

### 1. Crisis overview

<b>4.4 / 5</b>	<b>3.3 million</b>	<b>3.1 million</b>	<b>\$3.4 billion</b>	<b>52.6%</b>
Inform severity index August 2024	People in need of humanitarian aid (Flash Appeal Jan- Dec 2024)	People targeted in the response plan (Flash Appeal Jan-Dec 2024)	Required to reach the target (Flash Appeal Jan-Dec 2024)	Of the required funding secured (Flash appeal Jan- Dec 2024)
<b>94 MSEK</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31.33</b>	<b>125.33 MSEK</b>	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible Funding	Total Sida funding 2024	

The conflict is one of the world’s most complex and longest protracted humanitarian crises. The humanitarian needs have primarily been driven by the long term Israeli occupation, persistent blockade of Gaza, internal Palestinian political divisions, and repeated hostilities between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. The man-made protracted protection crisis is spurred by violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Since 7 October 2023, the situation in Gaza has changed dramatically and is also directly affecting the West Bank.

On 7 October 2023, the Palestinian armed group Hamas in Gaza launched a violent attack on Israel, who responded with a large-scale military operation in Gaza. The unprecedented nature and magnitude of the crisis in and around Gaza has also impacted the very tense and fragile situation across the West Bank. Palestinians on the West Bank, particularly those living in Area C, East Jerusalem and H2, have been subject to an increased coercive environment, closures, and widespread violence, including increased settler-related violence. Since October 2023, the civilian death toll in Gaza has been unprecedented and the number of settler related incidents against Palestinians on the West Bank is at its highest since 2005 when United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) first started recording this data.

The still unfolding and intensifying military operations, along with the almost complete siege ordered by Israel on Gaza, has resulted in an imminent humanitarian crisis for the 2.2 million people of Gaza, almost half of which are children, who already were living in extremely dire conditions before the current crisis.

## 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Out of a total population of 5.5 million, approximately 3.3 million people need humanitarian assistance, including the entire population of 2.1 million in Gaza and one million in the West Bank.

As of mid-September 2024, reported civilian casualties estimates more than 1,200 Israelis and more than 41,000 Palestinian fatalities in Gaza. All Palestinians living in Gaza are directly and heavily affected by the crisis, and as many as 1.9 million (90 per cent) has been internally displaced. Since the start of the military operation, OCHA has reported almost 95,000 injuries, more than 70,000 partially or fully damaged housing units, with most of basic food stocks having been exhausted, and a 90 per cent reduction in water consumption. Estimates show that people live on only a couple of Liters of water per day (which is far less than recommended emergency levels). A majority are residing in overcrowded The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) installations which have been turned into temporary shelters, with almost no access to food, water, health care and sanitary facilities. Moreover, a majority of Gaza's educational facilities have been hit, and civilian infrastructure has been severely affected and there has been a full electricity blackout since mid-October 2023.

The enormous destruction and persistent blockade have severely disrupted the food supply chains in Gaza and the whole population is facing acute food shortages. A majority of the agricultural land is either inaccessible or has been destroyed. The latest evidence by the IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) acute food insecurity analysis confirms that Famine is imminent. 96 per cent of the population in Gaza are facing severe food insecurity (IPC3 and above), and 745,00 people are facing emergency levels (ICP4) and 495,000 people are facing catastrophic levels of hunger (IPC5).

At the same time, a public health catastrophe is present in Gaza. The destruction of health infrastructure, killings of medical personnel and obstruction of ambulance access to the injured and to health facilities, are contributing to a collapse of the healthcare system. Mass displacement, overcrowding in shelters and damage to water and sanitation infrastructure is contributing to the spread of diseases. Severe stressors for mental health are affecting the whole population. Improper shelter conditions make the living conditions extremely difficult.

At the same time, tensions continue to rise in the West Bank, fuelled mostly by unchecked Israeli settler violence, Israeli army raids and severe access and movement restrictions. The socio-economic situation has also deteriorated, spurred by the termination of 200,000 work permits for Palestinian workers, who used to work inside Israel, whilst the Palestinian Authority (PA) is no longer able to pay salaries of its civil servants as the Israeli Government has withheld custom and tax revenues that it collects on behalf of the PA. As a result, it is expected that Palestinians will fall further into poverty, face increased vulnerability and heightened protection risk.

As stated by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, there is currently no safe place in Gaza for the civilian population. Protection of civilians from the violent fighting and hostilities

is one of the most pressing challenges in this situation. A lack of respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), by all warring parties, puts the civilian population at an extremely high risk. Children, women, elderly and people with disabilities are disproportionately affected, exemplified by more than 70 per cent of the civilian casualties being either women or children. Simultaneously, the most vulnerable groups are facing an elevated degree of risk across the protection spectrum, for example with regards to child protection and gender-based violence (GBV). Children are enduring challenging conditions in overcrowded shelters and informal sites with limited availability of food and safe water, putting them at risk of starvation, epidemics and diseases. Girls in particular face additional risks including the lack of privacy and safety concerns impacting their dignity and mobility as well as mental and physical health. It is estimated by UNICEF that more than one million children are in need of psychosocial support. More than 17,000 children are estimated to be unaccompanied and separated from their families.

