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Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #1 as of 18:00, 7 October 2023

07 Oct 2023

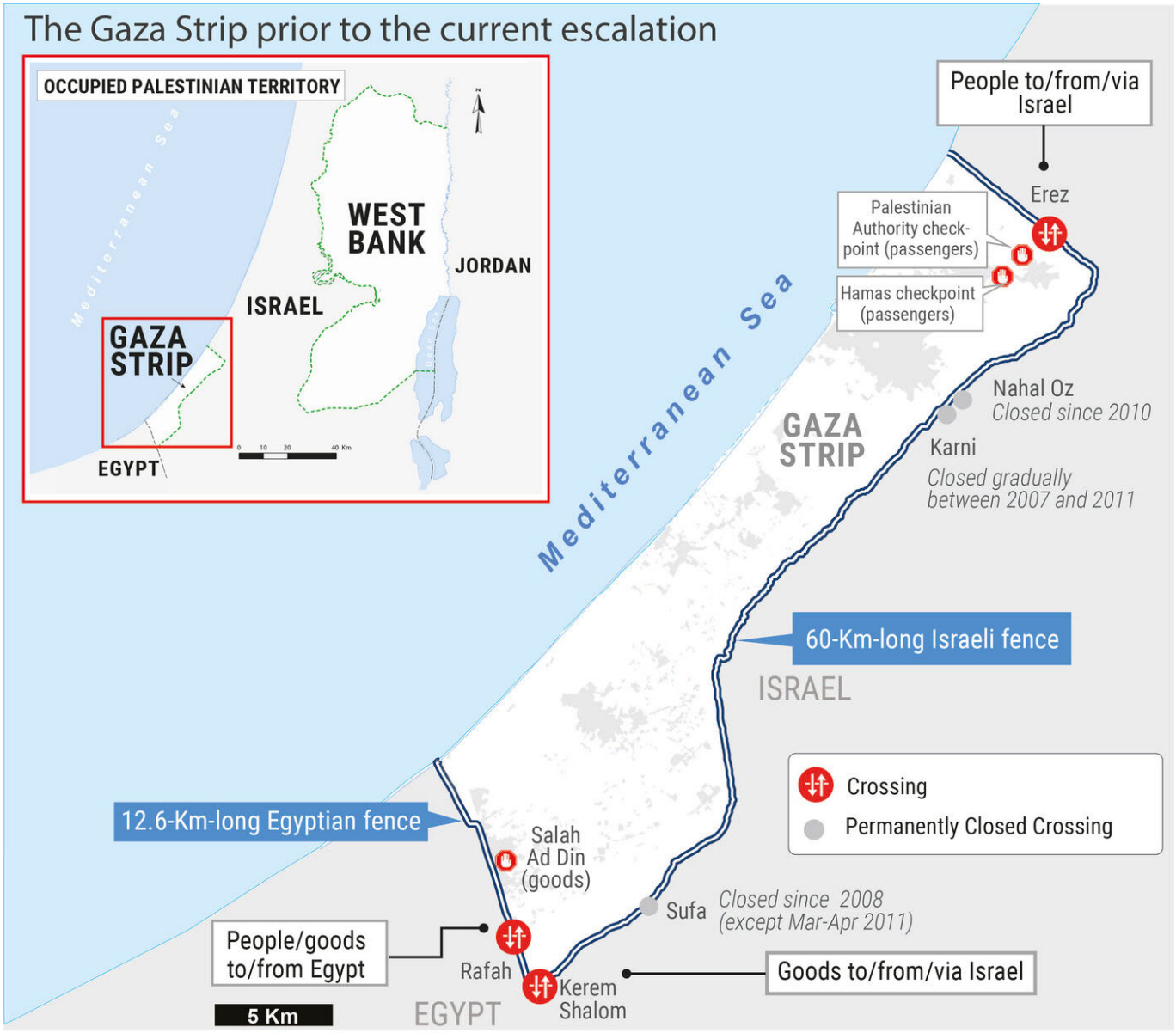
SITUATION OVERVIEW

- On 7 October 2023, since the early morning hours, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched thousands of rockets toward Israel and breached through the perimeter fence of Gaza at multiple locations. Members of armed groups entered into Israeli towns, communities, and military facilities near the Gaza Strip, killing and capturing Israeli forces and civilians. The Israeli military declared "a state of war alert," and begun striking targets in the Gaza Strip.
- Palestinian armed groups who had entered Israel initially claimed to have captured about 52 people, including members of Israeli forces and civilians, taking them to Gaza as rocket fire continued.
- As of 17:30, Magen David Adom reported that at least 70 Israelis and possibly also foreign nationals had been killed, including one paramedic. At least 985 people had been injured, according to the Israeli Ministry of Health. According to media reports, over 200 people have been killed and 1,500 injured in Israel.
- At around 10:45, Israeli forces began striking targets in the Gaza strip.
- As of 18:00, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza reported that 198 Palestinians had been killed and 1,610 others had been injured.



- During airstrikes, Israeli forces hit the Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza, with a missile, killing two Palestinian men, including a staff member of the hospital, and injuring five others. Damage was also caused to the oxygen station inside the hospital. Additionally, at about 14:00, Israeli forces reportedly hit an ambulance stationed in front of Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip. Several Palestinian paramedics were reported injured.

- At about 11:00, Israeli forces reportedly killed a Palestinian journalist east of Al Bureij, in Gaza city, while he was covering the events.
- By 18:00, at least 20,000 internally displaced people were sheltering in 44 UNRWA schools, including 28 designated emergency shelters, in all areas in the Gaza Strip, except Khan Younis.
- Exchanges of fire in the towns and communities surrounding Gaza took place throughout the day, the afternoon and evening. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued to fire rockets at Israel. Israeli airstrikes also continued throughout the afternoon and evening targeting multi-storey buildings. At least one high rising building comprising tens of apartments was destroyed.
- In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations have been increasing in multiple locations. As of 17:00, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) reported to have treated 23 Palestinians injured by Israeli forces, including nine who were hit with live ammunition, six injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, four who required treatment for teargas inhalation, three who had shrapnel wounds and one who was physically assaulted. PRCS also reported seven Palestinians injured by Israeli settlers, including two injured with live ammunition in Salfit. According to initial reports, three Palestinians were killed by either Israeli forces or settlers and a child was critically injured.
- Also in the West Bank, the Israeli authorities put in place multiple movement restrictions, including the closure of several checkpoints leading to Jerusalem. Additionally, they closed the Allenby Bridge crossing with Jordan for Palestinian travellers.
- The humanitarian coordinator has activated a contingency plan for Gaza and is working to secure access with all parties for a scale up of the needed humanitarian response.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
0 10 20 40 Km
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
GAZA STRIP
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #2

08 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

Information on humanitarian needs is as of 12:00, while casualty figures and the number of people displaced are updated as of 21:00

- Exchanges of fire in the towns and communities in Israel surrounding Gaza continued for the second consecutive day following the infiltration of members of Palestinian armed groups into Israel. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued rocket fire into Israel. Simultaneously, Israeli continued air, naval and land strikes throughout the night and morning.
- As of 20:00, according to Israeli sources, at least 677 Israelis, including possibly also foreign nationals, were killed and at least 2,000 people were injured, making it the deadliest attack in Israel in decades. Media reports estimate the number killed to be much higher. According to Israeli sources, more than 50 Israeli forces personnel and Israeli civilians, including women and children, were captured and forcibly taken into Gaza.
- As of 20:00, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, at least 413 Palestinians have been killed and 2,300 others injured. An additional 13 Palestinians, including one child, were killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank.
- As of 21:00, 123,538 Palestinians had been displaced in Gaza.



Children seeking shelter at Ash Shati Elementary Joint Refugee School in An Nasr, Gaza. Photo: Mahmoud Ajjour, 8 October 2023

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

- In the early morning hours of 8 October, Israeli authorities evacuated thousands of inhabitants of 25 towns surrounding the Gaza Strip. The evacuation coincided with renewed exchange of fire and infiltrations by members of armed Palestinian groups into Israeli towns. During the night of the 8 October, Israeli forces issued evacuation orders to Palestinian communities in Gaza, potentially affecting hundreds of thousands of people who have been told to relocate into the centre of Gaza city amid ongoing Israeli forces air and land strikes and the firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups.

- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have fired thousands of rockets and mortar shells into Israel since the current round of hostilities began on 7 October. The Barzilai hospital in the Israeli town of Ashkelon was hit with rocket fire from Palestinian armed groups, causing damage to the hospital. Furthermore, members of Palestinian armed groups shot and killed one paramedic and injured four others. Several buildings and livelihood structures in Sderot, among other locations, were damaged.

- Israeli airstrikes and shelling have targeted houses and apartment buildings in Gaza. In some cases, residential buildings were reportedly struck without warning for residents to evacuate. Notably, four large residential towers with multiple floors of residential units (Palestine, Al-Hashim, Wattan, and Al Aklouk) in Gaza city were completely destroyed. Israeli forces reportedly provided prior warnings in these cases and there were no fatalities reported from these incidents. According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing, 159 housing units have been destroyed, while 1,210 have suffered severe damage.

- Six health care workers were killed and four injured by Israeli airstrikes that also damaged seven health care facilities and nine ambulances. Damage to WASH related facilities from Israeli airstrikes has undermined the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to over 400,000 people.

- The hostilities have led to internal displacement. More than 17,500 families, comprising over 123,538 people, have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes. Out of the internally displaced persons (IDPs), UNRWA estimates 73,538 people are sheltering in 64 schools, some of which are designated emergency shelters. The UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza Strip were activated to host the displaced and provide them with urgent assistance.

- Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to the escalation. Among those unable to exit were 130 referred patients and their accompaniers with scheduled appointments at medical facilities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, or in Israel. The Rafah crossing with Egypt were open today and allowed 100 truckloads of food items, 30 truckloads of fuel, and 70 truckloads of construction materials to cross.

- In the evening of 7 October, Israeli authorities ceased supplying electricity to the Gaza strip, reducing the hours of electricity to 3-4 per day. The Gaza Power Plant is currently the only source of power and could run out of fuel within days.

- In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations with Israeli forces have persisted for the second consecutive day in multiple locations. Between 7 and 8 October, as of 21:00, 13 Palestinians, including a 12-year-old child, were killed by Israeli forces in various areas across the West Bank. One of the Palestinians was killed while attacking or allegedly attempting to stab a member of the Israeli forces near Al Lubban al Gharbiyeh (Ramallah). Another individual was shot and killed during an armed clash between Palestinians and Israeli forces near the Deir Sharaf checkpoint (Nablus). The remaining eleven Palestinians were all killed during demonstrations in solidarity with the Gaza Strip and other confrontations involving stone throwing.

- PRCS reported that since 7 October and as of 8 October at 12:00pm, they treated 191 Palestinian injuries in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, of which 38 from live ammunition, 26 from rubber bullets, 101 were treated for teargas inhalation, eight from shrapnel, and 18 were physically assaulted.

- Israeli settlers injured three additional Palestinians; one by live ammunition, another by a rubber bullet, and a third was stabbed. On 7 October, settlers reportedly from Itamar attacked Palestinian farmers in Yanun (Nablus), injuring one farmer and damaging five vehicles. On that day, settlers reportedly from Esh Kodesh closed the road connecting Qusra and Jalud (Nablus), firing live ammunition and injuring a Palestinian man while also setting fire to three agricultural rooms. Additionally, on the same day, a Palestinian man was stabbed and injured in Yasuf (Salfit) during a settler attack involving an attempt to set fire to three Palestinian houses.

- The Israeli authorities have continued to impose multiple movement restrictions, including the closure of several checkpoints and entrances to towns and cities in the West Bank. This includes the Shu'fat Refugee Camp and Beit Iksa town both in Jerusalem, which remain under closure for the second consecutive day, restricting the movement of more than 27,000 Palestinians from accessing essential services, including healthcare. Additionally, Israeli forces closed all checkpoints segregating part of the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron (H2) from the remainder of the city, impeding the movement of 7,000 Palestinian residents of the area, including from accessing essential services.

- A general strike was announced in the West Bank, resulting in the closure of all markets, shops, and education facilities.

- Humanitarian needs across the OPT continue to rise, the response to which is impeded by a current lack of access.

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychosocial support (PSS) for affected families.
- 50,000 Dignity Kits for women and men.
- Cash assistance for the host community and protection cases, women, and families in Designated Emergency Shelters.
- Emergency referral pathways for GBV.
- Enhance the infrastructure for GBV remote services through solving the electricity shortages and internet disruptions (by providing power banks, phones, tablets, etc.).

Response to Date

- GBV remote services activated with already existing survivors. Services include PSS counselling, legal, case management, and family visitations and other remote services for 572 individuals.
- Counting and procuring dignity kits: GBV partners have 650 dignity kits ready for distribution with at least 600 more being procured.
- Child Protection Area of Responsibility/MHPSS: Scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers.
- MHPSS and CP partners continued their hotline services to provide remote MHPSS services and guidance.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Lack of electricity/Internet hinders frontline workers to connect children with their parents during family visitation services.
- Limited supplies of non-food items (NFIs), including number of available dignity kits (650).
- Limited access to basic emergency information (ambulances, police, and civil defense).
- Closure of offices of service providers due to security concerns;
- Safety risks and hazards disrupt the capacity of emergency responders to mobilize.
- Lack of infrastructure to provide remote GBV protection services.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- According to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH), 1,210 housing units sustained considerable damage, including 159 that were destroyed and 36 that were severely damaged, becoming unhabitable.
- Overall, 123,000 people who had their homes destroyed or damaged since 7 October or left their homes due to protection concerns, have been internally displaced. Most are staying with host families, and 73,538 people took shelter in 64 UNRWA schools, some of which are designated emergency shelters.
- Urgent need to provide services and basic needs for the IDPs in the designated emergency shelters and provision of shelter support for the people in urban displacement.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation).

Response to Date

- Assisting IDPS to access 45 designated emergency shelters, which have been officially declared open Distribution of Shelter/NFIs to IDPs through cluster partners

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Movement restrictions particularly for people in urban areas.
- Lack of access to potential suppliers for shelter/NFIs.

Health

Priority Needs

- The electricity cuts are affecting hospitals that now rely on back-up generators. Some hospitals have enough fuel to last only 4 days.
- With the high number of casualties, there is urgent need for trauma and emergency care following the trauma pathway and the caseload continues to increase.
- The insecurity is hindering access to essential health care services for the population as healthcare workers and patients are unable to reach healthcare facilities.
- Movement restrictions across the West Bank and potential risk of settler attacks at junctions has disrupted mobile clinics, UNRWA and some MoH health facilities.

Response to Date

- Fifteen out of 22 UNRWA health centres across the Gaza strip have resumed providing primary healthcare services from 09:00 – 12:00 to patients with urgent referred appointments. Treatment is provided for non-communicable diseases and critical outpatient cases. Provision of health care services through the toll-free hotline continues.
- Health cluster partners have released prepositioned supplies worth $800,000 to hospitals in Gaza and reprogrammed $1million to procure urgently needed supplies.
- Health partners operating in Gaza are consolidating supplies and human resources to support case management at Shifa and Al Awda Hospitals.
- PRCS remains the main service provider for pre-hospital care providing ambulance services and emergency medical teams. They have activated their Operation Rooms, 42 stations and sub-stations.
- In West Bank, health cluster partners have activated SRH emergency teams at district level to help with accessing critical SRH services.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Insecurity and movement restrictions are hindering access to essential health care services as both healthcare workers and patients cannot move.
- Attacks on ambulance services and health facilities hinder service delivery.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- UNRWA food operation remains on hold, disrupting the third distribution cycle for 112,759 families.
- Access to agriculture: Strawberry and tomato farmers are at risk of losing their entire seasonal production due to access restrictions.
- Inaccessibility to olive trees could lead to losing olives and oil.
- Closure of Kerem Shalom crossing means that no fodder enters Gaza. This endangers the livestock and poultry sectors affecting the livelihoods of over 10,000 producers and the provision of animal protein to Gaza.
- Electricity and fuel cuts will affect refrigeration, irrigation, incubation, and other machinery that will affect agriculture, poultry, cattle, fish, and other products.
- Closure of the sea puts at risk more than 4,000 fisheries.

Response to Date

- FSS partners are preparing ready-to-eat food rations of fresh bread and canned tuna for 44,000 IDPs seeking shelter in UNRWA schools over the next two weeks and are planning to provide CBT vouchers to 50,000 IDPs outside of UNRWA shelters with a transfer value of 10.3$ (USD) per person if funding and shop accessibility allows.
- Market monitoring of food availability and prices has begun.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- The closure of Kerem Shalom, Erez and Allenby Commercial terminal poses challenges for the entry of food items into Gaza.
- Farmers cannot access their lands for daily agricultural practices (crop service, irrigation, harvesting).
- Lack of electricity and fuel.

Education

Priority Needs

- All education facilities in the West Bank and Gaza are closed, affecting more than 1,400,000 children.
- Over 50 UNRWA schools (DES and non-DES) are being used for shelter and reports indicate that displaced families are taking shelter in at least 6 PA schools (Not official DES).
- The mental wellbeing of students and school staff is negatively affected by the current situation. In Gaza.

Response to Date

- Provision of school-based PSS and recreational activities to at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools.

- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits for 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Insecurity and movement restriction is resulting in school closure and limited access of service providers to schools.
- Electricity cuts make online distance learning almost impossible.

WASH

Priority Needs

- All solid waste collection and transfer to landfills remains on hold.
- Two WASH facilities in the Gaza strip were affected. These facilities served over 400,000 people with water and sanitation services.
- Gaza's current electricity generation is less than 60 MW. This falls significantly short of the necessary power to sustain WASH services across the entire Gaza Strip.
- There is an urgent need for an alternative power supply source. In the meantime, providing fuel (Emergency fuel of 20,000 liters/day) is of paramount importance to support WASH facilities in their continued operation.
- The chlorine supply for the water treatment plants, currently using the emergency supply, must be replenished.
- Spare parts for the water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure to be used as part of the emergency repair need to be replenished.

Response to Date

- 50,000 liters of fuel were allocated for distribution among the WASH facilities experiencing power shortages.
- The operation of water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah is ongoing.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- The access and distribution of materials and items necessary for the WASH facilities is not possible yet.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary



Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #3

09 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

Information on humanitarian needs is as of 12:00, while casualty figures and the number of people displaced are updated as of 21:00.

- Exchanges of fire in the towns and communities in Israel surrounding Gaza continued for the third consecutive day following the infiltration of members of Palestinian armed groups into Israel. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued to fire rockets into Israel. Simultaneously, Israeli forces continued with intensified air, naval and land strikes throughout the night and day.
- As of 21:00 today, according to Israeli media, more than 900 Israelis, including foreign nationals, were killed, making it the deadliest attack in Israel in decades. At least 2,616 people were injured, according to the Ministry of Health in Israel. According to Israeli sources, more than 50 members of Israeli forces and Israeli civilians, including women and children, were captured and forcibly taken into Gaza. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza claim to have captured and forcibly taken into Gaza over 150 people.
- As of 21:30, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, at least 687 Palestinians have been killed and 3,800 others injured. An additional 17 Palestinians, including four children were killed and 295 were injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank.
- Mass displacement has escalated in the past 24 hours across the Gaza Strip, reaching over 187,518, and is expected to increase further. Over 137,427 of the displaced are taking shelter in UNRWA schools. About 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza are still displaced following previous escalations.
- Since the start of the escalation of hostilities, four schools and eight healthcare facilities in Gaza have sustained damage.



Palestinians in Gaza city inspect the damage following an Israeli airstrike, 9 October 2023, photo by Mahmud HAMS / AFP

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

- Hostilities have continued during the reporting period, resulting in additional Palestinian and Israeli casualties and property damage and a significant rise in internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- By this afternoon, over 187,518 people in Gaza are believed to have fled their homes, with UNRWA hosting 137,427 in 83 schools, some of which operated as emergency shelters. The number of IDPs represents the highest number of people displaced since the 50-day escalation of hostilities in 2014, which was the deadliest escalation recorded in Gaza since 1967. Additionally, it is estimated that over 41,000 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged, are hosted by relatives and neighbours. During the night of 9 October, Israeli forces issued evacuation orders to Palestinian communities in the Middle Area of Gaza and in Khan Yunis, potentially affecting hundreds of thousands of people who have been told to relocate into the centre of Gaza city amid ongoing hostilities.
- Israeli airstrikes and land shelling continued overnight and throughout the day for the third consecutive day. Destruction of infrastructure and streets has hindered the movement of civil defense and medical teams to reach victims.
- On 9 October at around 0:20 hours, Israeli forces reportedly struck a residential building with six missiles in Al Qarara, northeast of Khan Yunis, killing five members of the same family, including a 67-year-old woman and two

girls aged 12- and nine-years-old.

- On 9 October, at around 1:25 hours, Israeli forces struck a residential building in Rafah, reportedly killing 21 Palestinians, including children and women.
- On 9 October, around 12:00 hours, Israeli forces struck an area in Jabalia Refugee Camp, reportedly killing an estimated 50 Palestinians and causing extensive damage. The Civil Defense and medical teams are still unable to reach the area.
- According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing, 790 housing units have been destroyed, while 5,330 have suffered severe damage. Human rights organizations have expressed concerns regarding incidents where what appear to be civilian objects and civilians have been hit by Israeli airstrikes.
- Additional damage to essential infrastructure has been reported across the Gaza strip. Since the start of the escalation, Israeli airstrikes damaged three facilities used for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), undermining provision of services to over 400,000 in Gaza city and the Northern Area of the Gaza Strip.
- According to the UN there have been 13 attacks on healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip since 7 October. These attacks have resulted in six fatalities among healthcare workers, four injuries, and have affected eight healthcare facilities and nine ambulances.
- During the night of 8 October, airstrikes targeted An Naseer Hospital in Khan Yunis and Al Quds Hospital in Gaza City, as well as two centers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in Jabalia and Gaza City. Gaza's hospitals and other health facilities are only partially functioning due to severe shortages of medical supplies and the fuel needed to operate backup generators.
- Separately, shrapnel fell inside an UNRWA school in Jabalia Refugee Camp in the Northern Area, and two additional schools sheltering displaced families were damaged due to Israeli airstrikes. This brings to four the number of UNRWA schools damaged since the beginning of the current round of hostilities.
- Since the evening of 7 October, the Israeli authorities have ceased supplying electricity to the Gaza Strip, reducing the hours of electricity to 3-4 per day. The Gaza Power Plant is currently the only source of power and could run out of fuel within days. In the evening of 8 October, the Israeli authorities decided to cut off the water supply to Gaza through the three connection points. The connection point with Khan Yunis had been reduced from 800 to 450 cubic meters per hour the previous evening. This decision affects over 610,000 people in Gaza and will result in a severe shortage of already scarce drinkable water, inevitably affecting the water quality within the distribution network.
- Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to the hostilities. An estimated 130 referral patients and their companions from the Gaza Strip are unable to cross Beit Hanoun (Erez) checkpoint to reach scheduled medical appointments each day. The Rafah crossing with Egypt was open today for the movement of people; about 800 people exited and about 500 people managed to enter. However, Rafah was closed today for the movement of goods.
- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have fired thousands of rockets and mortar shells into Israel since the current round of hostilities began on 7 October, with some rockets reaching Jerusalem area, the Tel Aviv metropolitan alongside southern Israel, including Ashkelon and Ashdod. Israeli sources claim to have regained control of towns and communities around the Gaza Strip as fighting continues in these areas with the perimeter fence still breached.
- In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for the third consecutive day in multiple locations. Between 7 and 9 October, as of 16:00, 15 Palestinians, including

four children, were killed by Israeli forces in various areas across the West Bank. A total of 295 Palestinians, including 34 children, were injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Most of the injuries (272) were reported in various demonstrations in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip, during which confrontations were reported between Palestinians who threw stones and, in some instances, opened fire and Israeli forces who responded with live fire. Another 23 injuries were reported following settler attacks and entries into Palestinian communities, accompanied by Israeli forces. Overall, 160 Palestinians were treated for teargas inhalation, 83 were shot with live ammunition, 30 were injured by rubber bullets, five were hit by shrapnel or teargas canisters, and 17 were physically assaulted.

- The Israeli authorities have continued to impose multiple movement restrictions, including the closure of several checkpoints and the blocking of entrances to towns and cities across the West Bank. This has been done either by closing road gates or erecting earth mounds disconnecting cities and towns from the main roads in the West Bank for the third consecutive day. Closures of checkpoints around East Jerusalem were partially eased while flying checkpoints were set up at entrances of Palestinian neighborhoods in the city. All checkpoints segregating part of the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron (H2) from the rest of the city were closed for the third consecutive day, impeding the movement of 7,000 Palestinian residents and preventing them from reaching essential services.
- All education facilities in the West Bank have been closed for the third consecutive day, affecting more than 1.5 million children.
- Humanitarian needs across the OPT continue to rise, the response to which is impeded by a current lack of access.

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychosocial support (PSS) for affected families.
- 50,000 Dignity Kits for women and men.
- Cash assistance for the host community and protection cases, women, and families in Designated Emergency Shelters.
- Emergency referral pathways for gender-based violence (GBV).
- Enhance the infrastructure for GBV remote services through solving the electricity shortages and internet disruptions (by providing power banks, phones, tablets, etc.).

Response to Date

- GBV remote services activated with already existing survivors. Services include PSS counselling, legal, case management, and family visitations and other remote services for 572 people.
- Counting and procuring dignity kits: GBV partners have 650 dignity kits ready for distribution with at least 600 more being procured.
- Child Protection Area of Responsibility/MHPSS: Scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers.
- Dissemination of ERW messages.
- MHPSS and CP partners continued their hotline services to provide remote MHPSS services and guidance.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Lack of electricity/Internet hinders frontline workers to connect children with their parents during family visitation services.
- Limited supplies of non-food items (NFIs), including number of available dignity kits (650).
- Limited access to basic emergency information (ambulances, police, and civil defense).
- Closure of offices of service providers due to security concerns;
- Safety risks and hazards disrupt the capacity of emergency responders to mobilize.
- Lack of infrastructure to provide remote GBV protection services.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- According to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH), 5,350 housing units sustained damage, 790 destroyed or sustained severe damage and 171 are unhabitable. 316 families have been displaced so far.
- Overall, 187,518 people who had their homes destroyed or damaged and have left their homes due to protection concerns, have been internally displaced. Most are staying with host families, and 137,427 people took shelter in 83 UNRWA schools, some of which are designated emergency shelters.
- Urgent need to provide services and basic needs for the IDPs in the designated emergency shelters and provision of shelter support for the people in urban displacement.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation).

Response to Date

- 137,427 IDPs hosted at 83 UNRWA schools.
- Shelter cluster partners are verifying the needs to distribute essential NFIs in coordination with the shelter cluster and MoSD.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Movement restrictions particularly for people in urban areas.
- Lack of access to potential suppliers for shelter/NFIs and a shortage in the bedding sets in Gaza.

Health

Priority Needs

- With the high number of casualties, there is an urgent need for trauma and emergency care following the trauma pathway and the caseload continues to increase.
- The electricity cuts are affecting hospitals that now rely on back-up generators. Some hospitals have enough fuel to last only 4 days. All health facilities are partially functioning according to their respective emergency plans.

- Hospitals continue to see an unprecedented high influx of trauma patients. They are overstretched and healthcare workers overwhelmed by the caseload.
- There is an urgent need for medical disposable items which are in shortage.
- Insecurity is hindering access to essential healthcare services for the population as healthcare workers and patients are unable to reach healthcare facilities, including pregnant women of which about 455 deliver every day.
- There is increased demand for fuel for ambulances.
- Movement restrictions across the West Bank and potential risk of settler attacks at junctions has disrupted mobile clinics, UNRWA and some MoH health facilities.

Response to Date

- Fifteen out of 22 UNRWA health centres across the Gaza strip have resumed providing primary healthcare services from 09:00 – 12:00 to patients with urgent referred appointments. Treatment is provided for non-communicable diseases and critical outpatient cases. Provision of health care services through the toll-free hotline continues.
- Three specialized Emergency Medical Teams have been deployed in Shifa, Aqsa, and Najjar Hospitals in order to expand the EDs capacities and to open new spaces as a green zone.
- Health cluster partners have released prepositioned supplies worth $800,000 to hospitals in Gaza and reprogrammed $1,300,000 (USD) to procure urgently needed supplies.
- Health partners operating in Gaza are consolidating supplies and human resources to support case management at Shifa and Al Awda Hospitals.
- PRCS remains the main service provider for pre-hospital care providing ambulance services and emergency medical teams. They have activated their Operation Rooms, 42 stations and sub-stations.
- Some partners have started early rehabilitation and post-trauma services to the injured tailored to their specific needs.
- In West Bank, health cluster partners have activated SRH emergency teams at district level to help with accessing critical SRH services.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Limited/no access to essential health care services as both healthcare workers and patients cannot move due to insecurity or movement restrictions.
- Health attacks on ambulance services and health facilities remain a concern.
- Shortages of some medical supplies essential for managing the injured.
- Poor funding of humanitarian health response means there are limited resources that can be adequately reprogrammed to support the emergency response.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Priority is to provide crucial food assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian families and to provide emergency food assistance to the IDPs already seeking shelter in UNRWA schools.
- UNRWA food operation remains on hold, disrupting the third distribution cycle for 112,759 families.
- Monitoring of shops shows a deficit in supplies of main food items: 54% decrease in wheat flour, 73% decrease in eggs, and 38% decrease in vegetables. 60% of shops interviewed report the price of eggs has increased. 30% of shops reported their wheat flour stocks will only last one week.
- Four FSS partner contracted shops were destroyed during the escalation in Gaza.
- Access to agriculture: Strawberry and tomato farmers are at risk of losing their entire seasonal production due to access restrictions.
- Inaccessibility to olive trees could lead to losing olives and oil.
- Closure of Kerem Shalom crossing means that no fodder enters Gaza. This endangers the livestock and poultry sectors affecting the livelihoods of over 10,000 producers and the provision of animal protein to Gaza.
- Lack of access and electricity cuts will affect refrigeration, irrigation, incubation, and other machinery that will affect agriculture, poultry, cattle, fish, and other products. Some imported products have started spoiling already.
- Milk produced by dairy cattle cannot be marketed to dairy factories. It is expected that 35,000 litres of milk will be spoiled daily.
- Closure of the sea puts at risk more than 4,000 fisheries.
- In the West Bank, small villages may face stock shortages within one week if access restrictions continue. Strikes and movement restrictions make accessing food difficult.

Response to Date

- FSS partners are preparing to distribute ready-to-eat food rations to 100,000 IDPs in UNRWA shelters, as well as 100,000 people outside shelters with a cash-transfer value of $12.4 (USD) per person for one month.
- FSS partners are aiming to resume food assistance to 136,000 of the most vulnerable people with a cash-transfer value of $12,4 (USD) per-person for one month of those whose assistance was suspended earlier this year and provide an additional cash top-up to 205,000 people who received their October assistance.
- Market monitoring of food availability and prices has begun.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- The closure of Kerem Shalom, Erez and Allenby Commercial terminal poses challenges for the entry of food items into Gaza.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has reported significant damage to agricultural lands and some poultry farms. However, at the moment it is impossible to carry outfield assessments, so no estimation is available for shelter damages.
- Farmers cannot access their lands for daily agricultural practices (crop service, irrigation, harvesting).
- Lack of electricity and fuel causing food products to spoil.
- The delivery of food items to North Gaza is currently blocked.

Education

Priority Needs

- All education facilities in the West Bank and Gaza are closed, affecting more than 1,400,000 children.
- Over 50 UNRWA schools (DES and non-DES) are being used for shelter and reports indicate that displaced families are taking shelter in at least 7 PA schools (Not official DES).
- The mental wellbeing of students and school staff is negatively affected by the current situation. In Gaza.
- The mental well-being of children and staff is severely affected.

Response to Date

- Provision of school-based PSS and recreational activities to at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits for 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Insecurity and movement restrictions are resulting in school closure and limited access of service providers to schools.
- Electricity cuts make online distance learning almost impossible.
- $4,000,000 (USD) is needed at this stage to respond to needs in Gaza and West Bank.

WASH

Priority Needs

- All solid waste collection and transfer to landfills remains on hold.
- Two WASH facilities in the Gaza strip were affected. These facilities served over 400,000 people with water and sanitation services.
- Israel’s decision to cut the water supply to Gaza via Mekorot water company by 82% has impacted over 610,000 people in Gaza. This will result in a severe shortage of drinkable water available to the population, inevitably affecting the water quality within the distribution network.
- Gaza's current electricity generation is less than 60 MW. This falls significantly short of the necessary power to sustain WASH services across the entire Gaza Strip. Municipalities are urging residents to conserve water usage to maintain essential services, as they anticipate a drastic reduction of more than 50% in the coming days.
- There is an urgent need for an alternative power supply source. In the meantime, providing fuel (Emergency fuel of 20,000 litres/day) is needed to ensure WASH facilities in their continued operation.
- The chlorine supply for the water treatment plants, currently using the emergency supply, needs to be replenished.

- Spare parts for the water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure to be used as part of the emergency repair need to be replenished.

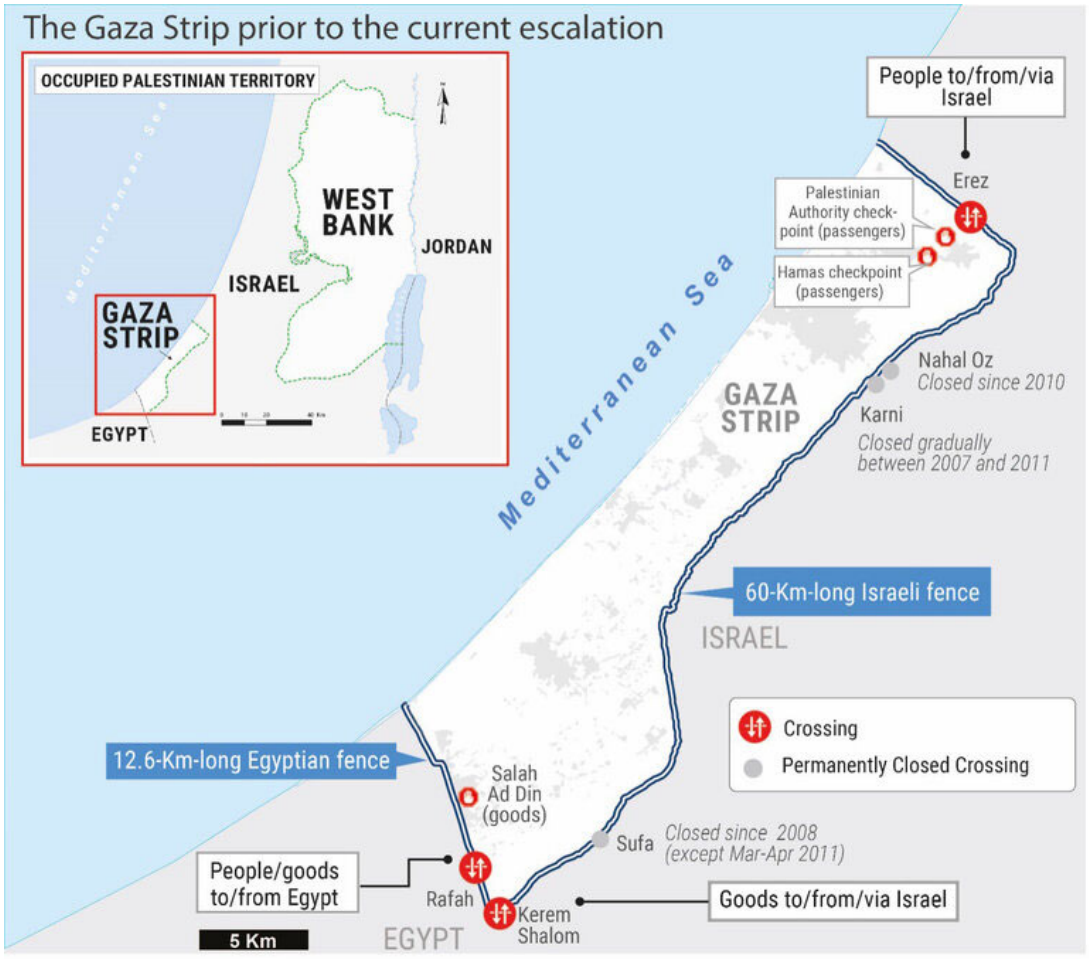
Response to Date

- 70,000 litres of fuel were allocated for distribution among WASH facilities experiencing power shortages.
- The operation of water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah is ongoing.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- The access and distribution of materials and items necessary for WASH facilities.
- Israel's decision to cut water supply to Gaza.
- The closure on the Gaza Strip poses challenges for the entry of WASH items.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary



Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #4

10 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

Information on humanitarian needs is as of 12:00, while casualty figures and the number of people displaced are updated as of 21:00.

- The Humanitarian Coordinator issued a statement calling on all sides to uphold international humanitarian law, protect civilians, and asking for all relevant parties to facilitate safe access of humanitarian goods and personnel. Over the past 24 hours, heavy Israeli bombardments from air, sea, and land have continued almost uninterrupted across the Gaza Strip. This has led to a significant increase in the death toll, including among children and women. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza carried out indiscriminate rocket firing overnight, targeting Israeli population centres.
- In the past 24 hours, over 400 Palestinian fatalities were recorded in Gaza compared with the over 200 in the previous two days, since the start of hostilities. As of 17:30 today, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, at least 830 Palestinians have been killed and 4,250 others injured.

PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES

Gaza*

830 Fatalities

4,250 Injuries

*According to the MoH in Gaza

West Bank

19 Fatalities

332 Injuries

ISRAELI CASUALTIES**

1,000 Fatalities

2,806 Injuries

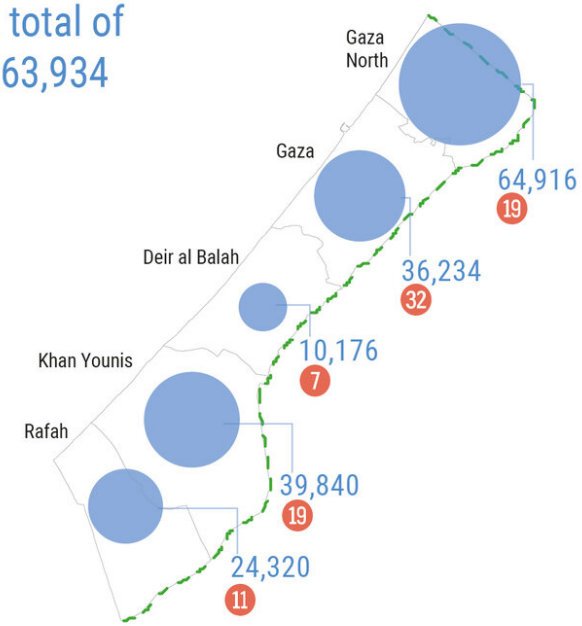
**According to Israeli official sources

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE BY GOVERNORATE LOCATED IN UNRWA SCHOOLS / SHELTERS

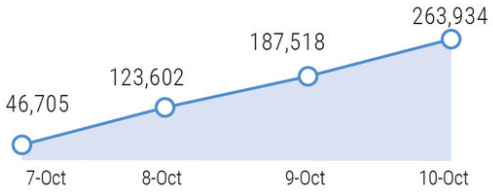
as of 12:00, 10 October 2023

175,486
IDPs out of a total of 263,934

88
Total Schools



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE



- As of 21:00 today, according to Israeli media, more than 1,000 Israelis, including foreign nationals, were killed by Palestinians and at least 2,806 people were injured, according to the Ministry of Health in Israel.
- According to Israeli sources, between 50 and 100 members of the Israeli forces and Israeli and foreign civilians, including women and children, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza claim to have captured and forcibly taken over 150 people.
- Mass displacement has continued over the past 24 hours across the Gaza Strip, with the total displacement now exceeding 263,934 people. This number is expected to rise further. Among the displaced, over 175,486 people are seeking shelter in UNRWA schools, while about 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza remain displaced due to previous escalations.
- On 9 October, people claimed to be members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) reportedly infiltrated Israel from Lebanon and exchanged fire with Israeli forces. Three Israeli soldiers and two PIJ members were killed.



Internally displaced persons sheltering in an UNRWA school. Photo by Adham El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities have continued for the fourth consecutive day, resulting in additional Palestinian and Israeli casualties and property damage and a significant rise in internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Hostilities and casualties

The past 24 hours have been characterized by an escalation in Israeli aerial and ground bombardments throughout the Gaza Strip with a particular focus on Al Rimal area west of Gaza city and Khan Younis. Communities in various parts of the territory received warnings to evacuate their houses and re-locate to the centres of the Gaza Strip's cities.

Airstrikes targeted several telecommunication installations, destroying two of the three main lines for mobile communication. Gaza residents are now relying on just one line for mobile and internet connections, resulting in disruptions to mobile and internet services.

Several residential buildings in heavily populated areas were also targeted, resulting in casualties, including among the elderly, women, and children.

On 9 October at 17:25, Israeli air forces reportedly struck a residential building with two missiles in Al Bureij, Central Gaza, killing 13 persons.

On 9 October, at around 21:30, Israeli air forces reportedly struck a residential building with two missiles in Al Attarah area, Beit Lahia, North Gaza, killing ten members of the same family, including five children.

On 9 October at around 22:15, Israeli air forces reportedly struck a residential building with three missiles in Khan Yunis, killing ten persons.

On 10 October at around 2:15, Israeli forces reportedly struck a building with two missiles west of Gaza city, killing three Palestinian journalists. According to Government Media Office in Gaza and Ministry of Health in Gaza, seven Palestinian journalists have been killed since 7 October.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing, a total of 1,009 housing units have been destroyed, 560 that were severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable, and another 12,630 sustained less damage. Human rights organizations have expressed concerns regarding incidents where civilian objects and civilians appear to have been directly hit by Israeli airstrikes.

Since 7 October, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have launched thousands of rockets and mortar shells into Israel, with some rockets reaching areas including the Jerusalem area, the Tel Aviv metropolitan area, and southern Israel. In the evening of 9 October, one rocket from Gaza landed in Betar Illit settlement west of Bethlehem, with nine Israeli injuries reported.

Displacement

As of 23:00 today, over 263,934 people in Gaza are believed to have
fled their homes, with UNRWA hosting 175,486 in 88 schools, some of which operated as emergency shelters. Additionally, 14,548 IDPs have taken refuge at 12 government schools. It is estimated that over 73,900 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged, are with relatives and neighbours, at Palestinian Authority schools, a church in Gaza City and other facilities. The number of IDPs represents the highest number of people displaced since the 50-day escalation of hostilities in 2014. This is increasing the caseload for humanitarian organizations to meet displaced people's basic needs of shelter, bedding, food, water and sanitation (WASH) facilities, additionally the prevailing insecurity and reduced access to impacted areas impedes distributions, particularly for families who are not in UNRWA shelters.

Attacks on WASH, health care and education facilities

Meeting basic needs is becoming increasingly challenging for those who have not been displaced, including access to water for domestic use due to the damage and the reduction in power supply to sewage infrastructures. Since the beginning of the escalation, Israeli airstrikes have damaged five WASH facilities in the north of Gaza and Gaza city, which previously provided water and sanitation services to over 500,000 people. In Beit Lahia and the rest of the Northern Area, sewage and solid waste are accumulating in the streets due to damage to sewage lines and infrastructure.

WHO documented 37 health attacks since 7 October, recorded in the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care. These attacks have resulted in six fatalities among healthcare workers, eight injuries, and have affected 13 healthcare facilities and at least 15 ambulances. During the past 24 hours, airstrikes targeted areas near Beit Hanoun hospital and a healthcare facility in Gaza City, causing damage to the surrounding areas of both facilities and rendering the hospital and center inaccessible. Gaza's 13 hospitals and other health facilities are only partially functioning due to severe shortages of essential medical supplies and the emergency fuel needed to operate backup electricity generators.

Initial reports state that there are at least 15 education facilities that have been affected, including five UNRWA schools damaged. According to the UN, 16 internally displaced people sheltered at an UNRWA elementary school, in Gaza city, were injured because of an airstrike targeting a mosque nearby. On 9 October, Israeli airstrikes targeting the Islamic university west of Gaza City, caused severe damage, with no casualties.

Electricity, fuel and water

On the evening of 9 October, the Israeli authorities announced a total halting of food, fuel, electricity and water into the Gaza Strip. Since the evening of 7 October, the Israeli authorities have ceased selling and supplying electricity to the Gaza Strip, reducing the hours of electricity to 3-4 per day. The Gaza Power Plant is currently the only source of power, and it will reportedly run out of fuel by midday 11 October, should fuel reserves not be replenished. According to the GPP, the Israeli authorities have warned that they would attack the plant if it receives more fuel.

On the evening of 8 October, the Israeli authorities decided to cut off their water supply to Gaza. This decision affects over 610,000 people in Gaza and will result in a shortage of drinkable water.

The Israeli forces declared siege is having a detrimental effect on food security within the Gaza Strip. Poultry and livestock sectors are at risk of collapsing due to the severe shortage of fodder, placing the livelihood of more than 1,000 herders at risk, and the availability of main sources of protein for the entire population of Gaza. Lack of access to livelihood and electricity cuts will affect refrigeration, irrigation, incubation, and other machinery that will impact agriculture, poultry, cattle, fish, and other products.

Access restrictions within and in and out of Gaza

Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to the hostilities. An estimated 130 referral patients and their companions from the Gaza Strip are unable to cross Beit Hanoun (Erez) checkpoint to reach scheduled medical appointments each day.

Israeli forces reportedly struck twice in less than 24 hours in the vicinity of the Rafah crossing with Egypt, the only thus-far open exit out of the Gaza Strip. This has forced the crossing to close for about five hours and prevented Palestinians from leaving or arriving.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for the third consecutive day in multiple locations. Between 7 and 10 October, as of 16:00, 19 Palestinians, including three children, were killed by Israeli forces in various areas across the West Bank. A total of 332 Palestinians, including 39 children, were injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Most of the injuries (307) were reported in various demonstrations in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip, during which confrontations were reported between Palestinians who threw stones and, in some instances, opened fire and Israeli forces who shot live ammunition. Overall, 169 Palestinians were treated for teargas inhalation, 104 were shot with live ammunition, 32 were injured by rubber bullets, seven were hit by shrapnel or teargas canisters, and 20 were physically assaulted.

Settler-related violence

Over the past two days, the situation in Palestinian communities near settlements across the West Bank has been reported as very tense. In Einabus (Nablus) dozens of armed settlers reportedly from Yitzhar settlement attacked the village accompanied with Israeli forces. Settlers threw stones causing damage to three homes, set fire to another one and to a Palestinian vehicle, and opened fire at residents who threw stones. During the event, a total of eight Palestinians, including one child were injured, including four Palestinians injured with live ammunition fired by either Israeli forces or settlers. Attacks by settlers with live ammunition against Palestinian vehicles travelling on roads near Al Mu'arrajat Center and East (both in Ramallah) and Jaba' between Nablus and Jenin, were also reported, causing damage to at least three vehicles.

In the southern West Bank, in two separate incidents on 8 and 9 October, dozens of armed settlers attacked Palestinian families in Al Ganoub herding community located near Sa'ir (Hebron) and another family in as Samu village (Hebron) and forced them to leave the area at gun point. Settlers also set fire to two residential tents and vandalized nine water tanks, and two solar systems. Subsequently, three families of 15 members, including five children, were displaced.

Access restrictions

The Israeli authorities have continued to impose multiple movement restrictions, including the closure of several checkpoints and the blocking of entrances to towns and cities across the West Bank. This has been done either by closing road gates or erecting earth mounds disconnecting cities and towns from the main roads in the West Bank for the third consecutive day.

Since 7 October, Israeli authorities continue to isolate Barta'a enclave communities, comprising of six communities, home to about 9,000 people, by closing the checkpoint and Barrier gates impeding their movement and access to services. All checkpoints segregating part of the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron (H2) from the rest of the city were closed for the fourth consecutive day, impeding the movement of 7,000 Palestinian residents, and preventing them from reaching essential services. Access of Palestinians to the Old City in Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque, has been also restricted for the fourth consecutive day.

Attacks on health care

WHO has documented 15 health attacks since 7 October in the West Bank, recorded in the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care. Including 13 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; five involving physical violence towards health teams; four involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and three involving militarized search of health assets.

Humanitarian needs across the OPT continue to rise, the response to which is impeded by a current lack of access.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, RESPONSES & CONSTRAINTS

Protection

Priority Needs

- Protection needs across Gaza continue to rise, the response to which is impeded by a current lack of access.
- Protective supplies and materials are lacking in shelters.
- NFIs and hygiene support for IDPs including dignity kits for women and girls.
- Psychological first aid for affected persons as well as frontline workers.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for affected families.
- Increased levels of distress, fear, anxiety, insecurity, and panic attacks is expected, especially among children and women. Parents and children will require more MHPSS, especially regarding how to help children who suffer from fear and panic.
- 50,000 Dignity Kits for women and men.
- Cash assistance for the host community and protection cases, women, and families in Designated Emergency Shelters.
- Emergency referral pathways for gender-based violence (GBV).
- Enhance the infrastructure for remote services to respond to GBV through solving the electricity shortages and internet disruptions (by providing power banks, phones, tablets, etc.).
- Need to increase documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Risk of death and injury posed by explosive ordnance or bombing. Substantial risk of ERW contamination.

Response to Date

- GBV remote services activated with already existing survivors. Services include Psychosocial Support (PSS) counselling, legal, case management, and family visitations and other remote services for 572 people.
- GBV Sub-Cluster is conducting outreach to shelters to check their emergency plans, any urgent needs and to put them on alert.
- Counting and procuring dignity kits: GBV partners have 650 dignity kits ready for distribution with at least 600 more being procured.
- PC in contact with UNRWA Protection team to ensure coordination for any needed back-up response, including providing services for women and girls inside the DES. Needs to be covered in host communities as well.
- Child Protection Area of Responsibility/MHPSS: Scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers.
- Dissemination of ERW messages.
- Protection Cluster is continuing to closely monitor the situation, with OHCHR and cluster partners monitoring and documenting possible violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and civilian fatalities.
- Protection cluster partners have initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible. The aim is to mitigate the risk of death and injury posed by explosive ordnance or bombing.
- Psychological first aid (PFA) services, provided remotely.
- Awareness campaigns about coping mechanisms in times of crises and emergencies
- Scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers.
- Free telephone counselling
- MHPSS and CP partners continued their hotline services to provide remote MHPSS services and guidance.
- One partner in Gaza has been able to reach the following number of people with services: Psychological consultations (48); Social consultations (37); Legal advice (3); Psychological follow-up (36); Social follow-up (14); Legal follow-up (25); Support messages (325); Psychological first aid services (65); Awareness about coping mechanisms in times of crises and emergencies (168); Emotional and psychological support (211).

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Movement and access restrictions: Safety risks and hazards disrupt capacity of emergency responders to mobilize; concerns regarding movement restrictions for people with disabilities and elderly people.
- Information challenges: Lack of electricity/Internet hinders frontline workers to connect children with their parents during family visitation services; Limited access to basic emergency info (ambulances, police, and civil defense).

