



World Food Programme

# WFP PALESTINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## External Situation Report 7

4 November 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP welcomes the increasing number of trucks crossing through the Rafah border and reiterates its call for safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access at scale to allow the delivery of lifesaving assistance. 100 trucks a day with essential food commodities would be needed to feed the Gaza population of 2.2 million people. Once in Gaza, humanitarian workers must be able to safely distribute and monitor food assistance, and civilians must be able to safely access assistance.
- To date, WFP has provided vital food and cash assistance to over 664,000 people in shelters and communities across Gaza and the West Bank. WFP's capacity to deliver relief remains restrained by the intensified violence, large scale destruction, scarcity of fuel and electricity and interrupted connectivity. Only one WFP bakery is currently operational.
- As needs are soaring, WFP needs at least USD 112 million to sustain its emergency response to 1.1 million affected people until December.

### IN NUMBERS



**664,231**

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



**48 WFP Trucks**

crossed into Gaza through Rafah border with 918 mt of life-saving food supplies.



**USD 112M**

WFP emergency response estimated funding needs until December



**1.1 million**

Affected people targeted by WFP emergency assistance until December

### WFP Operations



#### General Food Assistance (GFA)

- WFP reached **664,231 vulnerable people** with in-kind and cash-based general food assistance across Gaza and the West Bank:
  - In **Gaza**, WFP provided **486,731 internally displaced people (IDPs) with food assistance**: IDPs in shelters received fresh bread, canned food and date bars, and more than **8,500 displaced people** in host communities received food parcels supporting their food needs for 15 days.
  - For IDPs in shelters, WFP is providing canned food, date bars, and fresh bread sourced from local bakeries. Of the 23 bakeries contracted by WFP at the start of the response, only one remains operational. WFP has been trying to contract additional bakeries but several reported their inability to provide bread due to fuel dearth.
  - In October, some **340,000 people** across Gaza and the West Bank received WFP cash assistance of which **91 percent (311,657 people) redeemed** in shops that remain operational.

### Situation Update

- As conflict in Gaza persist for the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive day, the situation has grown increasingly dire. Acute scarcities of water, food, electricity, and fuel are depriving people of the most fundamental humanitarian needs. Several healthcare facilities have been forced to shut down due to fuel shortages, denying people critical healthcare services. Moreover, the cutting of telecommunication and internet services for the second time, hinders operations further.



## Supply Chain

- So far, **48 WFP trucks** carrying food supplies arrived in Gaza through Rafah crossing border. These supplies include canned fish, date bars, and food parcels with mixed food commodities.
- The procured commodities have been -delivered to Gaza via the Rafah Border Crossing in Egypt. WFP is supporting the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to deliver humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- WFP is in the process of contracting a warehouse in Port Said for storage of food commodities scheduled for delivery through Rafah. Storage and transportation capacities inside Gaza are being mapped out in preparation for the scale-up response and additional transporters and storage locations have been identified.

## Clusters and Common Services



### Logistics Cluster

- In support of the Rafah border crossing, the Logistics Cluster joined the interagency mission in El Arish, together with WHO, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA. The visit allowed to assess the area where additional temporary warehousing will be established in support of ERC.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster is working closely with ERC to coordinate the response for the humanitarian community and is also working to augment the ERC logistics capacity by providing assets and services to increase the warehousing and transport capacity in Ismailia and El Arish.
- To date, 421 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies have entered Gaza. On 2 November, the largest convoy since aid delivery started, consisting of 102 trucks carrying water, food, and medicine arrived via the Rafah crossing. Entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate life-saving equipment, remains banned.



### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- On 31 October, ETC was activated to coordinate the interagency ICT response for the humanitarian response in Gaza following the escalation of the telecommunications crisis in the Gaza strip.
- ETC has sourced solar panels, satellite connectivity solutions, radios, including partners' equipment to provide independent access to communications in Gaza for the humanitarian response to enable humanitarians to stay connected, restore security communications networks for UN Staff, and coordinate life-saving response activities.



## Funding

- WFP **has revised its needs from October to December upwards to USD112 million** to sustain its emergency response to 1.1 million affected people.
- To date, WFP has approximately USD 34.5 million confirmed contributions: USD 31.5 million from government donors including USAID BHA, France, New Zealand, ECHO, and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and USD 3 million from the private sector. In addition, a total of USD 6.9 million was raised so far through Share The Meal and Individual Giving campaigns.



## Gaza Market Monitoring

- According to the latest [Gaza market monitoring](#), WFP estimates that vegetable oil and pulses would run out after three days, sugar after eight days, and rice after one day.
- At the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for about 5 days, and prices are reported to have increased by 15-30 percent for most food items. Despite some food being available at wholesalers, shops are not able to re-stock due to damaged roads, safety concerns and shortage of fuel.
- With limited access to kitchens and cooking supplies, people face severely restricted food options.



## Accountability to Affected Populations

- WFP received **25,120 calls** through its community feedback mechanism (CFM) helpline, which provides a direct link between WFP and the affected population. Over **74 percent** of the calls requested food or cash assistance. Some 1,314 asked for shelter support and 137 reported damaged or lost cards.

## Operational challenges

- WFP is grappling with multifaceted operational challenges in Gaza. The scarcity of fuel, lack of safe access, and loss of connectivity are severely hindering WFP's ability to reach people in need.
- Transportation of food commodities is hampered by fuel shortages and destruction, with connectivity issues complicating coordination with staff and partners on the ground. Additionally, destruction of shops and electricity cuts are affecting cash-based transfers due to food scarcity as shops struggle to maintain sufficient stock amid the food scarcity.
- Additionally, the insufficiency of humanitarian convoys entering Gaza compounds the difficulties of providing needed relief. Urgent access to drinkable water, food, medicine, and fuel for hospitals, bakeries and daily needs is essential to provide adequate assistance.