

Gaza Strip !

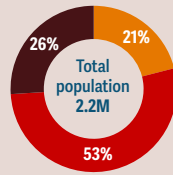
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Escalating hostilities since October 2023 create most severe food crisis in IPC history and a risk of Famine.

PEAK 2023 (DECEMBER 2023–FEBRUARY 2024)

 **2.2M** people or **100%** of the Gaza population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This is the highest share of a population in IPC Phase 3 or above in any area or country in IPC history.



0.6 million or **26 percent** of the population were estimated in **Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)** – the highest share in this phase in IPC history. A risk of Famine was projected through May 2024, if the situation of intense hostilities and restricted humanitarian access persisted or worsened. Some 1.2 million or 53 percent of the population were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

A March 2024 IPC analysis projected that **Famine** would occur between mid-March and May 2024 in Gaza and North Gaza governorates, with a risk of Famine in the rest of the Gaza Strip through July 2024. **Half** the population (over **1.1 million** people) was projected to face **Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)** rising to 70 percent in the northern governorates.



Source: IPC Global Initiative, December 2023 and March 2024.

1 - None/Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Catastrophe/Famine

 IDPs/other settlements classification  Risk of Famine

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Before the conflict intensified, acute malnutrition levels among children under 5 years old in the Gaza Strip were estimated at Very Low levels by WHO thresholds.

However, since October 2023, the escalating conflict has placed all children under 5 at high risk of acute malnutrition and death, with North Gaza and Gaza City particularly affected. Child acute malnutrition levels are projected to breach Famine

thresholds by May 2024, with North Gaza likely having surpassed this by mid-March. Southern governorates of Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah also face a risk of Famine between mid-March and mid-July 2024.

Over 82 percent of children aged 6–23 months and PBW had limited access to sufficient quantity and quality of food, consuming two or fewer food groups each day. A sharp

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

 **Conflict/insecurity** In October 2023, escalating hostilities led to mass displacement from northern governorates. Those who stayed faced limited access to food, water, services, safe shelter or humanitarian assistance. Agriculture, livestock and fishing livelihoods have been destroyed by the hostilities, with over 27 percent of cropland damaged, mostly in Gaza governorate (FAO, December 2023).

By mid-February 2024, nearly 43 percent of all cropland in the Gaza Strip had been damaged (FAO, February 2024).

Over 75 percent of the population, or 1.7 million people, were displaced as of February 2024 (UNRWA, February 2024). Conditions are likely to continue to sharply deteriorate if hostilities persist, and humanitarian access is significantly restricted (IPC Famine Review Committee, December 2023).

The conflict disrupted markets, with only 20 percent of people in northern governorates able to buy food.

Another 40 percent relied primarily on friends and family networks although there were reports that mutual support networks were deteriorating.

In the Gaza Strip, prices of the few remaining market commodities soared, while a complete depletion of wheat flour, eggs and dairy was reported.

A further shrinking of markets was expected if conditions continued, with food accessibility constraints particularly acute among IDPs in increasingly overcrowded facilities (IPC Famine Review Committee, December 2023; WFP Gaza Market Monitor, January 2024) (see *Focus: Palestine (Gaza Strip)*, page 133).

DISPLACEMENT


 **1.7M** IDPs, as of **31 January 2024**

Source: UNRWA, February 2024.

West Bank

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Escalating violence, displacement and severe economic disruptions drive worsening acute food insecurity.

PEAK 2023 (DECEMBER)

 **0.6M** people or **18%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity (FSC 2023).

This represents a sharp deterioration in acute food insecurity since 2022 linked to heightened violence, rising unemployment and demolition-related displacement. Increasing violence and market shocks are likely to worsen acute food insecurity in the West Bank in 2024.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

 **Conflict/insecurity** Violence in the West Bank had already increased between October 2022 and September 2023 (ACLED, December 2023). Since early October 2023, settler violence and demolitions in the West Bank increased, resulting in more population displacement (OCHA, January 2024).

 **Economic shocks** Persistent violence has disrupted economic activities causing job losses and diminished incomes, which, combined with the irregular distribution of salaries for Palestinian Authority employees, have severely lowered household purchasing power. Nearly a third of businesses faced complete or partial closures, and over 94 percent witnessed a substantial decline in sales with Nablus, Salfit and Bethlehem the most affected (FSC, December 2023).

Agricultural and livestock production is limited due to increasing attacks, property destruction, movement restrictions, tightened checkpoints and road closures, which have prevented farmers and livestock breeders from accessing their fields, olive groves, grazing land and water resources (FSC, December 2023).

Import constraints for production inputs have led to a significant decrease in cultivated land compared with last year. Furthermore, producers cannot access regional markets to sell their produce. More than 9 500 hectares of olive groves remain unharvested due to restricted access resulting in a direct financial setback of USD 10 million (FSC, December 2023).

From 7 October, Israel revoked most of the work permits provided to the 150 000 Palestinian workers who entered Israel daily, accounting for around USD 3 billion in income. The International Labour Organization estimates that around 32 percent of employment has been lost since 7 October, equivalent to 276 000 jobs (ILO, December 2023; FSC, November 2023). The Israeli-imposed movement restrictions within the West Bank are creating difficulties for around 67 000 Palestinian workers who have jobs in governorates outside their place of residence, putting them at risk of losing their jobs (UNDP, November 2023).