

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale urban destruction. The ground is covered in a thick layer of grey rubble, including broken concrete slabs, twisted metal, and debris. In the background, several multi-story apartment buildings remain standing but appear damaged. A large crowd of people is scattered across the scene, some standing on the rubble, others walking through it. A large, dark, circular crater or deep hole is visible in the center of the rubble field. The overall atmosphere is one of devastation and the aftermath of conflict.

oPt HF occupied  
Palestinian territory  
Humanitarian Fund

oPt HUMANITARIAN FUND

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

### Credits

This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) oPt. OCHA oPt wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on the oPt HF website at

<https://www.unocha.org/occupied-palestinian-territory/about-opt-humanitarian-fund>.

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at [CBPF DataHub](#).

### Front Cover

Palestinians inspect the damage following an Israeli air strike on the Sousi mosque in Gaza City on October 9, 2023.

**Credit:** AFP/Mahmud Hams

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Financial data is provisional and may vary upon financial certification.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	LETTER FROM THE HC
6	2023 IN NUMBERS
<b>7</b>	<b>DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT AND ALLOCATIONS</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>PROMOTING LOCALIZATION</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>ANNEXES</b>
16	2023 OPT HF ADVISORY BOARD
17	COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK



## LETTER FROM THE HC

I am pleased to share with you the 2023 Annual Report of the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF, the “Fund”). This report highlights the significant accomplishments achieved over the past year, offering insights into the management and accountability measures in place, aligned with key performance principles.

In 2023, the Gaza Strip witnessed on-and-off escalations while heightened violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continued. The 7th of October ushered in an unprecedented emergency, worsening an already unstable humanitarian context. UN Agencies and humanitarian partners estimate that over 2.7 million Palestinians in the oPt now require humanitarian assistance, this includes almost all of the Gaza Strip population and a significant number of Palestinians in the West Bank. Israel, as the occupying power, is still responsible to protect the Palestinian civilian population. This means they have to provide for basic needs and to ensure that there is unimpeded humanitarian access to those in need.

And yet the shrinking of humanitarian space continues unabated. Restrictions on our partners’ ability to deliver aid in the field and on their and our ability to enter the country and continue work, have posed significant hurdles to our operations.

Despite these obstacles, the oPt Humanitarian Fund remained steadfast in its mission, thanks to the support from and flexibility offered by our donors and partners. This has contributed to facilitating critical responses and upholding OCHA’s humanitarian coordination mandate. Swift adaptation to emerging needs, including the introduction of the 48-hour allocation – a tool that has enabled us to fund critical and lifesaving projects in record time, exemplifies our commitment to efficiency and immediate impact but more importantly, saving lives.

Strategic partnerships, particularly with local NGOs, have been the backbone of our aid delivery system. The close ties of these organizations to the communities and their ability to operate in hard-to-reach areas have been invaluable. Their

contribution is a testament to the power of local expertise and dedication in addressing the most pressing humanitarian needs.

Our commitment to accountability and transparency has never been stronger. With each year and each tweak of our guidelines, our system undergoes continuous improvement. This cycle of trial and improvement ensures that every dollar contributed is utilized most effectively and responsibly, focused on our beneficiaries’ needs. The Fund’s strategic approach evolved beyond a mere funding mechanism, positioning itself as a strategic instrument enhancing principled humanitarian action in the oPt.

In 2023, donors took the informed decision to trust and invest in the Fund, empowering front-line responders. The Fund has received a staggering \$91.4 million in contributions, a threefold increase from the previous year, enabling us to launch four strategic allocations, amounting to over US \$68 million and supporting 110 humanitarian projects— an unprecedented achievement, tripling the funds disbursed in the previous year.

Looking to 2024, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has reached a disastrous stage, unlike anything we have seen before, and demands a collective and elevated response. The Fund’s role in alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable Palestinians is more crucial than ever. We must rise to meet this challenge with determination and strategic foresight.

Your continued support and investment in the oPt Humanitarian Fund will be critical in addressing the dire needs of the Palestinian people. Together, we can confront these unprecedented challenges and strive for a future where humanitarian assistance is not just a response but a bridge to a more stable and resilient Palestine.

**Sincerely,**

**Jamie McGoldrick**  
**a.i., Humanitarian Coordinator for oPt**

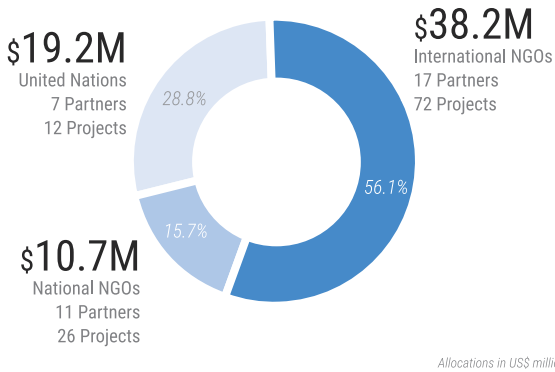
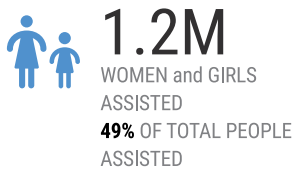
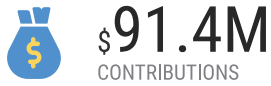
“

**The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has reached a disastrous stage, unlike anything we have seen before. In facing this unprecedented challenge, the oPt Humanitarian Fund is more crucial than ever. The Fund's ability to act promptly in times of crisis underscores its indispensable role in addressing urgent and critical needs within the oPt.**