- Service cuts and closures/infrastructure damage: Closure of offices of service providers due to security concerns; Lack of infrastructure to provide remote GBV protection services; Power and Internet outages at service providers.
- Trauma and psychosocial distress on protection partners' frontline staff.
- Limited supplies of non-food items (NFIs), including number of available dignity kits (650).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- According to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH), According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing, a total of 1,009 housing units have been destroyed, 560 that were severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable, and another 12,630 sustained less damage.
- Overall, 263,934 people who had their homes destroyed or damaged and have left their homes due to protection concerns, have been internally displaced. Among the displaced, over 175,486 people took shelter in 88 UNRWA schools, some of which are designated emergency shelters.
- Urgent needs to provide services and basic SNFIs needs for the IDPs in the collective centers and provision of shelter support for the people in urban displacement.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation).

Response to Date

- 175,486 IDPs are hosted at 88 UNRWA schools.
- Shelter cluster partners are verifying the needs to distribute essential NFIs in coordination with the shelter cluster and MoSD.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Movement restrictions particularly for people in urban areas.
- Lack of access to potential suppliers for shelter/NFIs and a shortage in the bedding sets in Gaza.

Health

Priority Needs

- With the high number of casualties, there is an urgent need for trauma and emergency care following the trauma pathway and the caseload continues to increase.
- The electricity cuts are affecting hospitals that now rely on back-up generators.
- The number of primary healthcare facilities that are partially functioning has dropped to 50 per cent.
- Hospitals continue to see an unprecedented high influx of trauma patients. They are overstretched and healthcare workers overwhelmed by the caseload.
- There is an urgent need for medical disposable items which are in shortage.
- Demands for fuel to run ambulances and back-up generators in hospitals keep soaring.

- Movement restrictions across the West Bank and potential risk of settler attacks at junctions has disrupted mobile clinics, UNRWA and some MoH health facilities.

Response to Date

- Fifteen out of 22 UNRWA health centres across the Gaza strip have resumed providing primary healthcare services from 09:00 – 12:00 to patients with urgent referred appointments. Treatment is provided for non-communicable diseases and critical outpatient cases. Provision of health care services through the toll-free hotline continues.
- Partners who still have some prepositioned supplies continue to be released to hospitals in Gaza. Considering the caseload of casualties, the supplies that were prepositioned fall significantly short of what is needed.
- Some partners have started early rehabilitation and post-trauma services to the injured tailored to their specific needs.
- Surge staff remains present in the hospitals supporting case management
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams despite the risk continue to operate in increasingly more difficult terrain to provide the necessary pre-hospital care and referral of the injured.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Insecurity and the massive infrastructure damage is hindering access to essential health care services for the population.
- Health attacks on ambulance services and health facilities remain a concern. Some hospitals have suffered some damage, this adds a burden on the remaining fully functional health facilities.
- Shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Poor funding of humanitarian health response means there are limited resources that can be adequately reprogrammed to support the emergency response.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Priority is to provide crucial food assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian families and to provide emergency food assistance to the IDPs already seeking shelter in UNRWA schools.
- UNRWA food operation remains on hold, disrupting the third distribution cycle for 112,759 families.
- Poultry and livestock sectors are at risk of collapsing due to the severe shortage of fodder, placing the livelihood of more than 1000 herders at risk, and the availability of meat and other fresh sources of protein -such as eggs, yogurt, and cheese- for the entire population of Gaza.
- Transportation of poultry from farms to markets has almost stopped completely due to companies or intermediaries declining to work due to the danger of transport trucks roaming at night, and therefore there is a fear that the chicken commodity will not be available in the markets.
- According to WFP monitoring assessment, there has been a significant decrease in food stocks, as a third of the shops in Gaza Strip suffer from shortage of commodities. About 50% of the shops in North Gaza and 50% of those in Rafah suffer from shortages. There is a significant decrease in wheat flour and eggs specifically at shops. Most

shops have an adequate stock of food commodities for approximately two weeks, around 36% of the respondents indicated that the current supply is sufficient for one week only.

- Five FSS partner contracted shops were destroyed during the escalation in Gaza.
- Access to agriculture: Strawberry and tomato farmers are at risk of losing their entire seasonal production due to access restrictions.
- Inaccessibility to olive trees could lead to losing olives and oil.
- Closure of Kerem Shalom crossing means that no fodder enters Gaza. This endangers the livestock and poultry sectors affecting the livelihoods of over 10,000 producers and the provision of animal protein to Gaza.
- Lack of access and electricity cuts will affect refrigeration, irrigation, incubation, and other machinery that will affect agriculture, poultry, cattle, fish, and other products. Some products have started spoiling already.
- Milk produced by dairy cattle cannot be marketed to dairy factories. It is expected that 35,000 litres of milk will be spoiled daily.
- Closure of the sea puts at risk more than 4,000 fisheries.
- In the West Bank, some villages reported the issue of food availability, fresh products like cheese yogurt and wheat flour, due to high demand, closures, and movement restrictions.

Response to Date

- FSS partners are preparing to distribute ready-to-eat food rations to 100,000 IDPs in UNRWA shelters, as well as 100,000 people outside shelters with a cash-transfer value of $12.4 (USD) per person for one month.
- FSS partners are aiming to resume food assistance to 136,000 of the most vulnerable people with a cash-transfer value of $12,4 (USD) per-person for one month of those it had suspended earlier this year and provide an additional cash top-up to 205,000 people who received their October assistance.
- Market monitoring of food availability and prices has begun.
- UNRWA is replenishing stock of food Items for 150,000 IDPs which will be between 10 to 30 days.
- FSS partners started the daily distribution of fresh bread and canned food to 73, 538 displaced people in UNRWA's shelters using WFP's standby contracted bakeries.
- A FSS partner is planning to reach 805,000 with emergency food and cash assistance across Gaza and the West Bank.
- A FSS partner is launching an immediate cash assistance top-up to around 166,000 of those who have already received assistance this month.
- An FSS partner is currently in the process of purchasing an additional 120 metric ton of food from Egypt for the IDP emergency response.
- Currently, aa FSS partner is working to purchase food parcels for 300,000 people that are hosting displaced families outside shelters in Gaza
- Plans are made to distribute fresh bread to around 132,000 IDPs on October 10.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- The closure of Kerem Shalom, Erez and Allenby Commercial terminal poses challenges for the entry of food items into Gaza.
- The Rafah crossing has been shut to goods.
- The current stockpile of fodder should be sufficient for 10-12 days maximum, while 600 tons are needed daily to feed poultry and the livestock.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has reported considerable damage to agricultural lands and some poultry farms. However, it is impossible to carry out field assessments, so no estimation is available for shelter damages.
- Farmers cannot access their lands for daily agricultural practices (crop service, irrigation, harvesting).
- Lack of electricity and fuel causing food products to spoil.
- The delivery of food items to North Gaza is currently blocked.

Education

Priority Needs

- All education facilities in the West Bank and Gaza are closed, affecting more than 1,400,000 children.
- 83 UNRWA schools (DES and non-DES) are being used for shelter and reports indicate that displaced families are taking shelter in at least 12 government schools (Not official DES).
- The mental wellbeing of students and school staff is negatively affected by the current situation in Gaza.
- The mental well-being of children and staff is severely affected.

Response to Date

- Provision of school-based PSS and recreational activities to at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits for 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

Key Constraints and Gaps

- Insecurity and movement restriction is resulting in school closure and limited access of service providers to schools.
- Electricity cuts make online distance learning almost impossible.

WASH

Priority Needs

- All solid waste collection and transfer to landfills remains on hold.
- Five of the WASH infrastructures and facilities have been affected in the north of Gaza and Gaza City, these facilities served over 500,000 people with water and sanitation services.
- Israel’s decision to cut the water supply to Gaza via Mekorot water company by 100% has impacted over 610,000 people in Gaza. This will result in a severe shortage of drinkable water available to the population, inevitably affecting the water quality within the distribution network.
- Gaza's current electricity generation is less than 60 MW. This falls significantly short of the necessary power to sustain WASH services across the entire Gaza Strip. Four out of the five wastewater treatment plants have stopped working due to the lack of fuel which led to more than 120,000 m3/d of wastewater being disposed into the sea.
- Municipalities are urging residents to conserve water usage to maintain essential services, as they anticipate a drastic reduction of more than 50% in the coming days.
- There is an urgent need for an alternative power supply source. In the meantime, providing fuel (Emergency fuel of 20,000 litres/day) is needed to ensure WASH facilities in their continued operation.
- The chlorine supply for the water treatment plants, currently using the emergency supply, needs to be replenished.
- Spare parts for the water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure to be used as part of the emergency repair need to be replenished.

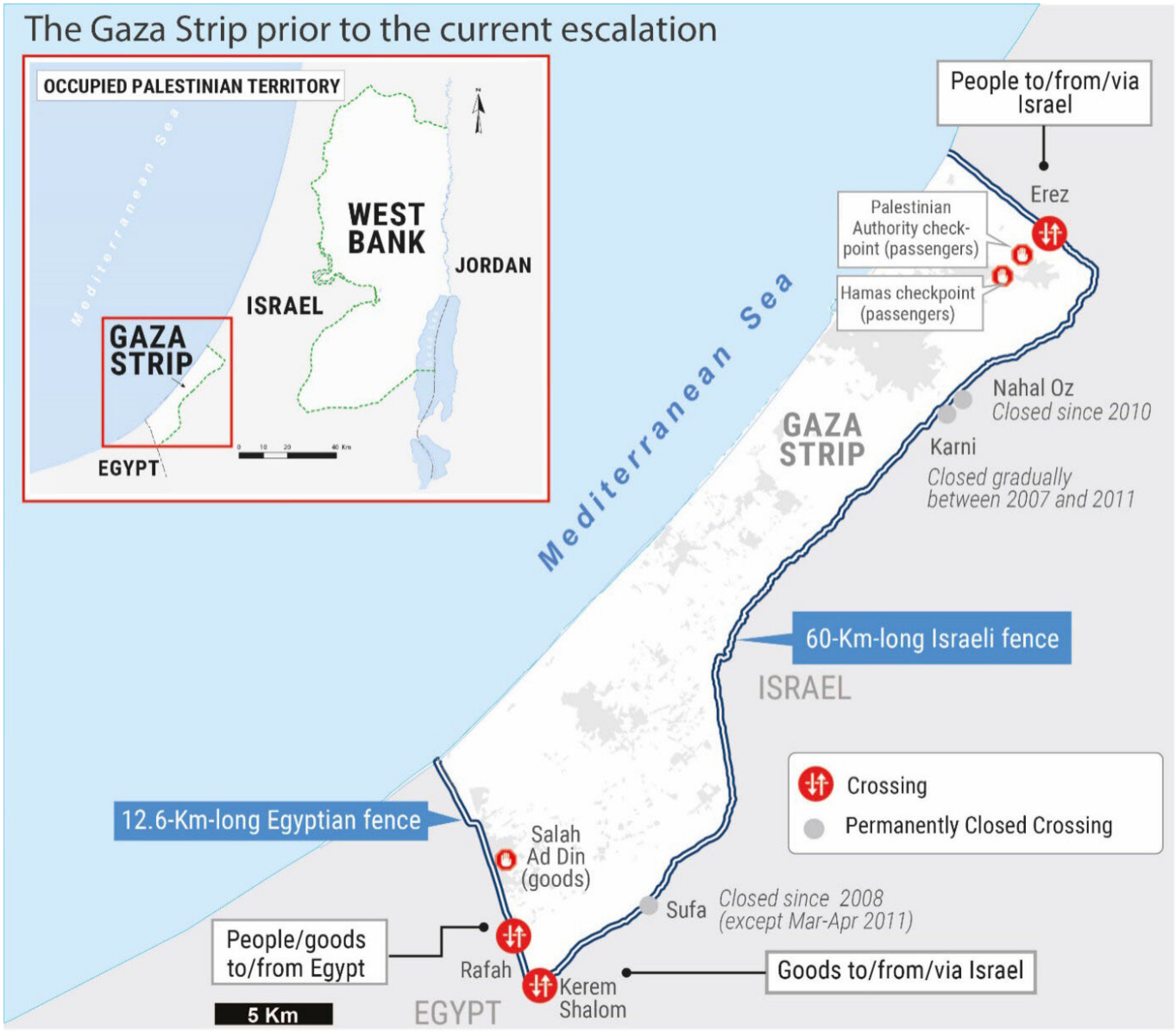
Response to Date

- 70,000 litres of fuel were allocated for distribution among the WASH facilities experiencing power shortages.
- The operation of water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah is ongoing.

Key Constraints and Gaps

- The access and distribution of materials and items necessary for the WASH facilities is not possible yet.
- Israel’s decision to cut water supply to Gaza.
- The closure on the Gaza Strip poses challenges for the entry of WASH items.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #5

11 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

Information on humanitarian needs is as of 12:00, while casualty figures and the number of people displaced are updated as of 21:00.

- Heavy Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land have continued almost uninterrupted across the Gaza Strip, demolishing entire sections of neighbourhoods. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued their indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres.
- At 14:00 hrs, Gaza's sole power plant ran out of fuel and was forced to stop functioning, triggering an immediate black-out, which continues, throughout Gaza. This followed Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza on 8 October. The Humanitarian Coordinator has issued a statement calling for all relevant parties to facilitate safe access of humanitarian goods and personnel.

PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES

Gaza*

1,100 Fatalities

5,339 Injuries

*According to the MoH in Gaza

West Bank

26 Fatalities

427 Injuries

ISRAELI CASUALTIES**

1,200 Fatalities

3,192 Injuries

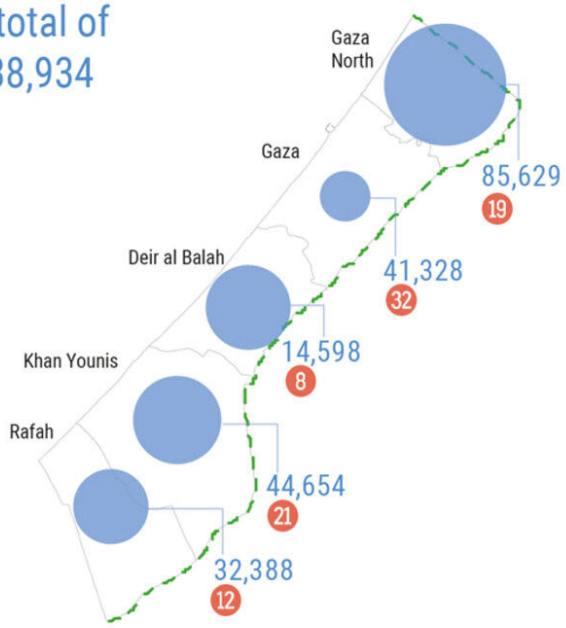
**According to Israeli official sources

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE BY GOVERNORATE LOCATED IN UNRWA SCHOOLS / SHELTERS

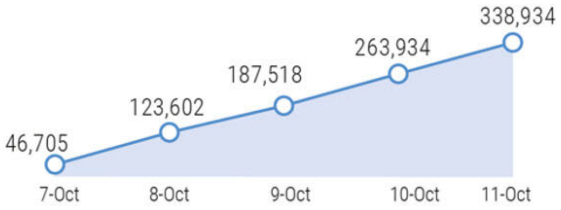
as of 16:00, 11 October 2023

218,597
IDPs out of a total of 338,934

92
Total Schools



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE



- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, between 17:30 yesterday and 14:00 today, a total of 270 Palestinians were killed, and 1,089 others injured as a result of Israeli attacks. The cumulative casualty toll in Gaza since the start of the hostilities, as of 14:00 reached at least 1,100 fatalities and 5,339 injuries. Additionally, Israeli media sources reported that the bodies of about 1,500 Palestinian members of armed groups killed in Israel are being held by the Israeli authorities.
- As of 9:00 am today, according to Israeli media reports, more than 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel by Palestinian members of armed groups, and, according to Israel Ministry of Health, at least 3,192 people have been injured. The vast majority of the Israeli casualties occurred on 7 October.
- According to Israeli sources, between 100 and 150 Israelis, including soldiers and civilians, some of whom are women and children, as well as some foreign nationals, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza.
- Mass displacement across the Gaza Strip continues. The cumulative number of displaced people increased by 30 percent over the past 24 hours, now totaling 338,934, of whom over two thirds are taking shelter in UNRWA schools.
- The scope of damage sustained by civilian infrastructure is also of increasing concern, with reports on major damage sustained to electricity, water and communication networks, mostly in Gaza city and northern Gaza.

- In the West Bank, four Palestinians were killed today by Israeli forces during a settler attack in Qusra village (Nablus).



Sheikh Redwan Neighborhood / Gaza city, 8 Oct 2023. Photo by Bashar Taleb

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities have continued for the fifth consecutive day, resulting in additional Palestinian and Israeli casualties and property damage and a significant rise in internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Hostilities and casualties

Heavy Israeli bombardments, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted across the Gaza Strip. Numerous residential buildings in densely populated areas, including Al Karama neighborhood in Gaza North, as well as Al Rimal, and Al Naser in Gaza city have been among the most heavily targeted, leading to casualties among the elderly, women, and children. Many casualties are still beneath the rubble, with Civil Defense and medical teams unable to access the area due to equipment shortages, severely damaged streets, and the intensity of ongoing hostilities.

On 11 October at 11:00, Israeli air forces reportedly struck with several missiles a residential building in An Nussairat Refugee Camp, in Deir Al Balah, killing 13 members of the same family.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, since the start of hostilities, at least 28 Palestinian families have had most of their members killed in the same incident.*

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing, at least 752 residential and non-residential buildings have been destroyed, and a total of 4,626 housing units were totally demolished or severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable; another 32,000 housing units sustained moderate damage.

Human rights organizations have expressed concerns about incidents where civilians and civilian objects appear to have been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes.

Since the start of hostilities, seven significant water and sewage facilities serving over 1,100,000 people were hit by airstrikes and severely damaged. In some areas, sewage and solid waste are now accumulating in the streets, posing a health hazard.

During the past 24 hours, airstrikes have targeted areas near the Beit Hanoun hospital and a healthcare facility in Gaza city, causing damage to the surrounding areas of both facilities and rendering them inaccessible. The Palestinian Red Cresent Society (PRCS) reported that four of its paramedics were killed while on duty, when an ambulance was targeted in Beit Hanoun area. Since 7 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 33 attacks that resulted in eleven fatalities and 16 injuries among healthcare staff and have affected 18 healthcare facilities and 20 ambulances.

According to the education cluster, at least 88 education facilities have been struck. This figure includes 18 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 70 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. For the fifth consecutive day, there has been no access to education or a safe place for more than 600,000 children in Gaza.

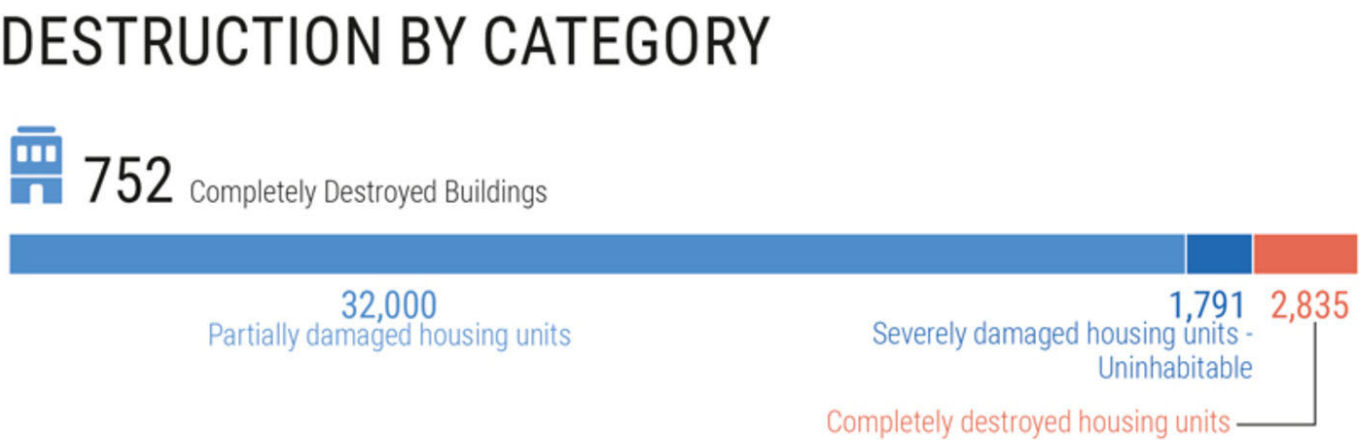
Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued launching rockets and mortar shells into Israel, with some rockets reaching the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv metropolitan areas, as well as southern Israel. On 11 October, a number of Palestinian armed personnel attempted naval infiltrations in the areas of Ashkelon and Zikim.

Displacement

As of 23:00 today, the number of IDPs has risen by an additional 75,000 people and reached 338,934. UNRWA is hosting 218,597 or 65 per cent of the IDPs in 92 schools, some of which operated as designated emergency shelters. Additionally, 14,837 IDPs have taken refuge at 18 PA schools.

It is estimated that over 105,500 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged or left their homes due to fear, are with relatives and neighbours, a church in Gaza City and other facilities. About 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza remain displaced due to previous escalations.

Part of IDPs have left their homes following Israeli authorities' evacuation warnings. The last evacuation warning map was issued on 10 Oct for the relocation from al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza city.



Basic services and livelihoods

On the evening of 9 October, the Israeli authorities announced a total halt of electricity supply and hindered the entry of food, non-food items (NFI)s and fuel into the Gaza Strip, triggering a serious deterioration.

As of 14:00, the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) ran out of fuel and stopped running, cutting the only electricity source to the Gaza strip. According to the GPP, the Israeli authorities have warned that they would attack the plant if it received any fuel and reoperate.

The electricity blackout means that there is not enough power to operate water wells and pump the water through the system, to run water desalination and purification plants, and to sustain sanitation services across the entire Gaza Strip. Already, four out of five of the Gaza wastewater treatment plants have stopped working due to the lack of fuel, and more than 120,000 cubic meters of wastewater are being disposed into the sea every day.

Water supply from Israel was also cut since the evening of 8 October, causing a severe shortage of drinking water for over 650,000 people. The municipalities of the Gaza Strip are urging residents to reduce water consumption.

Lack of electricity disrupts refrigeration, irrigation, incubation, and other machinery that impacts agriculture, poultry, cattle, fish, and other products, which will have a detrimental effect on the food security within the Gaza Strip. Poultry farms have been devastated due to restricted access to fodder and airstrikes, resulting in significant losses for small-scale chicken breeders. Furthermore, there has been a surge in fresh vegetable prices in local markets due to limited supplies resulting from restricted farm access, exacerbating food security concerns.

Meanwhile, half of the bakeries have less than a week's supply of wheat flour, and 70 percent of shops report significantly decreased food stocks. Certain items, such as eggs and vegetables, have experienced price increases. Over 50% of shops now have dwindling stocks of essentials like wheat flour, dairy products, vegetables, eggs, and mineral water. This dire situation calls for urgent clean water access for cooking, underscoring the severe and multifaceted humanitarian impact of the ongoing crisis.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, all 13 hospitals and other health facilities in the Gaza Strip are operational and providing treatment for injuries, although they are facing severe shortages of medical supplies, damage from airstrikes, and extended electricity outages. The Beit Hanoun hospital is also inaccessible due to damage to surrounding areas.

Movement and access

Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to the hostilities. An estimated 130 referral patients and their companions from the Gaza Strip are unable to cross Beit Hanoun (Erez) checkpoint to reach scheduled medical appointments each day. More than 1,000 Gazan workers were stuck inside Israel and transferred to the West Bank recently.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt, has remained closed for the movement of people and goods for the second consecutive day. On 10 October, Israeli forces carried out two strikes within less than 24 hours, resulting in the closure of the crossing.

Access to the sea has been prohibited and all fishing activity has stopped since the start of the hostilities. Overall, 180,000 people, including farmers, fishers and their families, have their access to livelihood almost completely cut.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance to affected people. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to impacted areas and warehouses. This is impeding the distribution of assistance, particularly to the families who are not in UNRWA shelters. Movement restrictions, the barring of imports, shortages of electricity, fuel, water and other essential materials have all constrained every sector of the humanitarian response.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors managed to carry out interventions and reach people in need. Apart from the increasing number of IDPs hosted by UNRWA, these included, for example, the distribution of fresh bread to 137,000 IDPs, the allocation of some 70,000 litres of fuel to WASH facilities, and the activation of psychosocial support helplines (for further detail see Cluster Section below).

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for the third consecutive day. Between 7 and 11 October, 26 Palestinians, including three children, were killed by Israeli forces in multiple incidents, and 427 Palestinians, including 62 children, were injured. Sixteen (16) out of the 26 Palestinians killed and most of the injuries (368) were reported in clashes during demonstrations in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip. Overall, 227 Palestinians were treated for teargas inhalation, 131 were shot with live ammunition, 35 were injured by rubber bullets, nine were hit by shrapnel or teargas canisters, and 25 were physically assaulted.

Access restrictions

The Israeli authorities have continued to impose multiple movement restrictions, including the closure of several checkpoints and the blocking of entrances to towns and cities across the West Bank. This has been done either by closing road gates or erecting earth mounds disconnecting cities and towns from the main roads in the West Bank for the fifth consecutive day.

Since 7 October, Israeli authorities continue to isolate six communities severed from the rest of the West Bank by the Barrier (the Barta'a enclave), home to about 9,000 people, by closing the checkpoint and Barrier gates impeding their movement and access to services. All checkpoints segregating part of the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron (H2) from the rest of the city were closed for the fifth consecutive day, impeding the movement of 7,000 Palestinian residents, and preventing them from reaching essential services. Access of Palestinians to the Old City in Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque, has been also restricted for the fifth consecutive day.

Attacks on health care

WHO has documented 18 health attacks since 7 October in the West Bank, including 15 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; seven involving physical violence towards health teams; five involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and three involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychological first aid (PFA) services, psychological counseling services and psychosocial/recreational/dignity kits.
- Need to increase documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Supportive tools and devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, earphones, eyeglasses, etc., and medications for the elderly and people with disabilities

Response to Date

- Child Protection (CP)/Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers. This includes free remote (helpline, mobile, WhatsApp) PFA and psychosocial counseling

- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- Providing family meeting services for children via conference calls.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points for responding to settler violence triggers are continuing their MHPSS response as possible and the MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- Provision of shelter support in the form of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced at urban centers and host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 1,500 families.

Response to Date

- 218,597 IDPs are hosted at 92 UNRWA schools across Gaza Strip.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed NFIs for 50-60 displaced families in urban displacement settings, limited by movement restrictions.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- The need for fuel for hospitals and ambulances continues to rise.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel and water sources in order to maintain internal food markets.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries and other food livelihood.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP reached 137,000 displaced Gazans residing in UNRWA shelters with ready-to-eat fresh bread that WFP purchased from local bakeries.
- WFP provided an additional cash-based transfer $5 to complement the regular WFP October food assistance for 164,000 of the most vulnerable Palestinians across Gaza and the West Bank.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.
- Lack of electricity makes it difficult to activate distance learning in Gaza.

Response to Date

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 child)

WASH

Priority Needs

- There is an urgent need for an alternative power supply source.
- Funding is needed to replenish fuel, chemicals, spare parts, provision of water, rapid rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructures and provision of hygiene items.

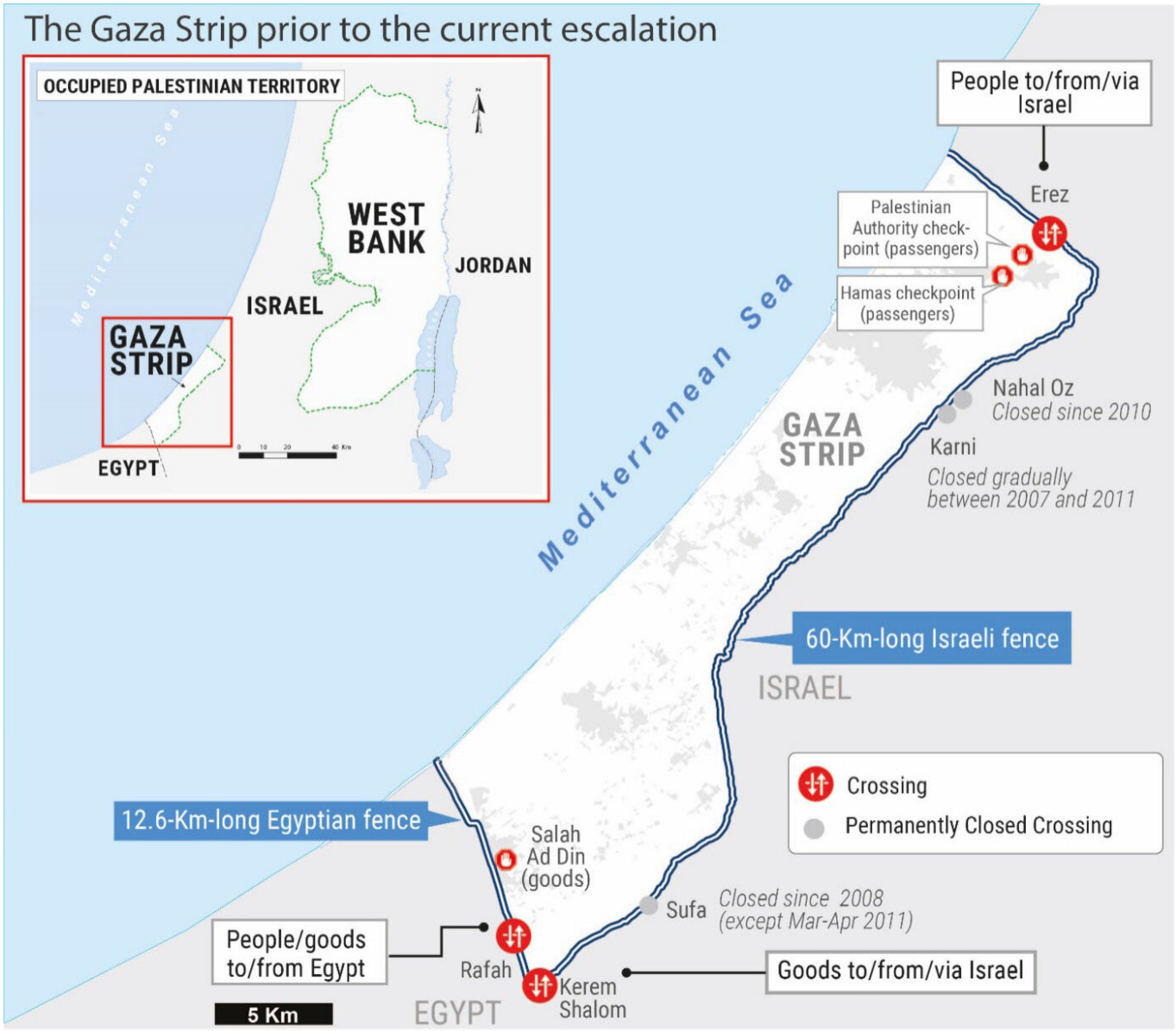
Response to Date

- 70,000 litres of fuel have been allocated for distribution among the WASH facilities that are experiencing power shortages.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary

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** This sentence has been revised after receiving additional information.*


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #6

12 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land have continued and intensified across the Gaza Strip for the sixth consecutive day. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, between 18:30 yesterday and 14:00 today, 317 Palestinians were killed and 929 others injured. In total, 1,417 have been killed and 6,268 injured in Gaza since 7 October. Human rights organizations have expressed concerns about incidents where civilians and civilian objects appear to have been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes

- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued their indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres, albeit with lesser intensity than in previous days. As a result, since yesterday noon, two people were killed in the southern Israel and several others were severely injured. According to Israeli official sources, at least 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel since 7 October and at least 3,391 have been injured, the vast majority during the initial attack carried out by Palestinian armed groups

- Mass displacement continues. In the Gaza Strip, the cumulative number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased by 25 percent over the past 24 hours, now exceeding 423,000 of whom over two thirds are taking shelter in UNRWA schools.

- Mass displacement in southern Israel has primarily occurred in the immediate vicinity to Gaza, where dozens of small communities have been fully evacuated. The Israeli authorities have been responding to the needs of these IDPs (this Flash Update focuses on the humanitarian needs in Gaza and the West Bank).

- Since yesterday at 14:00 Gaza has been undergoing a full electricity blackout, which has brought essential health, water and sanitation services to the brink of collapse, and exacerbated food insecurity. This followed Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza on 8 October, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant yesterday, after it depleted its fuel reserves. Secretary-General António Guterres stressed yesterday that "crucial life-saving supplies, including fuel, food and water, must be allowed into Gaza"

- Between 100 and 150 Israelis, including soldiers and civilians, some of whom are women and children, as well as some foreign nationals, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza. The Secretary-General called yesterday for the "immediate release of all Israeli hostages". Hostage-taking is forbidden under International Humanitarian Law.

- Settler attacks, alongside confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces, continued across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, resulting in the killing of eight Palestinians, including two children, since yesterday noon

PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES

Gaza*

1,417 Fatalities

6,268 Injuries

*According to the MoH in Gaza

West Bank

33 Fatalities

500 Injuries

ISRAELI CASUALTIES**

1,300 Fatalities

3,391 Injuries

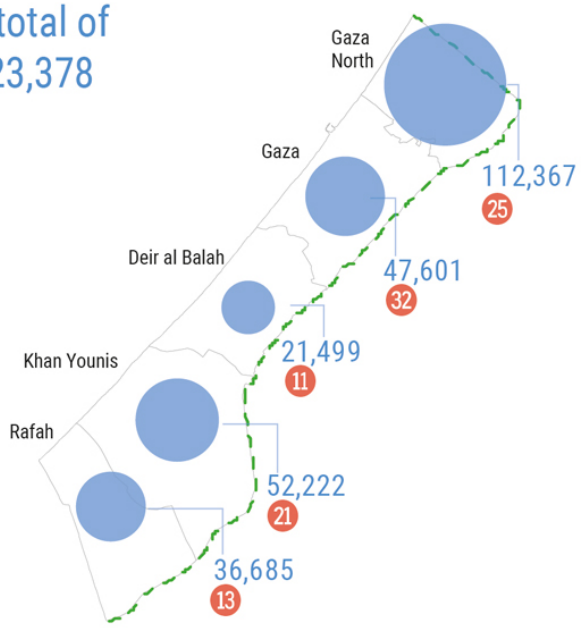
**According to Israeli official sources

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE BY GOVERNORATE LOCATED IN UNRWA SCHOOLS / SHELTERS

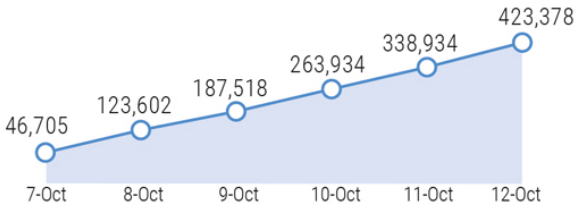
as of 16:00, 12 October 2023

270,374
IDPs out of a total of 423,378

102
Total Schools



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE



GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Heavy Israeli bombardments, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted. Multiple residential buildings in densely populated areas have been targeted and destroyed during the past 24 hours. The most severely hit areas were Al Maqousi and Al Mashtal areas in the northern part of Gaza City, the central and southern areas of Rafah, and Al Nusirat and Deir Al Balah in the central area of Gaza. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, between 18:30 yesterday and 14:00 today, 317 Palestinians were killed, and 929 others injured. Among these casualties are 16 families who had had most of their members killed in a single incident, bringing the total number of such families since the start of the hostilities to 44

Many casualties are still trapped beneath the rubble, with Civil Defense and medical teams unable to access the area due to protection concerns, equipment shortages and severely damaged streets.

Additionally, Israeli media sources reported that the bodies of over 1,000 members of Palestinian armed groups killed in Israel, mostly on 7 and 8 October, are being held by the Israeli authorities

According to Israeli military sources, occasional clashes between Israeli forces and members of Palestinian armed groups that remained in southern Israel since the initial attack on 7 October continued, with at least five Palestinians killed since yesterday noon.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, 752 residential and non-residential buildings, comprising 2,835 housing units have been destroyed. Another 1,791 housing units have been damaged beyond repair and rendered uninhabitable

Additional buildings struck and damaged include at least 90 education facilities, including 20 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 70 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. Eleven mosques were targeted and destroyed, while seven churches and mosques sustained damage.

Water and sanitation facilities have been also hit. Since the start of hostilities, six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged by airstrikes

Displacement

As of 23:00 today, the number of IDPs has risen by an additional 84,444 people and reached 423,378, with UNRWA hosting around 64 per cent of them in 102 premises operated as designated emergency shelters. Additionally, 26,984 IDPs have taken refuge at 29 PA schools. It is estimated that over 153,000 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged, or have left their homes due to fear, are with relatives and neighbours, as well as in other public facilities. About 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza remain displaced due to previous escalations.

Part of IDPs have left their homes following evacuation warnings issued by the Israeli military between 8 and 12 October concerning ten specific areas across Gaza. According to these warnings, residents must relocate to the center of nearby cities or shelters to avoid risking their lives.

Basic services and livelihoods

Since yesterday at 14:00 Gaza has been undergoing a full electricity blackout, following Israel’s halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza on 8 October, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza’s sole power plant yesterday, after it depleted its fuel reserves. According to GPP officials, the Israeli authorities have warned them that the plant would be targeted if it attempts to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and water supply to Gaza will not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released.

Essential service infrastructure is currently operational via backup generators, which rely on fuel reserves that are being rapidly depleted. Four out of five of the Gaza wastewater treatment plants have shut down due to lack of power. Additionally, 53 out of 65 sewage pumping stations are not functional, increasing the risk sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste are now accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards

All the three seawater desalination plants, which had previously produced 21 million liters of drinking water per day have halted operations completely. Drinking water supply from Israel was also cut since the evening of 9 October, causing a severe shortage of drinking water for over 650,000 people. The WASH cluster estimates that half of the Gaza Strip's population have had no tap water supply since yesterday, due to the closure of the last pumping station. The municipalities of the Gaza Strip are urging residents to reduce water consumption.

Lack of electricity has also had a detrimental effect on food security. It disrupted refrigeration, irrigation, and incubation devices, severely impacting agricultural livelihoods (poultry, cattle, fish, and other products). Poultry farms have been also devastated due to restricted access to fodder. Prices of fresh vegetables have soared due to limited supplies. Meanwhile, half of the bakeries have less than a week's supply of wheat flour, and several anticipate they will be unable to continue producing fresh bread due to their depleted wheat flour stock.

Although all 13 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are partially operational and continue providing treatment for injuries, they rely on backup generators, with fuel reserves running dangerously low, and while facing severe shortages of medical supplies and damage from airstrikes. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that the power shortages at hospitals put newborns in incubators and elderly patients on oxygen at risk; kidney dialysis stops, and X-rays can't be taken. Therefore, the ICRC indicates "without electricity, hospitals risk turning into morgues."

Movement and access

Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to the hostilities. Referral of patients and their companions from the Gaza Strip to reach scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have totally stopped since 7 October. More than 1,000 Gazan workers were stuck inside Israel and transferred to the West Bank recently.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt, has remained closed for the movement of people and goods for the third consecutive day. On 09 and 10 October, Israeli forces carried out a number of air strikes near the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing resulting in its closure. Egypt issued a statement today clarified that since the start of the escalation Egypt did not closed Rafah crossing.

Access to the sea has been prohibited and all fishing activity has stopped since the start of the hostilities. Access within 1,000 meters from Israel's perimeter fence remained prohibited impacting Palestinian famers' access to large areas of farming lands and thus increasing the lack of vegetable products

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. At least 23 humanitarian staff, including 11 health workers and 12 UNRWA employees have been killed since the start of hostilities. Operations have been also impeded by movement restrictions, the barring of imports, shortages of electricity, fuel, water and other essential materials. The distribution of assistance to IDPs who are not in UNRWA shelters is particularly complex

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting and caring of IDPs in UNRWA schools, and the support of those hosted in other facilities. Other interventions have included the distribution of food assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, the activation of psychosocial support helplines, and the launching of a mass media to raise awareness about the risk of unexploded ordnance (for further detail see Cluster Section below)

However, without a humanitarian pause, an opening of the crossings, and significant funding, the reach of operations will remain limited.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for the sixth consecutive day. Since 7 October, 33 Palestinians, including five children, were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; of those five were killed by settlers and 28 by Israeli forces.

A total of 500 Palestinian, including 81 children were injured by Israeli forces. Most of the injuries (426) were reported in various demonstrations in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip. Over 35 percent of all injuries were shot with live ammunition

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, a total of 49 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved, have been recorded. This represents an average of eight incidents per day, compared to a daily average of three incidents since the beginning of this year.

Yesterday at around 16:00, a group of armed Israeli settlers, reportedly from Esh Kodesh settlement outpost, subsequently supported by Israeli forces, raided Qusra village (Nablus), where they opened fire and threw stones at Palestinian homes; three Palestinians were killed by settlers and one by a soldier. The following day, a father and his son from the same community, were shot and killed by Israeli settlers while attending the funeral of the deceased.

Also yesterday, 35 Palestinian families comprising 214 people from Wadi as Seeq and Al Mu'arajat Bedouin communities (Ramallah), began to abandon their homes following systematic harassment and attacks by Israeli settlers, raising concern of a forcible transfer

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 42 attacks in the West Bank, 28 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care, affecting 20 ambulances 20 involving physical violence towards health teams; eleven involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and seven involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychological first aid (PFA) services, psychological counseling services and psychosocial/recreational/5,000 dignity kits.
- Need to increase documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Supportive tools and devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, earphones, eyeglasses, etc., and medications for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Response to Date

- Child Protection (CP)/Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers. This includes free remote (helpline, mobile, WhatsApp) PFA and psychosocial counseling.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- Providing family meeting services for children via conference calls. In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points for responding to settler violence triggers are continuing their MHPSS response as possible and the MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Provision of shelter support in the form of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced at urban centers and host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 3,000 families.

Response to Date

- 270,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across Gaza Strip.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 162 NFIs packs for displaced families in urban displacement settings, limited by movement restrictions.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is on the verge of running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies from external sources due to the severe depletion in the local market.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel and water sources in order to maintain internal food markets.
- Many shops now have supplies lasting less than a week, increasing urgency.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries and other food livelihood.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP reached 175,486 displaced Gazans residing in UNRWA shelters with ready-to-eat fresh bread that WFP purchased from local bakeries.
- Initiating an assessment process to evaluate the effects of the escalation on urban female agripreneurs and family farmers.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities
- Lack of electricity makes it difficult to activate distance learning in Gaza

Response to Date

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 child)

WASH

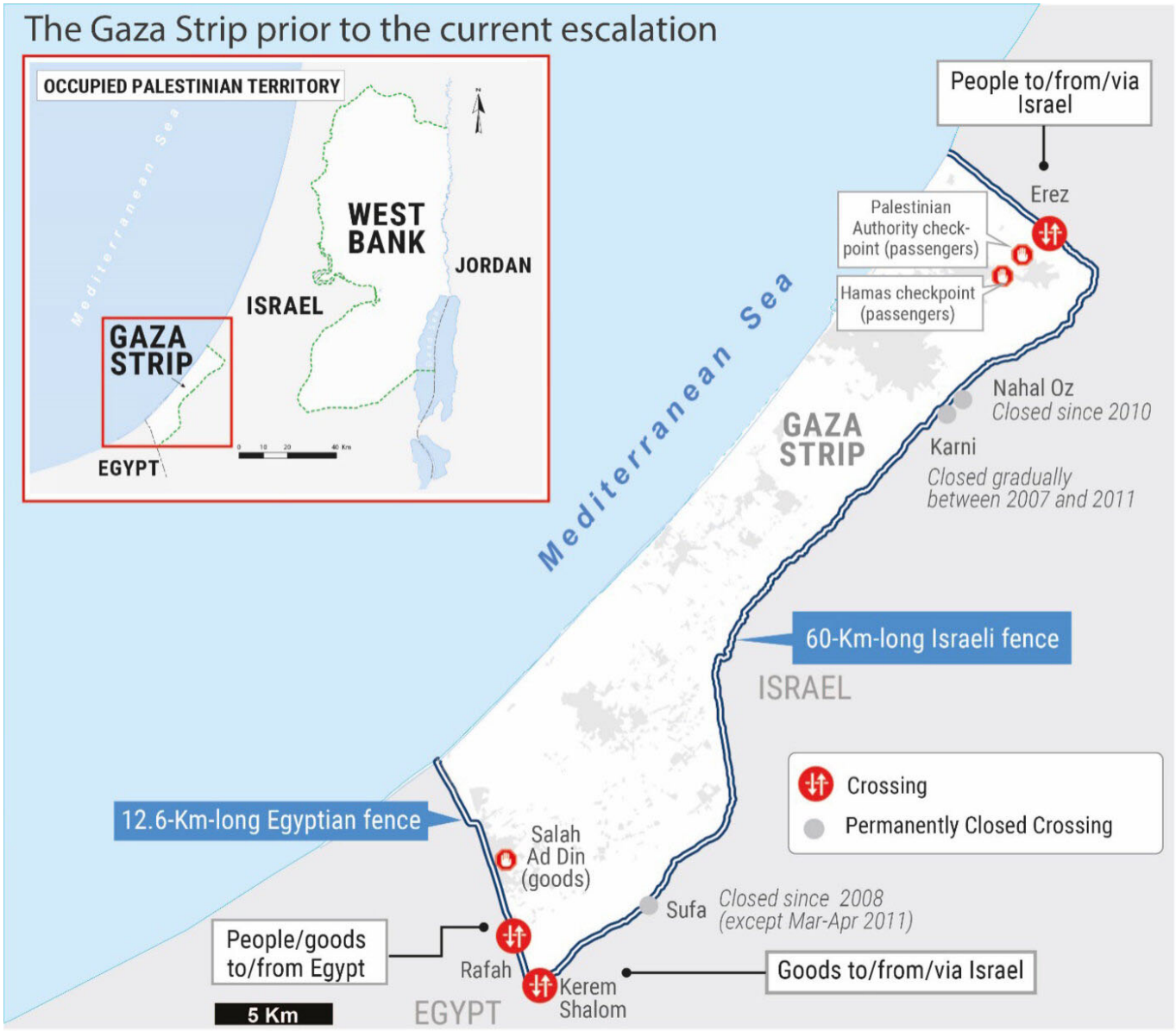
Priority Needs

- Immediate intervention is necessary to provide the population with clean drinking water, preventing an ongoing calamity that will persist even after the war concludes
- Urgent provision of an alternative power supply source and 20,000 liters/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Immediate support required to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Urgent delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- 76,000 litres of fuel have been allocated for distribution among the WASH facilities that are experiencing power shortages.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

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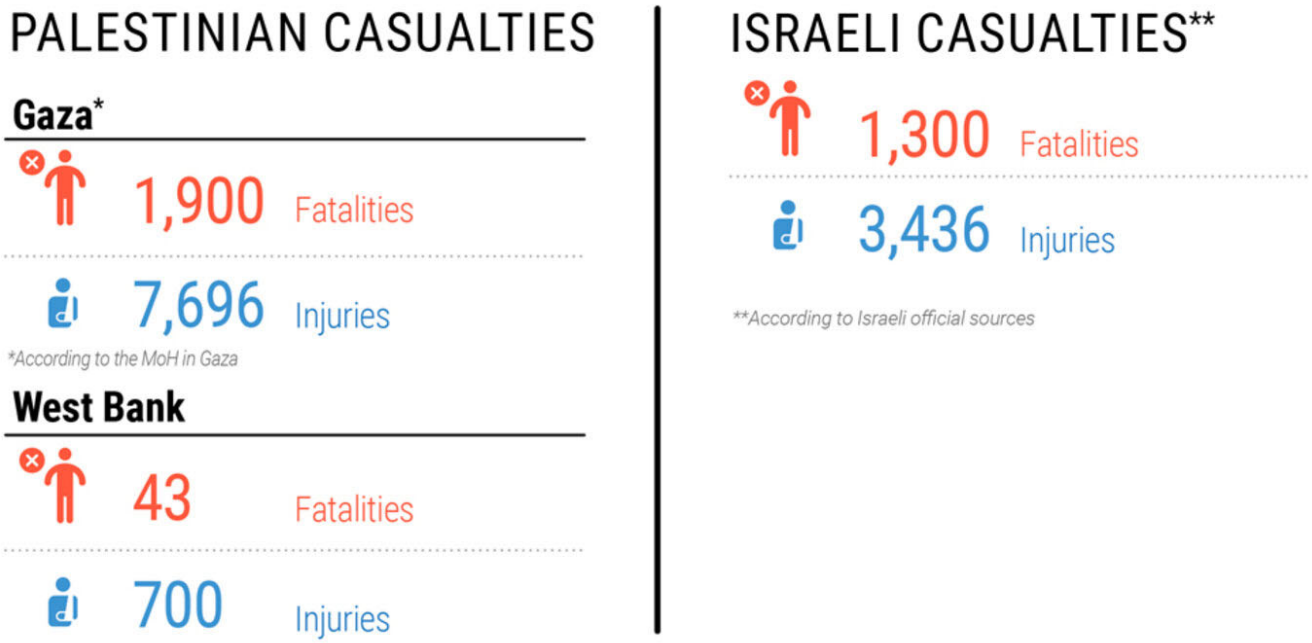
Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #7

13 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- At around midnight on Thursday, the Israeli military ordered about 1.1 million people in the northern part of the Gaza Strip to evacuate southwards within 24 hours, ahead of military operations. As of 21:00, it is estimated that tens of thousands have fled. Prior to the order, over 400,000 Palestinians had been internally displaced due to the hostilities.

- Most people have no access to clean drinking water after supply through the water network and the operation of water desalination/purification plants came to a halt. As a last resort, people are consuming brackish water from agricultural wells, triggering serious concerns about the spread of waterborne diseases.



- Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land have continued and intensified across the Gaza Strip for the seventh consecutive day. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, between 18:30 on Thursday and 14:00 on Friday, 382 people were killed and 1,120 others injured in Gaza. In total, 1,799 have been killed and 7,388 injured in Gaza since 7 October. Human rights organizations have expressed concerns about incidents where civilians and civilian objects appear to have been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes.

- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued firing of indiscriminate rockets towards Israeli population centres As of 21:00, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported. According to Israeli official sources, at least 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel since 7 October and at least 3,436 have been injured, the vast majority during the initial attack carried out by Palestinian armed groups.

- The Israeli city of Sderot will be completely evacuated within 48 hours, according to Israeli media, and many have reportedly left Ashqelon and other Israeli towns. Previously, mass displacement in southern Israel primarily occurred in small communities in the immediate vicinity to Gaza. The Israeli authorities have been responding to the needs of these IDPs (note: this Flash Update focuses on humanitarian needs in the oPt).

