Palestine

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

1.78M people were moderately or severely food insecure in December 2020–January 2021

0.68M people were moderately food insecure
1.1M people were severely food insecure

31.2% of households (64.4% in Gaza, 8.9% in the West Bank) were moderately or severely food insecure

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have decreased slightly since 2020. The food security situation in Palestine has slightly improved since 2020, when 2 million people were food insecure due to the effects of COVID-19 containment measures, against the backdrop of years of conflict and economic hardship. However, figures remain high compared to 2018 and 2019, when around 1.7 million Palestinians (32.5 percent of the population) were food insecure. Between 2018 and January 2021 in Gaza, the percentage of households that were moderately to severely food insecure increased from 60 percent to more than 64 percent. While the percentage of moderately food-insecure Gazan households remained almost the same, the percentage of severely food-insecure households increased from around 36 percent to 41 percent.

The greatest deterioration was in the Centre and South sub-regions of the Gaza Strip. In the Centre, the percentage of severely food insecure households increased from 33 percent in 2018 to 44 percent in early 2021, while in the South, it increased from 35 percent to 42 percent.

In the West Bank, the prevalence of food insecurity increased marginally from 8.1 percent in 2018 to 8.9 percent in early 2021.

Food insecurity levels were higher in the southern sub-region (13.3 percent), where the tourism sector contracted dramatically due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and the unemployment rate increased (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Food Security Sector, December 2020).

The Socioeconomic and Food Security Survey from which the acute food insecurity estimates are drawn was conducted prior to the May 2021 escalation of hostilities in Gaza – which marked the most severe conflict escalation since 2014. The hostilities aggravated pre-existing vulnerabilities and increased already high poverty, food insecurity and unemployment rates (HNO, December 2021).