



26 Dec 2024

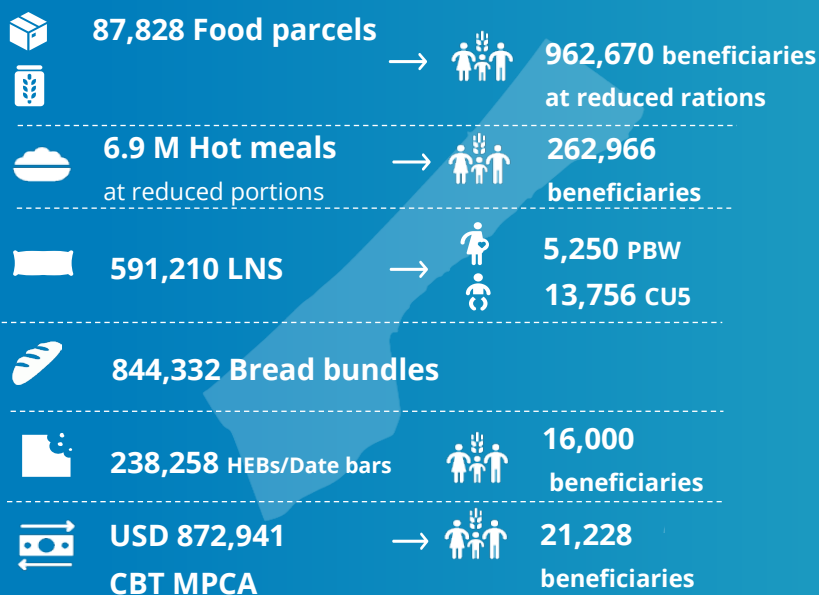
# WFP PALESTINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## External Situation Report 42

### HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP is striving to increase commodity flow into Gaza, but severe access restrictions, rampant insecurity and escalating violence continue to hinder humanitarian movements. In December alone, 49 out of 160 planned movements were denied access. By 16 December, barely any commercial trucks had entered Gaza, while the daily average of humanitarian trucks dropped to 87, accounting for only 17 percent of total trucks entering prior to the conflict.
- Attempts to utilize new routes remain fraught with obstacles. On 22 December, a UN convoy of 66 trucks from Philadelphi road was delayed by an airstrike on the planned route, causing a split in the convoy and resulting in 23 trucks being looted.
- To stretch limited resources, WFP was forced to continue to reduce rations this month. In December, around 1.1 million people received assistance in Gaza, though the majority – 70 percent – only received a 25-kg bag of wheat flour, barely covering needs for 10 days. The hot meal provision continued at reduced portions, reaching around 260,000 people.
- These incidents, and the operating context, highlight severe risks to humanitarian workers, erode community trust, and underscore the urgent need for political solutions. A ceasefire and restoration of law and order are critical to secure supply routes, ensure safe aid access, and protect civilians, for a sustainable humanitarian response.

### DECEMBER IN NUMBERS – 1-21 December



**PALESTINE** 1.38 million people reached (1.4 m planned)  
**GAZA** 1.18 million people reached (1.1 m planned)  
 with significantly reduced rations