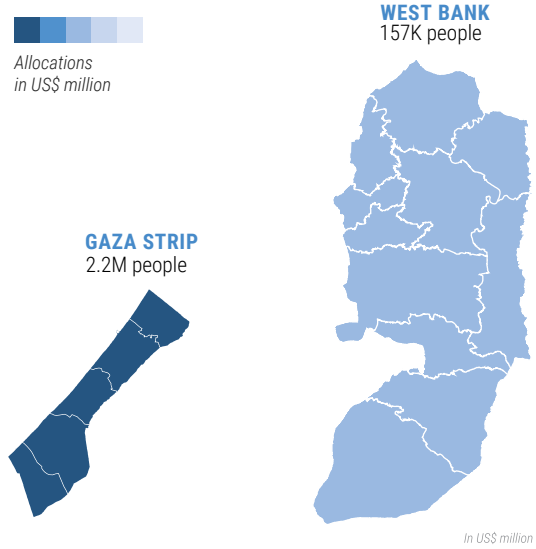
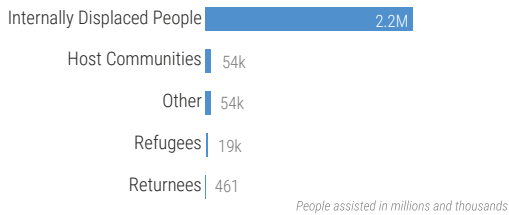
Jamie McGoldrick  
a.i., Humanitarian Coordinator for oPt

”

## 2023 IN NUMBERS



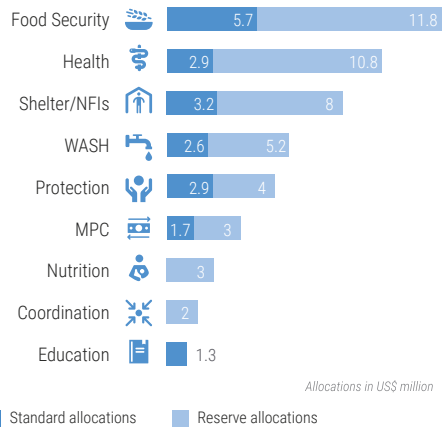
### PEOPLE ASSISTED BY TYPE



\*The Annual Report uses the number of people targeted as a proxy for the number of people reached and henceforth the term people assisted will be used. This approach allows for more timely global reporting as the final data on people reached only becomes available over a year after the allocation of CBPF funds. The reported outcomes will be available on the <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/> the CBPFs will continuously monitor if targets are reached.

\*\* The oPt HF opted to use the SUM methodology to sum up beneficiaries of the 110 projects implemented in 2023. The SUM methodology would work in the oPt context given that the admin level 2 of West Bank and Gaza are strictly separated, and no overlapping happens between the two entities due to political reasons.

### ALLOCATIONS BY CLUSTER



# Donor contributions



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

2023 saw record contributions to the oPt Humanitarian Fund, totalling \$91.4 million from 15 donors. This represents nearly a 306 per cent increase from contributions provided by 10 donors in 2022. Over 81 per cent of this year's contributions (\$74.2 million) were received in November and December, which provided a timely boost of humanitarian funding in response to the commencement of hostilities of 7 October. Of the \$74.2 million, \$56.2 million was received from eight donors in December alone.

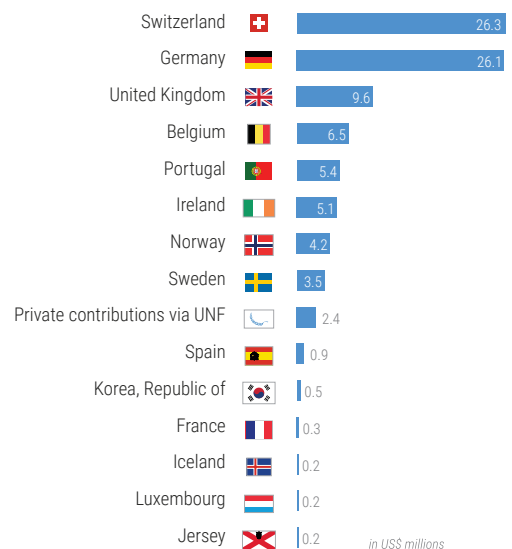
Overall, Switzerland contributed the largest amount of funding at \$26.3 million, with \$22.8 million received in December, massively extending its support to the Fund. In the same month, Germany increased its contribution by \$17.2 million from \$4.3 million in November. Against a backdrop of continued violence and increasing humanitarian needs, the injection of funds from the donor community was instrumental in supporting the Fund to scale up its response in Gaza and the West Bank. The increase in funds is also critical in permitting the Fund to extend its humanitarian planning and response into 2024.

Of the 15 donors in 2023, three were first-time donors (Jersey, Luxembourg, and Portugal), contributing six per cent (\$6 million) of the total contributions received. Private contributions through UN Foundation were notable at \$2.3 million, a 329 per cent increase from 2022.

