

The OCHA-managed Pooled Funds – the UN Central Emergency Response Fund and the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) – are currently enabling a **timely and life-saving humanitarian response** to people affected by the conflict, which has escalated significantly since the outbreak of hostilities on 7 October 2023. The scale of the response and the operational challenges faced are unprecedented both in oPt and in other contexts.

## PEOPLE ASSISTED IN OPT (2023)



CERF 1.85M

oPt HF 2.4M

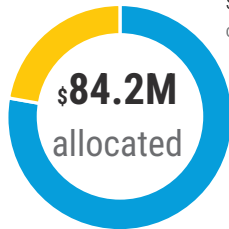
## TIMELINE OF POOLED FUND ALLOCATIONS\*

### ALLOCATIONS BY FUND\*

in US\$

\$18.7M  
CERF (22%)

\$65.5M  
oPt HF (78%)



**GAZA STRIP:** In response to the massive displacements following the outbreak of hostilities, CERF allocated \$12 million through the Rapid Response (RR) window on 25 October to support urgent humanitarian responses in the Gaza Strip, addressing critical needs across essential sectors.

**GAZA STRIP/WEST BANK:\*\*** In addition, on October 26, a \$6.7 million allocation from the CERF Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) window was reprogrammed to supplement the \$9 million allocation to Gaza from the oPt HF. The allocation prioritized critical needs that had increased since the oPt HF's initial allocation, including in the food security and protection sectors, ensuring a holistic approach.

**WEST BANK:\*\*** In response to the initial increase in humanitarian needs, a \$4.2 million allocation from the oPt HF was reprogrammed on 7 October to ensure provision of multi-sectoral assistance to the most impacted communities in the West Bank through partnerships with local organizations.

**GAZA STRIP:** Complementing the oPt HF allocation to the West Bank, a \$9 million '48-hour response' allocation was launched by the oPt HF in the Gaza Strip. This funding enabled immediate life-saving assistance through urgent interventions in critical sectors by prepositioning funds with partners before concluding access negotiations.

**GAZA STRIP:** On December 15, the oPt HF launched a \$38.8 million allocation to address the urgent and life-saving needs as outlined in the updated [2023 Flash Appeal](#). The allocation allowed the humanitarian response to adapt to the evolving situation, with the aim of increasing access to critical assistance for those in need in Gaza.

**GAZA STRIP AND WEST BANK:** By January, the majority of aid trucks had been damaged or destroyed, severely depleting the humanitarian fleet in Gaza. In response, the oPt HF launched an additional allocation of \$3.5 million on 15 January for the procurement of 15 trucks to increase the capacity of partners to deliver aid.

**WEST BANK:** On 3 April, the oPt HF launched a \$5 million '48-hour response' allocation for the West Bank, leveraging pre-positioned funding to urgently address rapidly increasing humanitarian needs particularly for shelter and non-food items for displaced populations.

**GAZA STRIP:** To complement the \$5 million allocation to the West Bank, the oPt HF launched another \$5 million allocation to Gaza on 19 April – in line with the [2023](#) and [2024 Flash Appeals](#) and the Rafah Offensive Humanitarian Contingency Plan, supporting a coordinated response for the services most affected, including health, water, and sanitation, addressing issues such as the environmental crisis caused by the accumulation of solid waste, posing a potential public health crisis.

Since October, the Pooled Funds have scaled up their funding, enabling rapid and comprehensive humanitarian interventions. In total, the Pooled Funds have allocated \$84.2 million since the outbreak of hostilities in oPt. Of this, CERF has allocated \$18.7 million, while the oPt HF has provided \$65.5 million. Through complementary allocations, the Pooled Funds have leveraged their unique strengths, with the oPt HF supporting frontline local responders, while CERF has focused on ensuring swift responses through UN agencies.

### ACCESS & RISK MANAGEMENT

Despite access restrictions imposed by the Israeli government, the Pooled Funds continue to enable UN agencies and humanitarian partners to operate effectively in Gaza and occupied West Bank. Local partners, in particular, have been crucial in reaching communities in urgent need. At the same time, the Pooled Funds uphold rigorous due diligence, partner vetting, and risk management in line with global standards, coupled with context-specific measures.

\* Allocations endorsed, reprogrammed or launched between October 2023 and April 2024.

\*\* Date reflects time of reprogramming.



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OPT HF

Since October 7, the oPt HF has received \$89.5 million in contributions from donors, nearly three times higher than the amount received annually by the Fund in recent years. Amidst continued violence and increasing humanitarian needs, the substantial funding boost from the donor community has enabled a timely scale-up of the humanitarian response in Gaza and the West Bank. The oPt HF has shown agility in disbursing these funds and adapting to the evolving situation, effectively addressing the changing needs on the ground.



## Navigating the sanitation crisis in Gaza

In Rafah, Gaza, Eman and thousands of others face a severe health and sanitation crisis. In displacement sites, there is an average of **one toilet for every 700 people.**<sup>1</sup>

“I have to wait two hours to use the bathroom. The line is very long,” she explains. The situation is particularly difficult for her four children.

With millions of people on the move and living in informal shelters, addressing water and sanitation needs – like those Eman described – is critical.

The OCHA-managed Pooled Funds are supporting partners’ sanitation response in Gaza. With funding from CERF and other donors, UNICEF is providing emergency water trucking and mobile latrines in the most affected areas. In Khan Younis, oPt HF enabled community cleaning campaigns by ‘WeWorld’, including trash collection and disposal, in underserved displacement sites to help establish a safer environment.

[Read more about the impact of the Pooled Funds on StoryHub](#)



The Pooled Funds will continue to fund humanitarian operations based on available resources and access. Without additional support, the Pooled Fund’s capacity to expand and sustain essential humanitarian activities in oPt could be compromised.

**The Pooled Funds are urgently appealing for immediate contributions.**

[Donate to the oPt HF](#)

[Donate to CERF](#)

#OCHAthanks our generous donors

“For Switzerland, the oPt Humanitarian Fund is a central mechanism for providing resources - together with other donors - that can be deployed quickly, flexibly and in a coordinated manner where they are most needed. Accordingly, it reflects the values of Switzerland’s humanitarian engagement of effective, relevant action. In view of the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, the collective efforts of humanitarian donors are more important than ever.

- SWISS COOPERATION OFFICE GAZA & WEST BANK

“In the face of the devastating war in Gaza and the escalating violence and restrictions in the West Bank, the oPt Humanitarian Fund has proven to be an indispensable lifeline. The unwavering support of our donors has been crucial in enabling us to respond swiftly and effectively. Given the prohibitive operational conditions, supporting the HF is more important than ever. As the most flexible funding mechanism available, it allows us to adapt to the ever-changing environment and literally save lives.

- MUHANNAD HADI, DEPUTY SPECIAL COORDINATOR AND RESIDENT COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS (UNSCO)