



WFP Palestine Emergency Response External Situation Report 3

18 October 2023

📌 HIGHLIGHTS

- Thanks to internal advancing mechanisms and existing contributions, WFP has pre-positioned 5,230 mt of food in Gaza, Al Arish (Egypt), the West Bank and Jerusalem, and is gearing for stocks to feed as many as 1.3 million people for two weeks.
- WFP pleads for immediate safe supply corridors into Gaza and safe humanitarian access inside Gaza to reach people in need. WFP appeals for civilians to be able to access humanitarian delivery points and services and for the protection of essential infrastructure such as hospitals, water pumping stations, bakeries and food distribution sites.
- WFP requires urgent funds and is in the process to revise upwards its current appeal of USD 74 million, to match the growing needs.

SITUATION UPDATE

The dire humanitarian situation in Gaza is aggravating by the hour. The scarcity of water, power, food, and medicine supplies is putting people's lives in jeopardy. Over one million people are estimated to be displaced, of which nearly 600,000 people have moved to central and southern regions seeking safety and protection.

Food stock levels in Gaza's shops are depleting rapidly, with essential food commodities like wheat flour, dairy products, pulses, rice, vegetable oil, vegetables, eggs, and mineral water reported as lasting for less than a week in most shops. All bakeries contracted by WFP have reported a shortage in either wheat flour, electricity, or water. Seven shops, five bakeries and one of the local mills working with WFP in Gaza have been damaged due to the conflict so far. Physical access to shops is also a major challenge. Despite essential food items being available, retailers face difficulties restocking the remaining available food from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and security concerns.

In view of the displacement wave towards the South of Gaza, WFP is taking measures to ensure safe and uninterrupted assistance to all affected and ensure the safety of its staff, cooperating partners and humanitarian operations.

WFP received over **6,227 calls on the inter-agency hotline** it operates on behalf of the humanitarian community. Half of the calls were requesting food and cash assistance as well as shelter.

IN NUMBERS



805,000

Affected people targeted by WFP emergency assistance in the next 3 months



USD 74M

WFP emergency response funding requirements for 3 months



522,000

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

WFP EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

WFP requires a total of **USD 74 million to reach 805,000 people** with emergency food and cash assistance in the **next three months**, as part of the UN Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP is currently prepositioning lifesaving food supplies in Egypt, to be delivered into Gaza once humanitarian access is granted. 20 mt of high-energy biscuits and four mobile storage units airlifted from Dubai, landed in the Egyptian city of AlArish. 951 mt of food are currently available in Egypt, close to the border of Gaza, enough to feed 488,000 people for one week. In Gaza, WFP has currently 3,122 mt of canned tuna and wheat flour. In the West Bank and Jerusalem, WFP has 1,157 mt of wheat flour, olive and vegetable oils, lentils and chickpeas.

As of 16 October, WFP has reached around **220,000 displaced people in 92 UN-designated shelters** with fresh bread in Gaza. On 16 October alone, WFP reached 170,000 displaced people across 30 shelters. This situation points to the increasing congestion within these shelters, as the average number of people per shelter has nearly tripled. With the shortage of electricity and stocks, only four of the 23 bakeries contracted by WFP to provide fresh bread in shelters, are currently operational. In result, WFP was forced to reduce the food ration per person.

WFP provided cash transfer of USD 12.4 to **138,863 displaced people** and cash emergency top-up of USD 5 to **164,000 of our regular beneficiaries** who had already received their October transfer. People receive cash in the form of electronic vouchers to buy food from shops that are still open. Approximately 90 percent are in Gaza (10 percent in West Bank). So far, **157,233 people** have redeemed their vouchers: 62 percent from shops in the north of Gaza, and 38 percent in the south. WFP is also addressing requests from Humanitarian partners to use WFP's cash-based transfers platform to reach affected populations.