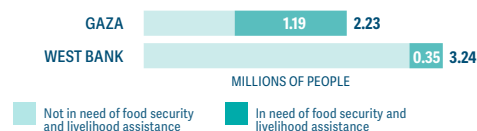


Palestine

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022


 **1.54M** people or **28%** of the population in need of food security and livelihood assistance in 2022

Source: HNO 2023, January 2023.




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Food crisis overview

 Of the 1.54 million acutely food-insecure people in Palestine, around 1.19 million were in the Gaza Strip and 0.35 million in the West Bank. The figures are based on HNO estimates of people in need of food assistance in 2023.


This equated to 53 percent of Gaza's population and 11 percent of the population of the West Bank. The highest number of acutely food-insecure people in the West Bank were in Nablus and Hebron and the highest prevalence in Nablus and Jerusalem (HNO, January 2023). Palestine has been included as a major food crisis in the GRFC since 2017 (GRFC 2018), but changing data sources challenge comparability.

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

 **Conflict/insecurity** Recurrent hostilities continued to diminish the profitability and sustainability of economic activities, including in agriculture. Restricted endowment of natural resources constrained national food production and increases reliance on food imports. In the West Bank,

settlement activity and related violence, loss of land, destruction of property, and restricted access to basic services continued to undermine livelihoods (WFP, August 2022).

In Gaza, the August 2022 escalation of violence increased needs for assistance (WFP, August 2022). In 2022, there were 868 more conflict events than in 2021. Political violence characterized the beginning of 2023 in the West Bank, sparking protests in Gaza (ACLEDD, January 2023).


 **Economic shocks** In Gaza, 15 years of economic blockade continued to worsen socioeconomic indicators (WFP, January 2023). Ongoing restrictions on movement, limited humanitarian access, the protracted fiscal distress, the expansion of settlements and settler activities in the West Bank, combined with a rapid increase in prices linked to the war in Ukraine, hindered economic recovery from COVID-19 (HNO 2023, January 2023).

High unemployment levels continued to limit access to food: during the second quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate was 45 percent in the Gaza Strip (66 percent for females) and 13 percent in the West Bank (22 percent for females) (PCBS, February 2023).


Civil servants of the Palestinian Authority and the de-facto authorities in Gaza faced cuts and irregularities in payment of salaries (HNO 2023, January 2023). In July 2022, 57 percent of households in Gaza (Gaza MSNA, September 2022) and 35 percent in the West Bank (West Bank MSNA, September 2022) reported that their income had decreased in the last year.

With high dependence on wheat flour and sunflower oil imports, which were traditionally sourced from Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Palestine was highly affected by lack of trade flows from that region in early 2022, and by high international food and fuel prices. Between January and April 2022, the food component of the Palestinian Consumer Price Index rose steeply to its highest point in the past six years (WB, September 2022). In 2022, the cost of the food basket was 16.5 percent higher on average than in 2021 (WFP, December 2022).


High reported levels of debt, incurred primarily to meet basic needs, further exacerbated households' financial precariousness: 79 percent of households in Gaza and 37 percent in the West Bank had taken on debt in the three months prior to data collection (MSNA, September 2022).


 **Weather extremes** From mid-January 2022, extreme weather conditions, including heavy rain, floods, winds, snow, and a cold wave, hit Palestine, with floods affecting thousands of people and forcing many families to flee their homes (IFRC, February 2022).

NUTRITION

 The most recent child wasting data – from 2019–2020 – show 'very low' levels by WHO thresholds at 1.3 percent, but since then the drivers of acute malnutrition have intensified. Child stunting was at 8.7 percent in 2021 (MICS, 2019–2020). Malnutrition is worse in Gaza than in the West Bank.

Drivers of undernutrition

 **Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices** Only 31.4 percent of children aged 6–23 months have a Minimum Acceptable Diet, decreasing to 17 percent among the poorest households (UNICEF, 2021). In 2021, 70 percent of children under 5 years old in Gaza were anaemic, indicating a severe public health problem. In the West Bank, the prevalence was 30 percent, indicating a moderate concern (Ministry of Health, 2021). In 2020, only 43.3 percent of infants under 6 months old were exclusively breastfed (MICS 2020).

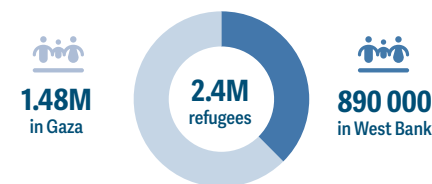
 **Limited access to health and nutrition services** The public health system in Gaza lacks the resources and infrastructure to provide adequate healthcare (ACAPS, July 2022).

 **Poor household environment** Poor water access, poor sanitation and risk of flooding expose


1.36 million Palestinians to water-borne diseases. More than 718 000 people in the West Bank and 648 000 in Gaza have limited access to WASH (HNO, January 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

Around 45 percent of the population of Palestine are Palestine refugees



Source: UNRWA, October 2022; HNO 2023, January 2023.

 **Refugees** Poverty rates among refugees residing inside and outside the eight refugee camps in Gaza more than doubled in the ten years between 2011 and 2021, from 39 percent to 82 percent (UNRWA and PCBS, November 2021). Conditions have since continued to deteriorate. As of the second quarter of 2022, 47 percent of Palestine refugees in Gaza were unemployed (HNO 2023, January 2023).

Displaced communities living in semi-structured or transitional shelters or tents due to the loss of their homes during hostilities were particularly affected by floods in early 2022 (IFRC, February 2022).

Across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, about 25 percent of registered Palestine refugees reside in 19 refugee camps. The deepening financial and fiscal crisis within the Palestinian economy, exacerbated by the COVID-19 closures in 2021 and the effects of the war in Ukraine, have particularly affected the nearly 276 000 Palestine refugees who reside in one camp (OCHA, REACH, September 2022).