The occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) is one of the most complex and challenging environments in which the United Nations operates. The OPT remains a protracted political crisis characterized by 55 years of Israeli military occupation. This crisis is exacerbated by a lack of adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law, internal Palestinian divisions and the recurrent escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups. The results are chronic protection concerns and humanitarian needs which will continue in the absence of a sustainable political solution and opportunities for further development. The crisis has been further exacerbated by the compounded impact of the increased cost of commodities due to the war in Ukraine, slow recovery from the 2021 May escalation of hostilities, and increasing violence in the West Bank.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) estimates that in 2023, approximately 2.1 million Palestinians across the OPT will require some form of humanitarian assistance. The humanitarian conditions created by OPT’s multi-dimensional crisis continues to impact all parts of the territory and affect every aspect of Palestinian life. Palestinians are in their fifth

### People in Need vs Population

- **West Bank**: 0.8 million of West Bank residents need humanitarian assistance (25% of the population)
- **Gaza Strip**: 1.3 million of Gaza residents need humanitarian assistance (58% of the population)

### By Age and Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age and Gender</th>
<th>People in Need</th>
<th>%PIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male 0-18</td>
<td>532K</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 0-18</td>
<td>515K</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 18-65</td>
<td>528K</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 18-65</td>
<td>510K</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 65+</td>
<td>32K</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 65+</td>
<td>32K</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key Figures

- **People in Need**: 2.1 million
- **Trend (2015-2023)**
- **Women**: 50%
- **Children**: 50%
- **Elderly**: 3%
- **With Disability**: 14%

### People in Need as Percent of Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>PIN (% of Pop.)</th>
<th>Pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AREA A&amp;B</td>
<td>585K (24%)</td>
<td>2.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREA C</td>
<td>100K (27%)</td>
<td>1.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST JERUSALEM</td>
<td>107K (27%)</td>
<td>1.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
<td>17K (44%)</td>
<td>390K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAZA</td>
<td>389K (52%)</td>
<td>750K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH GAZA</td>
<td>224K (50%)</td>
<td>1.15M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHAN YUNIS</td>
<td>293K (67%)</td>
<td>2.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEIR AL BALAH</td>
<td>194K (61%)</td>
<td>1.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAFAH</td>
<td>175K (64%)</td>
<td>677K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### People in Need by Geography and Severity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEST BANK</td>
<td>%24</td>
<td>%55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAZA STRIP</td>
<td>%2</td>
<td>%35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the Multisectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted in July 2022, 58% per cent of Gaza residents (1.3 million) will require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023 compared to 25 per cent of the West Bank residents (0.8 million).

### By Population Group

- **Non-Refugees**: 900K
- **Refugees Outside Camps**: 1.15M
- **Refugees Inside Camps**: 677K
- **Families Headed by Women**: 466K
- **Families Headed by Men**: 247K
- **People with Disabilities**: 1.8M
- **Internally Displaced People**: 783K
- **Internal Displaced People**: 6K

*The source for IDPs in Gaza is the Ministry of Social Development, mainly due to the last escalation in May 2022. The source for the IDPs in the West Bank is the demolition system compiled by OCHA OPT.*
decade of grappling with the safety, security, financial and emotional consequences of occupation and political turmoil.

Despite its responsibilities as the occupying power and party to the Geneva Conventions, the Government of Israel continues to implement policies in the OPT in violation of the Conventions which exacerbate the humanitarian needs and protection risks of the Palestinian people and threaten the humanitarian community’s ability to respond effectively.

**Deepening Needs**

While the overall number of people in need has stayed relatively constant, 25 per cent of households in the West Bank were identified as in ‘catastrophic’, ‘extreme’, or ‘severe’ conditions, up from 21 per cent in 2022. In Gaza, the situation is more pronounced, with 29 per cent of households categorized as in ‘catastrophic’ or ‘extreme’ conditions, compared to 10 per cent in 2022.

