aid and other specialized protection services in shelters. As of August 7, the UN had reached approximately 700,000 IDPs with psychological support (PSS) services since the onset of hostilities. In addition, the UN agency had reached 17,000 persons with disabilities with PSS services. The UN agency reached more than 1,200 survivors of gender-based violence and 1,100 children with protection services, including the distribution of dignity kits and other emergency relief supplies, as well as providing safe shelter spaces.



123,000 MT

Of food assistance transported into Gaza by WFP since escalation of hostilities as of August 7

LOGISTICS

As the lead supporter of humanitarian logistics, WFP facilitated the transport of nearly 10,500 MT of food assistance into Gaza via more than 900 trucks during July. In total, the UN agency supported the delivery of nearly 123,000 MT of food into Gaza via approximately 7,900 trucks between October 7, 2023, and August 7, 2024. The USG also supported the

delivery of more than 8,800 MT of food and other critical assistance via the USG-supported pier between May and July.

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 674 deaths as of September 11.
- 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 (RMT) to coordinate the USG response.
- The expansion of Gol military operations in Rafah Governorate and the May 7 closure of the Rafah crossing, a major aid entry point located along the Gaza–Egypt border, limited humanitarian access in southern Gaza to Kerem Shalom and resulted in mass displacement to the coastal Al Mawasi area spanning Deir al Balah and Khan Younis.

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; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (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
International Organization for Migration (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
UN Department of Safety and Security	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
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (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 FUNDING^{7,8}			\$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.

⁸ The USG suspended all funding to UNRWA on January 24, 2024, and Congress passed legislation prohibiting funding to UNRWA on March 23 and April 24, 2024.

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)