The year also saw consistent contributions from Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, Iceland, Spain and Republic of Korea, which serves to demonstrate the continued trust and confidence donors have towards the work of the Fund and its partners. Multi-year (MY) agreements were also received from the United Kingdom and Belgium this year, alongside already existing MY agreements from Switzerland and Germany from 2021. 2023



\$91.4M  
CONTRIBUTIONS

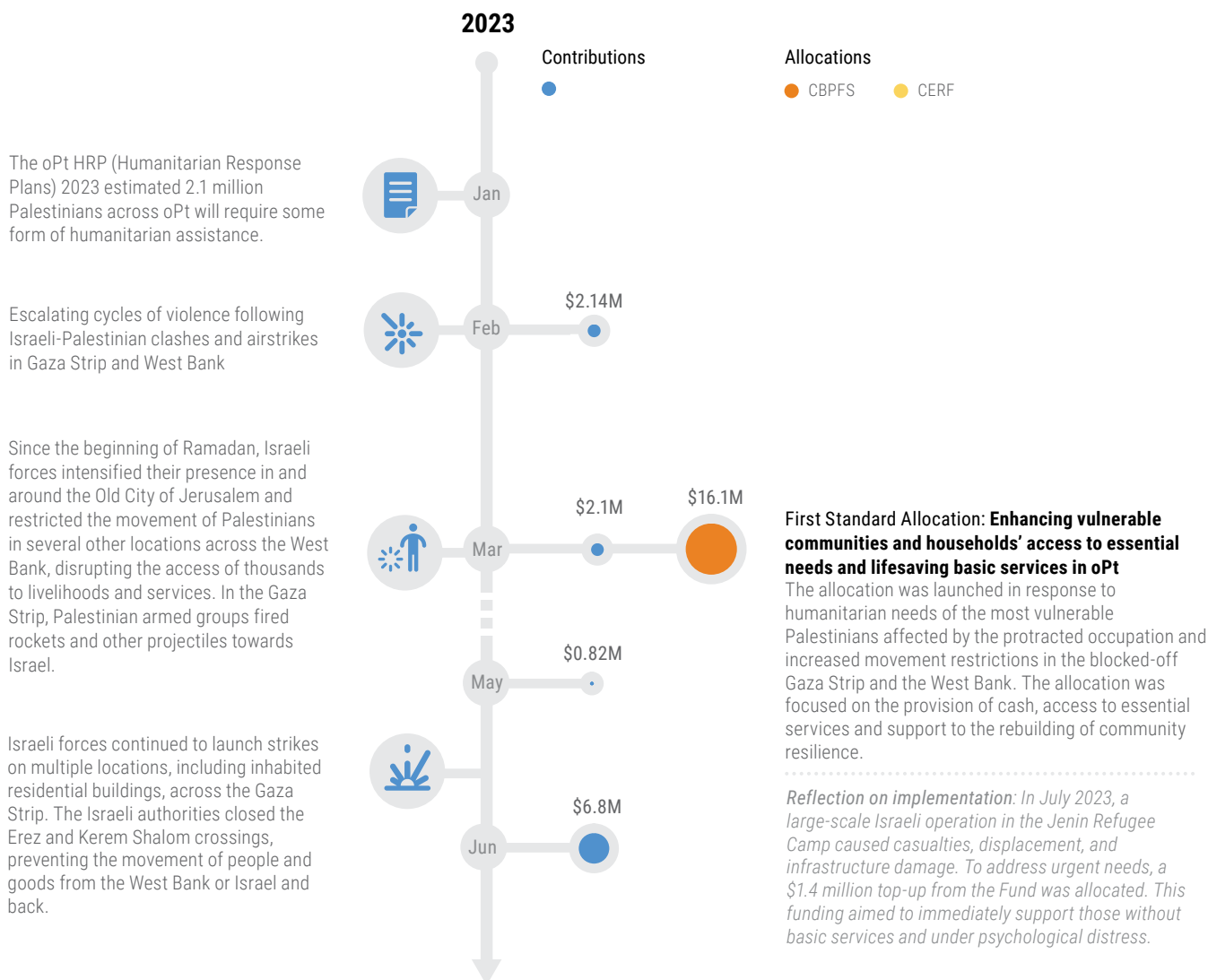


also saw complementary funding of \$18.7 million received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in response to the humanitarian needs following the events of 7 October.

By the end of the reporting period, humanitarian needs in the oPt continue to persist at alarming levels. Despite ongoing efforts by humanitarian organizations, the operating environment characterized by high levels of insecurity, restrictions to movement and access continue to present significant challenges to the delivery of humanitarian response. Moving into 2024, the oPt will be one of the most complex and challenging environments in which the United Nations operates. To ensure continued commitment and timeliness of the humanitarian response on the ground, the Fund will be stepping up its engagement with the donor community in 2024 to assure confidence in the work of the Fund and its partners, support collaboration and informed decision-making.

# Humanitarian Context and Allocations

The oPt remains a protracted political crisis, exacerbated by lack of adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law and recurrent hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups. The latest round of hostilities from October 2023 is ongoing and has resulted in unprecedented levels of destruction and suffering. Nearly all of Gaza's over 2.3 million people have been displaced, with many lacking accesses to shelter, food, water, life-saving medical services, education, and livelihoods. In response to the needs, the oPt Humanitarian Fund allocated \$68 million to 110 projects in 2023. Of this, 85 per cent are projects in Gaza and the rest in the West Bank.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> oPt Flash Appeal February 2024



