

1. Summaryⁱ

9	3.6 million	106 MSEK	0 MSEK	0 MSEK	106 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking Sida's initial allocation analysis ⁱⁱ	Number of people with humanitarian needs Sida's initial allocation analysis ⁱⁱⁱ	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

Humanitarian needs in Palestine remain alarming and risk further deterioration in 2026, in a prolonged and conflict driven crisis affecting a significant part of the population. An estimated 72,000 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 172,000 injured in the war that has devastated the Gaza Strip since Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.¹ Despite some improvements after the October 2025 ceasefire, major humanitarian challenges persist and are further exacerbated by the ongoing regional escalation in the Middle East.

Severe destruction in Gaza and major obstacles to aid, together with ongoing demolitions, military operations, settler violence, and movement restrictions in the West Bank, have deepened suffering and weakened community resilience. Needs for protection, food, shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), medical care and safe humanitarian access remain critical, and assistance will be essential throughout 2026, alongside efforts to support recovery and reconstruction where possible.

In total, 3.6 million people are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2026—2.1 million in Gaza and 1.5 million in the West Bank. The 2026 Flash Appeal for Palestine amounts to USD 4.1 billion to deliver time-sensitive, life-saving support to 3 million people.²

Sida's initial allocation for 2026 prioritises addressing the most acute and severe needs and restoring humanitarian access to basic services in Gaza and the West Bank. Partner selection focuses on proven capacity to meet urgent needs while operating in a principled manner under restricted access and security constraints, and on the ability to integrate civilian protection into programming.

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). *Humanitarian Situation Update #357 | Gaza Strip*. 12 February 2026 (accessed 2026-03-19).

² OCHA. *Flash Appeal 2026 at a glance*. December 2025 (accessed 2025-12-12).

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Humanitarian needs in Palestine remain severe. The Gaza Strip has been devastated by over two years of war, leaving almost the entire population in need of assistance. Nearly all 2.1 million Gazans have been displaced³, many repeatedly. About two-thirds of Gaza's population is crowded into roughly 1,000 sites west of the "Yellow Line"⁴, a October 2025 ceasefire demarcation dividing Gaza into an Israeli-controlled east and a confined Palestinian west.

The crisis is marked by widespread violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks on civilians and aid workers, forced displacement, and the destruction of essential services. In September 2025, the UN Commission of Inquiry assessed that, given the scale and nature of attacks on civilians, the situation in Gaza meets the criteria for genocide.⁵

Although famine conditions eased after the October 2025 ceasefire, 77 per cent of Gazans—1.6 million people—still face crisis-level or worse food insecurity (IPC 3+).⁶ Malnutrition remains widespread, especially among children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. Lack of reliable water supply affects 93 per cent of households, sanitation systems are near collapse, and 81 per cent of water structures in Gaza are damaged or destroyed.⁷ Families in Gaza have been forced to burn waste, plastic, and other hazardous materials to cook food due to the lack of fuel and cooking gas. Only 42 per cent of health service points remain operational, with just 3 per cent fully functional, and more than 18,500 people—including 3,800 children—require medical evacuation.⁸

Palestinian adult men and adolescent boys are disproportionately represented among those injured or killed in violent incidents, in particular in the West Bank, involving Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers. Children, women, older people, and persons with disabilities face critical risks. Protection risks are severe, including gender-based violence, family separation, arbitrary detention, and exposure to explosive remnants of war. 60 per cent of school-aged children lack access to in-person learning.⁹ More than 57,000 households are headed by women, and 12,000 women and girls have newly acquired long-term war-related disabilities.¹⁰

The economic collapse is profound: Gaza's GDP fell by 87 per cent between 2023 and 2024, unemployment is around 80 per cent¹¹, and reconstruction needs exceed USD 67 billion.¹² Market

³ OCHA. *Flash Appeal 2026 at a Glance*. p.9 Ibid

⁴ OCHA. [Humanitarian Situation Update #355 | Gaza Strip](#). February 2026 (accessed 2026-03-22)

⁵ Human Rights Council. *Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza*. September 2025 (accessed 2025-12-05).