**West Bank** 205,299 people reached (338,000 planned)

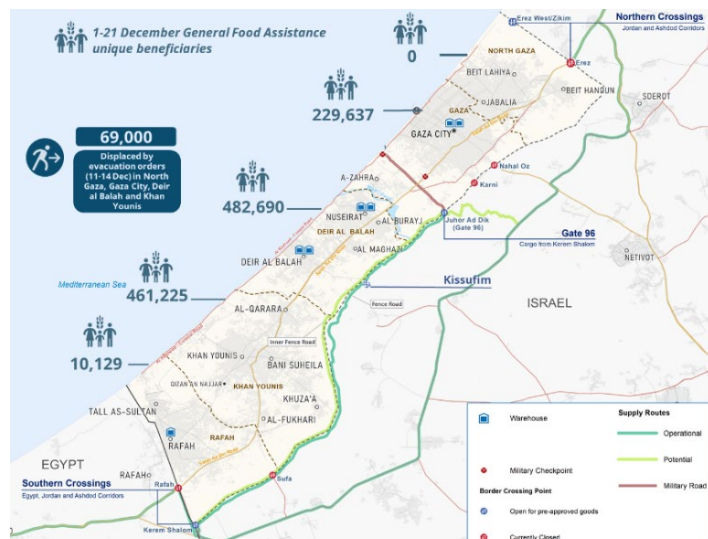
**USD 2.5 M CBT Voucher** → **173,713 beneficiaries**  
**USD 20,330 CBT MPCA** → **239 beneficiaries**

**WFP six-month net funding requirement USD 125 M**  
*January 2025 - June 2025*

*These numbers are still subject to change due to the finalization of December 2024 reporting figures from partners. The total beneficiaries figure accounts for overlap between people receiving more than one type of assistance (LNS, HEB figures are not included). ACRONYMS: Pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) | Children under five (CU5) | High-Energy Biscuits (HEB) | Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) | Cash-based Transfers (CBT)*

### SITUATION UPDATE

- Food consumption in Gaza remains critically poor**, limited to bread and pulses for the third consecutive month and almost no access to fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, or meat. In the south and central areas, food accessibility has drastically declined, where 90 percent of WFP-interviewed households reported lack of money to afford food, which is already scarce in markets.
- The energy crisis worsens** as temperatures drop, with northern Gaza lacking cooking gas for over 14 months, forcing families to burn waste. In Deir Al-Balah and Khan Yunis, gas prices have surged by 700 percent, making it unaffordable for food preparation.
- Around 50 million tons of debris**, including hazardous materials and unexploded ordnance, block agricultural recovery and endanger farmers, highlighting the urgent need for clearance to restore livelihoods and safety.



## WFP OPERATIONS

### General Food Assistance (GFA) 1-21 December

- To date in December, WFP has provided food and cash-based assistance to over **1.18 million people in Gaza and 205,299 in the West Bank\***. This has only been possible by delivering significantly reduced rations, which barely cover families' needs for 10 days, underscoring our growing inability to meet escalating needs amidst severe constraints. *\*The total beneficiaries figure accounts for overlap between people receiving more than one type and duration of assistance. Monthly distribution figures are estimates and subject to change pending final beneficiary reconciliation.*
- In Gaza, WFP distributed **87,828 emergency ready-to-eat rations (RTE) and 177,442 wheat flour bags to 962,670 displaced people**. However, 70 percent of beneficiaries received only a single 25-kg bag of wheat flour, a mere quarter of a full ration. The remaining 30 percent fared slightly better, receiving one RTE on top of their wheat flour bag in southern and central Gaza, or two RTEs and one bag of wheat flour in Gaza City. This disparity is driven by a relatively stable flow of aid commodities via West Erez crossing towards Gaza city, while central Gaza suffers shortages due to persistent insecurity at southern crossings. **After two months of repeated access denials, WFP finally managed to deliver food and water to Beit Hanoun on 20 December, reaching only 800 people** who had been cut off for 75 days.
- Out of 19 WFP-contracted bakeries across Gaza, only four are open in Gaza City. Others are closed due to fuel and wheat flour shortages, and overcrowding-related security risks. WFP-supported bakeries produced **844,332 bread bundles**, falling drastically short of the monthly average of 3 million (1,689 mt), highlighting a severe decline in production capacity. In Gaza, a 25-kg bag of wheat flour costs around USD 150, a price far beyond the reach of most residents.
- WFP provided **6.9 million hot meals to 262,966 people** across the Strip, through 65 kitchens. Due to severe supply shortages, partners have been forced to severely cut portion sizes and reduce food variety, leaving limited resources stretched to unsustainable levels.
- A total of 5,250 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G), along with 13,756 children under five (CU5)**, received over 591,210 lipid-based nutritional supplement (LNS) packs as complementary feeding assistance to meet their increased nutritional needs.
- 21,228 people were targeted for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)**, with 55 percent redeeming their assistance, using PalPay vouchers for food at WFP retailers or digital transfer the value for cash or digital purchases.
- In the **West Bank, 181,052 beneficiaries redeemed their CBT entitlements**, with 180,777 using PalPay to purchase food at WFP shops. Additionally, 275 people, including displaced individuals, received MPCA as physical cash. In parallel, **24,247 people received in-kind food distributions**, totalling around 1,474 mt of food.