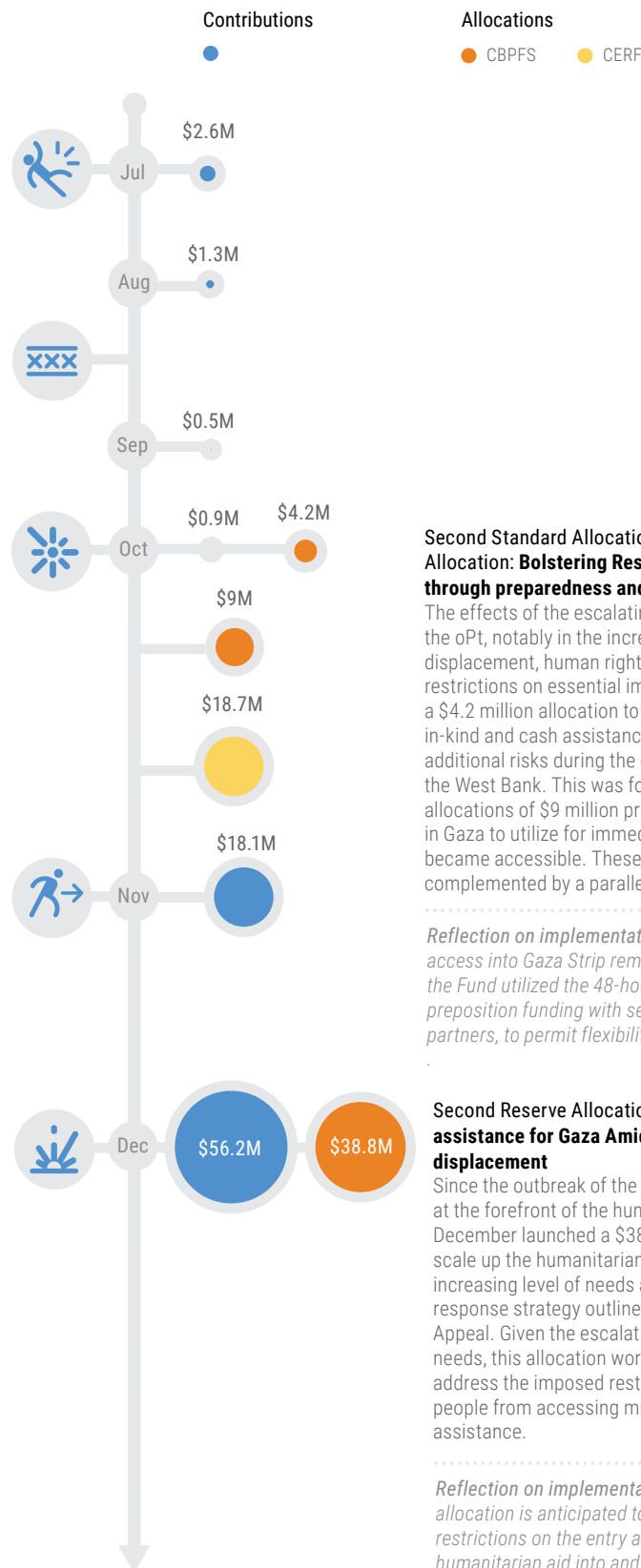
Israeli forces carried out extensive military operation in the West Bank. Armed groups in Gaza fired rockets towards Israel, all of which were reportedly intercepted.

The movement of Palestinians across the West Bank continues to be severely restricted by Israeli forces. The Gaza Power Plant turned off its fourth turbine thus reducing the availability of power supply.

On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched thousands of rockets towards Israel and breached the perimeter fence of Gaza in multiple locations. Members of armed groups entered Israeli towns, communities, and military facilities near the Gaza Strip, killing and capturing members of Israeli forces and civilians. The Israeli military declared a "state of war alert" and began striking targets in the Gaza Strip.

About 1.5 million people in Gaza were internally displaced. Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel's halt of its fuel supply, which shut down Gaza's sole power plant and in turn disrupting the provision of critical services.

Heavy Israeli bombardment continued across the Gaza Strip. Multiple locations were targeted in Khan Yunis and Rafah in southern Gaza, with airstrikes and missiles striking housing units and infrastructure, resulting in high numbers of fatalities in areas where Palestinians have relocated, following orders from Israeli forces to move from northern Gaza.



**Second Standard Allocation + First Reserve Allocation: Bolstering Resilience and well-being through preparedness and response**

The effects of the escalating conflict are felt across the oPt, notably in the increased violence, displacement, human rights violations, and restrictions on essential imports. The Fund launched a \$4.2 million allocation to essential services and in-kind and cash assistance for families exposed to additional risks during the coming winter months, in the West Bank. This was followed by further allocations of \$9 million prepositioned with partners in Gaza to utilize for immediate response as locations became accessible. These allocations were complemented by a parallel CERF allocation.

*Reflection on implementation:* During this period, access into Gaza Strip remained challenging. To this, the Fund utilized the 48-hour flexible provision to preposition funding with selected humanitarian partners, to permit flexibility to respond given access.

**Second Reserve Allocation: Critical humanitarian assistance for Gaza Amidst escalating conflict and displacement**

Since the outbreak of the conflict, the Fund has been at the forefront of the humanitarian response, and in December launched a \$38.8 million allocation to scale up the humanitarian response to address the increasing level of needs across Gaza, in line with the response strategy outlined in November 2023 Flash Appeal. Given the escalating violence and growing needs, this allocation worked closely with partners to address the imposed restrictions hindering many people from accessing much needed humanitarian assistance.

*Reflection on implementation:* Overall impact of this allocation is anticipated to be constrained due to the restrictions on the entry and movement of humanitarian aid into and within the Gaza Strip.

**Overall reflection:** In 2023, Israeli forces conducted large-scale operations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, disrupting humanitarian aid delivery. The Fund adapted by extending projects by \$1.4 million and prepositioning allocations for rapid response. This was complemented by a \$18.7 million injection from CERF. In all its allocations in 2023, the Fund continues to emphasize localized interventions and human rights-based programming, with a particular emphasis on protection measures and addressing the impacts of settler violence and military incursions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

## REBUILDING HOMES: MOHAMMAD'S STORY IN AL-MIRKEZ

In the remote village of Al-Mirkez, Mohammad Makhamra faces life's challenges with remarkable courage. At just 21 years old and living in Masafer Yatta, Mohammad has already overcome many obstacles, including being an amputee.