**Lack of livelihoods opportunities driving aid dependency and increasing vulnerability**

Although most households are able to meet their basic needs, they do so through heavy reliance on aid and negative coping mechanisms due to barriers to or lack of livelihoods opportunities. 31 per cent of Palestinians in the West Bank and 81 per cent of those in Gaza have reported challenges in meeting their basic needs, with food, health, and utilities being the top three challenges. Similarly, 8 per cent of households in the West Bank and 73 per cent of Gazan households reported receiving humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to the 2022 MSNA data collection.

**Chronic shelter, infrastructure and energy deficits**

Recurrent escalation of hostilities in Gaza, the most recent one in early August 2022, caused fatalities, injuries, mental health needs, destruction of homes and structures, and has aggravated Gaza’s chronic shelter, infrastructure and energy deficits. The restrictive and discriminatory planning regime applied by Israel in Area C and in East Jerusalem, continues to prevent Palestinians from addressing basic housing, livelihood and basic service needs.

The high level of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures on the grounds of a lack of Israeli-required building permits continues to represent one element of a coercive environment that leaves many Palestinians throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with no option but to leave their homes and communities.

Imposition of physical and administrative measures including constraints on the delivery of materials needed, and limitations on the implementation of projects that involve building, expanding or rehabilitating infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, Area C, the H2 area of Hebron and East Jerusalem continue to restrict humanitarian programmes.

**Physical and Mental Wellbeing**

Consistently high levels of the presence of Israeli Forces, including search-and-arrest operations during both the day and night, arrests, detentions, and ill-treatment of children continues. A steep rise in conflict-related violence, including settler attacks, has further eroded public safety and security, increasing fear among the population with an already high baseline of severity, particularly among children. Access to mental health and psychosocial services remains limited, as does access to critical health services, particularly in Gaza.

**Gender-based violence (GBV)**

GBV has also been on the rise in the OPT with an estimated 1.9 million people across the gender spectrum vulnerable to and/or experiencing GBV, 80 per cent of whom are women, and 65 per cent in Gaza. Violence against women, particularly by intimate partners, remains at an alarmingly high rate. Palestinian women face multiple layers of discrimination due to a weak, fragile, and inactive legal system. According to the 2019 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic (PCBS) survey on violence, which was updated in July 2022, 59 per cent of (married or previously married) women between the ages of 15 and 64 experienced violence by their husband in the 12 months preceding the survey – 70 per cent in Gaza and 52 per cent in the West Bank.

**Restriction on movement of goods and people**

Restrictions on the movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza imposed by Israel, citing security concerns, hampers the implementation of infrastructure projects and delays economic recovery.
Building on the analysis elaborated in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the humanitarian community has defined three strategic objectives to guide the 2023 humanitarian response. Each strategic objective is supported by a set of cluster objectives and associated response priorities to be achieved through a combination of direct service provision, in-kind support, and capacity-strengthening.

Providing immediate humanitarian assistance while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, including peace and reconciliation, lies at the center of the 2023 strategy. Strategic Objective 3 reflects this approach and the interventions under this objective will be linked to medium- and longer-term interventions in support of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, in alignment with the UNSDCF and in consultation with development actors.

### Strategic Objective 1:
The rights of Palestinians living under occupation, including those living under the blockade and other restrictions, are protected, respected, and promoted in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) while duty-bearers are increasingly held to account.

- **People Targeted:** 0.7 million
- **Requirements (US$):** $41.1M

### Strategic Objective 2:
The basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians living under occupation are met through the provision of quality basic services and improved access to resources, in accordance with the rights of protected persons under IHL.

- **People Targeted:** 1.0 million
- **Requirements (US$):** $147.8M

### Strategic Objective 3:
The capacity of vulnerable Palestinians to cope with and overcome the protracted crisis, including from environmental threats, is supported while solutions to violations and other root causes of threats and shocks are pursued.

- **People Targeted:** 1.6 million
- **Requirements (US$):** $313M