

WFP PALESTINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

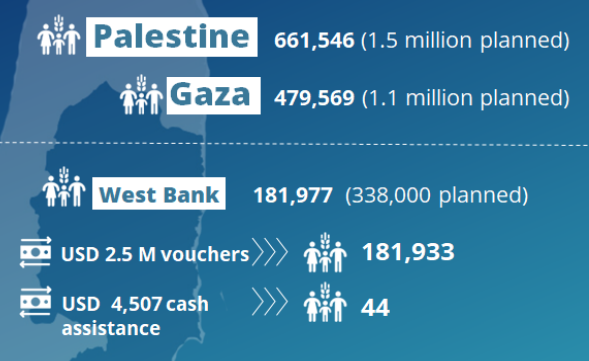
External Situation Report 50

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 18 March, renewed hostilities in Gaza have reignited a cycle of displacement, devastation and food shortages, which have undermined efforts to improve food security.
- Following attacks on UN deconflicted assets leading to staff casualties, the UN Secretary-General announced a temporary reduced presence in Gaza on 24 March, despite soaring humanitarian needs. WFP is consequently reducing its international staff work force in Gaza temporarily.
- WFP is racing to provide life-saving aid with dwindling stocks, which will likely run out in two weeks if the blockade persists. Severe shortages are emerging across all sectors.
- West Bank escalating violence and movement restrictions are crippling markets, livelihoods, and food security, pushing families toward debt.

MARCH IN NUMBERS

Reporting period 1-22 March 2025



WFP six-month net funding requirement
USD 266 M April to September 2025

An additional USD 34 million is urgently needed for 3-month shock-responsive cash assistance to 40,000 families in the West Bank.

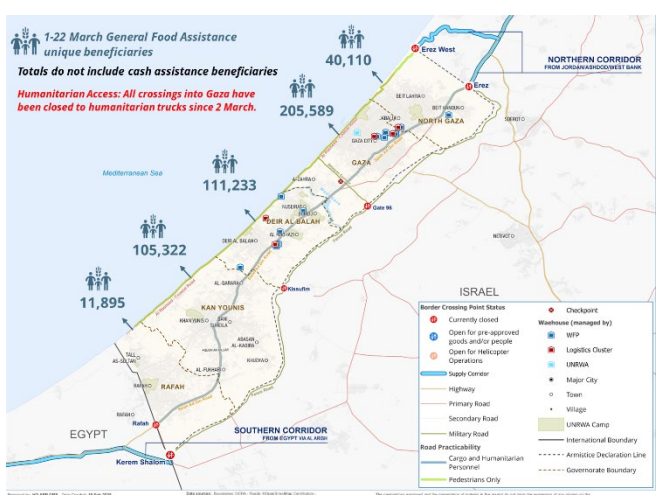
Numbers are subject to change due to the finalization of the month's reporting figures from partners. The total beneficiaries figure accounts for overlap between people receiving more than one type of assistance (LNS figures are not included). LNS: Lipid-based Nutritional Supplements. PBW: Pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. CU5: Children under five.

SITUATION UPDATE

- **Since 2 March, no humanitarian aid has been permitted to enter Gaza by Israeli authorities.**
- Since the restart of hostilities in Gaza on 18 March, over 730 people were killed according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.
- One UN international staff was killed on 19 March, and at least six others endured severe injuries after an Israeli tank struck a UN guest house in Deir Al Balah, situated in a deconflicted area.
- **The UN Secretary General condemned** the attacks, demanded an investigation, and urged a ceasefire, aid access, and respect for international humanitarian law and **decided to scale down the UN's presence in Gaza.**
- Increasing "buffer zones" and evacuation orders have restricted aid access in Gaza, displacing over 130,000 people and leaving more than a million at risk.
- The **total blockade** has caused **severe food shortages** and soaring prices, with **some essentials rising by over 700 percent.** Bread demand has surged amid wheat flour

shortages and limited cooking gas, while cash scarcity has left many unable to afford remaining goods. Medical facilities are struggling under extreme shortages, **overwhelmed** by casualties and a lack of supplies.

- The energy crisis in Gaza is getting worse, with diesel prices rising by more than 100 percent and cooking gas prices soaring by more than 300 percent in March



compared to February. The shortage affects household-level food preparation, and bakery and community kitchen operations, particularly during Ramadan period.

