

# GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY: SOCIAL ALLOWANCES FOR ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND CHILDREN AGED 0-3 IN PALESTINE

## FAST TRACK IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING – Palestine

**What is the Fast Track planning process?** This process started by the Global Alliance's Board of Champions aims to co-develop with implementing countries a high-level, strategic implementation plan for a single national large scale program linked to the Alliance's policy basket. The process uses the 2030 Sprints commitments as a foundation and expands on it with specific details, including partnership needs. The Global Alliance will use these plans to identify concrete partnership offers from other members, providing potential financial or knowledge support—or both—in alignment with the country's program priorities.

The implementation plans will serve as a foundation for future steps, where they will be further detailed and expanded into full operational plans. These plans will also guide formal partnership and resourcing agreements between implementing countries and both knowledge and financial partners. The Global Alliance's Support Mechanism, along with other partner structures can provide support in this further development.

A detailed concept note and FAQ on the fast track planning process, the Global Alliance, and what to expect from them can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/mwcahk35>

### 1. Executive Summary

- **Country:** Palestine – Gaza Strip and West Bank
- **Program Name:** Social Allowances - for elderly individuals, persons with disabilities and children under 3 years old.
- **Main Objective:** Provide social allowances to vulnerable elderly individuals, vulnerable persons with disabilities, and to vulnerable children under 3 years old.
- **Brief Description:** The Social Allowances program is a large-scale initiative designed to provide financial protection and dignity to the most vulnerable populations in Palestine. Managed by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), the program provides a monthly social allowance of 250 NIS to 17,000 elderly individuals (65+), 24,000 persons with disabilities, and 6,000 children under the age of three. Utilizing a categorical targeting approach, the program ensures that all individuals meeting these criteria are eligible for support, which is delivered through an established and secure e-payment system to meet basic needs and support resilience.
- **Target Audience:** 17,000 elderly persons (65+) and 24,000 persons with disabilities, as well 6,000 children (with their families) under age 3, shared between (80% of beneficiaries in Gaza and 20% in the West Bank).
- **Main Goal:** Enhance financial protection and dignity for elderly individuals (65+), for persons with disabilities and promote access of income to households with children, reducing vulnerability and ensuring basic income security for these groups. Time Frame: 5 years

- **Total Budget:** USD 47.5. (USD 45 million/year for the coverage of households) "for a 5-year time frame". The Government of Palestine, through the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), is expected to contribute a share of approximately 5% of the total annual program cost, depending on fiscal space and resource availability. This would correspond to an estimated USD 2.5 million, primarily directed toward administrative costs, national systems maintenance, and digitalizing the system.
- **Need for financial support:** Mobilization of grants to address immediate funding gaps for the resumption of responses.
- **Need for technical/knowledge support:**
  - Technical partnerships to promote sustainable systems (e.g., digital inclusion, social registry upgrades).
  - Technical assistance to support identification and verification of data in MoSD's database.
  - Technical and Knowledge support for the development of shock-responsive social protection systems, including the operationalization of the existing SRSP protocol with a vision to make the social allowances functional at any time needed.
  - Technical assistance to improve existing monitoring and evaluation systems, tracking expenditure and beneficiaries, collect lessons learned, and inform further post-recovery phases.
- **Partners already involved in the initiative:** ILO, European Union, UNICEF, WFP, ESCWA
- **References in the Global Alliance Policy Basket:**
  - [Unconditional cash transfers](#)
  - [Disability benefits](#)
  - [Old age pension](#)
  - [Child and Family support/benefits](#)

## 2. Proposal Details

### a) How the initiative works:

In Gaza:

The **Social Allowances** program is designed to provide immediate financial relief and long-term stability to the most vulnerable population, especially in the Gaza Strip, which is prioritized with 80% of the total caseload, while the remaining 20% is allocated to the West Bank. The initiative operates through the following core pillars, with consideration of the caseload in Gaza prior to October 2023:

**Categorical Targeting:** Due to current humanitarian conditions in Gaza that limit traditional poverty-based assessments, the program utilizes a **categorical targeting approach**. Eligibility is determined by belonging to one of three specific groups: elderly individuals (above 65), persons with disabilities and children under 3 years old

**Benefit Structure and Delivery:** Each eligible individual receives a monthly cash transfer of **250 ILS** to meet basic needs and support resilience. All payments under this initiative will be delivered through the existing e-payment systems, which are well established, reliable, and widely used in Palestine. These systems are already operational and currently used for social allowances and other transfers, ensuring secure, timely, and transparent delivery of payments to beneficiaries, while reducing operational risks and facilitating scale-up when needed.

Database and Verification Infrastructure: Identification and validation are managed through a multi-layered system to ensure accuracy:

- **Centralized Social Registry:** The program utilizes the **MoSD's National Social Registry**, which includes both active beneficiaries and those on waiting lists in Gaza. The priority will be given to those included in the NSR by October 2023 and, in case it was determined that individuals are deemed ineligible or removed from the NSR due to conflict casualties, those in the waiting list will be prioritized (see below).
- **Data Consolidation:** An **online dashboard** has been developed to merge existing registry data with information gathered through **emergency intake forms** to capture those not previously registered.
- **Human-Led Verification:** To ensure the integrity of the data, **MoSD field social workers and volunteers** will cross-check the system's records against field realities to update household profiles and prevent duplication.
- **Avoidance of duplication**

Shock-Responsive Resilience: A critical component of the initiative is its **shock-responsive design**. By establishing contingency protocols and emergency response links with humanitarian coordination platforms, the program ensures that social allowances continue without interruption during future crises.

Avoidance of Duplication and Coordination: all beneficiaries will be systematically screened against the National Social Registry prior to enrollment and the disbursement of any payments. The registry will serve as the single reference point for verifying eligibility and confirming that individuals are not receiving similar assistance. Continuous coordination will also be maintained with all partners through the existing mechanisms to ensure complementarity, avoid overlap, and harmonize assistance delivery.

**b) Goal:** Enhance financial protection and dignity for elderly individuals (65+), for persons with disabilities and promote access of income to households with children 0-3 year-old, reducing vulnerability and ensuring basic income security for these groups. Taking into account the dire needs of the population in Palestine, the pre-plan aims at orienting mechanisms to provide financial support to vulnerable households in Palestine when aid can resume in the country. This pre-plan can serve as a stepping stone for expanding support to additional vulnerable groups.

**c) Specific objectives:**

- Operationalize Social Allowances .
- Provide and set up shock-responsive systems to ensure sustainability of the social allowances program.
- Undertake additional data collection efforts to ensure a fuller data profile of households in the existing Ministry of Social Development's (MoSD) Social Registry.
- Strengthen government's ownership and systematize efforts into a fully integrated country-owned model.

**d) Estimated Total Annual Cost:** USD 47.5 million/year, over a 5-year period, from 2026 to 2030 including:

- **USD 45 million/year** for the disbursement of Social Allowances.
- **Initial Investment Costs (one-time fixed costs): USD 2.5 million (the government contribution),** for:
  - Digital payment infrastructure upgrades

- Enhancements to the national social registry and data management systems.
- Capacity building and training for MoSD staff and partners, primarily in Gaza.
- Recurring operational and staffing costs at both central and subnational levels.

**e) Target audience selection criteria:** Eligibility is determined and validated through **MoSD's Social Registry Database**, which includes both active beneficiaries and those on the waiting list. Field-level data collection and verification are conducted by MoSD staff and additional efforts are required.

The program targets eligible individuals rather than entire households. Selection is based on whether any **individual within a household** falls into one of the program's designated vulnerability categories: elderly persons (aged 65 and above), persons with disabilities, or children under the age of 3.

Given the current humanitarian conditions in Gaza and the limitations in applying poverty-based assessments, the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) is shifting toward a **categorical targeting approach** rather than using a proxy means test.

**f) Program coverage:** (80% for Gaza)

- 17,000 elderly beneficiaries (65+)
- 24,000 persons with disabilities
- 6000 children under the age 3. Under this model, individuals are targeted rather than entire households, meaning multiple eligible members within a single family can qualify independently for support.

**g) Main stakeholders:**

- The Ministry of Social Development serves as the national government's lead for the program, carrying out design, planning and implementation. It is also in charge of beneficiary identification management and coordinates the cash disbursement processes. It is also in charge of the program's M&E.
- Subnational MoSD offices support local level registration and data collection.
- The Ministry of Finance (MoF) administers the Public Budget and the disbursement of Social Allowances through its digitalized e-payment system and based on MoSD identified eligible individuals.

**h) Other stakeholders in the country:** Financial service providers (banks and mobile payment platforms) facilitate cash disbursement, in particular in the West Bank.

**i) Monitoring & Evaluation:** On M&E more specifically, the MoSD has already included this component in the Social Allowances program, with an established framework that would require improvement for scale up. The MoSD uses a centralized social registry and case management system to monitor beneficiary information. M&E activities focus on the verification of eligibility of beneficiaries, tracking payment disbursement and some periodic data collection at the field level.

### 3. Specific Support Needs

**Detailed financial support needed:** Most of the financing for the program needs to come from external financial partners in order to operationalize the program, preferably through grants.

The total estimated annual cost for operationalizing and sustaining the Social Allowances is **USD 45 million per year**, covering three primary vulnerable groups (80% for Gaza and 20% for the West Bank). The breakdown of cost is as follows:

- **Elderly Individuals (65+) (17,000 beneficiaries):**  
17,000 × 250 ILS/month × 12 months ≈ **USD 16.2 million/year**
- **Persons with Disabilities (24,000 beneficiaries):**  
24,000 × 250 ILS/month × 12 months ≈ **USD 22.9 million/year**
- **Households with Children Under 3 year-old (6,000 individual beneficiaries):**  
6,000 × 250 ILS/month × 12 months ≈ **USD 5.8 million/year**

*As of 18/01/2026, based on the prevailing exchange rate, USD 1 ≈ ILS 3.15; therefore, ILS 250 is equivalent to approximately USD 79.4*

#### **Detailed knowledge / technical support needed:**

- Technical assistance for sustainable systems (e.g., digital inclusion, social registry upgrades). This would include improving and further work on the implementation plan of the program and strategic assistance.
- Additional technical assistance to support identification and verification of data in MoSD's database would be needed.
- Shock-responsive social protection development technical assistance.
- Assistance for Monitoring and Evaluation: improving the existing systems to adapt to the expansion.

#### **Capacity Building:**

- Capacity building to provide better integration and referral with services.
- Capacity building to enhance and utilize social registry data analytics.
- Capacity building to strengthen the digital payment infrastructure in Gaza.

#### **Learning/Exchange:**

- Brazil, in particular the relation of Bolsa Familia and BPC between cash assistance and social services, as well as robust monitoring and grievance systems
- Tunisia, regarding their efforts in digitizing its social protection system and implementing a targeting mechanism and social registry that supports vulnerable populations, including PWD
- Philippines: due to their inclusive targeting models that integrate community-based approaches, social registries, and disaster-responsive systems
- Egypt: Takaful & Karama programs have had extensive work regarding the definition of disability for beneficiaries, as well as providing the vulnerable population with disability cards.

#### **Proposed Role for Alliance Partners:**

- UNICEF could provide further technical support and experience sharing regarding mechanisms to select potential beneficiaries, particularly for children and persons with disabilities.
- ILO could bring their expertise in rights-based social protection systems and alignment with the International Social Security Standards, especially regarding disability and old-age inclusion, and child-focused social allowances, including for targeting and data verification.
- The EU can further contribute with financial support for the scale-up of the program
- Under the Second Social Protection Enhancement Project, the World Bank can support financially and with technical assistance efforts towards social protection systems' development in the West Bank.
- ESCWA can support capacity building for and advisory services to MoSD on: strengthening the accuracy of the social registry data, pro-poor budget planning and utilizing and beneficiary

clustering/profiling for non-cash support, as well as SP system and programs stocktaking and reviews.

- Other knowledge institutions like Oxford Policy Management (OPM), UNU-WIDER, and universities with expertise in social protection and public policy evaluation could support the design and implementation of impact evaluations, M&E and capacity building

**Sustainability strategy:** The long-term objective of the project is to ensure the Social Allowances program is a national and government-owned programme provided to vulnerable households across Palestine. This will involve the building up of the necessary tools (data verification of the registry, existing payment mechanisms, including digital mechanisms) for the continuation of the program. **To facilitate long-term sustainability, a phased approach will be adopted:**

1. Years 1–2: Rely on external financing (grants and technical support) for full implementation and system investments.
2. Years 3–4: Gradually increase national budget allocations to enable expanded social allowances coverage; while strengthening administrative capacity, internal M&E and digital platforms
3. Year 5 and beyond: Institutionalize the program within MoSD's recurrent budget, supported by national public financing frameworks, while maintaining readiness for international surge support during shocks

The strategy also includes designing **shock-responsive features** to protect continuity during crises, ensuring that payments and services can still be delivered to vulnerable populations. This will be supported by the establishment of contingency protocols and emergency response links with humanitarian coordination platforms.

Overall, the sustainability plan envisions that by **2030**, Social Allowances will be operated primarily through domestic resources, backed by strong institutional capacities and supported by ongoing technical partnerships.

#### 4. Background and Current Status

**Country experience on this issue and current status:** The MoSD built the Social Allowances Program on the model applied in the West Bank in August 2024, but implementation in Gaza was not possible due to the war. The MoSD already operates different components of social allowances for elderly individuals and persons with disabilities and is planning to roll out child allowance from 0-3 years in the West Bank. These provide 250 ILS per month (payments have become monthly since the last quarter of 2024) but have some limited coverage: 17,500 elderly and 14,500 persons with disabilities.

MoSD's system already serves as the leader of national Social Allowances schemes, notably due to the existing national social registry, which is used by other partners and covers broad groups of the vulnerable population across Palestine. Humanitarian support in Gaza, for instance, uses existing MoSD mechanisms to support the identification of beneficiaries and are used for cross-checking, while also being leveraged to support databases by international actors providing social protection in Palestine. In the West Bank in particular, directorates support registration, data collection and beneficiary identification.

The resumption of these Social Allowances programs in Gaza could work in a similar manner with technical assistance from international actors and data verification on the ground sustained by MoSD personnel and partners. An online dashboard has been developed to consolidate existing data in the social registry and those gathered through the emergency intake form. At the moment, there are strong limitations regarding available data in Gaza, with only partial data through a short intake form

being fed into the national registry, less detailed in the West Bank. There are also still hindrances in referral and integration with other services, limiting the effectiveness of the Social Allowances.

As for the West Bank, the repeated and ongoing attacks have resulted in significant damage, widespread disruption of livelihoods, and the displacement of large numbers of residents. These conditions have increased vulnerability levels, weakened coping mechanisms, and exposed affected populations to heightened social and economic risks. Consequently, many households have become unable to meet their basic needs, making them a vulnerable group in urgent need of sustained support and social assistance interventions.

#### **Current Partnerships:**

- ILO is a central partner for the provision of Social Allowances, providing technical assistance on most themes related to the program, assisting in the development of tools for the program's sustainability and expansion, and training MoSD staff.
- The European Union provides significant financial support for the core cash programs.
- UNICEF collaborates with data sharing for cash programs, notably in Gaza, and provides cash response.
- UNICEF, the World Bank and WFP also support reforms in respect of the national social registry, linkages, referrals and M&E systems in the West Bank.
- ESCWA collaborates with MoSD on social registry and beneficiary data analysis.
- ILO is also providing technical assistance for data verification in Gaza through support to the MoSD

### **5. Connections with the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty**

#### **Specific references in the Policy Basket:**

- [Unconditional cash transfers](#)
- [Disability benefits](#)
  - Country Example: [Brazil's Continuous Cash Benefit \(BPC\)](#)
- [Old age pension](#)
  - Country Example: [Brazil's Continuous Cash Benefit \(BPC\)](#)
  - Country Example: [Mexico's Pension Program for the Elderly \(PAM\)](#)
- [Child and Family support/benefits](#)
  - Country Example: [Mexico's Support Program for the Welfare of Children of Working Mothers](#)

**Alignment with 2030 Sprints:** The project fully aligns with Palestine's Cash Transfer 2030 Sprints objective to "extend existing cash transfers for persons with severe disabilities and older persons to Gaza, moving to monthly payments where applicable, using digital payments to individual beneficiaries."

