

Caritas

Gaza Emergency Response

Regions: Gaza and the West Banks

Implementing Partners: Catholic Relief Service (CRS) & Caritas Jerusalem

Focus: Emergency response (food & basic assistance, shelter, WASH, social & emotional support)

Individuals reached: ~1.72m persons

INITIAL SITUATION & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Scale of Destruction & Need

The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the West Bank continues to deepen after two years of conflict. The destruction is widespread and systemic: homes, health facilities, schools, water and electricity systems, roads, and sanitation infrastructure have been heavily damaged or destroyed. The blockade and constraints on supply chains have led to severe shortages of food, fuel, medicines, and shelter materials. Many areas are uninhabitable, and most of the population has been displaced — often repeatedly.

- **In Gaza:** Since October 2023, the population has endured relentless bombardment by air, land and sea. As of August 2025, **over 60,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed**. More than **90% of the population has been displaced**, many of them multiple times, forced to move from one unsafe shelter to another. Families face **catastrophic shortages of food, clean water, and shelter**. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has confirmed that **famine is unfolding**, with children and older people dying from hunger and malnutrition. Hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed or destroyed, with medical supplies nearly exhausted. **Schools, homes, places of worship, and public infrastructure have been reduced to rubble**. Most families are now living in tents, makeshift camps, or overcrowded shelters with little to no protection from violence or disease.
- **In the West Bank:** Humanitarian needs have escalated sharply as Israeli military operations and settler attacks have expanded across multiple governorates. Since January 2024, more than **35,000 Palestinians have been displaced**, especially in the northern governorates. Homes have been demolished, farmland destroyed, and livelihoods lost. Families are struggling to secure the most basic necessities such as food, safe drinking water, shelter, and healthcare. Violence and movement restrictions have further limited access to essential services and humanitarian assistance.

Across both Gaza and the West Bank, the **scale of destruction is unprecedented**. Entire communities have been uprooted, and civilian infrastructure has collapsed. **Most people are now dependent on humanitarian aid for survival**. The needs are enormous, immediate and long-term: from food and shelter to psychosocial support and early recovery. A recent ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas marks a crucial turning point humanitarian wise as it opened corridors for significantly increased humanitarian access.



HOW CARITAS HELPS

Caritas Support in Gaza

Caritas, in collaboration with its local partner organizations Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and Caritas Jerusalem, has sustained lifesaving work under extremely constrained conditions. Key interventions include:

- **Emergency Shelter & Housing:** Provision of tents, repair kits, blankets, household kits; upgrading collective shelters; transitional shelters in safer areas
- **Food & Cash Assistance:** Distribution of food rations, ready-to-eat meals, and multipurpose cash grants so families can decide on their most urgent needs
- **WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene):** Delivery of potable water by tanker, latrine construction, hygiene and sanitation kits, water system repairs
- **Psychosocial Support & Protection:** Programs for children, youth and caregivers — grief counseling, trauma-healing, referrals to mental health services



Caritas Support in the West Bank

Through its network of local partners, Caritas is engaging in relief and resilience measures in the West Bank:

- **Emergency Relief:** Distributions of food, hygiene items and cash support to displaced and vulnerable households.
- **Water & Basic Services:** Interventions to ensure access to safe water and rehabilitation of essential infrastructure in impacted areas.
- **Local Presence & Partnerships:** Caritas works via ~25 community-based organizations active within towns, villages and refugee camps to deliver aid, monitor needs, and offer psychosocial outreach.

People Reached (Oct 2023 – June 2025)

Through combined efforts of the Caritas network and its local partners on the ground, CRS, Caritas Jerusalem and others — even amid extreme constraints — significant reach was achieved since October 2023:

- **Food Assistance:** 1,720,000 people
- **Shelter & Housing Support:** 341,790 people
- **Cash Assistance:** 183,704 people
- **WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene):** 500,268 people
- **Psychosocial Support:** 10,399 children & adolescents; 1,333 caregivers
- **Shelters via Church Partners in Gaza:** ~400 people

Total Reach: Overall, **1.7 million people** across Gaza and the West Bank received direct support through the Caritas network.

URGENT CALL FOR SUPPORT

The current ceasefire has opened a rare window to deliver humanitarian aid on a larger scale — but it may not last. **We are dedicated to use that window of opportunity to support the people in Gaza and the West Bank.** Your partnership can save lives today.

Or get in touch with our Strategic Partnership experts: csr@caritas-austria.at