- Since 11 October at 14:00, Gaza has been undergoing a full electricity blackout, which has brought essential health, water and sanitation services to the brink of collapse, and exacerbated food insecurity.

- Between 130 and 150 Israelis, including soldiers and civilians, some of whom are women and children, as well as some foreign nationals, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza. The Secretary-General called on Wednesday for the “immediate release of all Israeli hostages.” Hostage-taking is forbidden under International Humanitarian Law.

- Over the past 24 hours, 13 Palestinians, including four children and one woman, were shot and killed by Israeli forces across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, bringing the Palestinian fatality toll since 7 October to 43.

- Yesterday, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank.



Devastation in the Gaza Strip amid hostilities between armed Palestinian Groups and Israeli forces. Photo by UNRWA

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Heavy Israeli bombardments, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted. Multiple residential buildings in densely populated areas have been targeted and destroyed during the past 24 hours. The Israeli military has claimed to have attacked 12 multi-story buildings within one minute. According to Palestinian media, several residential buildings were hit by airstrikes, including in Jabalia camp, northern Gaza, killing 25 people and injuring dozens of others, in Al Bureij refugee camp, Central Gaza, killing 17 people, and a in Bani Suheila, east of Khan Yunis, killing 13 people and injuring 15 others.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, vehicles of those evacuating the north were hit, killing more than 40 people and injuring 150 others. These incidents prompted many people to abandon their evacuation efforts and return home.

Many casualties are still trapped beneath the rubble, with Palestinian Civil Defense and medical teams unable to access areas due to safety concerns, equipment shortages and streets being severely damaged.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, 1,324 residential and non-residential buildings, comprising 5,540 housing units, have been destroyed. Another 3,743 housing units have been damaged beyond repair and rendered uninhabitable.

As of 12 October, additional buildings struck and damaged include at least 90 education facilities, including 20 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 70 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. Eleven mosques were targeted and destroyed, and seven churches and mosques were damaged.

Water and sanitation facilities have also been hit by airstrikes. Since the start of hostilities, six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged by airstrikes.

Displacement

Following the recent Israeli evacuation order of northern Gaza, UNRWA indicated that it is no longer in a position to consider their premises in the North of Gaza and in Gaza city are or will remain protected. No safe corridors were initially provided for people to safely comply with the orders to move southwards. Hundreds of people, including families, had to flee on foot. There are concerns about the food security, and access to water, shelter, and health care of the new IDPs.

The spokesperson for Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric stated: “The United Nations considers it impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences. The United Nations strongly appeals for any such order, if confirmed, to be rescinded avoiding what could transform what is already a tragedy into a calamitous situation.” The UN Country Team has issued a statement calling upon the Israeli government to rescind their announcement and further states that, under international law, Israel needs to take precautionary measures in future attacks to limit any harm to civilians and civilian objects.



Currently, the precise scope of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip is unknown. On 12 October at 23:00, the cumulative number of IDPs had reached 423,378, with UNRWA hosting around 64 per cent of them in 102 premises operated as designated emergency shelters. This includes - 33,054 IDPs who have taken refuge in 36 PA public schools A. Over 153,000 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged, or have left their homes due to fear, are residing with relatives and neighbours, as well as public facilities.

Basic services and livelihoods

Since 11 October at 14:00, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza on 7 October This triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant yesterday following depletion of its fuel reserves. According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, the Israeli authorities warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations.

The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and water supply to Gaza will not be restored until Israeli hostages are released. The UN Secretary-General stressed on 11 October that "crucial life-saving supplies, including fuel, food and water, must be allowed into Gaza."

Essential service infrastructure is currently operational via backup generators, which rely on fuel reserves being rapidly depleted. As of 12 October, four out of five of the Gaza wastewater treatment plants had been shut down due to lack of power, and 53 out of 65 sewage pumping stations were not functional, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste are now accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

All three seawater desalination plants, which had previously produced 21 million litres of drinking water per day, have halted operations. Drinking water supply from Israel was also cut since the evening of 9 October, causing a severe shortage of drinking water for over 650,000 people. As of 12 October, most residents in the Gaza Strip no longer have access to drinking water from service providers or domestic water through pipelines.

The lack of electricity has also had a detrimental effect on food security. It disrupted refrigeration, irrigation, and incubation devices, severely impacting agricultural livelihoods (poultry, cattle, fish, and other products). The increasing number of IDPs has overwhelmed existing resources, leaving many vulnerable families without access to food. Primary food commodities are lacking, such as wheat flour. The food value chain is disrupted, heightening the risk of food insecurity.

All 13 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are partially operational and continue providing treatment for injuries. However, they rely on backup generators with fuel reserves running dangerously low. Hospitals are also facing severe shortages of medical supplies and damage from airstrikes. Hospitals in the northern area face the serious challenge of evacuating patients who are unable to survive without vital support or are physically unable to move. There are also concerns for the safety of staff and patients, as hospital areas may be at risk of being hit during the next phase of hostilities.

Movement and access

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed due to hostilities. The referral of patients and their companions from the Gaza Strip to reach scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have stopped since 7 October. People from Gaza working in Israel were not able to return to Gaza

The Rafah crossing with Egypt has remained closed for the movement of people and goods for the third consecutive day. On 9 and 10 October, Israeli forces carried out several air strikes near the Palestinian side of Rafah crossing, resulting in its closure.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity stopped since the hostilities began. Access within 1,000 metres from Israel's perimeter fence remained prohibited by Israeli forces, affecting Palestinian famers' access to large areas of farming lands, heightening the risk of food insecurity.

Humanitarian operations

On Thursday, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal for $294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in the oPt. It brings together the programming and funding requirements of the humanitarian community, including 13 UN Agencies, 29 International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), 35 National NGOs (NNGOs) and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). This Appeal was launched prior to the calls by the Israeli military to evacuate northern Gaza and therefore do not address the resulting humanitarian needs

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. At least 23 humanitarian staff, including 11 health workers and 12 UNRWA employees, have been killed since the start of hostilities. Operations have also been impeded by movement restrictions, the barring of imports, shortages of electricity, fuel, water, and other essential materials. The distribution of assistance to IDPs who are not in UNRWA shelters is particularly complex.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. Mainly, this entails hosting IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions have included the distribution of food assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, the activation of psychosocial support helplines, and the launch of a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risk of unexploded ordnance The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian pause, an opening of the crossings, and significant funding.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for the seventh consecutive day. Since 7 October, 43 Palestinians, including eight children, were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of those, five were killed by settlers and 38 by Israeli forces.

Over 700 Palestinians, including 92 children. were injured by Israeli forces. Most of the injuries (over 600) were reported in various demonstrations.

Since yesterday evening, Israeli forces shot and killed 13 Palestinians, including four children and one woman. Most of the fatalities (10) were reported during confrontations that erupted in protests and marches in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip. One woman was killed, and her son was injured near Silwad (Ramallah), and another 16-year-old chil

was killed, and three others were injured near An Nabi Elyas (Qalqiliya) after Israeli forces opened fire at their vehicles for unknown reasons. One Palestinian man shot and injured two Israeli police officers in East Jerusalem before being shot and killed.

Settler-related violence

Settler-related violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, a total of 63 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved, have been recorded. This represents an average of nine incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents since the beginning of this year.

In the past 24 hours, settler violence appears on the rise, particularly targeting herding and other Palestinian communities already at risk of forcible transfer. On 12 October, settlers attacked at least three such communities near Ramallah, in the South Hebron Hills, and in the Jordan Valley respectively, giving them ultimatums to leave their homes, which has led to several families leaving.

On Friday, during a settler attack in At Tuwani village (Hebron), in video footage circulated by a human rights organization, an Israeli settler is seen shooting a Palestinian from zero distance and severely injuring him. An Israel soldier was standing in the background near the settler.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 42 attacks in the West Bank, 28 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care, affecting 20 ambulances; 20 involving physical violence towards health teams; eleven involving the detention of health staff and ambulances; and seven involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychological first aid (PFA) services, psychological counseling services and psychosocial/recreational/5,000 dignity kits.
- Need to increase documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Supportive tools and devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, earphones, eyeglasses, etc., and medications for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Response to Date

- Child Protection (CP)/Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners scaled up capacity of helplines and remote psychosocial support and referral to other services for children and their caregivers. This includes free remote (helpline, mobile, WhatsApp) PFA and psychosocial counseling.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- Providing family meeting services for children via conference calls.

- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points for responding to settler violence triggers are continuing their MHPSS response as much as possible and the MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- Provision of shelter support in the form of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced at urban centers and host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 3,000 families.

Response to Date

- 270,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across Gaza Strip.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 162 NFIs packs for displaced families in urban displacement settings, limited by movement restrictions.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is on the verge of running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies from external sources due to the severe depletion in the local market.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel and water sources to maintain internal food markets.
- Many shops now have supplies lasting less than a week, increasing urgency.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries and other food livelihood.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP reached 175,486 displaced Gazans residing in UNRWA shelters with ready-to-eat fresh bread that WFP purchased from local bakeries.

- Initiating an assessment process to evaluate the effects of the escalation on urban female agripreneurs and family farmers.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 child)

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

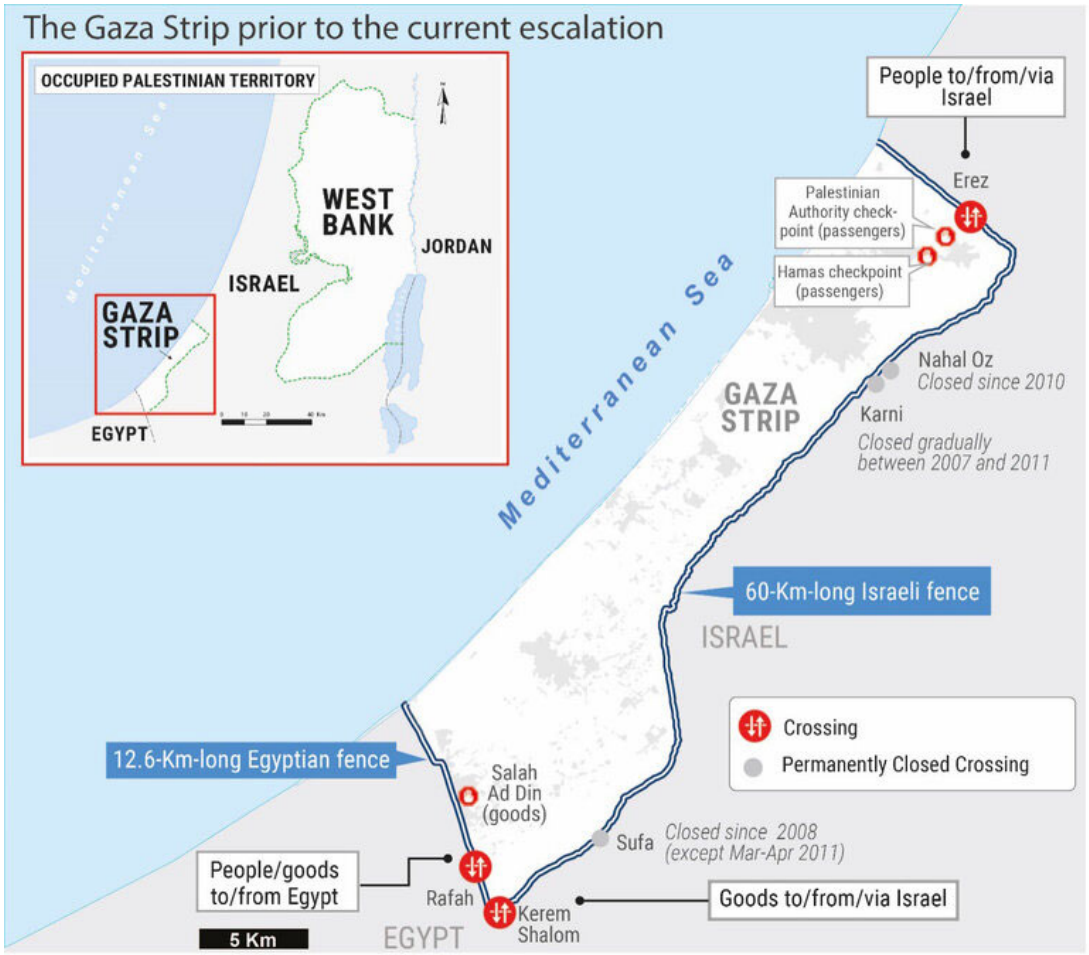
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 liters/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- 76,000 litres of fuel to support the operation of backup generators have been allocated for distribution among key WASH facilities.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

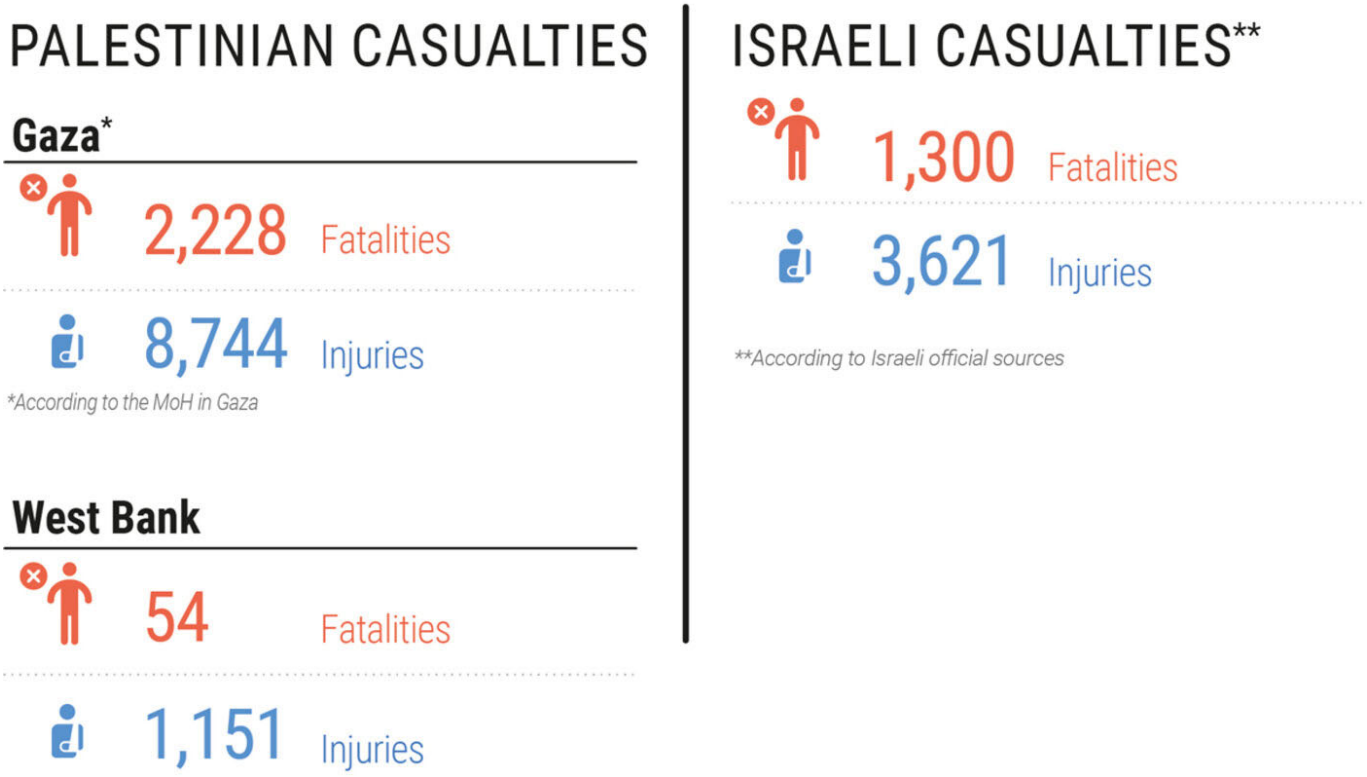

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
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Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
GAZA STRIP
Mediterranean Sea
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #8

14 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Heavy Israeli bombardments, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted. Over the past 24 hours and as of 22:00 today (Saturday), there have been 315 fatalities in Gaza and 1,048 injuries, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.
- Mass displacement from the north to the south of the Gaza Strip has been ongoing since yesterday (Friday) morning, after Israel ordered residents to evacuate the areas ahead of military operations. Prior to the order, over 400,000 Palestinians had been internally displaced due to the hostilities.



- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued their indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres, including the Tel Aviv metropolitan area. There were no Israeli fatalities reported during the past 24 hours, but 183 were wounded, according to Israeli media.
- The Israeli city of Sderot will be completely evacuated within 24 hours, according to Israeli media, and many have reportedly left Ashqelon and other Israeli towns. Previously, mass displacement in southern Israel primarily

occurred in small communities in the immediate vicinity to Gaza.

- People across Gaza have severely limited access to clean drinking water. As a last resort, people are consuming brackish water from agricultural wells, triggering serious concerns about the spread of waterborne diseases.
- For the fourth consecutive day, Gaza has had no electricity, pushing vital services, including health, water and sanitation to the brink of collapse and worsening food insecurity.
- All hospitals in Gaza are believed to have about 48 hours of fuel to operate backup generators. The shutdown of generators would place the lives of thousands of patients at immediate risk.
- From yesterday (Friday) afternoon to 16:00 today, Israeli forces killed 19 Palestinians, including seven children, across the West Bank. Forty-nine Palestinians, including 13 children, have been killed in the past week, making it the deadliest for West Bank Palestinians since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005.
- On 12 October the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank.., This is set to be updated shortly.


A displaced child in Gaza, October 2023. Photo by UNRWA

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Multiple residential buildings in densely populated areas have been targeted and destroyed during the past 24 hours. According to the Health Cluster, hospitals receive an average of 1,000 daily injuries, with 75 per cent classified as moderate to severe.

According to the Ministry of Health , between 22:00 on Friday and 22:30 on Saturday, 315 people were killed and 1,048 others injured in Gaza. In total, 2,228 have been killed and 8,744 injured in Gaza since 7 October. Human rights organizations have expressed concern about incidents where civilians and civilian objects appear to have been directl

targeted by Israeli airstrikes. Many casualties are still trapped beneath the rubble, with the Palestinian Civil Defense and medical teams unable to access areas due to safety concerns, equipment shortages and severe damage to streets .

As of 21:00 today, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported. According to Israeli official sources, at least 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel since 7 October and at least 3,261 have been injured, the majority during the initial attack carried out by Palestinian armed groups.

Between 130 and 150 Israelis, including soldiers and civilians, some of whom are women and children, as well as some foreign nationals, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza. The UN Relief Chief stated today (Saturday) that: “Anyone held captive must be treated humanely. All hostages must be released.”

Yesterday (Friday), at around 16:00, Israeli forces reportedly dropped leaflets in Gaza stating that Gaza City had become a battlefield and for people to leave to the south of Wadi Gaza. Shortly thereafter, airstrikes on a few vehicles on Al Rashid and Salah ad Din roads leading to southern Gaza reportedly killed at least 40 Palestinians in separate incidents.

At 9:00 today (Saturday), the Israeli military spokesperson announced two routes where it instructed residents to evacuate from the north to the south of Gaza Strip between 10:00 and 16:00. Media reports indicated that at least 12 people were killed while trying to evacuate to the south via these routes.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, 1,324 residential and non-residential buildings, comprising 5,540 housing units, have been destroyed. Another 3,743 housing units have been damaged beyond repair and rendered uninhabitable.

As of 13 October, additional buildings struck and damaged include at least 144 educational facilities, including 20 UNRWA schools, of which two were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 124 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, of which one was destroyed. Eleven mosques were targeted and destroyed and seven churches and mosques were damaged.

Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged . Since the start of hostilities on 7 October through 12 October,.t at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

Displacement

Humanitarian partners report that the number of IDPs has risen significantly over the last 24 hours, however the exact number is unknown. , As of 12 October, at 23:00, there were 423,378 IDPs, with UNRWA hosting about 64 per cent in 102 premises operated as designated emergency shelters(DES). Some 33,054 IDPs had taken refuge at 36 public schools. It is estimated that over 153,000 IDPs, whose homes have been destroyed or damaged, or have left their homes due to fear, are residing with relatives and neighbours, as well as in other public facilities.

Considering the high number of IDPs, the collapse of basic service infrastructure and the ongoing siege, the UN Relief Chief stated that: "The humanitarian situation in Gaza, already critical, is fast becoming untenable."

The World Health Organization (WHO) spokesperson described the humanitarian impact of the recent evacuation order as a “death sentence” for many and said that it is “impossible to evacuate vulnerable hospital patients from the north of Gaza.”

Twenty-three hospitals in the northern area of Gaza received evacuation orders, affecting about 2,000 patients, and remain at risk of being hit by Israeli forces. Hospitals face a serious challenge with evacuating patients who are unable to survive without vital support or are disabled. Three of these hospitals (Beit Hanoun, Hamad Rehabilitation, and Ad Durra), were damaged and the patients had to be evacuated.

UNRWA's designated emergency shelters (DES) in the centre and south are overwhelmed with IDPs. Many are sleeping outdoors due to lack of space. Water and sanitation services are severely limited. Vulnerable people are also sheltering there including the disabled, pregnant women and patients. Hosting capacity is overstretched and resources are limited, putting everyone at immense risk.

Basic services and livelihoods

Since 11 October at 14:00, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza on 7 October, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant, after it depleted its fuel reserves. Essential service infrastructure is currently operational via backup generators, which rely on fuel reserves.

All governmental and NGO hospitals in the Gaza Strip, except the three which were evacuated, are partially operational and continue to treat an average of 1,000 injuries per day. Hospitals are struggling with severe shortages of fuel and medical supplies, and cannot restock supplies from the local market. Fuel that the World Health Organization (WHO) had secured through UNRWA on 13 October could not be delivered. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stated that, "hospitals in Gaza risk turning into morgues without electricity."

As of 12 October, four out of five of the Gaza wastewater treatment plants had shut down due to lack of power, resulting in the daily discharge of 120,000 cubic metres of untreated sewage into the sea. Additionally, 53 out of 65 sewage pumping stations were not functional, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste are now accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

As of 12 October, most residents no longer have access to safe drinking water from service providers or domestic water through pipelines. Two out of three seawater desalination plants have ceased operations entirely. Currently, there is only one operational desalination plant functioning, serving the southern and central areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah, and Deir al Balah. A severe shortage in bottled water has caused the prices to sharply increase and is now unaffordable for most people. The supply of drinking water from Israel was halted on the evening of 9 October, affecting more than 650,000 people.

According to UNRWA, the shortage of drinking water is putting two-million people at risk of dehydration and contacting water-borne diseases from consuming fluids due to lack of fuel to operate water and sanitation services.

The blackout has impacted food security. It has disrupted refrigeration, irrigation, and incubation devices, severely impacting agricultural livelihoods (poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities). The increasing number of IDPs has overwhelmed existing resources, leaving many vulnerable families without access to food. There are shortages of wheat flour and other primary foodstuffs.

The lack of access to fodder and the impact of airstrikes have taken a toll, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial livestock losses, particularly in the poultry sector. In various locations, particularly in the East of Khan Yunis, farmers are losing their crops.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released. The Secretary-General stressed on Wednesday that "crucial life-saving supplies, including fuel, food and water, must be allowed into Gaza."

Movement and access

The Rafah crossing with Egypt has remained closed for the movement of people and goods. Media reports indicated that the United States, Israel, Egypt, and Qatar agreed that the crossing would be open today (Saturday) for the evacuation of foreign nationals to Egypt. However, those who had approached the crossing left after receiving an unofficial warnin_

that the crossing might be attacked. Ultimately the crossing did not open.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remained closed . Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October. People from Gaza working in Israel were not able to return home. Hundreds have been detained by Israeli authorities, while others were transferred to the West Bank.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity stopped since the hostilities began. Access within 1,000 metres from Israel's perimeter fence remained prohibited , preventing access to large areas of farming lands and, alongside safety concerns, has decreased produce yield.

Humanitarian operations

A Flash Appeal that brings together the work and funding requirements of the humanitarian community in the OPT, including 13 UN Agencies, 29 International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), 35 National NGOs (NNGOs) was presented to Member States yesterday (Friday). This Appeal was launched before the calls by the Israeli military to vacate northern Gaza and therefore do not address the humanitarian needs this is expected to generate.

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. At least 23 humanitarian staff, including 11 health workers and 12 UNRWA employees, killed between the start of hostilities and 14 October. Operations have also been impeded by movement restrictions, the barring of imports, shortages of electricity, fuel, water, and other essentials. The distribution of assistance to IDPs not in UNRWA shelters is particularly complex.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions have included the distribution of food assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel toWASH facilities, the activation of psychosocial support helplines, and launching a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses). However, without a humanitarian pause, an opening of the crossings, and significant funding, the reach of operations will remain limited.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for eight consecutive days. Since the start of the hostilities until 16:00 of today, Israeli forces have killed 49 Palestinians, including 13 children. An additional five Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers during two consecutive settler attacks in Qusra (Nablus). This has been the deadliest week for West Bank Palestinians since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005.

From the afternoon of Friday to 16:00 today, Israeli forces shot and killed 19 Palestinians, including seven boys, mostly during confrontations that erupted in protests and marches in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip. This has raised concerns of possible excessive use of force.

During the same period, Israeli forces injured 593 Palestinians. Bringing the total number of Palestinians injured since 7 October to over 1,150 Palestinians, including at least 106 children. Most of the injuries (over 1.000) were reported in various demonstrations in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip, and 26 per cent were by live ammunition.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 67 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents since the beginning of this year.

In the past 24 hours, settler violence incidents continued. In four reported incidents, armed Israeli settlers, sometimes accompanied by Israeli forces, opened live fire at homes or residents in the towns of At Tuwani (Hebron), Burin, Yatma and Qabalan (all in Nablus). As a result, three Palestinians were injured.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 48 attacks in the West Bank, 29 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care, affecting 44 ambulances; 24 involving physical violence towards health teams; 12 involving the detention of health staff and ambulances; and seven involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychological first aid (PFA) services, psychological counseling services and psychosocial/recreational/50,000 dignity kits.
- Need to increase documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Supportive tools and devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, earphones, eyeglasses, etc., and medications for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Response to Date

- Ten child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating in and for Gaza (six in Gaza Strip and four partners in West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points for responding to settler violence triggers are continuing their MHPSS response as much as possible and the MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- Provision of shelter support in the form of NFIs (Non-Food Items) and house maintenance for people displaced at urban centers and host families.

- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 3,000 families.

Response to Date

- 270,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 3,900 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis including bedding sets, dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 120NFIs for displaced families.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is on the verge of running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies from external sources due to the severe depletion in the local market.
- UNRWA managed to have medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters; the Health Cluster is identifying other partners who can support in the remaining shelters.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain internal food markets.
- Many shops now have supplies lasting less than a week, increasing urgency.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other food livelihood.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 220,000 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing canned food and bread.
- On the day of the evacuation (13 October), over 135,000 displaced people received fresh bread in shelters in south and central Gaza and few locations in the north.
- WFP provided cash transfer of $12.4 to 138,863 displaced people and cash emergency top-up of $5 to 164,000 regular beneficiaries who had already received their October transfer.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 child)

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

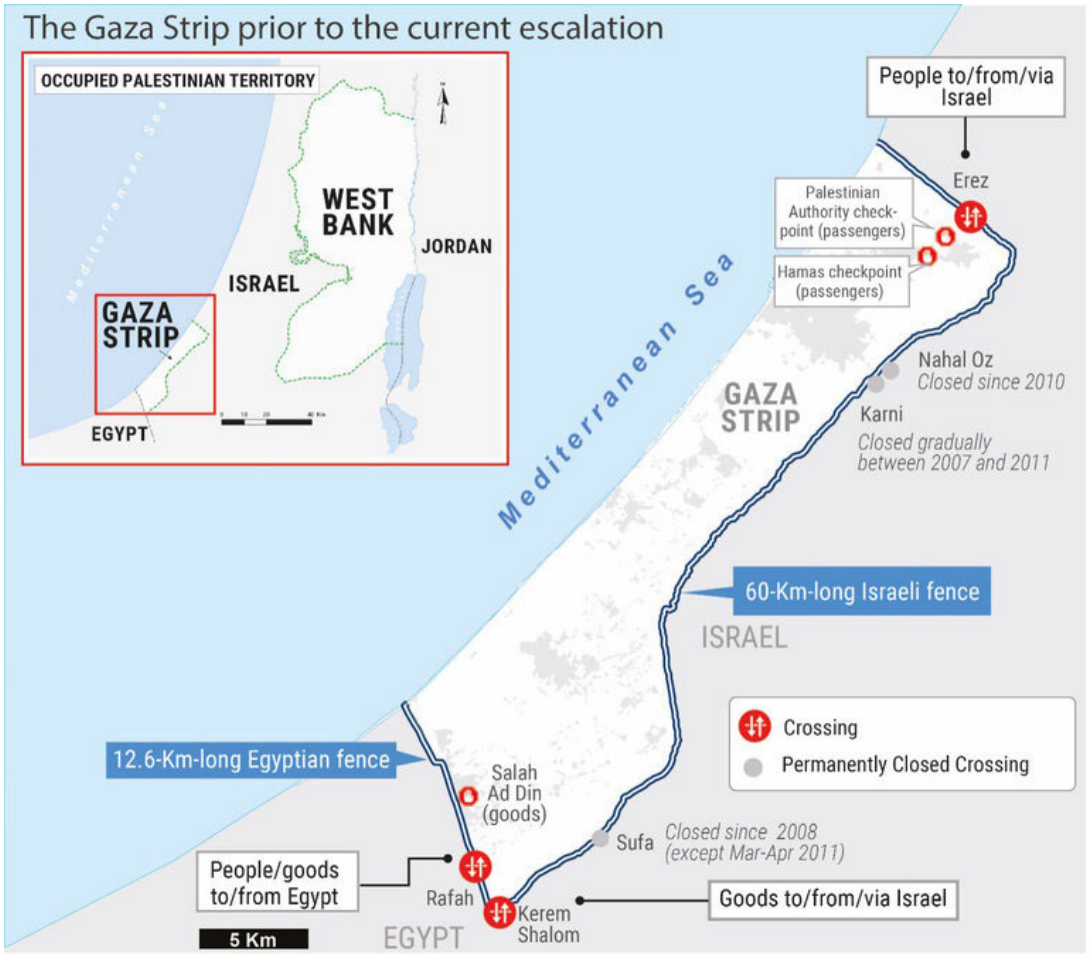
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 liters/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Service hub planning in Raffa Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network is monitoring calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

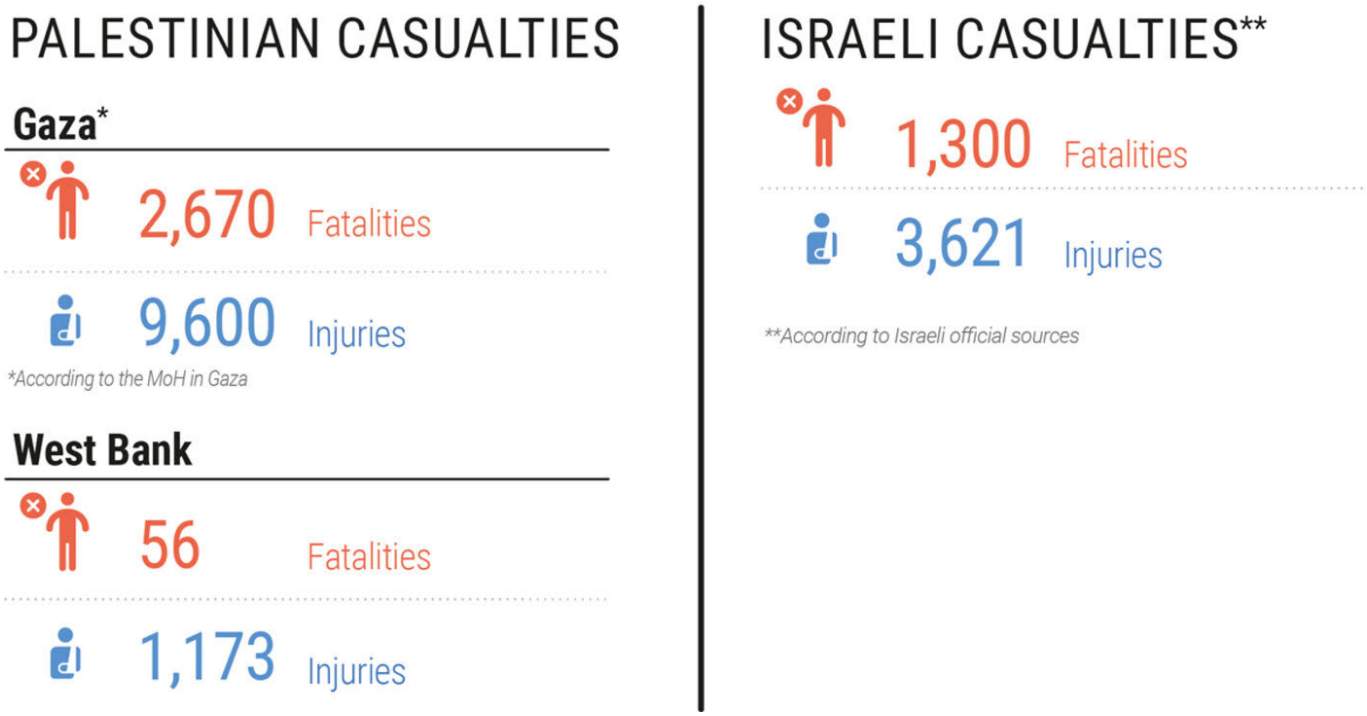

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
Mediterranean Sea
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
GAZA STRIP
Mediterranean Sea
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #9

15 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Heavy Israeli bombardments on Gaza, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted. Over the past 24 hours (as of 22:00), there have been Palestinian 455 fatalities in Gaza and 856 injuries, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.
- Mass displacement from the north to the south of the Gaza Strip has continued since Israel's evacuation order on Friday. By Saturday afternoon, nearly 600,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were hosted in the central and southern parts of Gaza alone, in increasingly dire conditions; since then, this figure has raised significantly.



- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued firing rockets indiscriminately towards Israeli population centres, including at the Tel Aviv metropolitan area. No Israeli fatalities were reported during the past 24 hours (as of 21:00) in this context, but dozens were wounded.
- An almost full evacuation of Sderot city, in southern Israel, was completed today (Sunday). Smaller Israeli communities around Gaza have been fully vacated in previous days, while a large proportion of Ashqelon city's residents have also reportedly left.

- Today (Sunday), Israel partially resumed water supply to the eastern Khan Younis area. Concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases remain high given the collapse of water and sanitation services, including today's shutdown of Gaza's last functioning seawater desalination plant.
- Fuel reserves at all hospitals across Gaza are expected to last for about additional 24 hours. The shutdown of backup generators would place the lives of thousands of patients at risk.
- On Sunday, the UN Deputy Special Coordinator and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the oPt Lynn Hastings, called for a humanitarian ceasefire.
- In the West Bank, since Saturday afternoon, Israeli forces killed one Palestinian boy and another boy died from wounds sustained previously, bringing the fatality toll by Israeli forces since 7 October to 56 Palestinians, including 15 children.



Residents of Gaza staying in a logistics centre of the United Nations near the Egyptian border. ©Photo by OCHA

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Multiple residential buildings in densely populated areas have been targeted and destroyed during the past 24 hours. These includes two airstrikes targeting residential buildings in Jabalia Camp and Deir al Balah Saturday afternoon, reportedly killing 47 people; and two airstrikes on Sunday, west of Rafah and in Tel al Hawa area of Gaza city, killing 28 people, including several children.

Since the start of hostilities, 2,670 Palestinians have been killed and 9,600 have been injured. The fatality toll in Gaza during the eight days of hostilities has already surpassed the total number of fatalities during the 2014 escalation, which lasted for over seven weeks (2,251 Palestinian fatalities). According to the Palestinian Civil Defense, the number c

missing people, presumably trapped beneath the rubble may exceed 1,000.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 15 October at 8:00, 47 entire families have been killed, amounting to about 500 people.

Human rights organizations have expressed concern over incidents where civilians and civilian objects appear to have been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes.

As of 21:00 on Sunday, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported. According to official Israeli official sources, at least 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel and at least 3,715 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The fatality toll exceeds the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

The Israeli military indicated that, so far, it has notified the families of 155 Israelis that are being held in the Gaza Strip. UN Secretary-General António Guterres reiterated in a press article published on Friday, that “all hostages in Gaza must be released” and that “civilians must not be used as human shields.”

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, as of 13 October, 7,000 housing units have been destroyed and 4,887 housing units have been damaged and rendered uninhabitable.

Twenty-four health facilities have been damaged, including six hospitals. Three of the latter in northern Gaza (Beit Hanoun, Hamad Rehabilitation, and Ad Dura) had to be evacuated.

As of 13 October, 144 educational facilities had been hit by airstrikes, including 20 UNRWA schools, of which two were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 165 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. Eleven mosques were targeted and destroyed, and seven churches and mosques were damaged. Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged. As of 12 October, at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

Displacement

As of 14 October in the afternoon hours, an estimated 600,000 people are displaced to the southern half of Gaza, with about 300,000 people situated in UNRWA designated emergency shelters (DES), and the rest in public facilities and with host families. Since then, this figure has increased significantly. The number of IDPs in Gaza city and northern Gaza cannot be determined due insecurity and constant movement of people.

The hosting capacity at UNRWA’s DES in the central and southern areas is overstretched. Many displaced people are sleeping outdoors due to lack of space. This includes a large number of already vulnerable people, including children, the elderly, those requiring medical attention, the disabled, and pregnant women. Water, food and medicines are severely limited. Frustration and tensions among IDPs due to the dire conditions are on the rise.

Today (Sunday), the Israeli military renewed their calls for all residents of Gaza city and Northern Gaza, including those staying in emergency shelters, to relocate south of Wadi Gaza. They indicated that those who travelled on a designated road between 10:00 and 13:00 would not be attacked.

The Secretary-General reiterated on Friday that an immediate and full evacuation is impossible, while the World Health Organization (WHO) spokesperson described an eventual evacuation of hospitals as a “death sentence” for the most vulnerable patients.

Basic services and livelihoods

For the fifth consecutive day, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza on 7 October, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. Essential service infrastructure is currently operational via backup generators.

Twenty out of 23 governmental and NGO hospitals are partially operational and continue to treat an average of 1,000 injured patients per day, far exceeding their capacity. Fuel reserves at hospitals are not expected to last longer than 24 hours. The shutdown of backup generators would place the lives of thousands of patients at immediate risk. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stated that, "hospitals in Gaza risk turning into morgues without electricity."

Today (Sunday), Israel renewed its water supply for one line servicing eastern Khan Younis The precise volume and impact of this supply is still unclear. On the other hand, the remaining seawater desalination plant servicing central and southern Gaza shutdown today due to lack of fuel.

The main suppliers of clean drinking water are now private vendors, which operate small desalination and water purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy. Some people have resorted to consuming brackish water extracted from agricultural wells. WASH cluster partners estimate that the average water consumption from all sources and for all needs dipped to just three litres per day per person, deepening concerns about dehydration and the outbreak of waterborne diseases, including cholera.

On Sunday, Gaza's only remaining operational wastewater treatment plant (out of five), which relies on solar energy, was forced to shut down due to weather conditions. Consequently, additional amounts of untreated sewage have been discharged to the sea. Additionally, most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste have been accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released. The Secretary-General stressed on Friday that "crucial life-saving supplies, including fuel, food and water, must be allowed into Gaza".

The blackout has affected food security by disrupting refrigeration, irrigation of crops, and crop incubation devices, thereby negatively impacting livelihoods (poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities). The increasing number of IDPs has overwhelmed existing resources, leaving many vulnerable families without access to food. Wheat flour reserves are expected to be depleted in less than a week, according to Food Security partners, while only one of five mills is functioning.

The lack of access to fodder and damaged from the airstrikes have taken a toll, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial livestock losses, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands situated in the east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Movement and access

The Rafah crossing with Egypt has remained closed for the movement of people and goods. Reportedly the United States, Israel, Egypt, and Qatar, have agreed that the crossing would be open for the evacuation of foreign nationals to Egypt. However, this agreement has not yet been implemented.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remained closed. Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October. People from Gaza working in Israel were not able to return home. Hundreds have been detained by Israeli authorities, while others were transferred to the West Bank.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity stopped since the hostilities began. Access within 1,000 metres from Israel's perimeter fence remained prohibited, preventing access to large areas of farming lands and, alongside safety concerns, has decreased produce yield.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to airstrikes, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses.

The WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care has recorded 48 health attacks since the beginning of hostilities, which included the killings of 12 health workers and the injury of 20 others while on duty. At least 12 UNRWA staff were also killed.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian pause, the opening of the crossings with Israel and Egypt and significant funding for humanitarian response

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal will need to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for eight consecutive days. Since the start of the hostilities, until 16:00 today (Sunday), Israeli forces have killed 56 Palestinians, including 15 children. An additional five Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers during two consecutive settler attacks in Qusra (Nablus). Last week was the deadliest week for West Bank Palestinians since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005.

From the afternoon of Saturday to 16:00 on Sunday, Israeli forces shot and killed one Palestinian boy during a settler attack in Beita village (Nablus), and another boy died from wounds sustained on 10 October after being shot by Israeli forces during confrontations near Tulkarm. Additionally, Israeli forces injured 23 Palestinians, bringing the total number of Palestinians injured to 1,173, including at least 113 children. Over 1,000 Palestinians were injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 26 per cent of injuries were caused by live ammunition.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 70 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

In the past 24 hours, settler violence incidents continued against Palestinian farming and herding communities vulnerable to the risk of forcible transfer in Masafer Yatta area of southern Hebron. Settlers destroyed household infrastructure (tents, water pipes, solar panels) of Palestinian communities that had already left.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 63 attacks against health in the West Bank, including obstruction to delivery of health care; physical violence towards health teams; detention of health staff and ambulances; and militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Protection

Priority Needs

- Psychological first aid (PFA) services, psychological counseling services and psychosocial/recreational/50,000 dignity kits.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Supportive tools and devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, earphones, eyeglasses, and medications for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Response to Date

- Ten child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating in, and for, Gaza (six in Gaza Strip and four partners in West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers . The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to(IDPs.
- Provision of shelter NFIs for shelterNon-Food Items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 3,000 families.

Response to Date

- 270,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 3,900 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 120NFIs for displaced families.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances are running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- UNRWA have medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. The Health Cluster is identifying other partners to support the remaining shelters.
- Health Cluster partners are mobilizing and prepositioning supplies in Egypt.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other food livelihood.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 220,000 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing canned food and bread.
- 243,291 IDPs received CBT (cash-basedtransfer) for food. Of those, 139,312 have been redeemed.
- WFP is planning to reach 224,900 IDPs in 19 UN shelters in the south of Gaza. In addition, 5 trucks carrying 100 MT of food parcels and 15 MT of fortified biscuits from Dubai are expected to arrive in Arish, Egypt.
- On 13 October, over 135,000 displaced people received fresh bread in shelters in south and central Gaza and few locations in the north.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 child).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

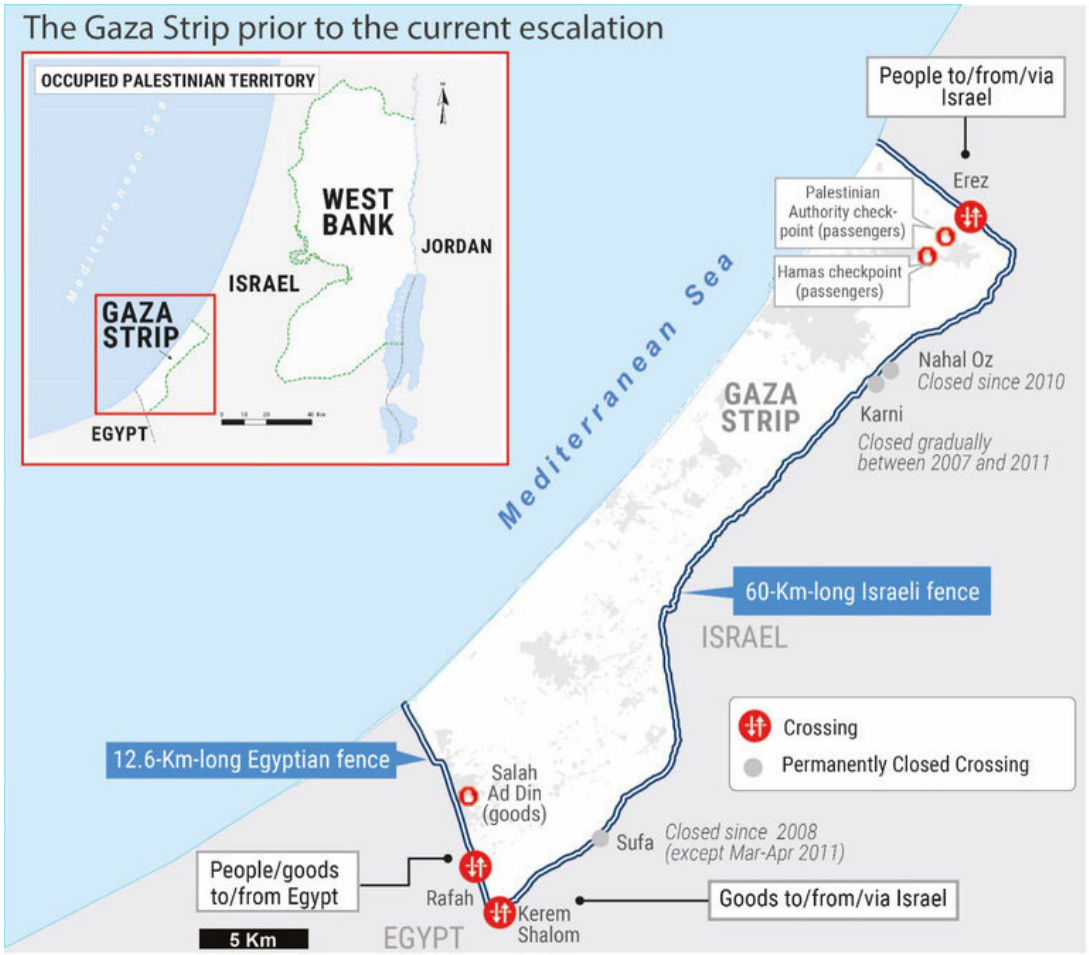
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 liters/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Service hub planning in Raffa Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

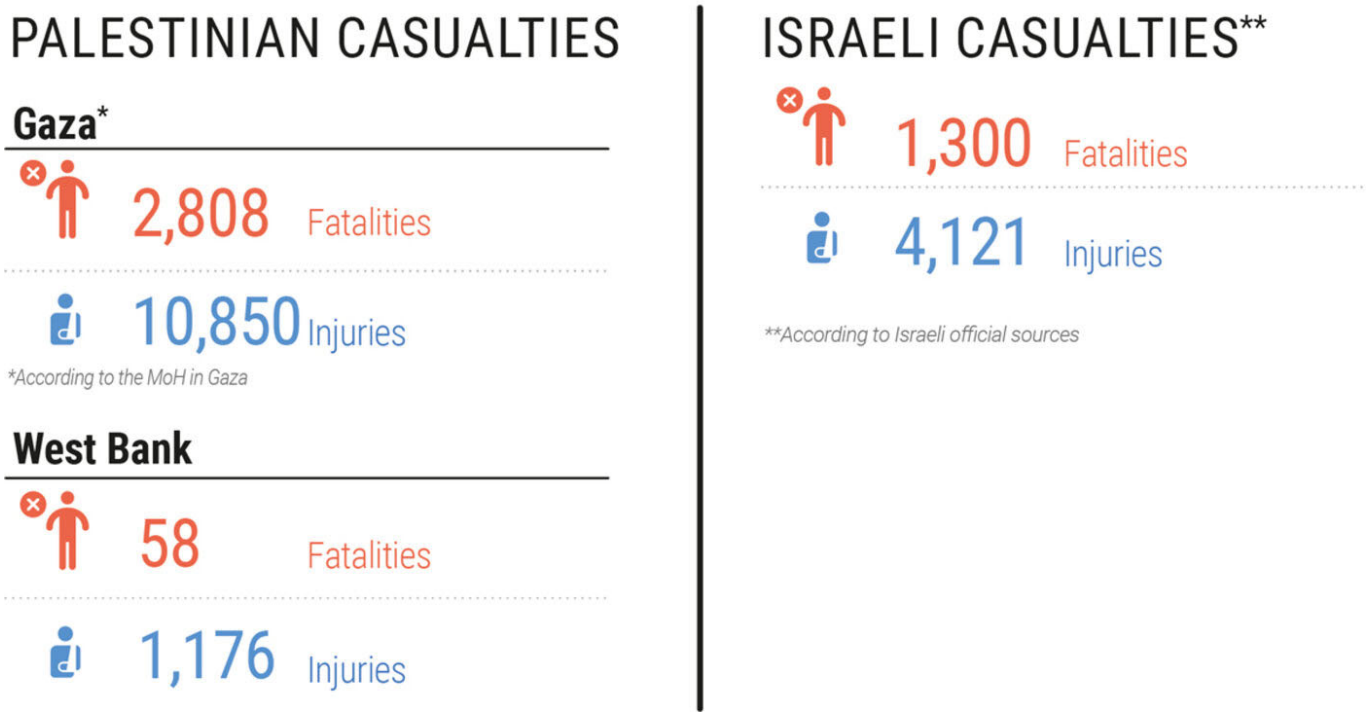

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
Mediterranean Sea
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
GAZA STRIP
Mediterranean Sea
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #10

16 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- As hostilities entered the tenth day, heavy Israeli bombardments on Gaza, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted. In the last 27 hours (as of 21:00), 138 Palestinians have been killed, bringing the cumulative fatality toll in the Gaza Strip to 2,808, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza.[1] Additional hundreds are missing and believed to be trapped under the rubble.
- Today (Monday), seven Civil Defense members were killed during an airstrike, bringing the total number of humanitarian staff killed while on duty to 31.



- In the wake of the Israeli order to evacuate the northern part of the Gaza Strip on 13 October, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) since the start of hostilities may have reached one million, including about 333,000 IDPs staying in UNRWA schools in central and southern Gaza, in increasingly dire conditions.
- The siege of Gaza continues. The Rafah Crossing has remained closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water and medicines awaiting on the Egyptian side.

- Gaza has been under full electricity blackout for the sixth consecutive day. Hospitals are on the brink of collapse as their fuel reserves used to operate backup generators have been almost totally depleted, endangering the lives of thousands of patients.
- On Sunday, the Israeli authorities resumed partial water supply to the eastern Khan Younis area, providing less than four percent of the water consumed in the Gaza Strip prior to the hostilities. Given the collapse of virtually all water and sanitation services in Gaza, the UNICEF-led WASH Cluster stated that the population "is at imminent risk of death or infectious disease outbreak if water and fuel are not immediately allowed to enter the Strip.
- Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued firing rockets indiscriminately towards Israeli population centres, including at the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem metropolitan areas. No Israeli fatalities were reported during the past 24 hours (as of 21:00).
- An almost full evacuation of Sderot city, in southern Israel, was completed yesterday (15 October). Smaller Israeli communities around Gaza had been fully vacated in previous days, while a large proportion of Ashqelon city's residents have also reportedly left.
- In the West Bank, since Sunday afternoon, Israeli forces killed one Palestinian, bringing the fatality toll by Israeli forces since 7 October to 53 Palestinians, including 14 children.
- According to the Israeli military, at least 199 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. On 16 October, UN's emergency relief chief Martin Griffiths expressed deep concern about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and about the fate of Israeli hostages, stressing that "they have to be let out straight away."



Displaced people staying in a school. Photo by UNRWA/Mohammad Hinnawi

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued. Multiple residential buildings in densely populated areas have been targeted and destroyed. This included a residential building in Jabalia, northern Gaza, where ten Palestinians were killed; a residential building in the Musabah area of Rafah, where at least 11 Palestinians, including women and children, were killed; and a charity organization's building in Rafah, where 11 Palestinians were killed, and several others were injured. On 16 October, in the morning, Israeli forces reportedly targeted a residential building in Khan Yunis, killing 22 Palestinians. Several attacks occurred in close proximity to a hospital and main roads, creating significant access challenges.

Additionally, at dawn on Monday, an Israeli airstrike hit the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) headquarters in the At Tuffah area, east of Gaza City, killing seven staff, adding an additional challenge to their rescue operations, already affected due to safety concerns, equipment shortages, and severely damaged streets.

Since the start of hostilities, 2,808 Palestinians have been killed and 10,850 have been injured.[2] The fatality toll in Gaza during the ten days of hostilities has already surpassed the total number of fatalities during the 2014 escalation, which lasted for over 50 days (2,251 Palestinian fatalities). According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 16 October at 18:00, 47 entire families have been killed, amounting to about 500 people.

Additionally, it is estimated that hundreds of individuals are still trapped beneath the rubble, raising both humanitarian and environmental concerns, including regarding the decomposition of bodies under collapsed buildings.

Human rights organizations have expressed deep concern over incidents in which civilians and civilian objects appear to have been directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes.

As of 21:00 16 October, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported. According to official Israeli sources, at least 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,121 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The fatality toll is over three-fold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, as of 14 October, 8,840 housing units have been destroyed and 5,434 housing units have been damaged and rendered uninhabitable. The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 48 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip since 7 October, resulting in damage to 24 hospitals and other healthcare facilities, including six hospitals. Three of the latter in northern Gaza (Beit Hanoun, Hamad Rehabilitation, and Ad Dura) had to be evacuated.

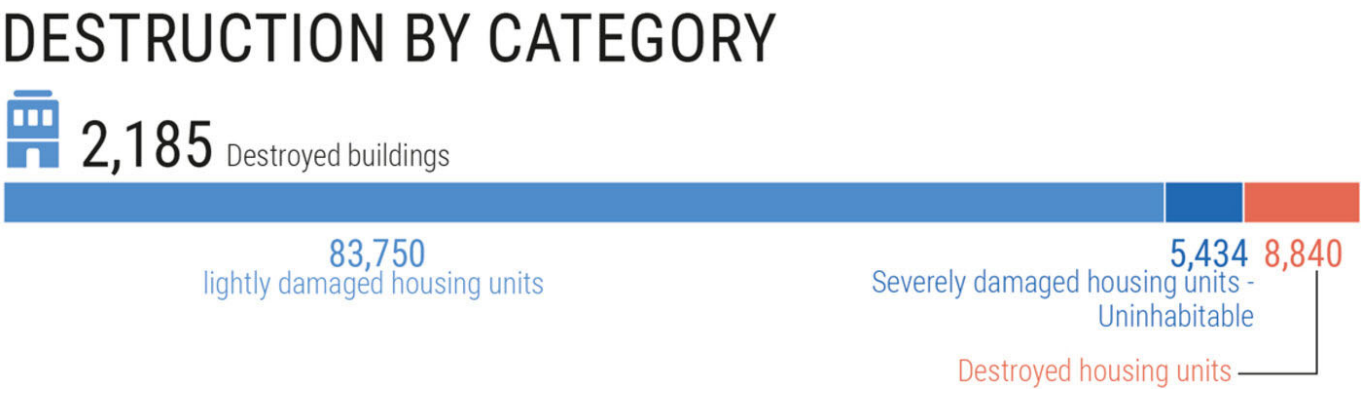
The scope of damage sustained by education and other civilian infrastructure as a result of bombardments is also of increasing concern. As of 16 October, 164 educational facilities have been hit by airstrikes, including at least 20 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 140 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. One university building was also severely damaged, at least eleven mosques were targeted and destroyed, and seven churches and mosques were damaged.

Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged. As of 12 October, at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

Displacement

The cumulative number of internally displaced people (IDPs) since the start of hostilities may have reached one million, including nearly 333,000 IDPs staying in UNRWA designated emergency shelters (DES) in central and southern Gaza alone. The number of IDPs in UNRWA's DES in Gaza city and North Gaza is currently unavailable. In addition, abou

54,500 IDPs are staying in 51 non-UNRWA shelters, most of which are in Gaza city and northern Gaza.



UNRWA's DES in the central and southern regions are overcrowded, forcing many displaced people to sleep outdoors. This includes children, the elderly, those in need of medical care, people with disabilities, and pregnant women. Essential resources like water, food, and medicine are in critically short supply, leading to rising frustration and tensions among IDPs.

Anecdotal reports indicate that many displaced families have been returning to Gaza city and the north of Gaza (west of Wadi Gaza) due to ongoing airstrikes targeting the southern areas, compounded by the difficult living conditions in the South, with cramped temporary shelters, lack of water, electricity, sanitation.

Basic services and livelihoods

For the sixth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. Forcing essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip.

Twenty out of 23 governmental and NGO hospitals are partially operational and continue to treat an average of 1,000 injured patients per day, far exceeding their capacity. Fuel reserves at hospitals are not expected to last more than a few hours. Therefore, some hospitals have further reduced essential services, such as dialysis, to remain operational. Additionally, today (Monday) the Ministry of Health reallocated limited amounts of fuel still available in some public facilities to hospitals, thus preventing the shutdown of generators.

The shutdown of backup generators would place the lives of thousands of patients at immediate risk. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stated that "hospitals in Gaza risk turning into morgues without electricity."

According to the UNICEF-led WASH cluster, on 15 October, the Israeli authorities renewed water supply to Gaza via one out of three lines that were operated prior to the hostilities and, together, contributed to some 13 per cent of Gaza's water consumption. This line supplies about 600 cubic metres per hour to households in eastern Khan Younis area. The water has been reaching other areas of the city by gravity, benefiting a limited number of households.

The last remaining seawater desalination plant, out of the four servicing central and southern Gaza, shut down on 15 October due to lack of fuel. These plants were vital sources of water for people in Gaza.

Except in eastern Khan Younis where supply through the network resumed, the main suppliers of clean drinking water are now private vendors, who operate small desalination and water purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy. WASH cluster partners estimate that the average water consumption from all sources and for all needs dipped to just three litres per day per person, raising the risk of dehydration. Some people have resorted to consuming brackish water extracted from agricultural wells. The latter practice increases exposure to pesticides and other chemicals that will affect the health of all people living in Gaza, including unborn, newborn, children, women and men. On 15 October, Gaza's only remaining operational wastewater treatment plant (out of five), which relies on solar energy, was forced to shu

down. Consequently, additional amounts of untreated sewage have been discharged to the sea. Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste have been accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, the Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and full water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released. The Secretary-General stressed on Friday that "crucial life-saving supplies, including fuel, food and water, must be allowed into Gaza."

The blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

With the number of IDPs growing, many have limited access to food. Local bakeries are unable to operate due to the shortage of essential ingredients, particularly wheat flour, which is expected to be depleted in less than a week. Moreover, only one in five mills is functioning, and there are scarcities of water and fuel. Communication issues have also hampered warehouse operations, while wholesale suppliers are facing difficulties. This crisis persists, with people in the northern areas still requiring assistance.

The lack of access to fodder and damage from the airstrikes have taken a toll on farmers, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial losses among their animals, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands situated in the east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Of critical concern are an estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations following the disruption of mental health services. People with mental health illnesses risk being exposed to violence and abuse, and of going missing during evacuation. An estimated 50,000 pregnant women face extreme challenges to accessing prenatal and maternity care due to risks related to movement, compromised functionality of health facilities, and shortage of lifesaving supplies.

Movement and access

The Rafah crossing with Egypt has remained closed preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medicines, as well as the crossing of people. Conflicting reports about agreements between the United States, Israel, Egypt, and Qatar to open Rafah crossing for the evacuation of foreign nationals to Egypt, resulted in the movement of the foreign nationals and dual citizens towards Rafah crossing in the midst of dangerous conditions. However, this agreement has not yet been confirmed by all the parties.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remained closed. Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October. People from Gaza working in Israel were not able to return home. Hundreds have been detained by Israeli authorities, while over 1,000 were transferred to the West Bank.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity stopped since the hostilities began. Access within 1,000 metres from Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, preventing access to large areas of farming lands and, alongside safety concerns, has decreased produce yield, directly affecting hundreds of thousands of farmers.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to airstrikes, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian pause, the opening of the crossings with Israel and Egypt and significant funding for humanitarian response.

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal is set to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued for ten consecutive days. Since the start of the hostilities, until 16:00 16 October, Israeli forces have killed 53 Palestinians, including 15 children. An additional five Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers during two consecutive settler attacks in Qusra (Nablus). Last week was the deadliest week for West Bank Palestinians since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005.

From the afternoon of Sunday to 16:00 on 16 October, Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man and injured three others with live ammunition during a search-and-arrest operation in Aqbat Jaber Camp in Jericho. Confrontations erupted in the camp where Palestinians threw stones and Israeli forces shot live ammunition, sound grenades, and teargas canisters. Israeli forces injured three Palestinians, bringing the total number of Palestinians injured to 1,176, including at least 113 children. Over 1,000 Palestinians were injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 26 per cent of injuries were caused by live ammunition.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 70 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of almost eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 63 attacks against health in the West Bank, including obstruction to delivery of health care; physical violence towards health teams; detention of health staff and ambulances; and militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.

- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Ten child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating in, and for, Gaza (six in the Gaza Strip and four partners in the West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers. The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of Non-Food Items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 3,000 families.

Response to Date

- 270,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 3,900 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 120NFIs for displaced families.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances are running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- UNRWA have medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. The Health Cluster is identifying other partners to support the remaining shelters. Health Cluster partners are mobilizing and prepositioning supplies in Egypt.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other food livelihood.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 220,000 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing canned food and bread.
- 243,291 IDPs received CBT (cash-based transfer) for food. Of those, 139,312 have been redeemed.
- WFP is planning to reach 224,900 IDPs in 19 UN shelters in the south of Gaza. In addition, five trucks carrying 100 MT of food parcels and 15 MT of fortified biscuits from Dubai are expected to arrive in Arish, Egypt.
- 5 October, over 107,192 displaced people received fresh bread and canned tuna.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 liters/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

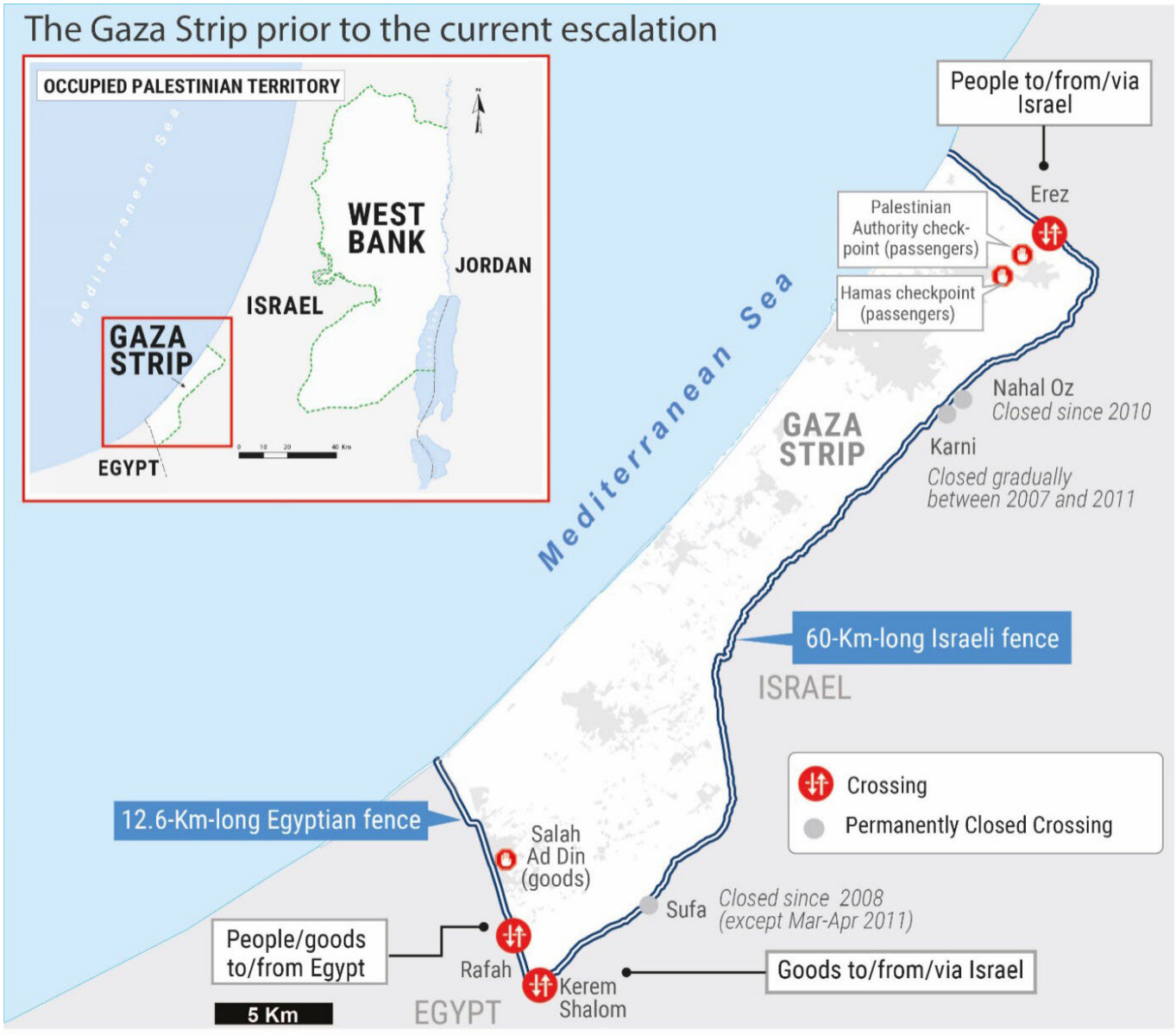
- Service hub planning in Rafah Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

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[1] Casualty figures have been revised after the report was issued.

[2] Casualty figures have been revised after the report was issued.

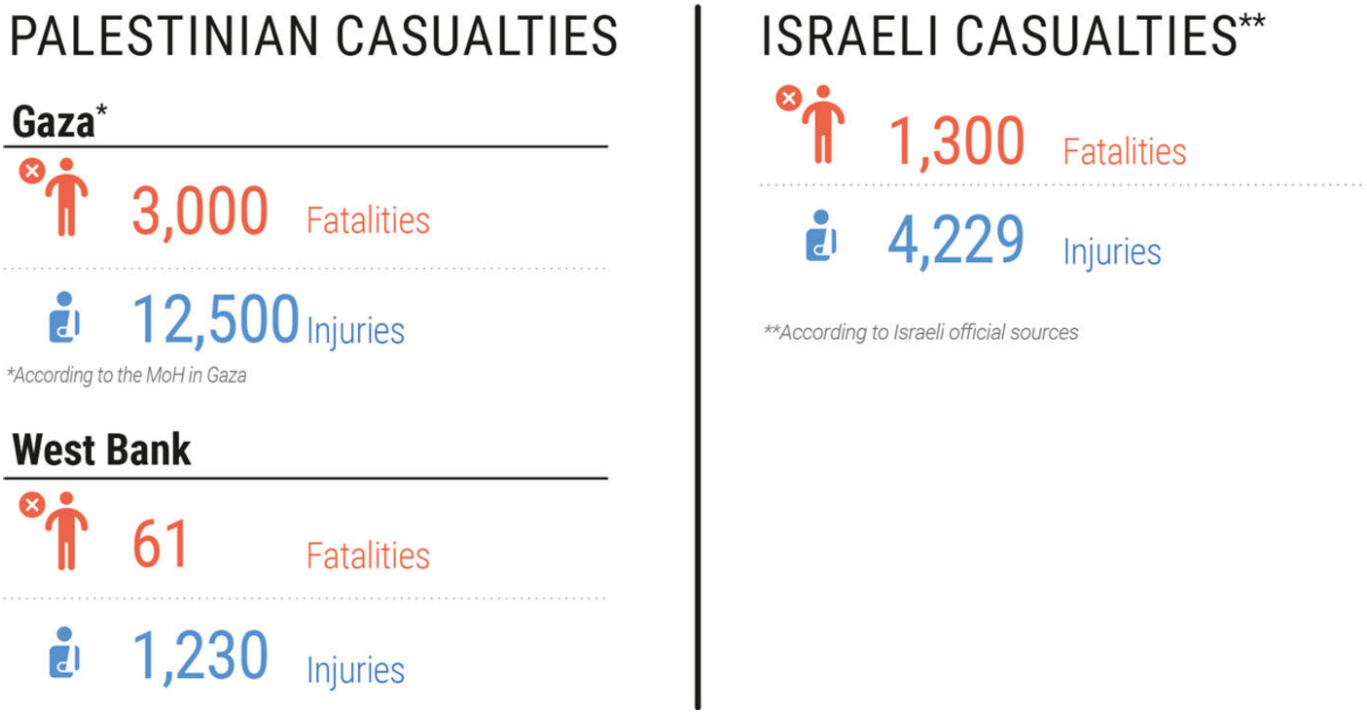


Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #11

17 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Hundreds of fatalities in Al Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza were reported as this Flash Update was being finalized (22:00). The compound hosted patients and internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking safe shelter.
- As hostilities entered the eleventh day, heavy Israeli bombardments on Gaza, from the air, sea and land, have continued almost uninterrupted. In the last 20 hours (as of 17:30), 192 Palestinians have been killed, bringing the cumulative fatality toll in the Gaza Strip to 3,000, including at least 853 children, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza (excluding Al Ahli hospital casualties). Hundreds of additional fatalities are believed to be trapped under the rubble.



- The number of IDPs in Gaza is estimated at about one million, including about 352,000 IDPs staying in UNRWA schools in central and southern Gaza alone, in increasingly dire conditions. This afternoon (17 October), an UNRWA school in Al Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, sheltering some 4,000 IDPs, was hit during an Israeli airstrike, killing at least six people.

- The Spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office stated on Tuesday that there are “appalling reports that civilians attempting to relocate to southern Gaza were struck and killed by an explosive weapon,” and urged Israel “to avoid targeting civilians and civilian objects or conducting area bombardments, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks.”
- The complete siege of Gaza continues. The Rafah Crossing has remained closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water and medicines awaiting on the Egyptian side.
- The UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs stressed today (17 October) the need for a humanitarian suspension of hostilities enabling the delivery of aid, along with some respite from the bloodshed.
- Gaza has been under full electricity blackout for the seventh consecutive day. Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) managed to deliver locally stored fuel to Gaza’s largest hospital (Shifa), enabling the operation of generators for a few more days. Other hospitals are operating at a bare minimum capacity.
- The average water consumption for all needs (drinking, cooking and hygiene) is currently estimated at three litres per day per person in Gaza. There is increasing water consumption from unsafe sources, placing the population at risk of death or infectious disease outbreak.
- The Palestinian armed groups’ indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no new Israeli fatalities reported (as of 21:00 17 October). Overall, more than 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.
- At least 199 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. On 16 October, UN’s emergency relief chief Martin Griffiths expressed deep concern about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and about the fate of Israeli hostages, stressing that “they have to be let out straight away.”
- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 15 October, Israeli forces have killed three Palestinians, bringing the fatality toll by Israeli forces and settlers since 7 October to 61, including 16 children.



Tal al Hawa neighbourhood of Gaza, 16 October 2023. Photo by UNICEF/Eyad El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued. Among the deadliest attacks recorded today (17 October) were airstrikes on residential buildings in Rafah city (at least 28 fatalities); in Khan Yunis (40 fatalities) and in the Emirati neighbourhood of Khan Yunis (21 fatalities). The fatalities included people moving southward in compliance with the Israeli military order to evacuate the northern Gaza Strip.

This afternoon (17 October), an UNRWA school in Al Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, sheltering some 4,000 IDPs, was hit during an Israeli airstrike, with at least six people killed and dozens injured, including UNRWA staff. UNRWA has been providing the coordinates of its facilities to relevant parties on a daily basis.

Since the start of hostilities, 3,000 Palestinians have been killed and 12,500 have been injured (excluding Al Ahli hospital casualties). The fatality toll in Gaza during the 11 days of hostilities has already surpassed the total number of fatalities during the 2014 escalation, which lasted for over 50 days (2,251 Palestinian fatalities). According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 16 October at 18:00, 47 entire families have been killed, amounting to about 500 people.

Additionally, it is estimated that hundreds of people are still trapped beneath the rubble awaiting rescue, or recovery. The decomposition of bodies under collapsed buildings is an increasing humanitarian and environmental concern.

Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

As of 21:00, 17 October, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported. According to official Israeli sources, at least 1,300 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,229 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The fatality toll is over three-fold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works, as of 14 October, 8,840 housing units had been destroyed and 5,434 housing units had been damaged and rendered uninhabitable.

Prior to today's attack on Al Ahli hospital, WHO had documented 57 attacks on health care, resulting in 16 fatalities of health care workers and 28 injuries, damage to 26 hospitals and other healthcare facilities, including 17 hospitals and 23 ambulances. Four of the latter, all in northern Gaza (Beit Hanoun, Hamad Rehabilitation, Al Karama, and Ad Dura) had to be evacuated and are no longer operational.

The scope of damage sustained by education and other civilian infrastructure as a result of bombardments is also of increasing concern. As of 16 October, 167 educational facilities have been hit by airstrikes, including at least 20 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 140 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. One university building and seven churches were damaged, and at least eleven mosques were destroyed.

Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged. As of 12 October, at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

Displacement

The cumulative number of internally displaced people (IDPs) since the start of hostilities is estimated at about one million, including over 352,000 IDPs staying in UNRWA designated emergency shelters (DES) in central and southern Gaza alone. The number of IDPs in UNRWA's DES in Gaza city and North Gaza is currently unavailable. In addition, about 55,000 IDPs are staying in 51 non-UNRWA shelters, most of which are in Gaza city and northern Gaza.

The hosting capacity at UNRWA's 104 DES, in the southern areas, is overstretched. In Rafah, IDPs constituted over 80 per cent of the population prior to the hostilities. This includes children, the elderly, those in need of medical care, people with disabilities, and pregnant women. Essential resources like water, food, and medicine are in critically short supply, leading to rising frustration and tensions among IDPs.

Anecdotal reports indicate that many displaced families have been returning to Gaza city and the north of Gaza (west of Wadi Gaza) due to ongoing airstrikes targeting the southern areas, compounded by the difficult living conditions in the South, with cramped temporary shelters, lack of water, electricity, sanitation.

In Israel, an almost full evacuation of Sderot city (population about 34,000), in southern Israel, was completed on 15 October. Smaller Israeli communities around Gaza had been fully vacated in previous days, while most residents of Ashqelon (population about 155,000) have also reportedly left. The Israeli authorities are providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the seventh consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. Forcing essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, the Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and full water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released.

Health care

Today (17 October), WHO, together with UNRWA, managed to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital located in Gaza city. This will enable the hospital's generators to operate for a few more days. On the other hand, Al Yemen As Saeed hospital in norther Gaza ran out of fuel, was forced to shut down generators and consider the transfer of a number of patients.

The rest of the hospitals across Gaza (except the four that have been evacuated), have been operating at a bare minimum capacity. Measures adopted to maintain emergency rooms operational include the suspension of certain surgeries, working in darkness and limiting elevator usage. Vital procedures such as sterilization and dialysis may soon be halted.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza has been reallocating to hospitals limited amounts of fuel still available in other public facilities to prevent their complete shutdown, while calling on people who have fuel for domestic consumption to donate it to the hospitals.

Of particular concern is the situation of an estimated 20,000 people with mental health illnesses; their access to mental health services and drugs has been interrupted, while being exposed to violence and abuse, and going missing during evacuation. An estimated 50,000 pregnant women face extreme challenges to accessing prenatal and maternity care due to risks related to movement, the halt of health facilities, and shortage of lifesaving supplies.

Water and sanitation

Water production from municipal groundwater sources is at less than five per cent the pre-hostilities level. The three seawater desalination plants, which, prior to the hostilities produced seven per cent of Gaza's water supply, are currently not operational. Water trucking operations came to halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

Consequently, the average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster. People have resorted to consuming brackish water extracted from agricultural wells, increasing exposure to pesticides and other chemicals, placing the population at risk of death or infectious disease outbreak.

Eastern Khan Younis (Bani Suheila area) is currently one of the few areas where piped water is supplied to households for a few hours a day. This followed the Israeli authorities' reactivation of one out of three water lines servicing this area. This line supplies about 14,400 cubic metres of water per day, which is less than four percent of the water consumed in the Gaza Strip prior to the hostilities. The distribution of this water to the rest of Khan Younis city is impaired by the lack of pumping capacity.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste have been accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power.

Food security

A spokesperson of the World Food Program (WFP) indicated on Monday that stocks of essential food commodities are sufficient for only two weeks, while there are only four or five days of stocks left in shops.

Bread supply is running low, and people are lining up for hours to get bread. Bakeries are unable to operate due to the shortage of essential ingredients, particularly wheat flour, which is expected to be depleted in less than a week. Only one of the five mills in Gaza is functioning. Moreover, five bakeries out of 23 in Gaza contracted by WFP are still operational.

The blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The lack of access to fodder and damage from the airstrikes have taken a toll on farmers, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial losses among their animals, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands situated in the east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Movement and access

The Rafah crossing with Egypt remains closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medicines; it is estimated that about 3,000 tons of goods are awaiting entry in trucks on the Egyptian side of the crossing.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remained closed. Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October. People from Gaza working in Israel were not able to return home. Hundreds have been detained by Israeli authorities, while over 1,000 were transferred to the West Bank.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity stopped since the hostilities began. Access within 1,000 metres from Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, preventing access to large areas of farming lands and, alongside safety concerns, has decreased produce yield, directly affecting hundreds of thousands of farmers.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to airstrikes, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian suspension of hostilities, the opening of the crossings with Israel and Egypt and significant funding for humanitarian response.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF) redirected a total of US$9 million towards the priority needs identified, while the global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated another $9 million, supplementing a pre-existing $6 million allocation.

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal is set to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs. So far, France has pledged $1.1 million, and Germany $631,000.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued. Since the start of the hostilities, until 16:00 on 17 October, Israeli forces have killed 56 Palestinians, including 15 children. An additional five Palestinians, including one child, were killed by Israeli settlers during two consecutive settler attacks in Qusra (Nablus).

Over the past 24 hours (until 17 October, 16:00), Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians and injured nine others with live ammunition during search-and-arrest operations in Aqbat Jaber Refugee Camp in Jericho and Halhul town (Hebron); these incidents were followed by confrontations. An elderly man succumbed to his wounds sustained on 13 October.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces injured 1,202 Palestinians, including at least 117 children; an additional 28 Palestinians were injured by settlers. Over 1,100 Palestinians were injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of injuries were caused by live ammunition.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 82 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of almost seven incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

In the past eleven days, at least seven Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank have been fully or partially displaced amid settler attacks and threats. At least 43 Palestinian households comprising 283 people, including 146 children, were displaced from the herding Bedouin communities in the Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Nablus governorates.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 77 attacks on health care in the West Bank, affecting 61 ambulances and including: 42 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 43 involving physical violence towards health teams; 15 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and nine involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters (DES) have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and changes by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · 4,461 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or US$187 per household) since the evening of 13 October.
- · An increase of Emergency MPCA to 1,650 households in the coming days is planned.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Ten child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating in, and for, Gaza (six in the Gaza Strip and four partners in the West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.

- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers. The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of Non-Food Items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 3,000 families.

Response to Date

- 270,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 3,900 non-food items in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 120 non-food items for displaced families.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. The Health Cluster is identifying other partners to support the remaining shelters. Health Cluster partners are mobilizing and prepositioning supplies in Egypt.
- WHO was able to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa Hospital.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoodz.

- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 220,000 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing canned food and bread.
- 243,291 IDPs received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 139,312 have been redeemed.
- 15,000 people redeemed their food e-vouchers in shops on 16 October. In addition, five trucks carrying 100 metric tonnes of food parcels and 15 metric tonnes of fortified biscuits from Dubai are expected to arrive in Al Arish, Egypt.
- WFP reached about 170,474 IDPs residing in UNRWA shelters on 16 October with 6,229 parcels of bread.
- 15,000 people redeemed their food e-vouchers in shops yesterday. Some 58 per cent in the northern and 42 per cent in the southern governorates.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

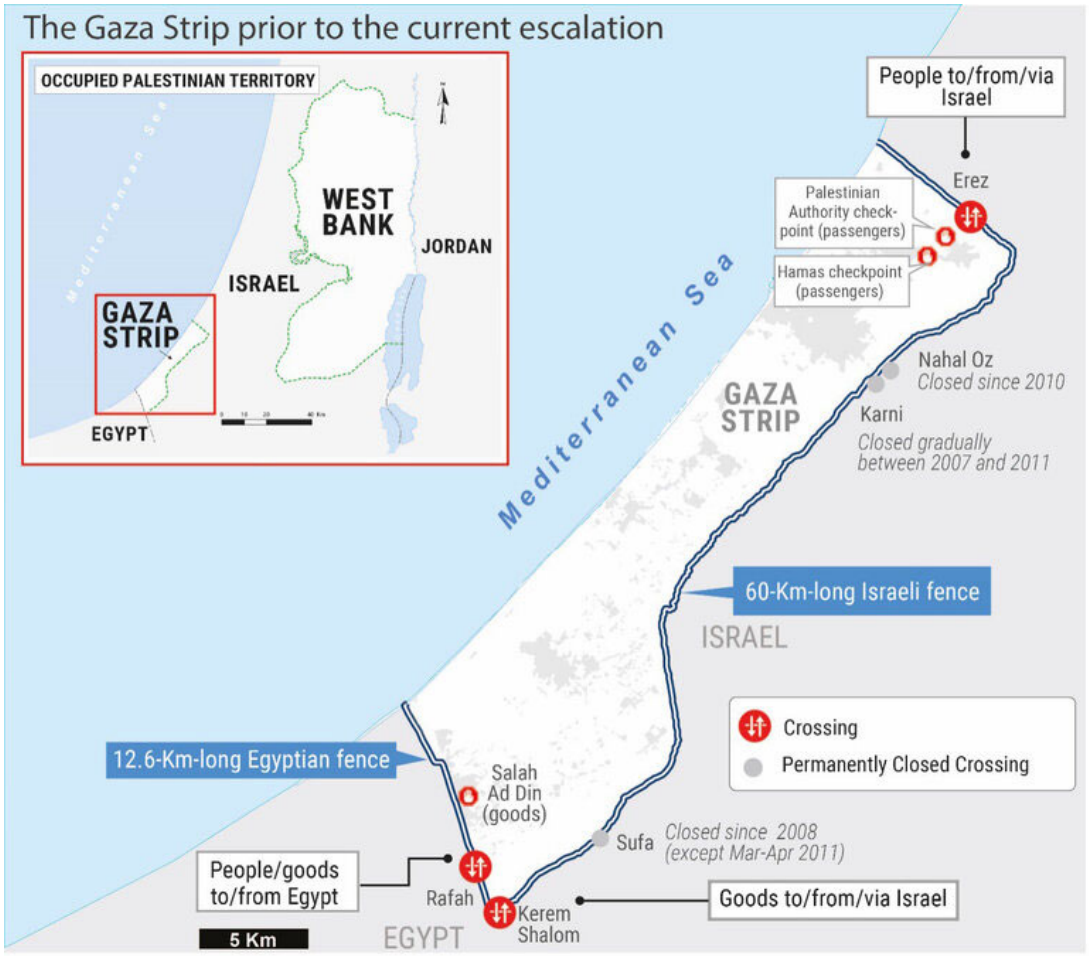
- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Providing 3 litres of bottled water per person per day in IDP shelters.
- Some 1,500 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres

- Service hub planning in Rafah, Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



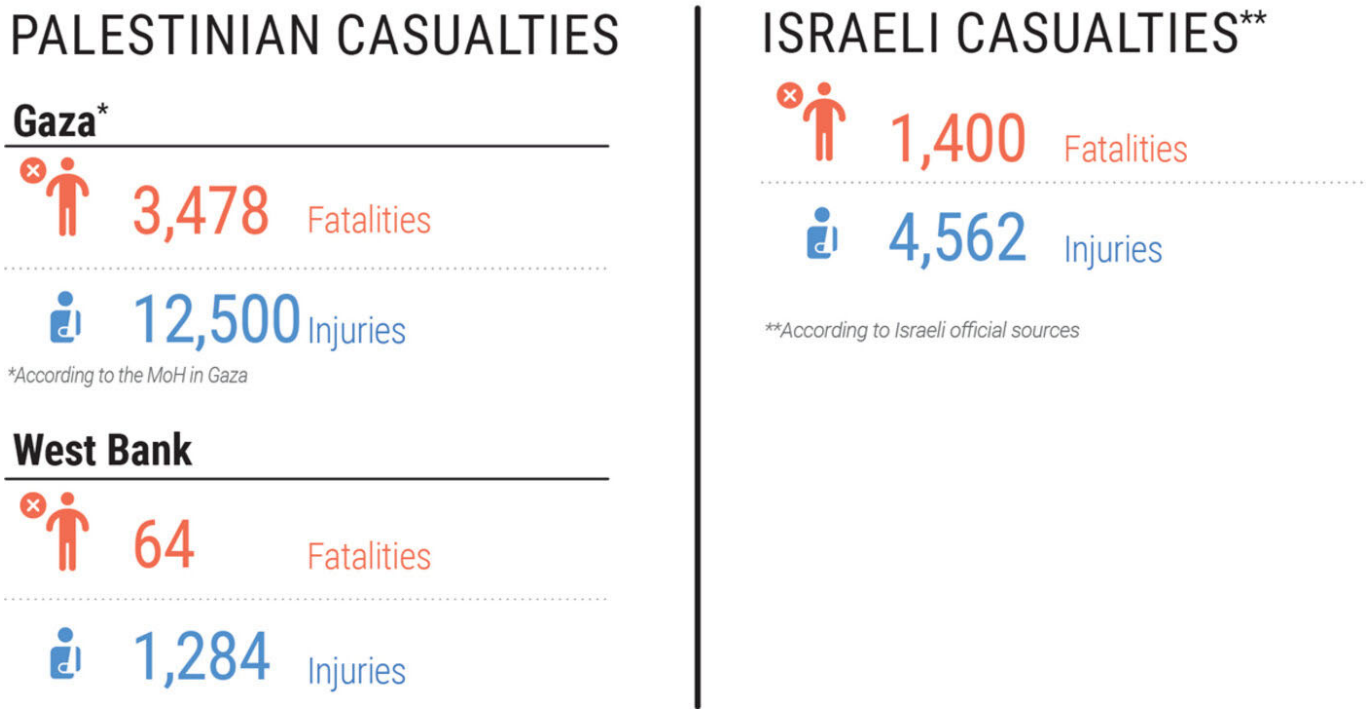
Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #12

18 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr. Martin Griffiths briefed the Security Council today, stressing the need for humanitarian actors to be able to "deliver relief to civilians in need throughout Gaza, without impediment, in places of their choice, in places where they consider themselves to be safe and where we can seek to ensure that safety."

- On the evening of 17 October, 471 people, including children, health care staff, and Internally Displaced People (IDPs), were killed in an explosion at Al Ahli Arab/Baptist hospital in Gaza city, according to the latest figures from the Ministry of Health in Gaza. This was the deadliest incident in Gaza since hostilities escalated. In the wake of this incident, the UN Secretary-General called for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire."



- The cumulative fatality toll in the Gaza Strip is 3,478 as of 17:00 (18 October), including at least 853 children (as of 17 October), according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. Hundreds of additional fatalities are believed to be trapped under the rubble.

- The number of IDPs in Gaza is estimated at about one million, including over 353,000 people staying in UNRWA schools in central and southern Gaza alone, in increasingly dire conditions.
- The complete siege of Gaza continues. The Rafah Crossing has remained closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water and medicines awaiting on the Egyptian side. The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remain closed.
- The average water consumption for all needs (drinking, cooking and hygiene) is currently estimated at three litres per day per person in Gaza. People consume more and more water from unsafe sources, risking death and placing the population at risk of infectious disease outbreak.
- The Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no new Israeli fatalities reported (as of 21:00 on 18 October). Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.
- At least 199 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. At the Emergency Briefing to the Security Council, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process, Mr. Tor Wennesland, stated: "We need the time and space to achieve two urgent objectives: Hamas' immediate, unconditional release of all hostages; secondly, and fast, unrestricted access of humanitarian aid for Palestinians in Gaza."
- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 17 October, Israeli forces have killed three Palestinians during protests following the explosion at Al Ahli hospital in Gaza. This has brought the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 64, including 18 children. Confrontations in the same context, between Palestinian protestors and Palestinian security forces, resulted in the killing of one child.
- At least 74 Palestinian households, comprising 545 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.



Water distributed to residents of Gaza in Rafah, 18 October 2023. Photo by UNICEF/Eyad El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued. Between the evening of 17 October and the morning of 18 October, additional residential buildings were targeted and destroyed, including one in Al Bureij, in central Gaza, resulting in 25 fatalities, and several residential buildings in Jabalia, resulting in 37 fatalities.

Since the start of hostilities, 3,478 Palestinians have been killed and about 12,500 have been injured, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The fatality toll in Gaza during the 12 days of hostilities has significantly surpassed the total number of fatalities during the 2014 escalation, which lasted for over 50 days (2,251 Palestinian fatalities). According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 16 October at 18:00, 47 entire families have been killed, amounting to about 500 people.

Additionally, it is estimated that hundreds of people are still trapped beneath the rubble awaiting rescue, or recovery. The decomposition of bodies under collapsed buildings is an increasing humanitarian and environmental concern.

Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

As of 21:00 on 18 October, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported. According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,562 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

As of 14 October, the Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 8,840 housing units and the rendering of 5,434 housing units uninhabitable, resulting in the displacement of about 25,000 families. Another 83,750 housing units suffered minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units destroyed or damaged (98,024) accounts for roughly 25 per cent of all residential housing units in the Gaza Strip. This figure is an underestimate as large areas that have been severely hit, such as Beit Hanoun and Ash Shuja'iyeh in Gaza city, remain inaccessible and buildings that were destroyed there are not included.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 59 attacks on health care (including Al Ahli Hospital), resulting in 491 fatalities and 370 injuries, including 16 fatalities among health care workers and 28 injuries of health workers on duty. The attacks have affected 26 health care facilities (including 17 hospitals damaged) and 23 ambulances. Four of the hospitals, all in northern Gaza (Beit Hanoun, Hamad Rehabilitation, Al Karama, and Ad Dura) had to be evacuated and are no longer operational.

The scope of damage sustained by education facilities and other civilian infrastructure is also of increasing concern. As of 18 October, 170 educational facilities have been hit, including at least 20 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 140 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. One university building and seven churches were damaged, and at least eleven mosques were destroyed.

Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged. As of 12 October, at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

Displacement

On the evening of 18 October, Israeli forces repeated their call on residents of northern Gaza, including Gaza city, to evacuate, now directing them to an open area in northern Khan Younis governorate.

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities is estimated at about one million, including over 513,907 people staying in UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES), of whom 353,539 are in central and southern Gaza alone. The last reported number of IDPs in UNRWA's DES in Gaza city and North Gaza was 159,968, as of 12 October. In addition, about 66,311 IDPs are staying in 64 non-UNRWA shelters, most of which are in Gaza city and northern Gaza.

UNRWA's 148 DES in the southern areas are overcrowded. This includes children, the elderly, those in need of medical care, people with disabilities, and pregnant women. Essential resources like water, food, and medicine are in critically short supply, leading to rising frustration and tensions among IDPs. Meanwhile, many people in northern Gaza governorates are unwilling or unable to evacuate due to a lack of alternatives, the precarious conditions of displacement and fearing they might never be allowed to return.

In Israel, an almost full evacuation of Sderot city (population about 34,000), in southern Israel, was completed on 15 October. Smaller Israeli communities around Gaza had been fully vacated in previous days, while most residents of Ashqelon (population about 155,000) have also reportedly left. The Israeli authorities are providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the eighth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, the Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and full water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released.

Health care

Hospitals are on the brink of collapse. Most of them have been operating at a bare minimum capacity. Measures adopted to keep emergency rooms operational include the suspension of certain surgeries, working in darkness and limiting elevator usage. Vital procedures such as sterilization and dialysis may soon be halted.

Most of those wounded in the Al Ahli hospital explosion have been evacuated to Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest hospital located in Gaza city. The overwhelming number of injured people that arrived forced doctors to attempt surgery on the floor and in the halls, mostly without anesthesia. Prior to the incident, Shifa was already operating well beyond its capacity, treating about a quarter of all patients in Gaza. Yesterday (17 October), WHO, together with UNRWA, managed to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa, enabling the hospital's generators to operate for a few more days.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza has been reallocating to hospitals limited amounts of fuel still available in other public facilities to prevent their complete shutdown, while calling on people who have fuel for domestic consumption to donate it to the hospitals.

Health Cluster partners estimate that mortality rates in Gaza, excluding casualties in the context of the hostilities, have been on the rise due to the extremely limited access to essential healthcare services.

Of particular concern is the situation of an estimated 20,000 people with mental health illnesses; their access to mental health services and drugs has been interrupted, while being exposed to violence and abuse, and going missing during evacuation. An estimated 50,000 pregnant women face extreme challenges to accessing prenatal and maternity care due to risks related to movement, the halt of health facilities, and shortage of lifesaving supplies.

Water and sanitation

Water production from municipal groundwater sources is at less than five per cent of the pre-hostilities level. The three seawater desalination plants, which, prior to the hostilities produced seven per cent of Gaza's water supply, are currently not operational. Water trucking operations came to a halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

Consequently, the average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster. People have resorted to consuming brackish water extracted from agricultural wells, increasing exposure to pesticides and other chemicals, placing the population at risk of death or infectious disease outbreak.

Eastern Khan Younis (Bani Suheila area) is currently one of the few areas where piped water is supplied to households for a few hours a day. This followed the Israeli authorities' reactivation of one out of three water lines servicing this area. This line supplies about 14,400 cubic metres of water per day, which is less than four per cent of the water consumed in the Gaza Strip prior to the hostilities. The distribution of this water to the rest of Khan Younis city is impaired by the lack of pumping capacity.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. In some areas, sewage and solid waste have been accumulating in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power.

Food security

A spokesperson of the World Food Programme (WFP) indicated on 16 October that stocks of essential food commodities are sufficient for only two weeks, but these are stored in warehouses in Gaza city, which are difficult to access, while there are only four or five days of stocks left in shops.

Overnight on 18 October, one of the six WFP-contracted bakeries supplying bread for about 12,000 people was hit. The bakery was in Deir Al Balah in the middle area and is no longer functioning. Four other bakeries across the Strip might not be able to supply any bread by tomorrow due to the lack of fuel for the machinery. Bakeries are unable to operate due to the shortage of essential ingredients, particularly wheat flour, which is expected to be depleted in less than a week. Only one of the five mills in Gaza is functioning.

The blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The lack of access to fodder and damage from the airstrikes have taken a toll on farmers, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial losses among their animals, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Movement and access

The Rafah crossing with Egypt remains closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medicines; it is estimated that about 3,000 tons of goods are awaiting entry in trucks on the Egyptian side of the crossing.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remain closed. Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October.

Gazan patients who were receiving medical care in Israeli hospitals prior to 7 October have reportedly been transferred to the West Bank, with some experiencing an effective discontinuation of their treatments.

Additionally, over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to diverse public shelters in the West Bank. On 17 October, in two different raids, Israeli forces arrested 50 workers from Gaza in the Hebron Governorate.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access within Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres, barring entry to substantial agricultural areas. Alongside safety concerns, this extension has led to reduced crop yields, directly impacting hundreds of thousands of farmers.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses.

The WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care has recorded 56 health attacks since the beginning of hostilities, which included the killings of 16 health workers and the injury of 28 others while on duty. At least 15 UNRWA staff were also killed.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian suspension of hostilities, the opening of the crossings with Israel and Egypt and significant funding for humanitarian response.

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WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued. Since the start of the hostilities and by 16:00 on 18 October, Israeli forces have killed 59 Palestinians, including 17 children. An additional five Palestinians, including one child, were killed by Israeli settlers during two consecutive settler attacks in Qusra (Nablus).

Over the past 24 hours (by 18 October at 16:00), Israeli forces shot and killed three Palestinians, including two children, and injured eleven others with live ammunition during confrontations that erupted in protests and marches in solidarity with residents of the Gaza Strip.

The tragedy at Al Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza city prompted immediate reactions, with people from around the region, including the West Bank, taking to the streets to protest. On the evening of 17 October, Palestinians protested in Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Jenin and other cities in the West Bank in solidarity with Gaza and in opposition to the Palestinian Authority, with some demanding that Palestinian President Mahoud Abbas leave office. In one of these protests, an exchange of fire was reported between Palestinian demonstrators and Palestinian security forces; a 9-year-old Palestinian child was killed, and 14 others were injured, including nine with live ammunition.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,255 Palestinians, including at least 122 children; an additional 29 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,100 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 86 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of almost seven incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

In the past 24 hours, Israeli settlers, accompanied by Israeli forces, attacked Palestinian houses in Madama (Nablus) with Molotov cocktails and threw stones, setting fire to one car and vandalizing two others. In another incident, armed Israeli settlers physically assaulted and injured a herder and fired shots towards him and his sheep, forcing him to leave the grazing area in Hebron.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 77 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 61 ambulances and including 42 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 43 involving physical violence towards health teams; 15 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and nine involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters (DES) have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and changes by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 5,500 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or US$187 per household) since the evening of 13 October.
- · An increase of Emergency MPCA to 1,650 households in the coming days is planned.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Ten child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating in, and for, Gaza (six in the Gaza Strip and four partners in the West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has initiated an emergency mass media campaign launching one-million protection messages through various platforms, including social media and radio stations, to send Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) messages to as wide a population as possible.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers. The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of Non-Food Items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 350,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 12,000 non-food items in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 120 non-food items for displaced families.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.

- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. The Health Cluster is identifying other partners to support the remaining shelters. Health Cluster partners are mobilizing and prepositioning supplies in Egypt.
- WHO was able to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa Hospital.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 182,289 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing bread across 47 designated shelters.
- 243,291 IDPs received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 139,312 have been redeemed.
- 19,509 people redeemed their food e-vouchers in shops as of 17 October. Some 66 per cent in the northern and 34 per cent in the southern governorates.
- Five trucks carrying 100 metric tons of food parcels and 15 metric tons of fortified biscuits from Dubai are expected to arrive in Al Arish, Egypt.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

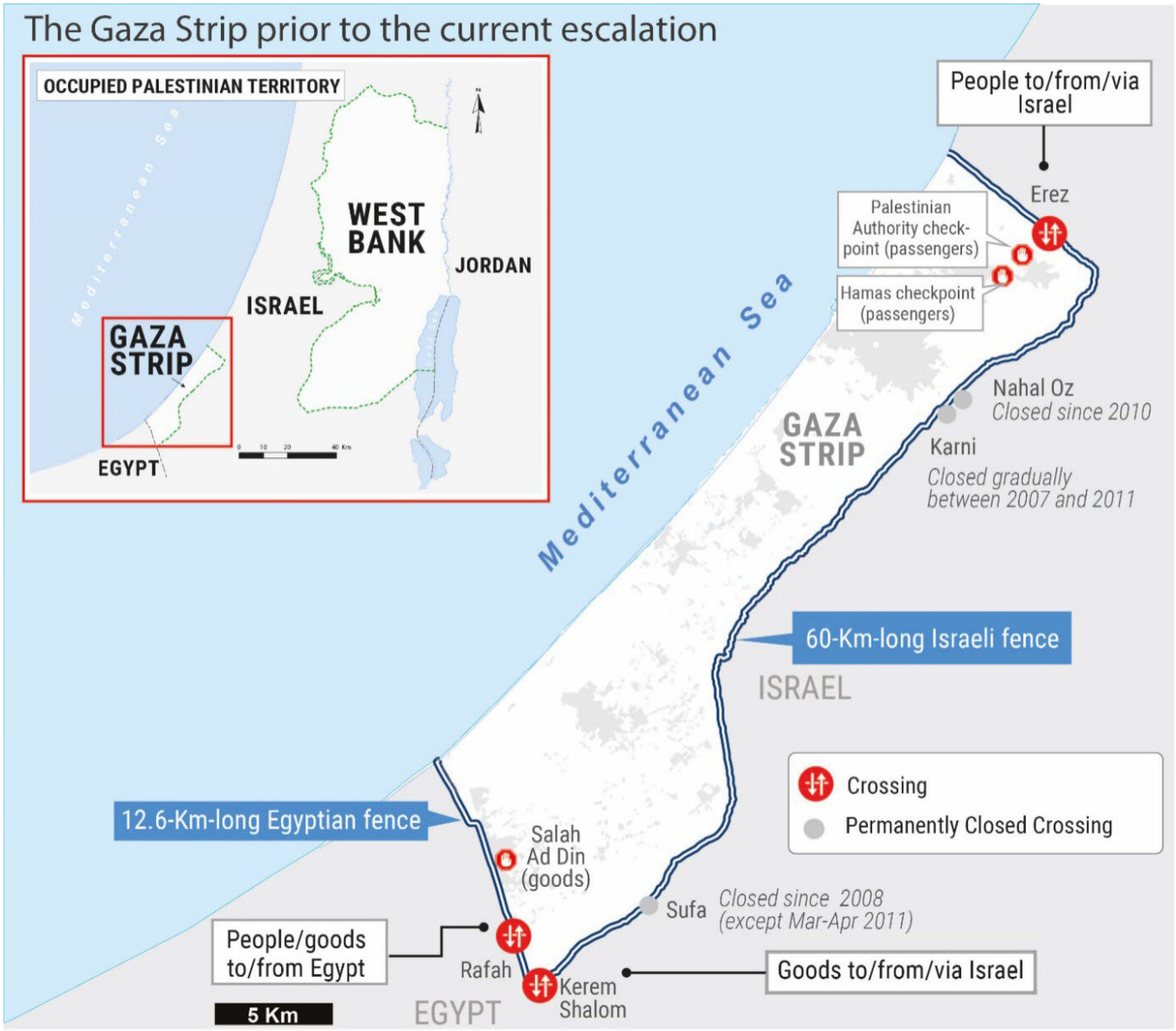
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Providing 3 litres of bottled water per person per day in IDP shelters.
- Some 3,800 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- Service hub planning in Rafah, Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

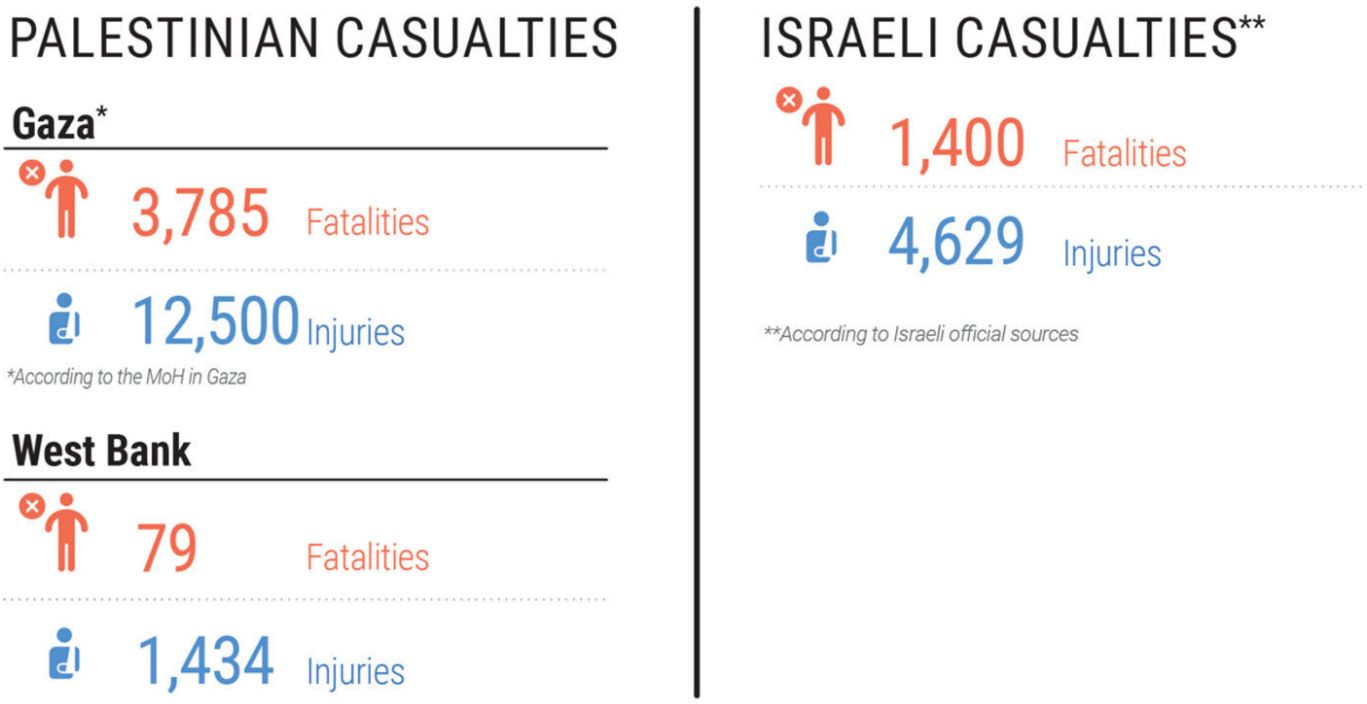

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #13

19 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- As hostilities entered the thirteenth day, relentless bombardments on Gaza continued, resulting in an additional 307 Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00). This brings the cumulative fatality toll in the Gaza Strip to 3,785, including at least 1,524 children, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. Hundreds of additional fatalities are believed to be trapped under the rubble.
- At least 30 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip have been either destroyed (12,845), rendered uninhabitable (9,055) or moderately/lightly damaged (121,000), since the start of the hostilities, according to the Ministry of Housing in Gaza.



- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gaza is estimated at about one million, including over 527,500 people staying in 147 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters in increasingly dire conditions.
- The complete siege of Gaza continues. The Rafah, Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings remained closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water, medicines and fuel.

- Speaking in Cairo on 19 October, the UN Secretary-General reiterated his call for “an immediate humanitarian ceasefire,” highlighting the need for “unrestricted access of humanitarian aid.”
- The average water consumption for all needs (drinking, cooking and hygiene) is currently estimated at three litres per day per person in Gaza. People consume more and more water from unsafe sources, risking death and placing the population at risk of infectious disease outbreak.
- Palestinian armed groups’ indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no new Israeli fatalities reported (as of 21:00) in that context. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 19 October, the names of 705 of these fatalities have been released; of those for whom age was provided, 20 are children.
- At least 203 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals, as per Israeli estimations. The Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release the hostages immediately and unconditionally.
- In the West Bank, Israeli forces have killed 14 Palestinians in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00), including eleven in Nur Shams refugee camp, while another Palestinian was killed by an Israeli settler. This brings the total fatality toll by Israeli forces and settlers since 7 October to 79, including 20 children. One Israeli soldier was also killed by Palestinians, according to Israeli media.
- At least 74 Palestinian households, comprising 545 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.



Bakery in An Nuseirat, the Gaza Strip, hit during the hostilities, Photo by the community, 19 October 2023.

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued. Among the deadliest incidents recorded in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00) were airstrikes targeting residential structures in Khan Yunis (26 fatalities in two separate airstrikes); Jabalia (at least five fatalities); and Rafah (25 fatalities in two separate airstrikes).

On 19 October, Israeli airstrikes targeted the vicinities of two bakeries, where many people, including women and children, were queuing, reportedly killing 20 people in Gaza city and five more in An Nussairat camp. In Gaza city, three residential towers were targeted and destroyed in the morning of 19 October, resulting in no fatalities.

Since the start of hostilities, 3,785 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 1,524 children, and about 12,500 have been injured, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The reported fatality toll in Gaza during the 13 days of hostilities is about 60 per cent higher than the total number of fatalities during the 2014 escalation, which lasted for over 50 days (2,251 Palestinian fatalities).

Additionally, it is estimated that hundreds of people including women and children are still trapped beneath the rubble awaiting rescue, or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

On 15 October, about 100 unidentified bodies were buried in a mass grave in Rafah due to the lack of refrigerated space to store them until recognition procedures are conducted. This measure followed environmental and human indignity concerns related to the decomposition of the bodies.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 18 October, 79 families had lost ten or more of their members; 85 families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 320 families had lost two to five of their members.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 12,845 housing units and the rendering of 9,055 housing units uninhabitable. Another 121,000 housing units suffered minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 30 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip.

An assessment of the North Gaza Governorate area, by the United Nations Satellite Centre, identified 927 destroyed structures and 4,337 moderately to severely damaged structures, corresponding to about 15 per cent of all structures in that area. The assessment was based on a comparison of images collected on 15 October 2023 with those from 1 May 2023.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 59 attacks on health care affecting 26 health care facilities (including 17 hospitals damaged) and 23 ambulances. Four of the hospitals, all in northern Gaza (Beit Hanoun, Hamad Rehabilitation, Al Karama, and Ad Dura) had to be evacuated and are no longer operational.

The scope of damage sustained by education facilities and other civilian infrastructure is also of increasing concern. As of 18 October, 178 educational facilities have been hit, including at least 20 UNRWA schools, two of which were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, and 140 Palestinian Authority (PA) schools, one of which was destroyed. One university building and seven churches were damaged, and at least eleven mosques were destroyed.

Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged. As of 12 October, at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

As of 21:00 on 19 October, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported in the context of hostilities in Gaza and Israel. According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,629 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to Israeli media, as of 19 October the Israeli authorities have released the names of 705 fatalities, whose identity had been confirmed, including 317 civilians, 285 soldiers, and 57 police officers. Among those civilians whose age is provided, 20 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at about one million, including over 527,500 people staying in 147 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES), of whom 367,500 are in central and southern Gaza alone. The last reported number of IDPs in UNRWA's DES in Gaza city and North Gaza was nearly 160,000, as of 12 October. In addition, about 66,300 IDPs are staying in 64 non-UNRWA shelters, most of which are in Gaza city and northern Gaza.

UNRWA's DES in the central and southern areas are overcrowded. Essential resources like water, food, and medicine are in critically short supply. In some DES, UNRWA has been forced to ration down potable water, providing only one litre of water per person per day. The minimum international standard is 15 litres.

Meanwhile, many people in northern Gaza governorates are unwilling or unable to evacuate due to a lack of alternatives, the precarious conditions of displacement and fearing they might never be allowed to return. Moreover, anecdotal evidence indicates that some IDPs are returning to the north, following the continuous bombardments in the south, as well as due to the inability to find reasonable accommodation.

The displacement of civilians and the related poor access to basic services has raised concerns regarding the protection of the most vulnerable, including children, the elderly, those in need of medical care, people with disabilities, and pregnant women. Issues of concern include psychosocial distress, conflict and tension amongst the IDPs, denial of access to information and potential abuse or exploitation.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands residing in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the ninth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, the Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and full water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released.

Health care

Hospitals are on the brink of collapse due to the shortage of power, medicine, equipment and specialized personnel. Yet, the number of patients treated or awaiting treatment is at 150 per cent of their capacity; many lay on the floors and corridors. To keep emergency rooms operational, vital procedures such as sterilization and dialysis may soon be halted

This has been exacerbated by the shutdown of over 60 per cent of primary health care facilities.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza has been reallocating to hospitals limited amounts of fuel still available in other public facilities to prevent their shutdown, while calling on people who have fuel for domestic consumption to donate it to the hospitals. On 17 October, WHO, together with UNRWA, managed to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa hospital, enabling the hospital's generators to operate for a few more days; additional fuel allocations by these UN agencies from their existing reserves within Gaza are expected in the coming days.

Health Cluster partners estimate that mortality rates in Gaza, excluding casualties in the context of the hostilities, have been on the rise due to the extremely limited access to essential healthcare services.

Of particular concern are over 9,000 cancer patients, who depend on chemotherapy treatment for their survival. The Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, the only facility in Gaza providing chemotherapy, is struggling to remain operational, relying on a single electricity generator. Additionally, some patients are missing their appointments, facing the expansion of tumors, as it has become risky and difficult to get to the hospital. Prior to the hostilities, some 2,000 cancer patients from Gaza had been referred for regular treatment to hospitals in East Jerusalem and Israel. However, this practice has been halted since 7 October.

Water and sanitation

Water production from municipal groundwater sources is at less than five per cent of the pre-hostilities level. The three seawater desalination plants, which, prior to the hostilities produced seven per cent of Gaza's water supply, are currently not operational. Water trucking operations came to a halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

Consequently, the average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster. People have resorted to consuming brackish water extracted from agricultural wells, increasing exposure to pesticides and other chemicals, placing the population at risk of death or infectious disease outbreak.

Eastern Khan Younis (Bani Suheila area) is currently one of the few areas where piped water is supplied to households for a few hours a day. This followed the Israeli authorities' reactivation of one out of three water lines servicing this area. This line supplies about 14,400 cubic metres of water per day, which is less than four per cent of the water consumed in the Gaza Strip prior to the hostilities. The distribution of this water to the rest of Khan Younis city is impaired by the lack of pumping capacity.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power, resulting in large amounts of raw sewage being continuously dumped into the sea.

Due to the access restrictions to Gaza's main landfills, near the perimeter fence with Israel, solid waste has been accumulating in temporary locations and in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

Food security

Damage sustained by two bakeries during airstrikes on 19 October (see Hostilities section), further compounds the access of people to fresh bread. This follows damage on 18 October to one of the six WFP-contracted bakeries supplying bread for about 12,000 people, which is no longer functioning. Most other bakeries are unable to operate due

to the shortage of essential ingredients, particularly wheat flour, which is expected to be depleted in less than a week. Only one of the five mills in Gaza is functioning.

The blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The lack of access to fodder and damage from the airstrikes have taken a toll on farmers, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial losses among their animals, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

A spokesperson of the World Food Programme (WFP) indicated on 16 October that stocks of essential food commodities are sufficient for only two weeks, but these are stored in warehouses in Gaza city, which are difficult to access, while there are only four or five days of stocks left in shops.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications enable information gathering on humanitarian needs and is therefore paramount to assistance delivery. Damage to related infrastructure during the hostilities, compounded by the fuel shortages, have severely impaired connectivity, undermining lifesaving operations.

Network monitoring systems of the Paltel Group show that across the Gaza Strip, 83 per cent of fixed line users are disconnected; 54 per cent of fixed line sites are disconnected; and 50 per cent of their main Fiberoptic internet lines are not operational. This is a result of infrastructure damage and fuel shortage. Bombardments have resulted in cuts in two out of three fiber cables going out of Gaza, one of which was repaired after the Israeli authorities granted the company a two-hour window for staff to fix one fiber cable.

Movement and access

The Rafah crossing with Egypt remains closed, preventing the entry of an estimated 200 trucks, with some 3,000 tons of aid, that are positioned at or near the crossing.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remain closed. Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October.

Additionally, over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to diverse public shelters in the West Bank. On 17 October, in two different raids, Israeli forces arrested 50 workers from Gaza in the Hebron Governorate.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access within Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres, barring entry to substantial agricultural areas. Alongside safety concerns, this extension has led to reduced crop yields, directly impacting hundreds of thousands of farmers.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. Since the start of the hostilities 16 health workers and at least 15 UNRWA staff have been killed.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian suspension of hostilities, the opening of the crossings with Israel and Egypt and significant funding for humanitarian response.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF) redirected a total of US$9 million towards the priority needs identified, while the global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated another $9 million in Rapid Response funding, supplementing a pre-existing $6 million allocation from the Underfunded Emergencies Window.

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal is set to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00), Israeli forces have killed 14 Palestinians and injured 13 by live ammunition, while another Palestinian was killed by an Israeli settler. The deadliest incident, which is still ongoing, took place in Nur Shams refugee camp (Tulkarm), where 11 Palestinians, including two boys (aged 16 and 13), were killed by Israeli forces. One Israeli soldier was also killed by Palestinians, according to Israeli media. The clashes followed an Israeli search and arrest operation in the Camp, during which Palestinians threw explosive devices at Israeli forces and there was an exchange of fire. Israeli forces launched several ground and air strikes, utilizing drones, and bulldozed sections of a road, reportedly, to neutralize explosives planted in the ground. A blackout in the electricity and water network has also been reported during the operation. The damage to infrastructure and homes is yet to be assessed. According to medical sources, Israeli forces impeded the work of paramedics during the operation.

Additionally, three Palestinians were killed during confrontations that erupted during a protest in solidarity with Gaza in Jamma'in (Nablus) and during search-and-arrest operations in Budrus (Ramallah), and Ad Duheisha Refugee Camp (Bethlehem).

Since the start of the hostilities and by 21:00 on 19 October, Israeli forces had killed 73 Palestinians, including 19 children. An additional six Palestinians, including one child, were killed by Israeli settlers during settler attacks in Qusra (Nablus) and Dura al Qar'a (Ramallah). One member of Israeli forces was reportedly killed by Palestinians.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,399 Palestinians, including at least 129 children; an additional 35 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,100 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 100 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of almost eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

In the past 24 hours, Israeli settlers shot and killed a Palestinian man and injured another one near the water spring area in Dura al Qara' village in Ramallah. In another three incidents in Madama and Burqa (both in Nablus), Israeli settlers, accompanied by Israeli forces, opened live fire and threw stones at Palestinian houses and cars, setting fire to Palestinian property. During these incidents, Israeli forces shot and injured 54 Palestinians, including three with live ammunition. In another two incidents, Israeli settlers opened fire at Palestinians while they were picking their olives in Kobar village (Ramallah) and against a Palestinian herder while he was filling water near Mughayyir ad Deir (Ramallah). As a result, two Palestinian men were injured, including one with live ammunition fired by settlers.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 77 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 61 ambulances and including 42 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 43 involving physical violence towards health teams; 15 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and nine involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters (DES) have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and changes by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 6,570 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or US$187 per household) since the evening of 13 October.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating for, Gaza (four partners in the West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- One partner working on inclusion and persons with disabilities has been able to reach 38 out of the 87 shelters in the south with following activities: distribution of 93 assistive devices, 156 wound dressings, 36 kitchen sets, 45 dignity kits, 435 diapers, and 57 baby blankets.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers. The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of non-food items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 350,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 12,000 non-food items in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 120 non-food items for displaced families.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. The Health Cluster is identifying other partners to support the remaining shelters. Health Cluster partners are mobilizing and prepositioning supplies in Egypt.
- WHO was able to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa Hospital.

Response to Date

- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 182,289 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing bread across 47 designated shelters.
- 243,291 IDPs received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 139,312 have been redeemed.
- 19,509 people redeemed their food e-vouchers in shops as of 17 October. Some 66 per cent in the northern and 34 per cent in the southern governorates.
- Five trucks carrying 100 metric tons of food parcels and 15 metric tons of fortified biscuits from Dubai are expected to arrive in Al Arish, Egypt.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

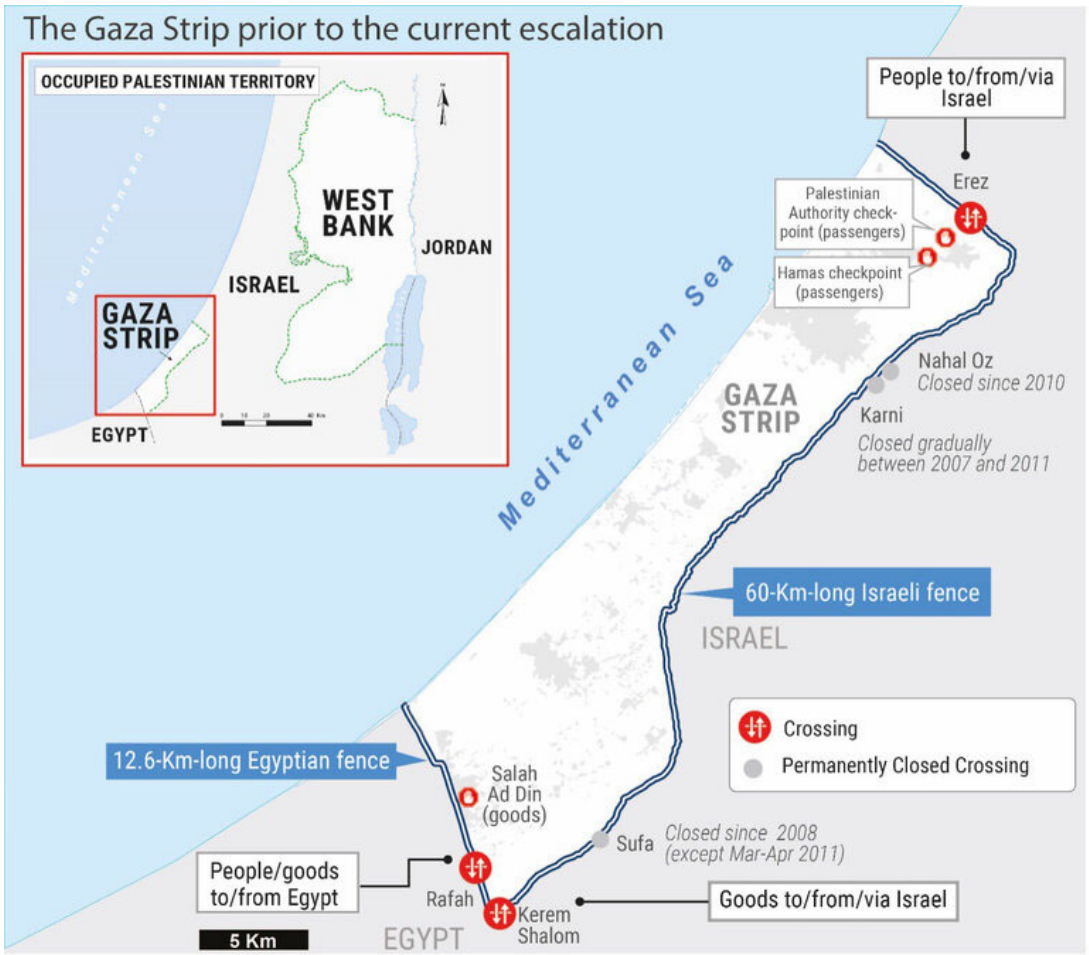
- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.

- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Providing 3 litres of bottled water per person per day in IDP shelters.
- Some 3,800 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- Service hub planning in Rafah, Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

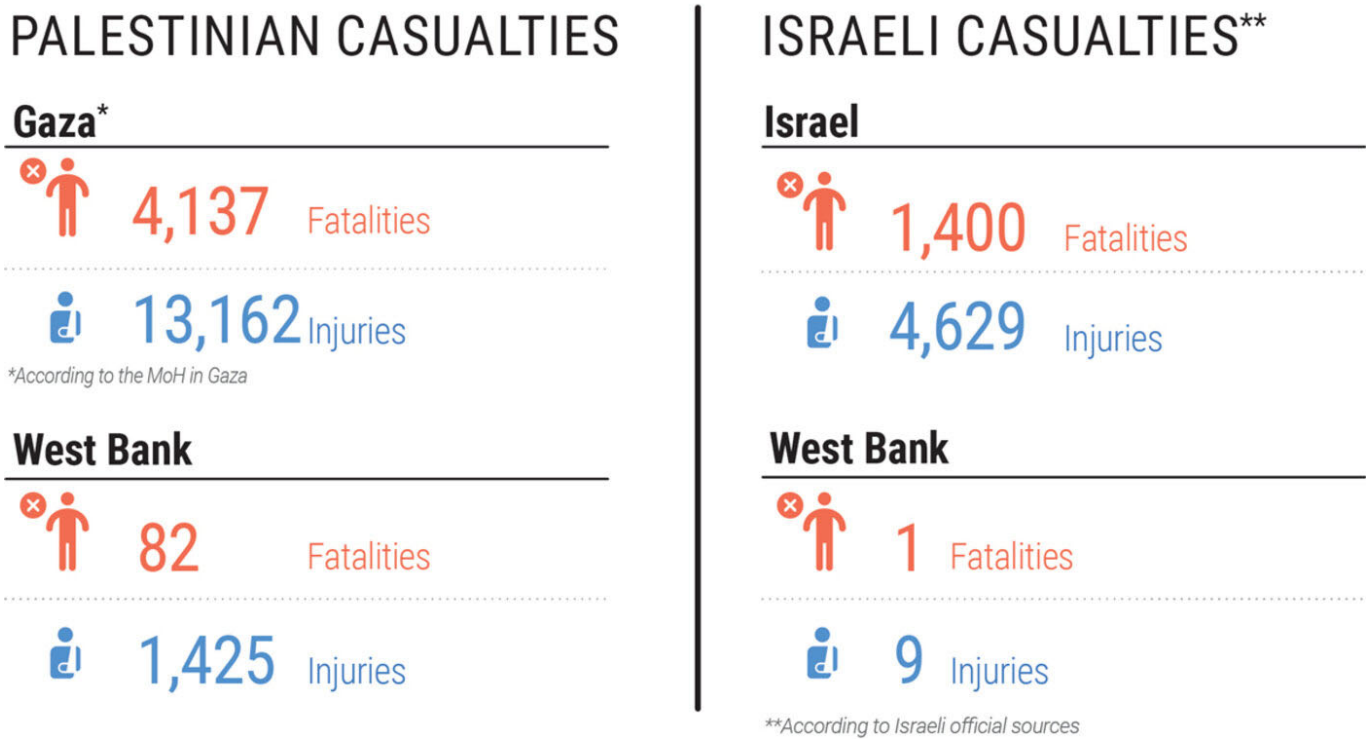


Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #14

20 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Intensive bombardments continued as hostilities entered the fourteenth day in Gaza, with an additional 352 Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00). This brings the cumulative fatality toll in the Gaza Strip to 4,137, with 60 per cent of the fatalities being children and women, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. More than 1,000 people are reported missing and presumed to be under rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery.
- About 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are estimated in Gaza, with more than 544,000 sheltering in 147 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES) in increasingly dire conditions.



- The complete siege of Gaza continues for the tenth consecutive day. The Rafah, Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings remained closed, preventing the entry of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including food, water, medicines and fuel.
- Today (20 October), during his visit to the Rafah Crossing, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres reiterated his call for the immediate opening of the Rafah crossing for the entry of assistance, alongside a humanitarian

ceasefire. He also stressed that “the barbaric attack by Hamas needs to be condemned […but …] cannot be a pretext for a collective punishment of the Palestinian people.”

- At least 30 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip have been either destroyed or damaged since the start of the hostilities, according to the Ministry of Housing in Gaza.
- The full electricity blackout, compounded by the ban on the import of fuel to run backup generators, enters its tenth consecutive day, with devastating consequences on the access to health care and drinking water. Increasing water consumption from unsafe sources elevates the threat of infectious disease outbreaks.
- Palestinian armed groups’ indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no new Israeli fatalities reported (as of 21:00). Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 20 October, the names of 767 of these fatalities have been released; of those for whose age has been provided, 22 are children.
- At least 201 people have been held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals, as per Israeli estimates. The Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release the hostages immediately and unconditionally. As this Update is being finalized, media reports indicate that two hostages were released.
- In the West Bank, in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00), Israeli forces killed another three Palestinian children during clashes. This brings the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 82, including 25 children.
- At least 74 Palestinian households, comprising 545 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.



Mattresses distributed to internally displaced persons at a United Nations facility in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli airstrikes and shelling across the Gaza Strip have persisted in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00). In Al Zaytoun area of Gaza city, one of the oldest churches (Saint Porphyries), where some 400 IDPs had sought refuge, was directly hit by an airstrike, reportedly killing at least 18 people and trapping dozens under the rubble.

Other airstrikes with high fatality numbers hit residential structures, including a house in Deir Al Balah (reportedly ten were killed); a house in east of Khan Yunis city (reportedly 21 were killed); six houses in another part of Khan Yunis (reportedly at least 17 were killed); a tower east of Deir Al Balah (reportedly five were killed). Hundreds were injured in these attacks.

Israeli air strikes continued targeting residential towers in Gaza city, reportedly destroying 24 multi-story residential towers in the Az Zahra' compound, in the early hours of 20 October. No casualties were reported from these strikes as residents were reportedly given warning and managed to evacuate. However, between 6,000 and 8,000 people were displaced to nearby schools and university buildings.

Since the start of hostilities, 4,137 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 1,661 children and 908 women, and about 13,162 have been injured, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The reported fatality toll in Gaza during the 13 days of hostilities is about 84 per cent higher than the total number of fatalities during the 50-days escalation of hostilities in 2014 (2,251 Palestinian fatalities).

The Palestinian Civil Defense estimated that about 1,000 people, including children, are trapped beneath the rubble, some of whom are believed to still be alive. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

On 15 October, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) issued a warning that the Gaza Strip is facing a shortage of body bags due to the rising number of fatalities. Furthermore, about 100 unidentified bodies were buried on 15 October in a mass grave in Rafah due to the lack of refrigerated space to store them until recognition procedures are conducted. This measure followed environmental and human indignity concerns related to the decomposition of the bodies.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 18 October, 79 families had lost ten or more of their members; 85 families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 320 families had lost two to five of their members.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 12,845 housing units and the rendering of 9,055 housing units uninhabitable, as of 18 October. Another 121,000 housing units are said to have suffered minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 30 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighborhoods have been largely destroyed, including Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, Shuja'iyeh, and Abbassan Kabeera.

An assessment of the North Gaza Governorate area, by the United Nations Satellite Centre, identified 927 destroyed structures and 4,337 moderately to severely damaged structures, corresponding to about 15 per cent of all structures in that area. The assessment was based on a comparison of images collected on 15 October 2023 with those from 1 May 2023.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 62 attacks on health care affecting 29 health care facilities (including 19 hospitals damaged) and 23 ambulances. Seven hospitals, including four in northern Gaza (Beit Hanoun Hamad Rehabilitation, Al Karama, and Ad Dura) either sustained damage or had to be evacuated and are no longe

operational.

The extent of damage sustained by educational facilities and other civilian infrastructure is also a growing concern. As of 20 October, 193 educational facilities have been affected, including at least 29 UNRWA schools. Eight of these schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in at least eight IDPs killed, and 40 others injured. Additionally, one university building suffered severe damage, and minor damage was reported in one Directorate of Education and one rehabilitation centre for the visually impaired.

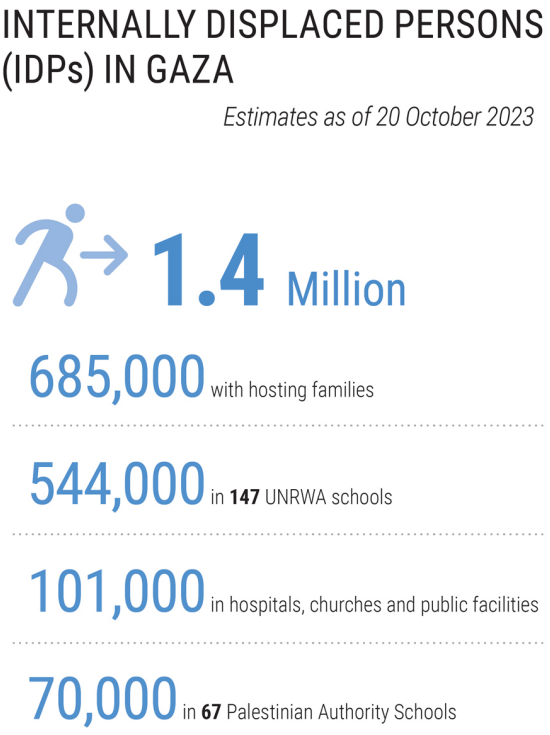
Water and sanitation facilities have also been severely damaged. As of 12 October, at least six water wells, three water pumping stations, one water reservoir, and one desalination plant serving over 1,100,000 people were damaged.

As of 21:00 on 20 October, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported in the context of hostilities in Gaza and Israel. According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,629 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to Israeli media, as of 20 October, the Israeli authorities have released the names of 767 fatalities, whose identity had been confirmed, including 427 civilians, 282 soldiers, and 58 police officers. Among those civilians whose age is provided, 22 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million, including over 544,000 people staying in 147 UNRWA-DES, of whom 367,500 are in central and southern Gaza alone and 70,000 in 67 non-UNRWA schools, and about 101,000 took shelter in the Orthodox center, churches in Gaza city, hospitals, and other public buildings. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that there are about 700,000 IDPs with hosting families.



Overcrowding of UNRWA-DES in the central and southern areas has been increasing. Essential resources like water, food, and medicine are in critically short supply. In some DES, UNRWA has been forced to ration down potable water, providing only one litre of water per person per day. The minimum international 'emergency standard' is 15 litres. Overcrowding and shortages of basic supplies have triggered tensions among IDPs, alongside reports about cases of gender-based violence.

To cope with this situation, on 19 October, UNRWA established the first IDP tent camp in Khan Younis, consisting of 60 tents, hosting hundreds of IDPs.

Meanwhile, due to the security conditions, UNRWA is no longer able to assist or protect IDPs that remained in its DES in the northern Gaza governorates, who are unwilling or unable to evacuate, and does not have information on their needs and conditions.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that some IDPs are returning to the north, following the continuous bombardments in the south, as well as due to the inability to find reasonable accommodation.

The displacement of civilians and the related poor access to basic services has raised concerns regarding the most vulnerable people, including children, the elderly, those in need of medical care, people with disabilities, and pregnant women. It is feared that they are exposed to psychosocial distress, conflict and tension amongst the IDPs, denial of

access to information and potential abuse or exploitation.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands residing in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the tenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip.

According to officials at the Gaza Power Plant, the Israeli authorities have warned that the plant would be targeted if it attempted to resume operations. The Israeli Defense Minister indicated that electricity, fuel and full water supply to Gaza would not be restored until the Israeli hostages are released.

Health care

On October 20, the 17 hospitals that are still operational in Gaza City, North Gaza, and one hospital in Rafah received evacuation orders from the Israeli military. These hospitals have not been evacuated yet because doing so would immediately endanger the lives of vulnerable patients. There is extremely limited capacity and space to transfer them to other hospitals.

Hospitals are on the brink of collapse due to the shortage of power, medicine, equipment and specialized personnel. Yet, the number of patients treated or awaiting treatment is at 150 per cent of their capacity; many lay on the floors and corridors. To keep emergency rooms operational, vital procedures such as sterilization and dialysis may soon be halted.

This has been exacerbated by the shutdown of over 60 per cent of primary health care facilities. Only eight (out of 22) of UNRWA health centres in Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates are providing primary health care services to critical outpatients and patients in need of treatment for non-communicable diseases.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza has been reallocating to hospitals limited amounts of fuel still available in other public facilities to prevent their shutdown, while calling on people who have fuel for domestic consumption to donate it to the hospitals. On 17 October, WHO, together with UNRWA, managed to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa hospital, enabling the hospital's generators to operate for a few more days; additional fuel allocations by these UN agencies from their existing reserves within Gaza are expected in the coming days.

Health Cluster partners estimate that mortality rates in Gaza, excluding casualties in the context of the hostilities, have been on the rise due to the extremely limited access to essential healthcare services.

Of particular concern are over 9,000 cancer patients, who depend on chemotherapy treatment for their survival. The Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, the only facility in Gaza providing chemotherapy, is struggling to remain operational, relying on a single electricity generator. Additionally, some patients are missing their appointments, facing the expansion of tumors, as it has become risky and difficult to get to the hospital. Prior to the hostilities, some 2,000 cancer patients from Gaza had been referred for regular treatment to hospitals in East Jerusalem and Israel. However, this practice has been halted since 7 October.

Water and sanitation

Water production from municipal groundwater sources is at less than five per cent of the pre-hostilities level. The three seawater desalination plants, which, prior to the hostilities produced seven per cent of Gaza's water supply, are currently not operational. Water trucking operations came to a halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

Consequently, the average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster. People have resorted to consuming brackish water extracted from agricultural wells, increasing exposure to pesticides and other chemicals, placing the population at risk of death or infectious disease outbreak.

Eastern Khan Younis (Bani Suheila area) is currently one of the few areas where piped water is supplied to households for a few hours a day. This followed the Israeli authorities' reactivation of one out of three water lines servicing this area. This line supplies about 14,400 cubic metres of water per day, which is less than four per cent of the water consumed in the Gaza Strip prior to the hostilities. The distribution of this water to the rest of Khan Younis city is impaired by the lack of pumping capacity.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power, resulting in large amounts of raw sewage being continuously dumped into the sea.

Due to the access restrictions to Gaza's main landfills, near the perimeter fence with Israel, solid waste has been accumulating in temporary locations and in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

Food security

Three out of the five WFP-surveyed bakeries ceased operations on 20 October, due to fuel shortages and a lack of essential ingredients, while another bakery, which was providing bread for about 12,000 people, was forced to shut down after sustaining damage from an Israeli airstrike on 18 October.

Wheat flour across Gaza is expected to be depleted in about five days. Moreover, only one out of the five mills in Gaza are currently operational.

On 20 October, 12 WFP-contracted shops in the Gaza Strip (six in the northern governorates and six in the southern governorates) reported that the available stock for most food items is projected to last for only five days. Many retailers are encountering substantial challenges when restocking from wholesalers, predominantly located in Gaza City, due to widespread destruction and security concerns.

The blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The lack of access to fodder and damage from the airstrikes have taken a toll on farmers, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial losses among their animals, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications enable information gathering on humanitarian needs and is therefore paramount to assistance delivery. Damage to related infrastructure during the hostilities, compounded by the fuel shortages, have severely impaired connectivity, undermining lifesaving operations.

Network monitoring systems of the Paltel Group show that across the Gaza Strip, 83 per cent of fixed line users are disconnected; 54 per cent of fixed line sites are disconnected; and 50 per cent of their main Fiberoptic internet lines are not operational. This is a result of infrastructure damage and fuel shortage. Bombardments have resulted in cuts in two out of three fiber cables going out of Gaza, one of which was repaired after the Israeli authorities granted the company a two-hour window for staff to fix one fiber cable.

Movement and access

Hundreds of aid-laden trucks are being prepared to enter Gaza from Egypt, with more than 3,000 tons of aid set to be delivered, under the supervision of the United Nations through the Rafah crossing, which remains closed for the tenth consecutive day.

Speaking at the Rafah side of the crossing, on 20 October, the UN Secretary-General indicated that there are agreements in principle between Egypt and Israel regarding the opening of the crossing for humanitarian aid, but there is a “need to overcome the conditionalities and the obstacles that still exist.”

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remain closed. Referrals for patients and their companions to exit the Gaza Strip to reach their medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel have ceased since 7 October.

Additionally, over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to diverse public shelters in the West Bank. On 17 and 19 October, in three different raids, Israeli forces arrested more than 100 Palestinian workers from Gaza in the Bethlehem and Hebron Governorate.

Access to the sea has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel’s perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to substantial agricultural areas. Alongside safety concerns, this stretch has led to reduced crop yields, directly affecting hundreds of thousands of farmers.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. Since the start of the hostilities, 16 health workers and 16 UNRWA staff have been killed, with over ten other staff members injured. According to UNRWA, the actual number is likely to be significantly higher, as these figures encompass only those cases that the Agency has been able to confirm.

Despite these challenging conditions, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian ceasefire, the opening of the crossings with Israel and Egypt and significant funding for humanitarian response.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF) redirected a total of US$9 million towards the priority needs identified, while the global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated another $9 million in Rapid Response funding, supplementing a pre-existing $6 million allocation from the Underfunded Emergencies Window.

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal is set to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, three additional Palestinian fatalities, all children, were recorded in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00).

Israeli forces killed two of these children (15- and 16-year-old) during confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces that have been ongoing in the Nur Shams refugee camp (Tulkarm) since yesterday morning and involved exchange of fire. During this 27-hour-long incident, 13 Palestinians, including six children, as well as one member of Israeli forces were killed. Additionally, 62 Palestinians and nine members of Israeli forces were injured. Extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure was reported. Humanitarian partners are set to conduct a needs assessment as soon as the conditions allow so.

Israeli forces shot and injured another Palestinian child (15-years-old) on 20 October during confrontations that erupted in Beitunia (Ramallah) following a search-and-arrest operation and subsequently died of his wounds.

Since the start of the escalation, and by 21:00 on 20 October, Israeli forces in the West Bank had killed 82 Palestinians, including 25 children. An additional six Palestinians, including one child, were killed by Israeli settlers in Qusra (Nablus) and Dura al Qar'a (Ramallah). As reported above, one member of Israeli forces was reportedly killed by Palestinians.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,391 Palestinians, including at least 134 children; an additional 35 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,100 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the biweekly average of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 102 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of almost eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 81 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 64 ambulances and including 45 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 44 involving physical violence towards health teams; 16 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and nine involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters (DES) have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and changes by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 8,140 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or US$187 per household) as of 20 October.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating for Gaza (four partners in the West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- One partner working on inclusion and persons with disabilities has been able to reach 38 out of the 87 shelters in the south with the following activities: distribution of 93 assistive devices, 156 wound dressings, 36 kitchen sets, 45 dignity kits, 435 diapers, and 57 baby blankets.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers. The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of non-food items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- As of 20 October, about 350,000 IDPs hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 non-food items in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 7,000 non-food items for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel for hospitals and ambulances is running out.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need of short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of mentally traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Health Cluster partners continue prepositioning supplies and other resources in Egypt, ahead of anticipated opening of Rafah crossing.
- Fourteen global Emergency Medical Teams partners are on standby, ready to be deployed to support management of patients in Gaza.
- Partners continue to procure supplies from the local market to support hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- Ambulances and emergency medical teams continue to operate despite the risk and difficult environment.
- WHO was able to deliver 10,600 litres of fuel to Shifa Hospital.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. The Health Cluster is identifying other partners to support the remaining shelters.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Food for restocking shops, as most have supplies for about five days.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 167,824 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing bread across 42 designated shelters.

- 243,291 IDPs received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 13,546 have been redeemed. Some 65 per cent in the northern and 35 per cent in the southern governorates.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

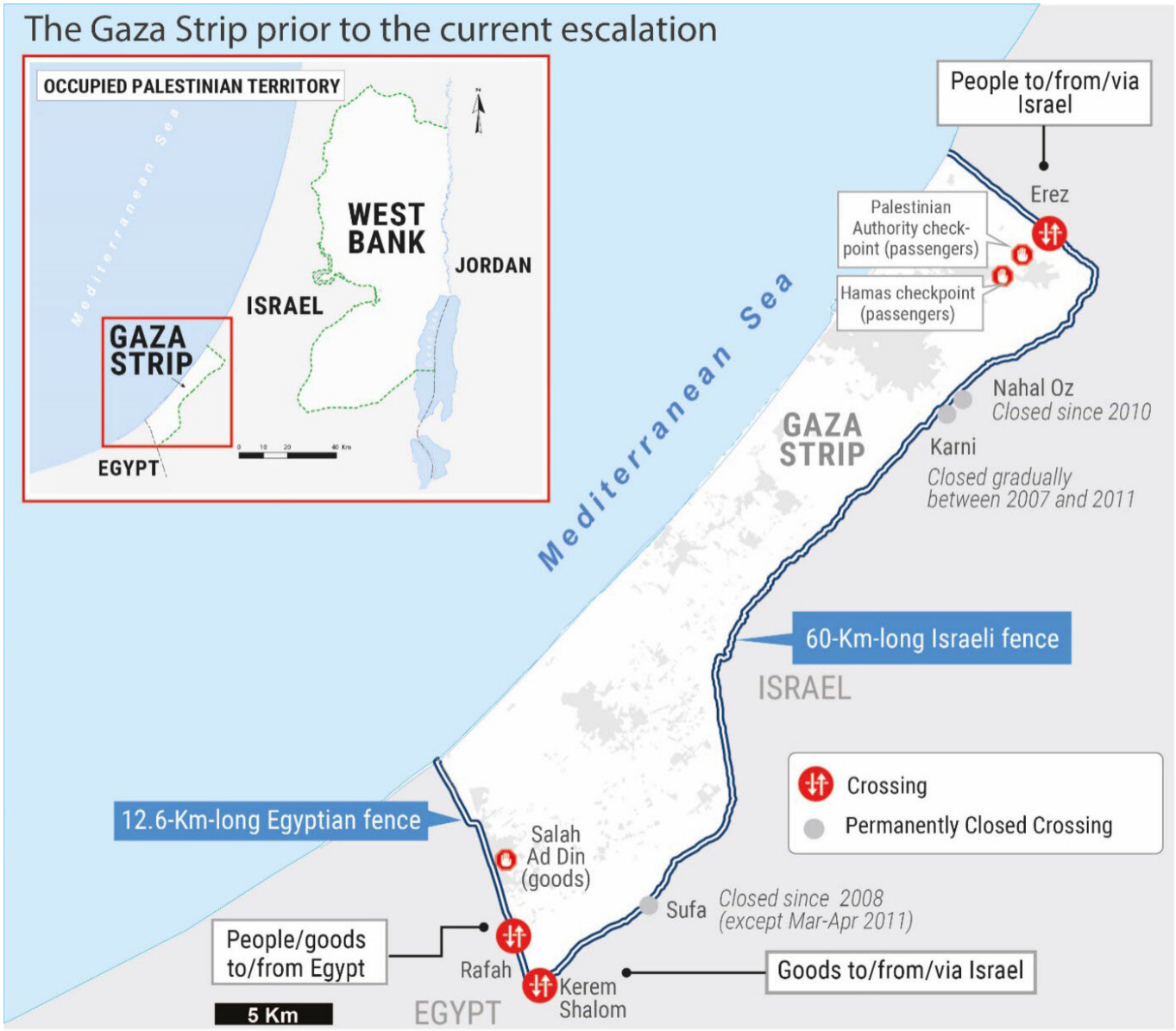
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres/day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Providing 3 litres of bottled water per person per day in IDP shelters.
- Some 3,930 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- Service hub planning in Rafah, Egypt with supply chain from local markets and/or agency stocks (including fuel and bottled water for quick recovery, hygiene kits, water storage bladder tanks, jerrycans, materials for treatment plans) and planning IDP kits for 300,000 people.
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.
- 450 cubic meters of water allocated for water trucking to supply water to IDP centers and hosted families.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

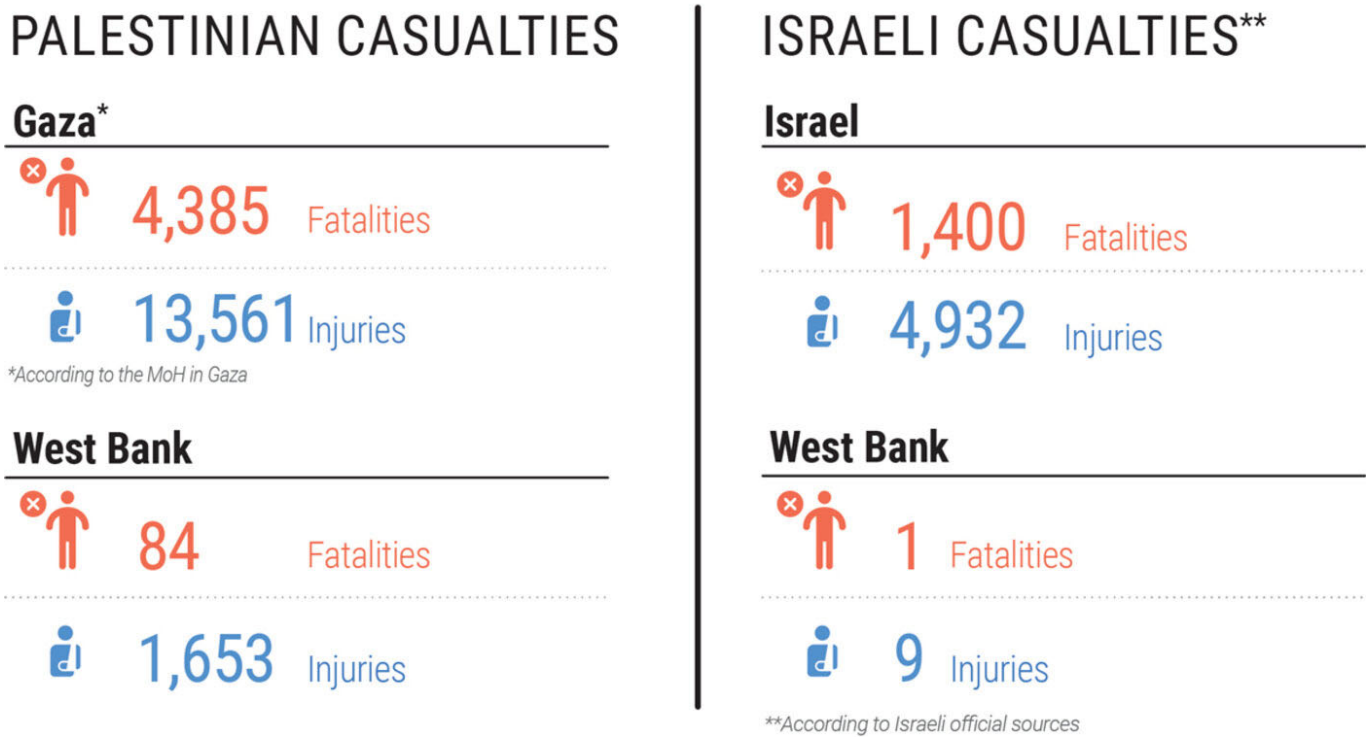

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #15

21 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Today (21 October), the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the first time since 8 October, allowing the entry of 20 trucks carrying food, water and medical supplies. As stated by the UN Secretary-General, these supplies "are the difference between life and death for so many people in Gaza."
- The volume of goods that entered is equivalent to about four per cent of the daily average of imports into Gaza prior to the hostilities, and a fraction of what is needed after 13 days of complete siege. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator indicated that it is imperative to increase the access of aid to at least 100 trucks per day.



- Bombardments continue almost unabated as hostilities enter the fifteenth day in Gaza, where an additional 248 Palestinians have been killed in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00), according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. This brings the cumulative fatality toll to 4,385 Palestinians killed, with 62 per cent of the fatalities being children and women, according to the MoH. More than 1,000 people Palestinians have been reported missing and are presumed to be trapped or dead under the rubble.

- At least 42 per cent (164,756) of all housing units in the Gaza Strip have been either destroyed or damaged since the start of the hostilities, according to the Ministry of Housing in Gaza.
- About 1.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are estimated in Gaza, with nearly 566,000 sheltering in 148 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES) in increasingly dire conditions. There are reports of displaced families returning to northern Gaza due to ongoing bombardments and an inability to meet basic needs in the south.
- Health partners have detected cases of chicken pox, scabies and diarrhea, attributable to the poor sanitation conditions and consumption of water from unsafe sources. The incidence of such diseases is expected to rise unless water and sanitation facilities are provided with electricity or fuel to resume operations.
- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no new Israeli fatalities reported (as of 21:00). Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 20 October, the names of 767 of these fatalities have been released, 22 of them children for those whose ages have been provided. The reported fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).
- According to the Israeli authorities, at least 210 people are currently held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally. Two hostages with United States citizenship were released on 20 October.
- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 20 October, Israeli forces killed two Palestinian boys during confrontations, bringing the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 84, including 27 children.
- At least 84 Palestinian households, comprising 545 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.



Humanitarian aid transferred from Egypt into Gaza on 21 October, for the first time since 8 October. Photo by © UNICEF/UNI456243/El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli airstrikes and shelling across the Gaza Strip have persisted in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00). The bombardment of an entire block in Jabalia neighbourhood resulted in 29 people killed. Additionally, two residential buildings were hit in the Deir al Balah area, killing two entire families and resulting in 46 people killed. In the Rafah area, one residential building was hit, resulting in 16 people killed, including six women and three children. In Gaza city, a seven-story building was destroyed by airstrikes resulting in at least 13 fatalities.

In a press conference held on 21 October, the Israeli military's spokesperson said that, since the start of hostilities, there had been 550 failed shootings of rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups towards Isrrael which fell short in Gaza, killing a number of Palestinians.

Since 7 October, 4,385 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 1,756 children and 967 women, and about 13,561 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. The reported fatality toll in Gaza during the 15 days of hostilities is about 84 per cent higher than the total number of fatalities during the 50-day escalation of hostilities in 2014 (2,251 Palestinian fatalities).

About 100 unidentified bodies were buried on 15 October in a mass grave in Rafah. About 43 unidentified bodies were buried in a mass grave in Gaza city on 21 October, due to the lack of refrigerated space to store them until recognition procedures are conducted.

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 21 October, 98 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members; 95 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members; and 357 families had lost two to five of their members.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 15,100 housing units and the rendering of 10,656 housing units uninhabitable, as of 21 October. Another 139,000 housing units are said to have suffered minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 42 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighborhoods have been destroyed, particularly in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Shuja'iyeh, the area between Gaza and Shati' Refugee Camp, and Abbassan Kabeera.

An assessment of the North Gaza Governorate area, by the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), identified 927 destroyed structures and 4,337 moderately to severely damaged structures, corresponding to about 15 per cent of all structures in that area. The assessment was based on a comparison of images collected on 15 October 2023 with those from 1 May 2023. New satellite imagery produced by UNOSAT shows the large scope of destruction as of 19 October.

As of 19 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 62 attacks on health care affecting 29 health care facilities (including 19 hospitals damaged) and 23 ambulances. Seven hospitals, all in Gaza city and northern Gaza, were forced to shut down due to the damage they sustained, lack of power and supplies and/or evacuation orders.

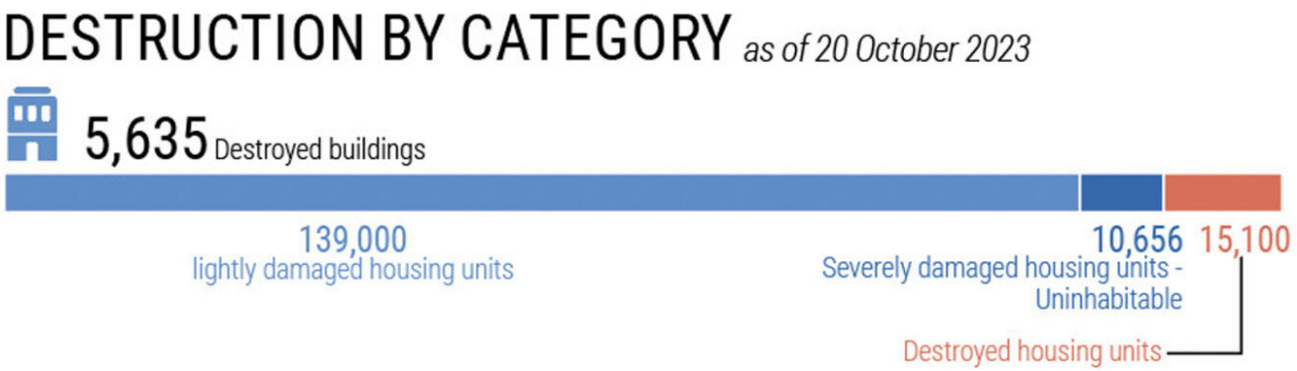
The extent of damage sustained by educational facilities and other civilian infrastructure is a growing concern. As of 21 October, 205 educational facilities have been affected, including at least 29 UNRWA schools. Eight of these schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in at least eight IDPs killed, and 40 others injured. Additionally, one university building suffered severe damage, and minor damage was reported in one Directorate of Education building and one Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired.

As of 21:00 on 21 October, no new Israeli fatalities have been reported in the context of hostilities in Gaza and Israel. According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,932 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The reported fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to Israeli media, as of 20 October, the Israeli authorities have released the names of 767 fatalities, whose identity had been confirmed, including 427 civilians, 282 soldiers, and 58 police officers. Among those whose age has been provided, 22 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million, including over 565,838 people staying in 148 UNRWA DES, of whom 367,500 are in central and southern Gaza, 101,250 sheltering in the Orthodox Centre churches in Gaza city, and in hospitals and other public buildings, and 70,000 in 67 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates some700,000 IDPs are residing with host families. Israeli forces have warned IDPs in five UNRWA DES in Gaza city to evacuate. UNRWA have informed the IDPs that the agency is no longer responsible for managing these shelters.



Overcrowding of UNRWADES in the central and southern areas is increasing, with essential resources such as water, food, and medicine in critical short supply. In some DES, UNRWA has been forced to ration down potable water, providing only one litre of water per person per day. The minimum international SPHERE standard is 20 litres. Overcrowding and shortages of basic supplies have triggered tensions among IDPs as have alongside reports of gender-based violence.

On 19 October, UNRWA established the first IDP tent camp in Khan Younis, consisting of 60 tents, hosting hundreds of IDPs. Anecdotal evidence indicates that some IDPs are returning to the north, due to continuous bombardments in the south, as well as the inability to find reasonable accommodation. One Palestinian from Gaza told OCHA:

> *"When we got to Khan Younis, we found no shelter, electricity, food, water or medical care. Hygiene is non-existent. The south is being bombarded too [...] We realised there that there really is no safe place to go in Gaza [...] Many people that I personally know have taken the difficult decision to return with their children back to Gaza city [....] With death looming everywhere, it may be better to die in our own home, together with those we love."*

Over 15 per cent of IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions. Similarly, the food distributed does not meet the needs of those with swallowing difficulties.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the eleventh consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods that entered Gaza today (21 October) via the Rafah crossing did not include fuel.

Health care

Thirteen of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on the 21 October carried medical supplies. Four of the trucks were from WHO and they announced that "the supplies include trauma medicines and supplies for 1,200 people and portable trauma bags for on-the-spot stabilization of up to 235 injured people. They also include chronic diseases medicines and treatments for 1,500 people and basic essential medicines and health supplies for 300,000 people for three months." The other nine trucks were with medical supplies from Egyptian Red Crescent and Qatar.

On 21 October, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders to the 17 hospitals still operational in Gaza city, north Gaza, and one hospital in Rafah. So far, these hospitals have not evacuated given this would endanger the lives of vulnerable patients. There is also extremely limited capacity and space to transfer them to other hospitals.

Among those warned is the Palestine Red Crescent Society's Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city. The hospital accommodates more than 400 patients and about 12,000 IDPs. In a petition against the targeting of the hospital to Israel's High Court of Justice, filed by Physicians for Human Rights - Israel, the State responded that "for now, we are not planning on attacking the hospital."

The hospitals that are still operational are on the brink of collapse due to the shortage of electricity, medicine, equipment and specialized personnel. Yet, the number of patients treated or awaiting treatment is at 150 per cent of capacity, given the closure of over 60 percent of primary care facilities in Gaza. Large numbers of patients are being treated on the ground given there are not enough hospital beds. Only eight of UNRWA's 22 health centres in Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates, are providing primary health care services to critical outpatients and patients in need of treatment.

The MoH in Gaza has been reallocating limited amounts of fuel to hospitals to keep them open and has asked people to donate their personal fuel supplies. Health Cluster partners estimate that mortality rates have been on the rise due to the extremely limited access to essential healthcare services.

Water and sanitation

Two out of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza today via the Rafah crossing carried 44,000 units of bottled water supplied by UNICEF, which is enough for only 22,000 people for one day.

Water production from municipal groundwater sources is at less than five per cent of the pre-hostilities levels. The three seawater desalination plants, which, prior to the hostilities, produced seven per cent of Gaza's water supply, are currently not operational. Water trucking operations came to a halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads being blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

People are consuming saline water with over 3,000 milligrams per litre of salt content from agricultural wells. This poses an immediate health risk, raising hypertension levels, especially in babies under six months, pregnant women and people with kidney disease. The use of saline groundwater also increases the risk of diarrhea and cholera.

The average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster.

Eastern Khan Younis (Bani Suheila area) is currently one of the few areas where piped water is supplied to households for a few hours per day. This follows the Israeli authorities' reactivation of one out of three water lines servicing this area on 15 October. The distribution of this water to the rest of Khan Younis city is impaired by the lack of pumping capacity.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power, resulting in substantial amounts of raw sewage being continuously dumped into the sea.

Due to the access restrictions to Gaza's main landfills, near the perimeter fence with Israel, solid waste has been accumulating in temporary locations and in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

Food security

Five of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 21 October carried food items, including three with food parcels and two with canned tuna.

Current stocks of essential food commodities within Gaza are sufficient for about 13 days, according to the World Food Program (WFP). However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last only for four more days. Despite the availability of essential food items, retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from local wholesalers due to widespread destruction and insecurity.

Wholesalers are mainly in Gaza city and face difficulties distributing available food stocks to the southern region. Due to the shortage of flour and fuel, bakeries are unable to meet local demand for fresh bread and are at risk of shutting down. The only operative mill cannot transform wheat due to electrical power outages.

The electricity blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The lack of access to fodder and damage from the airstrikes have taken a toll on farmers, with many breeders, primarily small-scale ones, reporting substantial losses among their animals, particularly in the poultry sector. Farmers are losing their crops in agricultural lands east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications enable information gathering on humanitarian needs and is therefore paramount to assistance delivery. Damage to related infrastructure during the hostilities, compounded by the fuel shortages, have severely impaired connectivity, undermining lifesaving operations.

Network monitoring systems of the Paltel Group show that across the Gaza Strip, 83 per cent of fixed line users are disconnected; 54 per cent of fixed line sites are disconnected; and 50 per cent of their main fiberoptic internet lines are not operational due to infrastructure damage and fuel shortage. Hostilities have resulted in cuts in two out of three fiber cables going out of Gaza, one of which was repaired after Israeli authorities granted the company a two-hour window for staff to fix one fiber cable.

Movement and access

For the first time since 8 October, the Rafah crossing with Egypt was open for the passage of a limited number of trucks (as detailed above). The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Since 7 October, patients have not been referred to medical appointments in the West Bank or Israel.

Additionally, over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to public shelters in the West Bank. On 19 and 17 October Israeli forces arrested more than 100 Palestinian workers from Gaza in the Bethlehem and Hebron Governorate in three separate raids

Access to the sea along Gaza has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas. The extension has led to reduced crop yields affecting hundreds of thousands of people harvesting crops.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced major constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. The prevailing insecurity is preventing safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. Since the start of hostilities, 16 health workers and 17 UNRWA staff have been killed while on duty, and more than ten others have been injured.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian ceasefire, a secured regular and sustainable access for humanitarian supplies and commodities across the Gaza Strip and significant funding for the humanitarian response.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF) redirected a total of US$9 million towards the priority needs identified, while the global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated another $9 million in Rapid Response funding, supplementing a pre-existing $6 million allocation from the Underfunded Emergencies Window.

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal is set to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, two additional Palestinian fatalities, were recorded since yesterday afternoon (by 21:00 on 21 October).

On 20 October, Israeli forces shot and killed a 17-year-old boy and injured 15 other Palestinians during a protest held in solidarity with Gaza next to Huwwara checkpoint (Nablus). In a separate incident, Israeli forces shot and killed a 17-year-old boy in the Aqbat Jaber Camp (Jericho) while they attempted to punitively demolish a Palestinian prisoner's home. Confrontations erupted when Palestinians threw stones at the Israeli forces, who responded with live ammunition, teargas and sound bombs.

Since the start of the escalation and by 21:00 on 21 October, Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank had killed 84 Palestinians, including 27 children. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,653 Palestinians, including at least 150 children. Another 35 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,100 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the biweekly average number of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 103 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of almost eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 81 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 64 ambulances and including 45 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care, 44 involving physical violence towards health teams, 16 involving detention of health staff and ambulances, and nine involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 6,570 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or US$187 per household) as of 21 October.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Child protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners are operating for Gaza (four partners in the West Bank) providing remote psychosocial support.
- One partner working on inclusion and persons with disabilities has been able to reach 38 out of the 87 shelters in the south with following activities: distribution of 93 assistive devices, 156 wound dressings, 36 kitchen sets, 45 dignity kits, 435 diapers, and 57 baby blankets.
- In the West Bank, the assigned MHPSS Focal Points are responding to settler violence triggers. The MHPSS Coordination Lead Focal Points at governorate levels are intervening as needed.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of non-food items and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 350,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 non-food items in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families. ICRC/PRCS distributed 7000 non-food items for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283, 000 children under 5 and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of mentally traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.

- Surge staff remain present in the Hospitals supporting case management.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. Through the Humanitarian Fund, PMRS will support primary health care service provisioning the remaining shelters.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) reached 122,000 displaced people residing in UNRWA shelters, providing bread across 48 designated shelters.
- 243,291 IDPs received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 13,546 have been redeemed. Some 65 per cent in the northern and 35 per cent in the southern governorates.
- PARC, is ready to provide food assistance to a total of 80,000 to 100,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate, as per a project included in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023.
- DanChurchAid has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-URWA shelter or in host Families.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

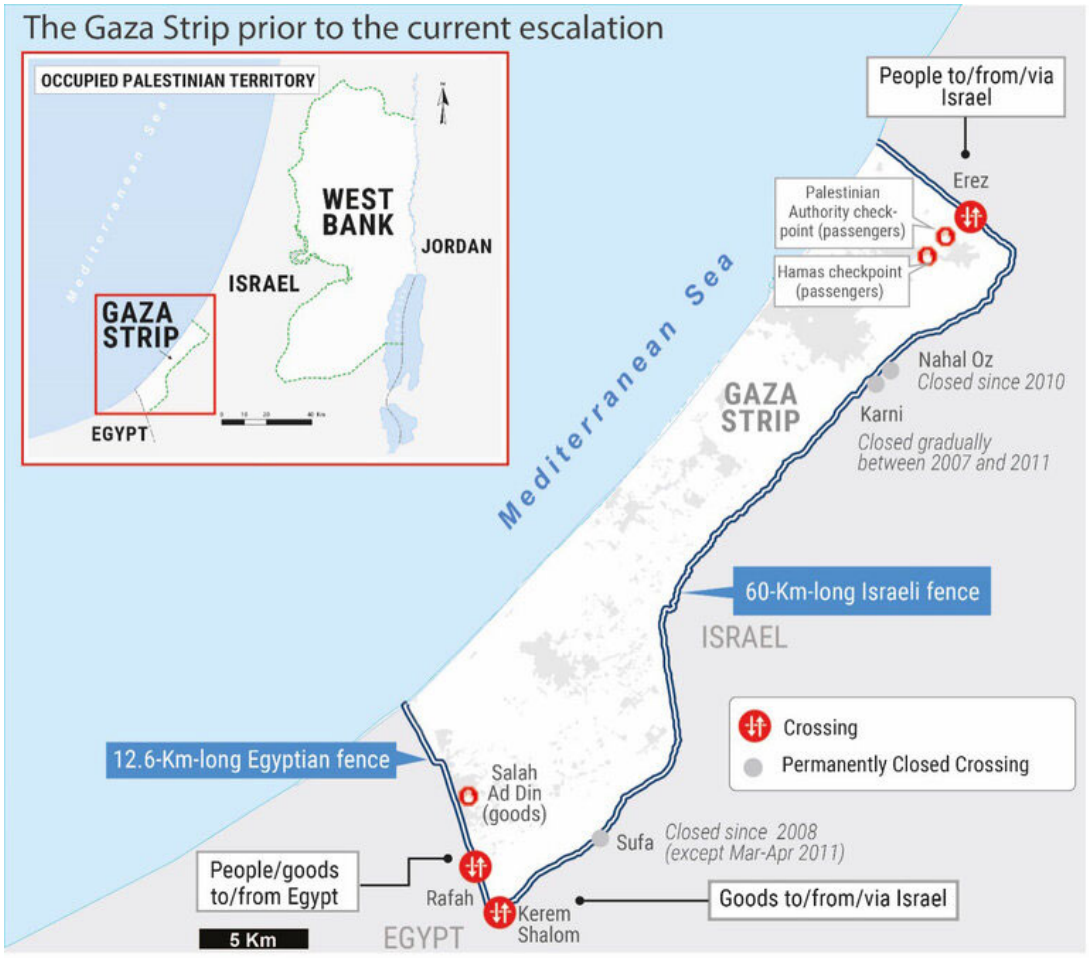
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Some 3,930 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.
- 450 cubic metres of water allocated for water trucking to supply water to IDP centres and hosted families.
- 70 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs shelters.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



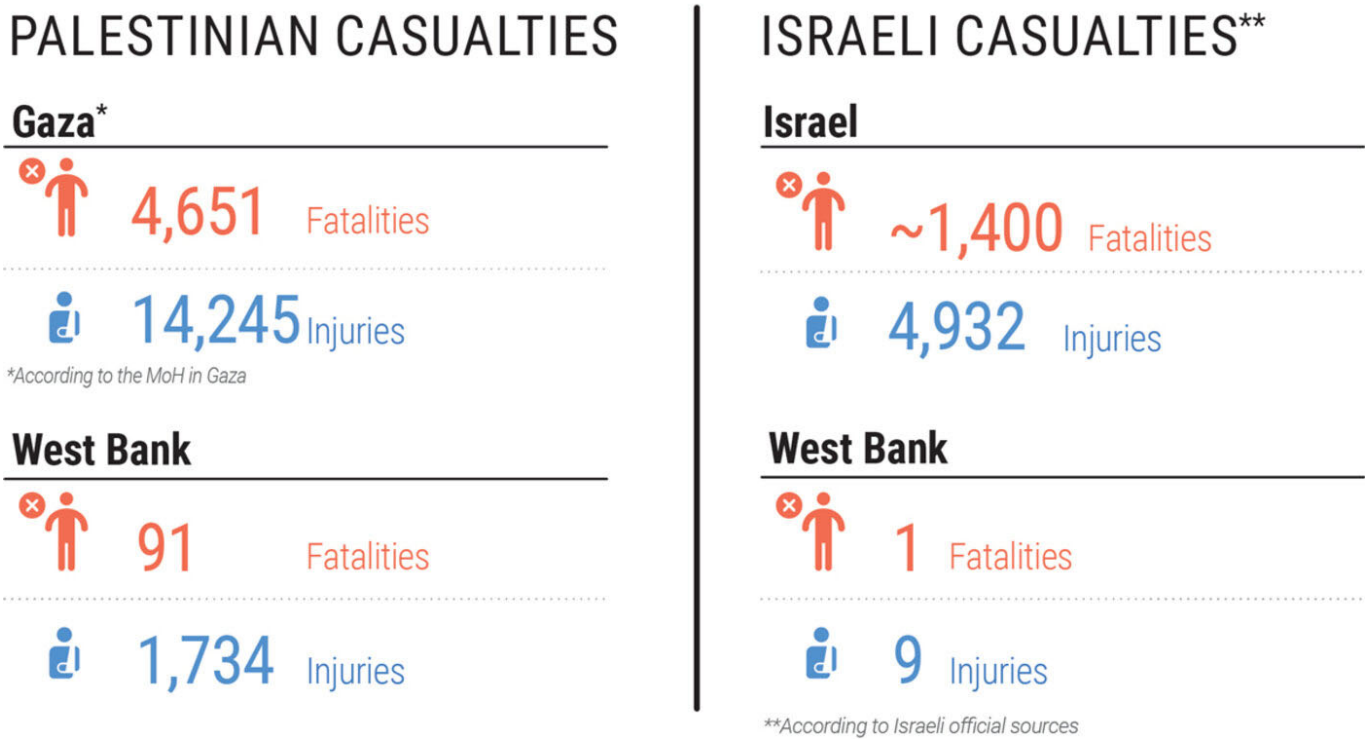
Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #16

22 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- On 22 October, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the second consecutive day, allowing the entry of 14 trucks carrying food, water and medical supplies. This is equivalent to about three per cent of the daily average volume of commodities entering Gaza prior to the hostilities. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said it was “another small glimmer of hope for the millions of people in dire need of humanitarian aid. But they need more, much more."

- Aid deliveries entering Gaza have not included fuel. UNRWA, by far the largest humanitarian provider in Gaza, will exhaust its fuel reserves within the next three days. Today UNRWA’s Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini called to immediately allow fuel supplies, adding that “no fuel will further strangle the children, women and people of Gaza.”



- Intense airstrikes continued across the Gaza Strip, where an additional 266 Palestinians have been killed in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00), according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. This brings the cumulative fatality toll among Palestinians in Gaza to 4,651, with 62 per cent of the fatalities being children and women, according to the

MoH. More than 1,000 people Palestinians have been reported missing and are presumed to be trapped or dead under the rubble.

- On 21 October, the Israeli military reportedly dropped leaflets in the Arabic-language throughout Gaza city warning residents choosing to stay that they may be considered “complicit with a terrorist organization.” Subsequently, in English social media, it denied any intention of considering those remaining members of a terrorist group. Under international humanitarian law, civilians must be protected whether they move or stay.
- About 1.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are estimated in Gaza, with nearly 580,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES). Overcrowding is a growing concern, as the average number of IDPs per shelter has reached more than 2.5 times their designated capacity.
- On 22 October, one Israeli soldier was reportedly shot and killed on the Gaza side of the perimeter fence. Palestinian armed groups’ indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no new Israeli fatalities reported in that context (as of 21:00).
- Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 22 October, the names of 767 of these fatalities have been released. Of those whose ages have been provided, 27 are children.
- According to the Israeli authorities, at least 212 people are currently held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The UN Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally. Two hostages with United States citizenship were released on 20 October.
- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 21 October, Israeli forces have killed seven Palestinians, including two killed in an airstrike in Jenin. This brings the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 91, including 27 children.
- At least 84 Palestinian households, comprising 545 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.



Humanitarian aid at the Rafah crossing, 21 October 2023. Photo by © UNICEF/UNI456244/El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Intense Israeli airstrikes and shelling across the Gaza Strip continued in the past 24 hours (as of 17:00 on 22 October). Nearly two-thirds of the fatalities during this period, 170 Palestinians, were recorded in the Middle Area, particularly in Al Bureij and Nuseirat camps and Deir Al Balah town, according to reports by medical and other sources. Airstrikes hitting three residential buildings in Khan Younis and Rafah reportedly resulted in the killing of 38 people. These localities are south of Wadi Gaza, the area into which Israeli authorities have ordered residents of northern Gaza to move. The targeting of multi-story residential buildings in Gaza city has continued, leading to at least 19 fatalities.

Since 7 October, 4,651 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 1,873 children and 1,023 women, and about 14,245 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. The reported fatality toll in Gaza during the 15 days of hostilities is more than double the total number of fatalities during the 50-day escalation of hostilities in 2014 (2,251 Palestinian fatalities).

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 22 October, 108 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members,99 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 367 families had lost two to five of their members.

In a press conference held on 21 October, the Israeli military's spokesperson said that, since the start of hostilities, there had been 550 failed shootings of rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel, which fell short in Gaza, killing a number of Palestinians.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 15,749 housing units and the rendering of 10,935 housing units uninhabitable, as of 21 October. Another 142,500 housing units sustained minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 43 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed, particularly in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Ash Shuja'iyeh, the area between Gaza and Ash Shati' Refugee Camp, and Abbassan Kabeera. As of 19 October, New satellite imagery produced by UNOSAT shows the large scope of destruction .

As of 19 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) had documented 62 attacks on health care affecting 29 health care facilities (including 19 hospitals damaged) and 23 ambulances. Seven hospitals, all in Gaza city and northern Gaza, were forced to shut down due to the damage they sustained, lack of power and supplies and/or evacuation orders.

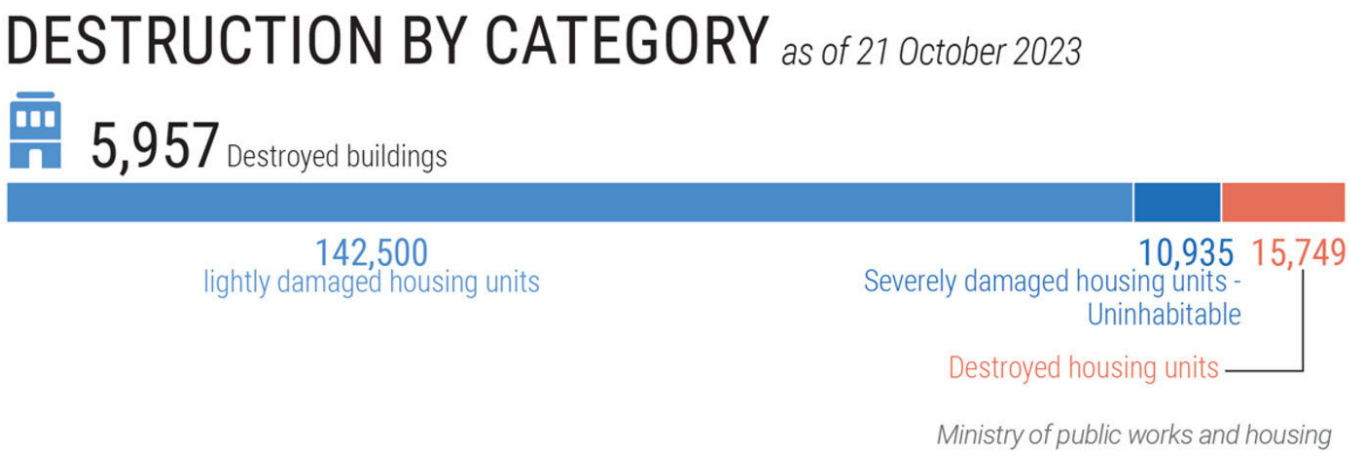
The extent of damage sustained by educational facilities and other civilian infrastructure is a growing concern. As of 21 October, 206 educational facilities have been affected, including at least 29 UNRWA schools. Eight of these schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in at least eight IDPs killed, and 40 others injured. One university building sustained severe damage, and minor damage was reported in one Directorate of Education building and one Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 4,932 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The reported fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to Israeli media, as of 22 October, the Israeli authorities have released the names of 792 fatalities, whose identity had been confirmed, including 451 civilians, 283 soldiers, and 58 police officers. Among those whose age has been provided, 27 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 580,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA Designated Emergency Shelters (DES), 101,500 sheltering in hospitals, churches and other public buildings, and nearly 71,000 in 67 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.



Overcrowding of UNRWA's DES in the central and southern areas has been a major concern. The number of IDPs per shelter has reached in many shelters 4,400, while they were designed to host 1,500-2,000 IDPs per shelter. The most crowded shelter (Khan Younis Training Center) is currently hosting about 21,000 IDPs.

In many shelters, up to 70 people are accommodated in one classroom. To ensure a safer environment, at night, women and children remain in the classrooms, while men and adolescent boys stay outdoors in the schoolyard. Overcrowding and shortages of basic supplies have triggered tensions among IDPs, alongside reported gender-based violence.

Essential resources such as water, food, and medicine are in critical short supply. Despite the limited availability of fuel, desalination equipment in the UNRWA shelters have so far continued to operate and provide potable water, supplemented by water trucking.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that hundreds, and possibly, thousands, of IDPs are returning to the north, due to continuous bombardments in the south, and the inability to find adequate shelter. Since the beginning of hostilities (as of 21:00 on 22 October), 12 IDPs sheltering at UNRWA schools have been killed and about 180 have been injured.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions. Similarly, the food distributed does not meet the needs of those with swallowing difficulties.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the thirteenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip.

Goods that entered Gaza on 21-22 October via the Rafah crossing did not include fuel. On 22 October, UNRWA coordinated with the Israeli and local authorities the transport of fuel stored in a facility within Gaza adjacent to the Rafah crossing, and its distribution to DES and hospitals.

Health care

Thirteen of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on the 21 October carried medical supplies. Four of the trucks were from WHO and which stated, "the supplies include trauma medicines and supplies for 1,200 people and portable trauma bags for on-the-spot stabilization of up to 235 injured people. They also include chronic diseases medicines and treatments for 1,500 people and basic essential medicines and health supplies for 300,000 people for three months." The other nine trucks were with medical supplies from Egyptian Red Crescent and Qatar. Additional supplies entered today (22 October). Some of the trucks entering on 22 October also carried medicines.

All 17 operational hospitals in Gaza city and north Gaza have remained so despite calls by the Israeli military to evacuate them. According to Health partners, this would endanger the lives of vulnerable patients and there is also extremely limited capacity and space to transfer them to other hospitals.

Shifa hospital in Gaza city, the largest in the Strip, is currently treating some 5,000 patients, significantly over its capacity of 700 patients, in addition to approximately 45,000 IDPs taking refuge within and around the hospital. The Al Quds Hospital, also in Gaza city, is accommodating more than 400 patients and about 12,000 IDPs.

These and other hospitals are on the brink of collapse due to the shortage of electricity, medicine, equipment and specialized personnel. Large numbers of patients are being treated on the ground given there are not enough hospital beds. Only eight of UNRWA's 22 health centres in Middle Area, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates, are providing primary health care services.

About 130 premature babies across the Gaza Strip, being treated in incubators for their survival, are at heightened risk, according to the MoH Gaza. In Shifa Hospital, an eight-day-old premature baby was transferred from another hospital after his home was hit on 15 October, with his entire family killed. His mother was 32-weeks-pregnant when she was injured. Medical teams managed to get her to the hospital, where she gave birth to her child just before dying. This eigh

day-old premature baby is facing multiple health issues, with the added risk stemming from the shortage of fuel to power his incubator. The severe shortage of available fuel and medical supplies has forced the shutdown of seven incubators typically used for critical cases in Shifa Hospital. On 22 October, only incubators for moderate cases were operational in the premature baby department.

Water and sanitation

Two out of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza on 21 October via the Rafah crossing carried 44,000 units of bottled water supplied by UNICEF, which is enough for only 22,000 people for one day. A limited number of additional units of bottled water entered on 22 October.

The three seawater desalination plants, which, prior to the hostilities, produced seven per cent of Gaza's water supply, are currently not operational, while only a few municipal groundwater sources operate at reduced levels. Water trucking operations came to a halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads being blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

People are consuming saline water with over 3,000 milligrams per litre of salt content from agricultural wells. This poses an immediate health risk, raising hypertension levels, especially in babies under six months, pregnant women and people with kidney disease. The use of saline groundwater also increases the risk of diarrhea and cholera. Health partners have detected cases of chicken pox, scabies and diarrhea, attributable to the poor sanitation conditions and consumption of water from unsafe sources. The incidence of such diseases is expected to rise unless water and sanitation facilities are provided with electricity or fuel to resume operations.

The average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster.

Eastern Khan Younis (Bani Suheila area) is currently one of the few areas where piped water is supplied to households for a few hours per day. This follows the Israeli authorities' reactivation of one out of three water lines servicing this area on 15 October. The distribution of this water to the rest of Khan Younis city is impaired by the lack of pumping capacity.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power, resulting in substantial amounts of raw sewage being continuously dumped into the sea.

Due to the access restrictions to Gaza's main landfills, near the perimeter fence with Israel, solid waste has been accumulating in temporary locations and in the streets, posing health and environmental hazards.

Food security

On 22 October, UNRWA distributed wheat flour to 16 bakeries (seven in Rafah, seven in Khan Younis, and two in the central area) to boost bread production and reduce the price of bread.

Five of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 21 October carried food items, including three with food parcels and two with canned tuna, and additional food supplied entered on 22 October.

On 21 October, the World Food Program (WFP) indicated that stocks of essential food commodities within Gaza were sufficient for about 13 days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last only for four more days. Despite the availability of essential food items, retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from local wholesalers due to widespread destruction and insecurity.

Wholesalers are mainly in Gaza city and face difficulties distributing available food stocks to the southern region. Due to the shortage of flour and fuel, bakeries are unable to meet local demand for fresh bread and are at risk of shutting down. The only operative mill cannot transform wheat due to electrical power outages.

The electricity blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The inability to access fodder and damage from the airstrikes has had a significant impact on farmers, particularly small-scale breeders, leading to substantial losses among their animals, especially in the poultry sector. Currently, more than 500,000 layers are without fodder, which is anticipated to result in a disruption of egg production after just two weeks of limited access to feed. Additionally, a considerable loss of cattle is expected. Farmers are also experiencing crop losses in agricultural lands east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications enable information gathering on humanitarian needs and is therefore paramount to assistance delivery. Damage to related infrastructure during the hostilities, compounded by the fuel shortages, have severely impaired connectivity, undermining lifesaving operations.

Network monitoring systems of the Paltel Group show that across the Gaza Strip, 83 per cent of fixed line users are disconnected; 54 per cent of fixed line sites are disconnected; and 50 per cent of their main fiberoptic internet lines are not operational due to infrastructure damage and fuel shortage. Hostilities have resulted in cuts in two out of three fiber cables leaving Gaza, one of which was repaired after Israeli authorities granted the company a two-hour window for staff to fix one fiber cable.

Movement and access

For the second consecutive day, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the passage of a limited number of trucks (as detailed above). As per the agreement reached between all stakeholders, trucks are directed first to the Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (around 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities, before they are allowed through the Rafah crossing.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Since 7 October, patients have not been referred to medical appointments in the West Bank or Israel. Over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to public shelters in the West Bank. On 17 and 19 October, Israeli forces, in three separate raids, arrested more than 100 Palestinian workers from Gaza in the Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates.

Access to the sea along Gaza has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel’s perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas. The extension has led to reduced crop yields affecting hundreds of thousands of people harvesting crops.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored. Since the start of hostilities, at least 16 health workers have been killed while on duty, along with 29 UNRWA staff.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian ceasefire, a secured, regular and sustainable access for humanitarian supplies and commodities across the Gaza Strip and significant funding for the humanitarian response.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF) redirected a total of US$9 million towards the priority needs identified, while the global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated another $9 million in Rapid Response funding, supplementing a pre-existing $6 million allocation from the Underfunded Emergencies Window.

On 12 October, the OPT Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched a Flash Appeal calling for US$294 million for 77 humanitarian partners to address the most urgent needs of 1,260,000 people in Gaza and the West Bank. This Flash Appeal is set to be revised given the significant increase in humanitarian needs.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed seven Palestinians since 21 October afternoon (by 21:00 on 22 October). This has brought the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the start of the escalation to 91, including 27 children. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians in the West Bank.

Two of the Palestinian fatalities in the past 24 hours occurred during an Israeli airstrike targeting a mosque in Jenin Refugee Camp, where, according to the Israeli army, a cell was about to launch a large attack. In another incident, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian man and injured four others during a search'and'arrest operation in Askar Refugee Camp (Nablus). Additionally, in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp (Hebron), Israeli forces opened fire at a Palestinian driver, who, according to Israeli sources, attempted to carry out a ramming attack, and killed him; Israeli forces reportedly prevented an ambulance from reaching him while he was bleeding on the ground.

In two search and arrest operations in Qabatiya (Jenin) and Tubas, Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians during clashes, one of which involved exchange of fire. Another Palestinian died of wounds sustained by Israeli forces on 13 October during a demonstration in Nablus.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,696 Palestinians, including at least 157 children. Another 38 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,200 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 28 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the biweekly average number of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 113 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of seven incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

On 21 October, armed settlers, reportedly from Meitarim settlement outpost, attacked Palestinian families in Khirbet Ar Ratheem herding community (Hebron), where they vandalized a residential structure, an animal shelter and a solar panel. A Palestinian family comprised of 16 membes, including 8 children, fled the area after settlers threatened them at gunpoint.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 81 attacks on health care in the West Bank, affecting 64 ambulances, and including 45 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care, 44 involving physical violence towards health teams, 16 involving detention of health staff and ambulances, and nine involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 10,492 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or US$187 per household) as of 21 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 58%.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- 3,000 Internal displaced people (IDPs) have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- Committees led by the displaced persons have been established in all shelters to ensure the participation, engagement and contribution of the displaced population in the management of the shelters.
- One partner reached to at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters and provided psycological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- One partner distributed food parcels and water 70 households in the south.

- One partner opened up space for some 300 IDPs in central Gaza, provided supplies, cash and MHPSS support.
- One partner supported 25 IDP of whom the vast majority were persons with disabilities, with cash and MHPSS. .
- Partners provided PFA in South of Gaza, financial support to AWDA Hospital, and cash transfer, food and NFIs in Rafah.
- In the West Bank, a humanitarian need assessment was conducted to Nur Shams Refugee Camp (Tulkarm) following the Israeli forces operation where Psychological First Aid (PFA) was delivered and assessed various humanitarian needs, including Mental Health and Psychological and protection needs.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and non-food Items (NFI) to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 350,000 IDPs are hosted at 102 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 7,000 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283, 000 children under 5 and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the Hospitals supporting case management.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. Through the Humanitarian Fund, PMRS will support primary health care service provisioning the remaining shelters.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) has reached to more than 300,000 IDPs residing in UNRWA shelters, providing 108 grams of bread each and canned Tuba from pre-existed stock. 243,291 IDPs have received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 18,865 have been redeemed. Some 44 per cent in the northern and 56 per cent in the southern governorates.
- PARC is ready to provide food assistance to a total of 80,000 to 100,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate, as per a project included in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023.
- DanChurchAid (DCA) has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-URWA shelter or in host Families.
- ANERA provides hot meals and food parcels to a total of 120,000 IDPs - 80 per cent to UN shelters, and 20 per cent to hosting communities and other small scale shelters.
- Vegetable baskets are provided to host families and small-scale shelter, for a total of 2,000 IDPS (UN-shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN-shelter) in Middle Area. Food parcels are provided to 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.

- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

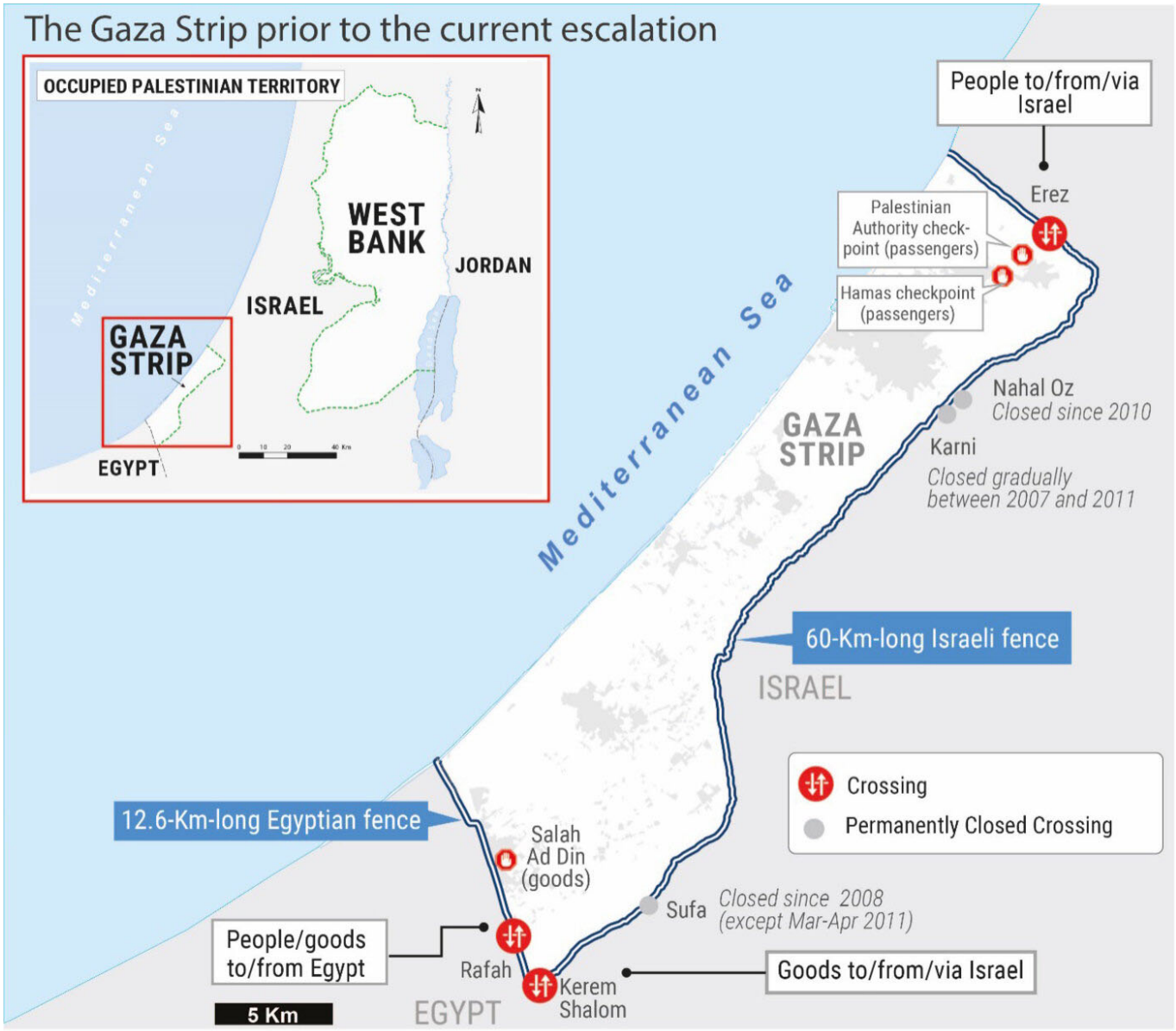
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Some 3,930 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.
- 450 cubic metres of water allocated for water trucking to supply water to IDP centres and hosted families.
- 70 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs shelters.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

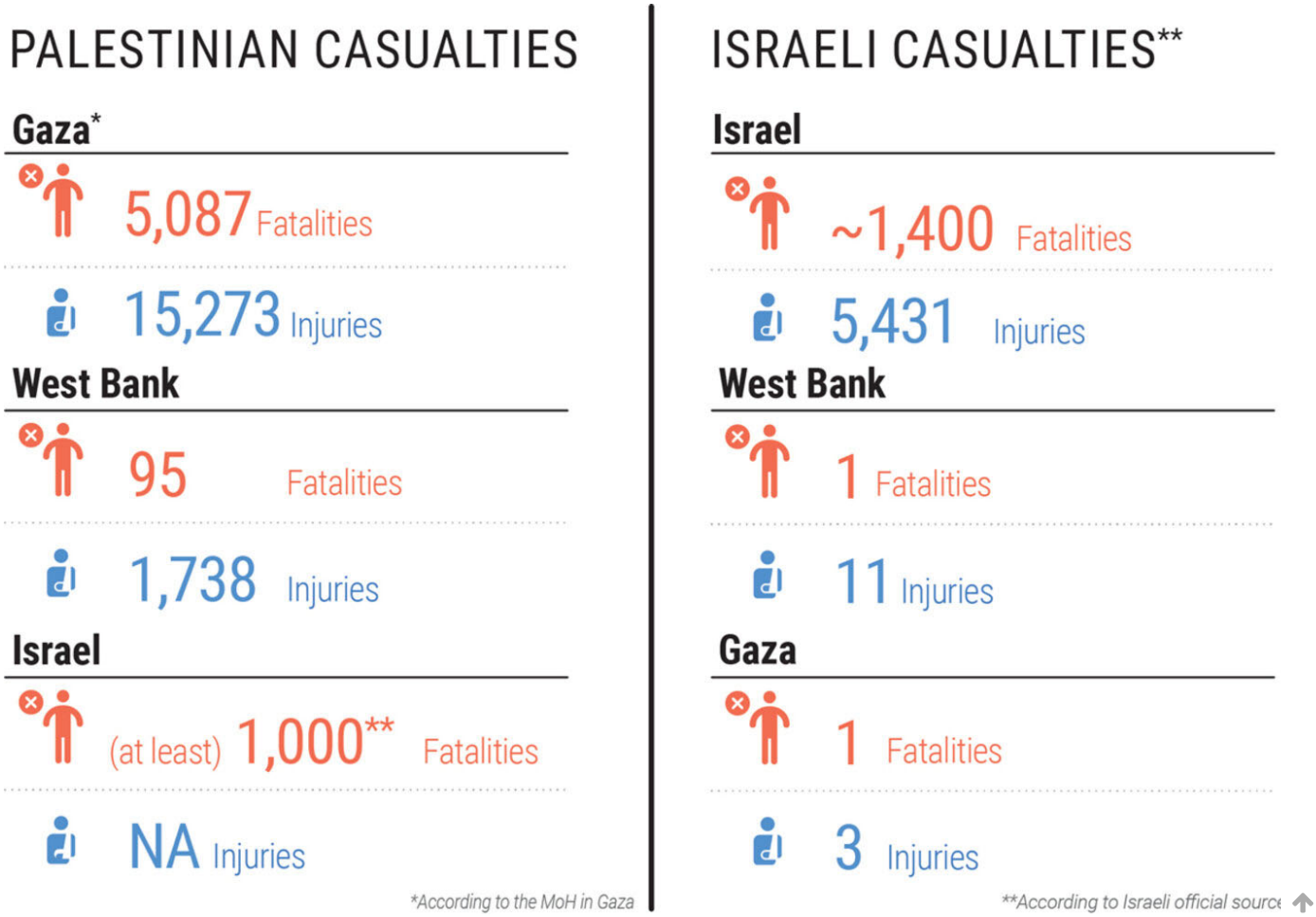

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #17

23 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Intense airstrikes continued across the Gaza Strip, where 436 Palestinians have been killed over the past 24 hours (as of 17:00 on 23 October), according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. The cumulative reported fatality toll among Palestinians in Gaza surpassed today 5,000, of whom 62 per cent are children and women, according to MoH. About 1,500 people have been reported missing and are presumed to be trapped or dead under the rubble.
- On 23 October, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the third consecutive day, allowing the entry of 20 trucks carrying food, water and medical supplies. This is equivalent to about four per cent of the daily average volume of commodities entering Gaza prior to the hostilities. None of the aid shipments have included desperately needed fuel to power hospitals and water facilities.



- The shortage of clean potable water, alongside water consumption from unsafe sources, remains a major concern. Since 22 October, the volume of water supplied from Israel to the western Khan Younis area declined by 20 per cent; water supply via two other pipelines from Israel to central and northern Gaza is suspended since 8 October.
- On 23 October, five hospitals erected tents within their compounds to cope with overcrowding. Shifa hospital, the largest in the Gaza Strip, is currently treating some 5,000 patients, significantly over its capacity of 700 patients, and hosting about 45,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Since 7 October, 12 hospitals and 46 primary care clinics across Gaza have been forced to shut down due to damage they had sustained or lack of electricity and supplies.
- There are an estimated 1.4 million IDPs in Gaza, with nearly 590,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES). Overcrowding is a growing concern, as the average number of IDPs per shelter has reached more than 2.5 times their designated capacity.
- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed since 7 October, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on the first day. Israeli media reported that, as of 23 October, the names of 855 of these fatalities have been released. Of those whose ages have been provided, 28 are children.
- According to the Israeli authorities, at least 220 people are currently held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The UN Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally. Two hostages with United States citizenship were released on 20 October, and two Israelis were reportedly released on 23 October.
- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 22 October, Israeli forces have killed four Palestinians, including one child. This brings the number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 95, including 28 children.
- At least 82 Palestinian households, comprising 607 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.
- So far, Member States have pledged nearly US$100 million for the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October to address humanitarian needs stemming from the current crisis, which would cover about 34 per cent of the total requirement ($294 million).



Humanitarian supplies received in southern Gaza, 23 October 2023. Photo by the Palestine Red Crescent Society

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Massive Israeli bombardments from the air and land intensified overnight across the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military indicated that they have attacked 320 targets, a three-fold increase compared to previous days. Among the deadliest attacks recorded in the past 24 hours were several airstrikes on residential buildings in Jabalia Refugee Camp, northern Gaza (at least 63 fatalities); Rafah city (at least 43 fatalities); in Deir Al-Balah (14 fatalities) and in Khan Younis (11 fatalities).

Furthermore, in the last 24 hours, two UNRWA installations, one in Al Bureij camp and the other in Nuseirat in the Middle area, sustained collateral damage due to airstrikes in the surrounding areas of these facilities.

Since 7 October, 5,087 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 2,055 children and 1,119 women, and about 15,273 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Some 67 per cent of the total Palestinian fatalities were reported in Gaza city and North Gaza governorates. The reported fatality toll in Gaza during the 17 days of hostilities is more than double the total number of fatalities during the 50-day escalation of hostilities in 2014 (2,251 Palestinian fatalities).

Additionally, about 1,500 people, including at least 800 children, have been reported missing and are presumed to be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

On 21 October, Israeli airstrikes hit a Civil Defense rescue team while on duty east of Rafah, killing one civil defense staff and injuring four others, bringing the fatality toll among Civil Defense members to 34.

In a press conference held on 21 October, the Israeli military's spokesperson said that, since the start of hostilities, there had been 550 failed shootings of rock ets fired by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel, which fell short in Gaza, killing a number of Palestinians.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 15,749 housing units and the rendering of 10,935 other units uninhabitable, as of 21 October. Another 142,500 housing units sustained minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units reported as destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 43 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighborhoods have been destroyed, particularly in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Ash Shuja'iyeh, the area between Gaza and Ash Shati' Refugee Camp, and Abbassan Kabeera. As of 19 October, new satellite imagery produced by UNOSAT shows the large scope of destruction.

As of 23 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) has documented 72 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip that have resulted in 16 fatalities and 30 injuries of health care workers on duty. The attacks have affected 34 health care facilities (including 19 hospitals damaged) and 24 ambulances. Twelve hospitals and 46 primary care clinics are no longer functioning, while all hospitals are implementing emergency contingency plans that affect functioning and access to health care. The extent of damage sustained by educational facilities and other civilian infrastructure is a growing concern.

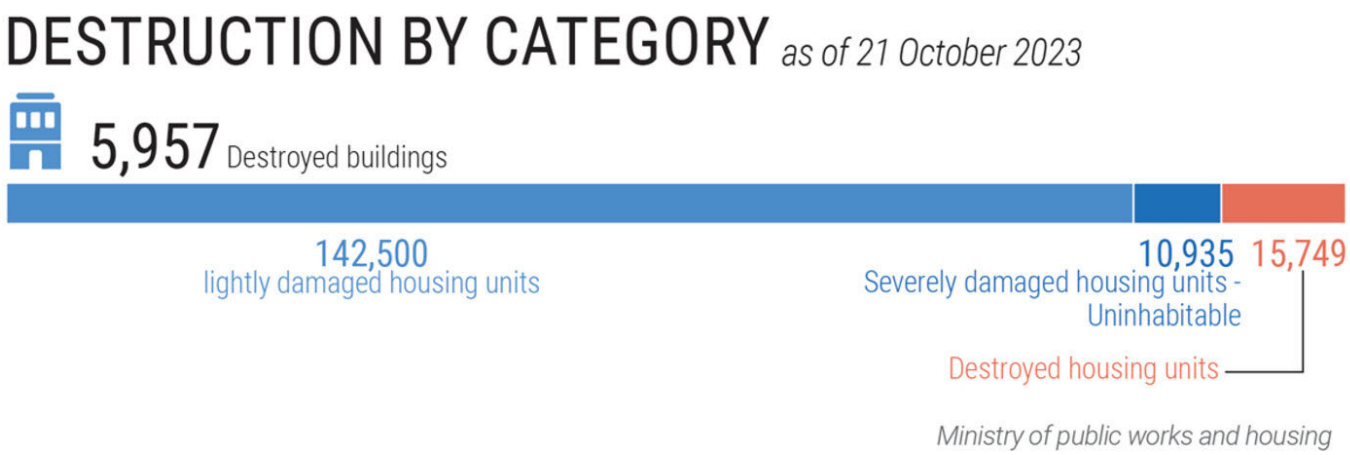
As of 21 October, 206 educational facilities have been affected, including at least 29 UNRWA schools. Eight of these schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in at least eight IDPs killed, and 40 others injured.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,431 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. The reported fatality toll is over threefold the cumulative number of Israelis killed since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005 (nearly 400).

According to Israeli media, as of 23 October, the Israeli authorities have released the names of 855 fatalities, whose identity had been confirmed, including 516 civilians, including 28 children, 281 soldiers, and 58 police officers.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 590,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA DES, 101,500 sheltering in hospitals, churches and other public buildings, and nearly 71,000 in 67 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.



