



Country sheet

Palestine





HI's team and areas of intervention

There are 37 people working on HI's programme in Palestine.

Palestinian Territories





General Country Data

a. HI internal classifications of the country context

Level of violence (Gaza)	Level of violence (West Bank/Jerusalem)	Operations Director Focus	Health Focus	Positioning Focus	Emergency Focus
		x		X	X

b. General data

Country	Occupied Palestinian Territory	Neighbouring country (Jordan)	France
Population	5043612	10 203 140	67 391 582
IHDI	0.584	0.73	0.9
Gender development index	0.891	0.875	0.987
Maternal mortality	20	46	8
GINI Index	33.7	33.7	31.6
Population under UNHCR mandate	2 109 738	769 260	458 919
INFORM index	4.7	4.4	2.2
Fragile State Index	87,9	75.43	30.48
Public social protection	16,6	8.9	32.6
Net official development assistance received (M USD)	2158,3	3 941.7	N/A

c. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Acceded on 29 December 2017
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Acceded on 2 January 2015; became a State Party on 1 July 2015.
UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities	Acceded on 1 April 2014, without reservations.



d. Geopolitical analysis

The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), comprising the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, has been the theatre of a longstanding conflict with Israel.

The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 led to a mass exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries, specifically Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Following the 1967 war, the number of refugees and internally displaced Palestinians increased. Before October 7, 2023 and the current crisis, the United Nations Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) estimated that more than 4,500,000 Palestinians were refugees or internally displaced.

1. Political context

Since the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the territories of historical Palestine under the British Mandate of Palestine have been divided into different jurisdictions and authorities, resulting in the largest displacement of population in modern history.

The creation of distinct administrative areas has contributed to the fragmentation of the Palestinian territory and the isolation of Palestinian communities.

Regionally, support for Palestinian refugees and the creation of a State of Palestine under UN Resolutions has lost backing from other Arab countries and the international community in general.

The power held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip has caused a significant fracture in the Palestinian political framework, with the freezing of the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2007. Deep political divisions have resulted in the establishment of divided power, where civil affairs are regulated either by Presidential Decrees in Ramallah or regulations issued by the Political Branch of Hamas in Gaza. Consequently, the occupied Palestinian territories lack genuine leadership.

In recent years, violence between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories, as well as with the Hezbollah in South Lebanon, led to several military operations by the Israeli forces or uptick in the conflict: **operation Cast Lead** in 2009; **operation Protective Edge** in the Gaza Strip in 2014, to mention just a few.

In 2018 and 2019 Gaza border protests, known as the **Great March of Return** were held each Friday near the Gaza-Israel border. 223 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces.

Since October 7, 2023, and the escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas, more than **30,000 people have been killed and 70,000 injured** in Gaza by continuous bombing by Israeli forces (source: Hamas authorities). Israel's retaliatory response came after a massive attack launched by Hamas on October 7, killing 1,200 Israelis and taking hostage 240 Israelis and foreign nationals. 85% of the population in Gaza is now displaced and 80% is in vital need of humanitarian aid, such as food, clean water and shelter.

The escalation of armed violence also hit the West Bank since 7 October. More than 380 Palestinians have been killed and 4,300 injured. A dozen Israelis have also lost their lives.

2. Economic situation

Before October 7 and the current conflict

According to the World Bank, movement and access restrictions are impeding Palestinian development in the West Bank, while Gaza remains a virtually closed economy with very high unemployment levels of about 44% (Q1 2023).



Due to Israeli occupation, access restrictions, and limitations on movement, the West Bank is in a state of chronic crisis, primarily driven by economic and protection concerns. Violence by new settlers and deadly raids by Israeli Security Forces caused the deaths of 175 persons in the first quarter of 2023, almost doubling the percentages of previous years.

Restrictions in access for Palestinians in over 70% of the West Bank dramatically hinder their access to employment opportunities. The legalisation of illegal outposts and the construction of new housing units throughout the West Bank, including remote and isolated areas, along with the construction of new roads, are fragmenting the West Bank territory and jeopardizing the viability of the two-state solution.

