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Children in Gaza searching through scattered waste. Photo by OHCHR/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #218 | Gaza Strip

16 Sep 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 18 September.

Key Highlights

- According to new data published by the Ministry of Health in Gaza (MoH), of 34,344 fatalities who were killed as of 31 August and whose full information has been identified, over 11,000 were children.
- Humanitarian actors specializing in health, water, sanitation, and hygiene urgently call for increased access to soap, detergents, and other cleaning materials to combat diarrhea and skin infections.
- As of 23 July, about 22,500 people who have been injured – a quarter of the all MoH-reported injuries – are estimated to have life-changing injuries that require rehabilitation, according to the World Health Organization.
- Multiple Israeli-issued evacuation orders in recent months have delayed or interrupted support to people facing gender-based violence (GBV), including medical care to GBV survivors, by forcing the closure or relocation of service delivery points.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel.
- Between the afternoons of 12 and 16 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 108 Palestinians were killed and 288 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 16 September 2024, at least 41,226 Palestinians were killed and 95,413 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. The MoH documents the full identification details of casualties and has recently published the breakdown of 34,344 out of 40,738 fatalities as of 31 August for whom full details have been documented by MoH (also available on the Health Cluster's Unified Dashboard [here](#)); according to MoH, these reportedly include 11,355 children, 6,297 women, 2,955 elderly, and 13,737 men. The documentation process is ongoing by the MoH.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 12 and 14 September:
 - On 12 September, six Palestinians, including four women, a girl, and a boy, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in northern An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 12 September, four Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near the European Hospital in eastern Khan Younis.
 - On 13 September, five Palestinians, including two men, one woman and two children were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Mawasi area, in western Rafah.

- On 14 September, ten Palestinians, including three children and a woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near Ash Shuja'iyyeh School in At Tuffah area, northeast of Gaza city.
- On 14 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a fuel-filling facility was reportedly hit near Dar al Arkam school in An Nasr area northwest of Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 13 and 16 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 16 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,542 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 342 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,281 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- At least 22,500 people, or one-quarter of all MoH-reported injuries in Gaza by 23 July, are estimated to have life-changing injuries that require rehabilitation services “now and for years to come,” highlights the World Health Organization (WHO) in a recent [analysis](#). Severe limb injuries – estimated to be between 13,455 and 17,550 – are the main driver of long-term rehabilitation needs. WHO also assesses that between 3,000 and 4,000 limb amputations have occurred, in addition to about 2,000 spinal cord and severe traumatic brain injuries and at least 2,000 major burns. Amid a decimated health-care system, “acute rehabilitation services are severely disrupted and specialized care for complex injuries is not available, placing patients’ lives at risk,” warned WHO. Gaza’s only limb reconstruction and rehabilitation centre, located in the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, became non-functional in December 2023, and was damaged in February 2024. Most of the rehabilitation workforce in Gaza has been displaced and 39 physiotherapists have reportedly been killed as of 10 May. No in-patient rehabilitation and prosthetic services are present, and even the most essential assistive devices, like wheelchairs and crutches, are lacking due to the restricted flow of aid. Tens of thousands of Palestinians in the Strip were already living with pre-existing chronic conditions and impairments before the latest escalation, making it even more critical to integrate rehabilitation services in the ongoing response. Beyond the lack of acute trauma care options, stocks of the most essential medical supplies continue to decrease in Gaza due to persistent obstacles hampering the entry of aid. According to the Health Cluster, public health facilities in southern Gaza are reporting an over 70 per cent shortage of critical health items, including consumables, complete blood count kits and laboratory equipment.
- On 14 September, the Israeli military issued an evacuation order affecting three neighbourhoods in central Beit Lahia in northern Gaza. According to the order, it followed rocket launches into Israel from the area, and the orders excluded health facilities in the neighbourhoods. According to the Site Management Working Group, this order affects two IDP collective centres and one makeshift site, hosting a total of 850 people. Initial mapping indicates that before 7 October, over 17,500 people were residing in these areas, with most reportedly forced out by ongoing hostilities and previous evacuation orders, the most recent ones affecting these neighbourhoods issued on 7 and 16 August. The ongoing issuance of mass evacuation orders without ensuring that those displaced have safe and adequate places to stay, is worsening the humanitarian crisis for hundreds of thousands, especially those who are repeatedly forcibly displaced. As of 16 September, more than 55 evacuation orders remain in effect, covering about 86 per cent of Gaza.
- Repeated forced displacement has resulted in the separation of families, eroding social protection systems, specifically for women and children in Gaza. [According to UNFPA](#), this, compounded with the lack of law enforcement, is exposing women and girls to heightened risks of violence, including gender-based violence (GBV). Severe overcrowding in shelters, coupled with abysmal water and sanitation conditions and the scarcity of soap and hygiene products (see below), are also depriving women and girls of their privacy and dignity, while making them more vulnerable to infections and diseases. Despite the high surge in needs, aid workers are facing immense challenges in reaching women and girls. The multiple Israeli-issued evacuation orders in recent months have forced GBV-response service delivery points to close or relocate, while displacing beneficiaries, making them difficult to trace and ultimately delaying or interrupting service provision, including medical care for GBV survivors. The shortage of tents and facilities that may be converted into safe operational spaces is also hampering partners’ efforts to scale up GBV prevention and response services, including case management and specialized mental health and psychosocial support. These obstacles are exacerbated by unstable internet connection and the ongoing electricity outage, transport restrictions and the lack of cash liquidity, which are further constraining efforts to engage with communities, strengthen GBV-response referral pathways and increase protection activities.
- The upcoming rainy season, along with the already-poor shelter conditions in Gaza, requires immediate, intensive interventions. With the magnitude of destruction to urban areas, roads, and critical infrastructure this year, flooding patterns can be expected to be unpredictable and disastrous for those seeking shelter. Most displaced people are sheltering in small, overcrowded makeshift shelters on self-settled sites, typically having deteriorated plastic sheeting for roofing, while the remaining live in tents, many of which are overcrowded. Others are sheltering in damaged or unfinished buildings which are unsafe. The Shelter Cluster has reported that 1.13 million people need sealing-off kits for makeshift shelters or tents and 1.34 million people need bedding kits. Despite the ongoing efforts to bring shelter items into Gaza, there is a gap of 760,000 people who will not receive aid in the south, where the vast majority of IDPs are currently sheltering. With an average of only two truckloads of shelter-related items per week entering south Gaza in August, the Shelter Cluster is estimating that partners would need two years to deliver the equivalent of the most basic winterization support needed now. At least 25,000 sealing-off kits (25 truckloads) need to be delivered per week to south Gaza for people to be supported before more significant rainfall and lower temperatures arrive in November.
- On 13 September, the WASH and Health Clusters published an [urgent call](#) on the lack of access to soap, shampoo, and detergent to combat diarrhea and skin infections in Gaza. Ongoing constraints by the Israeli authorities on the entry of essential supplies are particularly harmful for children, pregnant women, and people with compromised immune systems and are increasing stress and anxiety in overcrowded shelters. Currently, shampoo, detergent (including laundry detergent), and dishwashing liquid are largely absent from the market. As a result, community kitchens cannot thoroughly clean pots, shelters are left unclean, and families are struggling to wash their clothes, vegetables, and cooking utensils or shower. Health-care facilities also struggle to find essential

cleaning materials to protect patients, staff, and caregivers. The Clusters emphasized that handwashing with soap is crucial for preventing diseases and can reduce diarrheal diseases by up to 40 per cent and respiratory infections by about 20 per cent. However, soap is either unavailable or sold at unaffordable prices.

- Ongoing hostilities, access constraints, and damaged infrastructure, along with the deteriorating security situation, including looting and frequent Israeli-issued evacuation orders, are obstructing the delivery of life-saving aid across the Gaza Strip. Between 1 and 15 September of the 94 planned humanitarian missions coordinated with the Israeli authorities for northern Gaza, only 37 (39 per cent) were facilitated and 25 (27 per cent) were denied access. In southern Gaza, out of 243 coordinated humanitarian movements, 129 (53 per cent) were facilitated, and 41 (17 per cent) were denied access. OCHA has not been able to access northern Gaza for 28 days. Israeli access denials or impediments alongside other obstacles are preventing humanitarian missions to assess needs, to coordinate response, to take supplies and to prepare for the rainy season in the north. Aid convoys are being fired on or otherwise exposed to life-risking conditions, stopped, and delayed for hours in combat zones. The limited access to northern Gaza continues to affect hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people, leaving them in dire conditions with a severe shortage of essential supplies and restricted access to basic services.

Funding

- As of 16 September, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.61 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (47 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 93 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



Nurse Jenin provides free services for pregnant women and for children, from a tent she set up in the Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis. Photo by UNFPA Palestine / Media Clinic

Humanitarian Situation Update #220 | Gaza Strip

20 Sep 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 23 September.

Key Highlights

- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the deteriorating health crisis in Gaza—over 5,000 female cancer patients are unable to access treatment; twenty-five percent of women reported skin infections, twice as many as men; and they account for most hepatitis A and gastrointestinal diseases.
- Seventy per cent of medications and 83 per cent of health supplies have been exhausted from stockpiles, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza (MoH); forcing hospitals and health-care facilities to suspend services such as heart surgeries, cardiac catheterization, and joint replacements.
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are at risk of further displacement as the rainy season approaches, increasing seasonal flooding and high tides.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel.
- Between the afternoons of 16 and 18 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 46 Palestinians were killed and 138 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 18 September 2024, at least 41,272 Palestinians were killed and 95,551 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 15 and 19 September:
 - On 15 September, at least five Palestinians, including three women, were reportedly killed and others injured when they were hit on Salah Ad Deen Street in Az Zaytoun, in Gaza city.
 - On 15 September, six Palestinians, including one woman and two children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Az Zaytun area, in Gaza city.
 - On 16 September, nine Palestinians, including four women and a girl, were reportedly killed and 15 others injured when a house was hit in An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 16 September, six Palestinians, including a girl, a boy, and four men, were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit next to a makeshift bakery in As Sumoud Camp in Al Mawasi area, southwestern Khan Younis.

- On 17 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed when houses were hit in east Al Bureij Camp, in Deir al Balah, according to the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD). PCD [stated](#) that they received distress calls from trapped and injured people, but its crew was forced to withdraw after they were struck, and one crew member was injured. On 18 September, the PCD stated that 12 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble of the houses.
- On 18 September, at least seven Palestinians, including three children and a woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Qizan An Najjar, south of Khan Younis.
- On 18 September, eight Palestinians including at least four children, and two women were reportedly killed and others injured when Ibn Haytham School (which was sheltering IDPs), was hit in Ash Shuja'iyyeh area, Gaza city.
- On 19 September, at least five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit on Al Jarjeer Street in Jabalya, in Gaza North.
- Between the afternoons of 16 and 20 September, four Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 20 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,284 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- A recent [report](#) by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) describes the severe economic devastation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory following the escalation of hostilities in Gaza. The economic impact has been more devastating than in previous escalations (2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021), marked by soaring inflation, rising unemployment in Gaza, and plummeting incomes that have left Palestinians in dire poverty. By early 2024, between 80 to 96 per cent of Gaza's agricultural assets were destroyed, crippling food production and exacerbating food insecurity. The private sector has also suffered, with 82 per cent of businesses damaged or destroyed. Gaza's GDP dropped by 81 per cent in the last quarter of 2023, resulting in a 22 per cent annual contraction, and by mid-2024, the economy had shrunk to less than one-sixth of its 2022 size. Two-thirds of pre-October jobs (201,000) were lost by January 2024, further worsening the economic and humanitarian crisis.
- IDPs are at risk of further displacement as the rainy season approaches, increasing flooding and high tides. Many of those displaced due to hostilities have been forced to shelter along the Mediterranean coast, where Israeli-issued evacuation orders have instructed them to go. Several municipalities across Gaza have warned of such risks. The Khan Younis municipality [called](#) on people present within rainwater collection ponds and temporary sewage treatment basins in Al Muhararat area, and all low-lying areas to immediately leave and seek safer places due to the danger of overflows. The municipality has [stated](#) that the ongoing escalation caused massive damage to infrastructure where 70 per cent of the transmission lines and rainwater drainage networks, 80 per cent of the sewage transmission lines, pumps and stations, and 1,800, out of 2,200, rainwater filters are destroyed. The emergency committee of Deir al Balah municipality has [warned](#) residents living near Wadi as Salqa and Sahn al Baraka areas to evacuate before it starts raining, as flooding in these areas will be a threat to people's lives. [According](#) to the municipality of Gaza, Sheikh Radwan Pond, designed for rainwater collection, is now accumulating over 450,000 cubic metres of wastewater, which threatens to overflow once it rains. The municipality is unable to drain water due to the damage sustained by the pond's drainage line and its facilities. Furthermore, the Khan Younis and Deir al Balah municipalities warned displaced people to move to higher ground and stay away from the shore, as high tides may lead to the drifting of their tents and other risks. Humanitarian actors on the ground have amplified these warnings by sending out mass text messages to people in the area.
- According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, from 1 to 14 September, 302,533 litres of fuel—just 31 per cent of the amount needed to operate numerous critical WASH facilities—were allowed in by Israeli authorities and delivered by the United Nations. Some 218,533 litres were distributed to southern Gaza, while the remaining 84,000 litres were distributed in the north. Fuel access in the north continues to be a critical challenge, as deliveries are frequently delayed or rejected by Israeli authorities at checkpoints. As a result, WASH operations have been forced to drastically reduce their operating hours to prevent complete shutdowns. Despite these persistent obstacles, on 16 September, the [Palestinian Water Authority](#) (PWA) successfully delivered and distributed 37,000 liters of fuel to sustain operations at 41 water facilities, including 37 wells and 4 sewage pumping stations, north of Wadi Gaza. This marked the first fuel supply delivery by PWA since 13 August.
- Meanwhile, water production remains at just one quarter of the levels recorded before October 2023, according to WASH partners. The distribution of this limited water faces persistent challenges, such as widespread leaks, severe network damage, and spillage during trucking operations. The WASH Cluster estimates that about 70 per cent of water supplied through water networks is leaked due to damages sustained during fighting, with repairs being impeded by a combination of insecurity, lack of access and Israeli rejection of imports of spare parts. The Cluster has highlighted that restrictions on importing these essential components have left vital WASH machinery inoperable, which is destabilizing operations, particularly for severely damaged sanitation facilities. Currently, four key basins are receiving sewage, and any overflow could pose serious public health risks. In a positive development, on 18 September, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) [reported](#) the successful restoration of the Al Wakala well in Al Maghazi Refugee Camp in Deir Al Balah, which had been destroyed. With support from the International Committee of the Red Cross, CMWU repaired the well's pumping system, electric motor, and manifold, effectively reconnecting it to the water distribution network. These efforts are part of broader emergency maintenance initiatives across Gaza's municipalities, despite ongoing shortages of essential repair materials, CMWU said.
- “More than 5,000 female cancer patients need immediate treatment, but all services have been suspended,” stressed UN Women in its latest Gender Alert based on research, including a survey conducted across Gaza. The sole cancer facility present in the Strip is no longer functional and radiotherapy and systemic therapy are lacking. Women and girls are also being disproportionately affected by infectious diseases. Twenty-five per cent of women surveyed reported skin infections, twice as many as men (12.5 per

cent), and female respondents accounted for more than two thirds of hepatitis A and gastrointestinal diseases; this is likely due to women's prevalent role in caring for sick family members. Women also reported higher rates of diabetes compared with men and were twice as likely to have hypertension, with access to medications being increasingly scarce. Meanwhile, an estimated 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women across Gaza are facing major obstacles in accessing prenatal and postnatal care, with rising complications during pregnancy, birth and subsequently and a shortage of essential medications for newborns. Among pregnant women interviewed, 92 per cent reported urinary tract infections, 76 per cent anaemia, 28 per cent pre-term labour, 44 per cent hypertensive disorders, 16 per cent haemorrhage and 12 per cent stillbirth. based on research, including a survey conducted across Gaza.

- On 19 September, the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban [urged](#) the entry of more “medical supplies and medical consumable like antibiotics for skin diseases, equipment for neonatal units, syringes and bandages for surgery rooms” into Gaza and appealed for the urgent medical evacuation of critically ill and injured children, including many suffering from leukaemia and other types of cancer diseases, “whose lives can be saved only with medical treatment abroad.” The MoH in Gaza [reported](#) that 70 per cent of medications and 83 per cent of health supplies have been exhausted from its stockpiles, with this severe deficit forcing hospitals and health-care facilities to suspend services and vital procedures such as heart surgeries, cardiac catheterization, and joint replacements.

Funding

- As of 20 September, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.63 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 93 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



A Palestinian child riding his bicycle in Gaza city on 17 September 2024. Photo by OHCHR/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip

23 Sep 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 25 September.

Key Highlights

- The health crisis in Gaza deepens as only 17 out of 36 hospitals remain functional – all partially – and just 57 out of 132 primary health-care facilities are functional, all amid crippling shortages of fuel, medicine, and essential supplies.
- In August, 46 per cent of coordinated humanitarian movements in Gaza were denied or impeded; making it the most challenging month for humanitarian access since January 2024.
- Humanitarian efforts to establish 215 temporary learning Sites for more than 30,000 children are underway as schools continue to be attacked.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east and south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 18 and 22 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 158 Palestinians were killed and 267 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 22 September 2024, at least 41,431 Palestinians were killed and 95,818 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 19 and 20 September:
 - On 19 September, seven Palestinians, including two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in the vicinity of At Tawba Mosque in Ad Daraj area, Gaza city.
 - On 20 September, six Palestinians, including four women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in the vicinity of Municipality of Gaza Park in Gaza city.
 - On 20 September, eight Palestinians, including two boys, one girl, and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a chalet was hit in western An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 20 September, six Palestinians, including at least one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when an apartment was hit in Batn Al Samin area, south of Khan Younis.
 - On 20 September, 13 Palestinians, including three women and three children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in north Rafah.

- Between the afternoons of 20 and 23 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 23 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,287 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) [reports](#) that only 17 out of 36 hospitals remain functional across Gaza – all of them partially –, with a cumulative capacity of 1,501 in-patient, maternity and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds. Ten field hospitals are also presently operational in the Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates, six fully and four only partially, providing an additional in-patient capacity of over 600 beds. On 18 September, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced the opening of a new field hospital in Deir al Balah but added that at present the facility is only providing outpatient consultations as the “expansion of other services depends on Israeli authorities, who have delayed supplies entering Gaza”. Meanwhile, out of 132 primary health-care facilities, only 57 are currently functional in the Strip, including 10 out of 27 UNRWA health-care centres. Alongside a critical shortage of medicines and essential supplies, the Health Cluster warns of a severe scarcity of blood units across Gaza, which is endangering the life of patients, including people suffering from Thalassemia and other conditions requiring regular blood transfusions. Meanwhile, MoH [continues](#) to warn about the lack of fuel, spare parts, and filters to repair and maintain electricity generators in hospitals, which is threatening the functionality of ICUs, nurseries, and other essential health services.
- Out of six WHO missions planned to northern and southern Gaza between 13 and 18 September, only one was facilitated by Israeli authorities, while three were significantly delayed and two were denied. WHO and its partners managed to reach health facilities in northern Gaza twice on 14 and 18 September, delivering 48,000 litres of fuel to the Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals. They also provided critically needed medical supplies to the newly rehabilitated Emergency Department at the Al Shifa Hospital and non-communicable disease kits to assist the Palestine Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) facilities in the north. WHO also facilitated the rotation of emergency medical team (EMT) personnel between northern and southern Gaza and the deployment of a new paediatrics EMT to the Kamal Adwan Hospital. Although the Indonesian Hospital is in an active evacuation zone, and the Al Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals are just 200 and 485 metres respectively from the affected area; they continue providing services to the affected population. Meanwhile, while dental care is almost absent in Gaza due to the lack of equipment and facilities, on 19 September, UNRWA [reopened](#) a dental clinic in one of its health centres in Khan Younis. The PRCS also reported the [completion](#) of the first fully equipped mobile operating room in southern Gaza that can be deployed whenever needed.
- Internally displaced persons (IDP) continue to be endangered. At least 32 people were killed when three schools were hit between 21 and 23 September. On 21 September, UNRWA's Az-Zaytun School sheltering thousands of IDPs southeast Gaza city was hit, killing 22 Palestinians and injuring over 30 others, according to Gaza MoH. The Palestinian Civil Defense reported that 14 children and five women were among the fatalities, and that of those who required amputations nine were children. On 22 September, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed when the Kafar Qasam school, sheltering IDPs in Ash Shata' Refugee Camp, west of Gaza city, was hit. Three people from the same family were reportedly killed when the Khalid Bin Al-Waleed school in Nusseirat Refugee Camp in Deir al Balah was hit, including a child and her parents.
- UNRWA has stated that [schools](#) “have turned into rubble or overcrowded places of refuge for displaced families living in fear.” Within this grim context, efforts are underway to establish temporary learning spaces (TLS) for children. As of 15 September, Education Cluster partners established 215 TLS across the Gaza Strip benefiting 33,616 children. While this is an important accomplishment, the number of children attending these spaces is only 5 per cent of school age children in Gaza. According to the [Education Cluster](#), ongoing hostilities severely restrict access to in-person learning spaces, and the persistent blockade on educational supplies hampers scaling-up the response. Additionally, the use of UNRWA and other schools as shelters for displaced populations further limits the availability of facilities for educational purposes.
- In [August](#), the UN and its humanitarian partners conducted 598 coordinated humanitarian movements across the Gaza Strip: 395 in the south and 203 in the north. Of these, only 250 were facilitated, 99 impeded (which include movements that managed to ultimately proceed) and 176 were denied. In total, 46 per cent of humanitarian movements were either denied or impeded in August, making it the most challenging month for humanitarian access since January 2024. The impact was particularly severe in the north, where only 45 per cent of the 203 requested movements were facilitated, including just one out of nine planned health movements to deliver over 200,000 litres of fuel to hospitals.
- Access challenges are compounded by unpredictable and restrictive time windows for humanitarian movements through the two Israeli-controlled checkpoints between the south and north of the Gaza strip. In addition to the limited operating hours, technical failures at the checkpoints have further delayed movements and compromised the safety of aid workers. For instance, on 24 August, a reportedly broken gate at a checkpoint delayed one movement by four hours, resulting in the failure to deliver 10,000 vaccines, 58 pallets of medicine, and 24,000 litres of fuel. In this challenging context, OCHA and other humanitarian partners attempted to conduct two movements in August to assist families with children trapped under the rubble. Humanitarian convoys are frequently required by Israeli forces to wait at holding points before approaching checkpoints, often for hours, leaving them exposed in high-risk environments. On 5 August, a convoy of two trucks delivering essential commodities to the north was attacked by crowds just 15 minutes after arriving at the holding point, resulting in the loss of all the goods intended to support vulnerable people in the north.

Funding

- As of 23 September, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.63 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN

estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)

- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 93 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



A damaged school used as a shelter for displaced families in central Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

Humanitarian Situation Update #223 | Gaza Strip

27 Sep 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 30 September.

Key Highlights

- So far in September, at least 11 schools sheltering internally displaced persons have been hit in Gaza, with nearly 100 fatalities reported.
- Displaced people continue to survive in abysmal conditions, crammed in worn-out tents and damaged structures, with limited food, water and other necessities, recent UN inter-agency assessments in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis find.
- As the winter approaches, flooding in or near displacement sites and medical points will increase the risk of disease spread and further shrink access to healthcare and sanitation, warn the Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Clusters.
- Nearly 90 per cent of coordinated humanitarian movements between northern and southern Gaza so far in September have been either denied or impeded.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, south of Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Rafah, as well as rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups in Khan Younis, also continue to be reported.
- On 23 September, the Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) released a [statement](#) on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), calling for an end to the atrocities in Gaza. They stated: “We cannot do our jobs in the face of overwhelming need and ongoing violence...More than 2 million Palestinians are without protection, food, water, sanitation, shelter, health care, education, electricity and fuel – the basic necessities to survive. Families have been forcibly displaced, time and time again, from one unsafe place to the next, with no way out. Women and girls’ dignity, safety, health and rights have been severely compromised. The risk of famine persists with all 2.1 million residents still in urgent need of food and livelihood assistance as humanitarian access remains restricted.” The Principals added: “The parties’ conduct over the last year makes a mockery of their claim to adhere to international humanitarian law and the minimum standards of humanity that it demands. Civilians must be protected and their essential needs must be met. There must be accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.”
- Between the afternoons of 22 and 26 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 103 Palestinians were killed and 274 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 26 September 2024, at least 41,534 Palestinians were killed and 96,092 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. Casualty figures covering until the afternoon of 27 September are not available as of the time of reporting.

- On 25 September, the MoH announced that approximately 88 unidentified Palestinian bodies were sent by Israeli authorities in a truck, which it initially refused to receive, citing lack of coordination or information to help identify the bodies. On 26 September, the MoH announced that the bodies had been exhumed by Israeli forces from graves and that it formed a committee to receive and bury the bodies in a manner that preserves their dignity.
- On 26 September, the MoH in Gaza reported that Al Falujah School in Jabalya was hit, killing at least 11 people including women and children, and injuring at least 22 others. On 23 September, following three separate attacks on schools in Gaza, the UN Human Rights Office [stated](#): “The Israeli military must stop attacking schools that provide the last shelter to Palestinians in Gaza as rains threaten to flood IDP [internally displaced people’s] tents... In September alone [as of 23 September], 10 schools have been hit, with 86 fatalities reported. We reiterate that all parties to the conflict have an obligation to respect and protect civilians...Considering the pattern of civilian harm and damage, the measures taken by the Israeli military in these cases do not appear to have been sufficient to prevent disproportionate harm and damage. The children of Gaza have already lost schools as a place of education. Now, they are being killed in schools as they seek shelter. This must end.”
- The following are other deadly incidents reported between 24 and 26 September:
 - On 24 September, at about 15:50, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Jabalya refugee camp, in North Gaza.
 - On 24 September, at about 16:45, 12 Palestinians, including at least three females, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in north An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 24 September, at about 19:10, a woman with disability and six other Palestinians were reportedly injured when a house was hit near Al Fardous school in Al Mawasi area west of Rafah. The woman reportedly later succumbed to her wounds.
 - On 24 September, at about 20:40, six Palestinian, including a mother and her children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Naser area in northeastern Rafah.
 - On 25 September, at about 19:05, five Palestinians, including a woman and her two girls, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al-Naser area in northeastern Rafah.
 - On 25 September, five Palestinians, including a seven-month pregnant woman, an 18-year-old woman, and three children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in block 7 in Al Bureij refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 26 September, at about 3:15, five Palestinians, including a woman and her two children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit east of Khan Younis city.
- Between the afternoons of 23 and 27 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 27 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,297 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- The Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) continues to report challenges to its ability to carry out rescue operations and save the lives of people trapped under rubble due to capacity constraints and lack of protection. On 25 September, the PCD centre in Al Daraj area in Gaza city was reportedly [hit](#) with a missile that did not explode, causing three injuries. The risk of collapse of partially damaged buildings where IDPs seek shelter is also a key concern. On 23 September, a six-storey building hosting at least 20 IDPs in Gaza city collapsed; PCD teams managed to rescue seven people and retrieve four bodies, but an estimated nine people remained under rubble as of 24 September due to shortages of heavy equipment, such as excavators and bulldozers. According to [PCD](#), more than 10,000 people remain under rubble across Gaza.
- Recent needs assessments conducted by the UN and its humanitarian partners at two collective shelters in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis on 19 and 22 September shed new light on the abysmal living conditions facing IDPs, which the upcoming winter season will aggravate. At both sites, displaced communities are facing a critical lack of cleaning supplies, hygiene kits, sanitary pads, diapers as well as clothes and infant formula for babies. There is also a dire shortage of assistive devices for the elderly and people with disabilities. Below are other assessment findings specific to each site.
 - The first site, an UNRWA school-turned-shelter in Al Bureij refugee camp, in Deir al Balah, hosts approximately 3,600 displaced people. Households are crammed in 56 classrooms and 70 tents, with an average of 80-100 people sharing the same classroom and 40 people the same tent. As winter approaches, there is a critical need for new tents to replace worn-out ones, as well as tarpaulins and nylon material to cover windows and doors damaged during the Israeli military incursion in Al Bureij in December 2023. The medical point at the site lacks personnel and key medications, and the unavailability of ambulances and transportation hampers IDPs’ access to hospitals. The water desalination unit at the site is not functional, and water distributions by aid organizations only cover the needs of 60 per cent of camp residents. Food conditions are also extremely precarious, with most IDPs relying on hot meals distributed twice a week that consist primarily of rice and lack nutritional diversity. According to the assessment, most residents eat only one meal per day, with some going an entire day without eating. As the majority of IDPs sold their mobile phones to buy food, the radio represents the main source of information for the community.
 - The second assessed site is a makeshift camp in Abasan, in eastern Khan Younis, that hosts approximately 2,500 people, including nearly 1,000 school-aged children, 100 of whom are orphans. No educational activities are currently taking place at the camp and separated children face heightened protection risks. The site is in a flood-prone area, adjacent to a dumping

site, and the population is suffering from respiratory diseases as a result. Medical facilities are absent and there is no food support at this site, except for occasional hot meals provided by a charity organization.

- The Health Cluster [reports](#) that strengthening Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) measures in health facilities is a key priority across Gaza. In August, the Health and WASH Clusters set up a joint Technical Working Group to address this urgent need and developed an IPC assessment tool to examine IPC practices at health facilities, the availability of IPC supplies and equipment, and ensure a rapid inter-Cluster response to communities in the event of new outbreaks of infectious diseases. A total of 14 primary and secondary healthcare facilities in northern and southern Gaza were subsequently assessed and four hospitals - Kamal Adwan and Al Ahli in northern Gaza and Al Aqsa and Nasser in Deir al Balah - were provided with IPC and WASH supplies. Cluster partners also trained 44 Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) staff members on basic IPC practices and deployed 35 IPC focal points to priority health facilities. Despite ongoing efforts, the severe lack of cleaning and hygiene supplies across Gaza continues to severely hamper the scale up of IPC and WASH interventions.
- WASH and Health Cluster partners are working to identify flood-prone areas, as well as assess and mitigate the potential impact of flooding on public health in Gaza. In a joint assessment published on 25 September, the two Clusters [warned](#) that, based on flood risk assessments prior to the escalation of hostilities, many IDP sites are assessed to be located in or near flooding hotspots and, given the severe level of destruction over the past 11 months, additional locations are vulnerable to flooding at present. Alongside a heightened risk of drowning and injuries associated with rapid floods, access to basic healthcare services in the Gaza Strip might be further compromised as 47 per cent of health service points are at risk of being flooding hotspots and could sustain damages or become otherwise inaccessible to the population. Floods also increase the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, as sewage can more easily contaminate water supplies and stagnant water pools will be breeding sites for mosquitos and other insects. Moreover, flooding might damage what remains of the sanitation infrastructure in Gaza and further disrupt waste management systems, including the management of medical waste, exacerbating the risk of disease transmission.
- Humanitarian aid movements in Gaza continue to face significant access constraints. Movements, particularly between northern and southern Gaza via Israeli military checkpoints, are frequently impeded, often leading to incomplete or aborted missions. Impediments include inconsistent procedures, prolonged waiting times at holding points, and insecurity. Between 1 and 26 September, out of 588 planned humanitarian movements coordinated with the Israeli authorities across Gaza, 79 involved movements between northern and southern Gaza, of which 87 per cent (69 movements) were either impeded or denied. These restrictions on aid delivery, particularly in relation to humanitarian access to and from northern Gaza, deprive hundreds of thousands of people of critical relief supplies and services.

Funding

- As of 27 September, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.64 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 93 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



Makeshift shelters leaving internally displaced persons in in Gaza exposed to the rain. Photo by UNRWA

Humanitarian Situation Update #224 | Gaza Strip

30 Sep 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 2 October.

Key Highlights

- Addressing the critical needs of over 2.1 million people during the rainy season cannot happen without unimpeded humanitarian access into and across Gaza.
- Many of the 215 temporary learning spaces serving nearly 34,000 children now risk being severely affected by upcoming floodings, the Education Cluster warns.
- Humanitarian organizations are providing about 600,000 daily meals across Gaza, but over 1.4 million people did not receive their food rations in September, due to dwindling supplies, the Food Security Sector reports.
- Only four out of 37 olive presses remain functional throughout the Strip and more than one million olive trees have been uprooted since October 2023, according to the Food Security Sector.
- Close to 100 per cent of Gaza's population now live in poverty, compared with 64 per cent before the onset of escalated hostilities, according to the World Bank.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, south of Gaza city, in and around An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 26 and 30 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 81 Palestinians were killed and 267 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, at least 41,615 Palestinians were killed and 96,359 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 26 and 29 September:
 - On 26 September, two children and their parents were reportedly killed and others injured, when a house was hit in Jabalya, in North Gaza.
 - On 26 September, three Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured, when a house was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 27 September, four Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured, when they were hit in An Nuseirat New camp, in Deir al Balah.