Overcrowding of UNRWA DES in the central and southern areas has been a major concern. The number of IDPs has reached in many shelters 4,400, while they were designed to host 1,500-2,000 IDPs per shelter. In many shelters, up to 70 people are accommodated in one classroom. To ensure a safer environment, at night, women and children remain in th

classrooms, while men and adolescent boys stay outdoors in the schoolyard. Overcrowding and shortages of basic supplies have triggered tensions among IDPs, alongside reported gender-based violence.

Essential resources such as water, food, and medicine are in critical short supply. Despite the limited availability of fuel, desalination equipment in the UNRWA shelters have so far continued to operate and provide potable water, supplemented by water trucking.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that hundreds, and possibly, thousands, of IDPs are returning to the north, due to continuous bombardments in the south, and the inability to find adequate shelter. Since the beginning of hostilities (as of 21:00 on 22 October), 12 IDPs sheltering at UNRWA schools have been killed and about 180 have been injured.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions. Similarly, the food distributed does not meet the needs of those with swallowing difficulties.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the fourteenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel. On 22 October, UNRWA coordinated with the Israeli and local authorities the transport of fuel stored in a facility within Gaza adjacent to the Rafah crossing, and its distribution to DES and hospitals.

Health care

Four out of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 23 October carried vital medical supplies. These supplies will play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services. WHO is coordinating with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to facilitate the swift delivery of these supplies to major hospitals. Since 21 October, 13 trucks with medical supplies have successfully made their way into Gaza.

As of 23 October, five of Gaza's main hospitals have erected tents within their compounds to accommodate patients due to a lack of available space. Shifa hospital in Gaza city, the largest in the Gaza Strip, is treating some 5,000 patients, significantly over its capacity of 700 patients, in addition to approximately 45,000 IDPs taking refuge within and around the hospital. The Al Quds Hospital, also in Gaza city, is accommodating more than 400 patients and about 12,000 IDPs.

These and other hospitals are on the brink of collapse due to the shortage of electricity, medicine, equipment and specialized personnel. Large numbers of patients are being treated on the ground given there are not enough hospital beds. Only eight of UNRWA's 22 health centres in the Middle Area, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates, provide primary health care services. The UNRWA stocks of medicines are critically decreasing with different medicines available for another 5-15 days.

In addition to the shortage of fuel, hospitals operations are undermined by the recurrent breakdown and malfunctioning of backup generators, which are not designed to operate uninterruptedly. Their maintenance and repair are increasingly challenging due to the lack of necessary spare parts.

The Ministry of Health has requested the deployment of international medical teams, particularly those with expertise in trauma and surgical care, to enhance the hospitals' capacities and relieve the health workers who have been tirelessly working for the past 17 days. Although 14 teams worldwide are on standby, they cannot be deployed due to the ongoing siege.

Kidney failure patients are facing life-threatening risks. Prior to 7 October, the Ministry of Health in Gaza was running kidney dialysis services at six centres, conducting about 13,000 dialysis sessions every month. However, the severe shortage of fuel and essential medical supplies has compelled these centres to shorten dialysis sessions from 4 to 2.5 hours for more than 1,000 patients, including at least 30 children. Kidney failure patients now fear that they may soon be unable to access these vital dialysis services due to the unavailability of essential medical supplies. The Ministry of Health's supplies of kidney dialysis filters, cannulas, and blood transfer tubes are entirely depleted, with only a limited quantity remaining in the kidney dialysis departments.

Water and sanitation

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster reported that, since 22 October, the volume of water supplied from Israel to the western Khan Younis area declined by some 20 per cent (from about 600 to 480 cubic metres per hour); the reasons are unclear. Meanwhile, water supply through two other pipelines from Israel is suspended since 8 October, including one line reaching Deir Al Balah town, located south of Wadi Gaza.

On 21 October, one of the three seawater desalination plants located in Khan Younis resumed operations at less than seven per cent of its capacity. This was made possible after UNRWA managed to coordinate the retrieval and distribution of fuel from one of its storage facilities in Gaza. The newly available water (some 450 cubic metres per day) is being trucked to UNRWA DES. The other two plants remain non-operational.

Water trucking operations by private suppliers came to a halt in most areas due to the lack of fuel, insecurity and roads being blocked by debris. Bottled water is largely unavailable, and its price has made it unaffordable for most families. Private vendors, who operate small water desalination and purification plants, which are mostly run by solar energy, became the main suppliers of clean drinking water.

People are consuming saline water with over 3,000 milligrams per litre of salt content from agricultural wells. This poses an immediate health risk, raising hypertension levels, especially in babies under six months, pregnant women and people with kidney disease. The use of saline groundwater also increases the risk of diarrhea and cholera. Health partners have detected cases of chicken pox, scabies and diarrhea, attributable to the poor sanitation conditions and consumption of water from unsafe sources. The incidence of such diseases is expected to rise unless water and sanitation facilities are provided with electricity or fuel to resume operations.

The average water consumption from all sources and for all needs (including cooking and hygiene) dipped to just three litres per day per person, according to estimates by partners of the WASH Cluster.

Most of the 65 sewage pumping stations are not operational, increasing the risk of sewage flooding. All five wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have been forced to shut down due to lack of power, resulting in substantial amounts of raw sewage being continuously dumped into the sea.

Food security

Eleven out of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 23 October carried food items, including food parcels, canned tuna, and wheat flour.

Currently, only five out of the 24 bakeries contracted with the World Food Programme (WFP) are operational and supplying bread to shelters. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand for fresh bread, putting them at risk of shutting down. Bakeries are struggling, with long queues forming before dawn. The average waiting time is reportedly six hours, and people endure this wait to receive half the normal portion.

Furthermore, as of 23 October, 17 out of the 202 WFP contracted shops have been forced to close. This closure is a result of destruction caused by hostilities, particularly within Gaza city and North Gaza governorates, or due to security concerns and blocked roads caused by debris.

On 21 October, WFP indicated that stocks of essential food commodities within Gaza were sufficient for about 13 days. Despite the availability of essential food items, retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from local wholesalers due to widespread destruction and insecurity.

Wholesalers are mainly in Gaza city and face difficulties distributing available food stocks to the southern region. Due to the shortage of flour and fuel, bakeries are unable to meet local demand for fresh bread and are at risk of shutting down. The only operative mill cannot transform wheat due to electrical power outages.

The electricity blackout has disrupted food security by affecting refrigeration, crop irrigation, and crop incubation devices, consequently harming various livelihoods, including poultry, cattle, fish, and other commodities.

The inability to access fodder and damage from the airstrikes has had a significant impact on farmers, particularly small-scale breeders, leading to substantial losses among their animals, especially in the poultry sector. Currently, more than 500,000 layers are without fodder, which is anticipated to result in a disruption of egg production after just two weeks of limited access to feed. Additionally, a considerable loss of cattle is expected. Farmers are also experiencing crop losses in agricultural lands east of Khan Yunis and other locations.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications enable information gathering on humanitarian needs and is therefore paramount to assistance delivery. Damage to related infrastructure during the hostilities, compounded by the fuel shortages, have severely impaired connectivity, undermining lifesaving operations.

Network monitoring systems of the Paltel Group show that across the Gaza Strip, 83 per cent of fixed line users are disconnected; 54 per cent of fixed line sites are disconnected; and 50 per cent of their main fiberoptic internet lines are not operational due to infrastructure damage and fuel shortage. Hostilities have resulted in cuts in two out of three fiber cables leaving Gaza, one of which was repaired after Israeli authorities granted the company a two-hour window for staff to fix one fiber cable.

Movement and access

For the third consecutive day, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the passage of a limited number of trucks (as detailed above). As per the agreement reached between all stakeholders, trucks are directed first to the Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities, before they are allowed through the Rafah crossing.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Since 7 October, patients have not been referred to medical appointments in the West Bank or Israel. Over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to public shelters in the West Bank. On 17 and 19 October, Israeli forces, in three separate raids, arrested more than 100 Palestinian workers from Gaza in the Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates.

Access to the sea along Gaza has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas. The extension has led to reduced crop yields affecting hundreds of thousands of people harvesting crops.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored. Since the start of hostilities, at least 16 health workers have been killed while on duty, along with 35 UNRWA staff, six of whom were killed in the past 24 hours.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

The reach of operations will remain limited without a humanitarian ceasefire, secured, regular and sustainable access for humanitarian supplies and commodities across the Gaza Strip and significant funding for the humanitarian response.

As of 23 October, about $99.6 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 34 per cent of the $294 million estimated as required when the Appeal was first launched. About $70.6 millions of these pledges were earmarked for UNRWA.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians, including one child since the afternoon of 22 October (by 21:00 on 23 October). These fatalities were recorded during confrontations that erupted over the course of two search-and-arrest operations carried out in Al Jalazun refugee camp (Ramallah) and Zawata village (Nablus).

This has brought the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the start of the escalation to 95, including 28 children. During that period, one member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians in the West Bank.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,700 Palestinians, including at least 157 children, in the West Bank. Another 38 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,200 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 28 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the biweekly average number of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 120 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of seven incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

Settler violence continued unabated, targeting herding and farming communities. On 22 and 23 October, Israeli settlers reportedly vandalized more than 200 Palestinian-owned olive trees in As Sawiya (Nablus), Immatin (Qalqiliya) and Kafr ad Dik (Salfit). On 22 October, assailants believed to be from Asfar settlement set fire to several structures and tons of animal fodder in Jurat Al Kheil community (Hebron).

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 96 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 77 ambulances and including 49 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 53 involving physical violence towards health teams; 17 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and ten involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 10,492 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 21 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 58%.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- 3,000 Internal displaced people (IDPs) have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.

- Committees led by the displaced persons have been established in all shelters to ensure the participation, engagement and contribution of the displaced population in the management of the shelters.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters and provided psycological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- One partner distributed food parcels and water to 70 households in the south.
- One partner opened up space for some 300 IDPs in central Gaza, provided supplies, cash and MHPSS support.
- One partner supported 25 IDPs of whom the vast majority were persons with disabilities, with cash and MHPSS.
- Partners provided PFA in south of Gaza, financial support to AWDA Hospital, and cash transfer, food and NFIs in Rafah.
- In the West Bank, a humanitarian needs assessment was conducted in Nur Shams refugee camp (Tulkarm), following the Israeli forces operation where PFA was delivered and various humanitarian needs assessed, including mental health and psychological and protection needs.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 590,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283, 000 children under 5 and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.

- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. Through the Humanitarian Fund, PMRS will support primary health care services provisioning the remaining shelters.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- The World Food Program (WFP) has reached more than 300,000 IDPs residing in UNRWA shelters, providing 212,000 people with bread and 410,564 people with canned tuna.
- 246,368 IDPs have received cash-based transfer (CBT) for food. Of those, 18,865 have been redeemed, some 44 per cent in the northern and 56 per cent in the southern governorates.
- PARC is ready to provide food assistance to 80,000 to 100,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate, as per a project included in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023.
- DanChurchAid (DCA) has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-URWA shelter or in host Families.
- ANERA provides hot meals and food parcels to 120,000 IDPs - 80 percent to UN shelters, and 20 percent to hosting communities and other small-scale shelters.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

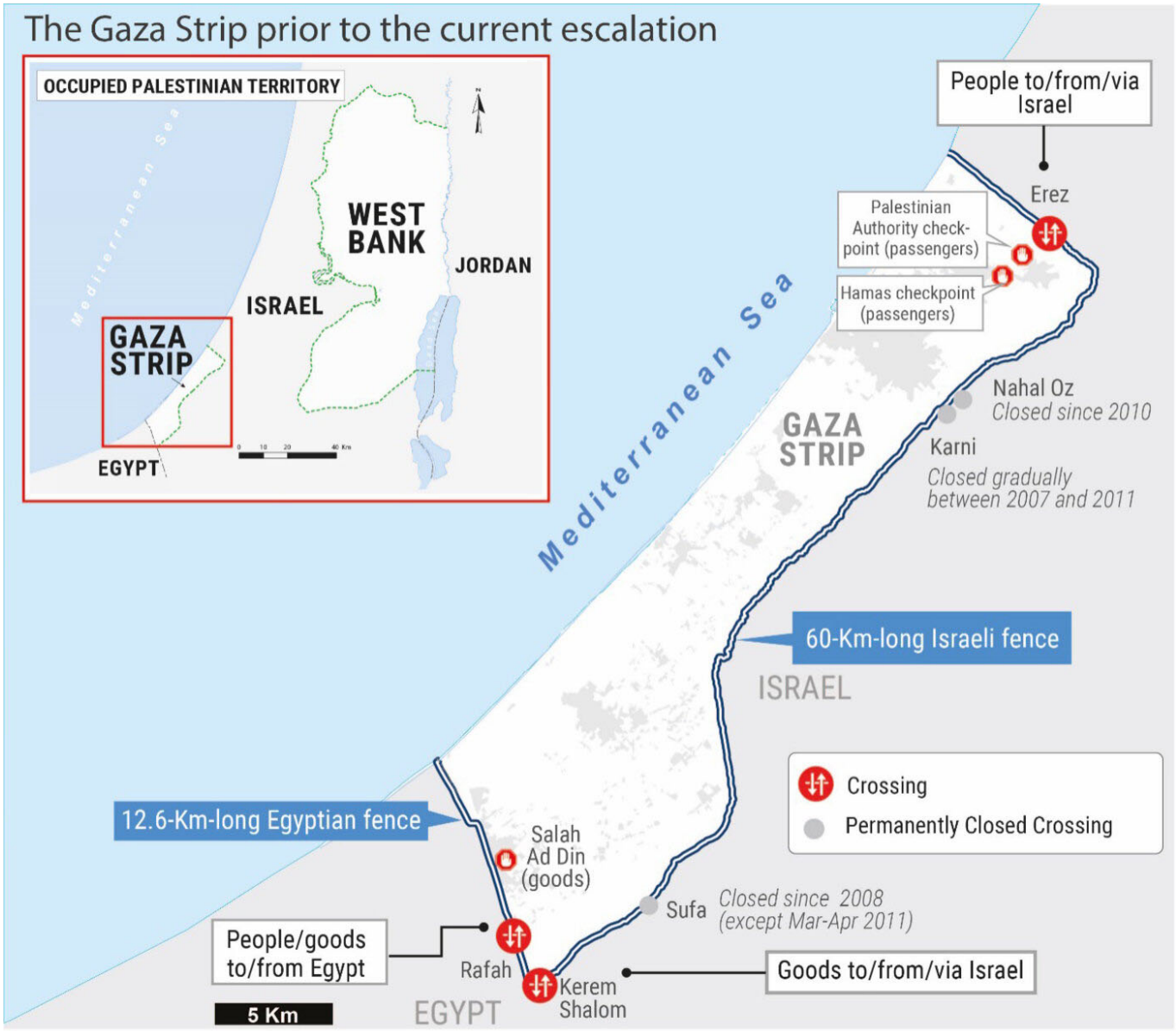
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water to the population.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Some 3,930 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- Reviewing and checking feasibility of water trucking operations.
- 450 cubic metres of water allocated for water trucking to supply water to IDP centres and hosted families.
- 70 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs shelters.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

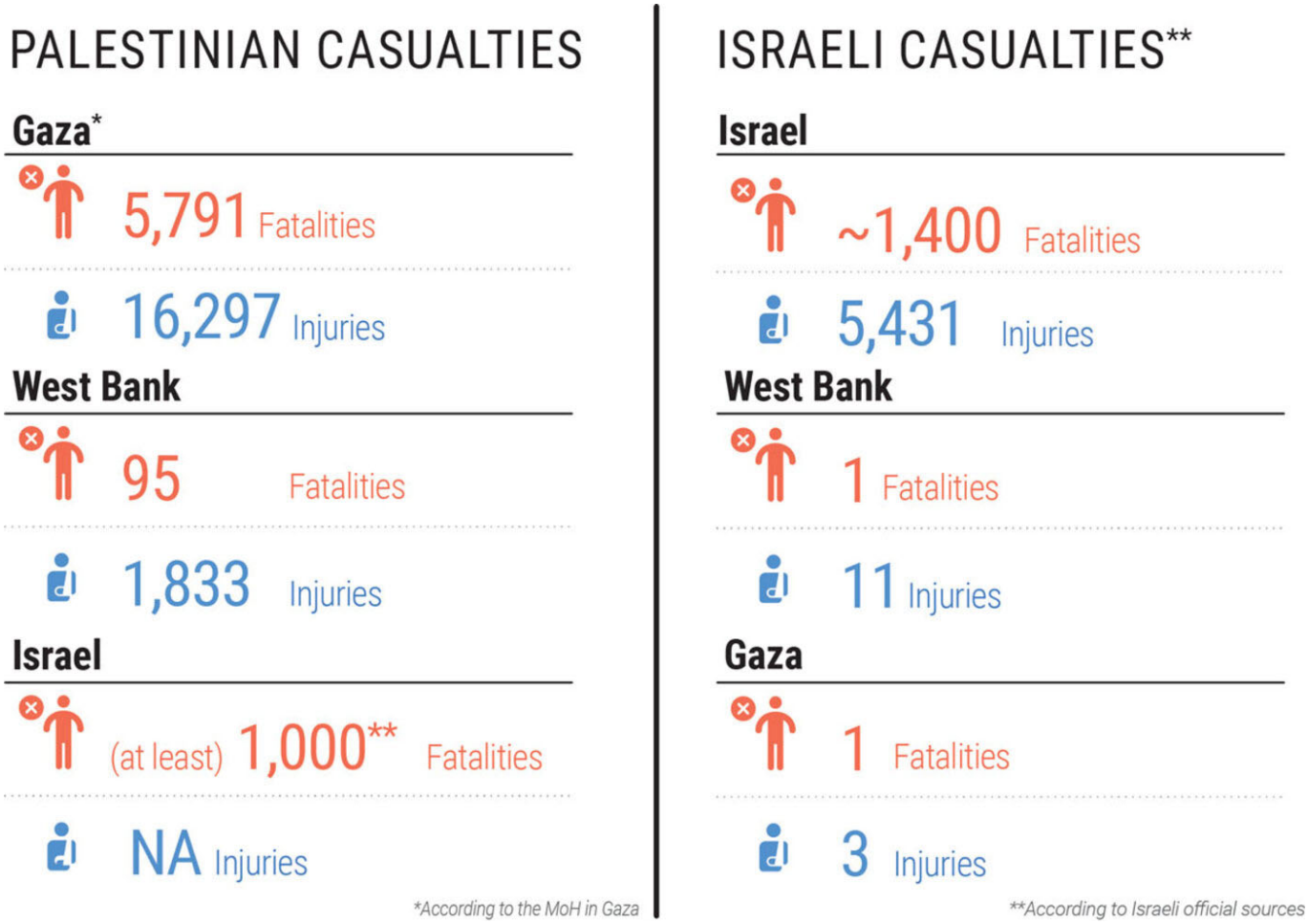

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #18

24 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- A total of 704 Palestinians, including 305 children, have been killed over the past 24 hours (as of 18:00 on 24 October), according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. This is the highest fatality toll reported in a single day in Gaza during this round of hostilities. The cumulative number of Palestinians killed in Gaza has reached 5,791, of whom 68 per cent are children and women, according to MoH. About 1,550 people, including 870 children, have been reported missing and may still be under the rubble. This follows the most intense Israeli bombardment and airstrikes in Gaza since the escalations began.
- UNRWA, by far the largest humanitarian provider in Gaza, warned that unless fuel is allowed into Gaza immediately, the agency will be forced to halt all operations as of tomorrow, 25 October, at night. Since 11 October, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, rendering hospitals and water facilities dependent on backup generators run by fuel.



- Over one-third of hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage from hostilities or lack of fuel.
- On 24 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered 51 pallets of lifesaving medicines, surgical equipment and other supplies to Shifa Hospital, the largest medical centre in Gaza, located in Gaza city. This is one out of seven hospitals that benefitted from the medical supplies allowed into Gaza via the Rafah crossing between 21 and 23 October.
- 44,000 units of bottled water entered on 22 October, addressing the drinking needs of 22,000 people for one day. Three of the trucks that entered Gaza on 23 October via the Rafah Crossing carried 4,000 jerrycans of drinking water (10 litres each), 2,400 hygiene kits, and 2,000 water purification devices. The water will cover the drinking needs of about 13,000 people for one day. Eleven out of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 23 October carried food items, including food parcels and canned tuna. Overall, food supplies, water and non-food items that entered on 21-23 October have been distributed mainly in UNRWA DES shelters in southern Gaza.
- An estimated 1.4 million people in Gaza are internally displaced (IDPs), with nearly 590,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES). Overcrowding is a growing concern, as the average number of IDPs per shelter has reached 2.6 times their designated capacity, with the most overcrowded one reaching 11 times its intended capacity.
- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, reportedly reaching as far as the northern West Bank. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed since 7 October, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on the first day.
- According to the Israeli authorities, at least 220 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The UN Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally.

Two hostages with United States citizenship were released on 20 October, and two Israelis were released on 23 October.

- No Palestinian fatalities were recorded in the West Bank since the afternoon of 23 October (as of 21:00 on 24 October). In total, 95 Palestinian have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October, including 28 children.



Aid unloaded in the Gaza Strip. Photo by © UNICEF/El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Massive Israeli bombardments from the air and land intensified overnight across the Gaza Strip. The day resulted in the highest number of fatalities in Gaza since the start of the hostilities, as reported by MoH in Gaza. The Israeli military indicated that they have attacked 400 targets, a new high since the start of hostilities.

In one of the airstrikes, a residential building in Rafah was destroyed, killing 48 people and injuring dozens. In Ash Shati refugee camp, airstrikes destroyed three residential buildings overnight, resulting in 36 fatalities, with many others reportedly missing, presumably under the rubble.

Airstrikes also struck Souq An Nuseirat with at least 20 fatalities. The incident took place at noon when the market was the busiest. Shoppers were hit while they were inside a large supermarket.

Since 7 October, 5,791 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 2,360 children and 1,292 women, and about 16,297 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Some 68 per cent of the total number of Palestinian fatalities were reported in Gaza city and North Gaza governorates.

Additionally, about 1,550 people, including at least 800 children, have been reported missing and are presumed to be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 24 October, 133 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members, 108 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 403 families had lost two to five of their members.

According to the Israeli military's spokesperson, between 7 and 21 October, there had been 550 failed shootings of rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel, which fell short in Gaza killing a number of Palestinians.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works reported the destruction of 16,441 housing units and the rendering of 11,340 other units uninhabitable, as of 23 October. Another 150,000 housing units sustained minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units reported as destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 45 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed, particularly in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Ash Shuja'iyeh, the area between Gaza and Ash Shati' Refugee Camp, and Abbassan Kabeera. As of 19 October, new satellite imagery produced by UNOSAT shows the large scope of destruction.

As of 23 October, WHO has documented 72 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip that have resulted in 16 fatalities and 30 injuries of health care workers on duty. The attacks have affected 34 health care facilities (including 19 hospitals damaged) and 24 ambulances.

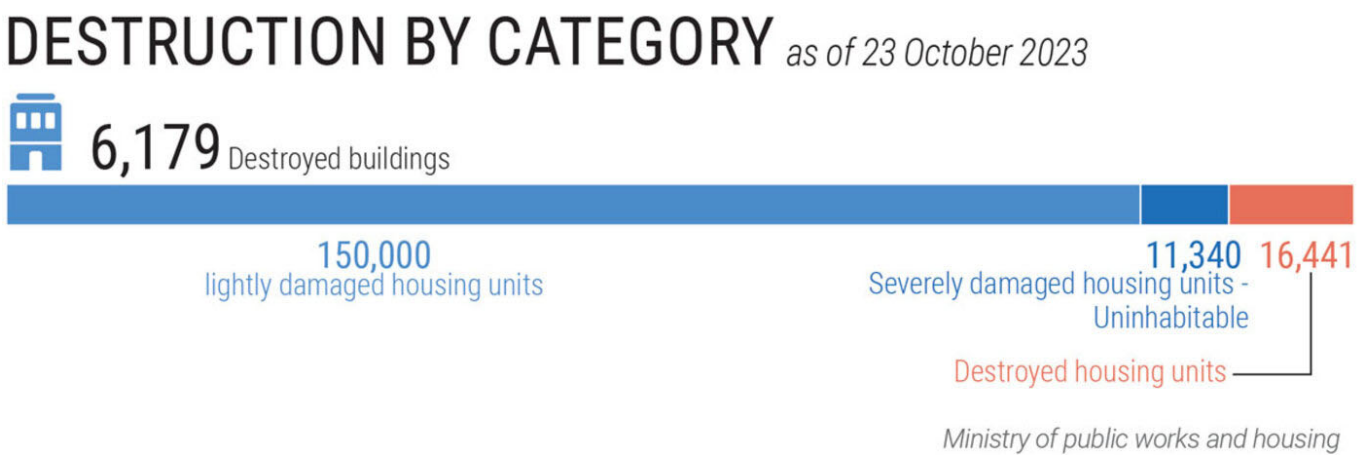
As of 24 October, 207 educational facilities have been hit, including at least 29 UNRWA schools. Eight of these schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in at least eight IDPs killed, and 40 others injured.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,431 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 23 October, the names of 860 of these fatalities have been released, including 554 civilians, 269 soldiers, and 58 police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 28 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 590,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA DES, 101,500 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 79,000 in 67 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.

Overcrowding of UNRWA DES in the central and southern areas has been a major concern. The number of IDPs has reached in many shelters 4,400, while they were designed to host 1,500-2,000 IDPs per shelter. In many shelters, up to 70 people are accommodated in one classroom. To ensure a safer environment, at night, women and children remain in the classrooms, while men and adolescent boys stay outdoors in the schoolyard. Overcrowding and shortages of basic supplies have triggered tensions among IDPs, alongside reported gender-based violence.



Essential resources such as water, food, and medicine are in critical short supply. Despite the limited availability of fuel, desalination equipment in the UNRWA shelters have so far continued to operate and provide potable water. This has been supplemented by water trucked from a desalination plant that resumed operations recently, alongside bottled water, some of which has entered recently via the Rafah crossing (see WASH section below).

Anecdotal evidence indicates that hundreds, and possibly, thousands, of IDPs are returning to the north, due to continuous bombardments in the south, and the inability to find adequate shelter. Since the beginning of hostilities, 12 IDPs sheltering at UNRWA schools have been killed and about 180 have been injured. The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory stated: "When it comes to decisions on whether and where to flee, civilians are damned if they do and damned if they don't."

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the fifteenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel. On 22 October, UNRWA coordinated with the Israeli and local authorities the transport of fuel stored in a facility within Gaza, adjacent to the Rafah crossing, and its distribution to DES and hospitals.

On 24 October, UNRWA warned that unless fuel is allowed into Gaza immediately, the agency will be forced to halt all operations, as of 25 October, at night.

Health care

Four out of the 20 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing on 23 October carried vital medical supplies. While limited in volume, these supplies will play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services. WHO is coordinating with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to facilitate the swift delivery of these supplies to major hospitals. Since 21 October, 13 trucks with medical supplies have successfully made their way into Gaza. So far, medical supplies have reached seven hospitals and several PRCS facilities.

In total, 66 per cent of medical facilities across Gaza are still functioning while 34 per cent have stopped functioning. According to the MoH in Gaza, "the health care system has reached the worst stage in its history."

UN personnel visiting a number of hospitals, noted hundreds of wounded men, women, and children in one of the hospitals. Many of them were unconscious, with open wounds, lying on beds, stretchers and on the floor, with limited medical attendance. In the yard, there was a tent with tens of dead bodies, including children. Many of the dead are kept there because the morgues are full.

The hospital has reached an unprecedented point of devastation due to the influx of injuries combined with severe shortages of essential resources, such as medical supplies, personnel, electricity, water, and fuel. Fuel at the hospitals is being severely rationed and is used to run a selected number of critical facilities. The back-up generators are not designed for continuous operation and are therefore likely to break.

Due to food insecurity, women and children, especially pregnant and lactating women, are at risk of malnutrition, which will negatively affect their immune health, increasing their susceptibility to contracting maternal nutrition-related illnesses such as anemia, preeclampsia, hemorrhage. This increases the risk of death for both mothers and babies.

Water and sanitation

The WASH Cluster reported that, since 22 October, the volume of water supplied from Israel to the western Khan Younis area was reduced to some 20 per cent of the previous supply (from about 600 to 120 cubic metres per hour). On 24 October, supply increased to 200 cubic metres per hour. Meanwhile, water supply through two other pipelines from Israel is suspended since 8 October, including one line reaching Deir Al Balah town, located south of Wadi Gaza.

On 21 October, one of the three seawater desalination plants in Khan Younis resumed operations at less than 7 per cent of its capacity. This was made possible after UNRWA managed to coordinate the retrieval and distribution of fuel from one of its storage facilities in Gaza. The newly available water (some 450 cubic metres per day) is being trucked to UNRWA DES south of Wadi Gaza, providing for the drinking needs of about 40,000 IDPs per day. The other two plants remain non-operational.

People are consuming saline water with over 3,000 milligrams per litre of salt content from agricultural wells. This poses an immediate health risk, raising hypertension levels, especially in babies under six months, pregnant women, and people with kidney disease. The use of saline groundwater also increases the risk of diarrhea and cholera. Health partners have detected cases of chicken pox, scabies, and diarrhea, attributable to the poor sanitation conditions and consumption of water from unsafe sources. The incidence of such diseases is expected to rise unless water and sanitation facilities are provided with electricity or fuel to resume operations.

Food security

The World Food Program (WFP) estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in Gaza are sufficient for about 12 days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for only five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security. Five of the 202 shops contracted by the WFP as redemption points of food vouchers for beneficiaries have so far been destroyed and another 19 were forced to close.

Some of the basic food items available in the market, such as rice and lentils, cannot be used due to the inability to cook them, given the shortage of water and fuel/cooking gas. UNRWA reported that many IDPs have adopted one-meal-per-day as a coping strategy due to the food shortage.

Currently, only four out of the 24 bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP) are operational and supplying bread to shelters. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand. Unless fuel is allocated to them, most bakeries may shut down within three days.

Hostilities have completely disrupted the agri-food value chain and livestock sector, affecting supply and demand. The consequences are expected to be felt beyond the immediate conflict period, further affecting food security. Prior to the hostilities, some 7 per cent of trucks entering Gaza daily carried animal feed; those imports have stopped since 7 October.

Movement and access

On 24 October, as of 22:00, the Rafah crossing with Egypt remained closed. A number of trucks with humanitarian supplies that were expected to enter, were still stationed at the Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Since 7 October, patients have not been referred to medical appointments in the West Bank or Israel. Over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to public shelters in the West Bank.

Access to the sea along Gaza has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas. The extension has led to reduced crop yields affecting hundreds of thousands of people harvesting crops.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

Since the start of hostilities, at least 16 health workers have been killed while on duty, along with 35 UNRWA staff.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

As of 23 October, about $99.6 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 34 per cent of the $294 million estimated as required when the Appeal was first launched. About $70.6 millions of these pledges were earmarked for UNRWA.

Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, no Palestinian fatalities have been recorded since the afternoon of 23 October (by 21:00 on 24 October). The total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the start of the escalation has reached 95, including 28 children. During this period, one member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians in the West Bank.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,795 Palestinians, including at least 160 children, in the West Bank. Another 38 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over two-thirds of all injuries occurred in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza. Some 28 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the biweekly average number of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

Settler violence across the West Bank, especially in Palestinian communities near Israeli settlements, has been on the rise. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 136 settler attacks against Palestinians resulting in casualties or property damage, including some where Israeli forces were involved. This represents an average of eight incidents per day, compared with a daily average of three incidents per day since the beginning of this year.

Settler violence has also disrupted the ongoing olive harvest season. On 22 October, Israeli settlers, accompanied by Israeli police, stole bags of harvested olives, and intimidated three Palestinian families while they were picking their olives. On the same day, a group of settlers, reportedly from Asfar settlement, accompanied by Israeli forces, vandalized five agricultural structures, 20 water tanks, and a metal fence surrounding a piece of land in the Susiya community (Hebron).

Since 7 October, at least 82 Palestinian households, comprising 607 people, over half of whom are children, have been displaced from 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 96 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 77 ambulances and including 49 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 53 involving physical violence towards health teams; 17 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and ten involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 10,492 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 21 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 58%.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- Committees led by the displaced persons have been established in all shelters to ensure the participation, engagement, and contribution of the displaced population in the management of the shelters.

- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- One partner distributed food parcels and water to 70 households in the south.
- One partner opened space for some 300 IDPs in central Gaza, providing supplies, cash and MHPSS support.
- One partner supported 25 IDPs of whom the vast majority were persons with disabilities, with cash and MHPSS.
- Partners provided PFA in south of Gaza, financial support to AWDA Hospital, and cash transfer, food and NFIs in Rafah.
- In the West Bank, a humanitarian needs assessment was conducted in Nur Shams refugee camp (Tulkarm), following the Israeli forces operation where PFA was delivered and various humanitarian needs assessed, including mental health and psychological and protection needs.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic Shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 590,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.

- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. Through the Humanitarian Fund, PMRS will support primary health care services provisioning the remaining shelters.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- On 23 October, 63,903 IDP across 15 UN shelters were reached with 6.52 MT of fresh bread.
- UNRWA started distributing corned beef, together with the canned tuna distributed by WFP in the DES operating in the Khan Younis Training Center.
- The World Food Program (WFP) reached some 536,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES.
- PARC is planning to provide food assistance to 80,000 to 100,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-URWA shelter or in host Families.
- ANERA provides hot meals and food parcels to 120,000 IDPs - 80 percent to UN shelters, and 20 per cent to hosting communities and other small-scale shelters.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

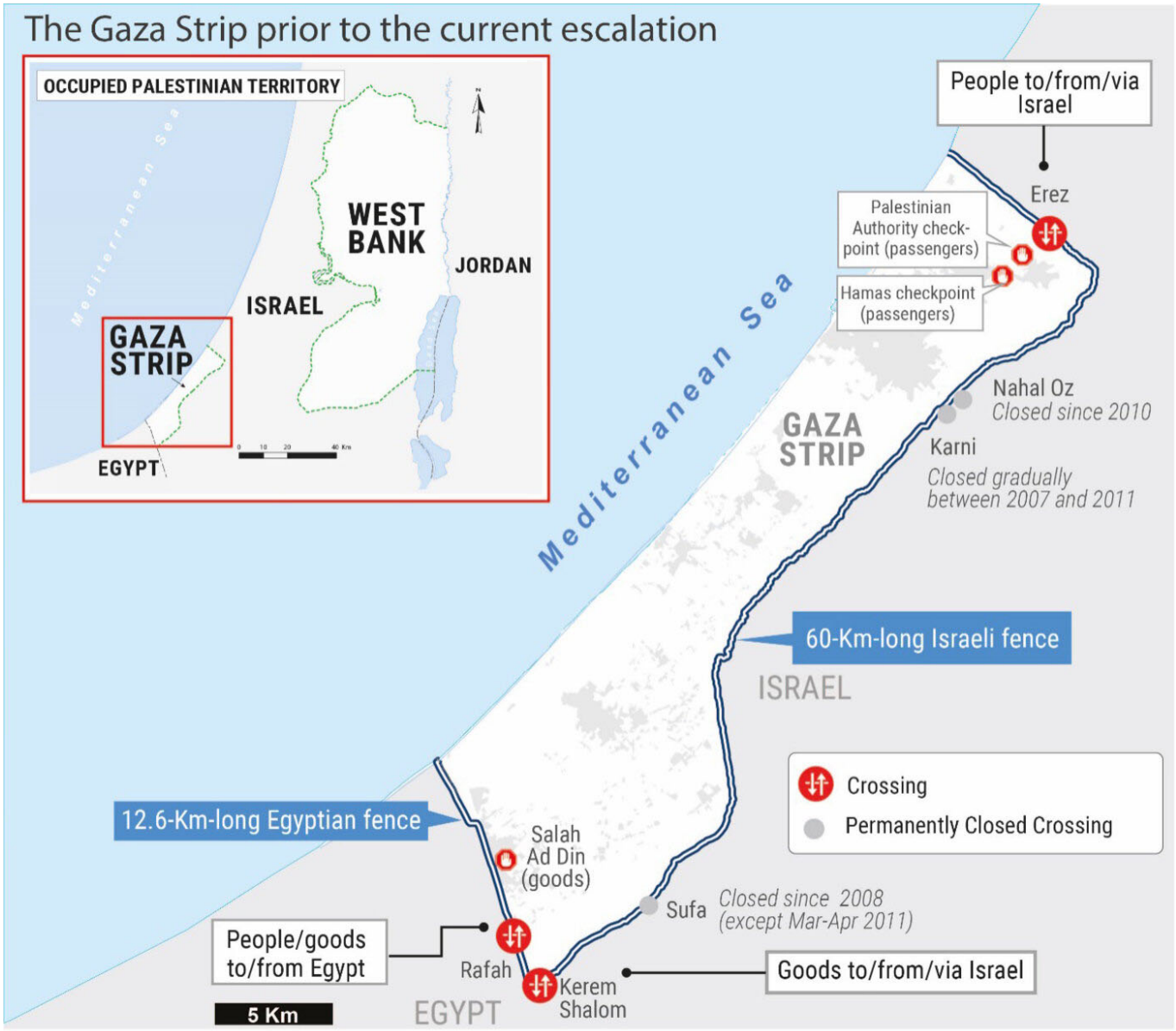
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Planned Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,800 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

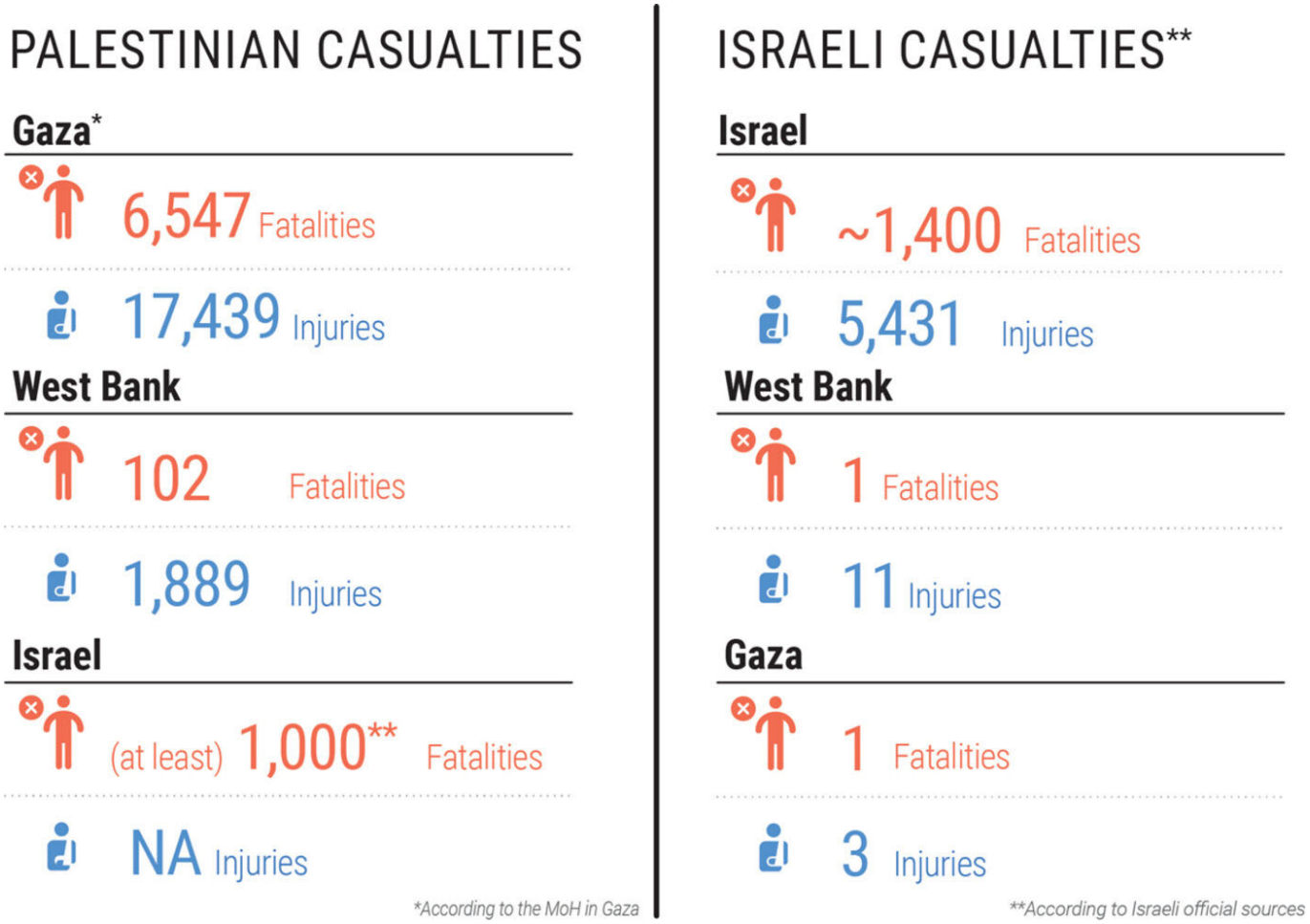

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #19

25 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- As hostilities entered the nineteenth day, the reported number of Palestinian fatalities in Gaza reached a new high: 756 people, including 344 children, over the past 24 hours (as of 18:00 on 25 October), according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. Overall, 6,547, of whom 68 per cent are said to be children and women, were killed in Gaza since the start of hostilities, according to MoH. About 1,600 people, including 900 children, have been reported missing and may be under the rubble. Heavy Israeli bombardments have continued throughout the day.
- On the night of 24 October, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the fourth consecutive day, allowing the entry of eight trucks (out of 20 planned) carrying water, food and medical supplies. This brings the total number of trucks with humanitarian aid that entered Gaza since 21 October to 62. Most of this aid has already reached hospitals, ambulances, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The daily average of trucks allowed into Gaza prior to the hostilities was about 500.



- Fuel, which is desperately needed to run backup generators, remains banned by the Israeli authorities. As a result, UNRWA, the largest humanitarian provider in Gaza, has almost exhausted its fuel reserves and began to significantly reduce its operations.
- On the morning of 25 October, the Israeli military called upon the residents of two neighbourhoods east of Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah (south of Wadi Gaza), with a population of over 40,000, to evacuate westwards to Al Mawasi area, on the seacoast, by 14:00. That area has almost no sheltering capacity. The volume of movement as a result of this call remains unclear.
- An estimated 1.4 million people in Gaza are internally displaced, with some 629,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES). Overcrowding is a growing concern, as the average number of IDPs per shelter has reached 2.7 times their designated capacity, with the most overcrowded one reaching 11 times its intended capacity.
- Water supply through the network in areas south of Wadi Gaza has temporarily improved. This happened after UNRWA and UNICEF managed to deliver small quantities of fuel they had retrieved from their existing reserves to key facilities. However, the available fuel in these facilities will be exhausted by 26 October and supply of piped water is expected to cease again.
- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, reportedly reaching as far as Eilat and Haifa cities, with no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed since 7 October, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on the first day.
- According to the Israeli authorities, 220 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The UN Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally. A total of four hostages were released on 20 and 23 October.

- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 24 October (as of 21:00 today), Israeli forces have killed seven Palestinians, including two children. This brings the number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 102, including 31 children.



Internally displaced persons staying in tents in the southern Gaza Strip. Photo by UNRWA. 19 October 2023

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

The past 24 hours recorded the most intense Israeli bombardment and airstrikes since the escalations began, with the highest number of fatalities in Gaza since the start of the hostilities, as reported by MoH in Gaza. One of the deadliest attacks reported during this period involved the destruction of the At Taj residential building in Gaza city, where 40 people were reportedly killed. According to the Israeli military, many of the airstrikes carried out overnight in the city targeted underground military facilities.

Since 7 October, 6,547 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 2,704 children and 1,292 women, and about 17,439 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Some 68 per cent of the total number of Palestinian fatalities were reported in Gaza city and North Gaza governorates.

Additionally, about 1,600 people, including at least 900 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 25 October, 149 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members, 123 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 416 families had lost two to five of their members.

According to the Israeli military's spokesperson, between 7 and 21 October, there were 550 failed shootings of rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel, which fell short in Gaza, killing Palestinians.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing reported the destruction of 16,441 housing units and the rendering of 11,340 other units uninhabitable, as of 23 October. About 150,000 housing units sustained minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units reported as destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 45 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed, particularly in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Ash Shuja'iyeh, the area between Gaza and Ash Shati' Refugee Camp, and Abbassan Kabeera. As of 19 October, satellite imagery produced by UNOSAT shows the large scope of destruction.

As of 23 October, WHO has documented 76 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip that have resulted in 16 fatalities and 30 injuries among health care workers on duty. The attacks have affected 35 health care facilities (including 20 hospitals damaged) and 24 ambulances.

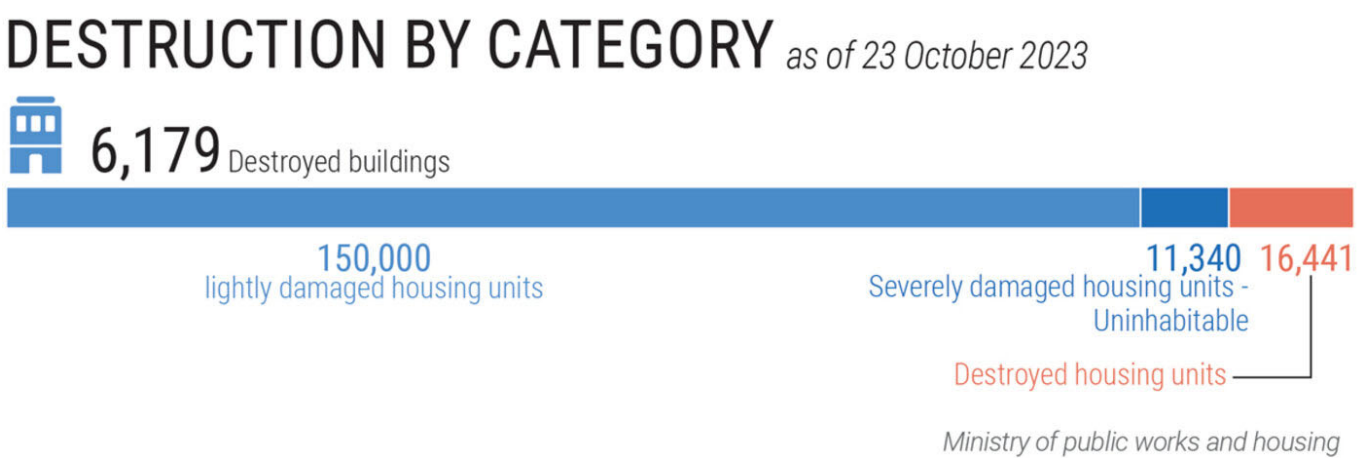
As of 25 October, 219 educational facilities have been hit, including at least 29 UNRWA schools. Eight of these schools were used as emergency shelters for IDPs, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in at least eight IDPs killed, and 40 others injured.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,431 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 25 October, the names of 914 of these fatalities have been released, including 587 civilians, 269 soldiers, and 58 police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 29 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 629,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA DES, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 79,000 in 70 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.

Overcrowding conditions at UNRWA DES in the central and southern areas is severely constraining access to basic assistance and essential services, increasing health and protection risks, and negatively affecting mental health. In many shelters, the number of IDPs has reached 4,400, while they were designed to host 1,500-2,000 IDPs.



The humanitarian supplies that reached Gaza over the past four days via Rafah have slightly alleviated the shortages of water, food, and medicines at UNRWA shelters. Desalination equipment in these shelters have so far continued to operate and provide potable water. However, they are expected to shut down over the next day or two due to the lack of fuel.

UNRWA estimates that 30,000 IDPs have returned to the north, due to continuous bombardments in the south, and the inability to find adequate shelter. Since the beginning of hostilities, 12 IDPs sheltering at UNRWA schools have been killed and about 180 have been injured.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the sixteenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel. On 22 October, UNRWA coordinated with the Israeli and local authorities the transport of fuel stored in a facility within Gaza, adjacent to the Rafah crossing, and its distribution to DES, hospitals and water facilities.

Health care

Twenty-one out of the 62 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, including one truck on 24 October, carried vital medical supplies. While limited in volume, these supplies will play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services. The World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to facilitate the swift delivery of these supplies to major hospitals. Five of these trucks received by WHO were already distributed to seven hospitals and at least 20 PRCS ambulances.

The distribution plan is based on the needs confirmed on the ground by technical officers in Gaza and approved by the team lead. After delivery into Gaza and reception by WHO, the technical officers accompanied the supplies to each hospital. There is regular post-delivery monitoring to assess consumption.

Since the start of hostilities, over one-third of hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage from hostilities or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational.

Hospitals have reached an unprecedented point of devastation due to the influx of injuries combined with severe shortages of essential resources, personnel, electricity, and water. Fuel at the hospitals is being severely rationed and is used to run a selected number of critical facilities. The maintenance and repair of back-up generators, which are not designed for continuous operation, is increasingly challenging due to the lack of spare parts.

Due to food insecurity, women and children, especially pregnant and lactating women, are at risk of malnutrition, which will negatively affect their immune health, increasing their susceptibility to contracting maternal nutrition-related illnesses such as anemia, preeclampsia, hemorrhage. This increases the risk of death for both mothers and babies.

According to initial health assessments by UNRWA's mobile medical teams, there are over 37,000 people with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), over 4,600 pregnant women and about 380 post-natal cases requiring medical attention among the IDPs. In addition, medical teams are increasingly identifying cases of acute respiratory and diarrhea among children under five years old.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Water supply through the network in the Middle Area, Khan Younis and Rafah temporarily improved, after UNRWA and UNICEF managed to deliver to key water facilities small quantities of fuel they had retrieved from their own reserves within Gaza. Consequently, in the past two days, people in households connected to the network are consuming up to 30 liters per day per person. However, the available fuel in all of these facilities will be exhausted by 26 October and supply of piped water will cease again.

As part of this improvement, on 24 October, an additional seawater desalination plant resumed limited operations in the Middle Area, after another plant in Khan Younis did so on 21 October. Both plants began pumping some 4,000 cubic metres of drinking water per day through the network (the third seawater desalination plant in northern Gaza has remained closed). Supply of piped water to other areas in the south, mostly brackish water, was made possible by the operation of 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, which also received limited amounts of fuel. This has been benefiting only those households with undamaged water connections.

Additionally, after water supply by Israel to the Khan Younis area was reduced in previous days by 60-80 per cent, on 25 October, this supply resumed at the previous level of 600 cubic metres per hour. This too, has contributed to the availability of piped water in some households. Meanwhile, water supply through two other pipelines from Israel is suspended since 8 October.

On 24 October, five trucks containing 4,000 water jerry cans (10 litres each), 4,500 family hygiene kits, and 12 community water storage tanks acquired by UNICEF, entered Gaza from Egypt. These supplies began to be distributed today to UNRWA DES.

Food security

Since 21 October, 24 trucks carrying food entered Gaza, including ready-to-eat food such as canned tuna, canned meat and other non-perishables. All food items are distributed in UNRWA shelters in the south.

