



WFP distribution of bread and canned fish in Gaza ©WFP

# WFP Palestine Emergency Response External Situation Report 6

31 October 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the communication blackout, WFP has been able to restore contact with all of its staff and partners inside Gaza. We continue to remain deeply concerned for their safety and that of the entire civilian population.
- WFP continues to call for safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to allow the delivery of lifesaving assistance at a meaningful scale. For this, a minimum of 100 trucks/day need to enter Gaza, of which half need to be food aid, and once in Gaza, humanitarian workers must be able to safely distribute and monitor food assistance, and civilians must be able to safely access assistance.
- So far, WFP has provided vital food and cash assistance to **630,000 people** in shelters and communities across Gaza and the West Bank. WFP was able to resume operations with restored basic connectivity, but its capacity to deliver relief remains restrained by the intensified violence, colossal destruction, and scarcity of fuel and electricity. Only one WFP bakery is currently operational.
- As needs are soaring, WFP needs at least **USD 112 million for the next 60 days** to sustain its emergency response to 1.1 million affected people at pace and scale.

## SITUATION UPDATE

Following intensified bombardments, a near total communication blackout on the Gaza Strip on 27 October forced WFP operations to halt for 36 hours and lose contact with staff, partners, contracted shops and bakeries on the ground. The blackout also affected access to WFP cash assistance modalities that include ATMs, point-of-sales, and shop networks, as well as its ability to run the hotline for beneficiary feedback.

WFP resumed fresh bread and canned food distributions on 29 October, but **only one WFP-contracted bakery had fuel to operate**, compared to 23 bakeries at the start of the emergency response, resulting in only 10 percent of people being reached. WFP is in the process of contracting more bakeries, but without fuel, none are able to operate. Fuel is needed to operate food providers and transport delivery of food. In addition, the protection of bakeries is critical to ensure food availability for deprived families as ten of Gaza's bakeries have been hit by airstrikes so far.

On 29 October, a mass of desperate civilians stormed a WFP warehouse in Gaza's middle area, where WFP had 80 mt of mixed food commodities ready for distribution to displaced families.

Essential food commodities are rapidly running out in Gaza's shops. Despite some food being available at wholesalers, shops are not able to re-stock due to damaged roads, safety concerns and shortage of fuel. Food stock levels in Gaza shops are dropping rapidly, with wheat flour, dairy products, pulses, rice, vegetable oil, vegetables, eggs, and mineral water reported as sufficient for 5 days.

## IN NUMBERS



**630,000**

Affected people in Gaza and the West Bank received WFP assistance to date



**12 WFP Trucks**

crossed into Gaza through Rafah border with 195 mt of life-saving food supplies



**USD 112M**

WFP emergency response estimated funding needs for the next 60 days



**1.1 million**

Affected people targeted by WFP emergency assistance in the next 2 months

## WFP RESPONSE

Since the start of the escalation, WFP provided emergency food and cash assistance to an estimated **630,000 affected people** across Gaza and the West Bank. Out of these, around 540,000 displaced people in UN-designated shelters in **Gaza** received fresh bread and canned food.

Under **cash assistance**, WFP is continuing the distribution of electronic food vouchers reaching 522,000 people in Gaza so far. As of 29 October, **54 percent of people** who received the vouchers have redeemed them across WFP-contracted shops in the Gaza Strip. The capacity of shops to run the voucher program depends on connectivity but is diminishing as the stocks and electricity run out.

On 30 October, WFP began distribution of food parcels to displaced families in host communities in Gaza, through its cooperating partner, Global Communities.

**In the West Bank**, 60,000 people received cash assistance, and almost all (99 percent) have redeemed.

**Twelve WFP trucks carrying more than 190 mt of food supplies have already crossed into Gaza** since the opening of the Rafah crossing point on Saturday 21 October. WFP has about 40 food trucks loaded and ready near the Egyptian border with Gaza. We have more than 930 metric tons of food stockpiled at the border, with additional stocks on their way from Egypt and international markets.

**To provide food assistance at a meaningful scale, 50 food trucks need to enter the Gaza Strip daily, until commercial supply can be restored.** WFP has prepositioned 5,000 mt of emergency food in Egypt, Gaza and the West Bank including high-energy biscuits, ready-to-eats, date bars and food parcels enough to feed 1.3 million people for 15 days.

As of 27 October, WFP has received **21,000 calls** on the inter-agency hotline it operates on behalf of the humanitarian community.

As of 28 October, WFP Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has been in discussion to explore potential solutions and advocate for importing telecommunications equipment.