



Country card

**Palestine**





# HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Palestine program has 27 staff members.

## Palestinian Territories





# General data of the country

## a. General data

Country	Palestine	Neighbouring country (Jordan)	France
Population	4 803 269	10 203 140	67 391 582
IHDI	0.71	0.73	0.9
Gender-related Development Index	0.870	0.875	0.987
Maternal mortality	27	46	8
GINI Index	33.7	33.7	31.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	2 109 738	769 260	458 919
INFORM index	5.2	4.4	2.2
Fragile State Index	78.5	75.43	30.48
Public social protection	2.1	8.9	32.6
Net official development assistance received (M USD)	2 236.1	3 941.7	N/A

## b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Adhered* on 29 December 2017
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2 January 2015 and became a State Party on 1 July 2015.
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	1 April 2014 ratified with no reservation.

## c. Geopolitical analysis

The Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt), known as West Bank the Gaza strip and East Jerusalem, have been the scene of a long-lasting conflict between Israel and the Palestinian population. The Establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 resulted in an exodus of refugees in neighbouring countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. After the '67 war an ever-increasing number of refugees and internally displaced Palestinians within the UN-Resolution 242/1967 territories. To this date, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) estimates that there are over 4,500,000 Palestinians that are refugees or internally displaced. The recent months have seen a worsening of the humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza strip, due to several factors.



## **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 split into different denomination and authorities generating the largest displacement of population in modern history. Displacement and the creation of different administrative areas contributed to the fragmentation of the population and distanced the different daily life of the Palestinians across the historical territory.

Palestinian society has grown differently in the new set-up, while regionally the support of Palestinian refugees and to the creation of a State of Palestine under UN Resolutions per se has lost its traditional relevance to other Arab countries and in general in the international landscape.

The power detained by Hamas in the Gaza Strip has led a major fracture in the Palestinian Political framework, leading to the frozen of the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2007. Since then, it has been impossible to convene the Council, which is supposed to rule out on all territories, but it has no effect on Gaza and East Jerusalem. The deep political division has resulted in the establishment of an authoritarian power, where civil affairs are regulated by either Presidential Decrees (Ramallah), or regulations emitted by the Political Branch of Hamas (Gaza). As a consequence, the occupied Palestinian territories lack real leaders since the unified government failed, and while they are still trying to embody a political leadership. Their resources are scattered and reveals their current weaknesses and inability to confront the Israeli forces leaving the Palestinian population in a highly vulnerable situation, leading to sporadic individual acts of violence towards the Israeli population, consequently leading to more control and over-reaction from the Israeli forces, perpetuating the decades old vicious cycle.

## **2. Economical elements**

According a recent World Bank, movement and access restrictions continue to limit Palestinian development in the West Bank while Gaza remains a nearly closed economy with very high unemployment levels of about 44 percent in Q2 2022.

Overall, the Palestinian economy continued to rebound from the pandemic shock in Q1 2022, although at a slower rate than in 2021.

Regarding the economic outlook, downside risks remain elevated. Growth is projected to soften during 2022 and GDP is expected to reach 3.5 percent. If the war in Ukraine further strains supply chains and has a larger than expected impact on the prices of food and energy, households could experience as much as 80% increases in the cost of bread, flour, and vegetable oil between January 2022 and January 2023—which would negatively impact the outlook—as would an escalation of clashes between Palestinian and Israeli forces.



In 2022, while most of the restrictions have been lifted, situation in West Bank remains critical. Given the effects of the long-standing Israeli occupation, access restrictions, and limitations on movement, the West Bank is in a state of a chronic crisis, driven primarily by economic and protection concerns. In the West Bank with 630,000 people assessed to be in need of humanitarian assistance<sup>1</sup> the need integrated and multisectoral approach remains high

In Gaza, with a 15-years blockade imposed by Israel, highly restricted movement of its inhabitants and the routing of essential goods such as food, and construction material to carry out necessary reconstructions, have left the Gaza population in critical humanitarian situation. The different sectors including health, housing, food, protection and education have been exhausted by the rising demands of the population affected by the humanitarian crisis. This situation has been strongly impacted with COVID breakout leading to worth condition of living for more than 2.000.000 of people living in Gaza.