In Gaza, the 15-year blockade imposed by Israel, has severely restricted the movements of its inhabitants and the routing of essential goods such as food and construction materials for necessary reconstructions, leaving the Gaza population in a critical humanitarian situation. Various sectors, including health, housing, food, protection, and education, have been exhausted by the rising demands of the population affected by the humanitarian crisis.

In the beginning of 2022, food prices reached their highest point in the past six years. In 2022, the number of food-insecure people rose to 1.84 million across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, representing almost 36% of the population. In Gaza, many families report having difficulties accessing food.

The shrinkage of funding from donors, led by the USA, has had an enormous impact on UNRWA programmes and World Food programmes, among others. It has significantly affected the provision of services and the lives of Palestinian people.

Since October 7

The World Bank has recently conducted an [analysis on the economic impact](#) of the current conflict on the Palestinian economy: based on preliminary estimates the effects are consequential. The loss of life, the rapidity and extent of damage to fixed assets and the reduction in income flows across the Palestinian territories are unparalleled. As of the second half of November, roughly 60% of telecommunication infrastructure, more than 60% of health and education facilities and 70% of commerce-related infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed in Gaza. Similarly, nearly half of all primary, secondary, and tertiary roads are damaged or destroyed. More than half a million people are currently without a home as a result of the conflict.

Summary of HI's presence in the country

HI has been working in the occupied Palestinian territory since 1996, its main mandate being to support disability organisations. In 1999, the programme launched its first explosive ordnance risk education campaign.

Since then, a large number of development projects have been implemented in partnership with local associations in a wide range of fields: functional rehabilitation (technical assistance, equipment, training, and publications), psychosocial support, empowerment of local organisations for people with disabilities, and local inclusive development, as well as access to education and employment.

In the wake of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza during the summer of 2014, and in addition to its development projects, HI launched an emergency and post-emergency response in the fields of rehabilitation, reconstruction, and EO risk reduction.



HI – Palestine Country Card - **UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023**

Since October 7, 2023, HI has been responding to the ongoing crisis in Gaza by providing rehabilitation and psychosocial support, distributing assistive devices, providing kits for displaced families and organising recreational activities for children.



Overview of current projects

Sectors in which HI is running projects, with a focus on beneficiaries and partners

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Objective	Main activities	Beneficiaries	End Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end dates and Donors
Enhancing emergency preparedness and post-trauma response	<p>To strengthen preparedness and post-trauma response capacity in the West Bank:</p> <p>To strengthen the preparedness of the areas most marginalised and exposed to violence in the West Bank</p> <p>To strengthen the post-trauma response capacity of the areas most marginalised and exposed to violence in the West Bank</p>	<p>Improved stock management capacity in the most vulnerable areas of the West Bank</p> <p>Community emergency volunteers are able to support access to early rehabilitation response and address other humanitarian needs for the most vulnerable population in West Bank, especially people with disabilities</p> <p>A Multi-Disciplinary Rehabilitation Task Force is established in the West Bank and able to ensure timely response to the needs of vulnerable communities during emergency responses</p>	<p>Indirect Beneficiaries (Total: 2790):</p> <p>Family members of vulnerable households: 588 vulnerable households comprising an average of 5 family members.</p>	<p>Direct Beneficiaries (Total: 898):</p> <p>Vulnerable Households:</p> <p>588 households living in marginalized</p> <p>Emergency Volunteers: 100 volunteers</p> <p>Rehabilitation Professionals: 35</p> <p>Humanitarian Actors Trained on Inclusive Services:</p> <p>15 actors</p> <p>Humanitarian Actors Joining the MRDTF: 10 actors</p>	Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR)	<p>West Bank, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Nablus (Burin, Huwwara, Beita, Beit Furik, Awarta, Odala, Nablus old city) -South of Hebron (Susiya, Masef Yatta, Al Buewib, Khallet Hajar al Fauqa, Khallet Hajar Tahta, Al Ein); -Jenin and Ya'bda 	<p>French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs</p> <p>(CDCS)</p> <p>From 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024</p>



