


Palestine

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

 **1.78M people**¹

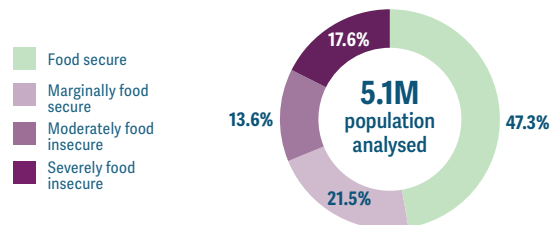
were moderately or severely food insecure in December 2020–January 2021

 **0.68M people** were moderately food insecure

 **1.1M people** were severely food insecure

Source: PCBS and Food Security Sector, Socioeconomic and Food Security Survey, 2020.

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



The sample unit of SEFSec surveys is the household rather than individual level.

The analysis covered **100%** of Palestine's population of **5.1 million** (2.0 million in the Gaza Strip and 3.1 million in the West Bank).

West Bank population



Gaza Strip population



Source: PCBS and Food Security Sector, Socioeconomic and Food Security Survey, 2020.

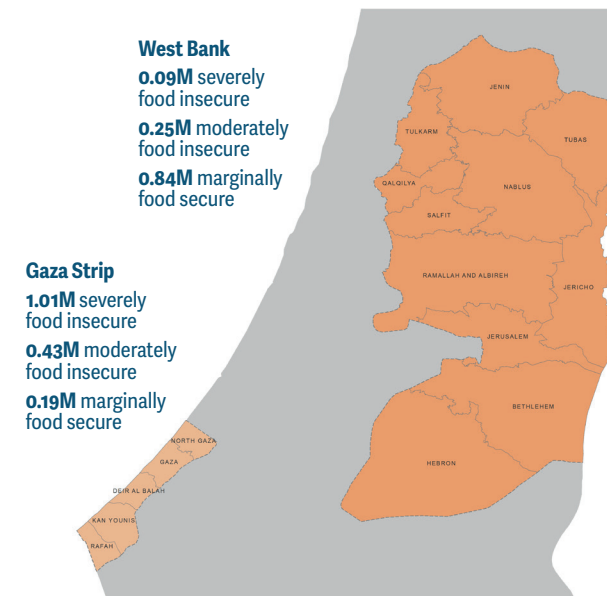
¹ Figures are based on the SEFSec methodology. Although the GRFC Food Security TWG validated the use of this analysis, it noted certain methodological limitations. See Technical Notes.

² The rural population in the Gaza Strip is grouped with the urban population for the analysis since only a marginal share of the population resides in rural areas which are virtually non-existent.

MAP 3.56

Acute food insecurity situation, December 2020–January 2021

Of the 1.8 million moderately or severely food insecure Palestinians, 1.4 million were in the Gaza Strip and 335 000 were in the West Bank. Over 90 percent of the 1.1 million severely food-insecure people were in the Gaza Strip.



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

Source: PCBS and Food Security Sector, Socioeconomic and Food Security Survey, 2020.

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).