The large number of people who have been killed and wounded, the extensive destruction of infrastructure and social services, and devastation of livelihoods has augmented the severity of humanitarian needs of the affected population. The continuation of hostilities, the blockade and the more robust restrictions imposed by Israel causes limited access and space for humanitarian actors to safely and effectively provide essential supplies and services. Israel has recently appointed a military governor for Gaza, which signals an intention of longer time presence.

### 3. The humanitarian response

The escalation of the conflict has further restrained Palestinian economic and institutional capacity, while the Palestinian Authorities depleted financial resources and lack of fiscal autonomy prevent them from upholding state institutions and respond to the crisis. In Gaza, the private and public sector has been drastically affected, also given the lack of municipal authorities to deliver basic services. This has left the international humanitarian assistance as the main lifeline for the people in Gaza. The scale of the conflict is unprecedented and the operational conditions continues to be hindered by the existence of military operations, destroyed infrastructure and services, and the breakdown of law and order, rendering it extremely challenging to deliver humanitarian assistance to the people across Gaza.

The humanitarian response, as stipulated in the revised Flash Appeal, aims at providing immediate life-saving assistance and prevent further loss of life, through provision of emergency supplies and services within priority sectors, such as food, WASH, shelter, protection, emergency health care and addressing of public health concerns. The appeal is estimated to meet the needs of 3.3 million people. The main response priority is to quickly scale up and extend the humanitarian response to address the increasing levels of needs across Gaza. The response approaches encompasses upholding commitments to the centrality of protection and ensuring gender equality, putting communities at the centre, responding to the displaced families inside and outside emergency shelters, including with host communities, making assistance accessible to all people in need in Gaza including delivering in the hard-to-reach

areas. For the West Bank, the Flash Appeal concentrates on providing food for the most vulnerable to prevent food insecurity and malnutrition and also delivering emergency support to farmers to enhance productivity and promote food production.

Despite the extraordinarily challenging and dangerous situation, some 70 actors continue to deliver humanitarian assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, amongst them many local civil society organisations. However, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond have been heavily impacted by the hostilities and the subsequent high insecurity, the blockade of Gaza and the restrictions to the provision of humanitarian aid imposed by Israel in both Gaza and the West Bank. Many organization have been forced to stop, pause or adjust its humanitarian programmes. As an example, some 885 health workers and more than 296 aid workers have been killed in Gaza by mid-September 2024. The lack of safety and protection of humanitarian actors and civilian infrastructure is undermining the humanitarian response. Furthermore, cuts in telecommunication lines and restrictions to establish means of communications have also impacted the humanitarian coordination and response efforts negatively.

International humanitarian aid started coming into Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 21 October 2023, albeit in very limited volumes. With reduced number of border crossings, the quantities of food and other humanitarian supplies entering Gaza continuously only meet a fraction of the increasing and profound humanitarian needs amongst the population. Other important entry points have been blocked by Israel or are only partially operational. The humanitarian access situation has worsened in recent months, with even more limited numbers of humanitarian supplies entering Gaza and an even more insecure and difficult operational environment for humanitarian partners. The heavily restricted humanitarian access and space to operate continues to disallow humanitarian actors to deliver humanitarian assistance and protection services in a safe and effective manner, in particular across Gaza but also in the West Bank. For the humanitarian actors to implement the response plan, the operational conditions must change to ensure safe and sustained access to all people in need and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance, as well as better safety and security for humanitarian workers. The heads of UN agencies have put forward key requirements that, if achieved, would create an enabling environment to deliver assistance to the population of Gaza, including more and efficient entry points, more efficient check-points, improved deconfliction to allow safe humanitarian space, allowing specific humanitarian equipment and more cargo to enter, increase entry of fuel, decongestion of population, smooth visa issuance for humanitarian personnel and more.

Protection serves as the foundation for the response plan with a special focus on GBV and on protecting children. Given the extreme difficulty regarding access in Gaza, the protection response is somewhat limited. Humanitarian actors that have local staff on the ground and the community-led initiatives taking place are trying to ensure civilians are being protected to the extent possible. Furthermore, it is predominantly through integrating protection into other sectors that there is a chance to have an impact on the protection of civilians at present. At the same time, protection actors play a critical role in monitoring and documenting violations of IHL. In the West Bank, protection outcomes focus on reinforcing prevention, mitigation and

response to settler violence, military incursions, and demolitions. In both the West Bank and in Gaza, clear referral pathways to specialised protection services should be made available to address the various range of protection needs such as child protection, GBV and other acute protection needs.

The war in Gaza and the shrinking humanitarian and civic space in the West Bank, makes it increasingly challenging for local and national actors to operate. In 2023, localisation became an increasing priority area among the humanitarian community. To realise more favourable balance of power dynamics between local and national humanitarian actors, a Localization Task Force under the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) was formed. Sweden and Canada are members and represent the Good Humanitarian Donor group (GHD) in the taskforce.