**Strategic Importance:** Taking stock of the hunger and poverty situation in Gaza, providing cash transfers to the most vulnerable households, including children, in the region, is strongly aligned to the objectives of the Global Alliance and SDGs 1 and 2. By financing nationally-owned programs and building capacity of the Ministry of Social Development and its tools (in particular their registry and digital solutions), the pre-plan aims at further strengthening and attaining the Global Alliance's goals.

### **6. Next Steps & Contacts**

Over the next weeks the Government of Palestine and the Alliance Support Mechanism will work with current and potential Alliance members to complement this pre-plan with concrete and specific

indications of support. If you are an Alliance member already involved or believe your country or organization can contribute, we invite you to delve into each plan and [submit a non-binding Expression of Interest through the provided link](#) or QR code. This will get you into a concrete country-level dialogue on implementation, including the country government and the other potential partners.

If you have questions on the plans, on the next steps, and on the submission of Expressions of Interest, please write to [palestine-cashtransfer@endhungerandpoverty.org](mailto:palestine-cashtransfer@endhungerandpoverty.org) and/or reach out to the focal points below.

**Palestinian Government Focal Point:** Ms. Sonya Helou - [shelou@mosd.gov.ps](mailto:shelou@mosd.gov.ps) (mobile: +972 599 272 626)

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## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / PARTNERSHIP STATEMENTS (about 1 page per partner)

The aim of the partnership statement is to briefly summarize areas of potential engagement for individual country plans. The statement is *not* a commitment to provide financial or other support. It is aimed at indicating areas of interest, as well as the resources, experience, and capabilities of partners in areas relevant to the ambition set out in national plans. The statement should be limited to around one page, recognizing that more detailed country plans will be developed.

- a. **Reason for interest** / *Brief summary of how the proposed country plan aligns with your institutions mandate, priorities, and work programmes/.*
- b. **Institutional Capacities and Strengths** *[briefly outline those applicable to this programme, avoiding both overly broad and detailed descriptions].*
- c. **Intended/expanded partnership role(s)** *[Describe your potential role in this partnership, with a specific focus on the requests for external support described in the programme. List all potential modalities (ie. grants, loans, concessional loans, technical assistance, capacity building, knowledge exchange, learning/training materials, co-implementation of specific programme components, and other measures).*
- d. **Indicative Finance:** *I Where possible include indicative financial envelopes/ranges in US\$ in aggregate and for each modality.]*
- e. **Current and prospective partnership role(s) in the programme (if applicable)** *[briefly describe your current/past contributions to this programme implementation only in case your organization is already a partner for it]*
- f. **Alignment with 2030 Sprints (if applicable)** *[If your organization joined the 2030 Sprints process under the Global Alliance with a public commitment/announcement, please state which Sprint and briefly state how the present expression of interest would help deliver on that commitment]*
- g. **Current potential co-partnerships** *[Please list intended, desired or already planned co-partnerships with additional third countries, organizations and/or other Alliance members, describing potential roles for those organizations (i.e. co-financing, technical assistance, M&E, blended finance, others) and synergies with your own institution's role]*
- h. **Applicable Conditions and Restrictions** *Briefly list major conditions and restrictions that apply, recognizing that further commitments might, for example, be subject to board approval, future arrangements and agreements with implementing government, applicable*

terms and conditions for grants/loans, availability of resources, further understanding, negotiation and fact-finding missions, and future technical and legal arrangements”].

- i. **Focal point(s) in institution for follow up:** [*list full name(s), title(s), and contact details (email and mobile/WhatsApp)*]

**Submit your expression of interest here:**  
<https://forms.gle/7CtL5NEXvuMPbrzWA>