- On 27 September, at least three Palestinians, including one woman, were reportedly killed and four others injured, when a house was hit in Al Mawasi area, in western Rafah.
 - On 27 September, at least two children and their parents were reportedly killed and others injured, when a house was hit in An Naser area, in northern Rafah.
 - On 29 September, three Palestinian men were reportedly killed and six others injured, when a house was hit near Ash Shabia area in Ad Daraj neighbourhood, in Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 27 and 30 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,298 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
 - As the rainy season approaches, the already dire living conditions in Gaza will deteriorate further, putting hundreds of thousands of people at heightened risk of additional displacement, asset loss, health hazards, and limited access to essential services. The UN and its humanitarian partners have developed a Winterization Plan, which aims to address the critical needs of over 2.1 million people in Gaza during the winter months, including more than 850,000 people across 49 neighbourhoods living in flood-prone areas. The plan, which is a subset of the Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), requires US\$242 million to implement a wide array of urgent interventions, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups including female-headed households, children, persons at risk of violence including gender-based violence, the elderly, disabled and chronically ill people. These include, among other things: enhancing conditions in shelters to protect people from the cold and flooding; distributing warm clothing, blankets, tarpaulins, heating materials to displaced households; installing temporary drainage systems to redirect floodwaters away from critical infrastructure, including dumping sites; and establishing winter-proof baby-friendly tents for breastfeeding and provision of nutrition services. However, the implementation of planned interventions cannot happen in the absence of unimpeded entry of required humanitarian items into Gaza, the availability of adequate quantities of fuel and facilitation of safe humanitarian movement between warehouses and distribution points. The ongoing challenges faced by humanitarian actors in accessing northern Gaza are particularly concerning, as some parts, historically, have a high potential for flooding.
 - The ongoing crisis in Gaza will set children's education "back by up to five years and risks creating a lost generation of permanently traumatized Palestinian youth," according to a new [study](#) by the University of Cambridge, the Centre for Lebanese Studies and UNRWA. The report, the first to comprehensively quantify the toll of the crisis on learning, lays out three different scenarios for Gaza's younger generation, depending on when the crisis ends and how promptly the education system is restored. The most optimistic projection – assuming an immediate ceasefire and rapid efforts to rebuild the education system – is that students will have lost competencies equivalent to two or three years of schooling. Beyond the ongoing crisis which has now lasted for over 11 months, this calculation also factors in the impact of COVID-19 and of the previous escalation of hostilities in May 2021. If formal classes do not resume until 2026, the losses could stretch for up to five years. This does not account for the additional impacts of trauma, malnutrition and forced displacement, which are further eroding children's physical, cognitive and emotional wellbeing.
 - The Education Cluster warns that many of the 215 established temporary learning spaces (TLSs), which serve nearly 34,000 children, now risk being severely affected by upcoming floodings. Geospatial analysis by the cluster reveals that eight TLSs are directly located within flood-prone areas, another 24 TLSs benefiting nearly 5,800 students are less than 100 metres away from such areas, and an additional 14 TLSs serving almost 3,000 students are near the coastline. With the destruction of essential drainage infrastructure due to the ongoing hostilities, expected heavy rains can cause significant damage and force the suspension of informal learning in these sites. The cluster stresses that ongoing restrictions by the Israeli authorities on the entry of educational materials and prefabricated structures, logistical and movement challenges for cluster partners, as well as severe overcrowding in sites hosting internally displaced persons, all risk hindering the implementation of urgent risk mitigation measures. The cluster also faces severe resource limitations preventing investments in infrastructural improvements.
 - The ability of humanitarian partners to provide food assistance is increasingly shrinking across the Strip. The Food Security Sector (FSS) reports that, in September, due to continuous food supply shortages, more than 1.4 million people did not receive their monthly food rations across Gaza. Meanwhile, due to insecurity, damaged roads, the breakdown of law and order and access limitations along the main humanitarian route between the Kerem Shalom Crossing, Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, as well as the suspension of humanitarian aid entries to northern Gaza via the Jordan Corridor since the security incident of 8 September, at least 100,000 metric tons of food commodities, equivalent to two months of food parcels for the whole population, await entry outside the Strip; these goods must urgently be brought in to prevent further interruptions in life-saving distribution. FSS partners also continue to face challenges in keeping kitchens and bakeries operational; as of the third week of September, about 600,000 cooked meals prepared in more than 150 kitchens were provided daily to families across the Strip, but this level of meal production is expected to decrease in October due to dwindling supplies. Moreover, while 14 bakeries supported by humanitarian partners are presently operational, the continued functionality of the six bakeries in northern Gaza is contingent on securing yeast or shifting to the production of yeast-free bread. In its latest [analysis](#) concerning August, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) indicated that humanitarian assistance is only partially mitigating the severity of acute food insecurity and people are expected to continue enduring "large to extreme food consumption deficits, malnourishment, and hunger-related mortality" until "safe, consistent humanitarian access" facilitates both an increase in the quantity of aid delivered and effective distribution to people in need.
 - The agricultural sector continues to suffer from increasing damage. FSS reports that recent military operations in Beit Lahiya, in northern Gaza, have led to the additional destruction of more than 50 dunums (five hectares) of agriculture land and agriculture

assets, including fields planted with eggplants, oranges, peppers and other vegetables owned by at least ten farmers. The latest satellite imagery [collected](#) in September 2024 shows that approximately 68 per cent (102 square kilometres) of permanent crop fields in Gaza exhibit a significant decline in health and density, compared with the average of the previous seven years. FSS warns that, while the olive harvest season has started in the Strip, there is a sharp decrease in olive production due to mass destruction of olive orchards, with more than one million olive trees uprooted since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023. Only four out of 37 olive presses remain functional throughout the Strip, but challenging access to fuel represents a key obstacle hampering the use of even this remaining equipment.

- The fishing sector, which used to be a primary source of livelihoods in Gaza, has similarly not been spared by the impact of nearly 12 months of escalated hostilities. According to a recent [report](#) by the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), since October 2023, 150 fishermen have died and 87 per cent of fishing boats have been damaged or destroyed, including 96 motorized boats and 900 unmotorized ones. Gaza's port and other key fishing infrastructure have also been reportedly destroyed, with indirect losses estimated by PNGO at about \$7 million per month. This, compounded by ongoing fishing restrictions, lack of equipment and fuel, is resulting in thousands of fishermen losing their livelihoods, stresses PNGO.
- The Palestinian economy is "nearing economic freefall, amidst a historic humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip" according to a [report](#) by the World Bank published on 23 September. Gaza's economy has contracted by 86 per cent in the first quarter of 2024, with the overall GDP in the OPT declining by 35 per cent, "marking its largest economic contraction on record." The report further highlights that the halt of most commercial operations and disruption of supply chains have caused the price of basic commodities to surge to about 250 per cent in August 2024 compared with August 2023. Moreover, severe damage to the agri-food economy has compounded the humanitarian crisis and devastated livelihoods; prior to 2020, 13 per cent of Gaza's workforce were employed in the agricultural sector that also offered informal employment to over 90 per cent of the population. Gaza's sinking economy has led the World Bank to assess that close to 100 per cent of Gaza's population now live in poverty, compared with 64 per cent before the onset of escalated hostilities.

Funding

- As of 30 September, Member States have disbursed about \$1.68 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (49 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 93 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



Destruction in northern Gaza. Photo by OHCHR/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #226 | Gaza Strip

04 Oct 2024

From now on, the Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip will be covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The next update will be issued on 8 October.

Key Highlights

- At least six schools and one orphanage serving as shelters for internally displaced persons were hit in the last four days, the UN Human Rights Office reports, calling on the Israeli military to immediately end the pattern of strikes in Gaza on buildings serving as shelters for displaced people.
- At least 87 per cent of schools in Gaza have been directly hit or damaged since October 2023, including one-third of UNRWA schools, a new assessment by the Education Cluster finds.
- Only 229 critical patients, along with 316 companions, have been exceptionally medically evacuated from Gaza since the closure of the Rafah Crossing in early May. This includes eight patients, including seven children, evacuated to Romania on 30 September.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun and west of Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza, south of Gaza city, east of Al Bureij and Al Maghazi refugee camps in Deir al Balah, southeast Khan Younis and east and south Rafah also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 30 September and 4 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 187 Palestinians were killed and 485 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 4 October 2024, at least 41,802 Palestinians were killed and 96,844 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- On 3 October, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) [called](#) on “the Israeli military to immediately end the pattern of strikes in Gaza on buildings” serving as shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to OHCHR, in the early hours of 2 October, at least six Palestinians were killed when the Israeli military reportedly hit Al Amal Institute for Orphans that was also serving as an IDP shelter. Furthermore, in the preceding 72 hours, at least six schools serving as IDP shelters had been hit, resulting in tens of fatalities, including children and women. In September, OHCHR documented at least 14 strikes on schools and at least one strike on schools every other day in August, noting that these “attacks have become an almost daily event.” OHCHR emphasized: “Irrespective of whether Palestinian armed groups were present in these facilities, the resulting high rate of civilian casualties makes it difficult to conceive that such strikes are proportionate according to the principles of international humanitarian law. These attacks have long-term impacts on the civilian population, destroying the only viable shelters remaining for the more than one million Palestinians who have been forcibly displaced into an unsafe, unilaterally declared ‘humanitarian zone’ where there is little or no access to life-saving essential humanitarian assistance.” In its statement, OHCHR also reminded Palestinian armed groups that “using the presence of civilians to shield themselves from attack constitutes a violation of IHL”, calling on them to “cease and refrain from any such use.”
- The following are other deadly incidents reported between 30 September and 3 October:

- On 30 September, at about 23:10, 11 Palestinians, including three children and four women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in southwestern An Nuseirat refugee camp in northern Deir al Balah.
- On 1 October, at about 22:30, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Shuja'iyyeh neighbourhood, east of Gaza city.
- On 1 October, at about 21:25, at least 10 Palestinians, including a woman and a toddler, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Maan area east of Khan Younis city. Nine additional family members reportedly remained under rubble. Ambulances were unable to reach the area and evacuate the injured for several hours due to the ongoing incursion and shelling.
- On 1 October, at about 13:10, 12 Palestinians, including at least a woman and a girl, were reportedly killed and at least 26 others were injured when two IDP tents were hit in Mawasi area west of Khan Younis.
- On 2 October, at about 00:30, 12 Palestinians, including four females, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Al Manarah neighbourhood southeast of Khan Younis. Bodies stuck under rubble were only recovered hours later due to intensified shelling and shooting.
- On 3 October, at about 1:30, five Palestinians, including two children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Shati' (Beach) refugee camp, west Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 30 September and 4 October, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 4 October 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,546 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 346 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,297 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- According to a new [assessment](#) by the Education Cluster, which relies on satellite imagery collected on 6 September, at least 87 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip (493 out of 564) have been directly hit or damaged and are currently estimated to require either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again, up from 84.6 per cent in July 2024. Fifty-five per cent of these schools (273) are government schools, a third (161) are UNRWA schools, and 12 per cent (59) are private schools. Since the last damage analysis on 6 July, 35 additional school buildings have been classified as directly hit, 11 of them in the Rafah governorate and another 11 in Gaza governorate. Additionally, the analysis finds that at least 71 schools were totally destroyed, up from 65 schools as of 6 July, and 48 additional schools lost at least half of their structures. Prior to the escalation, "directly hit" or "damaged" schools served about 541,227 students and had more than 20,222 teachers, who represent, respectively, about 86 and 87 per cent of the total student population and teaching staff in Gaza. The number of buildings requiring full reconstruction or rehabilitation highlights the severe impact of ongoing hostilities on school facilities. The situation jeopardizes the possibility of using the schools again for educational purposes, ultimately threatening children's right to learn.
- Preparations are underway for the second round of the polio vaccination campaign, which is scheduled to take place in mid-October and will also include the distribution of Vitamin A supplements, [reports](#) WHO. This new vaccination drive will integrate lessons learnt from the first round and findings from the post-campaign assessments conducted in September. Concurrently, the Health Cluster is tackling several other health-related priorities. On 30 September, 3,000 blood units collected through a blood donation campaign in the West Bank were delivered to health facilities across Gaza to mitigate the shortage of blood units. On 19 and 23 September, WHO conducted two missions to the Kerem Shalom Crossing to facilitate the entry of eight trucks carrying urgently needed medications and supplies. Earlier on 20 September, WHO collected eight pallets donated by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Field Hospital from the field hospital in Rafah for distribution to other Emergency Medical Teams in northern and southern Gaza. Moreover, as part of efforts to enhance Infection Prevention and Control, the Trauma Working Group is also standardizing wound management protocols to enhance the quality of wound care and reduce the rate of infections at both primary healthcare centers and hospitals.
- A dedicated working group under the Health Cluster is currently mapping all Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) service providers across the Strip to ensure a coordinated response to the vast scale of mental health needs and trauma. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reports](#) that young patients from Gaza receiving treatment at the MSF Reconstructive Surgery Hospital in Amman, Jordan, are experiencing a combination of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and acute stress syndrome, and will require psychotherapy for years to learn how to live with the traumatic events they experienced. Meanwhile, in Gaza, attacks impacting healthcare have continued, with 516 such attacks recorded by WHO as of 25 September. WHO [informs](#) that on 21 September, an MoH warehouse in northern Rafah was hit, resulting in the reported killing of four MoH employees and the injury of six others. MoH also confirmed the death of three healthcare workers who were reportedly detained by Israeli army while on duty between December 2023 and March 2024; in total five health workers have died in detention since 7 October.
- In a positive development, on 30 September, eight patients, including seven children, were [evacuated](#) from Gaza to receive specialized medical treatment in Romania. Four patients have cancer, two have blood diseases, one requires a kidney transplant, and one has a severe injury; they travelled to Bucharest accompanied by 24 family members. The operation was [coordinated](#) by the EU directly from Gaza under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and was undertaken jointly with Romania, WHO and the Israeli authorities. Since the closure of Rafah Crossing in early May, 229 patients, along with 316 companions, have been exceptionally evacuated outside Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing, while an estimated 12,000 patients in need of urgent treatment remain inside the Strip. WHO continues to reiterate its appeal for the urgent establishment of evacuation corridors and "for all possible routes to be used for safe and timely passage of all patients who need specialised care."

Funding

- As of 4 October, Member States have disbursed about \$1.68 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (49 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During September 2024, the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund (OPT HF) managed 87 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.5 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (90 per cent) and the West Bank (10 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 48 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 27 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 31 out of the 60 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



Displaced Palestinians in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

Humanitarian Situation Update #227 | Gaza Strip

08 Oct 2024

As of 4 October, the Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update continues to be issued every other Wednesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 10 October.

Key Highlights

- Hundreds of thousands of people and dozens of humanitarian facilities have been affected by four new evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military; at least 70,000 people have been displaced and there are growing risks that humanitarian access will be further constrained, particularly between southern and northern Gaza.
- The Israeli military launches a military operation in northern Gaza and the area is becoming increasingly cut off.
- September saw the lowest volume of commercial and humanitarian supplies entering Gaza since at least March 2024, with a drop in dietary diversity of children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women across Gaza, reports UNICEF.
- Nearly 68 per cent of Gaza's cropland has been damaged, increasing the imminent risk of famine and jeopardizing current and future potential food production, warns FAO.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Between 5 and 7 October, Israeli forces issued several evacuation orders for areas in northern Deir al Balah, North Gaza and Gaza governorates, reminding residents that these areas are still considered active combat zones, as well as areas in Khan Younis (additional information available below). On 6 October, the Israeli military announced that a military operation commenced the night before in Jabalya, with heavy fighting in the area reported. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups toward Israel was also reported. On 7 October, the UN Human Rights Office [stated](#) that the "attacks in northern Gaza, combined with mass evacuation orders, which are inconsistent with international humanitarian law, raise serious concerns about the forced displacement and forced transfer of Palestinian residents of Gaza."
- In a statement marking one year since the 7 October attack in Israel and the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, Ms. Joyce Msuya, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator [said](#) that no "statistics or words can fully convey the extent of the physical, mental and societal devastation that has taken place," stressing that "we know what must happen: The hostages must be released and treated humanely. Civilians must be protected and their essential needs met. Palestinians arbitrarily detained must be released. Humanitarian workers must be safeguarded and their work facilitated. Perpetrators must be held accountable for any serious violations of international humanitarian law. And the assault on Gaza must stop."
- Between the afternoons of 4 and 7 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 163 Palestinians were killed and 737 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 8 October 2024, at least 41,965 Palestinians were killed and 97,590 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.

- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 4 and 6 October:
 - On 4 October, at about 14:10, five female Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Bureij refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 4 October, at about 16:00, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit, in Ash Shati' (Beach) camp, in Gaza city.
 - On 4 October, at about 23:30, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit northeast of An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 5 October, at about 8:30, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of people was hit in east Beit Hanoun, in North Gaza.
 - On 5 October, at about 20:00, ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit, in Jabaliya town, in North Gaza.
 - On 5 October, at about 22:00, nine Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit west of Jabalya refugee camp, in North Gaza.
 - On 5 October, at about 22:00, five Palestinians, including two children and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 6 October, at about 2:10, 21 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when Al Aqsa Martyrs Mosque in front of Al Aqsa Hospital was hit in Deir al Balah.
 - On 6 October, at about 14:10, five Palestinians, including one girl, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Shati' refugee camp west of Gaza city. The Palestinian Civil Defense reported that others remained under rubble.
- Between the afternoons of 4 and 8 October, one Israeli soldier was reportedly killed in Gaza and one soldier died of wounds sustained in Gaza in June 2024, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 8 October 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,548 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 348 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,299 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- Between 5 and 7 October, the Israeli military issued four new evacuation orders for: 11 blocks in Al Bureij and An Nuseirat refugee camps in northern Deir Al Balah; Gaza and North Gaza governorates; 31 neighbourhoods in North Gaza including Beit Hanoun, Jabalya and Beit Lahiya; and eight neighbourhoods in Khan Younis. Residents were ordered to relocate immediately to Al Mawasi area west of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. According to the same announcements by the Israeli military, the area designated for civilians to stay (Al Mawasi) initially expanded by 10.71 square kilometres and was subsequently reduced by 1.4 square kilometres. As of 7 October, the Israeli-designated area for civilians to relocate is estimated to span 57 square kilometres or some 15 per cent of the Gaza Strip. At present, the total area covered by evacuation orders in the Gaza Strip, excluding those that have been revoked, constitutes about 84 per cent of the Gaza Strip.
- These orders affect hundreds of thousands of people, particularly in northern Gaza where more than 400,000 people are under pressure to move southward to Al Mawasi, which is already overcrowded and lacks basic services. Humanitarian access also risks becoming further constrained, particularly between southern and northern Gaza, and so are the accessibility and functionality of key humanitarian facilities within areas slated for evacuation. Initial estimates from the Site Management Working Group (SMWG) indicate that about 50,000 people have already moved from North Gaza toward Gaza city and more than 20,000 have moved from An Nuseirat and Al Bureij refugee camps toward southern Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. The SMWG additionally reports that 12 sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in areas newly affected by these orders in northern Deir al Balah, and so are more than 300 patients in the Indonesian, Kamal Adwan and Al Awda hospitals in North Gaza according to the Health Cluster, and dozens of facilities that offer critical health, water, hygiene, sanitation, and education services.
- Overall, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 10 hospitals with a cumulative capacity of 730 beds, 19 primary health-care centres and 32 medical points in the North Gaza and Gaza governorates risk being affected by the unfolding situation. Should WHO and its partners be unable to maintain these facilities fuelled, critical health services in Intensive Care Units, operation theatres, maternity wards, haemodialysis units and emergency departments might have to be abruptly stopped. Additionally, essential health supplies and medications must be immediately delivered to these facilities, including trauma disposables and medications for patients with non-communicable diseases. In light of the dire shortage of blood units, on 7 October, the Ministry of Health appealed to people in northern Gaza to urgently donate blood, either at the Emergency Department of Al Shifa Hospital or at As Sahaba Medical Complex.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that, in September, the volume of supplies entering Gaza – both commercial and humanitarian – has been the lowest since at least March 2024, noting that the situation is expected to further deteriorate. A survey conducted by UNICEF in mid-September of over 2,500 recipients of humanitarian cash assistance shows that both the availability of goods and the dietary diversity of children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women decreased across all areas of Gaza compared with July. According to survey responses, over 35 per cent of children and 40 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women had only eaten one food type the day prior to the survey and 30 per cent in both groups had only consumed two food types. Moreover, only five per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women had consumed dairy products,

and six per cent of children had eaten some meat, with these percentages plummeting to one and three per cent in northern Gaza, respectively. Moreover, the survey, complemented by in-person visits to markets, showed further price increases of basic food items in northern Gaza. For example, rice and vegetable oil in northern Gaza now cost more than US\$5 per kilogramme (kg) or litre (l), while remaining more affordable in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis (below \$2/kg and 2.5/l, respectively).

- According to the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)), in the northern governorates, wheat flour and canned food are the only food items readily available on the market. Dairy products are unavailable, while vegetables, fruits, eggs, and vegetable oil are in severe shortage and priced very high. Other food items, such as pulses and rice, are moderately available. In Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, wheat flour, canned food, rice, pulses, and vegetable oil remain available. However, there is a moderate shortage of vegetables and eggs, while dairy products are in severe shortage. Media reports [suggest](#) that the spike in the price of market commodities is partly due to extremely high increases in costs of bringing in commercial supplies, including hefty import permits, transportation costs, and fees paid to private security companies to secure the trucks due to looting driven by the breakdown of law and order. These costs are then passed on to consumers. An [analysis](#) conducted by Chistian Aid in late August in northern Gaza shows that, while the price of some staples like bread and flour has decreased since March, others have continued to soar, with onions for instance costing 700 per cent more compared to five months prior, and some products such as chicken, dates or bottled water being unavailable, forcing people to buy drinking water from mobile tanks.
- No cooking gas has entered northern Gaza for twelve consecutive months, according to the Food Security Sector ([FSS](#)), while the price of firewood on the market is making it inaccessible to most households. Firewood found in markets is sourced from the remains of demolished homes, furniture and electricity poles, WFP [reports](#), and its relatively high prices, combined with severe gas shortages “is pushing more people into energy poverty.” This continues to force displaced families, who are among the most vulnerable people, to cook by burning wood and plastic from waste, which hinders proper food preparation, exacerbates health risks and causes environmental hazards, including the risk of fires in severely overcrowded tent sites.
- The latest satellite-based agricultural damage [assessment](#) conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNOSAT shows that 67.6 per cent of Gaza’s cropland had been damaged, as of 1 September, up from 57.3 per cent in May and 42.6 per cent in February 2024, with North Gaza currently having the highest proportion of damage among all governorates (78.2 per cent). Additionally, over 71 per cent of orchards and other trees, 67 per cent of field crops, and 58.5 per cent of vegetables have been damaged. Heavy vehicle tracks, razing, shelling, and other conflict-related pressures have also significantly damaged Gaza’s agricultural infrastructure, with a total of 1,188 out of 2,261 agricultural wells (52.5 per cent) and over 44 per cent of greenhouses damaged. Furthermore, most of the Gaza city port infrastructure and vessels were destroyed in October 2023 and remain non-functional, with severe repercussions on trade and livelihoods.
- The extremely limited entry of fertilizers and other livestock and crop production inputs into the Strip continues to be a key obstacle hampering the restoration of local food production in Gaza, with agricultural activities – including small-scale gardening that is critical to enhance dietary diversity – remaining largely suspended, highlights FSS. Coupled with the “unprecedented levels” of agricultural damage in Gaza, FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol, [stressed](#) that this “raises serious concerns about the potential for food production now and in the future” and “compounds the imminent risk of famine in the whole Gaza Strip.”
- The Gaza Strip has faced a year of humanitarian crisis, with frontline civil defense, health, and aid workers enduring immense challenges. Over 300 aid workers have lost their lives in Gaza, the majority being UNRWA staff, making Gaza the most dangerous place for aid workers globally. The situation is equally dire for health workers; MoH reported that a total of 986 health workers have been killed, including some who are counted as aid workers. Furthermore, the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD), which is currently operating at 20 per cent of its capacity, reported that 85 of its staff have been killed, and another 292 injured, with 14 instances of staff being hit while on duty. Additionally, 52 PCD vehicles have been destroyed or damaged, and a lack of fuel and spare parts, alongside access constraints, have resulted in over 15,600 unaddressed appeals for assistance, PCD reported.

Funding

- As of 8 October, Member States have disbursed about \$1.72 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (50 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During September 2024, the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund (OPT HF) managed 87 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.5 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (90 per cent) and the West Bank (10 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 48 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 27 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 31 out of the 60 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



A UN official in northern Gaza on 10 October 2024. Photo by OCHA/Georgios Petropoulos

Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip

15 Oct 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. As of this week, the Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 17 October.

Key Highlights

- The Israeli military has intensified, with few exceptions, a siege on northern Gaza, while areas in central Gaza have seen at least two mass casualty incidents on Sunday and Monday.
- The only three hospitals in North Gaza are operating at minimum capacity and no primary health-care centres remain operational, reports the Health Cluster.
- No food aid entered northern Gaza for 12 days, people have run out of ways to cope, food systems have collapsed, and the risk of famine is real, the World Food Programme warns.
- Preparations by the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster for the rainy season have been limited due to fuel shortages, access impediments, lack of supplies and resources, and widespread damage.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. On 6 October, the Israeli military announced that a military operation commenced the night before in Jabalya and, since 1 October, has tightened a siege on northern Gaza. Heavy fighting in and around Jabaliya continues to be reported, so is rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups toward Israel.
- “In the past two weeks, over 50,000 people have been displaced from the Jabalya area, which is cut off, while others remain stranded in their homes amid increased bombardment and fighting. A military siege that deprives civilians of essential means of survival is unacceptable,” [stressed](#) the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Muhannad Hadi, on 13 October. Warning that “civilians must not be forced to choose between displacement and starvation” and must have “a safe place to go, with shelter, food, medicine and water,” Mr. Hadi urged the opening of multiple entry routes for critical supplies and safe humanitarian response efforts to immediately reach people in need as well as emphasized that civilians must be protected and their basic needs met.
- Between the afternoons of 8 and 15 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 379 Palestinians were killed and 1,423 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 15 October 2024, at least 42,344 Palestinians were killed and 99,013 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- On 13 and 14 October, at least two mass casualty incidents took place in Deir al Balah governorate. On 13 October, at about 21:30, 22 Palestinians, including 15 children, were killed and 80 others injured, according to the Government Media Office, when Al Mufti UNRWA school sheltering over 6,200 IDPs was shelled in An Nuseirat refugee camp. [According](#) to UNRWA, this school was going to be used as a Polio vaccination site the following day. On 14 October, at about 1:20, an Israeli airstrike hit the courtyard of Al

Aqsa hospital, in Deir al Balah, where internally displaced people (IDPs) took shelter. At least four people were burned to death and at least 40 others were injured, including women and children, according to MoH. Médecins sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) reported that Al Aqsa hospital treated 40 patients, including 10 children and eight women, many of whom with severe burns, and another 25 patients had to be referred to other health facilities due to the lack of capacity at Al Aqsa, which a few hours earlier had already received dozens of people injured in the strike on Al Mufti school. According to an assessment by UN agencies, out of the hundreds of displaced families sheltering in the courtyard, some 40 families were affected, half of whom lost their shelter and other belongings in the fire. Referring to these incidents, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Joyce Msuya, [stated](#): “There seems to be no end to the horrors that Palestinians in Gaza are forced to endure... There really is no safe place in Gaza for people to go. Fighting is intensifying in the north and essential supplies for survival are running out... These atrocities must end. Civilians and civilian infrastructure must always be protected.”

- The following are some of the other deadly incidents reported between 6 and 14 October:
 - On 6 October, according to [MSF](#), after strikes hit a mosque and a school in Deir al Balah, Al Aqsa hospital [received](#) 53 wounded patients and 22 fatalities. Many patients had injuries to the head, thorax and abdomen and several had to be treated on the floor due to the shortage of beds.
 - On 7 October, at about 15:00, 13 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of people was hit near Abu Qamar petrol station, in Jabalya refugee camp, in North Gaza.
 - On 7 October, at about 22:10, 19 Palestinians, including nine women and an unknown number of children, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Block 10 in Al Bureij refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 7 October, at about 14:50, 10 Palestinians, including four women and three children, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Al Atatrah neighbourhood in An Naser area in northeastern Rafah.
 - On 9 October, at about 1:40, nine Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Shujai'yeh neighbourhood in eastern Gaza city.
 - On 9 October, according to the UN Human Rights Office ([OHCHR](#)), a strike on Al Yaman As Saeed Hospital, where IDPs were sheltering, reportedly killed 17 people.
 - On 10 October, around noon, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when people attempting to evacuate from Jabalya refugee camp through Abu Sharakh roundabout were shot at from the air.
 - On 10 October, at about 11:20, 28 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and more than 54 were injured, including five severely injured children, when Rufaydah school sheltering IDPs was hit west of Deir Al Balah.
 - On 11 October, at about 21:00, 22 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and 90 others injured when several houses in a residential block were hit in Jabalya Al Balad, in North Gaza.
 - On 12 October, at about 16:00, nine Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Yafawi Street, in Jabalya refugee camp, in North Gaza.
 - On 12 October, at about 22:30, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 13 October, at about 16:30, five Palestinian children were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of Palestinian children was hit while playing in front of a kindergarten in As Shati' (Beach) camp, west of Gaza city.
 - On 14 October, at about 10:00, ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and around 40 others were injured when a group of people was hit outside the [UNRWA](#) distribution centre in Jabalya refugee camp. According to UNRWA, this happened while people were trying to collect food and flour from the centre.
- Between the afternoons of 8 and 15 October, five Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 15 October 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,553 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 353 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,345 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- During the first half October, two journalists were killed and three others were injured in Gaza, according to Committee to Protect Journalists ([CPJ](#)). On 6 October, a Palestinian journalist and freelance photographer was killed by a missile fired from an Israeli drone, and on 9 October another journalist was killed and one injured when an Israeli drone fired close to a TV crew covering Israeli forces operations in Jabalya refugee camp in North Gaza, CPJ [reported](#). According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate ([PJS](#)), between 7 October 2023 and 10 October 2024, 168 Palestinian journalists and media workers were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 17 women, 360 were injured, and 60 were detained.
- Evacuation orders continue to severely affect hundreds of thousands of people across Gaza, trigger recurrent waves of displacement, and restrict access to essential services. Since 7 October 2023, the Israeli military has issued over 65 evacuation orders, including five since 1 October 2024. As a result, about 84 per cent of the Gaza Strip are currently under evacuation orders, excluding those that had been revoked. This month's orders cover about 70 square kilometres, or 19 per cent of the Strip, and include areas that were previously ordered to evacuate. According to initial estimates by the UN and its partners, at least 75,000

people have been displaced over the past 10 days, mostly within the north; about 100 people have crossed from northern Gaza southward via Salah Ad Din or Al Rashid roads; and the orders issued this month applied to tens of critical service facilities, including 16 health facilities, tens of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, 28 schools sheltering IDPs, and one bakery.

- All three hospitals in the North Gaza governorate – Kamal Adwan, Al Awda and the Indonesian Hospital – are operating at minimum capacity amid dire shortages of fuel, blood units, trauma disposables, medications for patients with non-communicable diseases, and the ongoing military activities nearby, reports the Health Cluster. In total, 285 patients remain in these facilities, including eight children and five adults receiving mechanical ventilation in Intensive Care Units and 161 patients in emergency departments. Many patients urgently need advanced procedures, such as neurosurgery and vascular surgery, which cannot be conducted under current conditions. Following three consecutive failed attempts to reach these hospitals on 8, 9 and 10 October, which were impeded by long delays at Israeli military checkpoints and intense fighting in the area of Jabalya, on 12 October, two missions led by the World Health Organization (WHO), together with OCHA, UNMAS and other partners, finally [managed](#) to transfer 19 critical patients from Kamal Adwan to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city and to deliver 15,000 litres of fuel to Kamal Adwan and 5,000 to Al Awda.
- While the recent evacuation of patients from Kamal Adwan hospital aimed at alleviating the pressure on the hospital's limited resources, the facility remains overwhelmed, receiving at least 50-70 newly injured patients daily, reports WHO. While emergency obstetric care continues to be provided at Kamal Adwan and Al Awda, "the lives of newborns in incubators and women with pregnancy complications are hanging by a thread," [highlights](#) the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), stressing that over 9,000 pregnant women have been forced to move yet again due to the latest evacuation orders. Meanwhile, none of the 25 primary health-care centres (PHCs) in the North Gaza governorate are functional, and only five out of 15 medical points that had been operational in recent months continue to provide basic services, according to the Health Cluster.
- In Gaza governorate, the situation is also deeply concerning. On 12 October, WHO managed to deliver 800 blood units, essential medicines and supplies, and 23,000 litres of fuel to Al Sahaba Hospital after several failed attempts. While currently seven hospitals, 10 PHCs and 23 medical points remain operational in the governorate, they are all near closure due to severe fuel shortages, warns the Health Cluster. Stressing that "one-off missions are not enough," as there is a continuous need to resupply health facilities to keep them functional, the WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, [reiterated](#) on 14 October his plea for the "sustained facilitation of humanitarian missions."
- On 14 October, the second round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign was kickstarted in central Gaza and is expected to move to the south on 19 October and then to the north of the Strip. As with the first round, which was implemented between 1 and 12 September, this second round is taking place in three phases, each lasting up to four days in each area. On the first day, 92,821 children [received](#) the vaccine and 76,394 received vitamin A supplements, based on initial reports from WHO. The target is to administer a second dose of the Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2) to an estimated 591,700 children under 10 years of age, in addition to administering Vitamin A supplements to boost the overall immunity of children aged between two and nine years. WHO and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have been appealing to all parties to the conflict to implement the necessary humanitarian pauses to ensure the safety of children and their families, vaccination teams and health facilities. This is particularly critical in the north, where evacuation orders "are threatening access to hospitals and protection of health facilities and health and community workers," [stressed](#) the two UN agencies.
- As of 12 October, no humanitarian food assistance has entered northern Gaza since 2 October as all crossings have been closed, and entire kitchens, bakeries and food distribution points in the North Gaza governorate have been forced to shut down due to airstrikes, military ground operations and evacuation orders, [warned](#) the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food Security Cluster (FSS). The escalating violence and the severing of all critical food aid lifelines is having a disastrous impact on food security in the northern part of the Strip, where at least three quarters of the population have been relying on food aid to survive. Essential goods are also largely unavailable on the market and the prices of what remains available are exorbitantly high. Left with no other coping mechanisms, families have resorted to selling their remaining belongings and searching through the rubble for money or food, highlights FSS.
- FSS partners have been endeavouring, while often risking their lives, to alleviate suffering by distributing all aid supplies that are available. Between 11 and 13 October, partners distributed more than 1,500 food parcels and 1,500 bags of wheat flour to IDPs trapped or sheltering in and near schools in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahya, in North Gaza. In Gaza city, 10 kitchens are distributing over 110,000 meals daily, including a new kitchen set up on 9 October in Ash Shati' (Beach) refugee camp to support the influx of IDPs from North Gaza. On 10 October, WFP crossed from southern to northern Gaza to deliver fuel to the four remaining bakeries in the Gaza governorate, which has allowed for the free distribution of bread alongside cooked meals at most kitchens as well as in some shelters. There are now barely any food parcels left to distribute, and bakeries will be forced to shut down again within the span of a few days if no additional fuel is delivered, reports FSS.
- The rapid deterioration in food security conditions in the north comes as overall food aid entering Gaza is at its lowest level in months, and commercial goods are barely trickling in. In central and southern Gaza, the situation is also at a breaking point due to insecurity, looting, access impediments, and supply shortages. On 13 October, five bakeries in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis were forced to close due to the shortage of flour. Already in September, about 1.4 million people – nearly 70 per cent of the total population – did not receive their monthly food rations, which comprised pasta, rice, oil and canned meat, and represented a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of families. If the flow of assistance does not immediately resume, almost two million people will lose this vital life-saving aid in October. While access to basic food commodities had somewhat stabilized in the Strip in June and July, all progress has now been [reversed](#), according to WFP, and "people have run out of ways to cope, food systems have collapsed, and the risk of [famine](#) is real."

- According to the WASH Cluster, coordination for the winterization strategy, which involves preparations for the rainy season, is ongoing despite significant operational challenges. Inter-cluster assessments have been completed in key flood-prone areas, such as Amal Basin, Al Amal Overflow, Al Berka, Sheikh Radwan and Abu Rasheed, in collaboration with the Coastal Municipal Water Utility (CMWU), Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), Oxfam, and UNICEF. Planned activities include: the removal of accumulated soil and stones; solid waste management initiatives, such as the removal of waste from streams; procurement of flood mitigation equipment, including vacuum trucks, generators and desludging pumps; and maintenance work to enhance the sewage network through desludging, removing sewage overflows, and inspecting and maintaining deep manholes, stormwater drainage systems and road gullies to prevent blockages. However, progress to implement these activities has been limited, with only a few completed in specific locations (e.g. Wadi As Salqa in Deir Al Balah; Sheikh Radwan in Gaza city) due to ongoing fuel shortages, the year-long power cut from both Israel and Gaza's sole power plant, access impediments, lack of essential supplies and resources, and widespread damage of WASH facilities. PWA reports that up to 85 per cent of water and sanitation facilities are currently out of service, which has resulted in a drastic reduction in water supply, the discharge of untreated wastewater into the sea, and sewage leakage into populated areas.
- Between 1 and 14 October, out of 285 humanitarian movements coordinated with the Israeli authorities throughout Gaza, 49 per cent (141) were denied access, 30 per cent (85) were facilitated, 17 per cent (49) faced impediments (thus often implemented partially or aborted), and four per cent (10) were cancelled due to logistical and security issues. These include 54 coordinated movements to the north through Al Rashid checkpoint, of which only one was facilitated, 85 per cent (46) were denied, nine per cent (five) impeded and four per cent (two) were cancelled. In comparison, during September, of the 667 planned humanitarian movements within Gaza that required coordination with Israeli authorities, 46 per cent (305) were facilitated, 21 per cent (138) were denied, 27 per cent (179) were impeded, and seven per cent (45) were cancelled. These include 91 planned humanitarian movements between northern and southern Gaza through Israeli military-controlled checkpoints that were coordinated with the Israeli authorities in September, of which 82 per cent (75 movements) were either impeded or denied.
- Humanitarian partners in Gaza have conducted a revision exercise of the Gaza population per governorate, using data from the first round of Polio vaccination campaign conducted in September. As of 1 October, it was assessed that 175,000 people are staying in the North Gaza governorate, 256,000 people in Gaza governorate, 749,000 people in Deir al Balah governorate, 916,000 people in Khan Younis governorate, and 44,000 people in Rafah governorate.

Funding

- As of 15 October, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.89 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (55 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During September 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 87 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.5 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (90 per cent) and the West Bank (10 per cent). They were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 48 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 27 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 31 out of the 60 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



An overnight joint mission to evacuate patients from Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza governorate. Photo: OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip

22 Oct 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. As of this week, the Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 24 October.

Key Highlights

- Israeli strikes have reportedly impacted all three partially functional hospitals in the North Gaza governorate, with injured patients dying at Kamal Adwan Hospital amidst a lack of life-saving medical supplies, fuel and food, while communication challenges hamper efforts to ascertain the situation at the Indonesian and Al-Awda hospitals.
- Between 1 and 21 October, only six per cent (four out of 70) of coordinated aid movements that aimed to provide humanitarian assistance in North Gaza and Gaza governorates via Al Rashid checkpoint were facilitated by Israeli authorities.
- The number of people facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity is projected to increase three-fold between November 2024 and April 2025, and an estimated 60,000 children between six and 59 months are projected to become acutely malnourished over the coming year, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification global initiative warns.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October and imposed a tightened siege particularly around the area of Jabalya refugee camp, amid a near total lack of humanitarian aid entering as well as severe communications and internet disruptions. Heavy fighting in and around Jabalya continues to be reported, so is rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups toward Israel. Meanwhile, the Israeli military continued to issue orders for residents, schools and hospitals to evacuate, including on 17 October when a pause was announced via the Israeli Civil Administration between 08:00 and 16:00 and presented as another chance for Jabalya refugee camp residents to leave.
- In a [statement](#) issued on 20 October, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) highlighted its increasing concern “that the manner in which the Israeli military is conducting hostilities in north Gaza, along with unlawful interference with humanitarian assistance and orders that are leading to forced displacement, may be causing the destruction of the Palestinian population in Gaza’s northernmost governorate,” particularly around Jabalya, Beit Lahya and Beit Hanoun. Describing the measures taken by the Israeli military, the statement cited inter alia: the denial of entry into northern Gaza of “all essential supplies between 1 and 14 October,” with only “a token amount of aid” having entered since then; continuous bombing and attacks especially in and around Jabalya refugee camp, which “have made it extremely dangerous for civilians to flee,” with reports received of “Palestinians targeted while fleeing”; reported restrictions and attacks on rescue teams and medics which are “hindering lifesaving operations, including the recovery of Palestinians trapped under rubble”; and reports of tens of Palestinian men detained by the Israeli military.
- Between the afternoons of 15 and 22 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 374 Palestinians were killed and 1,269 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 22 October 2024, at least 42,718 Palestinians were killed and 100,282 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. Moreover, on 20 October, the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) reported that tens of homes have

been hit in Jabalya, Beit Lahya and Beit Hanoun, but coordination requests to reach injured and trapped people in inaccessible areas have been unsuccessful. Tens of bodies reportedly remain under the rubble and dozens of bodies remain scattered in the streets of Jabalya, PCD added.

- On 20 October, the MoH published the breakdown of 40,717 out of 42,010 fatalities as of 7 October 2024 for whom full details have been documented by MoH (also available on the Health Cluster's Unified Dashboard [here](#)); according to MoH, these include 13,319 children, 7,216 women, 3,447 elderly, and 16,735 men. Among the child fatalities, 786 children are under one year of age, representing about six per cent of killed children whose full identification details have been documented, MoH further reported. Additionally, as of 7 October 2024, MoH noted that 35,055 children had lost one or both parents over the past year.
- Between the afternoons of 15 and 22 October, three Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 22 October 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,556 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 356 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,362 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- Between 17 and 19 October, at least three mass casualty incidents took place in North Gaza governorate. On 17 October, at about 14:00, Abu Hussein UNRWA school hosting internally displaced people (IDPs) was reportedly hit in Jabalya refugee camp, resulting in the killing of 28 Palestinians and the injury of 160 others, according to the Government Media Office (GMO). According to [UNRWA](#), this was the third attack on UNRWA facilities in the Gaza Strip in one week. On 19 October, at about 00:05, several houses belonging to three families were simultaneously hit in Jabalya refugee camp, killing 33 Palestinians, including women and children, and injuring dozens, with many reported missing under rubble. On the same day, at about 22:00, a residential block in Beit Lahya Project area, which belongs to five families and where newly displaced families from Jabalya were sheltering, was reportedly hit by the Israeli military, resulting in 87 fatalities and people trapped under rubble and more than 40 people injured, according to MoH.
- The following are some of the other key deadly incidents reported between 14 and 21 October:
 - On 14 October, at about 22:00, 11 Palestinians, including six women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in the Al Falouja area of Jabalya refugee camp, in North Gaza.
 - On 14 October, at about 18:45, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and at least 15 were injured when six IDP tents were hit in Al Sumoud camp in the Al Mawasi area, west of Khan Younis.
 - On 15 October, at about 02:30, six Palestinians, including a husband, his wife and their three children, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in the vicinity of the European Gaza Hospital in Al Fukhari town, southeast of Khan Younis.
 - On 17 October, at about 14:45, 13 Palestinians, including four females, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Maghazi refugee camp, in Deir al Balah. The Director of Emergency Medical Services for central Gaza was reportedly among the fatalities.
 - On 18 October, at about 23:30, 11 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Al Maghazi refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 19 October, at about 12:10, eight Palestinians, including at least one woman and one girl, were reportedly killed and others injured when UNRWA Asmaa School, which was sheltering IDPs, was hit in As Shati' (Beach) refugee camp, west of Gaza city.
 - On 21 October, at about 11:00, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of people filling water tanks was hit at Al Halabi Junction, in North Gaza.
- On 18 and 19 October, Israeli strikes reportedly impacted all three remaining hospitals in the North Gaza governorate – Kamal Adwan, Indonesian and Al-Awda. According to MoH, the top floors and front yard of the Indonesian Hospital, which hosted more than 40 trauma and chronic patients as well as medical staff, were hit and had a total power outage. Two critical patients subsequently died amid lack of electricity and supplies, MoH added. Al-Awda Hospital and the entrance to the laboratory of Kamal Adwan were also hit, resulting in casualties, Al-Awda Health and Community [Association](#) and MoH reported. On 21 October, a complex mission led by the World Health Organization (WHO), together with OCHA, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), managed to evacuate 14 critical patients, alongside 10 caregivers, from Kamal Adwan to Al Shifa Hospital in the Gaza governorate. The mission, which departed from Deir al Balah on 20 October, had to spend the night at the Kamal Adwan Hospital due to intense fighting in the area and was only able to proceed to Al Shifa the following day. Overall, as of 21 October, 100 in-patients remained hospitalized at Kamal Adwan, including seven adults and seven children in the Intensive Care Unit, with a constant influx of new casualties flooding the emergency department; some 200 trauma patients arrived in the space of 24 hours between 20 and 21 October, including 53 already deceased. On 21 October, the Director of Kamal Adwan reported that blood units had been exhausted, medical crews have been working restlessly without food, a number of patients had succumbed to their wounds amid capacity constraints, and other wounded persons were lying in the streets with no possibility to rescue them. Meanwhile, communication challenges caused by internet outages are hampering efforts to ascertain conditions at the Indonesian and Al Awda hospitals, informs the Health Cluster. Moreover, no [UNRWA](#) medical points are currently operational in North Gaza.
- For more than two weeks, the UN and its partners estimate that more than 60,000 people have been displaced from North Gaza to Gaza city, including more than 1,000 people, mostly women and children, displaced via Salah ad Din Road to northern and western

Gaza city on 19 October. Approximately 4,000 people have also been displaced from Jabalya to Beit Hanoun, in addition to others who have been displaced from an UNRWA school and two other UNRWA shelters in Jabalya to Beit Lahya. Displacement to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis in southern Gaza has been limited, with around 100 people, primarily women and children, crossing via Al Rashid Road. During an inter-cluster mission to schools in Gaza City hosting IDPs on 19 October, UN agencies and partners identified the urgent need to provide shelter solutions to relieve severe overcrowding, with some people living in restrooms due to lack of space. The severe lack of shelter and non-food items (NFIs) is disproportionately affecting women and children, who comprise about 70 per cent of people residing in some IDP sites. Facilities also lack lighting, contributing to increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV). A significant number of family separation cases were reported, and many requests were made by communities for bodies to be collected from under the rubble and in the streets. There are limited mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) activities, and efforts are underway to expand the provision of protection services. Elderly people and persons with special needs were identified in all sites and were found to require various types of assistive devices that are unavailable.

- Between 14 and 20 October, according to WHO, the total number of children vaccinated during the second round of the polio vaccination campaign [reached](#) 420,100 children, with 339,885 children also receiving vitamin A supplements. This includes [183,556](#) children under the age of 10 vaccinated in central Gaza as of 17 October and 236,544 vaccinated in southern Gaza since 19 October. On 14 and 15 October, WHO also [conducted](#) special missions to deliver polio vaccines and related equipment to areas in central Gaza that are beyond the agreed humanitarian pauses, and eight health facilities in the area continued to administer the vaccines to ensure the greatest possible coverage. To date, 71 per cent of all children to be vaccinated have been reached, and negotiations are still ongoing with the Israeli authorities on how the last phase of the vaccination drive can be implemented in northern Gaza, which was originally scheduled to begin on 23 October.
- According to the latest [data](#) by the Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS), covering the period up to 30 September, 76 per cent of still partially functioning hospitals across the Strip have insufficient water supply, 94 per cent struggle with insufficient sanitation facilities, 71 per cent are unable to follow proper hand hygiene practices, 82 per cent have insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE), and all hospitals lack sufficient means to maintain adequate environmental cleaning standards. With regard to waste management, 94 per cent of hospitals are unable to follow proper waste segregation practices and 88 per cent have insufficient means for the safe, final disposal of both sharps and infectious waste. Furthermore, according to UNRWA, at least 56 items in its still functional healthcare centres across the Strip will be [exhausted](#) by November. Moreover, due to zero stock of most laboratory supplies and equipment requiring maintenance or replacement, UNRWA laboratories are now able to perform only four tests, compared with nearly 35 tests prior to October 2023. Hospitals are also struggling to operate amid intensified military activity in their surroundings, a continuous flow of casualties, access impediments, and severe shortages of fuel, supplies and specialized medical teams. At present, 14 international Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are operational in central and southern Gaza and one national EMT is deployed at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza governorate. Given the critical state of Gaza's healthcare system, WHO appeals for all potentially qualified Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to be allowed to enter the Strip to support the local healthcare workforce in providing primary services and undertaking specialized surgeries, including rehabilitation and reconstruction surgeries.
- The risk of famine remains high throughout the Gaza Strip and the recent surge in hostilities has heightened concerns that this worst-case scenario may materialize, highlights the fourth [analysis](#) published by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative. The analysis, conducted between 30 September and 4 October by over 52 experts from 16 organizations, shows that about 1.84 million people in Gaza, comprising 86 per cent of the total population, are currently facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 664,000 people facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) and nearly 133,000 facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 5). The analysis explains that, while a temporary surge in humanitarian assistance and commercial supply between May and August 2024 partly alleviated acute food insecurity, the sharp decline in both commercial and humanitarian goods entering Gaza in September - the lowest volume recorded since March - combined with deterioration in humanitarian access to the north of Gaza since then - is expected to have dramatic consequences in the upcoming winter months. For the period between November 2024 and April 2025, the analysis projects that nearly two million people, or 91 per cent of the population, will be in crisis or worse levels of food insecurity and that there will be a three-fold increase in the number of people facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity (345,000 vs. 133,000), particularly affecting Rafah and the northern governorates. The IPC analysis concludes that "only by ensuring widespread access to adequate food, medical supplies, water, and basic services across the Gaza Strip can the risk of a rapid descent into famine be contained." This in turn requires an immediate, sustained and unconditional ceasefire, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access, rehabilitation of local food systems and the scaling up of prevention and management of acute malnutrition, adds the report. Commenting on these risks, the Senior Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs, Sam Rose, [stressed](#): "Whether people are on the verge of famine or in famine, they are in absolutely desperate conditions and this is completely man-made." The situation can only be reversed with "trucks coming in," he added, noting that more than three months' worth of food supplies are still awaiting outside Gaza.
- For the first time, the IPC analysis also covered Acute Malnutrition (AMN), showing that the latter has already reached serious levels (IPC AMN Phase 3) - increasing ten-fold since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023 - and is projected to further worsen across all governorates. An estimated 60,000 children aged six to 59 months are expected to become acutely malnourished in the period between September 2024 and August 2025 - 12,000 of whom (20 per cent) in the most severe form - alongside some 16,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women. The analysis attributes this deterioration to a combination of extreme food deprivation, collapse of health and nutrition services and insufficient access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in a context characterized by winter temperatures, rains and flooding, which will both exacerbate acute malnutrition and heighten the risk of epidemics in highly congested areas. According to the latest WHO [data](#), communicable disease rates are already alarming across Gaza, with more than 1.1 million cases of acute respiratory infections, 669,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea, 225,000 cases of skin diseases, 132,000 cases of acute jaundice syndrome, as well as 18 cases of acute flaccid paralysis already reported in the Strip. "The latest IPC analysis confirms our worst fears for children in northern Gaza,....nearly one in five children suffer from wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition," [highlighted](#) the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban in a statement on 18 October. "This looming disaster could lead to the loss of countless young lives unless immediate and unhindered

humanitarian access is granted to deliver life-saving support. The world must act now to prevent this catastrophe from becoming a full-scale famine,” he added.

- To curb acute hunger and malnutrition and restore the availability of fresh food that humanitarian aid cannot provide, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [stressed](#) that supporting farmers in reactivating local food production is critical. This can be achieved by delivering critical agricultural aid and commercial food production inputs and protecting some 30,000 sheep and goats remaining alive in the Strip. To-date however, restrictions at crossings and the collapse of public order and safety inside Gaza have severely hampered the entry of agricultural inputs into the Strip, making planting and agricultural activities nearly impossible. As of 29 September, FAO had distributed fodder to over 4,400 livestock holders in Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and veterinary kits to about 2,400 herder families, but the urgent entry of many more supplies to preserve livestock hinges on restoring access, security and mobility conditions, FAO noted.
- In a new [report](#), Juzoor for Health and Social Development, a Palestinian NGO, shed light on the extreme hardships faced by older people in Gaza. For example, the escalation of hostilities has severely hindered access to medication and now only 40 per cent of elderly people with health problems are estimated to be able to obtain the medications they need. As a result, “many are dying prematurely. Their nutrition has declined, they’ve lost weight, and their psychosocial wellbeing is collapsing. They live with a fear of death or of losing their families,” noted Dr. Umaiye Khammash, Director of Juzoor. Restrictions by Israeli authorities on the entry of supplies into Gaza have further limited access to essential items, such as assistive devices, increasing the vulnerability of the elderly, according to the report. Furthermore, many elderly people have been unable to flee during the bombings or escape areas affected by the sudden and frequent evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military, primarily due to mobility issues; therefore, they have often remained stranded without sufficient support for basic needs, such as food, water or medical care. In mid-2023, approximately 100,000 elderly people, or about five per cent of the population, lived in the Gaza Strip, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics ([PCBS](#)), of whom 69 per cent suffered from chronic diseases.
- Humanitarian access across the Gaza Strip remains severely restricted, especially for aid missions seeking to reach more than 400,000 people in North Gaza (175,000) and Gaza (256,000) governorates, amid ongoing hostilities, escalating insecurity, and restrictions at Israeli military-controlled checkpoints. Between 1 and 21 October, out of 448 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with the Israeli military, 45 per cent (201) were denied, 36 per cent (162) were facilitated, 15 per cent (67) were impeded, and four per cent (18) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. These figures include 70 coordinated aid movements that aimed to provide humanitarian assistance in North Gaza and Gaza governorates via Al Rashid checkpoint, of which only six per cent (four) were facilitated by Israeli authorities. Access conditions have especially worsened following the onset of the Israeli military operation in Jabalya on 6 October; between 6 and 21 October, 29 coordination requests for critical aid missions to Jabalya, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahya were denied, six were impeded, and 13 were facilitated. Denied movements included a critical mission to rescue about 40 people trapped under rubble in the Falouja area of Jabalya, which has been repeatedly denied since 18 October, underscoring the severe limitations on lifesaving, humanitarian efforts. Similarly, the transport of critical life-saving supplies including blood, medical supplies such as anaesthesia, food parcels and fuel to Kamal Adwan Hospital was denied on 20 October.
- Aid workers and emergency responders continue to face extreme challenges in assisting people across the Gaza Strip, often with immense risks to their personal safety. Since 10 October 2024, at least 10 humanitarian workers and four health workers have been killed and others injured across the Gaza Strip, including some while at home with their families. These include five UNRWA staff and five staff of national and international NGOs. Moreover, Oxfam [reported](#) that on 19 October, four water engineers working with the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) were killed in Khuza’a while en route to repair infrastructure in eastern Khan Younis. On the same day, an ambulance belonging to Al Awda Hospital was reportedly struck in Tal al Zaatar area, east of Jabalya, injuring six people, including a paramedic.

Funding

- As of 22 October, Member States have disbursed about US\$2 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (59 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 87 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.5 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (90 per cent) and the West Bank (10 per cent). They are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 48 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 27 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 31 out of the 60 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is finalizing its critical and time sensitive First Standard Allocation of US\$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



People being displaced from Jabalya, walking southward on foot and carrying only limited belongings, 24 October 2024. Photo by OCHA/Themba Linden

Humanitarian Situation Update #233 | Gaza Strip

29 Oct 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 31 October.

Key Highlights

- At least seven mass casualty incidents have been reported across Gaza over the past week, including four in North Gaza.
- The Ministry of Health appeals for immediate deployment of medical teams, ambulances and civil defence vehicles to save lives in North Gaza, as only two doctors remain at the overwhelmed Kamal Adwan Hospital.
- Children in Gaza are not only dying from bombs, bullets and shells, but also because those who survive are prevented from leaving Gaza to receive life-saving care. According to UNICEF, only 127 children in critical condition have been allowed to leave the Strip since May.
- Schools, including those sheltering internally displaced persons, continue to be affected by escalating hostilities, including airstrikes, forced evacuations, shelling and arson; between 13 and 26 October, 31 such incidents were documented by the Education Cluster, including 20 in North Gaza.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October and imposed a tightened siege particularly around the area of Jabalya refugee camp, amid a near total lack of humanitarian aid entering as well as severe communications and internet disruptions. Efforts to deliver life-saving assistance to communities and families in high-risk zones have been hampered. Between 6 and 28 October, 36 coordination requests submitted to the Israeli authorities for critical aid missions targeting Jabalya, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahya (all in North Gaza governorate) were denied access, 14 faced impediments, and 23 were facilitated.
- Between the afternoons of 22 and 29 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 343 Palestinians were killed and 914 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 29 October 2024, at least 43,061 Palestinians were killed and 101,223 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. The MoH further reported that these figures do not include the mass casualty incident in Beit Lahya on the morning of 29 October, nor the casualties in North Gaza on 25 and 26 October (see below).
- Between the afternoons of 22 and 29 October, nine Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 29 October 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,565 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 365 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,373 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

- Over the past three weeks, more than 71,000 people have been displaced from North Gaza governorate to Gaza city and about 100,000 people remain in North Gaza, according to the most recent estimates by the UN and its partners. On 25 October, the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) [announced](#) that it has been forced to halt operations in North Gaza, rendering the area without life-saving civil defence services, including firefighting, search and rescue, and emergency medical assistance. Several PCD staff members were detained, including two at Kamal Adwan Hospital, three others were injured, and the last firefighting vehicle in North Gaza was hit and destroyed, PCD said. The humanitarian crisis in Jabalya is further exacerbated by severe shortages of food, water, and medical supplies. According to the Food Security Sector, as of 26 October, the two bakeries in North Gaza governorate have remained closed due to escalating hostilities and all eight kitchens that were operational as of the end of September suspended operations or became inaccessible.
- On 26 October, Ms. Joyce Msuya, UN Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator [stated](#): “What Israeli forces are doing in besieged North Gaza cannot be allowed to continue. Hospitals have been hit and health workers have been detained. Shelters have been emptied and burned down. First responders have been prevented from saving people from under the rubble. Families have been separated and men and boys are being taken away by the truckload. Hundreds of Palestinians have reportedly been killed. Tens of thousands have been forced to flee yet again. The entire population of North Gaza is at risk of dying.” The following day, the UN Secretary-General [expressed](#) shock at the “harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction in the north, with civilians trapped under rubble, the sick and wounded going without life-saving health care, and families lacking food and shelter, amid reports of families being separated and many people detained,” warning that “widespread devastation and deprivation ... are making the conditions of life untenable for the Palestinian population there.”
- Between 22 and 29 October, at least seven mass casualty incidents were reported across Gaza, including four in North Gaza governorate. On 24 October, between 150 to 200 people were reportedly killed or injured when a residential block of eleven houses was hit in Jabalya refugee camp. On 24 October, Ash Shuhada school in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah, was hit and a fire reportedly broke out; according to the Government Media Office (GMO), 17 Palestinians were killed, including nine children, and over 52 others were injured. On 25 October, 25 people were reportedly killed when two houses were hit in Beit Lahya Project area (Mashrou’ Beit Lahya). On 24 and 25 October, MoH [reported](#) that a total of 38 Palestinians were killed and tens of others, mostly children and women, were injured when several residential buildings were destroyed during a military operation in Qizan An Najjar and Al Manara areas in Khan Younis, while about 20 people were missing according to PCD. On 26 October, at least 30 people were reportedly killed and dozens injured when a residential block was hit near the eastern junction in Beit Lahya, while some remained under the rubble due to the suspension of PCD services in North Gaza. On 27 October, eleven Palestinians, including one girl and four women, were reportedly killed when Asma UNRWA school designated as IDP shelter in Ash Shati’ (Beach) refugee camp in Gaza city was hit. On 29 October, 93 Palestinians were killed or went missing under the rubble following an Israeli strike on a residential building in Beit Lahya, according to [MoH](#).
- The following are some additional deadly incidents reported between 21 and 27 October:
 - On 21 October, at about 12:35, nine Palestinian family members were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Az Zarqa area, northeast of Gaza city.
 - On 22 October, at about 09:20, eight Palestinians, including at least five males, were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of Palestinians was hit in Az Zeitoun neighbourhood, southeast of Gaza city.
 - On 23 October, at about 16:30, six Palestinians were reportedly killed when a house hosting IDPs was hit in Jabalya Al Balad, in North Gaza.
 - On 27 October, at about 1:00, 10 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house hosting IDPs was hit in Beit Lahya Project, in North Gaza.
- The continued targeting of schools is severely hampering the emergency education response throughout Gaza. Between 13 and 26 October, 31 incidents were reported, affecting 22 schools run by the UN and eight managed by the Palestinian Authority, with some schools impacted multiple times. Of these incidents, 20 occurred in the North Gaza governorate. In total, 57 incidents affecting schools were recorded between 1 and 26 October, including airstrikes, forced evacuations, shelling, and arson. These incidents continue to further destroy educational infrastructure, resulting in loss of life and instilling fear among parents and children.
- Health care conditions remain critical in North Gaza, with “intensive military operations unfolding around and within healthcare facilities and a critical shortage of medical supplies, compounded by severely limited access, depriving people of life saving care,” [warned](#) the WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on 26 October. Out of five hospitals that were functional in the North Gaza governorate prior to October 2023, two (Kamal Adwan and Al Awda) remain partially operational at present after the Indonesian hospital was put out of service.
- On 26 October, MoH informed WHO that the siege at Kamal Adwan Hospital had ended. On 25 October, Israeli soldiers had reportedly entered the hospital where 600 people were present including 195 trauma and non-trauma patients; according to MoH, three nurses and a cleaner were injured while three ambulances, a transport vehicle and the solar panel electricity generation system were destroyed on 25 and 26 October. Of the hospital’s 70-member team, 44 male staff members were detained by the Israeli military, 30 of whom remain currently in custody and others were forced to move southward. In a press statement on 29 October, MoH described a horrific situation at Kamal Adwan Hospital as the facility had to cope with a new mass casualty influx on the same morning, with only the hospital’s director and one pediatrician struggling to assist 150 injured patients, no surgeons, anesthesia or Intensive Care Unit teams. The MoH appealed for the urgent deployment of medical teams, particularly surgical ones, as well as ambulances and civil defense vehicles to save lives.

- On 24 October, just hours prior to the raid into Kamal Adwan, WHO, alongside OCHA, UNMAS, CADUS and the Palestine Red Cross Society (PRCS) managed to reach the hospital, delivering 10,000 litres of fuel, 180 blood units, medicines to cover the needs of 5,000 patients as well as trauma surgery and alcohol supplies for 1,600 interventions. The mission also transferred 23 critical patients, alongside 26 caregivers, to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza governorate, and provided the latter with laboratory supplies and medicines to cover the needs of 6,000 people. Briefing the press in Geneva on the mission, the WHO Representative in the OPT, Dr. Richard Peerperkorn, [reported](#) that, at a checkpoint near Kamal Adwan, the team witnessed “thousands of women and children leaving the area, walking, limping with their few belongings towards Salah al Din [road] and Gaza city.” At Kamal Adwan, the mission team saw “mayhem and chaos,” with the emergency ward overflowing with “horrific trauma patients,” hospital staff completely overwhelmed and underequipped to deal with the mass casualty situation, and hundreds of people seeking shelter in every corner of the facility, added Peerperkorn.
- As for the Indonesian Hospital, WHO observed during its 24 October mission that the facility’s boundary wall had been demolished, and the Health Cluster reported as of 26 October that no food or water were available for patients, medical staff and IDPs, four patients had died between 20 and 26 October, and a WHO-led mission to deliver food, water and medical supplies was denied by the Israeli authorities. Lastly, Al- Awda Hospital is inaccessible due to damaged roads, with 151 people, including 65 employees, 43 patients, 36 companions and seven children remaining in the facility as of 26 October, according to the Health Cluster. The hospital lacks potable water and is mainly relying on untreated well water. Central water pipes have been damaged, limiting water availability to two hours per day.
- “Escalating violence, intense bombardment, mass displacement orders, and lack of assured humanitarian pauses across most of northern Gaza” have [compelled](#) the Polio Technical Committee for Gaza, which comprises the Palestinian Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA and partners, to delay the third and final phase of the emergency polio vaccination campaign, aimed at administering the second dose of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to 119,279 children in the northern governorates. In a statement, WHO and UNICEF explained that “current conditions, including ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure continue to jeopardize people’s safety and movement in northern Gaza, making it impossible for families to safely bring their children for vaccination, and health workers to operate.” Following sustained negotiations, agreement has now been reached with the parties to undertake the vaccination drive between 2 and 4 November in the Gaza governorate. Completing the third phase and ensuring that at least 90 per cent of all children in every community and neighbourhood are vaccinated is critical to stop the polio virus transmission in Gaza and avert the risk of more children being paralysed, warned UNICEF and WHO.
- Recent attacks on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) personnel and facilities, intermittent access to fuel, and military operations have significantly undermined access to clean water. On 19 October, four engineers from the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) were reportedly hit while travelling in a clearly marked vehicle during a mission approved by the Israeli authorities the same morning. CMWU subsequently suspended most operations in areas that require coordination with the Israeli authorities. Moreover, according to the WASH Cluster, the strike on Safa well field in Gaza city on 24 October killed two municipal well operators and damaged this critical source of water that has four wells each with a production capacity of 500 cubic metres per hour. While a site assessment is yet to be conducted, the damage is likely to negatively affect water supply in Gaza city, where ground water resources are limited and IDPs from Jabalya continue to move. Intermittent access to fuel has recently forced eight private sector water providers to halt operations in Gaza city and significantly limited production levels of municipal wells. In North Gaza, the lack of fuel deliveries to WASH facilities since 1 October has forced municipal teams to ration or stop water production entirely. Across the Gaza Strip, a recent WASH Cluster [assessment](#) revealed alarming water scarcity, with nearly two-thirds of households, or about 1.4 million people, consuming less than the recommended six litres per person per day for drinking and cooking, while nearly half the population lacks the minimum 15 litres per person per day for drinking, cooking, and hygiene.
- “Children in Gaza are dying, not just from the bombs, bullets and shells that strike them,” but also because, when they survive, “they are then prevented from leaving Gaza to receive the urgent care that would save their lives,” [stressed](#) UNICEF Spokesperson, James Elder, on 25 October. Since the Rafah crossing closed on 7 May, only 127 children – many suffering from head trauma, amputations, burns, cancer, and severe malnutrition – have been allowed to medically evacuate outside Gaza. Prior to the closure, between 1 January and 7 May, 296 children were medically evacuated abroad. UNICEF, appalled that “figures have failed to stir those with power to act,” shared the stories of three of the many children trapped in Gaza: a twelve-year-old girl needing urgent bone surgery after severe facial injuries (medical evacuation denied four times); a six-month-old with muscle cancer and severe malnutrition, with a tube inserted in his kidney, awaiting evacuation for two months in a tent; and a four-year-old girl who lost a leg and fingers, sustained fourth-degree burns, and risks further amputations of her hand and the other leg without immediate evacuation. The last case was only approved for medical evacuation at the end of October, with no set date for departure, after her mother, whose medical evacuation had been denied, died of fourth degree burns and severe blood poisoning on 23 October. Overall, WHO [estimates](#) that 14,000 patients are in urgent need of medical evacuation outside Gaza, with only 39 per cent of all medical evacuation requests approved by the Israeli authorities since October 2023, and just 33 per cent of patients having physically left the Strip. Since the closure of the Rafah crossing, only 229 patients, along with 316 companions, have been exceptionally evacuated on six occasions, with WHO continuing to appeal for the immediate restoration of medical corridors to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as to Egypt and Jordan, from where patients could be transferred onwards as needed.
- Aid workers and emergency responders continue to face extreme challenges in assisting people across the Gaza Strip, often with immense risks to their personal safety. Since 3 October 2024, at least 14 aid workers and four health workers have been killed and others injured across the Gaza Strip, including some who were off-duty. These include seven UNRWA staff and seven staff of national and international NGOs. Since October 2023, at least 322 aid workers, including 315 Palestinians and seven foreigners have been killed; this includes 237 UN staff (of whom 233 were UNRWA staff members), 33 PRCS staff and volunteers, and at least 52 other aid workers with national and international NGOs.

- On 26 October, the Israeli military announced the expansion of the zone in Al Mawasi to which it has been ordering Palestinian to move; the order revokes previous evacuation notices affecting 11 square kilometres in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah, therefore expanding the zone to 68 square kilometres or about 19 per cent of Gaza's total area. In total, since October 2023 and as of 29 October, the Israeli military has issued over 65 evacuation orders, including four that were subsequently revoked. Currently, about 80 per cent of Gaza is under active evacuation orders.
- Between 1 and 28 October, out of 580 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with Israeli authorities, 44 per cent (254) were denied, 36 per cent (212) were facilitated, 16 per cent (92) were impeded, and four per cent (22) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. This includes 93 coordinated aid movements aimed at providing humanitarian assistance in the North Gaza and Gaza governorates via Al Rashid checkpoint, of which only eight per cent (seven) were facilitated by Israeli authorities.
- A new joint [assessment](#) by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) highlights that, by the end of 2024, the Human Development Index (HDI) in Gaza will drop to 0.408—a level estimated for 1955, erasing over 69 years of progress. For the West Bank, the HDI is expected to decline to 0.676, reflecting a 16-year loss, and could further worsen if military incursions expand, with the overall HDI in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) estimated to have regressed by 24 years. The poverty rate throughout OPT is projected to rise to 74.3 in 2024, up from 38.8 per cent in 2023, affecting 4.1 million people, including 2.61 million who are newly impoverished. The assessment underscores that the number of people living in multidimensional poverty has more than doubled in 2024 compared with 2017, rising from 24.1 to 55.4 per cent throughout OPT, with the greatest increases in deprivation rates observed across the following Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) indicators: freedom of movement, monetary resources, unemployment, access to healthcare and school enrolment. The analysis also shows that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has contracted by 35.1 per cent this year, compared with a no-war scenario, with unemployment potentially rising to 49.9 per cent. "Projections in this new assessment confirm that amidst the immediate suffering and horrific loss of life, a serious development crisis is also unfolding – one that jeopardizes the future of Palestinians for generations to come," [stressed](#) the UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner, adding that "even if humanitarian aid is provided each year, the economy may not regain its pre-crisis level for a decade or more," particularly in the absence of early recovery or under a restricted early recovery scenario.

Funding

- As of 29 October, Member States have disbursed about US\$2 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (60 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 87 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.5 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (90 per cent) and the West Bank (10 per cent). They are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, WASH, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 48 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 27 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 31 out of the 60 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is finalizing its critical and time sensitive First Standard Allocation of US\$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.



A boy passing by a crater near Kamal Adwan Hospital. Photo by OCHA/Themba Linden

Humanitarian Situation Update #235 | Gaza Strip

05 Nov 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 7 November.

Key Highlights

- For almost a month, all attempts by humanitarian organizations to deliver food to people in the besieged areas of North Gaza governorate have been blocked by the Israeli authorities.
- In central and southern Gaza, more than 100 kitchens producing 400,000 meals a day are at risk of shutting down due to supply shortages.
- Health-care conditions in North Gaza remain critical with the Kamal Adwan Hospital hit twice in the past week and the delivery of life-saving supplies to the Al Awda Hospital denied.
- Over 42 million tons of rubble and a large concentration of explosive hazards pose an imminent threat to civilians, while the entry of specialized personnel and equipment and the conduct of explosive ordnance disposal activities are restricted.
- Ten per cent of all journalists working in Gaza have been killed since October 2023, reports the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, as the Israeli authorities still ban the entry of foreign journalists.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. A tightened Israeli siege imposed since then, particularly around the area of Jabalya refugee camp, has meant that almost no humanitarian aid has been able to enter. At the same time, the area has seen severe disruptions in communications, including internet. As of 4 November, the UN and its partners estimated that about 100,000 people had been displaced over four weeks from North Gaza governorate to Gaza city and between 75,000 and 95,000 people were estimated to remain in North Gaza. The death toll in the North Gaza governorate over the past month is thought to be in the hundreds, possibly over 1,000, with one source – the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) – estimating it has reached 1,300. Moreover, since 31 October, dozens of Palestinians were observed evacuating from northern An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah, southward amid intensified hostilities, including airstrikes and shelling, that reportedly resulted in several mass casualty incidents (see below).
- Between the afternoons of 29 October and 5 November, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 330 Palestinians were killed and 1,124 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 5 November 2024*, at least 43,391 Palestinians were killed and 102,347 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 29 October and 5 November, three Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 5 November 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the

media, more than 1,568 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 368 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,394 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.

- The following are key deadly incidents reported between 28 October and 3 November, primarily in North Gaza governorate and An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah governorate:
 - On 28 October, at about 15:00, a residential block was hit near Al Fakhoura School, in Beit Lahiya Project, resulting in an unconfirmed large number of Palestinian fatalities and injuries who were either trapped under the rubble or remained on the streets.
 - On 29 October, at about 1:00, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Beit Lahiya Project, in North Gaza.
 - On 29 October, at about 18:00, 16 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and dozens injured when a house, reportedly sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs), was hit in Beit Lahiya.
 - On 30 October, at about 13:30, nine Palestinians, including children, were reportedly killed and others injured when As Souk (market) Street was hit in Beit Lahiya Project, in North Gaza.
 - On 31 October and 1 November, two residential buildings sheltering IDPs were reportedly hit, one in Jabalya camp and the other in Tal Az Za'tar area. Many dozens were reportedly killed, including children.
 - On 31 October, at least 26 Palestinians, including four children and four women, were reportedly killed when two houses were hit in the New Camp north of An Nuseirat. The second house was hit when medical and PCD crews were reportedly gathered around the first house, resulting in the injury of at least 30 people, including a medic and two journalists.
 - On 1 November, at about 12:50, 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed and dozens of others injured when the entrance of a school hosting IDPs was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp. Caritas Jerusalem [reported](#) that two of its team members were injured during intense shelling in An Nuseirat refugee camp on 1 November 2024.
 - On 1 November, at about 17:00, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp.
 - On 2 November, at about 10:00, 10 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others, including women and children, were injured when Al Berka area was hit in Beit Lahiya.
 - On 2 November, around midnight, 12 Palestinian men, including a journalist, were reportedly killed when a four-storey residential building, reportedly sheltering IDPs from the north, was hit in camp 5 in An Nuseirat refugee camp. According to the Director of Al Awda Hospital in An Nuseirat, 42 fatalities and 150 injured patients were received as of the afternoon on 2 November.
- Referencing some of these incidents, in addition to two incidents in which a UNICEF staff member's vehicle came under fire in North Gaza and several children were injured near a polio vaccination clinic in Gaza governorate, UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell, [stated](#) that these "are yet further examples of the grave consequences of the indiscriminate strikes on civilians in the Gaza strip." Save the Children's Regional Director additionally [warned](#) that if "the international community does not intervene soon, an entire generation of children in Gaza will be erased, along with their futures."
- Describing the situation in North Gaza as "apocalyptic," the principals of 15 UN and humanitarian organizations and consortia who are part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations system, renewed their [appeal](#) to all parties fighting in Gaza to protect civilians, called on the State of Israel to "cease its assault on Gaza and on the humanitarians trying to help," and appealed to Member States to exercise their leverage to ensure respect for international law. Noting that basic aid and life-saving supplies have been denied while bombardment and other attacks continue, the principals stressed that "blatant disregard for basic humanity and for the laws of war must stop", attacks against civilians and remaining civilian infrastructure must cease, humanitarian relief must be facilitated, and commercial goods must be allowed to enter Gaza.
- The health situation remains critical at the Kamal Adwan, Al Awda and Indonesian hospitals in the North Gaza governorate. Kamal Adwan "has been reduced from a hospital helping hundreds of patients with dozens of health workers, to a shell of itself," [reported](#) the WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on 1 November. The third floor of the hospital was directly hit twice on 31 October and 3 November. The first attack ignited a fire that affected the medicine warehouse, destroying some of the supplies that WHO had delivered, and damaged the desalination station for the haemodialysis department. The hospital's director [reported](#) that four medical staff were injured while trying to manually extinguish the fire due to the lack of resources. The second reported attack on 3 November [injured](#) six children hospitalized in the facility, one of them critically, and damaged water tanks. It took place shortly after a WHO-led mission, conducted jointly with OCHA, UNMAS and OHCHR amid heavy bombardment, managed to deliver 20,000 litres of fuel, as well as medical and surgical supplies, 150 blood units and 60 boxes of dry food and water to Kamal Adwan, and transferred 25 patients, alongside 37 companions, to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. In reference to the second incident, the WHO chief stated that it is "appalling that hospitals in Gaza continue to be attacked, patients continue to be harmed, and health workers and humanitarians continue to work under life-threatening conditions." Earlier, on 31 October, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [received](#) confirmation that an MSF orthopaedic surgeon, who had been sheltering and supporting the health emergency response at Kamal Adwan Hospital, was detained by Israeli forces, along with several other medical staff, during the

raid on Kamal Adwan on 26 October. In an audio [message](#) on 4 November, the hospital's director reiterated the urgent need for ambulances and specialized surgical teams to be deployed, stressing that patients continued to arrive at Kamal Adwan's reception and emergency department, while those unable to access it were "left to their fate" in the streets and many remained trapped under rubble with no possibility to save them.

- Meanwhile, Al Awda Hospital is almost at the point of being forced to cease operations. Although the WHO-led mission of 3 November was able to reach Al Awda and transfer five critical patients and their five companions to Al Shifa Hospital, no permission was granted by the Israeli authorities to deliver life-saving supplies to the facility. In a press statement, the Director-General of Al Awda Health and Community Association [warned](#) that fuel, medicines, medical consumables, blood units, food and water were desperately needed, adding that since the intensification of military operations in North Gaza, six hospital employees had been injured in attacks impacting the facility, one of whom lost a limb, and all ambulances had been rendered out of service. For its part, the Indonesian Hospital, which was previously out of service, reportedly resumed partial functionality and received patients on 29 October, although no information is available to the Health Cluster regarding conditions in the facility and no fuel, nor other essential medical supplies, could be delivered to it.
- On 5 November, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Muhannad Hadi, began a two-day visit to the Gaza Strip. In Gaza city, he visited an UNRWA school that is sheltering hundreds of families, most of whom are among those newly displaced from the North Gaza governorate. Mr. Hadi described conditions at the Al Moumanya School as unbearable; the facility lacks food, water and functioning toilets. Speaking from the school, he said sewage is running everywhere and waste is ubiquitous. "This is not a place for humans to survive. This is beyond imagination," he said. The HC also visited a waste collection point, where humanitarian partners are working to dispose of trash from communities to prevent health and environmental hazards. He reiterated his call for an end to the conflict and the horror it has caused – and stressed that there is an urgent need for an environment that enables aid operations across Gaza. Mr. Hadi further visited two temporary learning spaces that are supporting students with hearing loss. As the children of Gaza go without schooling for a second straight year, the Al Nayzak and Atfaluna centres are providing educational activities and psychological support to thousands of students traumatized by months of conflict.
- Also in Gaza city, the newly rehabilitated "mini hospital" at Al Shifa, which represents only a part of the larger health-care structure that was destroyed in April, is now a critical referral point for northern Gaza and an "example of resilience," [stressed](#) the WHO Representative in OPT, Dr. Richard Peeperkorn. The facility comprises an emergency ward, operating theaters and an Intensive Care Unit, with an average of nine surgical operations conducted every day. A hemodialysis unit with 25 machines also provides life-saving support to 63 kidney patients. Efforts continue to scale up capacities, with new Emergency Medical Teams deployed both to Al Shifa and the nearby Al Ahli Hospital on 3 November to support the local health workforce. In another positive news, Al Rantisi Paediatric Hospital in Gaza city is expected to resume functionality next week, after being hit and forced to close in November 2023, reports the Health Cluster.
- The third phase of the emergency polio vaccination campaign commenced on 2 November in parts of northern Gaza, with a [total](#) of 105,261 children under the age of 10 vaccinated as of 4 November, and 83,867 children aged between two and 10 having also received vitamin A supplementation. Overall, 216 vaccination teams were deployed across 106 fixed sites and 209 social mobilizers engaged with communities to raise awareness about the vaccination endeavour. To ensure the greatest possible coverage, four sites [continued](#) to administer the vaccine on 5 November. WHO [reports](#) that, compared to the first round conducted in September, the area of the agreed humanitarian pause was substantially reduced, being limited to Gaza city, but the Polio Technical Committee decided to pursue the campaign to mitigate the risk of a long delay and seize the opportunity to vaccinate children who were recently displaced from North Gaza to Gaza city. Albeit more confined geographically, the campaign was not without incidents. On 2 November, WHO [reported](#) that the Sheikh Radwan primary health-care centre was hit while parents were bringing their children to be vaccinated, resulting in six people, including four children, injured.
- According to [FAO's](#) recent rapid assessments, nearly 15,000 cattle, 95 per cent of the total, have died and almost all calves have been slaughtered, while fewer than 25,000 sheep (about 43 per cent), some 3,000 goats (approximately 37 per cent) and 34,000 birds (1 per cent of poultry sector) remain alive. This dramatic loss is coupled with large-scale damage of agricultural infrastructure and ongoing restrictions that hamper the entry of essential agricultural inputs, fodder and veterinary kits into Gaza. Combined, they represent critical impediments to rehabilitating local food systems, perpetuating people's reliance on increasingly shrinking humanitarian aid. Not only does the latest FAO/WFP Hunger Hotspots [report](#), issued on 31 October, place the Gaza Strip among the five "highest alert" territories in terms of catastrophic food insecurity conditions, alongside Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and Mali, but the situation in Gaza is "the most intense", [according](#) to the WFP Chief Economist, Arif Husain, as 91 per cent of the population is facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity and the economy has shrunk to approximately one sixth in the space of a year, amid widespread loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, displacement and insufficient humanitarian aid.
- As winter approaches, the lack of food and other vital humanitarian supplies entering the Gaza Strip could soon escalate into famine, [warns](#) WFP. In October, approximately 1.7 million people, or 80 per cent of the population, did not receive their monthly food rations across Gaza, and the number of cooked meals distributed daily shrunk to 450,000, a 25 per cent decrease compared with late September, reports the Food Security Cluster (FSS). Many kitchens have been forced to close, and for those that remain operational, partners had to adjust the meal content to cope with supply shortages. The dramatic drop in humanitarian aid is exacerbated by a critical shortage of commercial goods, with no more than 100 trucks of commercial supplies having reportedly entered the Strip between 1 and 26 October. For almost a month, all humanitarian partners' attempts to access and deliver food aid to the population in North Gaza have been denied and the eight kitchens that were operational in the governorate are now either not functional or inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities.
- While the Erez West crossing re-opened on 14 October, WFP reports that delays at holding points and multiple inspections have limited the quantity of aid entering the Strip, and the supplies managing to cross into northern Gaza have only been allowed to

reach Gaza city, as opposed to being channelled to the besieged areas of North Gaza governorate. Faced with the impossibility to reach North Gaza, FSS partners have intensified their presence in the Gaza governorate. In total in October, more than 150,000 people in the governorate received at least one food parcel, some received one 25-kilogram bags of wheat flour, and all four UN-supported bakeries delivered bread to some shelters and community kitchens, alongside cooked meals. Meanwhile, conditions in central and southern Gaza are deteriorating, with food parcel distribution being extremely limited in October and more than 100 kitchens, producing approximately 400,000 meals a day, at risk of shutting down due to supply shortages. Moreover, bread production at the subsidized bakeries and through community-led initiatives has been fluctuating since early October. As of 3 November, all eight UN-supported bakeries in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis are operating at only 70 per cent of their capacity and are at risk of shutting down unless additional flour is immediately received.

- Mine Action technical field staff working as part of the Protection Cluster report that, while over 209 Explosive Hazard Assessments (EHAs) have been conducted in Gaza to-date, these are insufficient to allow a comprehensive understanding of the extent of Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination in the Strip, with access restrictions severely hampering the scaling up of assessments and a comprehensive EO survey not having been possible yet. The information available, however, paint an alarming picture of the EO risk in Gaza: across all five Gaza governorates, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination is likely to be both on the surface and sub-surface, involving not only land service ammunition (projectiles, mortars, rockets, missiles, grenades and landmines), but also deep-buried bombs, as well as weapons and ammunition caches. The latest UNOSAT satellite imagery-based [analysis](#) conducted in early September showed that 66 per cent of all structures in Gaza had either been damaged or destroyed. According to UNDP, more than 42 million tons of rubble are now present in the Strip, with the large concentration of explosive hazards posing an imminent threat to hundreds of thousands of civilians who have been forcibly displaced repeatedly,* surviving amid rubble and sheltering in unsafe locations, including damaged and destroyed buildings. Beyond ERW, the highly carcinogenic asbestos being released into the air due to widespread infrastructural destruction, as well as other contaminants, will continue to affect communities in Gaza long into the future.
- While there is a critical need to immediately scale up the Mine Action response, restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the entry of both specialized personnel and essential Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) equipment, as well as specific regulations preventing the conduct of disposal activities, continue to curtail efforts to protect people from ERW and the safe and sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid. Currently, EOD teams can only mark and report ERW, rather than safely move or dispose of them. Access constraints further hamper mine action activities, with lengthy procedures required to obtain internal movement permission within Gaza, and many movements being either outrightly denied or cancelled at short notice. In September, for instance, 31 requests by UNMAS to conduct EHAs were denied. Mine Action partners also emphasize the need to acquire meaningful data from the Israeli authorities regarding the main types of EO and the areas with the highest likely concentration, which could help prioritize the most hazardous areas for further survey and clearance. All these obstacles are exacerbated by administrative hurdles, such as registration challenges for mine action organizations and the delayed provision of visas, which continue to disrupt the deployment of technical specialists.
- Due to the challenges being currently faced in scaling up clearance operations, Mine Action partners have focused extensively on raising people's awareness of the EO risk. Between October 2023 and September 2024, partners reached 790,000 people with in-person Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), including 405 humanitarian aid workers, and over 1.3 million people across the Strip with digital EORE messaging using SMS, radio, and social media, prioritizing displaced communities and children. Over 67,000 information materials were also disseminated at humanitarian distribution points and during in-person EORE sessions. Presently, 19 partners are engaged in mine action-related activities, six of whom with a presence on the ground including a total of 306 mine action staff and volunteers working across EORE, EHAs and the provision of assistance to explosive ordnance victims. An additional 744 UNRWA staff are also supporting mine action by mainstreaming EORE safe messaging through their other humanitarian activities. While thus far, these operations have been taking place throughout the Strip, the intensification of military operations in northern Gaza has forced partners to abruptly halt all activities both in the North Gaza and Gaza governorates.
- Between 1 and 31 October, out of 644 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with Israeli authorities, 43 per cent (278) were denied, 37 per cent (241) were facilitated, 15 per cent (99) were impeded, and four per cent (26) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. The denied movements include 77 critical movements related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), 42 health-related movements and 27 food-related movements. Access to northern Gaza has been significantly hindered in October; out of 98 coordinated aid movements aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to northern Gaza from the southern part of the Strip via Al Rashid checkpoint, only 11 movements (11 per cent) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities. Overall, out of 183 coordinated movements to and within northern Gaza, 29 per cent (53) were facilitated, while 44 per cent (81) were denied, 21 per cent (39) were impeded and five per cent (10) had to be cancelled. In comparison with September, denials of movements across Gaza have risen by over 100 per cent, increasing from 138 to 278, while facilitation of movements has decreased by 21 per cent, dropping from 305 to 241. Furthermore, denials of movements to northern Gaza via Al Rashid checkpoint have increased by 115 per cent, rising from 26 to 56 denied movements.
- Within this constrained access environment, between 12 October and 3 November, a total of 130 critical patients were transferred from the three hospitals in North Gaza primarily to Al Shifa in Gaza city, and some of them onwards to facilities in southern Gaza to receive higher levels of care. Of these, 109 patients were medically evacuated in seven WHO-led missions conducted jointly with OCHA and other UN agencies and partners, particularly CADUS and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), and 21 others were transferred in a separate [mission](#) coordinated by the International Committee of the Red Cross and PRCS on 1 November. The access of these missions to the besieged areas of North Gaza governorate was the exception rather than the rule and it too was subject to impediments.
- On 28 October, the Israeli Knesset adopted two laws that prohibit the Israeli authorities from having any contact with UNRWA and ban the agency from working in areas under Israeli sovereignty, which will enter into effect after three months. If implemented, these measures would likely prevent the delivery of UNRWA operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East

Jerusalem, as mandated by the UN General Assembly, including obtaining visas and work permits for staff, preserving premises, managing supply chains, and delivering health, education, water and sanitation, employment and protection services for 2.5 million registered Palestine Refugees in the OPT. In Gaza, where UNRWA is also the backbone of the humanitarian response, managing the bulk of life-saving health-care services as well as food and shelter assistance, and where nearly 70 per cent of the total population are Palestine Refugees, what is at stake is the paralysis of “the last remaining lifeline” for people, as [stressed](#) by UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, and the only entity able to re-start education for more than 660,000 children. If implemented, the passed legislation would suffocate efforts to ease human suffering in Gaza and the entire OPT and would be an enormous setback to sustainable peace efforts and undermine the internationally recognized multilateral system.

- The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate [reported](#) a staggering toll on journalists in Gaza, with 174 killed—representing 10 per cent of those working in Gaza—101 [injured](#) and 30 detained since October 2023. The syndicate also documented that 514 family members of journalists were killed in airstrikes on their homes and areas of displacement, with approximately 115 homes belonging to journalists hit. In his [message](#) to the United Nations International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East on 1 November, the UN Secretary-General (SG) stated: “Journalists in Gaza have been killed at a level unseen in any conflict in modern times.” Adding that the ban on international journalists’ entry into Gaza is “unacceptable,” the SG stressed that the “voices of journalists must be protected and press freedom must be safeguarded.”

Funding

- As of 5 November, Member States have disbursed about US\$2 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (61 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 90 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.6 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (91 per cent) and the West Bank (nine per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, WASH, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 49 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 61 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is currently finalizing its critical and time-sensitive First Standard Allocation of \$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in Gaza and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



People newly displaced from North Gaza governorate staying in a stadium in Gaza city, 10 November 2024. Photo by OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #237 | Gaza Strip

12 Nov 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 14 November.

Key Highlights

- So far in November, every attempt by the UN to access besieged areas of North Gaza governorate with food and health missions to support tens of thousands of people remaining there was either denied or impeded.
- Between 100,000 and 130,000 people have been displaced from North Gaza amid intensification of attacks and Israeli evacuation orders.
- The Famine Review Committee has warned that famine thresholds may have already been crossed in northern Gaza, or else will be in the near future, urging action within days, not weeks.
- Schools, the majority sheltering displaced people, continue to be attacked with a total of 64 attacks against schools recorded in October, according to UNICEF.
- Access to health care across Gaza remains precarious, with partners of the UN Population Fund reporting a recent rise in premature births and maternal deaths.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. The tightened Israeli siege imposed since then has hindered humanitarian access to Jabalya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya. At the same time, the area has seen severe disruptions in communications, including internet. On 10 November, Israeli military operations in An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah intensified considerably, with people reportedly appealing to rescue teams to be evacuated following the sudden advancement of forces amid heavy fire. On 10 and 11 November, at least 14 Palestinians, including four children and three women, were reportedly killed in western An Nuseirat and 30 others were reported injured or missing. On the night of 11 November, the ground incursion in Beit Hanoun in North Gaza also reportedly intensified, with accounts that Israeli forces ordered the evacuation of hundreds of civilians from the area, according to Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD).
- On 8 November, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee (FRC) issued an [alert](#), warning about an imminent and substantial likelihood of famine occurring in areas within northern Gaza because the worst-case scenario the FRC had warned about is already unfolding. The recent IPC analysis for the Strip had projected that under a worst-case scenario, involving inter alia an intensification of hostilities, growing displacement, and a reduction in humanitarian assistance, a risk of famine existed for the whole of Gaza between November 2024 and April 2025. Based on rapidly deteriorating humanitarian conditions, the FRC noted that it can now be “assumed that starvation, malnutrition, and excess mortality due to malnutrition and

disease, are rapidly increasing” in areas of northern Gaza and that “[f]amine thresholds may have already been crossed or else will be in the near future.” The FRC further warned: “Immediate action, within days not weeks, is required from all actors who are directly taking part in the conflict, or have influence on its conduct, to avert and alleviate this catastrophic situation.”

- Between the afternoons of 5 and 12 November, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 274 Palestinians were killed and 729 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 12 November 2024, at least 43,665 Palestinians were killed and 103,076 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 5 and 12 November, five Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 12 November 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,573 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 373 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,425 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- Between 4 and 10 November, at least five mass casualty incidents took place in North Gaza and Gaza city.
 - On 4 November, at about 19:00, 25 Palestinians including 13 children, were reportedly killed and others went missing under the rubble when a house was hit in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 5 November, at about 10:00, 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Fakhoura area, south Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 7 November, at about 15:30, dozens of Palestinians, estimated between 25 to 30 people and including women and children, were reportedly killed and several others injured when a house was hit in Jabalya refugee camp. Due to the inability of PCD crews to operate and restricted media access to the area, the precise number of fatalities remains unknown.
 - On the same day, at about 14:15, at least 15 Palestinians, including 11 from a single family, and among them eight women, were reportedly killed and several others injured when an UNRWA school, sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs), was hit in Ash Shati’ (Beach) refugee camp, west of Gaza city.
 - Lastly, on 10 November, at about 6:00, 36 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed while others were injured, including some remaining under the rubble, when a multi-storey building was hit in Old Gaza Street in Jabalya Al Balad, in North Gaza.
- According to the latest data from the United Nations Children’s Fund ([UNICEF](#)) and its partners, a total of 64 attacks against schools, which mostly serve as IDP shelters, were documented in October, including 25 in northern Gaza, with an estimated 128 people killed as a result, many of them children. Last month’s attacks, an average of two per day, comprise 28 per cent of the overall number of attacks on schools recorded since October 2023 (226 attacks), according to UNICEF. Reiterating the agency’s call to all parties to end grave violations against children, and to end attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell, stated: “Schools should never be on the frontlines of war, and children should never be indiscriminately attacked while seeking shelter,” adding that children “must be shielded from harm, and their right to education must be upheld, even amidst conflict.”
- The following are other key deadly incidents reported between 4 and 8 November:
 - On 4 November, at about 13:00, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when two houses were hit in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 6 November, at about 14:00, at least seven Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Al Khazan neighbourhood in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 6 November, at about 22:00, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 6 November, at about 19:50, at least seven Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed, including some remaining under the rubble, and 17 others injured, when a house was hit in the New Camp, north of An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 7 November, at about 18:30, six Palestinians, including one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when the schoolyard of Al Rimal UNRWA school, sheltering IDPs, was hit, west of Gaza city.
 - On 7 November, at about 23:50, nine Palestinians, including two children and four women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in the vicinity of Ad Daraj health Clinic, in central Gaza city.
 - On 7 November, at about 8:00, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of people was hit near Abu Sharikh junction, west of Jabalya refugee camp, in North Gaza.
 - On 8 November, at about 23:45, six Palestinians, including two journalists, were reportedly killed and others injured when Fahed as Sabah governmental school, designated as an IDP shelter, was hit in At Tuffah neighbourhood, northeast of Gaza city.
- As of 9 November, the UN and its partners estimated that between 100,000 and 130,000 people had been displaced over the preceding five weeks from North Gaza governorate to Gaza city and between 50,000 and 75,000 people were estimated to remain

in North Gaza. Moreover, based on humanitarian partners observations, about 500 people have been displaced from northern to southern Gaza since 6 October 2024. Humanitarian assistance to North Gaza has been largely denied, except for one mission by the World Food Programme (WFP) on 11 November (see below) and some medical supplies provided to hospitals during medical evacuations missions; no fuel has been delivered to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in the area since 1 October. Overall, between 1 and 11 November, every attempt by the UN to access besieged areas of North Gaza with food and health missions was either denied or impeded (see more below). Hospitals in North Gaza are also hardly functioning with the bare minimum of capacities and resources. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), access to the Kamal Adwan, Al Awda and Indonesian hospitals remains severely restricted and since 3 November, due to critical fuel shortages, Al Awda Hospital has been forced to operate its generators only three hours per day, disrupting life-saving surgeries and other healthcare services, WHO added. Moreover, while the second round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign has now been concluded in northern Gaza, with a total of 105,558 children under the age of 10 immunised, the Health Cluster estimates that between 6,800 and 13,700 children in inaccessible areas of North Gaza, such as Jabalya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, could not be reached with a second vaccination dose and remain vulnerable to the poliovirus.

- According to PCD, their teams have been continuously receiving appeals about and from people trapped under the rubble of destroyed houses across Gaza but lack the equipment and machinery needed to access and rescue them, reportedly resulting in the loss of the lives of thousands of people since October 2023. In North Gaza, PCD remains forcibly out of service and reports that people who survive the bombing and attacks often die from hunger, amid severe shortages of food. Many people in the area have been left trapped under rubble for days, without being evacuated, PCD added.
- On 11 November, after multiple attempts, a WFP convoy successfully reached Beit Hanoun in North Gaza governorate, delivering essential aid for the first time in over a month. The convoy included two trucks carrying life-saving ready-to-eat rations and wheat flour, and one truck carrying bottled water. Initially, WFP had planned a 14-truck mission to deliver supplies to shelters in Beit Hanoun and the Indonesian Hospital in Jabalya. However, delays in movement authorization and crowded routes led to a reduction in the convoy's size. The aid was ultimately delivered to the Mahdia Al Shawwa IDP shelter and a nearby public shelter. Following the delivery of aid, there have been reports of intense shelling and Israeli forces surrounding the area where WFP distributed the aid, ordering families to leave. WFP was planning another mission on 12 November to reach the remaining planned shelters and hospitals in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya, and Jabalya, but these missions have been denied. According to PCD, on 11 November, 200 people were [evacuated](#) from Tal Zaatar area in Jabalya to Gaza city.
- Health conditions continue to deteriorate across Gaza, with nine in 10 children under the age of five [affected](#) by one or more infectious diseases, and 25 per cent of women [experiencing](#) skin conditions and other health issues. Over 11,000 cases of acute respiratory infections were reported only in the space of one week in early November, as cases of acute jaundice syndrome and bloody diarrhea also continue to rise, warns WHO. The dire conditions faced by pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) are especially concerning, with partners of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [reporting](#) a recent rise in premature births and maternal deaths and an estimated 155,000 PBW are deprived of access to pre-natal and postnatal care. Only nine out of the 17 partially functioning hospitals, and four field hospitals, are currently providing maternity services, according to [WHO](#), and “[e]very day, hundreds of women give birth in traumatic, unhygienic and undignified conditions,” [highlighted](#) the WHO Director-General to the UN Security Council on 6 November. Beyond the lack of safe childbirth services, food scarcity is having a devastating impact on pregnant women, increasing the risk of babies being born with health complications, and rendering new mothers unable to breastfeed; this, in turn, places infants at a higher risk of contracting infectious diseases, including pneumonia, particularly as the winter approaches. Overall, 42,000 pregnant women are facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity across the Strip, 15,000 of whom are classified in the emergency phase (IPC Phase 4) and 3,000 facing catastrophic hunger (IPC Phase 5), “a number that could surge to 8,000 as winter sets,” warns UNFPA.
- On 6 November, WHO and its partners medically [evacuated](#) 90 critically ill patients, including 38 children, outside Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing. This was the largest medical evacuation in one day outside Gaza since the closure of the Rafah Crossing in May 2024. In total, 84 patients alongside their 124 companions were transferred to the United Arab Emirates, while six patients and 15 caregivers were transferred to Romania. The patients include those who have cancer, severe injuries, as well as thalassemia and cardiovascular, eye, renal, brain, autoimmune, and blood diseases. Overall, only a third of over 15,600 patients for whom medical evacuation was requested as of 9 November have been able to leave the Strip, with only 321 patients evacuated since the closure of the Rafah Crossing in May 2024. As the conflict grinds on amid decimated healthcare services, WHO continues to appeal for the urgent establishment of regular evacuation corridors, using all possible routes, to allow critical patients blocked in Gaza to access the specialized care they need.
- Across the Gaza Strip, alarmingly poor dietary diversity is being observed by Food Security Sector (FSS) and nutrition cluster partners. According to a recent food security and market monitoring report by WFP covering October, bread and pulses are the dominant foods being consumed while vegetable consumption dropped from six days per week prior to the escalation of hostilities to nearly zero in October 2024. Similarly, the consumption of meat and eggs declined from three days per week to nearly no consumption at present. Moreover, a recent UNICEF survey on dietary diversity among children and PBW highlights the severe nutritional impact due to reduced humanitarian aid and commercial food supplies entries. Data from 18 to 24 October shows a sharp decline in dietary diversity, with 95 per cent of parents of children aged 6 to 23 months reporting their children consumed only two or fewer types of food the day before the survey. This figure marks an increase from 90 per cent in September, 79 per cent in July, and 94 per cent in May when widespread displacement from Rafah to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis occurred.
- For most people in Gaza, accessing affordable basic goods has become a significant struggle, as both the economy and aid operations are increasingly overwhelmed. Frustrated by soaring prices, many residents heeded local calls for a market boycott, which lasted for about two days, citing the near-total absence of regulatory oversight as a major factor fueling* price manipulation. The market’s situation is worsened by severe Israeli restrictions on the entry of supplies into Gaza, with increasing reports of looting incidents, along with claims by Palestinian consumers that trucks carrying essential goods are being diverted by

unknown Palestinian groups to private warehouses, preventing them from reaching markets and driving prices further up. [Media](#) reports have also suggested that local traders are forced to pay armed personnel extortion fees for securing safe passage of the supplies through Gaza. The protest comes as the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics [reports](#) that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Gaza has increased by 283 per cent since October 2023 due to ongoing hostilities. Moreover, WFP stated on 3 November that, in central and southern Gaza, the collapse of local markets and essential goods shortages have increased people's reliance on small-scale aid such as ready meals. In October, a daily average of only 37 truckloads of basic humanitarian supplies could be brought into Gaza—the lowest level since October 2023.

- On 7 November, the Israeli military issued a new evacuation order for parts of Gaza city and North Gaza. Initial estimates indicate that the order affects 3.8 square kilometres and six neighbourhoods, with approximately 61,000 people staying there, based on population estimates from the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development on 4 November. Critical service facilities are also covered by the order, including three medical points, four bakeries and kitchen points, 18 water trucking points, 14 IDP sites, and a warehouse. This same area is covered by an outstanding order issued by the Israeli authorities in mid-October 2023 to evacuate the entire area north of Wadi Gaza.
- Since October 2023, over 67 evacuation orders have been issued by the Israeli authorities, for people in 150 neighbourhoods, affecting up to 88 per cent of Gaza's area. Only five of these orders – all in southern Gaza – have been subsequently rescinded, the latest being on 11 November. As of 12 November, approximately 79 per cent of the Gaza Strip remains under active evacuation orders, with people continuing to be directed to the remaining areas, which are in or around Al Mawasi in southern Gaza. That area currently covers 72.5 square kilometres, or about 20 per cent of Gaza, and faces significant challenges, including a lack of basic infrastructure, limited services, and severely constrained aid operations. Repeated forced displacement is worsening the humanitarian crisis exacerbating people's vulnerability as resources are depleted and access to critical services becomes increasingly limited.
- Ongoing hostilities, compounded by the destruction of WASH facilities, persistent electricity cuts and critical shortages of fuel, continue to disrupt water production, distribution, and management in Gaza. According to the WASH Cluster, this has resulted in significant reductions in water output, especially in North Gaza. Between 26 October and 8 November, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) reported an average daily water production of 96,394 cubic metres across Gaza – approximately one quarter of the production levels prior to October 2023. In October, WASH Cluster partners reported that only 28 per cent of the minimum daily fuel requirement of 70,000 litres – necessary for maintaining water production, sewage management, and solid waste handling – was met. The lack of fuel has forced private sector water suppliers to cease operations, severely disrupting water distribution in Gaza city, a situation exacerbated by the influx of IDPs from the North Gaza governorate.
- Preparations for the winter season, such as clearing stormwater drains, unblocking manholes, and removing debris, are ongoing in accessible areas, according to the WASH Cluster, but are hindered by the limited entry of essential equipment and materials and the challenges of moving supplies from southern to northern Gaza. The dewatering of three critical lagoons – Abu Rasheed, Sheikh Radwan, and Al Amal – has not progressed at the required pace ahead of the forthcoming rains. Similarly, the relocation of IDPs from flood-prone areas and the transfer of 10 temporary solid waste sites have stalled, due to lack of essential resources.* Moreover, the Israeli authorities' continued denials of fuel delivery requests for water points and solid waste management in the North Gaza governorate since early October have severely hindered operations, posing significant public health concerns. Solid waste management is further strained by the lack of spare parts and restricted access to safe disposal sites. The absence of a dedicated medical waste management system also poses serious health risks, as medical waste, including sharps and infectious materials, is being mixed with domestic waste.
- As winter approaches, Gaza faces severe and unprecedented risks due to ongoing hostilities, widespread infrastructure damage, and critical shortages across all sectors. According to a recent [anticipatory note](#) by ACAPS, issued on 30 October, the 2024–2025 winter season arrives amid the ongoing displacement of at least 90 per cent of people in Gaza. A significant increase in humanitarian needs is expected this winter, but the profound changes and deterioration in Gaza's context since last winter make it extremely difficult to gauge the scale or scope of these needs. Flood patterns are harder to anticipate due to extensive infrastructural damage and the accumulation of rubble, with many displaced people now living in low-lying coastal areas prone to flooding. In this regard, the municipality of Khan Younis has recently [warned](#) about the risk of flooding in over 60 hotspot areas across Khan Younis, noting that the situation will be catastrophic for people living in those areas. Additionally, according to ACAPS, the shelter situation has drastically changed, with most displaced people now living in tents and makeshift structures that offer minimal protection against harsh winter conditions. This shift significantly increases vulnerability to health and safety risks. In parallel, the humanitarian response is hampered by the ongoing blockade, which limits the entry of essential resources, including winterization items, fuel, and spare parts, all of which are already in short supply, and hampers preparedness activities. The note adds that the road network, already damaged by airstrikes and ground operations, will deteriorate further as seasonal rains impair road conditions, making it even harder to deliver critical supplies. By September 2024, according to this note, 68 per cent of Gaza's roads were damaged, and approximately 12,000 metric tonnes of rubble obstructed transportation routes. The Israeli authorities have kept the Gaza Strip disconnected from electricity since October 2023, resulting in full reliance on alternative power sources that are insufficient.
- Access restrictions have continued to severely disrupt humanitarian aid operations throughout the Gaza strip, particularly affecting the North Gaza governorate, where needs are most critical and have been escalating due to the ongoing Israeli military operation that began on 6 October. These limitations have hindered the flow of food, medical supplies, fuel for key infrastructure such as water pumps for drinking water, and other essential resources to tens of thousands of people, leaving them without much-needed, life-saving assistance. Between 1 and 11 November, out of 195 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip which were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, 31 per cent (61) were denied, 42 per cent (83) were facilitated, 16 per cent (32) were impeded, and 10 per cent (19) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. This includes 69 coordinated aid

movements intended to provide humanitarian assistance in North Gaza and the Gaza governorates, of which 37 needed to pass via the Israeli military-controlled Al Rashid and Salah ad Din checkpoints. Of those using the checkpoints, only 27 per cent (10) were facilitated by Israeli authorities, 32 per cent (12) were impeded, 30 per cent (11) were denied, and 11 per cent (4) cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza governorate were particularly disrupted. Between 1 and 11 November, 19 coordination requests for critical aid missions targeting Jabalya, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahya were submitted, with requests at best impeded, resulting in partial aid delivery, or more commonly completely denied, severely hampering efforts to deliver life-saving assistance to critical facilities and families trapped in high-risk zones. In one instance, on 10 November, [PRCS](#) reported that a patient died due to prolonged delays at a military checkpoint between North Gaza governorate and Gaza city. According to the [Humanitarian Access Snapshot](#) issued on 11 November, the operating environment for humanitarian operations in Gaza significantly worsened in October, with approximately 43 per cent of all humanitarian movements coordinated with Israeli authorities to reach those in need across the Gaza Strip being denied – marking the highest rate of access denial recorded since the hostilities began in October 2023.

Funding

- As of 12 November, Member States have disbursed about US\$2 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (61 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 90 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.6 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (91 per cent) and the West Bank (nine per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, WASH, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 49 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 61 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is currently finalizing its critical and time-sensitive First Standard Allocation of \$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in Gaza and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

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On Salah Ad Din Road in Deir al Balah, Gaza, two children collect flour spilled from a humanitarian truck, barefoot amid the remnants of war, 5 November 2024. Photo by OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #239 | Gaza Strip

19 Nov 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 21 November.

Key Highlights

- For over 40 days, people besieged in North Gaza governorate have been facing diminishing conditions for survival.
- All attempts by the UN to support people in North Gaza have been denied or impeded: bakeries and kitchens have shut down, nutrition support has been suspended, and the refuelling of water and sanitation facilities remains restricted.
- Efforts are ongoing to scale up services in Gaza city, where more than 100,000 people displaced from North Gaza have relocated.
- There is a stark increase in the number of households experiencing severe hunger in central and southern Gaza, Food Security Sector partners warn.
- Eight children were medically evacuated outside the Gaza Strip, bringing to 329 the number of patients who have been exceptionally evacuated abroad since early May.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, following military operations that began in October 2023, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October 2024, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened siege on the area and humanitarian assistance has been largely denied; between 1 and 18 November, 27 out of 31 coordination requests by the UN to access the besieged areas were denied and the remaining four were initially approved but then impeded on the ground. No fuel was let in for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities (see more below).
- Briefing the Security Council on 12 November, then Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Joyce Msuya, [described](#) the latest offensive in North Gaza as “an intensified, extreme and accelerated version of the horrors of the past year.” The Acting ERC stated: “Shelters, homes and schools have been burned and bombed to the ground. Numerous families remain trapped under rubble, because fuel for digging equipment is being blocked by the Israeli authorities and first responders have been blocked from reaching them... Supplies to the north are being cut off and people are being pushed further south.” Highlighting the scale of death, destruction and suffering throughout the Strip, the UN official warned that “[c]onditions of life across Gaza are unfit for human survival,” with food being insufficient, shelter items extremely scarce and violent armed lootings of humanitarian convoys becoming “increasingly organized along routes from Kerem Shalom [crossing], driven by the collapse of public order and safety.”

- Between the afternoons of 12 and 19 November, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 307 Palestinians were killed and 932 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 19 November 2024, at least 43,972 Palestinians were killed and 104,008 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 12 and 19 November, three Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 19 November 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,576 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 376 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,440 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- Due to the suspension of the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) services in North Gaza governorate, community responders with limited expertise have reportedly been trying to recover casualties using available unsuitable tools, with limited success. The following are some of the deadliest incidents reported between 11 and 18 November:
 - On 11 November, at about 20:45, 11 Palestinians, including two children were reportedly killed and others injured when a tent, reportedly operating as an internet service point and café, was hit on the coastal road in Al Mawasi area, west of Khan Younis.
 - On 12 November, at about 11:30, at least 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed, with corpses remaining under the rubble and in the street, when two houses were hit in Beit Hanoun, in North Gaza.
 - On 12 November, at about 10:45, at least six Palestinians, including two girls and an elderly man, were reportedly killed and several others, including children, injured when a group of Palestinians was hit near the UNRWA clinic on the coastal road west of Deir Al Balah.
 - On 13 November, at about 9:00, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of people was hit at the gate of Kamal Adwan Hospital, in North Gaza.
 - On 15 November, at about 13:20, at least seven Palestinians including five females were reportedly killed and others injured when a tent used by internally displaced persons (IDPs) was hit near Al Eqlimi Park near Pier 19 in Al Mawasi area, in western Khan Younis.
 - On 16 November, at about 16:35, 10 Palestinians, including at least one girl and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when Abu Asi School was hit in Ash Shati (Beach) refugee camp, in western Gaza city.
 - On 17 November, at about 0:30, 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house, hosting IDPs, was hit near Al Shawa clinic in Beit Lahiya Project area in North Gaza. Injured people reportedly remained under the rubble.
 - On 17 November, at about 8:00, approximately 50 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a five-storey building hosting tens of IDPs was hit in Beit Lahiya Project, in North Gaza.
 - On 17 November, at about 15:25, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of people was hit near Al Fizab Market in Qizan an Najjar village, in southern Khan Younis.
 - On 18 November, over 20 people were reportedly killed by armed men in an operation said to be led by the Gaza Ministry of Interior to target alleged looters of humanitarian aid.
- The UN and its partners estimate that between 100,000 and 131,000 people have been displaced since 6 October 2024, arriving at various locations in the west and north of Gaza city, where essential resources such as shelter, water, and health care are severely limited. This influx has raised the population in Gaza governorate from around 250,000 estimated to have been present as of the end of September 2024 to approximately 375,000 people. Movement towards southern Gaza remains limited, with about 700 people having moved southward since 6 October 2024. It is estimated that only 65,000 to 75,000 people remain in North Gaza governorate, less than 20 per cent of the population on the eve of 7 October 2024. On 17 November, Israeli air forces dropped leaflets in Beit Lahiya, ordering an immediate evacuation and reportedly triggering further displacement.
- On 15 November, Israeli forces released 20 Palestinian detainees through Kerem Shalom Crossing, most of whom had been reportedly detained from North Gaza since 6 October 2024, according to [media](#) sources. The detainees were subsequently transferred to the European Hospital in Khan Younis for medical evaluation and care. Some of the detainees [reported](#) to the media that many children, older people, and seriously injured individuals taken from hospitals in North Gaza remain in Israeli custody. Detainees reported being subjected to systematic torture within Israeli prisons, including physical assault, sleep deprivation, prolonged periods of handcuffing and blindfolding, and severe deprivation from food, water, and medical care, as media highlighted. On 15 November, the Palestinian Prisoner's society [announced](#) the death of a detainee from Gaza on 14 November while being transferred from a prison in southern Israel to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba after his medical situation deteriorated. The society added that the prisoner had been detained since December 2023 and was in good health according to his family. As of November 2024, according to [data](#) provided by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) to Hamoked, an Israeli human rights NGO, there are 10,091 Palestinians in Israeli custody, including 3,443 administrative detainees held without trial, 1,997 sentenced prisoners, and 1,627 people held as "unlawful combatants". These figures do not include Palestinians from Gaza who have been detained by the Israeli military since 7 October 2023 and their number remains unknown.
- Humanitarian operations across Gaza have continued to be significantly hampered by ongoing access restrictions, severely limiting the critical delivery of food, medical aid, and fuel supplies and exacerbating already dire humanitarian conditions. Between 1 and 18 November, out of 319 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip that were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, 41

per cent (132) were facilitated, 33 per cent (105) were denied, 16 per cent (51) were impeded, and 10 per cent (31) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. This includes 120 coordinated aid movements intended to provide humanitarian assistance in governorates north of Wadi Gaza, of which 65 needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled Al Rashid or Salah Ad Din checkpoints. Of those using the checkpoints, only 24 per cent (16) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities, 32 per cent (21) were impeded, 34 per cent (22) were denied, and nine percent (six) were cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza Governorate were particularly disrupted. Between 1 and 18 November, 85 per cent of* 41 coordination requests for humanitarian missions in North Gaza governorate were either denied (17) or impeded (18), while seven per cent (3) were facilitated. Specifically, 31 of these 41 requests were made for the besieged areas of Jabalya, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahya, with all but four* attempts being denied during this period. These four attempts were severely impeded and could only accomplish limited objectives. Coordinated aid missions to areas in the southern, western, and central Rafah governorate, which has been under an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges, with 26 of the 63 coordinated missions (41 per cent) either denied or impeded between 1 and 18 November.

Health

- In North Gaza, where mass casualty incidents and bombardment continue to be reported, access to the Kamal Adwan, Al Awda and Indonesian hospitals remains severely restricted amid severe shortages of medical supplies, fuel and blood units. All attempts by the Health Cluster to deploy an international Emergency Medical Team (EMT) to scale up capacities continue to be blocked by the Israeli authorities. On 17 November, the World Health Organization (WHO), jointly with OCHA, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), reached the Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza, delivering 10,000 litres of fuel to the facility and transferring 17 patients, three unaccompanied children, and their 22 caregivers to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. Overall, between 1 October and 17 November, WHO and its partners planned 10 missions to the Kamal Adwan Hospital but were only allowed to reach the facility on five occasions, under restrictive conditions. On 18 November, the unaccompanied children were further transferred, with the support of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), to the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, where they were reunited with their families. While the WHO-led mission was also meant to deliver food and medical supplies to Kamal Adwan, Israeli forces compelled aid workers to offload the food at an Israeli military checkpoint, before reaching the patients and medical staff at the hospital, and only some of the medical supplies could be handed over to the facility, according to the hospital's director Dr. Husam Abu Safiyeh and the Health Cluster. On the evening of 18 November, the Director of Kamal Adwan reported that the facility had once again been hit, with shrapnel hitting personnel in the intensive care unit. In a separate mission, the ICRC and PRCS reached the Al Awda Hospital in Jabaliya, delivering fuel and medical supplies, and transferring 15 patients to Al Shifa Hospital. The Israeli authorities, however, blocked the provision of food and water to the facility. In a statement, Al Awda Health and Community Association warned that Al Awda Hospital is operating only four hours a day to continue providing essential health services despite the critical shortage of fuel and is in dire need of food, water, blood units, and oxygen supplies.
- In Gaza governorate, efforts by the Health Cluster are ongoing to scale up health services given the continued influx of displaced people from North Gaza. Between 27 October and 9 November, two new surgical Specialized Care Teams were deployed to the Public Aid and Al Ahli Arab hospitals in Gaza city. Sexual and Reproductive Health supplies and equipment, as well as individual kits, were also delivered to support 15 health facilities and serve 20,000 people. On 18 November, ICRC and PRCS [transferred](#) antibiotics, emergency medications and other medical supplies to Al Shifa, Al Ahli and Al Hilu hospitals in Gaza city, with additional missions planned by the Health Cluster to the area to further increase capacities.
- In central Gaza, with support from Germany, WHO has [expanded](#) inpatient capacity at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, setting up 13 specialized tents with 88 additional beds in the hospital's backyard. This extension is expected to ease congestion in the emergency room, enhance trauma care for complex cases, and improve the management of mass casualty incidents. The hospital, however, continues to face shortages of blood units and on 14 November, it organized an urgent blood donation campaign jointly with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Doctors of the World. Meanwhile, Emergency, an international NGO, [reported](#) that its team has started providing healthcare services in a field clinic set up by a local association in Al Mawasi, receiving an average of 160 patients a day, more than a third of whom are children, and finding that one in ten patients is malnourished.
- On 14 November, WHO and its partners [supported](#) the medical evacuation of eight children suffering from conflict injuries and metabolic conditions, alongside their six companions, from Gaza to Jordan, for onward travel to the United States to receive advanced medical treatment. Four days earlier, MSF [reported](#) that the Israeli authorities had blocked, without explanation, the medical evacuation to the MSF hospital in Jordan of eight children and their caretakers, including a two-year-old with leg amputations. MSF added that it had applied for 32 children and caretakers to be medically evacuated from Gaza to Jordan in recent months, but only six have reportedly been allowed to leave. In total, according to the Health Cluster, since the closure of Rafah Crossing on 7 May, only 329 patients have been exceptionally evacuated outside Gaza, while all regular evacuations of critically ill and injured patients remain suspended.

Food Security

- The food security situation continues to worsen by the day across the Gaza Strip. More than one million people have not received any food parcels since July or earlier, with the majority being in central and southern Gaza. Many kitchens have already closed, none are operational in North Gaza governorate, only 18 in the Gaza governorate, and approximately 120 remain open throughout central and southern Gaza, of which 100 are producing about 330,000 meals per day but face the constant threat of shutdown amid persistent and increasing shortages of supplies. As of 18 November, only eight out of 19 bakeries supported by WFP remained operational across the Strip – four in Gaza city, three in Deir al Balah and one in Khan Younis; none in Rafah or North Gaza. The deepening energy crisis is only exacerbating this dire situation across the Strip, with no cooking gas having entered northern Gaza for more than 13 consecutive months, and firewood or wood logs being increasingly scarce in highly congested

areas of central and southern Gaza, forcing people to continue relying on burning waste to cook and venture into high-risk areas in search of firewood.

- Access to North Gaza continues to be heavily restricted, with all except two missions by Food Security Sector (FSS) partners to deliver food aid (both missions were also rendered incomplete) consistently denied since 6 October and kitchen and subsidized bakeries having completely shut down. Moreover, all Nutrition Cluster partner activities remain suspended, including the treatment of children with acute malnutrition, as well as supplementary feeding for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Briefing the Security Council on 12 November, the Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Office of Emergencies and Resilience, Rein Pulsen, [stressed](#) that "men, women, boys and girls are effectively starving as the conflict rages, with humanitarian organizations blocked from delivering assistance to those in need," warning that the window of opportunity to save people's lives is now – tomorrow will be too late. He explained that people would have already been dying from hunger by the time famine is declared and this would have "irreversible consequences that can last generations." In a video statement [issued](#) on 15 November and in a subsequent update provided on 18 November, the Director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital warned that signs of famine are being recorded in North Gaza, with acutely malnourished children and adults arriving to the hospital and four children being now in critical conditions at the facility.
- In Gaza city, FSS partners are doing their utmost to support the increasing number of people displaced from further north. So far in November, more than 200,000 people have received at least one food parcel, with many having also received one 25-kilogram bag of wheat flour, which continues to enter almost regularly through the Erez West Crossing. About 10,000 cooked meals prepared in 18 kitchens are distributed daily to households, alongside 9,800 bread parcels produced by the four subsidized bakeries.
- Food security conditions are alarmingly deteriorating in the central and southern governorates of Gaza, with a limited amount of food aid trickling through the Kerem Shalom crossing, a high rate of convoys being looted, and a near halt to commercial supplies. On 16 November, a UN convoy comprising 109 trucks of food supplies was violently [looted](#) by Palestinians, with 97 trucks lost and drivers forced at gunpoint to unload aid. As of mid-November, only some 270,000 people - 16 per cent of the estimated 1.7 million people in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah - had received their reduced monthly food rations. Dire shortages of wheat flour have forced the closure of four bakeries in Deir al Balah in the space of one week, with only three bakeries in the governorate and one in Khan Younis remaining operational as of 18 November. Many community-led baking initiatives have equally been forced to suspend their activities since early October. The four still functional bakeries are operating at 100 per cent of their capacity, but risk shutting down if no additional flour is received within five days.
- A remote monitoring exercise conducted by FSS partners in central and southern Gaza in October revealed a stark increase in the number of households experiencing severe hunger, with people increasingly relying on the most severe coping strategies to survive, such as reducing adults' food intake in favour of children. Wheat flour is also extremely scarce, with the price of a 25-kilogramme bag of flour having skyrocketed to 400 NIS (over US\$100), compared with [40 NIS](#) (about \$10) prior to October 2023. The situation on the ground is "unbearable," [highlighted](#) UNRWA, with "people fighting over bags of flour and surviving on tinned food" and protests demanding the entry of flour and food supplies being increasingly frequent. The Nutrition Stabilization Centre operated by the International Medical Corps (IMC) in Deir Al Balah has also reported to the Nutrition Cluster an increase in admissions of children with oedema, a sign of worsening malnutrition, with six boys and four girls admitted between 10 October and 12 November.

Water and Sanitation

- WASH conditions remain critical across Gaza, particularly in the North Gaza governorate, where approximately 65,000 - 75,000 people face immense challenges in securing access to clean drinking water and where no fuel has been allowed into the area, halting the operation of the remaining water wells, amid ongoing power cuts from Israel and the Gaza power plant. According to the WASH Cluster, since the onset of the Israeli military operation in North Gaza on 6 October 2024, all requests submitted by aid partners for the delivery of supplies and fuel to operate WASH facilities were denied*, heightening the risks of dehydration and disease outbreaks while about half of Gaza city wells have been inaccessible. In southern Gaza, fuel and equipment shortages are also having a detrimental impact on WASH conditions. Calling for the urgent delivery of fuel ahead of the winter season, on 16 November, the Municipality of Khan Younis reported that the lack of fuel is severely hindering its ability to collect and transport waste as well as clear stormwater drains in over 60 identified locations at high risk of flooding, among other essential services, further exacerbating the challenges faced by residents in these vulnerable areas.
- On 13 November, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) [said](#) that it has received from UNICEF a shipment of 20,000 litres of chlorine for drinking water and necessary chemicals, which are sufficient for one month to operate seawater desalination plants and water wells in southern Gaza. Chlorine stocks had been depleted for months, leaving the water supply system vulnerable to contamination and public health risks, while the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, particularly water networks and distribution systems, has resulted in unprecedented levels of water pollution, CMWU highlighted. While none of these supplies have yet been authorized for delivery to WASH facilities in North Gaza, received supplies are expected to help mitigate the risk of water contamination and alleviate parts of the public health concerns including at displacement sites.
- On 14 November, the Israeli authorities enabled power through a single electricity line dedicated to the UN-supported southern Gaza central seawater desalination plant, connecting it to Israel's power grid, which is anticipated to contribute to improving the water supply. However, the overall amount of water produced and pumped remains unclear, as water pumping continues to be severely hindered by the ongoing destruction of WASH infrastructure. This marks the first time the Israeli authorities have allowed any electricity connection to Gaza since it cut off all the supply from Israel of approximately 120 Megawatts in October 2023. Combined with the forced shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant, Gaza has been suffering from a near complete blackout, and full

reliance on alternative power sources such as backup generators or solar panels, severely disrupting the provision of basic services and aid operations.

Funding

- As of 19 November, Member States have disbursed about US\$2.12 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (62 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 90 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.6 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (91 per cent) and the West Bank (nine per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, WASH, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 49 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 61 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is currently finalizing its critical and time-sensitive First Standard Allocation of \$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in Gaza and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



Displaced Palestinians in a makeshift site of Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis, where tents were flooded by rain and high tides overnight on 25 November. Photo by OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #241 | Gaza Strip

26 Nov 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 28 November.

Key Highlights

- In North Gaza governorate, more mass casualty incidents are reported, and Kamal Adwan Hospital continues to come under attack.
- Of the UN's 41 attempts to support people besieged in North Gaza so far in November, all were either denied (37) or impeded (four).
- Families recently displaced from North Gaza governorate to Gaza city are facing critical shortages of supplies and services, severe overcrowding and dire hygiene conditions.
- With the onset of heavy rains, over 1.6 million people living in makeshift shelters — nearly half a million of whom are in flood-prone areas urgently need adequate shelter.
- Of the total number of children admitted for outpatient treatment of acute malnutrition since the beginning of 2024, two thirds were recorded in the past five months, signalling a worsening nutritional situation across Gaza.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October 2024, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and parts of Jabalya and humanitarian assistance has been largely denied (see data below).
- On 21 November, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Muhannad Hadi, [warned](#) that the humanitarian operation in the Gaza Strip could come to a standstill due to insecurity that has constrained the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver critical aid supplies, including food, water, fuel and medical supplies to two million people. Describing the situation as an “unparalleled humanitarian catastrophe,” the HC stated that at the same time that civilians are struggling to survive amid relentless hostilities, the Israeli authorities have banned commercial imports for over six weeks and armed looting of humanitarian convoys has surged. “In 2024, UN trucks have been looted 75 times – including 15 such attacks since 4 November alone – and armed people have broken into UN facilities on 34 occasions. Just last week, one driver was shot in the head and hospitalized, along with another truck driver. This Saturday, no less than 98 trucks were looted in a single attack with trucks being damaged or stolen,” Mr. Hadi added. Reiterating the UN's call for creating conditions to facilitate “safe and unimpeded humanitarian access across Gaza,” Mr. Hadi emphasized that humanitarian agencies “remain committed to staying and delivering, but ... [their] ability to do so is increasingly being called into question.”

- Between the afternoons of 19 and 26* November, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 277 Palestinians were killed and 738 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 26* November 2024, at least 44,249 Palestinians were killed and 104,746 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 19 and 26 November, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza and one soldier succumbed to wounds sustained on 7 October 2023, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 26 November 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,578 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 378 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,456 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- The following are some of the deadliest incidents reported between 20 and 23 November:
 - On 20 November, at about 23:30, around 66 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit with an explosive barrel that destroyed it along with six neighbouring houses near Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya (North Gaza). Due to the lack of ambulances, tools and Civil Defense crews, community responders reportedly struggled to recover bodies and rescue the injured from under the rubble.
 - On 20 November, at about 20:50, 21 Palestinians including at least four women and five children, were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Abu Iskandar area in northwestern Gaza city.
 - On 20 November, at about 16:40, 12 Palestinians including five children were reportedly killed and others injured when a location sheltering Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) was hit in Al Mawasi area in western Khan Younis.
 - On 20 November, during the morning hours, 12 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Jabalya Al Balad in southern North Gaza governorate.
 - On 20 November, at about 16:05, eight Palestinians, including two children and two women, were reportedly killed and 15 others injured when Khaled Bin Al Walid School was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah. The attack affected 200 people sheltering in the damaged rooms and tents in the school.
 - On 20 November, at about 22:40, at least six Palestinians including two children were reportedly killed and several others injured when a tent sheltering IDPs was hit in one of the sites in Al Mawasi area in western Khan Younis.
 - On 21 November, at about 22:00, at least eight Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Ash Shuja'iyyeh, east of Gaza city.
 - On 21 November, at about 9:00, at least seven Palestinians were reportedly killed in the centre of Rafah city.
 - On 22 November, at about 23:45, at least six Palestinians, including three children and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Buraq area in western Khan Younis.
 - On 22 November, at about 23:55, seven Palestinian family members, including three children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Az Zeitoun neighbourhood in southeastern Gaza city.
- On 23 November, at about 19:10, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp (Deir al Balah).
- On 20 November, the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) [reported](#) that one of its teams was directly hit while trying to rescue people under rubble in As Sabra area southwest of Gaza city, resulting in the death of a PCD member and the injury of three others. The PCD [added](#) that this was the eighteenth incident in which rescue teams had been hit during rescue missions, with a total of 87 PCD members killed to date. In a subsequent update on 21 November, the PCD reported that 304 of its members had been injured and 21 detained, and a total of 17 PCD centres had either been damaged or destroyed, along with 56 firefighting, rescue and ambulance vehicles. The statement highlighted that all Civil Defense activities remained blocked in North Gaza governorate. In a further update on 26 November, PCD announced that all of their fire, rescue, and ambulance vehicles have stopped working in Gaza governorate due to the lack of fuel.
- Also on 20 November, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) that an Israeli drone strike almost hit five Palestinian and international MSF staff while on the way home from the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, although the team was travelling in a clearly-marked MSF vehicle and the movement had been notified to the Israeli military. While the MSF team survived, the attack killed 20 people and seriously injured 10 others, added MSF, citing MoH figures. Since October 2023, at least 337 aid workers, including 330 Palestinians and seven foreigners have been killed; this includes 251 UN staff (of whom 247 were UNRWA staff members), 33 Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) staff and volunteers, and at least 53 other aid workers with national and international NGOs.
- On 23 November, the Israeli military issued an evacuation order for parts of eastern Gaza city, covering an area of 1.9 square kilometres that was included under previously-issued evacuation orders. Initial estimates indicate about 15 per cent of each of Turkuman al Jadeeda and Al Zeitoun neighbourhoods are affected by the order. Since October 2023, about 79 per cent of the Gaza Strip's territory has been placed under evacuation orders that remain active, excluding orders that were subsequently rescinded.
- Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza has continued to come under attack, with at least seven attacks [recorded](#) through open sources by the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) in OPT between the onset of the most recent Israeli military operation in North

Gaza on 6 October and 21 November. On 21 November, a drone attack [reportedly](#) damaged the hospital's electricity generator and water tank and resulted in the injury of four hospital staff and two patient companions. Expressing deep concern for the safety of patients and medical staff, the chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) urged "an immediate end to hostilities in the vicinity of the hospital and sustained access for humanitarian missions to provide lifesaving support." In its statement, OHCHR stressed: "The UN Human Rights Office has received no reports suggesting combat in the vicinity of Kamal Adwan hospital or the use of its facilities for any military purposes. But even if Palestinian armed groups had failed to comply with international humanitarian law's prohibition on using the presence of civilians to prevent the targeting of a military objective, Israeli forces are still bound by their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack." On 23 November, the hospital, which is already facing a dire lack of food, drinking water, medical staff and supplies, was reportedly hit once again, resulting in the injury of its director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya. On the same day, the Israeli military [coordinated](#) the transfer of 17 patients and caregivers from Kamal Adwan to other hospitals in Gaza. According to the Health Cluster, as of 26 November, there are 55 patients in Kamal Adwan Hospital, including five in the intensive care unit.

- Skin and respiratory infections, acute diarrheal illnesses and other viral diseases continue to rise across Gaza, with over 300 children treated daily at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) on 22 November. Between June and October 2024, the NGO treated 3,421 babies and other children under the age of five at the inpatient pediatric ward of Nasser hospital, 22 per cent of them for diarrhea-related illnesses and nearly nine per cent for meningitis. During the same period, about 1,294 children between one and five years of age were admitted to the facility for lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia, while more than 10,800 children between one and five years of age and 168 newborns under one month old were treated in the emergency department due to upper respiratory tract infections. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also [reported](#) that, in the six months between 9 May and 9 November, 31 per cent of all patients seen in the outpatient department of the Red Cross Field Hospital in southern Gaza were children under the age of 14, with respiratory infections, injuries and burns constituting the bulk of all cases treated.
- On 19 November, WHO reported that, with the support of Saudi Arabia, it has [rehabilitated](#) and expanded the warehouse at the Nasser Medical Complex, in Khan Younis, after it was severely damaged by a fire caused by nearby hostilities in April 2024. This will enhance storage capacity for essential medical supplies, benefiting both the Nasser Complex and other hospitals in southern Gaza. Moreover, while all regular medical evacuation corridors outside Gaza remain suspended, on 21 November, WHO and its partners [evacuated](#) six critical patients suffering from cancer or conflict-related injuries, including three children, alongside their seven companions, from Gaza to Jordan. Two patients were also planned to be further transferred to the United States, while four have remained in Jordan for specialized care. Overall, only 335 patients have been exceptionally evacuated outside the Strip since the closure of Rafah crossing in early May.
- There are clear signs of a rapidly worsening nutritional situation across Gaza, with two-thirds of the children admitted for outpatient treatment of acute malnutrition since the beginning of 2024 recorded in the past five months alone. According to the Nutrition Cluster, between 1 and 23 November, 3,410 children were admitted for outpatient treatment of acute malnutrition, and an average of 4,700 children were admitted for outpatient treatment of acute malnutrition each month between July and October. This is a total of 22,210 cases, or 67 per cent of the 32,817 cases admitted since the beginning of 2024. Moreover, between 10 and 31 October, the Nutrition Cluster has observed a significant increase in the admission of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with nutritional edema, where patients show swelling caused by fluid retention in the tissues, which is an indicator of lack of protein in diets. Cases have surged from 10 per cent before October to 74 per cent of admitted cases in the two stabilization centres (SC) in the Deir al Balah governorate, highlighting a worsening in the nutritional situation and the urgent need to scale up interventions.
- WHO and Relief International have recently established a new SC for the treatment of SAM in Deir al Balah, bringing the total number of SCs presently operational throughout the Strip to four: one in each of Khan Younis and Gaza city and two in Deir al Balah. As of 13 November, 344 children suffering from SAM and complications had been admitted to the SCs, representing a 50 per cent increase compared with the 229 cases reported as of 2 October. Meanwhile, the SC at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza remains closed since the intensification of hostilities in the governorate in early October 2024, despite spiraling needs in the governorate and the [appeal](#) by the hospital director for the immediate opening of a humanitarian corridor through which medical supplies, surgical medical delegations, baby food and therapeutic milk could enter North Gaza.
- Heavy rains hit the Gaza Strip on 25 November, marking the onset of the winter season and further worsening people's vulnerability amid limited response capacities. The heavy rains are estimated to affect over 1.6 million people living in makeshift shelters across the Gaza Strip, with thousands of displaced families living in tents along the coast in southwest Gaza being particularly affected by flooding and rising seawater. According to preliminary assessments by humanitarian partners, about 7,000 families residing along the shoreline were affected by recent rains, with thousands of tents flooded, belongings destroyed and shelters damaged. This has been particularly the case in the Al Mawasi area, which hosts several hundred thousands of displaced people. In Deir al Balah, a partner managing 19 sites reported that 60 shelters were destroyed and 120 were damaged at two shelter sites, adding that flooded roads and pathways have created significant access challenges and resulted in further displacement of some families to nearby sites. Some other families had moved in anticipation of the heavy rain; for example, on 24 November, 150 families had already moved to a newly established site in Hamad City, in Khan Younis. Moreover, an assessment by OCHA in the southern area of Al Qarara seaport in Khan Younis, where more than 600 tents were reported to have been [flooded](#) by high tides, showed an urgent need for shelter and non-food items such as tents and clothing, as well as food assistance.
- Harsh winter temperatures compounded by heavy rains and rising sea tides are further exacerbating sewage accumulation, the spread of disease, and risk of collapse of damaged buildings where many families have sought refuge. Unlike last winter, when the majority of IDPs managed to find shelter with host families or in schools, hospitals and public buildings, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian families are surviving in small, overcrowded tents or makeshift shelters made of tarpaulins, blankets or cardboard that

“will not keep them safe from strong winds, heavy rains and cold temperatures,” [reports](#) the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Moreover, 14 months into the conflict, people have been forcibly displaced multiple times and over 60 per cent of all buildings have been damaged or destroyed. Some families have sewn together old rice sacks to add a layer of protection to their shelters, but the first heavy rains of the winter that struck Gaza in recent days have demonstrated how precarious conditions are. On 24 November, PCD reported that “rainfall had caused severe damage to tents housing thousands of displaced people, with water flowing inside the tents and damaging luggage and mattresses.” In a subsequent statement on 25 November, the Government Media Office (GMO) estimated that about 10,000 tents had either been “washed away or damaged by the winter storm.”

- In August, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), chaired by OCHA, developed and activated a comprehensive winterization plan targeting 2.1 million people and requiring US\$242 million. To prioritize the response, since August 2024, humanitarian partners have identified 100 flood-prone areas hosting over 450,000 people across Khan Younis, Deir al Balah, and Rafah, ninety per cent of which lacked contingency plans in case of flooding. During these assessments, it was identified that 1,093 tents are at risk in Deir al Balah city, 4,420 in Khan Younis - Mawasi, 730 in Zawaida (Deir al Balah), and 705 in Nuseirat (Deir al Balah), amounting to a total of 6,948 tents at risk across these areas. Yet, implementation of the plan has remained contingent on funding and facilitation by Israeli authorities to ensure the entry of supplies and equipment into Gaza. For example, sandbags have been installed at only 20 locations to mitigate potential damage, and there is a large caseload of outstanding needs that necessitate the expansion of stocks and pre-positioning of supplies. The Site Management Working Group (SMWG) and the Shelter Cluster estimate that makeshift sites require at least 3,000,000 sandbags to mitigate the risks of rain and flooding. This would necessitate 100 trucks solely dedicated to transporting sandbags, which is a logistical challenge given existing access impediments, including active hostilities, ongoing insecurity, armed looting, access restrictions, damaged roads, lack of fuel, and unexploded ordnance. Without immediate facilitation and resolution of these supply bottlenecks, the ability to respond effectively to current and future shocks will remain critically compromised.
- People across Gaza are in dire need of adequate shelter, while hundreds of thousands of tarpaulins, critical for providing temporary shelter and protecting existing structures, remain stuck outside Gaza. Despite efforts made by the Shelter Cluster to scale up assistance and shelter items continuing to be prioritized for entry into Gaza via the Fence Road, an average of 11 trucks per week have been entering southern Gaza since the beginning of September, which is far below the Cluster’s target of 25 trucks per week. As a result, only 154,000 people could be provided with shelter assistance in Khan Younis, Deir al Balah and Rafah in the past three months; 846,000 people are still in need of urgent assistance in these governorates. More than 36,000 tarpaulins and some 58,000 sealing-off kits – which would be enough for over 76,000 families or roughly 400,000 people – are currently outside the Strip, awaiting entry, with the Cluster continuing to procure more items. At a rate of 11 trucks per week, the Cluster estimates that it will take at least another eight weeks to bring these vital items into the Strip. Meanwhile, in northern Gaza (north of Wadi Gaza), 66,300 people have been assisted by Shelter cluster partners with shelter items, excluding bedding sets, since September 2024, with efforts now focused on scaling up assistance to the tens of thousands of people displaced to the Gaza governorate since October 2024, while access to North Gaza remains heavily restricted. In November, Shelter Cluster partners were able to distribute 700 tents in Gaza city, with the shelter supplies entering through Erez West crossing deeply insufficient to meet the rising needs. As a result, response is far from sufficient for displaced families, who continue to face “appalling conditions,” having no safe place where to seek shelter and lack everything, including clothes, closed shoes, blankets and mattresses, [highlighted](#) UNRWA on 25 November.
- Between 9 and 12 November, the UN and its partners conducted an inter-agency needs assessment mission to Gaza city, where more than 100,000 people have been displaced from North Gaza governorate since early October. The assessment team visited nine collective IDP centres, including two UNRWA schools-turned-shelters, hosting 2,094 households. The two UNRWA-managed shelters additionally had 698 families sheltering outside. The assessment recommended key actions to further scale up humanitarian assistance across all sectors. Key observations and findings include:
 - Lack of shelter, NFIs and personal belongings – Across all sites, there is a critical lack of shelter materials and NFIs, particularly mattresses, blankets, winter clothes and shoes. Many newly displaced households fled without any belongings and are in urgent need of all essentials.
 - Overcrowding – Families are crammed in overcrowded, damaged buildings and tent sites, with conditions being particularly dire at the Palestine Stadium Collective Centre, which saw an eight-fold increase in its population size (from 100 to 800 households) in November. The majority were initially displaced from Jabalya to Beit Lahiya before arriving in Gaza city. As a result, 700 newly displaced households are living in tents in the football pitch, with up to 25 people sharing the same tent and men reportedly sleeping outside at night to leave space for women and children.
 - Insufficient and inconsistent access to drinking water – Most sites rely on water trucked by humanitarian partners, but it is insufficient to cover growing needs. Although in some cases water wells are available, people cannot utilize them due to damage to water pumps or lack of fuel to operate generators.
 - Dire hygiene conditions – Across all sites, extremely poor environmental hygiene conditions are contributing to the spread of skin diseases, pediculosis, hepatitis A and B, gastroenteritis, and respiratory tract infections. In most sites, sewage systems are nonfunctional, leading to overflows and posing public health risks. At Ramez Fakhra School, IDPs were forced to construct an open drainage system to flush wastewater in the open following the destruction of the school’s sewage system in the hostilities. The lack of adequate toilet facilities further compounds sanitation conditions. While most sites have gender-segregated toilets, the availability of toilets varies considerably. For instance, at Musaab Bin Omeir Centre, up to 125 people are sharing one toilet while at Fahed al Ahmad, there are 20 gender-specific toilets serving about 220 households, or an average of 55 people sharing one toilet. Families also face inadequate access to hygiene products, such as soap, menstrual hygiene items and diapers, forcing them to endure substandard hygiene conditions that increase their vulnerability to communicable diseases.

- Lack of food aid and means to cook — Families across all sites face limited access to nutritious food. At Az Zahraa School, for instance, only ready-to-eat hot meals are distributed once a week, and at the Palestine Stadium, the distribution of food assistance by local charities has met only a fraction of needs, generating tensions among families. Women consulted through focus group discussions also highlighted a critical lack of infant milk and nutrition supplements. Due to the lack of both cooking gas and firewood, families across all sites are forced to rely on plastic and cardboard as combustibles to cook, resulting in cases of burns, eye injuries and respiratory problems.
- Shortage of medication and health supplies — While all sites have access to basic medical points, including some set up by volunteer nurses sheltering inside the camps themselves, there is a severe shortage of health supplies and medicine, including for chronic diseases.
- In November, OCHA OPT launched the Humanitarian Service Directory for Palestinians, which it developed based on consultations with a wide range of humanitarian stakeholders. The directory aims to address identified gaps in the provision of key data on humanitarian services in the OPT, enhance existing accountability and community engagement mechanisms, and strengthen collective Accountability to Affected People (AAP) initiatives. The tool is part of the AAP project implemented by UN Women and funded by the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to strengthen the collective gender-responsive and inclusive accountability to people affected by the crisis in the OPT. The directory provides helpline operators with instant information on questions frequently asked by people contacting them on a range of issues, including where they can receive a certain type of assistance, thereby enabling on-the-spot closure of cases, reducing the need for individual case referrals, and easing the burden on sector resources. It allows humanitarian actors to constantly develop and update relevant content related to their specific sector, contributing to the effective execution of accountable, real-time community engagement activities.
- Between 1 and 25 November, out of 456 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip that were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, 40 per cent (184) were facilitated, 35 per cent (158) were denied, 16 per cent (73) were impeded, and nine per cent (41) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. Of the 99 aid movements needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled Al Rashid or Salah ad Din checkpoints to reach areas north of Wadi Gaza, only 25 per cent (25) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities, 25 per cent (25) were impeded, 40 per cent (40) were denied, and nine per cent (nine) were cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza governorate were particularly disrupted, especially those seeking to reach Jabalya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. Between 1 and 25 November, the UN attempted to reach these besieged areas 41 times. Thirty-seven of these attempts were outright denied, while four were initially approved, but then severely impeded on the ground such that the assistance could not be delivered to people trapped in the besieged area. Since the tightened siege started in early October, none of UN's attempts to support besieged people in that area has been fully facilitated. Coordinated aid missions to areas in Rafah governorate, where there has been an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges. Twenty-four out of 28 coordinated requests submitted to the Israeli authorities to access Rafah governorate were outright denied, one was cancelled, one was impeded and two were facilitated. This excludes 63 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 67 per cent (42) were facilitated, 17 per cent (11) were impeded and 16 per cent (10) were cancelled.

Funding

- As of 26 November, Member States have disbursed about US\$2.37 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (69 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 90 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.6 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (91 per cent) and the West Bank (nine per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 49 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 61 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is currently finalizing its critical and time-sensitive First Standard Allocation of \$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in Gaza and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



Destruction in Gaza city. Photo credit: Olga Cherevko, OHCHR.

Humanitarian Situation Update #243 | Gaza Strip

03 Dec 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 5 December.

Key Highlights

- An Emergency Medical Team was successfully deployed to Kamal Adwan hospital, in North Gaza, for the first time in 60 days.
- A severe shortage of medical supplies and consumables is hindering the provision of essential healthcare across the Gaza Strip, and UNRWA warns that at least 60 medications will be depleted at its health facilities by the end of the year.
- Water production decreased by nine per cent in November, mainly due to critical fuel shortages that have resulted in a 43-per-cent drop in production by groundwater wells across Gaza.
- Humanitarian access continued to be partly denied or impeded during November, and UNRWA had to suspend the collection of aid supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing due to insecurity and looting of humanitarian cargo.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October 2024, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and parts of Jabalya and humanitarian assistance has been largely denied for about 60 days (see data below), leaving between 65,000 and 75,000 people without access to food, water, electricity or reliable health care, as mass casualty incidents continue.
- Between the afternoons of 26 November and 3 December, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 253 Palestinians were killed and 708 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 3 December 2024, at least 44,502 Palestinians were killed and 105,454 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 26 November and 3 December, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 3 December 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,580 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 380 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,463 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- Representing the last lifeline for over two million Palestinians in Gaza, humanitarian workers continue to operate under challenging conditions that undermine their ability to meet humanitarian needs while facing risks to their personal safety. On 30 November, three World Central Kitchen (WCK) staff members were killed by an Israeli airstrike on their vehicle near an aid distribution site in Khan Younis, forcing the organization to [pause](#) its operations. On the same day, a Save the Children staff member, who is deaf, was killed in a separate Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis while returning home from a mosque. Save the

Children [condemned](#) the attack in the strongest possible terms and demanded an investigation. On 27 November, UNRWA [reported](#) that two additional agency staff had been killed in Gaza, bringing the total fatality toll among UNRWA staff to 249. Overall, since 7 October 2023, at least 343 humanitarian workers have been killed in the Gaza Strip, including 253 UN staff. Calling for accountability and an immediate ceasefire to end the suffering, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the OPT, Muhannad Hadi, [emphasized](#): “Humanitarians must be granted safe, sustained, and unimpeded access to all those in need. The continued killing of humanitarian workers is an unacceptable violation of international law and further intensifies the catastrophic humanitarian situation.”

- On 28 November, over 75 Palestinians including children and women were reportedly killed in two strikes on two residential buildings in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza, according to the Palestinian Civil Defense ([PCD](#)) that remains blocked by the Israeli authorities from operating in the governorate. PCD further stated that the houses near one of the targeted buildings are inhabited and their residents may have also been killed or injured but their destiny remains unknown. On 29 November, PCD spokesperson described conditions in North Gaza governorate as a “total catastrophe” whereby many people are trapped under rubble for days until they die of their injuries or due to the lack of food and water. According to PCD, more than 2,700 people are estimated to have been killed in North Gaza since 6 October, half of whom have not been retrieved, and more than 10,000 have been injured.
- The following are some of the other deadly incidents reported between 26 November and 1 December:
 - On 26 November, at about 14:50, 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when Al Hurriya School, sheltering Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), was hit in Az Zeitoun neighbourhood in southeastern Gaza city.
 - On 27 November, at about 02:00, at least nine Palestinians including six females were reportedly killed and 20 others were injured when two floors of a building of Al Tab’aen School, sheltering IDPs, was hit in central Gaza city.
 - On 28 November, at about 08:40, nine Palestinians including at least one woman were reportedly killed and several others injured when a group of Palestinians sitting outside a house was hit in the New Camp, north of An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah.
 - On 29 November, at about 23:05, at least ten Palestinians, including two women and two children, were reportedly killed when an apartment was hit in a building in Ash Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in northern Gaza city.
 - On 29 November, the head of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Kamal Adwan Hospital, in North Gaza, was reportedly killed in an Israeli airstrike in North Gaza.
 - On 30 November, at about 11:35, at least eight Palestinians were reportedly killed when a five-story residential building was hit in Ash Shuja’iyeh neighbourhood, in eastern Gaza city.
 - On 30 November, at about 13:00, at least 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when an area near an aid distribution point was hit in Qizan an-Najjar Village in southern Khan Younis.
 - On 30 November, at about 16:25, over 40 Palestinians were reportedly killed or injured, according to PCD, when a house sheltering tens of IDPs was hit in Tal Az-Za’atar in North Gaza. Many people are still trapped under the rubble due to very limited resources for retrieval and rescue.
 - On 1 December, at about 19:00, 25 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Beit Lahiya Project in North Gaza.
- On 1 December, following the denial of several requests to deploy Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) at Kamal Adwan Hospital, an EMT made up of six staff from Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (MER-C) Indonesia was deployed to the hospital as part of a medical mission from the World Health Organization (WHO) that delivered a fuel tank and medical supplies. The hospital, which now hosts 63 patients including nine in the ICU, has been functioning with extremely limited resources and has been under attack several times. Also in North Gaza, on 26 November, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [facilitated](#) the medical transfer of patients from Al-Awda hospital in Beit Lahiya, which also suffers from an acute shortage of supplies, to Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza city.
- A severe shortage of medical supplies and the lack of food and water for patients continue to hinder the provision of much needed healthcare across the Gaza Strip. Coupled with soaring medical needs due to the onset of winter and hunger, these conditions have forced health workers to turn people away at some facilities and could “push people over the edge,” [warned](#) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on 29 November. At Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, basic supplies like gauze and bandages are running out, forcing MSF teams to extend dressing change intervals and heightening infection risks. Also at Nasser, MSF teams have not been able to set up a clinical bacteriology laboratory because the cold chain to operate it has been constantly “opened and damaged by Israeli officers at the crossing point,” according to MSF. In Deir al Balah, the MSF field hospital is struggling due to a lack of painkillers and antibiotics, hindering pain management and the treatment of low respiratory infections among children. Medications for hypertension, or high blood pressure, are similarly in short supply, leaving many people untreated and at risk of acute complications. According to [WHO](#), of the estimated 350,000 people who live with chronic diseases in the Gaza Strip, about 225,000 have hypertension. Likewise, UNRWA recently [reported](#) that its health facilities, including seven health centres and 54 medical points that remain operational, have limited stocks of medicine and shortages of laboratory supplies have rendered only three tests available for patients compared with 35 tests prior to 7 October 2023. According to UNRWA, under current conditions, at least 60 medications, including inter alia 19 mental health and non-communicable disease medications, 17 antimicrobials and antiparasitic medicines, eight anti-inflammatory and gastrointestinal drugs, will run out at its health facilities by the end of December 2024. In addition, MSF teams have been relying on expensive water trucking due to the lack of authorization from the

Israeli authorities to import desalination units or generators. However, last week they were forced to reduce water trucking activities by half due to the high cost and limited availability of fuel.

- Attacks on health facilities across the Gaza Strip continue to take place, further hindering the provision of services and placing additional strain on an already overwhelmed healthcare system. On 28 November, Al Awda Health and Community Association [reported](#) that one of its ambulances had been hit while evacuating injured people in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah, resulting in the injury of one paramedic. On the same day, quadcopters reportedly dropped small diameter bombs outside the reception and emergency ward of Al Awda Hospital in An Nuseirat, [injuring](#) four people, including two staff. In addition, on two occasions on 30 November, Israeli forces reportedly opened fire and fired shells towards the Indonesian Hospital, in North Gaza governorate, resulting in the injury of one doctor, the destruction of three electricity generators, and damage to the hospital's third floor and water tanks. Moreover, Oxfam's partner, Juzoor, which continues to operate in North Gaza, [reported](#) that it had its homeless shelter, food and medical storage facility and one of its 15 health points hit by recent Israeli bombardments, "destroying equipment and burning medicines" at the health point.
- On 27 November, six cancer patients and 11 trauma patients, along with 17 companions, were [evacuated](#) by WHO from Gaza to receive specialized medical treatment in the United States and Jordan. As of 27 November, 352 patients have been exceptionally evacuated from Gaza abroad since early May, following the Israeli ground operation in Rafah and subsequent closure of Rafah crossing. With the decimation of Gaza's health care system and a severe shortage of supplies and specialized care, thousands of patients remain on the waiting list. [According](#) to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), "at the current rate of medical evacuations, it would take seven years to rescue 2,500 children in urgent need of medical evacuation," and some children have died while waiting for approvals. One such case took place recently when an 11-year-old boy died of Leukaemia, after six requests for his medical evacuation from Gaza were denied, UNICEF reported.
- Water supply in the Gaza Strip continues to be limited and dependent on fuel supplies since the shut-off of the main electricity supply lines by Israel and the forced shut-down of the Gaza power plant in October 2023. Overall, gross water production reported by the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) has dropped by nine per cent in November, from an average of 96,394 to 87,358 cubic metres per day, and there is a high percentage of losses through the network due to damaged networks. On 14 November, the Southern Gaza Desalination Plant was reconnected by the Israeli authorities to an electric feeder line from Israel – which marked the first time the Israeli authorities have allowed any electricity connection to Gaza since October 2023 – allowing it to operate at a maximum capacity. At present, the plant is producing an average of 15,000 cubic metres of water per day, three-fold the production level when it was connected to a back-up diesel generator, according to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster. Concurrently, drinking water supplied to southern Gaza from Israel through the two Mekorot pipelines has dropped from an average of 21,000 cubic metres per day to 14,000 cubic metres per day for unclear reasons whereas the third pipeline to northern Gaza continued to operate at near full capacity, supplying an average of 20,000 cubic metres per day. Finally, over the course of November, critical fuel shortages have resulted in a 43-per-cent decrease in water production by groundwater wells, from 61,000 to about 35,000 cubic metres per day, while fuel deliveries to operate water and sanitation facilities in North Gaza governorate have remained blocked since 1 October 2024.
- On 3 December, PWA [stated](#) that damage to Gaza's water sector has exceeded 80 per cent, affecting wells, pumping stations, desalination plants, distribution networks, and sewage treatment plants. Only 19 per cent of water wells are considered functional at present while two-thirds (208 out of 306) have become fully non-operational and 39 only partially operational. Small desalination plants, which are at present a primary source of potable water, have incurred similar damage; 80 out of 103 plants have been destroyed and 15 plants have been partially damaged. Meanwhile, only two of the three major desalination plants are operational and the third one (the North Desalination Plant) has been damaged and out of service since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023. In addition, nearly all the sewage pumping stations except two (76 out of 78) have been either destroyed (58) or partially damaged (18).
- On 29 November, two young girls and one woman suffocated to death while queuing among large crowds to get bread at a bakery supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) in Deir al Balah, amid severe flour shortages and reduced food distributions due to access constraints and insecurity. Mourning this tragic loss, WFP [stressed](#) that "the lack of food aid and the absence of the commercial sector are driving people into hunger," urging authorities to provide the secure conditions necessary to ensure that humanitarian aid can reach people in need. As of 3 December, five out of 19 WFP-supported bakeries are operational across the Gaza Strip, including four in Gaza city and one in Khan Younis. The four bakeries in Gaza city have been functioning since 30 November at half capacity due to fuel shortages. In Khan Younis, one WFP-supported bakery re-opened on 3 December after two days of closure due to overcrowding. Seven WFP-supported bakeries in Deir al Balah have remained closed since the 29 November incident due to flour shortages and overcrowding, of which six were operating at full capacity on 27 and 28 November, while seven remained closed in North Gaza and Rafah due to ongoing hostilities
- Between 1 and 30 November, out of 578 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with Israeli authorities, 41 per cent (237) were facilitated, 35 per cent (204) were denied, 16 per cent (93) were impeded, and eight per cent (44) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. These included 132 aid movements needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled checkpoints on Al Rashid or Salah ad Din roads to reach areas north of Wadi Gaza (including both North Gaza and Gaza governorates), of which only 26 per cent (34) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities, 24 per cent (32) were impeded, 42 per cent (56) were denied, and eight percent (10) were cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza governorate were particularly disrupted, especially those seeking to reach Jabalya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. Between 1 and 30 November, the UN attempted to reach these besieged areas 53 times, of which 48 attempts (90 per cent) were denied, five were initially approved but then severely impeded on the ground, and none were facilitated. Coordinated aid missions to areas in Rafah governorate, where there has been an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges. Thirty out of 36 coordinated requests submitted to the Israeli authorities to access Rafah governorate were outright denied, one was cancelled,

one was impeded and four were facilitated. This excludes 81 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 65 per cent (53) were facilitated, 17 per cent (14) were impeded, three per cent (two) were denied and 15 per cent (12) were cancelled.

- On 1 December, UNRWA [announced](#) that it has paused aid delivery through Kerem Shalom, the main crossing point for the passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza due to a breakdown in public order and safety that has rendered humanitarian operations unnecessarily impossible. UNRWA attributes these conditions to the “ongoing siege, hurdles from Israeli authorities, political decisions to restrict the amounts of aid, lack of safety on aid routes and [the] targeting of local police.” According to UNRWA, the road out of Kerem Shalom crossing has not been safe for months and aid supplies have been stolen by armed gangs on multiple occasions, including most recently on 30 November. UNRWA chief, Philippe Lazzarini, stressed that this difficult decision comes at a time when hunger is rapidly deepening, calling on the State of Israel as the occupying power to ensure that aid flows into Gaza safely and to refrain from attacks on humanitarian workers.
- On 2 December, the Israeli military issued an evacuation order affecting about three square kilometres in northern Khan Younis governorate and parts of Deir al Balah, which were previously placed under evacuation on four occasions between December 2023 and August 2024. The area includes about two square kilometres for which an evacuation order had been rescinded in October 2024. The next morning, according to humanitarian partners, about 400 families or 2,000 people are estimated to have moved from largely destroyed buildings in this area to Al Mawasi, noting that the majority previously had tents in Al Mawasi and regularly moved between the two areas. The area to which they moved includes Al Qarara seaport, where high tides had displaced many families in recent days. Since October 2023, about 80 per cent of the Gaza Strip’s territory has been placed under evacuation orders that remain active, excluding orders that were subsequently rescinded.
- The Cairo Ministerial Conference, titled "A Year Since the Humanitarian Catastrophe in Gaza: Urgent Needs, Lasting Solutions," was held on 2 December 2024 under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt and UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Co-convened by Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNRWA and OCHA, the conference brought together foreign ministers and high-ranking representatives to discuss urgent humanitarian needs, early recovery, and long-term reconstruction efforts for Gaza. Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed presented the SG’s remarks at the conference, calling for compliance with international law, strong defense of the humanitarian aid system, especially UNRWA, and intensified efforts for a political solution to end the crisis.

Funding

- As of 3 December, Member States have disbursed about US\$2.37 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (69 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- The oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) is currently managing 90 ongoing projects, totalling \$79.6 million. These projects aim to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (91 per cent) and the West Bank (nine per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 49 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 61 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Moreover, in addition to the four other reserve allocations for 2024, the oPt HF is currently finalizing its critical and time-sensitive First Standard Allocation of \$30 million, aligned with the 2024 oPt Flash Appeal, aiming to rapidly scale up relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of affected people in Gaza and the West Bank. The allocation includes 16 fast-tracked projects, prioritizing critical winterization preparedness and addressing urgent shelter, WASH, and other emergency needs of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in Gaza. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



A young girl sitting on the ground with a destroyed building behind her and rubble all around. Photo by UNFPA Palestine/Media Clinic

Humanitarian Situation Update #245 | Gaza Strip

10 Dec 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 12 December.

Key Highlights

- Lifesaving aid to besieged areas in North Gaza governorate has been largely blocked for the past 66 days; recently, about 5,500 people were forcibly displaced from three schools in Beit Lahiya.
- Fewer than 400 patients have been evacuated to receive lifesaving medical treatment outside of Gaza over the past seven months; about 14,000 await approval to exit.
- Only four UN-supported bakeries are currently operational across Gaza, all in Gaza city.
- Twenty-one attacks on schools, mostly serving as shelters for internally displaced people, were documented in November.
- An estimated 26,000 Palestinians have suffered lifechanging injuries over the past 14 months; persons with disabilities continue to disproportionately suffer from severe trauma, lack of rehabilitation services, and limited availability of assistive devices.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October 2024, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and parts of Jabalya and humanitarian assistance has been largely denied for 66 days (see data below), leaving between 65,000 and 75,000 people without access to food, water, electricity or reliable health care, as mass casualty incidents continue to be reported. Large-scale forced displacement from Beit Lahiya was reported over the past week, including 5,500 people forcibly displaced on 4 December from three schools in Beit Lahiya to Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 3 and 10 December, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 284 Palestinians were killed and 734 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 10 December 2024, at least 44,786 Palestinians were killed and 106,188 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 3 and 10 December, four Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 10 December 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,584 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 384 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,485 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. According to the Israeli military, on 4 December, the body of an Israeli hostage was recovered from Gaza and returned to Israel. As of 4 December, it is estimated that 100 Israelis and

foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are withheld in Gaza.

- On 4 December, an Israeli airstrike hit a makeshift tent encampment sheltering 21 families in the Al Mawasi area in Khan Younis. The strike, together with secondary explosions, which appear to have been caused by gas cylinders according to the UN Human Rights Office ([OHCHR](#)) in the OPT, destroyed all 21 tents and killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least four children and two women – one of them pregnant – while seriously injuring others. A rapid assessment conducted by humanitarian actors found that the damage caused the displacement of about 110 people, who are now in need of urgent shelter, food, and water and sanitation assistance. This was the seventh attack on an IDP tent encampment in the past two weeks, OHCHR reported, altogether killing at least 34 Palestinians, including ten children and three women. Four of these attacks occurred in the area in Al Mawasi to which Israel has instructed Palestinians to go, killing at least 11 Palestinians including a woman who died with her two daughters, and four additional children. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) [reported](#) that one of the burnt tents was sheltering a MAP staff member. No MAP staff were injured or killed in the incident. Commenting on the incident, MAP's Gaza Director said that it "has proven once again that nowhere is safe in Gaza from Israeli military attacks. People there have been left in a constant state of fear and psychological distress, haunted by the fact that there is no place for them to shelter." Moreover, SOS Children's Villages International [condemned](#) the attack, which was adjacent to a temporary tent encampment accommodating 46 children under its care, noting that no staff or children were physically harmed.
- The following are among other deadly incidents reported between 3 and 8 December:
 - On 3 December, at about 14:25, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and at least ten others injured when the third floor of an UNRWA school was hit in Az Zaytoun neighbourhood, in southeastern Gaza city. According to the latest data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners, 19 out of 21 attacks on schools, which mostly serve as shelters for internally displaced people (IDP), documented in November were in the North Gaza and Gaza governorates. An estimated 73 people were killed in these attacks, many of them children.
 - On 4 December, at about 18:45, 25 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when three houses were hit near An Nafaq Street in Gaza city. According to the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD), the three houses were destroyed.
 - On 5 December, at about 11:15, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed when a house was hit behind Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya in North Gaza.
 - On 5 December, at about 15:15, 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 6 December, at about 18:45, 34 people, including at least six children and four women, were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Block C of An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 8 December, at about 15:20, at least 11 Palestinians, including children and women, were reportedly killed, with several bodies recovered in pieces, when a house was hit in Al Bureij refugee camp in Deir al Balah.
 - On 8 December, at about 12:00, ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and about 15 others injured when a group of people was hit near the municipality park in central Gaza city.
- Attacks on health facilities across the Gaza Strip continue to be reported, particularly in North Gaza governorate, where hospitals are barely functioning amid severe supply shortages and ongoing hostilities. On four occasions between 3 and 7 December, Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, which currently hosts 90 patients and 66 medical staff, was reportedly attacked by fire, bombs and shells, resulting in the killing of seven people including four medics and a child, the injury of at least three medical staff as well as patients and companions, and damage to water and fuel tanks and the oxygen station. According to MoH, the 16-year-old boy who was killed at the hospital's entrance was in a wheelchair and on his way to the radiology department. On 6 December, Israeli tanks reportedly surrounded the hospital and ordered people to evacuate. The Indonesian Emergency Medical Team (EMT), which had been deployed to the hospital by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 1 December following five access denials, was forced to evacuate as displaced people, caregivers, and many injured patients began fleeing the hospital and panic spread, [according](#) to the WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The WHO chief added that 33 people were killed just outside Kamal Adwan amid intense bombardment and hostilities near the hospital, which he described as one of the last lifelines for the people of North Gaza. Moreover, on four occasions between 2 and 8 December, the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya was attacked, resulting in the injury of three medical staff and six patients and damage to its electricity generator and water tanks. Also in North Gaza, the fifth floor and courtyard of Al Awda Hospital in Jabalya were reportedly hit on 3 December, with no casualties reported.
- In response to the dire health situation in North Gaza, on 3 December, WHO completed a three-day mission during which it delivered to Kamal Adwan Hospital 10,000 litres of fuel, 200 food parcels from the World Food Programme (WFP), blood units and medical supplies, and evacuated 23 patients to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. WHO also delivered 24,000 litres of fuel and medical supplies to Al Shifa hospital for further distribution. On 6 December, ICRC delivered medical supplies to Al Awda Hospital in Beit Lahiya and evacuated 11 patients to Gaza city.
- On 3 December, 11 cancer patients, all children, along with 20 companions were [evacuated](#) by WHO from the Gaza Strip to receive specialized medical treatment in Jordan. The following day, eight patients, along with 25 companions, were [evacuated](#) outside Gaza by WHO with the support of the European Commission (ECHO) under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. According to [ECHO](#), with support from 10 European countries, 59 patients from Gaza, together with 143 relatives, have been evacuated to date to European hospitals. As of 6 December, according to WHO, 378 patients including 217 children have been exceptionally evacuated from Gaza abroad since early May 2024, following the Israeli ground operation in Rafah and subsequent

closure of Rafah crossing. Amid the collapse of Gaza's health-care system and acute shortages of medical supplies and specialized care, at least 14,000 patients across Gaza are estimated to require life-saving medical evacuation.