				Individuals from vulnerable communities:			
				150			
<p>Rehabilitation, MHPSS, Inclusion</p> <p>Project title: Humanitarian response for the most vulnerable populations affected by extreme poverty, humanitarian crisis and violation of IHL/IHR in the Gaza Strip</p> <p>Rehabilitation</p> <p>Integrated humanitarian and protection response to improve the well-being of the most vulnerable populations in Gaza and reduce risks from conflict, violence and disasters.</p>	<p>To reduce dependence on severe negative coping strategies among the most vulnerable households in Gaza, while addressing specialised protection and rehabilitation needs</p>	<p>Conduct a gender-sensitive assessment of the specific needs of people with disabilities identified by the Gaza Protection Consortium</p> <p>Provision of rehabilitation services taking into consideration gender and age-specific needs, including individual and group PSS sessions</p> <p>Provision of assistive devices and wound dressing kits</p> <p>Referral of beneficiaries to the identified complementary services based on updated mapping of the LRN and RTF</p> <p>Technical training for Rehabilitation Task Force members on gender, age, and disability-sensitive Health Preparedness measures, specifically rehabilitation and PSS support modalities.</p> <p>Technical training for HI Emergency Volunteers on gender, age, and disability sensitive Emergency Preparedness and Response</p>	<p>ECHO</p> <p>240 beneficiaries (162 men, 78 women)</p> <p>CDCs</p> <p>207 men</p> <p>138 women</p> <p>20 people who receive multidisciplinary rehabilitation services including (55% men; 45% women)</p> <p>100 assistive devices and Non-food items including Wound Dressing Kits will be provided for BNFs in need</p>	<p>ECHO</p> <p>240 beneficiaries (162 men, 78 women)</p> <p>CDCs</p> <p>207 men; 138 women</p> <p>GAC</p> <p>120 - MDR</p> <p>8 actors (GAD)</p> <p>100 NFI</p>	<p>Palestine Avenir Childhood Foundation (PACF)</p> <p>Baitona for community development</p>	<p>Gaza Strip</p>	<p>European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) 01/05/2022-28/02/2023</p> <p>Crisis and Support Centre France (CDCS France) 01/06/2022-31/05/2023</p> <p>GAC</p> <p>15-09-2023- 31-June-2024</p>



		<p>measures focusing on mental self-care, psychological first aid; pain management; cognitive behavioural therapy, plus psychosocial rehabilitation principles</p> <p>Purchase assistive devices for repositioning in case of emergency response</p>					
<p>Inclusive education</p> <p>Inclusive learning and psychosocial services for boys and girls with and without disabilities- SHAREK</p>	<p>To help increase equitable and safe access to inclusive, quality educational services for vulnerable children</p>	<p>Facilitate PSS needs assessment of the identified school staff, children with and without disabilities, and parents/caregivers from the identified schools.</p> <p>Train teachers and other educational personnel on psychosocial support.</p> <p>Conduct inclusive recreational and summer activities with school-aged children.</p> <p>Provide awareness on safeguarding mechanisms at schools.</p> <p>Identify girls and boys with disabilities out-of-school or those at risk of dropping out in the targeted communities.</p> <p>Refer identified girls and boys to specialised providers of health, protection, shelter and livelihood</p>	4486	2739	Teacher Creativity Center	Gaza Strip and West Bank	<p>UN OCHA (oPt Humanitarian Fund) 08 May 2023 - 07 Mar 2024</p>



