

# West Bank and Gaza – Complex Emergency

MAY 17, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>4.8</b> MILLION	<b>2.1</b> MILLION	<b>1.3</b> MILLION	<b>1</b> MILLION	<b>600,000</b>
Estimated Population of West Bank and Gaza	Estimated Number of People in Need in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022	Estimated Number of People in Need in the West Bank and Gaza due to the May 2021 Hostilities	People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza in 2022	People Intended to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in the West Bank in 2022
<i>UN – April 2020</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>UN – May 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>

- Elevated insecurity resulted in the deaths of least 20 Palestinians and six Israelis and injuries to nearly 1,400 Palestinians and 40 Israelis from March 22 to April 18, the UN reports.
- The Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine, inflation, and related supply chain disruptions have resulted in increased food prices and operating costs for relief actors in the West Bank and Gaza. WFP and UNRWA require an estimated \$101 million to meet the needs of food insecure populations through the end of 2022.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the West Bank and Gaza Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$9,100,000
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$10,000,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,100,000</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Deteriorating Security Conditions in March and April Result in Dozens of Deaths and Thousands of Injuries**

Recent increased insecurity and clashes between Government of Israel (GoI) forces and Palestinians resulted in the significant civilian deaths and injuries, with the UN recording the deaths of at least 20 Palestinians and six Israelis and injuries to nearly 1,400 Palestinians and 40 Israelis from March 22 to April 18. Among these, sporadic attacks between late March and early April resulted in the deaths of 14 individuals in Israel and prompted GoI raids in the West Bank, resulting in the deaths of 14 Palestinians, including at least three children, according to international media. Overall, GoI security forces injured nearly 770 Palestinians, including 35 children, during operations in the West Bank from April 5 to 18, representing a 73 percent increase compared with the approximately 440 people injured by GoI security forces in the West Bank from March 22 to April 4.

Separately, mounting tensions during the confluence of Easter, Passover, and Ramadan in mid-April culminated with GoI security force raids on Jerusalem's al-Asqa Mosque, also known as Temple Mount, on April 15 and 17, resulting in injuries to 180 Palestinians, including at least 27 children, and arrests of approximately 470 Palestinians, including 60 children. As of April 25, an estimated 10 children remained in detention and urgently required legal aid and mental and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, the UN reports. In response to deteriorating security conditions, on April 15 UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland issued statements expressing concern regarding increased violence and calling for calm.

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the international non-governmental organization (NGO) International Medical Corps (IMC) and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals, including children, affected by insecurity in the West Bank and Gaza. USG partner activities address the impacts of recurrent violence, improve the protective environment for affected populations, and enhance local capacity to respond to future risks through improving access to critical interventions and building local MHPSS and child protection capacities, among other activities.

### **Rising Food Prices Exacerbate Food Insecurity in the West Bank and Gaza**

The Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) invasion of Ukraine, inflation, and related supply chain disruptions have resulted in increased food prices and operating costs, affecting relief actors' ability implement food assistance programming to respond to the needs of the estimated 1.8 million moderately or severely food insecure individuals in the West Bank and Gaza, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. Disruptions to exports from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, following the GoRF invasion in mid-February, have limited the supply of essential food commodities and contributed to rising prices in the West Bank and Gaza; prior to February 24, the West Bank and Gaza sourced approximately 37 percent of sunflower imports, 32 percent of wheat imports, and 14 percent of corn imports from the GoRF and Ukraine. The Ukraine complex emergency has also generated increased shipping costs due to rising insurance premiums for ships operating in the Black Sea region and marooned nearly 90 vessels in Ukrainian ports and waters, further contributing to rising food and operations costs for food security actors—including WFP and UNRWA—in the West Bank and Gaza. Global inflation has further compounded the effects of the Ukraine complex emergency on markets in the West Bank and Gaza: as of March 2022, food prices had increased nearly 10 percent compared with March 2021, according to WFP's market dashboard. As a result, the cost of WFP's 2022 operations in the West Bank and Gaza are 32 percent greater compared with operational costs in 2019, the UN

agency reports. The cost of a quarterly round of WFP food assistance is 26 percent higher in 2022 compared with 2021, while the cost to transport food into the West Bank and Gaza has increased more than 260 percent compared with 2020. Similarly, the average price of an UNRWA food basket in 2022 is 42 percent greater than in 2021 and the cost of UNRWA's 2022 food operations is 29 percent greater than the previous year, UNRWA reports.

