WFP wheat flour being loaded on 19 May in Ashdod Port and headed toward Gaza © WFP/ Nizar Khadd

# WFP PALESTINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE External Situation Report 54

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26 May 2025

# HIGHLIGHTS

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As of 26 May, since the limited resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza on 19 May, 294 trucks were delivered to Kerem Shalom from Port Ashdod. Among these, 189 trucks were collected from the crossing inside Gaza, 94 of which have arrived at their destination. These shipments included wheat flour for bakeries, nutritional products for children, and medical supplies. The resumption follows more than 10 weeks of suspension; the UN is advocating for at least 100 trucks to enter daily.

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- Between 23 and 24 May, WFP-supported bakeries in Gaza produced and distributed over 81,000 bread bundles (around 162 MT) at more than 124 sites in the southern and middle areas, reaching an estimated average 200,000 people each day.
- While desperately needed aid is finally trickling into Gaza, the pace is far too slow to meet the overwhelming needs. Gaza families are at a breaking point, amid intensified fighting, waves of evacuation orders and population displacement. WFP has more than 130,000 mt of food in the pipeline as well as a functioning delivery network ready to provide assistance. An immediate surge in daily aid trucks and unrestricted access to safely collect and distribute food inside Gaza are critical before it is too late.



# **SITUATION UPDATE**

- With 90 percent of Gaza controlled by Israel, ongoing evacuation orders, and the 11-week closure of the borders into Gaza, now the entire population of Gaza is food insecure.
- Since the limited resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza since 19 May, 294 trucks were delivered to Kerem shalom, of which 189 trucks were collected from the crossing inside Gaza, 94 of which have arrived at their destination.
- While UN is advocating to deliver up to 100 trucks per day via Kerem Shalom through Ashdod Port, operations in Ashdod and Kerem Shalom remain heavily constrained, delaying dispatch and approvals. Only four types of commodities are authorized- wheat flour, hot meal goods, nutrition supplements, and medicines- excluding fuel, hygiene kits, and household distributions.
- The UN <u>Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher</u> called this "**a drop in the ocean**," and warned of severe gaps, amid rising famine risk. The exclusion of fuel and hygiene supplies further undermines basic living conditions.
- The Israeli military issued evacuation orders for Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city. Residents were directed to move to the al-Mawasi area, designated by Israel as a "humanitarian zone." However, al-Mawasi has also been subjected to Israeli <u>airstrikes</u>.

#### WFP OPERATIONS (1 -24 May)

### **General Food Assistance (GFA) in Gaza**

Despite the very partial aid resumption on 19 May, WFP's activities in Gaza are severely constrained by depleted stocks and ongoing blockade. All food distributions and hot meal support are suspended due to stock depletion and denied access.



- In May, so far WFP was only able to provide hot meals - before being fully exhausted by 17 May - and nutrition assistance to around 373,716 people in Gaza, leveraging the stocks gathered during the 42-day ceasefire, albeit with extremely reduced rations. The assistance covered less than a quarter of daily caloric needs—far below the minimum required to sustain health.
- Between 22-24 May, WFP reactivated five bakeries in central parts of Gaza, enabling the distribution of over 113,000 bread bundles, reaching nearly 189,000 people daily. Distribution sites included community kitchens, shelters, and camps. By 25 May, escalating insecurity including looting and crowd violence—had disrupted operations, forcing the suspension of all bakery activities. WFP is reassessing its approach and emphasizing the need for secure conditions to resume assistance.
- As of 17 May, The Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) is ongoing at 72 sites but faces imminent suspension as partners report critical stock depletion, with one already out of supplies. Without urgent replenishment, most sites may close by end-May.
- The Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) remains operational at 27 sites but risks halting by mid-June if no new supplies arrive. Nutrition programmes face rising crowding, driven by soaring food prices and increasing malnutrition among children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. A recent looting incident in Gaza City highlights growing insecurity around nutrition sites.

## General Food Assistance (GFA) in the West Bank

 In May so far, WFP reached around 199,697 people in the West Bank with general food assistance and cash-based transfers. Ongoing military operations and demolitions have displaced over 44,000 people, exposing families to protection risks including loss of housing, restricted movement, and disrupted access to basic services.

- WFP regular quarterly **in-kind food assistance** cycle continues for Bedouin herders.
- WFP continues to implement a shock-response plan focused on food vouchers and cash-based assistance to support food security and stimulate the local economy.
- Poorest households eligible for the national Cash Transfer Programme received cash top-ups for nutritious food.

# SUPPLY CHAIN

- Between 19 and 25 May, around 300 WFP trucks were offloaded at Kerem Shalom, including about 4,176 mt of wheat flour and hot meal items. Key deliveries occurred on 21, 22, and 25 May. On 21 May, WFP finally received clearance to perform its first dispatch from Kerem Shalom into Gaza. Insecurity and coordination challenges continue to disrupt humanitarian aid deliveries in Gaza. Between 21 and 23 May, multiple WFP aid convoys were looted or stranded due to unsafe routes, access delays, and growing civilian desperation.
- Approved routes often lack security guarantees, and limited holding areas have increased the risk of diversion. WFP and OCHA are actively engaging with Israeli authorities to secure safer passage, extended crossing hours, and improved coordination to enable sustained humanitarian operations.

# **CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES**

### Food Security Sector (FSS)

As of 17 May, FSS partners served about 291,000 daily meals via 69 kitchens. Meanwhile, satellite data shows further agricultural losses and rising livestock deaths.

## Logistics Cluster (<u>LC</u>)

- Following limited Israeli authorization for aid entry, the Logistics Cluster is coordinating with partners to dispatch ready-to-move trucks from Ashdod and preparing for possible convoys from Egypt and Jordan.
- In Gaza, access constraints had forced the evacuation of the Cluster's Deir al Balah warehouse on 18 May, leaving only one accessible site there. Three of the five common warehouses across the Strip are now inaccessible.
- As of 18 May, the Cluster has consolidated 49,368 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo in Amman and handled 73,625 m<sup>3</sup> for common storage inside Gaza.

# (()) Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

**Telecoms in Gaza remain heavily disrupted** due to infrastructure damage, fuel shortages, and import restrictions. On 5 May, ETC and WFP deployed satellite devices to support convoy safety and communications. Despite repeated requests to the Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA), it has to date been impossible to repair a damaged fiber optic cable that is essential as a backup for UN communications.

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WFP Country Director: Antoine Renard, antoine.renard@wfp.org Operational Information Management Officer: Ines Parmentier, ines.parmentier@wfp.org @WFP\_MENA For more information: www.wfp.org/countries/Palestine