⁶ OCHA. [Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip](#). March 2026. (Accessed 2026-03-19)

⁷ OCHA. *Situation Update #355*. Ibid

⁸ OCHA. *Humanitarian Situation Report*. March 2026. Ibid.

⁹ OCHA. *Humanitarian Situation Update #355*. Ibid

¹⁰ UN Women. *Remarks by IN Women Chief of Humanitarian Action* November 2025 (accessed 2025-12-04).

¹¹ UNCTD. *Gaza's economy collapsed*. November 2025 (accessed 2025-12-04).

¹² World Bank Group. *Financial Intermediary Fund for Gaza* November 2025 (accessed 2025-12-05).

conditions have improved somewhat since the ceasefire, but food prices remain volatile and inflation reached around 305 per cent in March 2026—well above pre-October 2023 levels.¹³

In the West Bank, humanitarian needs also worsened sharply amid escalating settler violence, military operations and increased movement restrictions. Since October 2023, more than 1,000 Palestinians—including over 200 children—have been killed by settlers and Israeli security forces¹⁴, and over 36,000 people were forcibly displaced in 2025.¹⁵ Military operations in early 2025 led to the large-scale displacement of residents from the Jenin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps, contributing to the largest single displacement in the West Bank since 1967, with more than 32,000 people still displaced.¹⁶ In 2026 so far, settler attacks have become more severe, with a 54 per cent increase in injuries and a more than fourfold rise in related displacement compared with 2025 averages.¹⁷

3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian community faced immense challenges delivering aid in Palestine in 2025, and these difficulties continue in 2026.

Since the 9 October 2025 ceasefire under the US President’s 20-point peace plan,

the response has expanded, although still below needs. UN-tracked data shows a marked decline in looting¹⁸ and partners have managed to increase aid flows. By late November, 125,000 households received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance¹⁹, market supplies increased and prices fell, functioning health facilities rose by about 17 per cent, and in-person learning resumed for 215,000 children (32 per cent of Gaza’s school-aged population).²⁰ 1.6 million people have been reached in Gaza with full food parcels for the first time in 2026, however, this scale is not sustained and response coverage varies in line with access constraints.²¹

Despite some gains, Israeli-imposed bureaucratic and security restrictions continue to undermine operations, with volatile crossings, screening delays, and limits on equipment repeatedly disrupting aid delivery. Humanitarian movements often halt entirely, “dual-use” restrictions force reliance on

3 million	\$4 billion	7.9%
People targeted in the response plan Flash Appeal 2026	Required to reach the target in the Flash Appeal 2026	Of the funding secured for the Flash Appeal 2026

¹³ OCHA. *Humanitarian Situation Report*. March 2026. Ibid.

¹⁴ UN OHCHR. *UN Human Rights in Occupied Palestinian Territory: 1001 Palestinians killed in West Bank since 7 October 2023 – one in five are children*. October 2025 (accessed 2025-12-04).

¹⁵ UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), A/HRC/61/70: *Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (accessed 2026-03-19)

¹⁶ OCHA. *Northern West Bank Humanitarian Response Update*. July 2025. (accessed 2026-03-19)

¹⁷ OCHA. *Humanitarian Situation Report* | 19 March 2026 (accessed 2026-03-20)

¹⁸ UNOPS. *UN2720 Mechanism for Gaza*. December 2025 (accessed 2025-12-10).

¹⁹ OCHA. *Gaza Humanitarian Response, Situation Report No. 35*. December 2025 (accessed 2025-12-09).

²⁰ OCHA. *Gaza Humanitarian Response, Situation Report No. 38*. December 2025 (accessed 2025-12-09).

²¹ WFP *Emergency Response External Situation Report #83*. February 2026 (accessed 2025-12-10).

inadequate materials, INGO deregistration threatens operations, and the 2026 regional escalation is further constricting access and increasing risks across Gaza and the West Bank.