- In the **West Bank**, displacement has driven rising prices, reduced trade, and lower-quality goods. To cope, households are reducing food intake, borrowing food, and enduring inadequate shelter.

WFP OPERATIONS - (1 - 22 March)



General Food Assistance (GFA) in Gaza

- Despite the blockade, WFP leveraged in-country stocks and provided general food assistance and cash-based transfers (CBT) to over 479,500 vulnerable people in Gaza.
- **WFP is not scaling down but working at full speed to meet the needs of people in Gaza.** To maximize the use of available food supplies, WFP is ramping up food distributions for the next two weeks, which is how long stocks are expected to last should the blockade continue.
- **General Food Distribution (GFD):** 278,816 people received a reduced ration of one Ready-to-Eat (RTE) per household. With current stocks, WFP can only provide one-quarter of a ration for 500,000 people for one week.
- **Bakeries:** 19 out of 25 WFP-supported bakeries produced over 3.4 million bread bundles (6,800 mt), sold at subsidized prices or distributed free for the most vulnerable. WFP is prioritizing wheat flour stocks to immediately increase production from 158,000 to 193,000 bread bundles/day. At this rate, stocks are expected to last around one week. Bakeries are working in difficult conditions with renewed hostilities and evacuation orders and panicking families leading to overcrowding and tension.
- **Hot Meals:** A total of 4.8 million hot meals were delivered to 257,288 people through 37 kitchens. Many of the hot meal kitchens were affected by the ongoing military operations and evacuations. **34 WFP partner kitchens aim to produce at least 500,000 meals per day for the next two weeks.**
- WFP distributed 178,515 Lipid-based Nutritional Supplements (LNS) packs to 2,439 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 8,307 children under five. **The Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP)** is fully operational, supporting 322,815 people for one month.
- Emergency stocks of **Fortified Biscuits** can assist 415,000 people if displacement increases or worsens.
- **Cash Assistance:** Cash transfers for 8,000 households began on 23 March. However, rising prices and supply challenges linked to border closures continue to impact operations. WFP is closely monitoring market conditions to inform future expansion.
- **Cash for Work:** WFP resumed training for 100 women to recycle WFP bags, producing 10,700 bags, and 165 shades.



General Food Assistance (GFA) in the West Bank

- WFP is addressing the impact of recent escalations by prioritizing food vouchers and cash assistance. WFP provided cash assistance of 50 ILS (USD 14) to 181,933 vulnerable people in close partnership with the Ministry of Social Development enabling them to purchase food and meet urgent needs in a worsening economic environment.



SUPPLY CHAIN

- **Since 2 March, no food supplies have entered Gaza due to border closures.** WFP stocks are depleting fast. WFP has less than 5,700 mt of stocks in Gaza. Together with the Food Security Sector partners, there are more than 85,000 mt of food commodities that need to be urgently brought in through various corridors that remain shut. Of these, WFP supplies of 65,000 mt could sustain 1.1 million people for two to three months, pending entry authorization. WFP needs 30,000 mt of food per month to meet basic needs, and current stocks are insufficient.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES



Food Security Sector (FSS)

- Since early March, restrictions on importing agricultural inputs into Gaza have hindered farming activities.
- Partners have been entirely dependent on stocks brought in during the first phase of the ceasefire to sustain their activities, but these supplies are rapidly dwindling. As part of the contingency measures, partners have increased dispatches to ensure sufficient stock at distribution points, kitchens and bakeries.
- The sector advocates for the entry of key supplies and safe access of farmers and fishers to support livelihoods and food security.



Logistics Cluster (LC)

- Since the closure of all crossings into Gaza on 2 March, cargo collection has been halted. While West Erez and Erez have been cleared, some cargo remains uncollected at Kerem Shalom.
- The cluster is working on a Gaza Humanitarian Cargo Flow Optimisation proposal to demonstrate how the humanitarian community's existing storage infrastructure can be optimised to enhance the efficiency of cargo movement inside Gaza.

Cargo consolidated/stored



Amman:
4,875 m3
consolidated



Gaza:
0 m3
stored

From Jordan after ceasefire (1-22 March)



1 convoys



25 trucks



209 MT



3 partners

Sectors

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT