



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Technical briefing

# RIGHT TO FOOD IN GAZA

Protecting rights, saving lives



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# Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

## Acute Food Insecurity Phase: name and description

Common global scale for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity and malnutrition in specific parts of the world, based on three measurements.

**IPC Phase 1 (None/Minimal):** Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.

**IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) :** Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.

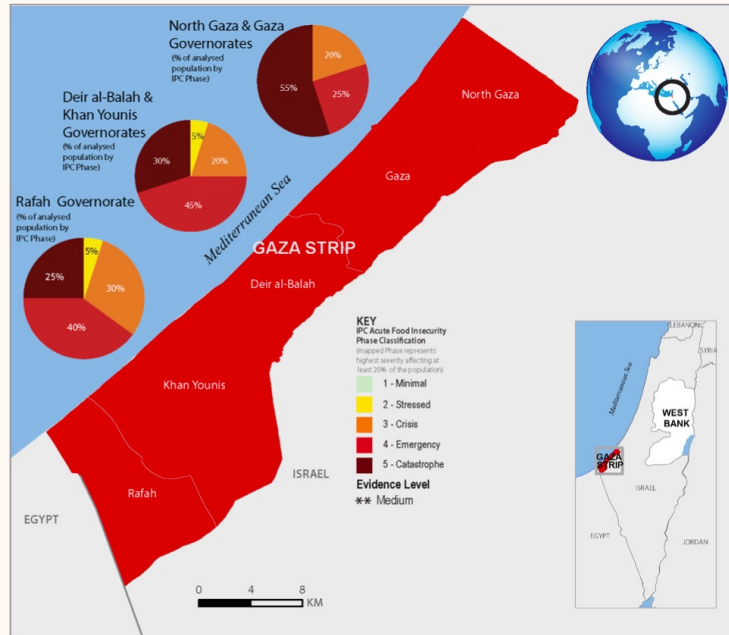
**IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) :** Households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.

**IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) :** Households either have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.

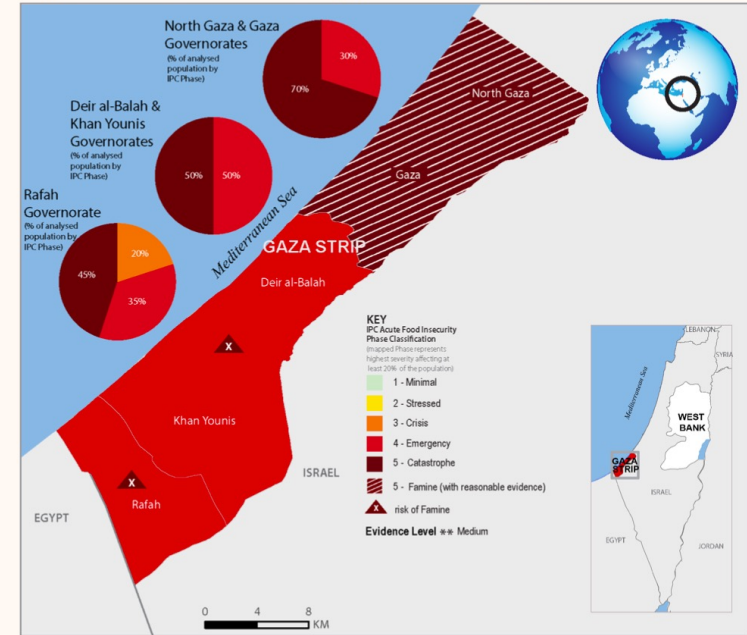
**IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe/ Famine) :** Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.

- Entire population in Gaza Strip is facing critical to **catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity**
- **Famine** is imminent in the North and could also break out in the South in next few months if current conditions persist

Current Acute Food Insecurity | 15 February - 15 March



Projected Acute Food Insecurity | 16 March - 15 July



## Food availability

The **blockade** imposed on the Strip, along with the sustained **bombardment** and **ground operations** and the restrictions on the delivery of **emergency relief**, have resulted in:

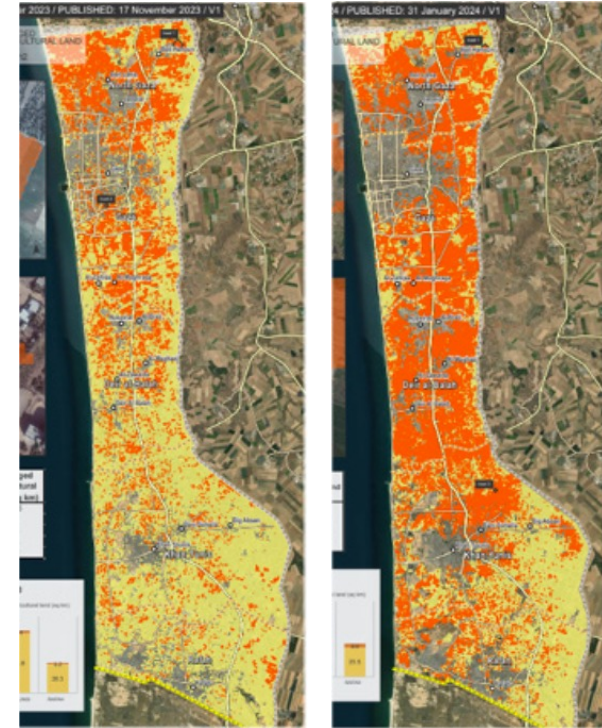
- dwindling **food stocks** and widespread scarcity
- extensive damage to **farmland and infrastructure** (greenhouses, wells, warehouses)
- acute shortage of **fodder and water**, causing the death of livestock
- **crops** being increasingly damaged or inaccessible
- lack of **fuel** for irrigation, which affected the winter planting season posing further threats to harvests and food production

**Commercial agricultural production** has stopped due to lack of electricity and water for irrigation

**Food processing facilities** have been destroyed

**Humanitarian food aid** is extremely inadequate to cover the rapidly growing needs of the population

### Damage to Agriculture Areas, Nov. 2023 and Jan. 2024



## Food access

**Physical and economic access to food** severely impaired by the current hostilities, massive displacement of people, restrictions on imports and humanitarian food relief, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure including markets and bakeries

- Drastic reduction in the number of trucks, including **food trucks**, entering Gaza from the pre-escalation daily average
- From late October to early March, the proportion of **average kilocalories per day** entering Gaza has been consistently below the daily requirements of the population
- Essential **food prices** have surged (iodized salt, flour, basic staples, potatoes)
- **Food stocks** are mostly confined to those available within households, informal markets, the few functioning shops, and in damaged buildings.

### Inflation rates, Sep 2023 vs Dec 2023

Category	Inflation Dec/Sep 2023 (%)
Headline Inflation	48.7
Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation	75.5
Eggs	333.7
Wheat flour	768.4
Rice	16.1
Chicken	87.5
Vegetable oil	96.8
Salt	1200.0
Potatoes	416.8
Tomatoes	57.9

Source: WFP/PCBS, Gaza Market Monitoring: Flash Update #6, February 2024



# Food consumption and adequacy

In terms of **quantity**:

- **Food consumption gaps** are alarmingly high, especially in the North where almost 88 percent of households have a poor Food Consumption Score and 82 percent experience severe or very severe levels of **hunger**.
- Virtually all households are **skipping meals** every day, and adults are reducing their meals so that children can eat.
- In nearly two thirds of households, people went entire days and nights **without eating** at least ten times in the last 30 days.

Nearly all households in the North are engaging in **extreme coping strategies** on daily basis to deal with the lack of food or money to buy food:

- Some women are now resorting to mechanisms such as **scavenging** for food under rubble or in dumpsters.
- In addition, between 12-23 percent of households reported that to obtain food, they had to **barter** or exchange clothing, **loot** from debris, **beg** or gather **wild foods**.

## Gaza Food Security Assessment

### NORTHERN GOVERNORATES (Gaza and North Gaza)



**97%** of households have **inadequate food consumption**



**95%** of households are adopting extreme consumption strategies to cope with food shortage

### IDPS IN SOUTHERN GOVERNORATES (Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah)



**83%** of households have **inadequate food consumption**



**82%** of households are adopting extreme consumption strategies to cope with food shortage

## Nutritional adequacy

In terms of the **quality of diets**:

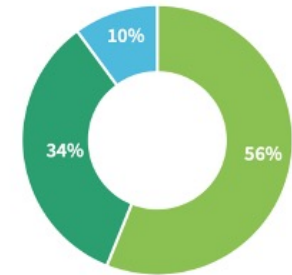
- Consumption is heavily concentrated on **1-2 food groups**: oil, cereals and tubers.
- Intake of **protein-rich foods** like meat and dairy products is negligible, as is the consumption of staples and vegetables.
- Between one third and half of households are aware of people who were compelled to consume **wild or raw inedible food** (animal feed, seeds for planting, carcasses) to cope with hunger.

Prolonged and extreme food consumption gaps increase **nutritional risks** greatly, especially among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and elderly persons:

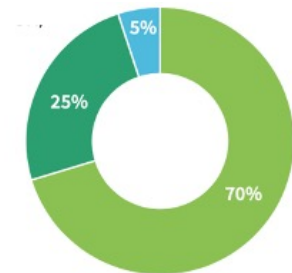
- Increased incidence of **diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and other infectious diseases**
- Cases of **Hepatitis A** were confirmed in January, with high risk of spreading due to overcrowding and lack of access to proper WASH facilities.

Diet diversity among children aged 6-23 months and among pregnant and breastfeeding women,  
January 2024

Children 6-23 months



Pregnant and breastfeeding women



Source: UNICEF Global Nutrition Cluster,  
February 2024

# Food utilization, stability and sustainability

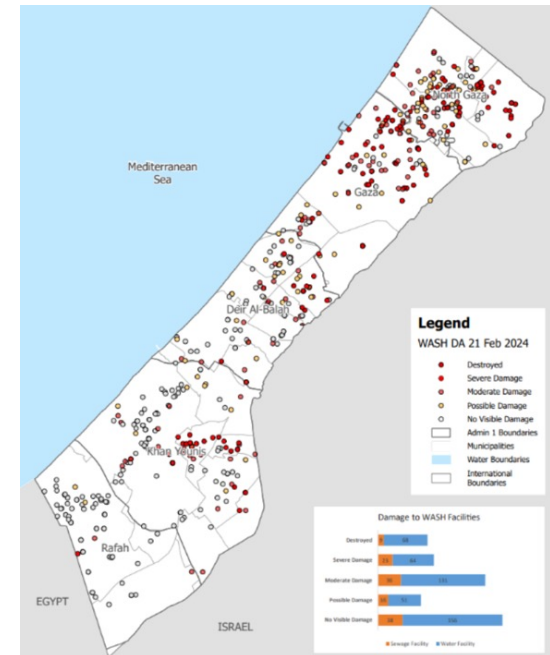
Short-term food security requires the proper **utilization** of food. This depends *inter alia* on the availability of clean and safe drinking water, adequate food preparation, sanitation and healthcare. However:

- Access to **clean water** for washing or cooking is highly limited and mostly unfit for human consumption.
- **Cooking fuel** of any type is beyond the reach for most people.
- The breakdown of WASH services combines with other risk factors into a **high risk of excess mortality** from endemic diseases.

In terms of **stability**, Gaza's entire food system has broken down since hostilities broke out in October 2023:

- most **bakeries** are not functioning due to lack of fuel, shortages in flour, and widespread infrastructure damage;
- the **food processing sector** faces challenges to replace equipment parts;
- shops lack **electricity** for refrigerating perishable goods;
- **commercial imports** are not expected to resume; and
- **humanitarian relief** remains sorely limited.

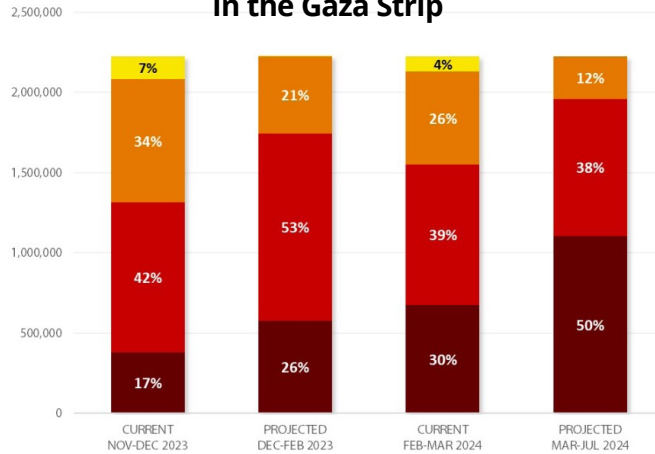
**Damage to WASH facilities**  
February 2024



Source: UNOSAT, 2023-2024

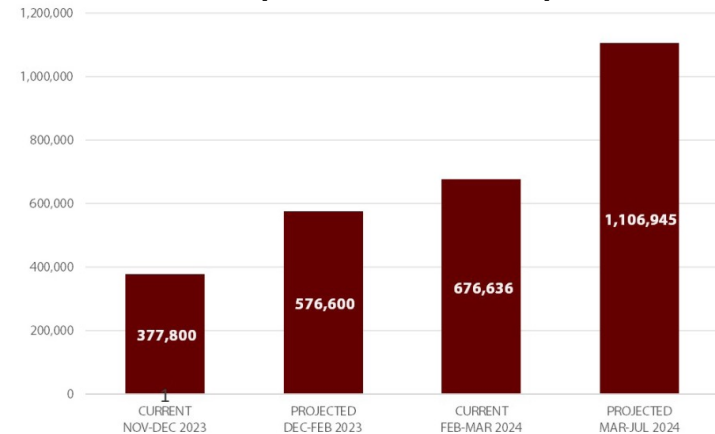


### Population phase classifications in the Gaza Strip



Source: IPC Special Brief on Gaza, 18 March 2024

### Evolution of population in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) in the Gaza Strip



Source: IPC Special Brief on Gaza, 18 March 2024

## IPC reports → From “risk of famine” on 21 Dec 2023 to “imminent famine” on 18 March 2024

Our assessment of the food security and nutrition situation in Gaza suggests that none of the elements that underpin the realization of the Right to Food is being met.

General Comment 12 of the CESCR states that the RTF is realized when *“every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.”*

This is not happening in Gaza these days.



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# THANK YOU

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