- “The levels of hunger, devastation and destruction in Gaza ... [are now] worse than ever before,” [reported](#) the WFP Palestine Country Director, Antoine Renard, on 5 December. Markets are empty, barely any food is coming in, and worsening weather conditions are forcing people into “a daily struggle for survival,” he added. Looting and attacks on humanitarian convoys [continue](#) to strain aid delivery in southern and central Gaza, while ongoing attempts by Food Security Sector (FSS) partners to deliver lifesaving aid into the besieged areas of North Gaza continue to be largely blocked after 60 days of tightened siege. As of 9 December, only four out of 19 bakeries supported by WFP remained operational across the Gaza Strip, all of them in Gaza governorate where the flow of wheat flour has been generally constant and the price of a 25-kilogramme bag of flour is about NIS 20-30 (US\$5.6-8.4). This is in contrast to central and southern Gaza, where anecdotal market observations indicated that the price of a bag of flour was at least NIS 1,000 (\$280) on 1 December in Deir al Balah and NIS 875 (\$245) in Khan Younis.
- Combined, access impediments, ongoing hostilities, the breakdown of public order and safety, the near total lack of commercial good entries, and exorbitant prices of the few basic commodities still available on the market have all contributed to a deterioration in dietary diversity across the Strip. In November, bread and pulses have dominated household diets for the second consecutive month, with almost no consumption of vegetables, meat and eggs. Between 24 November and 6 December, UNICEF conducted a new post-distribution monitoring survey, which showed that nearly 100 per cent of children between six and 23 months of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women in Gaza city, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis are not meeting minimum dietary diversity, which is defined as receiving foods from at least four out of seven food groups.
- An [analysis](#) published by the Protection Cluster, with support from FSS, highlights that “children and women are now increasingly searching through piles of rubbish for food scraps,” often barefoot and without gloves, facing heightened risks of disease and injury from sharp edges or metal in solid waste and being extremely exposed to the threat of unexploded ordnance. Shrinking food supplies have also triggered physical violence at the still functional bakeries and distribution points, with six women and girls killed as of 2 December in violent incidents that erupted while they were waiting for bread at bakeries. Reliance on negative coping strategies is also increasing, including child labour and begging, while gender-based violence partners report that women and girls are engaging in survival sex in exchange for food, increasing their exposure to exploitation and abuse.
- “Women and girls across Gaza, including 50,000 pregnant women, have been left without the essentials to survive,” [highlights](#) the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Maternal deaths, miscarriages and preterm births continue to rise, with conditions being particularly critical in besieged areas of the North Gaza governorate, where an estimated 1,720 pregnant women, and adolescent girls, have remained largely cut off from essential aid for over 60 days. Repeated attacks and damages to the Kamal Adwan Hospital, the last major facility providing maternal and newborn care in the governorate, have hampered pregnant women's access to critical care, with newborns having “died due to a lack of incubators, electricity, and medical supplies.” Meanwhile, an estimated 90,000 women and girls – or about 70 per cent of the population displaced from North Gaza since the intensification of hostilities in October 2024 – have sought refuge in overcrowded shelters and damaged buildings in Gaza city, struggling to access increasingly strained services. Despite ongoing efforts to expand emergency obstetric and newborn care and sexual and reproductive health services across the Strip, aid restrictions continue to pose a challenge. UNFPA reports that 49 of its trucks, loaded with reproductive health equipment and supplies, including medicines that prevent women hemorrhaging during childbirth, tents, sanitary pads, hygiene kits, and generators, are presently stalled at the border.
- Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are among the worst affected groups by the catastrophic humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. Enduring specific challenges in addition to those faced by everyone else such as limited access to basic services, repeated displacement, and severe psychological trauma. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics ([PCBS](#)), there were 58,000 PwD in the Gaza Strip prior to the escalation in October 2023 and, based on a recent WHO analysis, about [26,000](#) people or 25 per cent of the total number injuries as of 24 November now have serious life-changing injuries that require continuous rehabilitation. While about 20 per cent of families surveyed before the war had at least one PwD, the war has now caused “an epidemic of traumatic injuries with no rehabilitation services available,” [stated](#) UNRWA's Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini. Speaking on behalf of UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the 2 December Cairo ministerial conference on humanitarian aid for Gaza, UN deputy chief, Amina Mohammed, also [highlighted](#) that “Gaza now has the highest number of children amputees per capita anywhere in the world – many losing limbs and undergoing surgeries without even anaesthesia.” Conditions have been especially grave due to the destruction of hospitals and rehabilitation centres, restrictions on medical evacuation, and the limited entry of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches and hearing aids, and the severe shortage of medical supplies and basic consumables. Based on a participatory assessment conducted by the Protection Cluster between September and November 2024, the lack of access to essential assistive devices, including basic mobility aids, for PwD significantly hinders their ability to carry out daily activities and participate fully in society. Similarly, the scarcity of hearing aids and batteries exacerbates communication barriers, isolating individuals from social interactions and support networks. This absence of necessary equipment not only affects their physical mobility but also their mental health, leading to widespread feelings of frustration and helplessness.
- On 3 December, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) began [operating](#) a water desalination plant in Deir al Balah that has been repaired as part of a donor-funded project to maintain and restart non-operational plants, one of the primary sources of drinking water for people across the Strip. The plant now has a capacity of 40 cubic metres per day, helping to alleviate water shortages and serving approximately 8,000 people daily. Additionally, to supply drinking water to the western neighbourhoods and the Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis, CMWU and the Khan Younis municipality have [completed](#) maintenance and repair works on the main section of the water transmission line connecting the South Gaza seawater desalination plant to the Satar/Al Israa water tank and pumping station. This work has enabled desalinated water to reach the Satar water tank for the first time since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023, providing safe drinking water to over 200,000 people. In another positive development, with UNICEF's support, CMWU is [re-constructing](#) a water desalination plant at its main storage facility west of Khan Younis, which

had been dismantled and transported from Rafah governorate under extremely dangerous conditions during the Israeli military operation in the area that began in early May 2024. Once testing and calibration are completed, the plant will have a capacity to produce 1,200 cubic metres of water per day, which would significantly improve the supply of clean and safe drinking water to about 60,000 people in various areas of Al Mawasi, in western Khan Younis.

- Between 1 and 9 December, out of 197 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with Israeli authorities, 30 per cent (60) were facilitated, 43 per cent (84) were denied, 16 per cent (32) were initially approved but then impeded, and 11 per cent (21) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. These included 56 aid movements that needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled checkpoints on Al Rashid or Salah ad Din roads to reach areas north of Wadi Gaza (including both North Gaza and Gaza governorates), of which only 16 per cent (nine) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities, 46 per cent (26) were denied, 23 per cent (13) were impeded, and 14 per cent (eight) were cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza governorate were particularly disrupted, especially those seeking to reach Jabalya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. Between 1 and 9 December, the UN attempted to reach these besieged areas 17 times, of which 16 attempts were denied and one was impeded. The impeded mission took place on 1 December, deploying an emergency medical team to Kamal Adwan Hospital and evacuating patients following long delays. The impeded mission took place on 1 December, deploying an emergency medical team to Kamal Adwan Hospital and evacuating patients following long delays. Coordinated aid missions to areas in Rafah governorate, where there has been an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges. All 11 coordinated requests submitted to the Israeli authorities to access Rafah governorate between 1 and 9 December were outright denied. This excludes 30 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 70 per cent (21) were facilitated, 16 per cent (five) were impeded, seven per cent (two) were denied, and seven per cent (two) were cancelled.
- Emergency responders and aid workers continue to encounter severe challenges in delivering assistance across the Gaza Strip, often facing grave risks to their own safety. On 4 December, a Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [paramedic](#) was reportedly shot and killed in the Khan Younis area while returning from a mission to transport patients to his post at the PRCS ambulance station at the field hospital in Rafah. On 7 December, a PCD staff was also reportedly [killed](#) at the entrance of Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahiya in North Gaza governorate, where he stayed to help medical teams in providing lifesaving services. Based on information collected by OCHA from humanitarian partners, since October 2023, at least 356 aid workers, including 349 Palestinians and seven foreigners have been killed; this includes 255 UN staff (of whom 251 were UNRWA staff members), 34 PRCS staff and volunteers, and at least 67 other aid workers with national and international NGOs.

Funding

- As of 10 December, Member States have disbursed about US\$2.44 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (71 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 124 ongoing projects, totalling \$91.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 70 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 40 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 50 out of the 84 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section., under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



A Palestinian girl at a site hosting displaced people in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

Humanitarian Situation Update #247 | Gaza Strip

17 Dec 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 19 December.

Key Highlights

- Attacks on civilian infrastructure continue, particularly in North Gaza, where WHO reports appalling conditions at Kamal Adwan Hospital and where 61 out of 95 attacks on school buildings since 6 October 2024 took place.
- Humanitarian organizations are struggling to meet growing shelter needs amid recurrent displacement, limited entry of shelter supplies, and skyrocketing prices of winterization items on the local market.
- Women are being heavily affected by the scarcity of diagnostic tests and essential medical treatments, often facing delayed or inadequate care.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October 2024, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and parts of Jabalya and humanitarian assistance has been largely denied for more than 10 weeks (see data below). Rocket firing by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel was reported.
- Between the afternoons of 10 and 17 December, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 273 Palestinians were killed and 853 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 17 December 2024, at least 45,059 Palestinians were killed and 107,041 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 10 and 17 December, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 17 December 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,586 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 386 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,488 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 17 December, it is estimated that 100 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are withheld in Gaza.
- Attacks on schools sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs) in Gaza continue to be reported, with nine such incidents documented so far in December 2024 by the UN Human Rights Office ([OHCHR](#)). According to the Education Cluster, between 6 October and 15 December 2024, 95 incidents involving attacks on school buildings, mostly serving as IDP shelters, were documented, including 61 incidents in North Gaza governorate. On 14 and 15 December alone, four schools were hit, as follows:

- On 14 December, two schools-turned shelters were reportedly hit in Gaza city, resulting in the killing of seven Palestinians, including three children, and the injury of tens of others, according to Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD).
- On 15 December, Israeli troops reportedly surrounded and raided Khalil Owaidah School sheltering IDPs in 'Izbat Beit Hanun, in North Gaza, where it was reported that male IDPs were detained while women and children were forced to move southwards. Tens of people were reported killed, but the exact circumstances remain unclear. Citing IDP testimonies, PCD reported that fatalities included 10-15 people who were incinerated, and the school was destroyed.
- On 15 December, the third floor of an UNRWA school sheltering IDPs in Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis, was hit. Within minutes, the emergency department of the nearby Nasser Medical Complex was flooded with casualties, most of them women and children. Many were severely injured and died on site or en route to the hospital, [reported](#) international doctors from Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) operating in the facility as part of a joint Emergency Medical Team (EMT) with the International Rescue Committee. An internal medicine and emergency care consultant counted at least 18 people dying in the emergency department, including 12 children under the age of 12. The first patient arrived in the facility was “a three-year-old girl who had the left side of her forehead torn open by shrapnel fragments which had penetrated her skull,” and who, due to shortages of painkillers and anaesthetics, had to be treated “with very little access to medications,” added the consultant. A plastic surgeon also noted that his first patient was a 12 to 14-year-old boy whose face was entirely burnt, and who had open wounds on his chest and on both of his legs.
- Other deadly incidents reported between 10 and 15 December include:
 - On 10 December, at about 23:00, 22 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a three-story building was hit near Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya in North Gaza.
 - On 12 December, at about 00:30, seven Palestinians including children and women were reportedly killed and others injured when two apartments in a residential tower were hit in northwestern Gaza city.
 - On 12 December, on two occasions at about 00:01 and 00:55, 22 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when people were hit in Khan Younis and Rafah. According to the Government Media Office (GMO), fatalities included 15 people tasked with securing the movement of aid trucks, raising the number of people killed while securing aid trucks to 720 so far.
 - On 12 December, at about 02:00, 15 Palestinians including at least one woman and seven children were reportedly killed, and several others injured, when a house sheltering IDPs was hit in western An Nuseirat refugee camp in northern Deir al Balah.
 - On 12 December, at about 20:30, at least 34 Palestinians were reportedly killed and 40 others injured, when two residential buildings were hit in central An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah, according to PCD. According to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), at least eight children were among the fatalities (see below). Extensive damage of the residential block was also reported.
 - On 14 December, at about 13:45, 12 Palestinians, including at least two girls, one woman and the mayor, were reportedly killed and others injured when Deir al Balah Municipality in central Deir al Balah was hit.
 - On 15 December, at about 21:05, at least ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Shuja’iyeh neighbourhood in eastern Gaza city.
 - On 15 December, six people were reportedly killed and others injured when a PCD centre was hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in northern Deir al Balah. Fatalities reportedly included a cameraperson and four PCD staff and volunteers. The cameraman is among four journalists reported killed in Gaza between 11 and 15 December, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists ([CPJ](#)). As of 17 December, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate reported that 188 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza.
- Between 11 and 17 December, the Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza reported near daily attacks on or very close to the facility, which currently hospitalizes 60 injured people, with debris and explosions shattering doors and windows, causing further damage to water tanks, the electricity generators and the oxygen supply network, and igniting a fire on the hospital’s third floor on one occasion. Due to ongoing insecurity and the lack of ambulances and equipment, medical staff have generally been unable to assist people trapped under the rubble in the surrounding areas or have themselves been hit. On 12 December, MoH announced that Dr. Saeed Judeh, the last orthopaedic doctor in North Gaza, was killed while en route from Kamal Adwan to the nearby Al Awda Hospital to treat patients. On the same day, according to the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), a nurse was killed while travelling to Kamal Adwan. On 14 December, following four denied attempts by WHO to urgently deliver life-saving supplies to the hospital, the Organization and its partners [reached](#) Kamal Adwan, describing conditions in the health facility as “appalling”. The team delivered 5,000 litres of fuel, food and medicines, and transferred three critical patients and six companions to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. However, WHO’s request to re-deploy the Indonesian Emergency Medical Team (EMT) to the hospital continued to be denied, despite the need for immediate surgical interventions for injured patients. On 16 December, the facility’s Director informed that the intensive care department was targeted by snipers, with all windows hit, forcing medical staff to treat some of the injured in the corridors. As of 4 December 2024, WHO had [recorded](#) 591 health attacks across the Gaza Strip, including 23 since 20 November.
- On 11 December, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Muhannad Hadi, concluded a two-day visit to the Gaza Strip, where he met with displaced people and youth groups and witnessed first-hand the decimation of Gaza’s health sector. On 10 December, the HC visited a medical point operated by a network of local NGOs in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah. Due to security concerns, the facility was temporarily evacuated five times, three of them in November 2024. It

handles an average of 3,000 consultations per month, a quarter of which relate to infectious diseases. Urinary tract infections are prevalent among pregnant women due to the lack of clean water, amid shortages of microbiology tests to identify the types of bacteria. Other diagnostic procedures for women are completely unavailable, resulting in late diagnoses of cancer and invasive procedures as hysterectomies having to be performed instead of being able to treat conditions like uterine bleeding. The facility also suffers from severe shortages of medical supplies, including analgesics and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) material, and medications are sufficient for only five per cent of the 80-100 patients visiting the medical point daily. The HC also visited the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, which had 655 admitted patients, with paediatric bed occupancy being at 250 per cent. All heart surgeries have been halted due to the lack of supplies for cardiac catheterization, and only other life-saving activities are being performed, while chemotherapy and other procedures have stopped. On 11 December, the HC visited the Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah, where he heard from hospital staff and management – as well as patients – about the struggles the health system is facing. Speaking to journalists from Al Aqsa, the HC paid tribute to the medical teams who continue their work amid catastrophic conditions.

- More than 160 children, or an average of four children every day, have reportedly been killed in Gaza since the beginning of November 2024, [stressed](#) UNICEF's Executive Director, Catherine Russell, in a statement condemning the latest attack on An Nuseirat camp on 12 December (see above). Reiterating that there is no safe space in Gaza and that children lack everything, from food to safe water, medical supplies and warm clothes, the UN official added: "The world cannot look away when so many children are exposed to daily bloodshed, hunger, disease, and cold." A recently released [study](#) based on data collected in June 2024 by the Community Training Centre for Crisis Management in Gaza, with support from the Dutch Relief Alliance and the War Child Alliance, reveals that 96 per cent of children in the surveyed households, where at least one child is injured, disabled, unaccompanied or separated from parents, felt that their death was imminent while 49 per cent expressed a desire to die. The study also found that 92 per cent of children were not accepting reality, 83 per cent experienced severe fear and 73 per cent exhibited aggressive behaviour, with many more showing signs of withdrawal and anxiety, alongside a pervasive sense of hopelessness.
- Between 11 and 14 December, four evacuation orders were announced by the Israeli military, affecting at least 69,000 people in parts of Gaza city, North Gaza, Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis for which several evacuation orders had already been issued. The first order covered approximately 3.2 square kilometres in Deir al Balah and affected an estimated 10,000 people, including about 5,200 people residing across nine displacement sites. The second order covered about 1.8 square kilometres in Gaza city, affected at least 20,000 people, including IDPs in one UNRWA shelter, and resulted in the temporary closure of one UN-supported bakery and the suspension of water, sanitation and nutrition services. The area affected by this order includes the Patients Friends Association Hospital and three other health facilities. The first two orders triggered limited displacement according to reports by humanitarian partners. The third evacuation order covered about 5.5 square kilometres in both Gaza city and parts of North Gaza, including ten IDP sites, two health facilities, two distribution centres and 24 water trucking points, and affected an estimated 35,000 people. The displacement of about 250 families (~1,250 people) from this area southward, particularly toward As Sabra neighbourhood in Gaza city, was reported. The last evacuation order covered about 4.3 square kilometres in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, affecting approximately 4,000 people, and resulting in the reported displacement of 450 families (~2,250 people). Since October 2023, about 80.5 per cent of the Gaza Strip's territory has been placed under evacuation orders that remain active, excluding orders that were subsequently rescinded.
- On 8 December, OCHA conducted an assessment in East Khan Younis, visiting two of the neighbourhoods with the highest number of households - Ma'an, which hosts approximately 6,700 families (36,000 people), and parts of Bani Suhaila east of the Salah Al Din Road, where 9,200 families (45,000 people) are presently sheltering. The aim was to identify key needs in these communities after the multiple evacuation orders issued by the Israeli forces in East Khan Younis between May and October 2024 were revoked in parts of the area on 11 November, prompting the return of many families and the arrival of new IDPs from Rafah. The key findings are as follows:
 - In both locations, people are residing in or near severely damaged or completely destroyed homes, with many having erected makeshift shelters on the ruins, which are precarious and at risk of collapse as the winter and rainy season begins.
 - Access to domestic and drinking water is particularly scarce in Ma'an, with the community relying on low-pressure branches from the Mekorot supply line, which provide insufficient water to meet needs. Moreover, only a few private filling points, with small tanks of two to five cubic metres, are available.
 - Sanitation and hygiene conditions are critical, with many in Ma'an relying on pit latrines. In Bani Suhaila, the sewage system has been destroyed, with sewage pools observed on the streets and the community highlighting the pressing need for rodent control.
 - Due to the widespread destruction of infrastructure, people from both communities must travel two and a half kilometres to reach the closest market in Khan Younis city, and four kilometres to visit the nearest partially functional hospital, the Nasser Medical Complex, with access being challenging. Although medical points are available within closer reach, they only offer consultations and do not provide any medications.
 - The lack of food assistance is one of the most critical concerns. In Ma'an, the community reported that no food aid distribution has occurred since they returned, nor have any malnutrition screenings been conducted or nutrition supplements provided. In Bani Suhaila, only a charity community kitchen provides hot meals twice a week, but quantities are scarce, and some individuals go entire days without eating.
 - Information access is a key obstacle in Bani Suhaila, with internet coverage being scant and the radio being the primary means of information. The community reported not being aware of the eligibility criteria and registration system for flour distribution by the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

- In both communities, there is a pressing need for winterization assistance to protect makeshift shelters and tents from the harsh winter conditions, with women in Bani Suhaila also stressing the urgency to support children, prioritizing the provision of clothes, diapers, and baby milk.
- Humanitarian organizations are struggling to meet growing shelter needs due to the recurrent displacement of Palestinians within Gaza, which itself is triggered by new evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military, flooding that has already caused shelter damage, and bombardment affecting collective displacement sites. Moreover, according to the [Shelter Cluster](#), the limited entry of shelter materials into the Gaza Strip has meant that only 285,000 people could be assisted between September and late November 2024 while at least 945,000 others now require urgent winterization support to protect them from the rain and cold weather. Waiting outside Gaza are 58,000 sealing-off kits and over 36,000 tarpaulins that have already been procured to cover the needs of about 400,000 people, but these would need two months to be brought in at the current rate of 10 shelter trucks entering Gaza per week. Meanwhile, partners from the Site Management Working Group (SMWG) continue to support committees at 75 displacement sites with financial, technical and in-kind support for maintenance and repairs, but such assistance remains limited due to the prohibitively high prices of common winterization items, such as shovels, plastic ropes and cement bags, on the local market. There is also a [lack](#) of blankets and warm clothes, disproportionately affecting children in makeshift tents, many of which had been provided by aid agencies over the past year but have become [unusable](#) due to wear and tear. The lack of adequate shelter is compounding the already massive health needs, [highlights](#) WHO. While infectious diseases already spiked during the last winter season, as malnutrition rates continue to climb, such diseases are expected to have more severe consequences this winter, particularly for children. Between January and 17 November 2024, WHO recorded 1,210,306 cases of acute respiratory infections, 574,813 cases of acute watery diarrhoea and 114,367 cases of acute jaundice syndrome.
- Extreme insecurity in Gaza continues to negatively impact aid operations. On 11 December, a 70-truck convoy entering through the Kerem Shalom crossing was violently attacked by looters, leading to the loss of nearly all food and aid supplies. On the same day, a WFP convoy leaving the Kissufim crossing also came under fire, with four out of five trucks violently looted. “Attacks undermining humanitarian operations are unacceptable. They threaten the survival of those in desperate need of assistance,” [noted](#) the HC on 13 December. Emphasizing that “attacks on humanitarian operations can be avoided,” the HC reported that earlier in the week, “through an Israeli agreement for us to use the Philadelphi corridor, a joint UN convoy delivered urgently needed food, reaching nearly 200,000 people in southern and central Gaza.” In a statement on this important delivery, UNRWA [highlighted](#) that it “showcased how coordinated efforts can overcome logistical and operational barriers,” and added that the “the solidarity of the community was instrumental to the success of this mission, as members provided a more secure passage that allowed aid to reach families facing critical food shortages.”
- Between 1 and 16 December, out of 339 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with Israeli authorities, 30 per cent (102) were facilitated, 42 per cent (141) were denied, 18 per cent (62) were impeded, and ten per cent (34) were cancelled due to logistical and security challenges. These included 96 aid movements that needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled checkpoints on Al Rashid or Salah Ad Din roads to reach areas north of Wadi Gaza (including both North Gaza and Gaza governorates), of which only 17 per cent (16) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities, 43 per cent (41) were denied, 26 per cent (25) were impeded, and 15 per cent (14) were cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza governorate were particularly disrupted, especially those seeking to reach Jabalya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. Between 1 and 16 December, the UN attempted to reach these besieged areas 40 times, of which 38 attempts were denied and two were impeded. The first impeded mission took place on 1 December, deploying an EMT to the Kamal Adwan Hospital and evacuating patients following long delays. The second impeded mission took place on 11 December, when a UN team led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator visited the Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals but was not facilitated to reach areas in Jabaliya and Beit Lahiya where communities remain. Coordinated aid missions to areas in Rafah governorate, where there has been an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges. All 20 coordinated requests submitted to the Israeli authorities to access Rafah governorate between 1 and 16 December were outright denied. This excludes 47 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 70 per cent (33) were facilitated, 19 per cent (nine) were impeded, four per cent (two) were denied, and six per cent (three) were cancelled.
- On 13 December, UNOSAT published an updated preliminary [analysis](#) of structural damage and destruction in the Gaza Strip, based on satellite imagery collected on 1 December 2024. The assessment shows that 170,812 structures, or 69 per cent of the total throughout the Strip, have either been damaged or destroyed, up from 66 per cent identified in the 6 September analysis. The governorates of North Gaza and Rafah have experienced the highest rise in damage, with 3,138 new structures damaged in North Gaza and 3,054 in Rafah. Within North Gaza, Jabalya municipality had the highest number of newly damaged structures (1,339 structures) and the fourth largest number of damaged structures (14,470) among all municipalities, following Gaza, Rafah and Khan Younis cities.
- According to a new assessment by the Education Cluster, which relies on satellite imagery collected on 1 December 2024, nearly 88 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip (496 out of 564) have been directly hit or damaged and are currently estimated to require either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again. Fifty-five per cent of these schools (275) are government schools, a third (161) are UNRWA schools, and 12 per cent (57) are private schools. The increase is mainly attributed to an increase in the number of directly hit schools, particularly in North Gaza governorate where 11 out of 18 schools newly classified as “directly hit” over the past three months are located. Moreover, according to the assessment, most directly hit schools are in areas that were subject to evacuation orders by the Israeli military. Prior to the war, “direct hit” or “damaged” schools served about 542,959 students and had more than 20,320 teachers, which represented, respectively, about 88 and 87 per cent of the total student population and teaching staff in the Gaza Strip. In addition, 41 schools are now assessed as “likely damaged,” where at least one damaged site has been identified within 30 to 70 meters of school buildings, indicating the possibility that these school structures may have sustained moderate damage.

- Given the ubiquitous threat of unexploded ordnance hidden under the rubble, the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) under the Protection Cluster continues to raise awareness about the risks posed by explosive remnants of war. The Mine Advisory Group (MAG), jointly with Save Youth Future Society, has [deployed](#) 20 risk education teams across Gaza: five in Gaza city, eight in Deir al Balah and seven in Khan Younis. The teams deliver risk education sessions and emergency briefings in communities and on the streets, including interactive sessions tailored for children whose “natural curiosity puts them at higher risk of injury, as explosive items can often appear to be a tempting toy,” [explains](#) MAG. Furthermore, Mine Action AoR partners continue to conduct explosive hazard assessments at humanitarian sites, including schools and camps sheltering IDPs, health centres and UN facilities, with 36 such assessments [conducted](#) by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in November and 283 conducted in total since October 2023. In support of debris management efforts, assessments also target sites with extensive debris contamination, coupled with risk education sessions for construction workers, to ensure that future clearance efforts can be safely carried out.

Funding

- On 11 December 2024, the UN and humanitarian partners launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for nearly US\$4.07 billion to address the humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025. Nearly 90 per cent of those funds are for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 10 per cent for the West Bank. The \$4.07 billion ask is much less than what is actually needed to mount a full-scale humanitarian response, which would require \$6.6 billion. However, the Flash Appeal reflects the expectation that aid organizations will continue to face unacceptable constraints on their operations in 2025. This will severely limit the amount of assistance that humanitarians are able to provide, which in turn will only increase the suffering that Palestinians are enduring. The appeal stresses that, to be able to implement the full scale of what is urgently needed, Israel must take immediate and effective measures to ensure the essential needs of civilians are met. This includes lifting all impediments to aid and fully facilitating humanitarian operations, including the distribution of essential goods to Palestinians in need.
- As of 17 December, Member States have disbursed about \$2.52 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (73 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 124 ongoing projects, totalling \$91.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 70 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 40 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 50 out of the 84 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



Closely packed tents in Gaza city hosting displaced people from North Gaza. Source: OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #249 | Gaza Strip

24 Dec 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 26 December.

Key Highlights

- North Gaza remains under a near-total siege. Since 1 December, Israeli authorities have denied 48 of 52 UN attempts to coordinate humanitarian access, while four approved movements all faced impediments.
- Attacks near or on Al Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals in North Gaza have continued to be reported, amid an urgent need for food and water provision.
- Some 1.7 million people in central and southern Gaza face shortages of flour and other supplies, exorbitant costs, and scant opportunities to resume even small-scale farming.
- Only three ventilators for infants who need intensive care remain available in Gaza city, warns UNICEF, while doctors tell UNRWA that premature babies and patients with treatable illnesses are dying amid depleted medical supplies and lack of life-saving equipment.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has been carrying out a ground offensive since 6 October 2024, with fighting reported between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and parts of Jabalya and humanitarian assistance has been largely denied for more than 11 weeks (see data below). Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel was reported.
- On his first visit to the Middle East as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher [highlighted](#) the humanitarian needs throughout the Gaza Strip and the challenges facing humanitarian workers who are committed to stay and deliver against mounting odds: “[I]t has become almost impossible to deliver even a fraction of the aid that is so urgently required,” he said in a statement. “The Israeli authorities continue to deny us meaningful access – over 100 requests to access North Gaza denied since 6 October. We are also now seeing the breakdown of law and order and the systematic armed looting of our supplies by local gangs.”
- Between the afternoons of 17 and 24 December, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 279 Palestinians were killed and 723 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 24 December 2024, at least 45,338 Palestinians were killed and 107,764 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 17 and 24 December, three Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 24 December 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than

1,589 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 389 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,494 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 24 December, it is estimated that 100 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are withheld in Gaza.

