

FACT SHEET



UNFPA CASH ASSISTANCE IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

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Context

In response to the urgent humanitarian needs arising from the escalation of hostilities in Gaza and the West Bank, UNFPA Palestine continues to provide cash assistance for vulnerable women and girls affected by the crisis to cope with the current situation and decrease protection risks through improved access to essential supplies and services while helping to reduce the risk of gender based violence (GBV).

In the West Bank, ongoing military incursions have displaced many families, leaving women and children in precarious situations. As they are forced from their homes, they struggle to meet basic needs with limited access to markets and essential items. This urgent crisis highlights the need for targeted support to help these families regain stability and access the resources they desperately require.

Challenges

In Gaza, cash assistance has become one of the few lifelines for the affected population, especially as humanitarian and commercial crossings have been mostly closed or severely limited. Local markets have nearly run out of supplies, leaving residents struggling to find basic necessities. Informal markets are now the main sources of goods and services, alongside a small number of commercial trucks. This situation underscores the urgent need for ongoing humanitarian support to help those in desperate need while also advocating for unimpeded access to entry of commercial goods and supplies.

Many beneficiaries in Gaza face challenges cashing transfers due to a liquidity shortage that began in March 2024, impacting the entire economy. To address this, UNFPA in line with the Cash Working Group strategy, is promoting cashless solutions, like mobile wallets, which are gaining traction among both beneficiaries and merchants. UNFPA is actively encouraging this shift, with around 20 percent of redemptions now happening through mobile wallets.



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UNFPA'S RESPONSE

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNFPA has been able to effectively distribute cash through its payment platform. In 2024, the program has already reached over 12,000 vulnerable women in Palestine, including GBV survivors, providing vital emergency cash assistance. **Each woman receives 1,000 ILS, equivalent to around 280 USD, UNFPA has disbursed over 3 million USD to support these efforts.**



9,500

Women received cash assistance in Gaza



2,500

Women received cash assistance in the West Bank including East Jerusalem

We prioritize women at risk of GBV and pregnant and lactating women to ensure their health and safety. UNFPA works with its partners in Gaza and the West Bank to effectively identify and support vulnerable women and girls through several key methods: (i) those already using safe spaces designed for women and girls, (ii) those accessing health and social services from our partners, and (iii) referrals from the UNRWA GBV program. By integrating these targeted approaches, UNFPA's cash assistance program not only provides immediate relief but also complements other larger multipurpose cash assistance initiatives.

This ensures we reach those who have been left behind and are at heightened protection risk. Our extensive field-based network of services allows us to maintain a comprehensive understanding of community needs and to effectively link beneficiaries with vital support services, thereby enhancing our overall impact and resilience.

In coordination with our partners in Gaza and the West Bank, including the Palestine Cash Working Group, UNFPA is regularly refining and adapting its approaches in GBV and CVA to ensure essential support reaches vulnerable communities affected by the crisis.

UNFPA and its partners conducted post-distribution surveys to assess the effectiveness, safety, and appropriateness of the cash assistance. These surveys also are an essential means to maintain a connection with the women served and better understand the evolving needs and situation.

‘The financial support helped me meet my family’s needs and improved our living situation. It also reduced the stress my husband was feeling during this difficult time. We hope for more assistance so we can continue to provide for our family and live safely.’

- Amal, beneficiary

'I am grateful because I was able to provide for my children despite our difficult situation. My home is gone, my husband was killed, and I was displaced to the south without any preparation. I hope the assistance continues and is repeated for us.'

- Suad, beneficiary

IMPACT

Cash assistance in Gaza is a vital way to protect women during this catastrophic situation. Ninety percent of respondents prefer to receive aid through CVA to cover their basic needs. This support has also helped reduce family tensions and disagreements caused by the lack of resources amid ongoing conflict. Therefore, it's crucial to maintain and scale up this assistance.

In collaboration with our partners, we aim to expand support for women and girls in greatest need linking further with UNFPA

specialised services, especially survivors of GBV, those with disabilities, and pregnant and lactating women.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors for their generous contributions. Your support makes a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

We invite others to join us in this vital work—your contributions can help sustain and expand our efforts to support vulnerable communities.



91% stated that the cash helped to fully or partially access urgent basic items and services they needed



80.6% stated that the cash contributed significantly or moderately to help coping with the current situation



36% reported facing challenges when accessing markets



100% reported being able to spend the cash received

PRIORITY EXPENSES



90% Food



35% Drinking Water



32% Clothes



24% Medicines

'I have endured a lot during the war, having lost my family and my son. The lack of resources caused tension between my husband and me, as we struggled to meet our basic needs. Thankfully, I can now provide for my family, and I'm grateful for the support we've received. I hope we can get more assistance to continue meeting our needs.'

- Dalal, beneficiary