Al Mirkez, being located in Area C (Area C is the largest section of the West Bank, comprising about 60 percent of the Palestinian territory), where Israel retains near exclusive control, including over law enforcement, it is not easy for Mohammad and his family to get a permission to build a house on their ancestral land. Despite facing significant barriers to building formal structures on their property, Mohammad and his family firmly decided against displacement, opting instead to inhabit a cave. It's a tough decision, but they are determined to hold onto their land and their way of life. Their cave home is simple, with no proper facilities, but it is where they call home. Mohammad lived with his parents, wife, and son in this one-room cave that lacked adequate infrastructure, essential services and, most importantly, privacy.



It was a cool, but beautiful, sunny January day when Mohammad's quiet life as a shepherd was thrown into chaos. He woke up early, as he did every day, to graze his sheep. As he put feed in the troughs to feed his cattle, some of the sheep began to run away. As he ran after them to bring them back, he tripped and slipped on a mine blast. Nine days later, he woke up in the hospital with scratches on his chest, extreme pain in his legs and a missing hand.

This accident had turned his life upside down and he was trapped in a severe depression and a long recovery period for over a year, unable to do anything with his life.

*"I didn't only lose a hand, but also my will to go back to my normal life and interest to do anything at all."*

Credit: ACF



A year later, Mohammad started to regain his health and his dream to have his own home started to emerge.

It wasn't until 2023, with the support of Action Against Hunger and funding from the oPt Humanitarian Fund that Mohammad started his journey to rehabilitate another cave of his own, next to the family cave.

AAH and their local partner MA'AN, aimed to address shelter needs in Area C. The intervention provided rehabilitation of Caves of Masafer Yatta communities and the provision of Non-Food items (NFI). This rehabilitation is a temporary shelter solution and based on the targeted communities' preferences as a last resort, who are under the threat of imminent forcible transfer. The project created an opportunity for them to stay on their lands.

Through the project, 72 Caves in nine communities were rehabilitated through the use of cash to foster ownership, delivery of a NFI kits to each of the household to increase the comfort in their new housing as well as delivery of gender-sensitive protection awareness sessions and training to enhance protection of the targeted communities and groups. Selected households were also informed of their rights and potential risks involved in cave rehabilitation prior to implementation.

During July 2023, Mohammad, decided to rehabilitate a sheep pen to turn into a home for his small family. With his mother's help and a lot of hard work, they transformed the cave into a cozy space for Mohammad, his wife and their son.

For Mohammad, this new home means more than just a roof over their heads. It's a symbol of hope and resilience. Despite the challenges they face, they have created a safe and comfortable space for their family. As the sun sets over Masafer Yatta, Mohammad stands proud, knowing that he has made a better life for himself and his loved ones.

[Read more impact stories on StoryHub.](#)

Pictures from left to right:

1. A photo of the entrance of the cave after the rehabilitation
2. Mohammed and his son inside a cave.

# Promoting Localization



**27%**  
OF FUNDING PROVIDED  
TO LOCAL PARTNERS

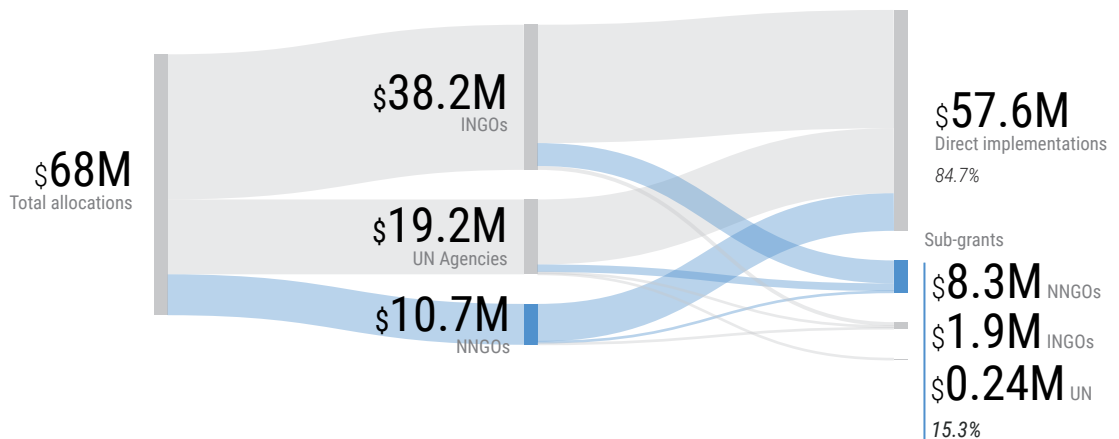
Sustained support for localization efforts is recognized and enforced during the project selection process. Projects receive a higher score if submitted by a local partner or an international partner in partnership with a local organization. Furthermore, the HFU considers the importance of the quality of funding and takes steps to ensure that relevant funding that contributes to the implementation of the Project is allocated fairly.

Local partners are also empowered at the strategic and technical levels. The oPt HF Advisory Board includes two national NGO representatives, ensuring diversity and inclusivity in leadership and decision-making in the Fund. The Fund plans to add one more national NGO in 2024. National partners also continue to play a lead role in Review Committees responsible for assessing the design of the project proposals and their alignment with the Allocation Strategies.

The HFU invests resources in developing the performance and capacity of local and national humanitarian NGOs to expand opportunities to access funding and improve the assistance delivered, especially within the scope of CBPF's strategic objectives. It is observed that the quality of project proposals submitted have improved following efforts.