- Following are accounts of some of the deadliest incidents reported between 17 and 23 December:
 - On 17 December, at approximately 0:15, ten Palestinians, including children and women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs), was hit in Ad Daraj neighbourhood in central Gaza city.
 - On 17 December, at about 19:00, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house sheltering IDPs was hit in front of the western gate of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 18 December, at approximately 20:00, eight Palestinians including three children were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Jabalya Al Balad, in North Gaza.
 - On 19 December, at about 15:00, 13 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and at least 30 others were injured when a school, designated as an IDP shelter, was hit in At Tuffah neighbourhood, in Gaza city.
 - On 19 December, at approximately 12:30, ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and others, including children, injured when a group of people was hit in Ash Shati' (Beach) Refugee Camp in Gaza city.
 - On 20 December, at about 16:00, eight Palestinians from a single family, including four children and one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when two floors of a building were hit in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 20 December, at approximately 18:00, ten Palestinians, including seven children and one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Jabalya An Nazlah in North Gaza.
 - On 21 December, at about 22:10, 12 Palestinians, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in eastern Deir al Balah.
 - On 23 December, over 50 people were reportedly killed and others injured, and 20 housing units were reportedly destroyed, when Israeli forces raided the new camp in An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah, in an operation that involved the use of an aircraft, according to the Government Media Office (GMO).
- Between 18 and 23 December, the Israeli military issued two evacuation orders for areas of Deir al Balah and Gaza city. In both cases, several evacuation orders had already been issued for the designated areas. The first order covered approximately 1.2 square kilometres in Al Bureij and Al Bureij refugee camp in Deir al Balah, where approximately 23,100 people were staying, including some 10,300 people sheltering at three IDP sites. While limited displacement was subsequently observed, the order has led to the suspension of services at five medical points and two water trucking points. The second order covered approximately 1 square kilometre in Ash Shuja'iyyeh and Al Turkman neighbourhoods of Gaza city, affecting locations where at least 5,000 households were staying. About 250-500 families from these areas subsequently moved westwards, particularly toward At Tuffah, Ad Daraj, and central Gaza city. Some 80.5 per cent of the Gaza Strip's territory is under active evacuation orders, excluding orders that were rescinded. On 22 December, approximately 350 people were reportedly displaced after the Israeli military dropped leaflets ordering people in Beit Hanoun to move southward. Most of the displaced were reportedly women and children, as men were said to be separated from their families at an Israeli checkpoint.
- The situation at Kamal Adwan, Indonesian and Al Awda hospitals in North Gaza has drastically deteriorated since 21 December, reports the Health Cluster. On 24 December, the Israeli military reportedly entered the Indonesian Hospital, ordering patients, caregivers and staff to evacuate to Gaza city. As of the morning hours, all patients and their companions have fled, with only a doctor and an engineer remaining, according to the Health Cluster. Also on 24 December, military tanks reportedly attacked the third floor of the eastern wing of the Al Awda Hospital, causing panic among the 31 patients, their companions and the 65 medical and administrative personnel inside. In previous days, Al Awda had already sustained significant damage due to multiple airstrikes on its vicinity. Attacks near or on Kamal Adwan have also continued, as reported by the Health Cluster and the hospital's Director, with bullets penetrating the Intensive Care Unit, where they ignited a fire, as well as the maternity ward, and the specialized surgery department, forcing staff to relocate patients to the corridors. On the evening of 22 December, the hospital's Director reported that Kamal Adwan had been ordered to evacuate, just hours after a mission led by the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) had managed to reach the hospital, amid explosions around the facility, delivering 5,000 litres of fuel and 100 blood units and transferring eight critical patients and their 13 companions to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. "Reports of bombardment near Kamal Adwan Hospital and an order to evacuate the hospital are deeply worrisome," stressed the WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, appealing for an immediate ceasefire near the facility and the protection of patients and health workers. According to information available to the Health Cluster as of the morning of 24 December, about 400 IDPs and 91 patients, including children and the elderly, remain at Kamal Adwan, amid an urgent need to supply food and water. Reporting further attacks in close proximity to the hospital on 23 and 24 December, which injured 20 people in the facility, including five medical staff, the Director reiterated his appeal for the urgent establishment of a safe corridor to allow necessary supplies and aid to enter. Overall, since mid-October, WHO has attempted to conduct 18 missions to the Kamal Adwan Hospital, eight of which were denied and 10 proceeded with impediments.
- Food security continues to deteriorate in central and southern Gaza. A new assessment conducted by the Food Security Cluster (FSS) in the first half of December shows that, for the third consecutive month, bread and pulses continue to dominate

households' diets, while fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products remain nearly absent, with 90 per cent of families experiencing a further reduction in access to food compared with November. Persistent looting targeting trucks with supplies collected from Kerem Shalom crossing continue to severely jeopardize the ability of FSS partners to deliver sufficient aid, forcing them to reduce monthly food rations - now barely sufficing for ten days - and adjust the content of cooked meals to reach more people. As of mid-December, 420,000 cooked meals were distributed by FSS partners daily across central and southern Gaza, but with an estimated 1.7 million people currently staying in these areas, the coverage remains insufficient. All eight bakeries supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis remain closed due to flour shortages and concerns related to overcrowding, and the five in Rafah have been closed since May due to ongoing hostilities. While partners continue to prioritize household-level flour distribution in the three southernmost governorates, only 600,000 people (35 per cent of the total) could be assisted thus far in December due to limited supplies, while hundreds of tons of food supplies are now stranded outside Gaza facing spoilage and approaching expiration dates. To help safeguard surviving livestock and support the production of fresh, nutritious food, such as meat and dairy, FSS partners distributed about 120 metric tonnes of animal feed to 2,500 households in southern and central Gaza so far in December. Resuming agricultural production, even on a small scale, remains extremely difficult since large swaths of farmland have been damaged or potentially contaminated by unexploded ordnance and recent attempts by partners to bring in seed kits, tubers, fertilizers and nylon panels for greenhouses have been reportedly denied by the Israeli authorities.

- Most people cannot afford the prohibitive costs of the few food commodities available on the local market. For example, the price of a 25-kilogramme bag of wheat flour ranges between US\$160 to \$190, while Christian Aid [reports](#) that a kilogramme of sugar costs up to \$135 and a single frozen chicken, which has to be cooked on the same day it is bought due to lack of refrigeration, is sold for up to \$41, 10 times its price before October 2023. A post-distribution monitoring survey conducted by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) between 20 and 26 November among recipients of humanitarian cash assistance [reveals](#) that about 80 per cent of the households surveyed across the Gaza Strip had at least one child going without food in the three days prior to the survey. Overall, more than 96 per cent of all children aged six to 23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women are not meeting their basic nutrient requirements, with a sharp deterioration in dietary diversity observed over the past four months, particularly in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. The worsening energy crisis continues to further exacerbate the situation; cooking gas remains completely unavailable in northern Gaza and is sold in limited quantities and at exorbitant prices in central and southern Gaza. The scarcity and high prices of firewood are also threatening the continued operation of kitchens and forcing more families to rely on burning waste to cook. On 20 December, UNICEF [warned](#) that many of Gaza's children, "cold, sick and traumatized" amid utter deprivation and suffering, "are searching through rubble for scraps of plastic to burn."
- Amid hostilities and displacement, UNFPA [estimates](#) that 42,000 pregnant women will be exposed to acute cold and hunger during this winter season. More than half of all pregnant women are already suffering from anaemia, with miscarriages on the rise, and pre-term births and low birthweights now accounting for approximately 10 per cent of all deliveries across the Strip, up from five per cent before October 2023. UNRWA [reported](#) that doctors have informed them that premature babies are dying daily in hospitals, due to the lack of ventilators, special milk formula and other essential equipment and supplies. In Gaza city, where newly displaced people have been arriving from the North Gaza governorate since early October, only three ventilators remain available in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit of the Patients Friends Association Hospital – shared between paediatric and neonatal patients, according to [UNICEF](#). As of 16 December, one of these ventilators was occupied by a ten-year-old child immobilized by quadriplegia, after a shrapnel fragment shattered his spine during bombardment. UNICEF has reported newborns gasping for air, toddlers with sepsis, and children ripped apart by shrapnel or crushed by debris arriving daily at the facility. Those in respiratory distress face death at any moment because there are no ventilators available.
- On 19 December, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) that ensuring the entry of critical medications and equipment into Gaza remains difficult, with Israel imposing strict restrictions on items deemed as having "dual use" – goods considered usable for either civilian or military purposes – ranging from generators, scalpels and scissors, to autoclaves and oxygen concentrators. For each of these items, "humanitarian organizations must navigate painstaking formalities, ... providing a photo, technical sheet, intended use, and the GPS location where the item will be used," MSF said. Even when authorization is granted, items can still be blocked, explains the NGO, noting that five of its autoclaves essential to sterilize medical instruments remain stalled in Egypt. Moreover, if pallets are too damaged due to prior searches when they reach Kerem Shalom, or if a single item is rejected at the crossing, the Israeli authorities may reject the entire shipment, sending it back to Al Arish in Egypt for instance, which requires humanitarian actors to re-start the process and severely delays the delivery of critical supplies. MSF had to wait five months to receive approval for refrigerators and freezers necessary to store medical items and is yet to receive authorization to import materials for desalination units and generators. Even when supplies finally enter Gaza they risk being looted, and transporting them through heavily congested areas is difficult, "especially in Khan Younis and Rafah, where trucks can take up to four hours to travel one kilometre," added MSF.
- The International Medical Corps (IMC) [highlighted](#) that, on 22 December, 22 trucks carrying medical and hygiene supplies as part of a 70-truck convoy were looted while en route from the Kerem Shalom crossing to a UN warehouse in Khan Younis, with IMC losing 111 out of 150 pallets of supplies meant for its two Field Hospitals in central Gaza. Commenting on the impact of the lack of medical supplies, machineries and Infection Prevention and Control equipment, UNRWA [noted](#) that, beyond dealing with a constant influx of severely injured patients, overwhelmed doctors at still partially functioning hospitals as the Nasser Medical Complex are now seeing "people dying from treatable illnesses." UNRWA's health facilities are contending with a complete lack of cancer treatment, dire shortages of insulin supplies, with insulin syringes already exhausted and new stocks presently awaiting in Egypt, and severe gaps in laboratory reagents and equipment; overall, if not replenished, at least 60 items are likely to run out within a month, [stressed](#) the Agency.
- The risk of death, injury and contracting a disease in Gaza remains high. Doctors at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis [report](#) that they have seen an increase in the ratio of people killed to injured when strikes happen, as most people are now sheltering in makeshift tents without buildings or structures to protect them and children are being injured by shrapnel over a

kilometre away from the strikes, “because they have nothing but pieces of fabric around them.” At the same time, infectious diseases continue to spread due to overcrowding and dire hygiene conditions, with over 500 cases of chickenpox [reported](#) at a single site hosting 8,000 IDPs in Deir al Balah in recent weeks. While chickenpox is usually not dangerous for children, it can be life-threatening for adults, stresses UNICEF.

- The mental health conditions in Gaza have deteriorated significantly due to continuous bombardment, forced evacuations, overcrowded shelters, malnutrition, limited health services and widespread disease. A recent survey conducted by Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) [found](#) that displaced families in Gaza are in severe psychological distress. In 2024, the NGO’s psychological first aid (PFA) teams reached 24,034 people in Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis and referred 1,922 people with severe symptoms to specialized mental health services. According to the NGO, the data suggests that, on average, eight per cent of the people in central and southern Gaza require advanced mental health care, while this percentage is likely higher in the Gaza and North Gaza governorates due to worse living conditions. The NGO stresses that this is likely an under-representation as trauma symptoms typically become more apparent after a crisis is over. Severe psychological symptoms were found to be more common among women and girls, possibly due to their heightened vulnerability during displacement, having to shoulder more responsibility in evacuating children and the elderly, lack of privacy, and the type of trauma they experience, such as sexual and gender-based violence.
- Between 1 and 23 December, out of 461 planned aid movements across the Gaza Strip requiring coordination with Israeli authorities, 34 per cent (159) were facilitated, 40 per cent (183) were denied, 16 per cent (75) were initially approved but then faced impediments, and ten per cent (44) were cancelled by the organizers due to logistical and security challenges. Depending on the case, movements facing impediments were accomplished partially or not at all. Of the coordinated movements, 117 needed to cross from southern Gaza through the Israeli military-controlled checkpoints on Al Rashid or Salah Ad Din roads to areas north of Wadi Gaza (including both North Gaza and Gaza governorates); of these, only 26 per cent (31) were facilitated, 36 per cent (42) were denied, 24 per cent (28) were initially approved but faced impediments, and 14 per cent (16) were cancelled. Aid missions to the North Gaza governorate were particularly disrupted, especially those seeking to reach Jabalya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. Between 1 and 23 December, the UN attempted to reach besieged areas 52 times, with 48 of these attempts denied and only four missions allowed to proceed but facing impediments, as follows:
 - A mission to the Kamal Adwan Hospital on 1 December, which deployed an international Emergency Medical Team (that has since been forced to evacuate) and evacuated patients to Gaza city, faced long delays by the Israeli authorities. A second mission to Kamal Adwan on 22 December delivered fuel and blood units to the facility but Israeli forces detained one of the patients set to be taken to Gaza city and closed the checkpoint leading to the south, forcing the convoy to stay overnight north of Wadi Gaza.
 - On 11 December, the Israeli authorities allowed a UN team led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator to visit two health facilities in North Gaza, but prevented it from reaching areas of Jabaliya and Beit Lahiya where communities remain.
 - On 20 December, an aid convoy comprising seven trucks of wheat flour and food parcels and two trucks of bottled water reached the besieged area of Beit Hanoun, distributing supplies to an estimated 800 people, but access to one planned location was denied by the Israeli authorities.
- Coordinated aid missions to areas in Rafah governorate, where there has been an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges. Twenty-seven coordinated requests submitted to the Israeli authorities to access Rafah governorate between 1 and 23 December were denied, and one request was approved but faced impediments. This excludes 56 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 70 per cent (39) were facilitated, 18 per cent (10) were approved but faced impediments, four per cent (2) were denied, and nine per cent (5) were cancelled.

Funding

- As of 24 December, Member States have disbursed approximately \$2.53 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (74 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that approximately 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
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- During November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 124 ongoing projects, totalling \$91.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 70 are being implemented by

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UN staff and local medical workers preparing to evacuate critically ill patients from the Indonesian Hospital of North Gaza, which is no longer functional. Photo by OCHA, 29 December 2024

Humanitarian Situation Update #251 | Gaza Strip

31 Dec 2024

The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory twice a week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Tuesdays and the West Bank on Thursdays. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be issued on 2 January.

Key Highlights

- Heavy rains and cold weather further deteriorate the survival conditions of displaced families, with tents flooded and damaged, and at least five newborns having reportedly died of hypothermia.
- Israeli forces raided and rendered Kamal Awan Hospital out of service, and the World Health Organization urges support to ensure that hospitals in North Gaza can become functional again.
- Recent water quality surveillance reveals alarming rates of microbiological contamination and a UN mission to displacement sites in Gaza city finds abysmal water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions.
- Gaza's fishing sector, which once supported 110,000 people, has incurred US\$84 million in losses, as 72 per cent of fishing assets have been damaged.

Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land and sea continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel has also been reported. In the North Gaza governorate, the Israeli military has imposed a tightened siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and parts of Jabalya since 6 October 2024. Visiting Jabalya on 29 December, OCHA OPT Acting Head of Office stated that the basics of human survival are being destroyed in Gaza. He noted that all attempts by humanitarians to reach besieged people in North Gaza over the past two months have been denied, except for a handful of missions that went ahead despite impediments. People in Jabalya continue to face appalling conditions, with continued airstrikes, hospitals being hit, health workers being killed, insufficient water and food, accumulation of solid waste, and sewage overflow. Between 6 October and 30 December 2024, the UN attempted to reach besieged areas in North Gaza 164 times; of these, 148 attempts received outright denials by the Israeli authorities and 16 were impeded.
- Between the afternoons of 24 and 30 December, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 203 Palestinians were killed and 574 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 30 December 2024, at least 45,541 Palestinians were killed and 108,338 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. Casualty figures covering until the afternoon of 31 December are not available as of the time of reporting.
- Between the afternoons of 24 and 31 December, four Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 31 December 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,593 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 393 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation in October 2023. In addition,

2,521 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 31 December, it is estimated that 100 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are withheld in Gaza.

- The following are some of the deadliest incidents reported between 24 and 29 December:
 - On 24 December, at about 18:00, nine Palestinians, including three women, were reportedly killed and others were injured when a four-storey residential building was hit in Jabalya, North Gaza.
 - On 24 December, three Palestinians, including two Civil Defense personnel and a fire truck driver were reportedly killed when a Civil Defense centre was hit near Al Sidra intersection in Ad Daraj neighbourhood, in central Gaza city.
 - On 25 December, at about 1:30, six Palestinians, including a boy, were reportedly killed and others injured when tents for internally displaced persons (IDPs) were hit inside a school in Ash Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 26 December, at about 6:45, eight Palestinians from a single family, including three females, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in As Sabra neighbourhood, southeast of Gaza city.
 - On 26 December, at about 13:45, six Palestinian, including a woman and her daughter, were reportedly killed and others injured when three houses were hit in Ad Daraj neighbourhood, northeast of Gaza city.
 - On 26 December, a day before Israeli forces raided and rendered Kamal Adwan Hospital out of service (see below), the hospital director [reported](#) that airstrikes on a building opposite Kamal Adwan had killed about 50 people, including five health care workers. The Israeli military, as cited by the [media](#), has denied the reported airstrikes near Kamal Adwan on 26 December.
 - On 26 December, at about 19:30, 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 26 December, five Palestinian journalists and media workers were reportedly killed when a press van belonging to Al Quds Today TV was hit in front of Al Awda Hospital in An Nuseirat refugee camp in Deir al Balah. The UN Human Right Office [condemned](#) the airstrike on the “unarmed and clearly identified” press members, adding that, although “the Israeli military has claimed they were affiliated with Palestinian armed groups ... affiliation alone would not remove their protection as civilians.” The Committee to Protect Journalists [stated](#) that with this incident “at least nine Gazan journalists have been killed in less than two weeks.” According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, over 190 journalists and media workers have been [killed](#) in Gaza since October 2023.
 - On 28 December, during morning hours, ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Beit Hanoun, in North Gaza.
 - On 28 December, at about 4:40, nine Palestinians, including a girl and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Musaddar area, south of Al Maghazi, Deir al Balah.
 - On 29 December, the Israeli forces reportedly struck the upper floor of Al Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital in central Gaza city, resulting in seven people killed and others injured, according to Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD).
 - On 29 December, at about 14:00, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Beit Hanoun, North Gaza.
 - On 29 December, at about 15:30, at least eight Palestinians, including three females, were reportedly killed and others injured when several houses were hit south of An Nuseirat New Camp, Deir al Balah.
- On 29 and 30 December, the Palestinian Prisoner’s Society [announced](#) the death of five detainees from Gaza while in Israeli custody: a 51-year-old father-of-four who was arrested by Israeli forces on 20 November 2023 and announced dead by the General Authority of Civil Affairs on 29 December 2024; a 44-year-old father of ten who was arrested on 15 November 2023 during his displacement from North Gaza and was announced dead on 29 December 2024; a 57-year-old father of eight who was arrested on 18 November 2024 during his displacement from North Gaza and reportedly died on 27 November 2024; a 52-year-old patient who was arrested from Kamal Adwan Hospital on 25 October 2024 and reportedly died on 3 November 2024; and a 58-year-old man who was detained while working in Israel on 7 October 2023 and reportedly died on 18 October 2023. According to the society, the number of identified detainees from Gaza who have died in Israeli custody has increased to 35. Separately, about 45 Palestinian detainees were reportedly released via the Kerem Shalom crossing on 27 and 29 December and were transferred to the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis for medical care. As of December 2024, according to [data](#) provided by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) to Hamoked, an Israeli human rights NGO, there are 10,154 Palestinians in Israeli custody, including 2,003 sentenced prisoners, 2,951 remand detainees, 3,428 administrative detainees held without trial, and 1,772 people held as “unlawful combatants.” These figures do not include Palestinians from Gaza who have been detained by the Israeli military since 7 October 2023 and their number remains unknown.
- Between 1 and 30 December, out of 569 planned aid movements requiring coordination with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 33 per cent (189) were facilitated, 39 per cent (224) were denied, 18 per cent (103) were interfered with or initially agreed to but then faced impediments, and nine per cent (53) were cancelled by the organizers due to logistical and security challenges. Movements facing impediments were accomplished either partially or not at all. Of the coordinated movements, 127 needed to cross from southern Gaza through the Israeli military-controlled checkpoints on Al Rashid or Salah ad Din roads to areas north of

Wadi Gaza (including both North Gaza and Gaza governorates); of these, only 28 per cent (36) were facilitated, 34 per cent (43) were denied, 24 per cent (31) faced impediments, and 13 per cent (17) were cancelled. These include 60 attempts to reach the besieged area in North Gaza, of which 55 were denied and only five were allowed to proceed but faced impediments. Coordinated aid missions to areas in the Rafah governorate, where there has been an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges. Thirty-six out of 38 planned movements submitted to the Israeli authorities to access Rafah governorate between 1 and 30 December were denied, one was facilitated, and one was initially agreed to, but faced impediments. This excludes 67 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 58 per cent (39) were facilitated, 31 per cent (21) were impeded, three per cent (2) were denied, and seven per cent (5) were cancelled.

- On 27 December, following escalating restrictions on access and repeated attacks on or near Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza over 12 weeks, Israeli forces raided the hospital, with initial reports [received](#) by WHO suggesting that some areas of the hospital were burned and severely damaged during the raid, including the laboratory, surgical unit, engineering and maintenance department, operations theatre, and the medical store. Some patients, caregivers and health-care workers were reportedly transferred by Israeli forces to the destroyed and non-functional Indonesian Hospital, which had been evacuated by Israeli forces on 24 December. The majority of the staff, stable patients and companions were moved from Kamal Adwan “to a nearby location” and “some people were reportedly stripped and forced to walk toward southern Gaza,” WHO reported. As of 28 December, Kamal Adwan – the last major health facility in North Gaza – was completely empty and out of service, stressed WHO. On the same day, the Israeli military [stated](#) that its forces had arrested over 240 combatants using the facility and its surroundings. WHO [reported](#) that the Kamal Adwan Hospital’s director was detained, and his whereabouts were unknown, calling for his immediate release. On 29 December, a joint mission comprising OCHA, WHO, WFP, UNDSS and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [reached](#) the Indonesian Hospital, delivered basic medical and hygiene supplies, food and water to the facility, and evacuated ten patients. Four patients, including one in critical condition, were arrested by Israeli forces at a checkpoint during the transfer and only six reached Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. Presently, seven patients along with 15 caregivers and healthcare workers remain at the severely damaged Indonesian Hospital, which has no ability to provide medical care and no water, electricity or sanitation.
- Since early October 2024, WHO has [verified](#) at least 50 attacks on health on or near Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza. Moreover, according to a 28 December [statement](#) by the director of Al Awda Health and Community Association, Al Awda Hospital in North Gaza is reportedly experiencing daily attacks near or on its premises, due to ongoing hostilities, which have resulted in the injury of seven medical staff, including the hospital’s director. The statement highlighted that the hospital is facing severe shortages of medical supplies and fuel and urgently requires food, water, blood units, and medical gases to continue providing essential services, noting that the shutdown and destruction of Kamal Adwan Hospital has “eliminated the last source of medical gas production” and severely affected vital services such as intensive care and neonatal incubators. “With Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals entirely out of service, and Al-Awda Hospital barely able to function, and severely damaged due to recent airstrikes, the health-care lifeline for those in North Gaza is reaching a breaking point,” warned WHO, calling for urgent support to ensure that hospitals in North Gaza can become functional again.
- Between 28 and 29 December, the Israeli military issued two evacuation orders for all of North Gaza governorate and parts of Gaza city. Several evacuation orders had already been issued for the designated areas. The first order covered approximately 54 square kilometres in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya and Jabalya in North Gaza and Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza city, while the second order covered approximately 5.1 square kilometres in areas of Beit Lahiya and Jabalya that were not covered by the first order, in addition to Al Awdah neighbourhood in Gaza city. While thousands of families are estimated to have been affected by the orders, aid partners have tracked the displacement of 350 families from North Gaza to Gaza city between 26 and 29 December. Since October 2023, the North Gaza governorate has been placed under five major evacuation orders, with dozens of other orders issued for different parts of the governorate.
- As temperatures continue to plummet in Gaza, at least five newborns aged between three days and one month reportedly died of hypothermia in IDP tents in central and southern Gaza between 24 and 29 December, according to the MoH. Among them are a 20-day-old baby who succumbed to the cold in his tent in Deir al Balah on the night of 28 December, and whose twin brother remains in intensive care at the Al Aqsa Hospital according to [media](#) sources, and three babies who died due to the extreme cold between 24 and 26 December in their tents in Al Mawasi, in eastern Khan Younis, to which the Israeli military has instructed Palestinians to go. On 27 December, MoH also reported that an adult medical worker had died due to the extreme cold in the same location. Referring to the death of children due to cold and lack of adequate shelter, the UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Edouard Beigbeder [stated](#): “These preventable deaths lay bare the desperate and deteriorating conditions facing families and children across Gaza. With temperatures expected to drop further in the coming days, it is tragically foreseeable that more children’s lives will be lost to the inhumane conditions they are enduring.”
- Only a trickle of tents and other shelter assistance continues to reach the Gaza Strip. Between 1 and 26 December, just 24 trucks carrying shelter items were able to enter central and southern Gaza, while 136 trucks entered northern Gaza, according to preliminary data by the Shelter Cluster. “Humanitarians are put in a situation where, because not enough aid is being facilitated into the Gaza Strip, we are having to prioritize food over shelter...[as] just last week there were women crushed at a bakery waiting for a piece of bread,” [reported](#) UNRWA Senior Emergency Officer Louise Wateridge on 20 December. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall continues to further deteriorate the survival conditions of displaced families. On 30 December, the Palestinian Civil Defense [reported](#) that it received hundreds of distressed calls from displaced people whose shelters had been flooded with rainwater in the previous two days, appealing for urgent support especially for families living in displacement sites in Gaza city, the Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis, western Deir al Balah and Rafah.
- Approximately 7,700 newborns lack access to life-saving care, [warns](#) UNICEF, as neonatal care capacity continues to shrink across the Gaza Strip, particularly in northern Gaza, which prior to October 2023 accounted for nearly 60 per cent of total neonatal hospital beds. In the North Gaza governorate, all neonatal care bed capacity in MoH hospitals has now been lost, while in the Gaza governorate, only two non-MoH hospitals continue providing newborn care amid major constraints –the Patients Friends

Association Hospital and the Al Sahaba Medical Complex – with merely five neonatal beds available in each. Both facilities face dire shortages of incubators, high frequency ventilators, essential medications and supplies, and rely on a single oxygen plant in Gaza city, which lacks spare parts and is insufficient to meet rising needs. On 29 December, the Paediatric Director at the Patients Friends Association Hospital [appealed](#) for the urgent provision of more oxygen, warning that the facility is only receiving an average of 10 cylinders of oxygen a day, which places the lives of newborns at risk. With neonatal ICUs available only at these two hospitals, many families have been seeking urgent support in other facilities with inadequate resources, leading to preventable neonatal deaths. The situation is equally dire in central and southern Gaza; while 64 neonatal hospital beds are present cumulatively at the Nasser Medical Complex and at the European and Al Aqsa hospitals in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, these facilities consistently operate far above capacity, with neonatal bed occupancy exceeding 100 per cent. There are also dire shortages of ventilators, equipment for phototherapy and continuous positive airway pressure, and life-saving supplies such as antibiotics, intravenous immunoglobulin, total parenteral nutrition, and surfactants for neonatal care. Due to overburdened wards and compromised infection control practices, newborns are far more exposed to the risk of hospital-acquired infections, reports UNICEF, a situation exacerbated by the lack of neonatologists and the presence of only a few paediatricians with limited expertise in neonatal care.

- On 20 December, the UN conducted an inter-agency assessment mission aimed at identifying and addressing needs at four displacement sites hosting over 1,900 families in Gaza city, including three makeshift camps set up in December 2024 and a pre-existing UNRWA school-turned-shelter that received a new large influx of IDPs in recent weeks. Most households had been displaced from the North Gaza governorate over the past two months, fleeing on foot without any personal belongings and now struggling to meet even their most basic needs. Below are the key assessment findings:
 - Across all sites, there is a dire lack of latrines and hygiene supplies, growing sewage and solid waste accumulation, and open defecation was observed at two locations. At one makeshift site, people are forced to walk several hundred metres to another heavily congested IDP site to use a latrine. Due to insecurity and the lack of lighting, women and girls are forced to use containers inside their tents at night.
 - Access to drinking and domestic water is extremely limited. At one site, there is no domestic water supply and, across all sites, the shortage of jerrycans prevents IDPs from storing the scant quantities received from aid agencies. At three sites, the lack of generators and fuel is hampering the ability to operate water wells.
 - Only one site has received food assistance, while the other three have not received any type of food or nutrition assistance since their establishment in December 2024. Meanwhile, hot meals distributed at nearby community kitchens could only reach a fraction of households and they rely on nylon and plastic as an energy source in the absence of cooking gas and firewood.
 - Three sites have no access to nearby medical points or basic medications, particularly affecting the health of babies, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people in need of emergency services.
 - There are no temporary learning sites serving the large number of school-aged children, including separated and unaccompanied ones, at the four sites, but there is a community-led initiative ongoing at one site.
 - At the four sites, there is an urgent need for dignity kits, diapers for babies and the elderly, and infant formula.
 - People with disabilities, many of whom lost limbs or were otherwise injured in hostilities, reported severe mobility challenges due to the lack of infrastructure and assistive devices.
- Access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services continues to rapidly deteriorate in northern Gaza, warns the WASH Cluster. As of early October 2024, at least 75 per cent of WASH infrastructure in areas north of Wadi Gaza, with an estimated population of 450,000 Palestinians, were estimated to be damaged, and only 20 per cent of municipal wells were assessed to be partially operational, supplying just 10 per cent of the water produced prior to the escalation of hostilities in October 2023. Over the past few months, the entry of fuel supplies for the operation of key WASH facilities across Gaza has significantly decreased, reaching the lowest levels between 14 and 20 December when only 3,668 litres of fuel were received by WASH Cluster partners daily, representing five per cent of the 70,000 litres required daily at a minimum to meet critical WASH and public health needs, including water production and distribution, critical repair works and essential sewage and solid waste management operations. No fuel reached areas north of Wadi Gaza in the same period (14-20 December). Moreover, since the latest offensive launched by Israeli forces in North Gaza on 6 October, access to re-supply water production points in the North Gaza governorate and areas in eastern Gaza governorate, has been consistently denied by the Israeli authorities, according to the WASH Cluster, severely curtailing the ability of partners to support water pumping and distribution. As a result, residents, particularly thousands in the besieged areas of Jabalya, Beit Lahiya, and Beit Hanoun, have been entirely dependent on dilapidated private wells powered by solar panels, which produce limited and often unsafe water. In parallel, wastewater and solid waste management has increasingly collapsed in northern Gaza, due to the lack of fuel and equipment while critical infrastructure, such as sewage treatment plants, have either become non-functional or inaccessible, heightening contamination and disease transmission risks. In an urgent [appeal](#) for support issued on 30 December, the Gaza city Municipality stressed that 175,000 metres of sewage networks, 15,000 metres of stormwater drainage systems and all sewage pumps and stations have been destroyed across Gaza city, rendering drainage operations for stormwater and sewage nearly impossible at present. The risk of flooding remains high at the Sheikh Radwan storm basin, which urgently needs maintenance, fuel, and pipeline repairs.
- Emergency water quality surveillance recently conducted by the WASH Cluster reveals alarming rates of microbiological contamination. Between 1 and 23 December, out of 306 water samples collected from desalination units, water filling points, IDP sites, houses and health-care facilities in all governorates except North Gaza, 79 per cent lacked adequate quantities of chlorine and 19 per cent showed contamination by faecal coliforms, with this rate rising to over 21 per cent in healthcare facilities. Overall,

nearly 73 per cent of drinking water and over 97 per cent of domestic water samples were not compliant with the minimum national or international standards for water chlorination, according to the WASH Cluster, because of limited access to water testing equipment, shortages of disinfecting consumables, and the overall disruption of the water quality control system. These challenges compound the already limited access to water across the Gaza Strip, where over one million people are estimated to lack access to the minimum 15 litres of water per person per day required for drinking, cooking and basic hygiene, according to humanitarian standards. Between 21 and 27 December, the Palestinian Water Authority and Coastal Municipalities Water Utility reported that, on average, 102,000 cubic metres of water were being produced daily, representing less than a quarter of the supply available prior to October 2023, but only a limited portion of this reduced amount in fact reaches people across Gaza, owing to an estimated 70-percent rate of water losses through the damaged distribution network and insufficient water trucking given the limited availability of trucks, insufficient and inconsistent quantities of fuel and access constraints.

- Demolition and detonation of residential buildings and blocks continue to be reported across the Gaza strip. On 26 December, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) [reported](#) that in recent weeks there has been a significant escalation in the widespread destruction of residential neighbourhoods and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, roads, and electricity, water and sewage networks. “Entire neighbourhoods ... have been rendered uninhabitable, reduced to mere rubble, compelling most residents to evacuate,” threatening the future, stability and survival of Gaza’s residents, according to PCHR. Destruction in northern Gaza and Rafah in particular has reached “unprecedented levels,” PCHR stressed, whereby Israeli forces have deployed “advanced weaponry, including explosive-laden robots to level entire neighbourhoods into rubble.”
- The Gaza fishing sector has incurred devastating impacts and catastrophic damage due to the ongoing escalation of hostilities. “In Gaza’s fishing areas now lie broken boats, torn nets, and ruined infrastructure, standing in stark contrast to the once-vibrant industry that supported thousands of fishers for generations,” [said](#) the Deputy Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Beth Bechdol. According to a recent assessment by FAO, 72 per cent of fishing assets, including boats, aquaculture farms and fishing infrastructure including the Gaza city port, have been damaged, leading to losses estimated at \$84.04 million and leaving fishers unable to catch high-value fish. While some fishers continue to work within less than one nautical mile from the shore using non-motorized boats, since October 2023, the Israeli authorities have banned sailing off Gaza's shore. Currently, only eight per cent of the workforce remains active, and over 67 fishermen have been reportedly killed. Additionally, the destruction of Gaza's two main aquaculture farms, along with the hatchery facility, has left the sector unable to produce alternative aquatic foods through aquaculture. This collapse has worsened food insecurity, depriving people of essential nutrients and posing long-term risks to Gaza's livelihood and sustainable food sources. Before the escalation, over 6,000 people in Gaza, including 4,200 registered fishers and boat owners, relied on fishing as their main source of income, and the sector supported a total of about 110,000 people.

Funding

- As of 31 December, Member States have disbursed approximately \$2.53 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (74 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that approximately 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- On 11 December 2024, the UN and humanitarian partners launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for nearly \$4.07 billion to address the humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025. Nearly 90 per cent of those funds are for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 10 per cent for the West Bank. The \$4.07 billion ask is much less than what is actually needed to mount a full-scale humanitarian response, which would require \$6.6 billion. However, the Flash Appeal reflects the expectation that aid organizations will continue to face unacceptable constraints on their operations in 2025. This will severely limit the amount of assistance that humanitarians are able to provide, which in turn will only increase the suffering that Palestinians are enduring. The appeal stresses that, to be able to implement the full scale of what is urgently needed, Israel must take immediate and effective measures to ensure the essential needs of civilians are met. This includes lifting all impediments to aid and fully facilitating humanitarian operations, including the distribution of essential goods to Palestinians in need.
- During November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 124 ongoing projects, totalling \$91.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent) and are strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 70 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 40 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 50 out of the 84 projects conducted by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

* Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.