New structures linked to the peace plan, including the Civil-Military Coordination Centre (CMCC) in Kiryat Gat²² introduce an additional layer of engagement for humanitarian access discussions with Israel. While facilitated by the United States, the CMCC's mandate remains unclear, and there are concerns that it could sideline existing UN-led coordination and reintroduce more militarized models of aid delivery in Israeli-controlled areas of Gaza.

In October 2024, the Israeli Knesset passed two laws effectively banning UNRWA from operating in areas that Israel defines as its territory, including East Jerusalem. In December 2025, the Israeli Knesset adopted additional legislative amendments that further restrict UNRWA's ability to carry out its activities. UNRWA remains central to the response, with 11,000 staff in Gaza²³ and 4,000 in the West Bank²⁴, and contribute with infrastructure on which many agencies depend. However, Israeli restrictions continue to limit staff rotations and the entry of goods, and attacks on UNRWA facilities and personnel have been reported in 2026. A significant budget deficit further threatens its operational capacity²⁵, though the agency continues to deliver services at scale.²⁶

The 2025 Flash Appeal was 65 per cent funded. Sweden, through the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Sida, was the fifth-largest donor to the response after the United States, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).²⁷ Some donors have also provided significant bilateral support to Palestine outside the UN-led system. With continued MFA funding, Sweden is likely to remain one of the largest humanitarian donors to Palestine in 2026.²⁸

Overall, humanitarian actors still lack the space to scale up assistance according to needs. Bureaucratic and security-related obstacles persist and are unlikely to shift in the short term. In 2026, the priority will remain addressing life-threatening needs while coordinating with early recovery efforts. Without political progress, humanitarian needs in Palestine will continue.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's humanitarian allocation for Palestine will initially amount to SEK 106 million and focus on addressing the most acute and severe needs and restoring access to basic services in Gaza and the West Bank. Although a significant portion of the funding will be focused on Gaza, funding will also

²² CENTCOM. [Civil-Military Coordination Center to Support Gaza Stabilization](#). October 2025 (accessed 2026-03-23).

²³ UNRWA, [Situation Report #210](#) (accessed 2026-03-12)

²⁴ UNRWA, [Situation Report #202](#) (accessed 2026-03-12)

²⁵ UNRWA, [Finance and Fundraising Update, Sept. 2025](#). (accessed 2026-03-20)

²⁶ UNRWA. [UNRWA's work in the occupied Palestinian territory since January 2025](#). October 2025 (accessed 2025-11-27).

²⁷ OCHA [Financial Tracking System, State of Palestine: 2025 Summary](#). (accessed 2026-03-10).

²⁸ Government Offices of Sweden, [Regeringen avsätter 800 miljoner kronor i humanitärt stöd till Gaza och regionen för 2026](#). December 2025 (accessed 2026-03-24).

go toward responding to the deteriorated humanitarian situation in the West Bank. In particular, the focus in the West Bank is to mitigate and respond to the severe protection risks, including incidents related to settler violence.

One of the primary factors influencing the allocation is partners' access capacity, i.e. the ability to address the most acute and severe needs in hard-to-reach areas. Sida also seeks complementarity between partners in terms of sectoral focus (Shelter, Health, WASH, Protection etc.) and capacity to bring in supplies to Gaza. Another priority is scaling up Cash and Voucher Assistance to strengthen cost-effectiveness and enable recipients to prioritise among their needs.

In 2026, there is a need for the humanitarian community to coordinate with recovery and reconstruction efforts to leverage a stronger impact for affected people. Such work is still in the early stages, however. It is therefore unlikely that the humanitarian community will be able to significantly scale back its footprint during the year (although funding constraints might render this necessary). Nevertheless, humanitarian actors can engage in certain early recovery efforts to enable greater and more cost-effective results, for example by repairing water infrastructure to lessen the need for more expensive water trucking.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	10,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	21,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	20,000,000
oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF)	35,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	20,000,000
TOTAL	106,000,000

ⁱ The 2026 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. 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.

ⁱⁱ Sida's initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida's initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology.

ⁱⁱⁱ The number of people with humanitarian needs according to Sida's allocation analysis is based on the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs that is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Palestine, the selected source is Global Humanitarian Overview for 2026.