
UN set to leave half of Gaza and West Bank hungry, as food programme feels a lack of US money

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The UN's World Food Programme is cutting food aid to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, putting some 190,000 impoverished people at risk. The lack of US funding, stopped in September, is being acutely felt by aid workers.

Come January, 27,000 people in the West Bank will have their food assistance cut off, and 165,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza will have their food aid cut by 20 percent.

"WFP has been forced, unfortunately, to make drastic cuts to the number of people that we support across Palestine, both in Gaza and the West Bank," Stephen Kearney, WFP country director in the Palestinian Territories, told Reuters.

[@RT .com](https://on.rt.com/9e3n) US cuts to UN refugee agency are an 'attack on Palestinians & intl law' – Palestinian FM <https://on.rt.com/9e3n>

Humanitarian groups working with Palestinians have seen record low funding levels this year, largely as a result of the US's decision to end its \$300 million support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian (UNRWA) in September.

UN's Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East, Jamie McGoldrick, this week issued an appeal for \$350 million to help the people in Palestine, particularly in Gaza which has experienced *"serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation,"* as a result of an *"enormous rise"* in casualties at the March of Return protests, outbreaks of violence and an economy that is in *"freefall."*

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"Our plan for 2019 prioritizes assistance for people assessed as being most in need of protection, food, health care, shelter, water and sanitation," McGoldrick said on Monday. *"It enables us to maximize limited funding. But much more is needed, and we stand ready to do more, if funding and operational space are improved."*
