The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen for the fifth consecutive day. The shutdown of Gaza power plant and subsequent electricity cuts had already forced bakeries and shops to stop operating. Access restrictions, infrastructure damage, fuel shortages and depleting food stocks are severely hampering WFP assistance delivery.

All bakeries contracted by WFP have reported a shortage in either wheat flour, electricity, or water. Seven shops and one of the local mills working with WFP in Gaza have been damaged due to the conflict.

In view of the displacement wave towards the South of Gaza, WFP is taking measures to ensure safe and uninterrupted assistance to all affected and ensure the safety of its staff, cooperating partners and humanitarian operations.

In the West Bank, movement, access restrictions and violence are limiting people’s ability to access shops for food and other needs.

As of 13 October, WFP is ramping up the distribution of bread and canned food, reaching around 220,000 displaced people in 92 UN-designated shelters since the beginning of the escalations.

WFP provided cash transfer of USD 12.4 to 138,863 displaced people and cash emergency top-up of USD 5 to 164,000 of our regular beneficiaries who had already received their October transfer. People receive cash in the form of electronic vouchers to buy food from shops that are still open. Approximately 90 percent of the cash beneficiaries are in Gaza (10 percent in West Bank) and close to 40 percent of them have redeemed their vouchers.

WFP is also addressing requests from Humanitarian partners to use WFP’s cash-based transfers platform to reach affected populations.

WFP received over 3,504 calls on the inter-agency hotline that WFP operates on behalf of the humanitarian community. Half of the calls were requesting food and cash assistance. The rest included requests for shelter.

People’s lives are at stake in Gaza. Current funding and food contingency stocks will not allow WFP to reach all those in need. Urgent funding is required to help WFP sustain food lifeline for affected people, as hardships mount.