



WFP trucks crossing Rafah border to Gaza. ©WFP

WFP Palestine Emergency Response External Situation Report 4

21 October 2023

📌 HIGHLIGHTS

- On 21 October, the first humanitarian convoy of 20 trucks crossed the Rafah border to Gaza with lifesaving food, water and medicine. The convoy included three WFP trucks enough to feed an estimated 200,000 affected people in shelters and communities.
- Additional 40 WFP trucks are in AL-Arish (Egypt), awaiting entry at the Rafah border to deliver 930 mt of life-saving food to those affected in Gaza. WFP is prepositioning more food supplies to cater to as many as 1.1 million people over the next 60 days.
- WFP appeals for the protection of vital infrastructure and the safeguarding of civilians so they can access humanitarian aid points and services.
- As needs are soaring, WFP urgently requires USD 74 million for the next 90 days to sustain its emergency response at pace and scale. Needs are being revised upwards to reflect greater requirements as access improves.

SITUATION UPDATE

With each passing moment, the humanitarian situation in Gaza intensifies, with needs becoming more critical. The acute shortage of basic necessities such as water, power, food, and medical supplies is pushing people's lives to the edge of catastrophe.

After days at the border, on 21 October, the first humanitarian convoy crossed the Rafah border consisting of 11 trucks of Egyptian Red Crescent and 9 UN trucks (4 WHO, 3 WFP and 2 UNICEF).

The conflict has also resulted in damages to essential infrastructure and services. Seven shops, five bakeries and one of the mills working with WFP in Gaza have been damaged. Also, 23 WFP-contracted shops are closed due to the conflict. Only **four of the 23 bakeries contracted by WFP to provide fresh bread in shelters are currently operational** but remain at risk of occasional closures due to lack of fuel. Only **one out of the five WFP-contracted mills is functioning**.

According to [WFP Gaza market monitoring](#), most shops have food reserves that will last less than a week, and the ability to replenish these stocks is compromised by damaged roads, safety concerns, and fuel shortages. Besides, there's a steady decline in the quantities of main food commodities like wheat flour, eggs, and vegetables in stores, accompanied by a rise in their prices.

In the West Bank, prices remained largely stable, although there have been notable increases among some wholesalers and retailers due to restrictions at commercial crossings.

IN NUMBERS



805,000

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



USD 74 M

WFP emergency response funding requirements for the next 90 days



522,000

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

WFP RESPONSE

In **Gaza**, on 19 October only, WFP has reached close to **168,000 displaced people in 42 UN-designated shelters** with fresh bread through **four contracted bakeries**.

Moreover, **32,755 of the most vulnerable affected people received a cash transfer of USD 12.4** in the form of electronic vouchers to buy food from shops that are still open. An additional **11,300 people redeemed their CBT assistance** through 94 open shops, as of the afternoon of 19 October. Overall, **181,596 people in Gaza have redeemed CBT assistance** in shops since the start of the escalation.

The first three WFP trucks crossing the Rafah border constitute two trucks of canned tuna - enough to feed over 200,000 people in shelters for one day; and one truck of dry rations that can feed over 4,000 displaced people in host communities for two weeks.

In the **West Bank**, WFP, in coordination with OCHA, is working to assess and plan the response to the needs of displaced Gazans. Since the beginning of the escalation, **WFP assisted around 61,000 people in the West Bank with electronic vouchers** that can be redeemed in shops to support their food needs.

WFP received **10,988 calls** on the inter-agency hotline it operates on behalf of the humanitarian community. Sixty percent of the calls request food or cash, as well as shelter support.

In parallel, WFP is establishing a robust and agile supply chain network in the region to support the delivery of relief into Gaza via key access points, in particular the Rafah crossing in Egypt. On 20 October, an additional 40 mt of food rations arrived in Al-Arish from UAE to support the emergency response in Gaza. This brings the total of WFP food supplies available in Egypt to support the response in Gaza to 930 mt. Upon activation, WFP has been also leading the [Logistics Cluster](#) to support humanitarian partners with response coordination and information sharing.