In 2023, training and clinics were conducted for partners to support them in building their capacities in various Fund processes such as capacity assessments, funding applications, project monitoring and audits. Such trainings provided a crucial understanding of the new Global Guidelines as well as CBPF processes and procedures. Recognizing the important role of NNGOs in the oPt context, the Fund plans to invest in capacity development to improve access and outreach to the most vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas.

**ALLOCATION FLOW BY PARTNER TYPE** *in US\$ million*





15  
TRAININGS\*



13  
NNGOS TRAINED



42  
TOTAL PEOPLE  
TRAINED FROM  
NNGOS



2  
WOMEN-LED/  
WOMEN RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATION  
TRAINED

*\*The oPt HF's training plans for the year were disrupted by the October 2023 events and the ongoing war. Despite the interruption, the OPT HF adapted and prioritized humanitarian assistance during times of crisis. Alternative methods of support, such as online clinics and on-call/ remote support continued to be utilized.*

*During 2023, the oPt HF conducted 5 training sessions, targeting 163 participants out of whom 26 per cent were participants from NNGOs. Additionally, 15 one-on-one clinics were conducted upon partner request and as needed.*

In 2024, the Fund plans to support local NGOs to rebuild their capacity following disruptions and damages to their operations.

During 2023, the oPt HF supported local partners by channeling 27.4 per cent of available funding directly and indirectly to local partners. Allocated funds surpassed the 25 per cent global target set during the IASC and the World Humanitarian summit.

Even within the most difficult of times, including movement and access restrictions, the Fund continued to prioritize actors with the capability to implement. Strategic collaborations, especially with local NGOs, have formed the cornerstone of the Fund's work. The strong connections these organ-

izations have with local communities, along with their capacity to operate in challenging areas, have proven indispensable. In the ongoing response to the crisis in Gaza, local NGOs will be necessary in ensuring rapid and appropriate response.

For example, the 48-hour response allocation in October saw nearly 49 per cent of funds (\$4.4 million) directly channeled to local partners. Additionally, the Second Reserve Allocation saw 12 per cent of funds (\$4.6 million) channeled to local partners.

It is worth noting that even within these difficult times and uncertainties, local partners remain committed to supporting the affected people, despite what they themselves have been going through in terms of displacement and hardships.



Water distribution in Gaza by the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) supported by oPt HF 48 hr response.

Credit: PARC

# Programming Highlights

Families cooking and baking bread in a handmade clay oven next to their tents after being displaced from their homes due to the bombing in Gaza.

Credit: WFP/Ali Jadallah



**\$6.9M**  
PROVIDED FOR  
PROTECTION  
ACTIVITIES DURING  
THE ONGOING  
CONFLICT

## Promoting the centrality of protection

In 2023, the oPt HF supported 16 protection projects with \$6.9 million, 10 per cent of total allocations. On the technical level, a protection advisor reviewed all projects submitted to the oPt HF and ensured that all projects incorporated key protection principles and promoted meaningful access, safety, and dignity in humanitarian assistance. The oPt HF ensures adherence to the highest standards of protection principles when monitoring projects. This includes ensuring respect for the rights of individuals by all stakeholders, it also ensured this at the implementing partner level, as well as adherence to Do No Harm principles.

The Fund continues to uphold commitments to the centrality of protection through protection mainstreaming, accountability to affected populations and monitoring of the protection environment. Protection serves as the foundation for the overall response, especially more so after October 7 hostilities.

The humanitarian consequences of the ongoing hostilities are exacerbating gender specific and intersectional risks and vulnerabilities. The projects funded span gender-based violence (GBV) services, child protection, mental health, and psychosocial support, exemplifying a gender and intersectional lens, with historically marginalized and vulnerable groups taken into specific consideration.

In Gaza, in addition to the above and to ensure a protective environment, the Fund has allocated resources for specialized humanitarian mine action activities underscoring the importance of mitigating risks faced by civilians. For example, through a project by Handicap International in collaboration with two of its national partners, services are being provided which include psychosocial support for individuals to cope with trauma as well as Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions, risk awareness and assessments for Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) coordination.



**\$2.88M**

PROVIDED FOR GBV  
PREVENTION AND  
RESPONSE ACROSS  
SECTORS

### Responding to and preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

GBV prevention and response activities and services are critical, both to the pre-existing case load as well as to new cases.

AWDA, demonstrated steadfast commitment to gender equality and response to GBV through the prepositioning and distribution of dignity kits and other essential support to affected women and girls among the internally displaced populations during the escalations.

For instance, the provision of cash for protection to GBV cases, including PWDs, was instrumental in addressing economic vulnerabilities and safeguarding the most at-risk individuals during emergencies. As of the end of this reporting period, AWDA's project remains ongoing.

### Advancing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

CVA offers affected people flexibility, dignity, and efficiency corresponding to meet their diverse needs. The oPt HF promoted CVA by prioritizing its use across the project portfolio where appropriate to address the needs, particularly a weighted criterion in scorecards, which guide the review and selection of projects. The Fund also ensured close coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG) and clusters.

In 2023, cash as a response continues to be the preferred modality by affected communities. The oPt HF directed seven per cent of allocated funds toward cash programming through 11 projects.

Reflecting on the cash assistance received, Nawal shares, *"my life has changed during this period as I felt more in control and was not stressed about not being able to feed my family. The funds I received allowed me to plan and prioritize our needs. This project also helped me achieve long-term successes where now I am happy that my daughter is happily and safely sleeping on a bed and can roam around the house without facing any danger of falling from the stairs"*

In 2023, the projects funded by the oPt HF underscore the indispensable value of cash assistance in navigating the challenges of emergencies and hostilities. Despite the complex security situation since October, several projects are prioritizing the provision of unconditional cash assistance, demonstrating a commitment to adaptability amid

volatile conditions. One such project includes a three months emergency multi-purpose cash assistance provided by CRS to serve approximately 16,800 displaced people.