In March 30 2020 and following the decision of the United States of America to move their embassy to Jerusalem, the Palestinians' annual commemoration of Land Day, a series of protests collectively dubbed the "Great Return March" have demanded the end of the siege on Gaza and sought to remind the international community of Palestinians' right of return under UN resolution 194. Those demonstration close to the fence ended end of 2019 and let 214 Palestinians killed, and over 36,100 injured<sup>2</sup>.

The local authorities in Gaza also restrict the movement of humanitarian personnel, including procedures for those entering and exiting the strip, which have included questioning. The continuing Israeli restrictions on access for patients requiring health care unavailable in Gaza, with 69% the average approval rate for patient permit applications in 2019, percentage that dropped to 8% in 2020 and 2021.

In Gaza, families report having difficulties accessing food as following 35.0% little to none, 62.9% moderate to severe, and 2.1% severe.

The nutritional status of new vulnerable groups in both West Bank and Gaza Strip is deteriorating, while farmers are facing decreased harvest quantity and quality due to extensive blockade, confiscation and frequency of clashes in the area that prevents farmers to access lands. Despite recent improvements and outside support, the Gaza Strip population was affected by 18 to 20 hours of scheduled electricity outage in 2020, trend continuing in 2021.

The restriction of access to Palestinians in over 70% of the West Bank is dramatically hindering Palestinians' access to employment opportunities. The legalization of illegal outpost and the construction of new housing units all around West Bank, including remote and isolated areas and the construction of new roads, lead to the

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<sup>1</sup> MSNA 2022/2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/two-years-people-injured-and-traumatized-during-great-march-return-are-still-struggling>



fragmentation of the West Bank territory, which jeopardise the viability of the two states solution. Also attempts to pass legislation that would directly apply Israeli law to the territory of West Bank are raising fears of future annexation.

Security context in West Bank has also deteriorated in the recent months, and there is a high risk of destabilization. Increasing number of settler violence, of attacks from the Palestinian side and the number of Israeli military operations in Areas A and B, are big concerns for the stability of the area.

The attempts to isolate Jerusalem from West Bank; the increase of eviction cases for Palestinian families in East Jerusalem and the continue increase of demolitions presents a pessimistic scenario.

Funding cuts by donors led by USA, have enormously affected UNRWA programs and World Food programs among others. It has created huge impacts in the provision of services and in the lives of Palestinian people.

According to the last OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview (2022), an estimated 2.1 million or 48% of the Palestinians are in need, half of them children under 15.

## Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has been working in Palestine since 1996 with its main mandate being to support disability organisations. In 1999, the organisation set up first anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war education initiative. A large number of development initiatives have been run since then in a number of fields in partnership with local associations: functional rehabilitation (technical assistance, equipment, training, and publications), psycho-social support, DPOs empowerment, and local inclusive development, access to education and access to employment. Following the summer 2014 humanitarian crisis in Gaza, HI complemented its development intervention with emergency and post emergency response in the fields of rehabilitation, reconstruction and anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war risk reduction.

*The main achievement / success:*

- In economic inclusion → proven huge needs and several HI's successful intervention.
- In education → careful and successful progressive implementation of inclusive education in Gaza Strip and West Bank with a recognition of HI as expert of education of children with disabilities among actors and donors that led to a



significant increase of funding and a MoU with the MoEHE in West Bank (that allow to further development in the sector).

- Rehabilitation → continuous intervention in emergency and development, in Gaza Strip and West Bank. Rehabilitation remains key sector. New Strategy developed.
- Social inclusion → successful of two four years- projects with concrete outputs (actions plans) with some extensions to current projects while in need for longer intervention.
- Disaster preparedness and risks reduction → significant investment in this new sector (emergency preparedness) with successful results while being new sector, needs for stronger expertise.
- Services linked to infrastructures → successful home adaptation with high level satisfaction of the users. Needs for accessible infrastructures (stakes of visibility of disability and HI).



# Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
Emergency Preparedness and Response	<b>Needs of PWDs are addressed through disaster risk planning and management including rehabilitation preparedness</b>	<p>Update HI and partners' emergency response plan, by HI and rehabilitation service providers.</p> <p>Training of volunteers on emergency preparedness by HI</p> <p>Creation of contingency rehabilitation stock by rehabilitation services with HI technical support</p> <p>Identification of vulnerable households affected by the pandemic and rapid assessment of impact of pandemic on HHs income generation.</p> <p>Assess impact of the pandemic on market functioning, on inflation and on value chains</p> <p>Develop protective messages related to COVID-19 based on results of the regional mapping</p>	250 emergency volunteers (50% Male, 50% Female)	<p>19 local organizations members of the emergency committee</p> <p>250 emergency volunteers (116 M, 134 F)</p> <p>2077 persons with disability benefited from stocks (1394 M, 683 F)</p>	<p>Disability Representatives Bodies Network (DRBN)</p> <p>Maan Developmental Center</p> <p>The Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)</p> <p>National Society for Rehabilitation (NSR)</p> <p>Palestine Avenir Childhood Foundation (PACF)</p> <p>Society for Physically</p>	Gaza Strip	<p>1/8/2017 31/07/2022</p> <p>Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</p>





					Handicapped People (SPHP)		
Accessible construction	<p>Establish safe shelter living condition for the most vulnerable groups in line with the shelter minimum standards and international accessibility standards. The project also aims at enhance the accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, including functional disabilities (i.e., Elderly), and Person with Injuries who might sustain permanent disability to increase their independency on the performance of the daily</p>	<p>Provision of Restricted Cash Assistance for reconstruction and adaptation intervention</p> <p>Support self-construction approach with technical follow-up.</p> <p>Enhance Shelter members capacity in accessibility intervention</p> <p>Rehabilitation of 60 substandard shelter of persons with disability (50% women, 50% men) in urgent needs</p> <p>60 partially damaged homes will be repaired, including adaptation works to enhance the safety, protection and independency of most vulnerable groups (FHH, persons with disability and elderly people.</p> <p>A in depth technical construction assessment and accessibility audit will be realized targeting the 80 HHs prioritized, to reach the final selection of 60 HU.</p>	<p>567 individuals</p> <p>75 PWDs</p> <p>100 individuals receiving orientation on accessibility</p> <p>Shelter cluster trained to operationalized accessibility</p>	<p>75 Families</p> <p>12 cluster's partners</p>	N/A	Gaza Strip	<p>Project Period: 01/09/2022-31/03/2026</p> <p>Donor Name: UN OCHA</p>



	activities impacting also on their wellbeing.						
Inclusive Education	Improved learning outcomes for women and girls in the Gaza Strip and West Bank (GAC Ultimate outcome 1000) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG No 4)	<p>Awareness raising in mainstream schools and community on disability, inclusion and the rights of children with disabilities to access pre and primary education</p> <p>Assess the social and medical needs of CWDs to complement individualized education plans and develop if needed related personal support plan</p> <p>Provision of Adaptive equipment and/or Assistive Technology for children with disabilities in mainstream schools</p> <p>Improve the capacity of the Education and Protection Cluster members and of the national education coalition members to identify the project's good practices and propose action plans for their replication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of psychosocial counselling services for parents, teachers and children</li> </ul>	2296	2296	Tamer	Gaza Strip and West Bank	<p>Donor Name : UN OCHA 01/06/2019-31/12/2021 28/03/2022-27/02/2022</p> <p>Donor Name :Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg 01/03/2022-31/01/2023</p>



		(debriefing sessions, provision individual and collective sessions) Remedial Classes.					
Rehabilitation	To reduce the dependence on severe negative coping strategies among the most vulnerable households in Gaza, while addressing specialized protection and rehabilitation needs	Assessment Rehab session (6 per benef, emergency protocol) Provision of assistive devices Provision of psychosocial support Support on inclusion component of Gaza Protection Consortium members	ECHO 240 beneficiaries (162 males, 78 females)  CDCs 207 Males 138 females	ECHO 240 beneficiaries (162 males, 78 females)  CDCs 207 Males 138 females	Palestine Avenir Childhood Foundation (PACF)	Gaza Strip	Donor Name: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) 01/05/2022- 28/02/2023  Donor Name: Crisis and Support Centre France ( CDCS France) 01/06/2022- 31/05/2023



# Donors

<p><b>German Cooperation (BMZ)</b></p> <p><b>BMZ</b>  Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</p>	<p><b>Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AC5)</b></p> <p> THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p> <p>Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs</p>
<p><b>Centre de Crise-Soutien (France)</b></p> <p><b>ACTION HUMANITAIRE FRANCE</b></p> <p></p> <p>Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international</p>	<p><b>OCHA</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>OCHA</b></p>
<p><b>ECHO</b></p> <p></p> <p>European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid</p>	