Household purchasing power has also diminished amid rising prices, making it more challenging for families to meet needs. Between 85 and 95 percent of individuals in the West Bank and Gaza reported relying on negative coping mechanisms—including consuming lower quality foods, reducing consumption quantities, and purchasing food on credit—to meet food consumption needs during March, WFP reports. WFP and UNRWA report that rising food commodity prices will jeopardize the UN agencies' ability to meet the needs of food-insecure populations and estimate that approximately \$101 million is required by both agencies to address rising food prices and continue delivering aid at planned levels amid cost increases through the end of 2022.

## KEY FIGURES



**1.2 Million**

People UNRWA intends to reach with food assistance in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022



**560**

People supported with USAID/BHA-funded protection assistance in March

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

Through funding to UNRWA, the USG is helping food-insecure Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza meet their basic food and nutrition needs. With State/PRM and other donor funding, UNRWA plans to distribute food parcels to more than 1.2 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza affected by deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in 2022. In addition, with FY 2021 USAID/BHA funding and other donor support, WFP assisted more than 478,000 individuals—including more than 390,000 people reached through cash-based transfer and more than 88,000 people reached through in-kind food assistance—in the West Bank and Gaza in 2021.

### PROTECTION

The USG supports a range of humanitarian protection programs for at-risk populations in the West Bank and Gaza, with a focus on the needs of women and children. Through international INGO partner IMC, USAID/BHA funding helps increase access to protection-related health care services and expand MHPSS for conflict-affected Palestinians in Gaza, with a focus on psychological first aid and in-person counseling services. In March, IMC reached more than 560 individuals with MHPSS services including community outreach, group PSS counselling, personalized consultations, and psychological first aid. IMC also supports the safety and wellbeing of children and reached more than 370 individuals with child protection activities in March, though the provision of group activities and individual support services for children, as well as support services for parents and caregivers aimed at strengthening the protective environment for children and supporting their resilience and recovery. State/PRM partner UNRWA also supports children and families with MHPSS services in schools and health care centers, with an emphasis on the prevention of gender-based violence.



**36,000**

People supported  
through UNRWA MPCA  
program

## MPCA

With funding to Mercy Corps and UNRWA, the USG supports the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help households meet their basic needs, reduce the use of negative coping strategies, and enhance vulnerable individuals' resilience in the face of future shocks. With State/PRM and other donor support, UNRWA reached more than 36,000 refugees in the West Bank with MPCA or cash vouchers in 2021, while USAID/BHA partner Mercy Corps supported Gazans affected by the May 2021 escalation with emergency MPCA.



**\$2.1 Million**

In dedicated USG  
funding for life-saving  
health care activities in  
FY 2022

## HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support health programming throughout the West Bank and Gaza to reduce the transmission of disease and bolster health care capacity, contributing to reduced preventable mortality and morbidity. USAID/BHA partner IMC provides basic primary health care services to communities, including remote and underserved areas, across Gaza to minimize individuals' travel to already overwhelmed health facilities and overcome access barriers. IMC also provides training to health care staff and provides trauma referral services at health care centers in Gaza, helping ensure continuity of health care amid the recent escalation of conflict.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Protracted conflict, restricted access to basic services, and the adverse health and socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease pandemic have generated significant humanitarian needs in the West Bank and Gaza. Nearly 2.1 million Palestinians—approximately 40 percent of the combined population of the West Bank and Gaza—were in need of humanitarian assistance as of December 2021, according to the UN. The figure includes the 1.6 million people targeted for assistance in 2022, more than 60 percent of whom reside in Gaza.
- In mid-May 2021, active conflict between Gol forces and Hamas exacerbated humanitarian needs and resulted in civilian casualties and population displacement in Gaza, as well as violence and unrest throughout Israel and the West Bank. Approximately 1.3 million people required humanitarian assistance due to the escalation of violence, some of whom were already relying on humanitarian assistance prior to the hostilities, the UN reports. On May 21, parties to the conflict implemented a ceasefire agreement, ending the 11-day period of active conflict.
- On December 29, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Nides renewed the disaster declaration for the West Bank and Gaza for FY 2022 due to the urgent humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IMC	Health, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, Protection	West Bank and Gaza	\$5,100,000
Mercy Corps	MPCA	West Bank and Gaza	\$4,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$9,100,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNRWA	Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Education; Food Assistance; Health; Logistics Support; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	West Bank and Gaza	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$19,100,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 17, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> State/PRM provided an additional \$50,000,000 in FY 2022 to UNRWA for its 2022 program budget, a portion of which may have been used in the West Bank and Gaza.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)