In 2023, the Flash Appeal (October- December 2023) required \$1.2 billion in which \$1.1 billion for Gaza and \$95.4 million for West Bank to reach its targets. The Flash Appeal was extended in time until March 2024 and an additional extension was released in April 2024 to cover the period April-December 2024, requiring an additional \$2.8 billion. The total Flash Appeal funding requirement for 2024 thereby stands at \$3.4 billion. As mid-September 2024, donors have disbursed more than \$1.62 billion. The top donors includes Germany, European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), France, Japan, USA, UAE, Canada, Belgium, UK, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland and private donations. The most funded sectors of the Flash Appeal are food security, logistics, health and protection whereas site management, emergency telecommunications, nutrition, shelter and non-food items, and Cash Assistance are the least funded sectors. Impeded humanitarian access in Gaza makes it increasingly challenging for humanitarian actors to operate and provide humanitarian assistance, driving up operational costs for the delivery of life-saving assistance which will be another factor for the humanitarian community to address.

## 4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

In accordance with the Strategy for Sweden's humanitarian aid provided through Sida (2021-2025) as well as in line with the Flash Appeal, Sida's priorities in Palestine will focus on the provision of immediate assistance and protection of the most vulnerable groups. Focus will be put on emergency assistance and protection reaching the affected population in a timely manner, including in hard-to-reach areas, where the centrality of protection in the response will be paramount to reduce risks and vulnerabilities.

Sida's humanitarian initial allocation for 2024 is increased compared to the initial allocation for 2023. Given the rapid and severe deterioration post 7 October 2023, Sida's assistance will be adjusted to make strict prioritisation of sectors and partners. Sida's focus for 2024 is on provision of life-saving assistance, with fewer prioritised sectors, including; food assistance; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); emergency health, including mental health and psychosocial support; and protection. Priority will be of partners with ongoing capacity to reach communities across Gaza and the most vulnerable people in the West Bank with multi-sectoral emergency

assistance. Sida will prioritise best placed partners based on their comparative advantage, proved track record to work with and support local partners and presence to immediately deliver assistance in Gaza.

Multi-year funding will not be considered during 2024, due to the fluidity of situation and the need for a flexible portfolio. Localisation and funding of local partners will remain a key operational priority and a pilot on localisation will be resumed when possible. Sida will continue to ensure flexible funding to enable partners to quickly adjust their response to meet the most acute needs. Furthermore, Sida will monitor conflict dynamics and maintain flexibility to adjust the crisis analysis and financial contributions adaptively to the changes in the situation.

PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)	
		2024	2025
UNICEF	Health, Child Protection, Nutrition, WASH	10,000,000	
NRC	ICLA, Protection Education, Shelter, WASH, West Bank Protection Consortium	10,000,000	
oPt HF	Food security, Health, WASH, Protection, Shelter, education	29,000,000	-
Swedish Red Cross	Emergency health, protection, Wash, psychosocial well being	7,000,000	
UNRWA	Food Security, Health, WASH, Protection, Education, Shelter	25,000,000	-
WFP	Food Security	13,000,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>94,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2024		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING <sup>1</sup>	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
IRC	10,200,000	
MSB	6,800,000	
PU-I	1,300,000	
ACF	3,000,000	
OXFAM	7,500,000	
Diakonia	2,500,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,300,00</b>	

## 5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

The situation in Palestine demands a nexus approach, as humanitarian assistance alone cannot address chronic needs of the most vulnerable in Palestine. Indeed, all three elements of the nexus are critical to promote sustainability, dignity, and safety by strengthening the investment in people and infrastructure to respond to needs and mitigate the impacts of violence. It is clear that the massive destruction and increase in tensions calls for a need for renewed and reinstated nexus approach, based on the post 7 October circumstances.

This Humanitarian Crisis Analysis (HCA) has been prepared in parallel with the in-depth review of Swedish aid to Palestine, as decided and instructed by the Swedish Government to Sida. Importantly, almost no disbursements was made for projects in Palestine during this period, with the exception for humanitarian aid. With the pause of development cooperation aid to Palestine, the planned new nexus work of the General Consulate to work on strengthening synergies and nexus programming, with focus on Gaza has been on hold. Nexus approaches can be resumed alongside the new development strategy for Palestine, as included in the Swedish strategy for Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), which was agreed upon in late March 2024. Noteworthy, Sida has good lessons learned in its multi-year support to the ICRC Gaza Resilience Programme that ended in 2023. Moreover, the previous support to the UNDP Gaza Early Recovery Programme, supported by Sweden's development cooperation funding, had a nexus approach providing a bridge to reconstruction and normal life for people in the

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<sup>1</sup> Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

Gaza Strip. Contribution to the West Bank Consortium led by NRC is provided by Sida's humanitarian strategy, and also previously through Sweden's bilateral development, which enables important nexus programming. Indeed, the West Bank Protection Consortium is a valued partner that has good abilities to programme within humanitarian and development sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.