## SUPPLY CHAIN

- Of four crossing points the UN can use to bring in supplies, only two - **West Erez (Zikim)** and **Gate 96** are effectively operational and accessible.

- As for the two remaining ones, **Karam Abu Salem/Kerem Shalom (KS)** remains open, but uplifts to Gaza through Salah al-Din Road have paused since 16 November due to insecurity. WFP is alternatively using the Philadelphi road, though it remains affected by armed looting and attacks on convoy routes. On December 22, a UN convoy of 66 trucks was affected by an airstrike further along its route, causing casualties and panic, leading to exposure and looting, with only 43 out of the 66 trucks arriving.
- In the meantime, the only remaining lifeline for the southern and central areas of the Strip is the Fence Road which is increasingly facing challenges. **Kissufim** is under halt due to insecurity.
- Since the start of the crisis, WFP has delivered 11,514 WFP trucks with at least 168,083 mt of food into Gaza.



### TOTAL AID DELIVERED IN THE GAZA STRIP IN DECEMBER

962 WFP TRUCKS | 13,216 mt  
826 PARTNER TRUCKS | 14,751 pallets

#### EGYPT CORRIDOR

240 WFP TRUCKS  
3,217 mt  
252 PARTNER TRUCKS  
3,975 pallets  
Via Kerem Shalom,  
Kissufim and Gate 96

#### JORDAN CORRIDOR

195 WFP TRUCKS  
2,775 mt  
351 PARTNER TRUCKS  
6,387 pallets  
Via West Erez (Zikim)  
and Kerem Shalom

#### ASHDOD CORRIDOR

527 WFP TRUCKS  
7,224 mt  
223 PARTNER TRUCKS  
4,389 pallets  
Via West Erez (Zikim) and  
Gate 96

## CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

### Food Security Sector (FSS)



- Since December, only 40 percent of the needed 10,000 mt of wheat flour has been delivered to southern and central Gaza, increasing spoilage risks.
- Cooperating partners have distributed 4,000 mt of flour to 600,000 people, covering just 35 percent of the 1.7 million in need, worsening food insecurity and eroding trust in humanitarian efforts.
- Around 600,000 daily meals are distributed from 160 community kitchens but overcrowding and supply shortages have led to adjustments.
- In December, 120 mt of animal feed supported 2,500 households, vital for livestock and children's nutrition.
- Requests for agricultural supplies have been denied, making advocacy for their entry critical to restarting agriculture and improving diet diversity in Gaza.

### Logistics Cluster



- The Logistics Cluster continues daily operations at West Erez (Zikim) despite sporadic cargo losses. Security issues at Kerem Shalom have caused congestion, preventing partner cargo collection.
- From 1-21 December, the Cluster facilitated seven convoys from Amman to Erez West with 91 trucks carrying 780 mt of aid for nine partners, excluding WFP trucks.
- By 21 December, the Cluster consolidated 26,869 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo in Amman and received 56,399 m<sup>3</sup> for storage in Gaza.



### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- Voice services and internet in Gaza are limited due to access restrictions, fuel shortages, and infrastructure damage. Northern Gaza's destruction has worsened communication challenges, affecting both aid and local populations. Service providers seek UN support for repairs.