Acknowledging the scarcity of commodities in local markets due to imposed restrictions and the ongoing blockade, the oPt HF advocates for a hybrid approach. It encourages a balance between cash assistance and in-kind support, allowing proficient actors to redirect resources towards tailored in-kind activities for urgent needs among targeted IDPs.

Simultaneously, cash assistance is upheld, ensuring the dignity and autonomy of targeted IDPs amidst market dynamics characterized by scarcity and price inflation. The oPt HF's flexible use of hybrid approaches, blending cash and in-kind assistance, facilitates diverse beneficiaries' access to necessities, navigating market challenges and safeguarding against potential harm by ensuring simultaneous access to both cash and commodities.



**\$9.6M**

PROVIDED BY THE  
FUND IN CVA



Amid relentless violence, families flee their shattered homes in Tal al-Hawa neighbourhood, seeking refuge in the southern Gaza Strip

Credit: UNICEF/ Eyad El Baba

This picture shows the groceries that Jamil was able to buy through the food e-vouchers.

Credit: ACTED



## EMPOWERING LIVES: PROVIDING CASH ASSISTANCE IN GAZA

Even prior to October 2023, Palestinians residing in the Gaza strip have been suffering from the continuous blockade and periodic escalations, which has left people struggling to recover due to damaged infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and a negative impact on the physical and mental well-being. According to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 1.3 million of those in the Gaza strip reported facing challenges in meeting their basic needs for food, shelter, healthcare and therefore in need of humanitarian assistance. Like thousands of other citizens in Gaza, Jamil and his family suffer from limited resources and require cash assistance.

Jamil<sup>1</sup> is a 34-year-old Palestinian who lives with his wife and 5 children (3 girls, 2 boys) in Jabalia in the Gaza strip. Jamil is a daily worker and tries to obtain any available opportunity to provide for his family, especially because two of his daughters suffer from chronic diseases; one is a cancer patient and the other suffers from low oxygen levels.

Jamil said, *“As my 2 daughters suffer from chronic diseases, they continuously require essential needs. Therefore, my utmost priority is ensuring their medical treatment is secured. Whenever I have sufficient funds, I immediately allocate them to cover my daughter’s medication costs. Unfortunately, this leaves me unable to meet other necessities like food [...] We used to eat only Zaatar and bread all week”.*

Due to his poor financial status, Jamil had to move to his father’s apartment, which consists of 1 bedroom, 1 kitchen, and 1 bathroom, as he could not afford to continue paying rent or buy a house. After assessing Jamil’s conditions, Jamil was nominated by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to benefit from the cash assistance provided by Acted through funds from the oPt Humanitarian Fund. From April to August 2023, Jamil received 4 e-vouchers of 342 ILS (85 euros) each over a period of 4 months. The family’s meal consumption was limited to 1-2 times a day. However, following the intervention, they are now able to savor up to 3 nutritious meals daily, which significantly contributed to the improvement of their health.

As Jamil said, *“We are very satisfied and truly grateful for these e-vouchers, which have significantly enhanced our standard of living. I feel so happy that my children’s health and immunity have improved, as they can now enjoy a more nutritious diet consisting of vegetables, fruits, meat, chicken, and fish.”*

As the situation in the Gaza Strip saw further deterioration, hardship is now at high levels. Luckily, Jamil and family were contacted during March 2024 and were confirmed ‘alive’, now sheltering in a makeshift IDP camp in Rafah area. They still suffer from unimaginable hardships given the unfolding situation in the Strip but also with two daughters needing constant medical attention.

[Read more impact stories on StoryHub.](#)

<sup>1</sup> All names were changed in this article, to respect privacy concerns.

# Risk Management



Risk management is an important tool for the oPt HF, involving a set of instruments to inform decision-making processes to support the Fund’s objectives transparently. The oPt HF will continue ensuring a participatory and engaging approach in risk identification, risk analysis, the development of mitigation strategies to manage residual risks, and monitoring and review of identified risks. At the implementing partners’ level, the oPt HF will encourage project-risk level analysis and ensure risk-based conditionalities and oversight procedures for each grant agreement. At the fund risk level, the fund will continue to engage relevant stakeholders including HQ to mitigate the potential risks.

## Risk management of projects

Despite all the challenges, monitoring conducted in 2023 reached a completion rate of 100 per cent.

Remote call monitoring and adhoc field monitoring visits were conducted for projects when further verification of reported achievements was necessary.

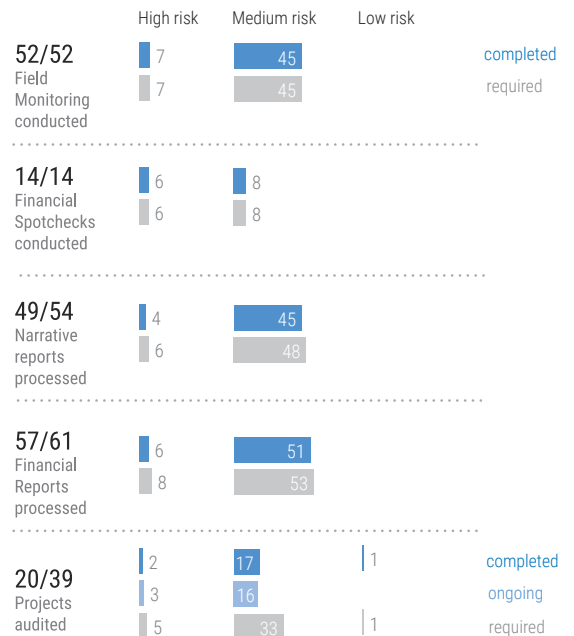
These critical tools continue to play a key role in verifying delivery of assistance and use of resources, playing a key role in ensuring risk management of funding.

