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

**Gaza Strip**

**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 governors 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 deterioration from January to March was expected, especially in the North where restricted aid access doubled acute malnutrition in children aged 6–23 months to 31 percent. Despite some aid mitigating malnutrition in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah, overall malnutrition still worsened, with rates around 6 percent compared with 1 percent pre-conflict (Global Nutrition Cluster, March 2024).

**West Bank**

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

**DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024**

- Conflict/insecurity: Violence has disrupted economic activities causing job losses and diminished incomes, which, combined with the irregular distribution of salaries for Palestinian Authority employees, has severely lowered household purchasing power. Nearly a third of businesses face complete or partial closures, and over 64 percent witnessed a substantial decline in sales with Nablus, Salfit and Bethlehem the most affected (FSC, December 2023).
- Economic shocks

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.