



# WFP Palestine Emergency Response External Situation Report 1

9 October 2023

## ❶ HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the escalation on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, WFP, in partnership with UNRWA, began distributing ready-to-eat fresh bread and canned food for around 73,000 IDPs in UNRWA shelters inside Gaza.
- WFP is planning to scale up food and cash assistance to around 940,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to ensure their immediate food needs are met. Urgent funds (USD 17.3M) and humanitarian access are required to replenish existing stocks.
- WFP urges safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to affected areas, calling on all parties to uphold the principles of humanitarian law, taking every necessary measure to safeguard lives.

## SITUATION UPDATE

On 7 October, military escalations, including land, air, and sea strikes, broke out between Palestinian armed groups and Israel. **As the violence continues, casualties continue to mount.**

Since then, Gaza has been facing intensive airstrikes and a complete shutdown of electricity, food, water and fuel supplies, with all access points closed. Movement and access restrictions have also been imposed across the West Bank.

More than 120,000 people have been displaced from their homes in Gaza to date. UNRWA estimates 74,000 of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are sheltering in 64 schools, some of which are designated emergency shelters.

In the West Bank, movement restrictions and violence are limiting people's ability to access shops for food and other needs. For humanitarian operations in Gaza, border closures also risk fuel shortages and a potential shutdown of electricity.

### WFP EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN



WFP **requires a total of USD 17.3 million to reach 940,000 people** with emergency food and cash assistance in the next month.

Ahead of the conflict, WFP has been assisting more than 350,000 of the most vulnerable Palestinians with monthly food and cash assistance. WFP needs an additional **USD 46 million** to provide assistance to the prioritized 350,000 vulnerable Palestinians for the next six months, including the requirements for the emergency response.

## IN NUMBERS



**940,000**

Affected people targeted by WFP emergency assistance in the next month



**USD17.3M**

WFP emergency response funding requirements for 1 month



**73K**

Affected IDPs in UNRWA shelters received WFP food assistance to date

## WFP RESPONSE

On 9 October, WFP and UNRWA started distributing fresh bread and canned food to around 73,000 people in shelters. WFP also began assessing markets and shops' stock availability to prepare for the emergency cash assistance response.

WFP regular e-voucher assistance for October cycle is ongoing. Around 122,000 people across Gaza and the West Bank have redeemed their cash entitlements. If the situation allows, WFP will provide an additional top up to support the surging needs due to the escalation.

WFP is purchasing additional food items in the region and requires urgent access to deliver procured food into Palestine to meet the rising needs. The WFP-led Logistics Cluster may be activated to facilitate access of humanitarian goods on behalf of other partners.

## ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

According to WFP market monitoring, shops showed a decrease in the quantities and increase in the prices of main food commodities, such as wheat flour and eggs. Four WFP contracted shops in Gaza have been destroyed due to the conflict.

Most shops have food stocks for one month, but stock depletion and spoilage risks are increasing due to ongoing border closures and frequent electricity cuts. Fewer shops reported having stock to last one week.

WFP operates the interagency humanitarian hotline, currently helping to channel requests for assistance to other partners.

## FUNDING OUTLOOK

Current funding and food contingency stocks in Gaza will not allow WFP to reach full planned figures. **Urgent funding is required** to help the affected people meet their immediate food needs.