# Palestine - Operation Overview, 18 - 31 December 2023

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Palestine Logistics Cluster (Gaza response) and Egypt Logistics Cell

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Two coordination meetings** held in Cairo and online during the reporting period, bringing together partners from **66 humanitarian organisations**.

**4 additional MSUs arrived in Gaza**, two to be set-up at the Kerem Shalom crossing point and two to be handed over to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to enhance storage capacity. A total of **18 MSUs (5,760 m²)** have been installed or handed over in the Gaza Strip.

**The Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for Gaza** was conducted through field visits in Khan Yunis and Rafah; eight locations were identified as optimal.

## BACKGROUND

Humanitarian needs in Gaza have seen a staggering increase since the escalation of the conflict on 7 October 2023, which has resulted in the cessation of electricity, food, water, and fuel supplies, as well as restricted access to and movement within Gaza. The Rafah Crossing remained closed until 21 October, hindering the passage of crucial humanitarian assistance, including food, water, and medicine. On 17 December, the Kerem Shalom entry point opened for UN and International NGOs' trucks to cross into Gaza. The collective humanitarian response continues to be limited throughout Gaza due to both insecurity and access constraints, against needs of unprecedented scale and depth caused by massive internal displacements, destruction of infrastructure, the collapse of health structures, inability to access clean water, and extreme deterioration of food insecurity, leading to 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

To support responding humanitarian organisations in their delivery of assistance to affected populations, the Logistics Cluster for Palestine was activated on 16 October 2023. To date, the Palestine Logistics Cluster has actively engaged in augmenting the logistics capacity of key relief actors such as the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to increase efficiency, mitigate bottlenecks and avoid duplication of efforts on behalf of the humanitarian community responding to the crisis in Gaza. In particular, the ERC leads the overall process for the movement of humanitarian cargo from Egypt to Gaza.

## SITUATION UPDATE

- Despite the opening of Kerem Shalom as an additional entry point on 17 December, the crossing was closed for six days during the reporting period due to security concerns. Kerem Shalom crossing is utilized for UN and INGO convoys, with 80 trucks manifested per day.

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