		<p>services based on their needs in order to support their inclusion.</p> <p>Equip targeted schools with learning and education materials</p> <p>Provide hearing, visual and educational technologies for boys and girls with disabilities.</p>					
<p>Towards an inclusive ECD: comprehensive support to children with developmental delays and disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)</p>	<p>Guaranteed access for people with disabilities and vulnerable people, in particular women and girls, to quality rehabilitation and education services</p>	<p>Raise community awareness on Early Detection (ED) and Signs and Symptoms of disabilities and developmental delays</p> <p>Identify vulnerable families and assess their needs using case management tools.</p> <p>Provide Early stimulation intervention – Blue Box (for children under 4</p> <p>Enhance positive parenting capacities</p> <p>Train and coach on ECD-related strategies and interventions</p> <p>Provide accessibility to nurseries/Child friendly Spaces, rehabilitation and health centres, KG, and primary schools</p> <p>Provide support MoH, MoSS and MoE in the evaluation of the</p>	<p>150,000</p>	<p>1100</p>	<p>BASR</p>	<p>West Bank (Bethlehem, S. Hebron)</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg 01/01/2023-31/12/2027</p>



		<p>achievement of the 2017-2022 National Strategy for ECD</p> <p>Facilitate support to MoH, MoSS and MoE in the development of a situation analysis in support of the creation of the new ECD national strategy</p> <p>Extend support to MoE in the implementation of the 2015 Inclusive Education Policy, specifically focusing on grades 1-3</p>					
<p>Young parents in Gaza: a multisector approach towards resilience</p>	<p>To increase the resilience of young parents of children with specific needs to the socio-economic consequences of the prolonged crisis in Gaza.</p>	<p>Early Child Development through a case management approach</p> <p>Case management and referral services,</p> <p>Positive Parenting sessions targeting young parents,</p> <p>Nutrition Services (counselling and therapeutic services),</p> <p>Support 10 Early childhood clinics with accessibility, inclusive interventions and equipment.</p> <p>Support 2 playgrounds with accessibility and inclusive interventions.</p> <p>Food Security and Livelihoods</p>	<p>Young parents (at least one parent must be under 30 years old) of at least 1 child (0-8 years old) with at least one specific need:</p> <p>Children with disabilities or development delays;</p> <p>Children with specific nutrition needs</p> <p>Children with MHPSS and/or protection needs</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>MA'AN Development Centre</p> <p>Ard El Insan (AED).</p> <p>Culture & Free Thought Association (CFTA).</p>	<p>Gaza Strip</p>	<p>48 months (4 years) from October 1st, 2022 to September 30, 2026.</p> <p>Germany (BMZ TDA)</p>



			<p>Food assistance/vouchers,</p> <p>Building young parents' soft skills capacities and developing personalised support plans,</p> <p>Support young parents to access income-generating opportunities.</p> <p>Disaster Risk Management</p> <p>Building young parents' stress management and emergency capacities,</p> <p>Building capacity of local community emergency stakeholders and improving emergency infrastructure.</p>					
Inclusive Action	Humanitarian	<p>Contribute to protection mainstreaming in the humanitarian response in the oPt both at the coordination level - Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) - and at the operational level.</p> <p>Protection Mainstreaming</p>	<p>Set up DGA sensitive beneficiaries' complain and feedback mechanisms.</p> <p>Gender analysis (intersectionality with disability and age, at least) Relevant sector and/or context assessment (Identification of target beneficiary and referral to project pathways based on their needs and capacity.</p> <p>The HNO and HRP reflects on disability prevalence in oPt and barriers to services and adapts their tracking tools and skills to better identify transformative inclusive actions for people with disabilities</p>	<p>OCHA</p> <p>Humanitarian architecture clusters - ICCG – 8</p> <p>Clusters partners 15</p>	Persons with disabilities recipient of humanitarian aid and non.	Protection Cluster	National Level	<p>1/06/2023-30/05/2024</p> <p>Donor: Luxembourg MoFA (emergency envelope)</p>



	in the oPt Humanitarian Response for Non-Protection Practitioners across Gaza and the West Bank is strengthened and improved						
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Donors

<p>German Cooperation (BMZ)</p>  <p>german cooperation DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT</p>	<p>Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>  <p>LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>Centre de Crise-Soutien (France)</p> <p>Avec la participation de</p>  <p>MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES <i>Liberté Égalité Fraternité</i></p>	<p>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)</p>  <p>OCHA Nations Unies - Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires</p>
<p>ECHO</p>  <p>Union européenne</p>	<p>Global Affairs Canada</p>  <p>Canada</p>