In addition to monitoring partner capacity and performance, both monitoring and financial spot-checks conducted contribute to developing and improving partners’ performance and capacity, whereby the HFU produce findings and recommendations for the partners to follow-up on.

Financial spot-check reports that are produced, highlighting key findings and concerns, are shared with external auditors to further enhance the evidence-based assurance mechanism and provide essential feedback to the partner.

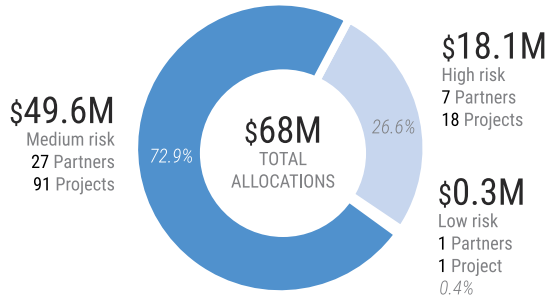
This continues to be a measure of implementing partners’ capacity as well as indicator of their performance.

## PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

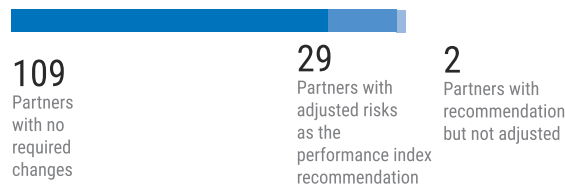




**IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE**



**UPDATED RISK LEVEL BASED ON PERFORMANCE INDEX**



**Risk management of partners**

The oPt HF prioritized funding to the best positioned partners in 2023, while considering the risks associated with the modalities selected and the targeted locations. The Fund strengthened its Partners Performance Index (PPI) system to update partners risk level on a real-time basis.

The risk level for partners performing well was upgraded.

The Fund will aim at increasing the frequency of the update of the partners' performance index to ensure that their risk levels match the realities on the ground and the quality of delivery.

In 2023, most oPt HF funds were allocated towards projects implemented by medium-risk partners.

Careful due diligence and duty of care in the qualifications and capacities of partners receiving oPt HF funding. The oPt HFU reviews and validates partners' PI-recommended risk levels in two rounds which take place ahead of launching a new Standard Allocation or prior to allocating new funding to the partner. Prior to modifying a partner risk level as suggested by the GMS, HFU verifies the recommended risk level based on partner implementation and alignment with the actual risk level.

**Risk management of funding**

Accountability arrangements and risk management mechanisms of the oPt HF aim to safeguard the programmatic and financial management of the Fund.

Findings from these mechanisms continued to be effective in enabling the Fund to detect non-compliance incidents and incidents involving loss and suspected or alleged fraudulent acts.

In 2023, there were a total of two incidents affecting HF funded projects and two ongoing cases.

The two incidents were inflicted by the Israeli army and include damage and demolition of humanitarian aid structures funded by the Fund. Reporting of losses were shared with donors accordingly.

These incidents are a result of policies and practices applied by the Israeli authorities in the context of the ongoing occupation of the West Bank that include a discriminatory planning and zoning regime. Other incidents have been identifiable from assurance mechanisms (including financial reporting, field and financial spot-check monitoring, and audits), through third party whistleblower reports, and in some cases self-reported.



**2**  
ONGOING  
CASES

# Annexes

Annexes list		Annexes title
16	ANNEX A	2023 OPT HF ADVISORY BOARD
17	ANNEX B	COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

ANNEX A

## 2023 OPT HF ADVISORY BOARD

<b>STAKEHOLDER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	Humanitarian Coordinator
<b>INGO</b>	Action Against Hunger (ACF)
<b>INGO</b>	International Medical Corps (IMC)
<b>INGO</b>	Save the Children International (SCI)
<b>NNGO</b>	Al Awda Health and Community Association (AWDA)
<b>NNGO</b>	Women's Affairs Center (WAC)
<b>NNGO</b>	Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)
<b>UN</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
<b>UN</b>	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
<b>UN</b>	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
<b>Donor</b>	Ireland/Switzerland
<b>Donor</b>	Germany/Norway
<b>Donor</b>	Italy
<b>Observer</b>	Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)
<b>Observer</b>	Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)
<b>Observer</b>	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
<b>oPt HF/OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

*\* AB membership rotates annually, with the HC and OCHA HoO as permanent members. This ensures continuity through staggered replacement (half of the members rotate every 12 months) recommended by donors, UN agencies and NGOs at each of their constituency level. All other contributing donors to the Fund are welcomed as observers to the AB.*

ANNEX B

# COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The oPt HF measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well a Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the CBPF Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management



**oPt HF** occupied  
Palestinian territory  
Humanitarian Fund

[UNOCHA.ORG/OPT](https://UNOCHA.ORG/OPT)  
[GMS.UNOCHA.ORG](https://GMS.UNOCHA.ORG)  
[FTS.UNOCHA.ORG](https://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG)  
[CRISISRELIEF.UN.ORG](https://CRISISRELIEF.UN.ORG)  
[CBPF.DATA.UNOCHA.ORG](https://CBPF.DATA.UNOCHA.ORG)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

 [@OCHAOPT](https://twitter.com/OCHAOPT) | [@UNOCHA](https://twitter.com/UNOCHA)