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in Gaza are sufficient for about 12 days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for only five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security.

Some of the basic food items available in the market, such as rice and lentils, cannot be cooked given the shortage of water and fuel/cooking gas. UNRWA reported that many IDPs have adopted one-meal-per-day as a coping strategy due to the food shortage.

Between the 20 and 25 October, three bakeries were forced to shut down due to a lack of fuel. Currently, only 19 bakeries contracted by the WFP and UNRWA are operational and supplying bread to shelters. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand. Unless fuel is allocated to them, most bakeries will shut over the next few days. During the same five-day period, ten bakeries were struck and destroyed; six in Gaza city, two in northern Jabalia, and two in the Middle Area (Maghazi Camp and Nusseirat).

As a result, people are struggling to obtain a piece of bread. Long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

Abu Malik, a 51-year-old father of three children (aged 7, 9, and 15), originally from Al Rimal area of Gaza city, is now an IDP in an UNRWA shelter in Khan Younis: “Unfortunately, the quantity of bread we got last night in this shelter was not enough. The kids looked at me and said that they were still hungry. I promised them that tomorrow I would bring them a larger portion of bread,” he reported to OCHA. Abu Malik agreed with his older son (15 years old) that each of them

would go to a different bakery to maximize their chances. After two hours of waiting in the queue, the bakery he was at ran out of fuel and had to close before his turn arrived. “As for my son, I still don't know if he succeeded or not. Hopefully, he had a better day than mine.”

Electricity outages are affecting other food suppliers and markets. Cooling chains have been damaged and have run out of electricity and have started disposing of their products. There is a complete closure of food processing shops such as chicken slaughterhouses, shawarma restaurants, frozen food shops, coffee shop cafeterias and popular kitchens.

Hostilities have completely disrupted the agri-food value chain and livestock sector, affecting supply and demand. The consequences are expected to be felt beyond the immediate conflict period, further affecting food security. Prior to the hostilities, some seven per cent of trucks entering Gaza daily carried animal feed; those imports have stopped since 7 October.

Movement and access

On 25 October, as of 22:00, the Rafah crossing with Egypt remained closed. A number of trucks with humanitarian supplies that were expected to enter, were still stationed at the Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Since 7 October, patients have not been referred to medical appointments in the West Bank or Israel. Over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to public shelters in the West Bank.

Access to the sea along Gaza has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity has ceased since the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel’s perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas. The extension has led to reduced crop yields affecting hundreds of thousands of people harvesting crops.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

In the past 24 hours, another three UNRWA staff members have been killed, bringing the total to 38, since 7 October. Additionally, at least 16 health workers have been killed while on duty.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

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WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00 on 25 October), Israeli forces shot and killed seven Palestinians and injured eight by live ammunition. The deadliest incident, which resulted in four of these fatalities, including two boys (aged 15 and 17), took place during a search-and-arrest operation in Jenin Refugee Camp. Following the entry of Israeli forces into the camp, clashes with residents began, including exchange of fire. During the incident, Israeli forces launched an air strike, using a drone, which killed at least one of the four.

The other three fatalities were killed during search-and-arrest operations, one in Qalqiliya city, one in Qalandiya Refugee Camp (Jerusalem); and one during confrontations that erupted over the course of a protest in solidarity with Gaza in Anabta village (Tulkarm).

This has brought the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the start of the escalation to 102, including 31 children. Of these Palestinians, 96, including 30 children, were killed by Israeli forces; and six, including one child, by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was reportedly killed by Palestinians.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,850 Palestinians, including at least 160 children; an additional 39 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,200 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January to 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

The high level of Israeli settler violence reported during the first nine months of 2023 has escalated since the start of the Gaza hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA recorded 138 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (20 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (95 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (23 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

More than one-third of the incidents (48 incidents) involved threats with firearms, including shooting, by settlers. Almost half of all incidents (68 incidents), involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed and dozens injured. Affected properties included 22 residential structures, 40 agricultural/animal-related structures, 66 vehicles and more than 400 trees and saplings.

Displacement

In addition, there has been an increase in incidents resulting in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. In the past 19 days, at least 82 households comprising 607 people, including 211 children, have been displaced. The displaced households are from more than 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Tubas and Nablus Governorates.

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 96 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 77 ambulances and including 53 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 53 involving physical violence towards health teams; 17 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and ten involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 10,492 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 21 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 58%.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- Committees led by the displaced persons have been established in all shelters to ensure the participation, engagement, and contribution of the displaced population in the management of the shelters.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- One partner distributed food parcels and water to 70 households in the south.
- One partner opened space for some 300 IDPs in central Gaza, providing supplies, cash and MHPSS support.
- One partner supported 25 IDPs of whom the vast majority were persons with disabilities, with cash and MHPSS.
- Partners provided PFA in south of Gaza, financial support to AWDA Hospital, and cash transfer, food and NFIs in Rafah.
- In the West Bank, a humanitarian needs assessment was conducted in Nur Shams refugee camp (Tulkarm), following the Israeli forces operation where PFA was delivered and various humanitarian needs assessed, including mental health and psychological and protection needs.

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 629,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- UNRWA has medical points in 53 out of the 108 shelters. Through the Humanitarian Fund, PMRS will support primary health care services provisioning the remaining shelters.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.

- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- UNRWA started distributing corned beef, together with the canned tuna distributed by WFP in the DES operating in the Khan Younis Training Center.
- The World Food Program (WFP) reached some 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. 490,311 displaced persons in UN shelters received fresh bread and canned food; 243,756 people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops
- PARC is planning to provide food assistance to 80,000 to 100,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-URWA shelter or in host Families.
- ANERA provides hot meals and food parcels to 120,000 IDPs - 80 percent to UN shelters, and 20 per cent to hosting communities and other small-scale shelters.
- ACTED: is providing food vouchers to 3250 IDPs in the Middle Area (Khan Younis).

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

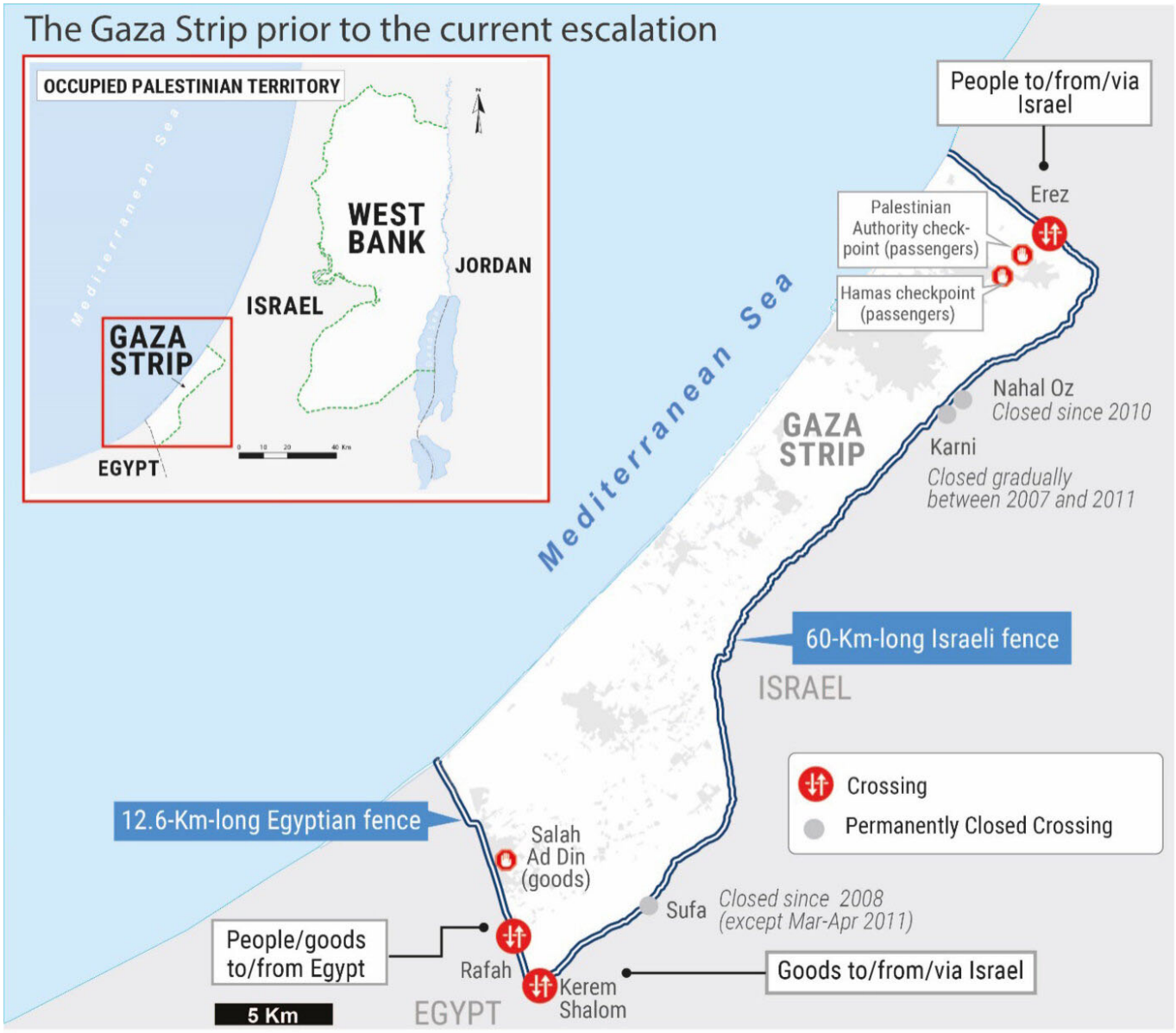
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.

- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,800 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

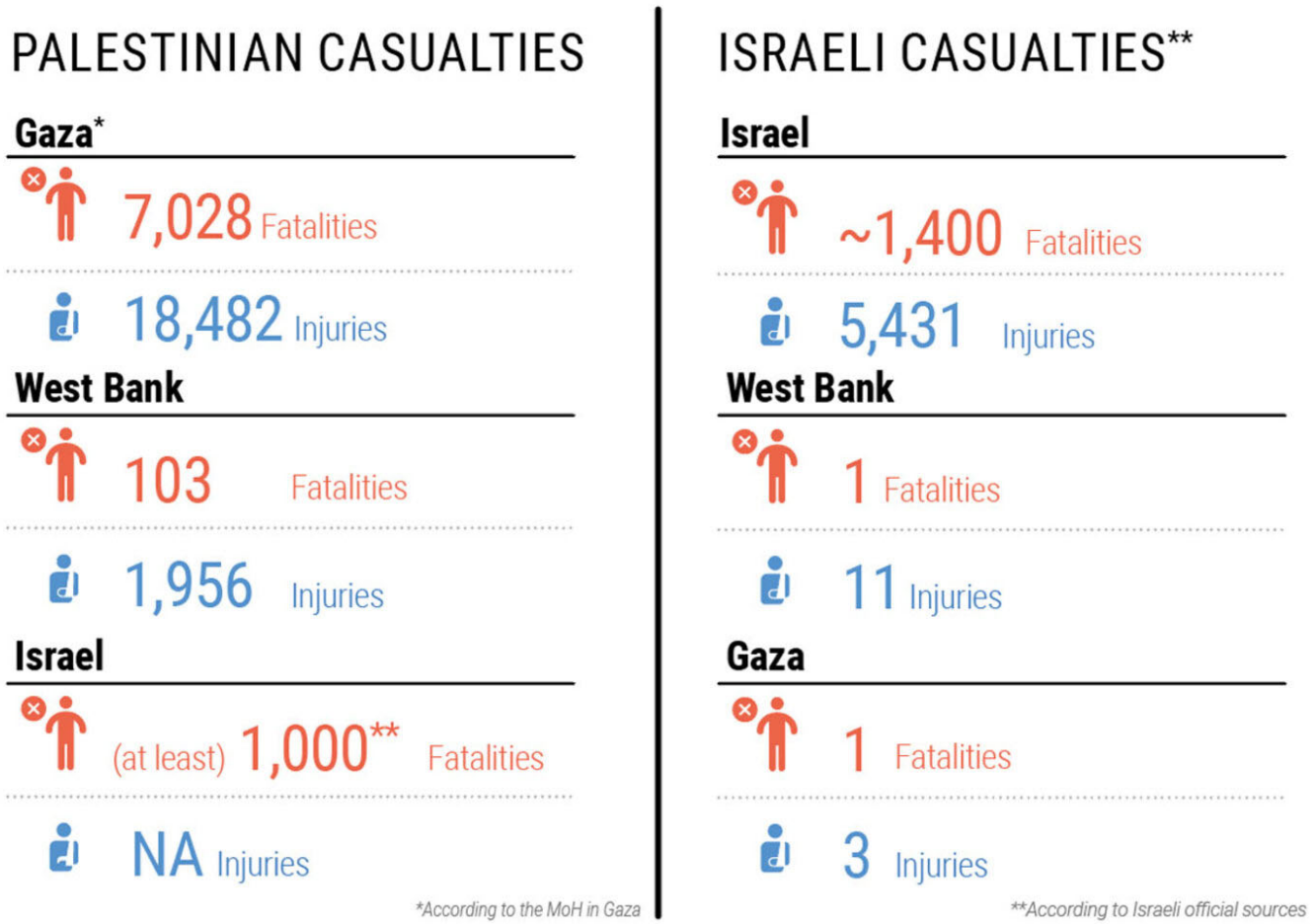


Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #20

26 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- A total of 481 fatalities, including 209 children, were reported over the past 24 hours (as of 18:00 on 26 October) by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. Overall, 7,028 Palestinians were killed in Gaza since the start of hostilities, of whom 66 per cent are children and women, according to MoH. About 1,600 people, including 900 children, have been reported missing and may be under the rubble.
- On 26 October, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the sixth consecutive day, allowing the entry of 12 trucks carrying water, food and medical supplies. This brings the total number of trucks with humanitarian aid that entered Gaza since 21 October to 74. Prior to the hostilities, an average of 500 truckloads entered Gaza every working day.



- The entry of fuel remains banned by the Israeli authorities. As stated by UNRWA's Commissioner General, Philippe Lazzarini, "without fuel, there will be no humanitarian response, no aid reaching people in need, no electricity for hospitals, no access to clean water, and no availability of bread."
- Around midnight on 25 October, the Israeli military reiterated its call upon the residents of four areas in Gaza city and one area in Al Bureij Refugee Camp to evacuate to Al Mawasi, on the seacoast in the southern Gaza Strip, by 8:00am. The latter area has almost no sheltering capacity.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lynn Hastings, stated on 26 October that "the United Nations intends to deliver aid wherever people in need are located. For people who can't evacuate – because they have nowhere to go or are unable to move – advance warnings make no difference. When the evacuation routes are bombed, when people north as well as south are caught up in hostilities, when the essentials for survival are lacking, and when there are no assurances for return, people are left with nothing but impossible choices." She stressed that under international humanitarian law, "civilians must be protected and have the essentials to survive, wherever they are and whether they choose to move or stay."
- An estimated 1.4 million people in Gaza are internally displaced, with some 641,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES). The average number of internally displaced people (IDPs) per shelter is almost three times their intended capacity.
- About 45 per cent of housing units in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed (16,441), rendered uninhabitable (11,340) or moderately/lightly damaged (150,000), since the start of the hostilities, according to Gaza's Ministry of Public Works and Housing.
- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed since 7 October, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on the first day.
- According to the Israeli authorities, 224 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The UN Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally. His call was reiterated by the Humanitarian Coordinator on 26 October. A total of four hostages were released on 20 and 23 October. On 26 October, Hamas claimed that 50 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.
- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of October 25 (as of 21:00 on 26 October), Israeli forces have killed one Palestinian child. This brings the total number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 103, including 32 children. This represents a third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank so far in 2023.



Displaced children queueing for water in a UN shelter in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Intense Israeli bombardment and airstrikes continued during the past 24 hours. However, fewer fatalities were reported compared with the previous two days. Overnight, Israeli forces carried out a ground operation in northern Gaza, involving tanks and infantry, reportedly in preparation for a larger incursion.

Among the deadliest attacks reported in the past 24 hours were airstrikes targeting residential structures in Khan Yunis (40 reported fatalities in two separate airstrikes) and in Rafah (12 reported fatalities, including five children) while search-and-rescue operations are ongoing for dozens of people who are missing under the rubble.

Since 7 October, 7,028 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 2,913 children and 1,709 women, and about 18,482 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza.

Additionally, about 1,600 people, including at least 900 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 26 October, 171 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members, 124 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 436 families had lost two to five of their members.

According to the Israeli military, between 7 and 21 October, 550 Palestinian rockets fell short in Gaza, killing Palestinians.

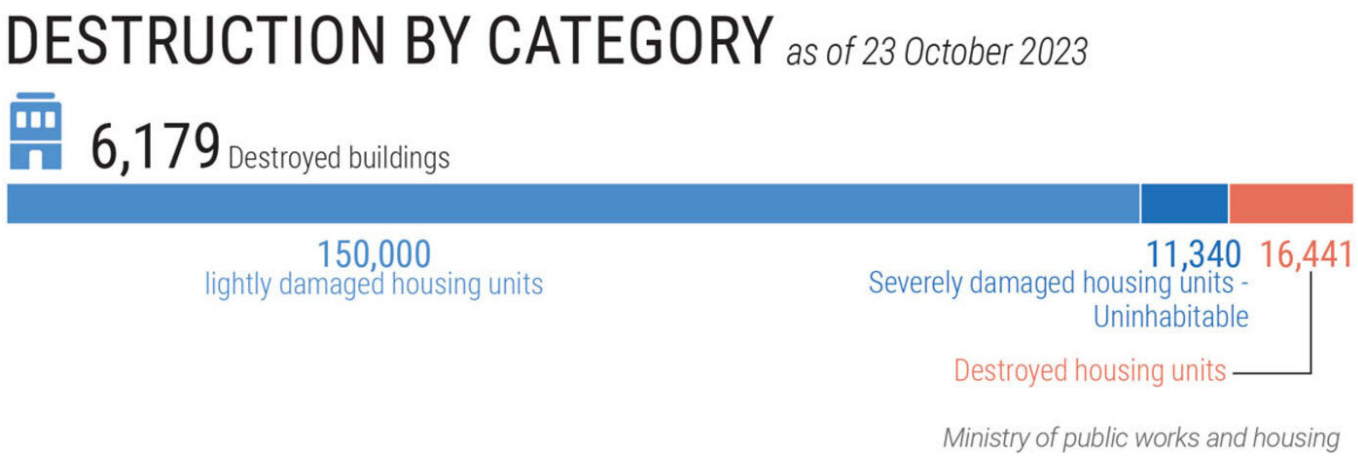
The Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing reported the destruction of 16,441 housing units and the rendering of 11,340 other units uninhabitable, as of 23 October. About 150,000 housing units sustained minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units reported as destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 45 per cent of all housing

units in the Gaza Strip. Entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed, particularly in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Ash Shuja'iyeh, the area between Gaza and Ash Shati' Refugee Camp, and Abbassan Kabeera.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 641,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA DES, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 79,000 in 70 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.

Overcrowding conditions at UNRWA DES in the central and southern areas is severely constraining access to basic assistance and essential services, increasing health and protection risks, and negatively affecting mental health. In many shelters, the number of IDPs has reached 4,400, while they were designed to host 1,500-2,000 IDPs.



The humanitarian supplies that reached Gaza over the past six days through Rafah have slightly alleviated the shortages of water, food, and medicine at UNRWA shelters. Desalination equipment in these shelters have so far continued to operate and provide potable water. However, they are expected to shut down over the next few days due to the lack of fuel.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions.

Um Ashraf, a 60-year-old woman, originally from Gaza city, is now an IDP in an UNRWA shelter in the Middle area. "I am lying on this blanket all day and cannot move because the wheelchair was broken during the evacuation," she told OCHA.

UNRWA estimates that 30,000 IDPs have returned to the north, due to continuous bombardments in the south, and the inability to find adequate shelter.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the seventeenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel.

Health care

Twenty-two out of the 74 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, carried vital medical supplies. While limited in volume, these supplies play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services. Five of these truckloads have already been distributed to seven hospitals and at least 20 PRCS ambulances.

The distribution plan is based on the needs confirmed on the ground by technical officers in Gaza and approved by the team lead. After delivery into Gaza and reception by WHO, the technical officers accompany the supplies to each hospital. Post-delivery monitoring is carried out regularly to assess consumption.

Hospitals are facing an unprecedented level of devastation, primarily driven by the overwhelming number of injuries and critical shortages of vital resources, including medical personnel, electricity, and water.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza. The hospitals continue to suffer from a severe fuel shortage, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

In many hospitals, the situation has been compounded by the presence of large numbers of IDPs, including some 50,000 seeking refuge in Shifa hospital, in Gaza city.

Since the start of hostilities, over one-third of hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational.

Due to food insecurity, people, including children and women, especially pregnant and lactating women, are at risk of malnutrition. Such conditions might negatively affect their immune health, increasing their susceptibility to contracting maternal nutrition-related illnesses such as anemia, pre-eclampsia, hemorrhage. This increases the risk of death for both mothers and babies.

According to initial health assessments by UNRWA's mobile medical teams, over 37,000 IDPs have non-communicable diseases, and over 4,600 pregnant IDPs and about 380 newborns in displacement require medical attention.

In addition, medical teams are increasingly identifying cases of acute respiratory disorders and diarrhea among children under five years old.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Water supply through the Middle Area network, Khan Younis, and Rafah has shown temporary improvement for the second consecutive day, after UNRWA and UNICEF managed to deliver an additional 25,000 liters of fuel to crucial water facilities, sourced from their reserves within Gaza. However, unless additional fuel is delivered to these facilities, operations will be halted again soon.

In this context, two seawater desalination plants in the Middle Area and Khan Younis continue limited operations, pumping about 4,000 cubic metres of drinking water per day through the network, representing 30 per cent of their full capacity (the third seawater desalination plant in northern Gaza remains closed). Furthermore, the supply of piped water to other areas in the south, primarily brackish water, was made possible by the operation of 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, which also received limited amounts of fuel. This has benefitted only those households with undamaged water connections.

Additionally, after water supply by Israel to the Khan Younis area reduced in previous days by 60-80 per cent, on 25 October, this supply resumed at the previous level of 600 cubic metres per hour. This too, has contributed to the availability of piped water in some households. Meanwhile, water supply through two other pipelines from Israel is suspended since 8 October.

On the other hand, a leakage of about 70 percent was identified in one of the main pipelines between Rafah and Khan Younis, due to the damage it had sustained. This has compelled water providers to halt distribution to the network to a large area, and resort to less efficient and limited water trucking.

Out of the 74 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since October 21, eleven carried at least 4,000 water jerry cans (10 litres each), 4,500 family hygiene kits, and 12 community water storage tanks procured by UNICEF. These supplies have been distributed to UNRWA DES.

Food security

Between 20 and 26 October, three bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP) were forced to shut down due to a lack of fuel. Currently, only 18 bakeries contracted by WFP and UNRWA are operational and supplying bread to shelters. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand. Unless fuel is allocated to them, most bakeries will shut over the next few days. During the same six-day period, ten bakeries were struck and destroyed; six in Gaza city, two in northern Jabalia, and two in the Middle Area (Maghazi Camp and Nusseirat).

As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

The WFP estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in Gaza are sufficient for about 12 days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for only five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security.

Some of the basic food items available in the market, such as rice and lentils, cannot be cooked given the shortage of water and fuel/cooking gas. UNRWA reported that many IDPs have adopted one-meal-per-day as a coping strategy due to the food shortage.

Electricity outages are affecting other food suppliers and markets. Cooling chains have been damaged and have run out of electricity and have started disposing of their products. There is a complete closure of food processing shops such as chicken slaughterhouses, shawarma restaurants, frozen food shops, coffee shop cafeterias and popular kitchens.

Hostilities have completely disrupted the agri-food value chain and livestock sector, affecting supply and demand. The consequences are expected to be felt beyond the immediate conflict period, further affecting food security. Prior to the hostilities, some seven per cent of trucks entering Gaza daily carried animal feed; those imports have stopped since 7 October.

Out of the 74 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, 34 carried food, including ready-to-eat food such as canned tuna, canned meat and other non-perishables. All food items are being distributed in UNRWA shelters.

Movement and access

Twelve trucks with humanitarian supplies entered on 26 October through the Rafah crossing with Egypt after passing through Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities. About 3,000 truckloads are still waiting on the Egyptian side to enter Gaza.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Prior the hostilities, patients, including some 2,000 cancer patients from Gaza had been referred for regular treatment to hospitals in East Jerusalem and Israel. However, this practice has been halted since 7 October. Over 4,000 workers from Gaza have been stranded in Israel since 7 October. Some were arrested by Israeli authorities and others were transferred to public shelters in the West Bank.

Access to the sea along Gaza's shore has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity ceased when the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas. The extension has led to reduced crop yields affecting hundreds of thousands of people harvesting crops.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

In the past 24 hours, another UNRWA staff member has been killed, bringing the total to 39, since 7 October. Additionally, at least 16 health workers have been killed while on duty.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

As of 23 October, about $99.6 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 34 per cent of the $294 million estimated as required when the Appeal was first launched. About $70.6 millions of these pledges were earmarked for UNRWA.

Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00 on 26 October), Israeli forces shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian child and injured eight by live ammunition during confrontations with school students in Al Jalazun Refugee Camp (Ramallah).

Since 7 October, Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank have killed 103 Palestinians, including 32 children. Of these 97, including 30 children, were killed by Israeli forces; and six, including one child, by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 1,913 Palestinians, including at least 168 children; an additional 43 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Over 1,200 Palestinians have been injured, mostly by Israeli forces, in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January and 7 October 2023.

Settler-related violence

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the start of the Gaza hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 146 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (22 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (100 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (24 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

More than one-third of the incidents involved threats with firearms, including shooting, by settlers. Almost half of all incidents, involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 24 residential structures, 40 agricultural/animal-related structures, 67 vehicles and more than 400 trees and saplings.

Displacement

Since 7 October, 14 Palestinian households, including 65 people and 31 children, were displaced following the demolitions of their homes in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank on grounds of lack of Israeli building permits.

In addition, there has been an increase in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. Since 7 October, at least 82 households comprising 607 people, including 211 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Tubas and Nablus Governorates.

The last such recorded incident occurred on 21 October, when a family of 16 was displaced from the Khirbet Ar Ratheem community in southern Hebron. This followed an attack by armed settlers, reportedly from the Meitarim settlement outpost, which involved the vandalizing of a residential structure, an animal shelter, and a solar panel. One of the family members, Abu Safi, 76-year-old, said:

> *"I was terrified for my family and fearing for their safety. We decided to leave. We were threatened at gunpoint after they vandalized our properties. Leaving was the only option for me to protect my family."*

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 108 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 88 ambulances and including 59 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 55 involving physical violence towards health teams; 17 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and 12 involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 13,241 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 86%.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- Committees led by the displaced persons have been established in all shelters to ensure the participation, engagement, and contribution of the displaced population in the management of the shelters.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents). Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and WB).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 641,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.
- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- UNRWA started distributing corned beef, together with the canned tuna distributed by WFP in the DES operating in the Khan Younis Training Center.
- The World Food Program (WFP) reached some 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. 490,311 displaced persons in UN shelters received fresh bread and canned food; 243,756 people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-URWA shelter or in host Families.

- ANERA provides hot meals and food parcels to 120,000 IDPs - 80 percent to UN shelters, and 20 per cent to hosting communities and other small-scale shelters.
- ACTED: is providing food vouchers to 3250 IDPs in the Middle Area (Khan Younis).

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

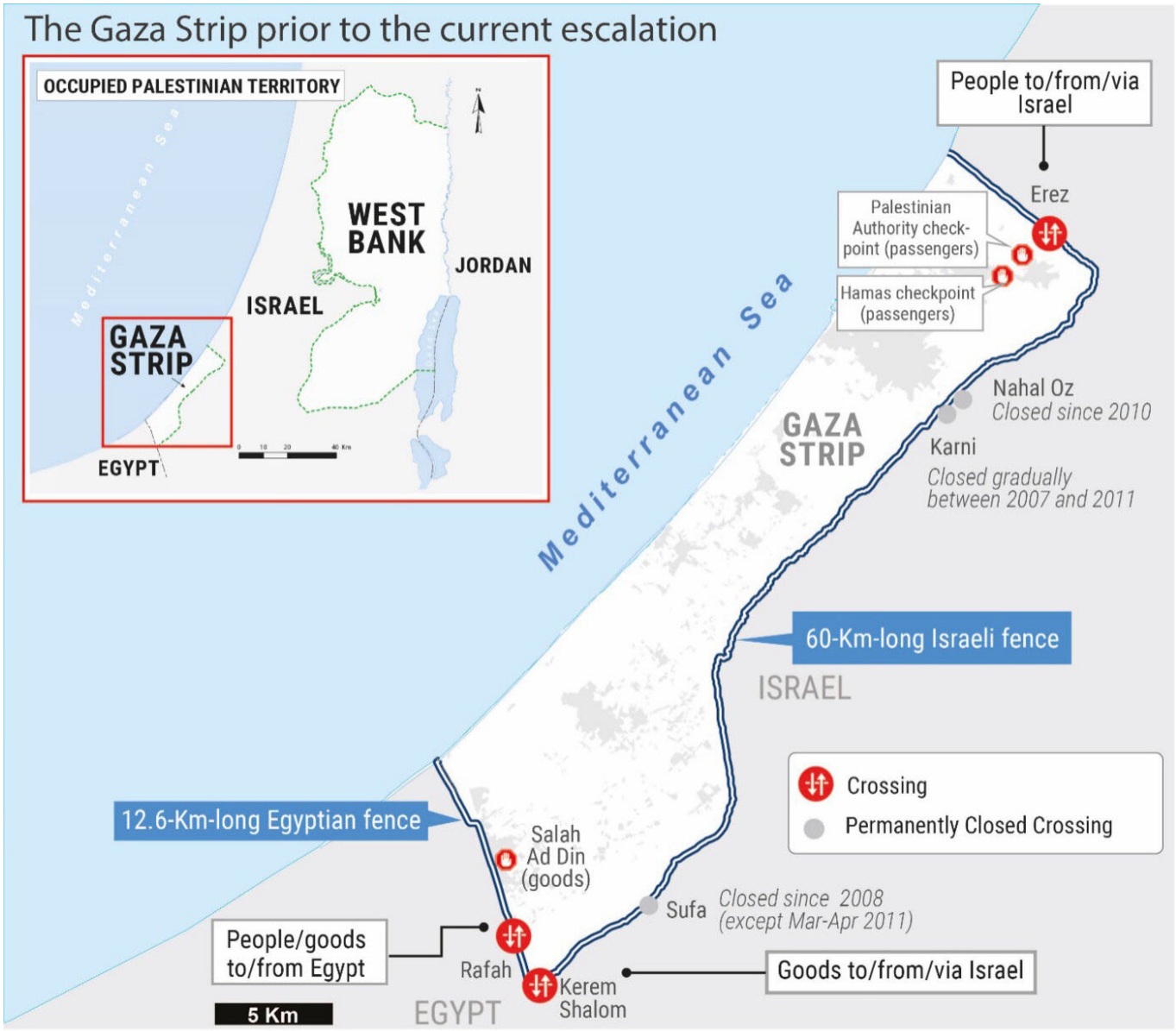
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

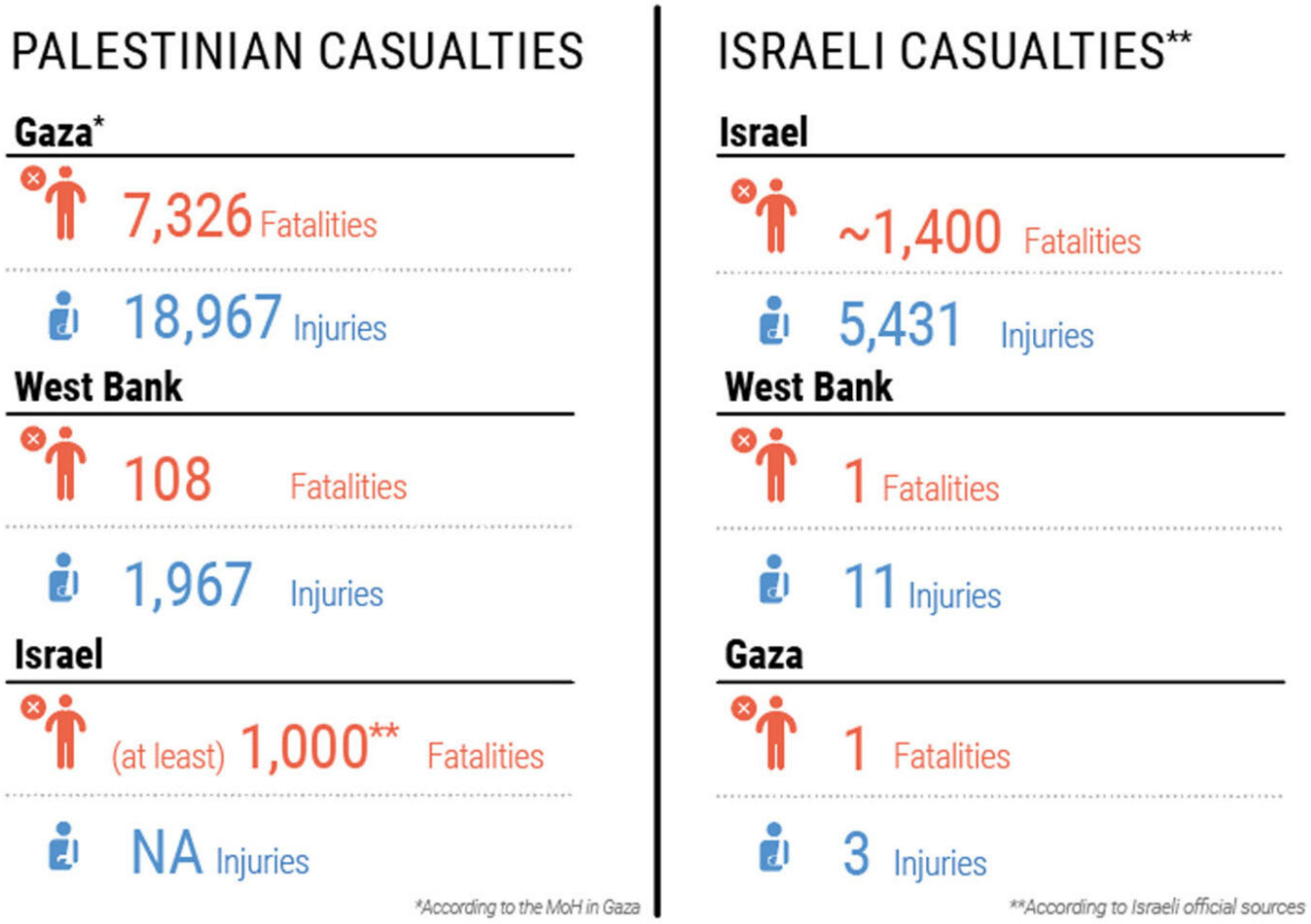

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #21

27 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- A total of 298 fatalities, including 125 children, have been reported over the past 24 hours (as of 18:00 on 27 October) by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. Overall, 7,326 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the start of hostilities, of whom 66 per cent are children and women, according to MoH.
- On 27 October, landlines, cellular and internet services were cut across Gaza, shortly after the Israeli military announced extended ground operations and airstrikes. The main telecommunications tower in Gaza was reportedly struck. Humanitarian Coordinator Lynn Hastings stated that hospitals and humanitarian operations “can’t continue without communications,” alongside energy, food, water and medications. UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that they had lost touch with their staff in Gaza. Palestine Red Cresent Society (PRCS) expressed concern about its ability to provide emergency medical services.



- On 27 October, the Rafah crossing with Egypt opened for the sixth time since 21 October, allowing the entry of ten trucks carrying water, food, and medical supplies. For the first time since the start of hostilities, a small team of medical specialists, of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), was allowed through. With this, the total number of humanitarian aid trucks entering Gaza since 21 October has reached 84. Prior to the hostilities, an average of 500 truckloads entered Gaza every working day.

- None of the aid trucks that have entered thus far contained urgently needed fuel. Consequently, humanitarian actors have been forced to drastically limit the use of fuel and prioritize the most essential activities. UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini rejected accusations that Hamas had stolen fuel from the UN and stressed that the agency has a "solid monitoring mechanism" in place to ensure that aid is not diverted.

- Over 40 per cent of Gaza's education facilities have been hit since hostilities started, including 38 schools destroyed and/or severely damaged; 75 which sustained moderate damage; and 108 with minor damage.

- In the West Bank, the access of students and staff to 150-200 schools, mainly in Area C and East Jerusalem, has been disrupted daily since the start of hostilities due to movement restrictions and settler harassment.

- An estimated 1.4 million people in Gaza are internally displaced, with some 657,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities. The average number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) per shelter is almost three times their intended capacity.

- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population centres continued, with no reported fatalities. Three people were injured as a rocket hit a residential building in southern Tel Aviv. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed since 7 October in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.

- On 27 October, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an “immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce,” the release “of all civilians who are illegally being held captive,” the protection of international institutions, and ensuring the safe passage of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 229 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. The UN Secretary-General has called upon Hamas to release hostages immediately and unconditionally. His call was reiterated by the Humanitarian Coordinator most recently on 26 and 27 October. Four hostages were released on 20 and 23 October. On 26 October, Hamas claimed that 50 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.

- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 26 October (as of 21:00 on 27 October), Israeli forces have killed four Palestinians and another one died from wounds sustained previously. This brings the total number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 108, including 33 children.



The delivery of life-saving supplies to An Nasr Hospital in Khan Younis. Photo by UNICEF/El Baba

GAZA HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Hostilities and casualties

Israeli bombardment and airstrikes continued during the past 24 hours. MoH reported fewer fatalities compared with the previous three days. Before the telecommunications shutdown, Israeli forces carried out another two ground operations in the north and south of Gaza. The Israeli military spokesperson announced at 20:00 that “ground operations would expand this evening.”

Among the deadliest attacks reported in the past 24 hours were airstrikes targeting residential structures. On 27 October, at about 8:00, airstrikes reportedly struck a residential home on Al Hoja street, in Jabalia Camp, northern Gaza, killing at least 22 Palestinians. Earlier, at about 5:30, airstrikes reportedly hit a residential home in Az Zaytoun neighbourhood, east Gaza city, killing 14 Palestinians and resulting in the collapse of nearby houses.

Since 7 October, 7,326 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 3,038 children and 1,792 women, and about 18,967 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Among these fatalities, 995 have not been identified yet, including at least 248 children.

Additionally, about 1,700 people, including at least 940 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their mission, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment, and with limited or no connection to mobile networks.

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 27 October, 192 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members, 136 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 444 families had lost two to five of their members.

According to the Israeli military, between 7 and 21 October, 550 Palestinian rockets fell short in Gaza, killing Palestinians.

The Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing reported the destruction of 16,441 housing units and the rendering of 11,340 other units uninhabitable, as of 23 October. About 150,000 housing units sustained minor to moderate damage. The total number of housing units reported as destroyed or damaged accounts for at least 45 per cent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip. Since 7 October, 42 UNRWA installations, including several designated emergency shelters (DES), have been damaged, with one of them being directly hit, resulting in 13 fatalities and 195 injuries among IDPs.

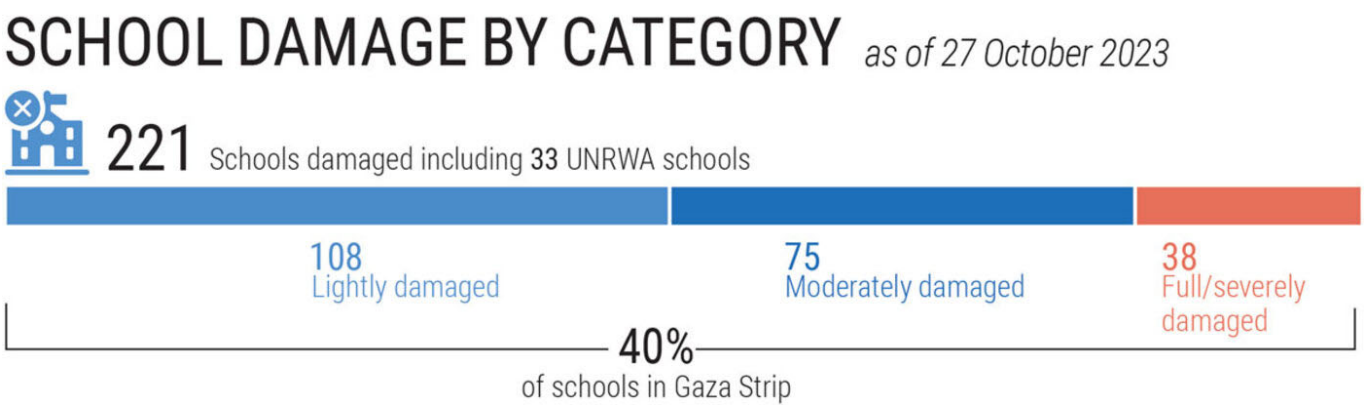
As of 23 October, WHO has documented 76 attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip, resulting in 16 fatalities and 30 injuries among health care workers on duty. This has affected 35 health care facilities (including 20 hospitals damaged) and 24 ambulances.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,431 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 25 October, the names of 1,117 of these fatalities have been released, including 808 civilians, 309 soldiers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 30 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 657,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA facilities, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 79,000 in 70 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.

Reports suggest that IDPs are moving from one area to another based on the availability of means to survive, food and water, and security concerns.



Overcrowding at UNRWA shelters in the central and southern areas is severely constraining access to basic assistance and essential services, increasing health and other risks, and negatively affecting mental health. In many shelters, the number of IDPs has reached 4,400, while they were designed to host 1,500-2,000 IDPs.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

For the eighteenth consecutive day (since 11 October), Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel. On 27 October, the Israeli military spokesperson stated that bringing in fuel was out of the question at this stage.

Health care

On 27 October, ten medical specialists with ICRC entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing, including a war surgery team and a weapons contamination specialist. This is the first entry of humanitarian personnel since the start of hostilities. Additionally, some of the trucks that entered today carried medical supplies for the ICRC, including war surgery kits and large packages of supplies that could be used to treat between 1,000 and 5,000 people, depending on the severity of their injuries. These supplies are intended to serve medical facilities in both north and south Gaza.

Overall, 28 out of the 84 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, carried medical supplies. While limited in volume, these supplies play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services. According to ICRC: "This crucial humanitarian assistance is a small dose of relief, but it´s not enough. Our surgical team and medical supplies will help relieve the extreme pressure on Gaza's doctors and nurses. But safe, sustained humanitarian access is urgently needed. This humanitarian catastrophe is deepening by the hour."

The distribution plan for these supplies is based on the needs confirmed on the ground by technical officers, by WHO, and by PRCS in Gaza. After delivery into Gaza and reception, the technical officers accompany the supplies to each hospital. Post-delivery monitoring is carried out regularly to assess consumption.

Hospitals are facing an unprecedented level of devastation, primarily driven by the overwhelming number of injuries and critical shortages of vital resources, including medical personnel, electricity, and water.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals, forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza. The hospitals continue to suffer from a severe fuel shortage, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

Since the start of hostilities, over one-third of hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

The trucks that entered on 27 October through Rafah for the ICRC also carried water purification supplies. They contained chlorine tablets that can treat up to 50,000 litres of drinking water. These supplies will cover the basic water needs (three litres per day per person) of nearly 17,000 people for one day. Overall, out of the 84 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since October 21, eleven carried at least 40,000 litres of water, 4,500 family hygiene kits, 12 community water storage tanks, and thousands of water purification supplies, brought primarily by UNICEF. Most of these supplies have been distributed to UNRWA shelters.

Water supply through the Middle Area network, Khan Younis, and Rafah has shown temporary improvement for the third consecutive day. This has been possible following the delivery of 25,000 litres of fuel to key water facilities by UNRWA and UNICEF from their reserves within Gaza. However, unless additional fuel is delivered to these facilities, operations will be halted again within 24 to 48 hours.

In this context, two seawater desalination plants in the Middle Area and Khan Younis continue limited operations, pumping about 4,000 cubic metres of drinking water per day through the network, representing 30 per cent of their full capacity (the third seawater desalination plant in northern Gaza remains closed). Furthermore, the supply of piped water to other areas in the south, primarily brackish water, was made possible by the operation of 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, which also received limited amounts of fuel. This has benefitted only those households with undamaged water connections.

Additionally, after water supply by Israel to the Khan Younis area reduced in previous days by 60-80 per cent, on 25 October, this supply resumed at the previous level of 600 cubic metres per hour. This too, has contributed to the availability of piped water in some households. Meanwhile, water supply through two other pipelines from Israel is suspended since 8 October.

On the other hand, a leakage of about 70 per cent was identified in one of the main pipelines between Rafah and Khan Younis, due to the damage it had sustained. This has compelled water providers to resort to less efficient and limited water trucking.

Food security

Between 20 and 26 October, three bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP) were forced to shut down due to the lack of fuel. Currently, only 18 bakeries contracted by WFP and UNRWA are operational and supplying bread to shelters. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand. Unless fuel is allocated to them, most bakeries will shut over the next few days.

During the same seven-day period, ten bakeries were struck and destroyed; six in Gaza city, two in northern Jabalia, and two in the Middle Area (Maghazi Camp and Nusseirat). As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

Out of the 84 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, 34 carried food, including ready-to-eat food such as canned tuna, canned meat, and other non-perishables. All food items are being distributed in UNRWA shelters. With delivery, WFP began the distribution of corned beef and canned tuna at a DES in the Khan Younis Training Center.

Movement and access

Ten trucks with humanitarian supplies entered on 27 October through the Rafah crossing with Egypt after passing through Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities. About 3,000 tons are still waiting on the Egyptian side to enter Gaza.

Additionally, ten medical personnel entered on 27 October through Rafah. With those exceptions, the Rafah crossing, as well as the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel, have remained closed. Prior to the hostilities, patients, including some 2,000 cancer patients from Gaza, had been referred for regular treatment in hospitals in East Jerusalem and Israel. However, this practice has been halted since 7 October.

Access to the sea along Gaza's shore has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity ceased when the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

Over the past 24 hours, UNRWA has confirmed that 14 additional staff members have been killed in hostilities, bringing the total number of fatalities among their personnel since 7 October to 53. One of these staff members, a father of six children, was killed while waiting in line to collect bread.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

As of 27 October, about US$107.93 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 37 per cent of the estimate required when the Appeal was first launched. Of the total amount pledged, 88 per cent are for UN agencies and 12 per cent for national and international NGOs. About $81.85 million were earmarked for UNRWA; $7.1 million for WHO, and $4 million for WFP.

Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

WEST BANK HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Casualties

In the West Bank, in the past 24 hours (as of 21:00 on 27 October), Israeli forces shot and killed four Palestinians and another one died from wounds sustained previously.

The deadliest incident, which resulted in three of these fatalities, took place during an Israeli search-and-arrest operation in Jenin Refugee Camp on 27 October at 1:30. The operation involved clashes between residents and Israeli forces, as well as exchange of fire. During the incident, Israeli forces bulldozed sections of a road, according to Israeli forces to neutralize explosives planted in the ground. Damage to water networks and homes is yet to be assessed. According to medical sources, Israeli forces impeded the work of paramedics during the operation. This is the third Israeli operation in Jenin Refugee Camp in less than a week.

Another person was killed during a search-and-arrest operation in Qalqiliya city, that involved exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinians. One Palestinian died from wounds sustained on 20 October, during confrontations that erupted over the course of a protest in solidarity with Gaza in Tura al Gharbiya village (Jenin).

Since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have killed 108 Palestinians, including 33 children. Almost half of these fatalities were reported during Israeli search-and-arrest operations. The daily average of such operations since the start of the escalation of hostilities (22) is double the average between January and September 2023 (11). Another 41 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October were killed in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza and related confrontations.

Additionally, since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have injured 1,967 Palestinians, including at least 174 children; an additional 43 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January and 7 October 2023.

Access Restrictions

Since 7 October, the Israeli authorities have imposed multiple movement restrictions across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This has been done either by closing road gates, erecting flying checkpoints at main road junctions, or creating earth mounds or placing concrete roadblocks. These measures have been accompanied by the deployment of many military personnel. Some movement obstacles have been erected by Israeli settlers.

These restrictions have been particularly severe in areas near Israeli settlements, in areas behind the Barrier, and in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city (H2), isolating Palestinian communities and severely limiting their access to essential services. In the H2 area of Hebron city, all the main checkpoints leading to Tel Rumeida, Jaber neighbourhood, and the Al Ibrahimi Mosque area, are closed, resulting in the isolation of about 7,000 Palestinian residents. These closures lasted for one week.

Settler-related violence

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 146 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (22 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (100 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (24 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

More than one-third of the incidents involved threats with firearms, including shooting, by settlers. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 24 residential structures, 40 agricultural/animal-related structures, 67 vehicles and more than 400 trees and saplings.

Displacement

Since 7 October, 14 Palestinian households, including 65 people and 31 children, were displaced following the demolitions of their homes in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank on grounds of lack of Israeli building permits. Additionally, Israeli forces demolished on punitive grounds the homes of four families whose members have been accused of killing Israelis in 2023. This displaced 20 people, including eleven children. Punitive demolitions are a form of collective punishment and are prohibited under international law.

In addition, there has been an increase in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. Since 7 October, at least 82 households comprising 607 people, including 211 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 13 herding/Bedouin communities in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Tubas, and Nablus governorates.

One such incident occurred on 9 October when five households, comprising 40 people, were displaced from the Al Ganoub community in southern Hebron. Armed settlers threatened them at gunpoint, warning that they would be killed if they did not leave within an hour. Furthermore, the settlers set fire to two residential structures with all the families' belongings inside and stole their livestock. One of the family members, 75-year-old Abu Jamal, stated:

> *"My tent and my goats were what kept me here. After settlers set fire to our tent and stole my goats, they destroyed everything that kept me here"*

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 112 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 94 ambulances and including 63 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 56 involving physical violence towards health teams; 19 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and 12 involving militarized search of health assets.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 13,241 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 86%.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tuklarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.

- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and WB).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 657,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to Date

- Partners continue making efforts to procure from the local market some supplies to support the hospital operations.

- Surge staff remain present in the hospitals supporting case management.
- UNRWA continue to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 93 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has 8 mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expect to increase the number to twelve.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- UNRWA started distributing corned beef, together with the canned tuna distributed by WFP in the DES operating in the Khan Younis Training Center.
- The World Food Program (WFP) reached some 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. 490,311 displaced persons in UN shelters received fresh bread and canned food; 243,756 people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.
- Oxfam has already covered 189 households in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) has already covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine is providing food assistance to 10,000 IDP households in non-UNRWA shelter or in host Families.
- ANERA provides hot meals and food parcels to 120,000 IDPs - 80 percent to UN shelters, and 20 per cent to hosting communities and other small-scale shelters.
- ACTED: is providing food vouchers to 3,250 IDPs in the Middle Area (Khan Younis).

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.

- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

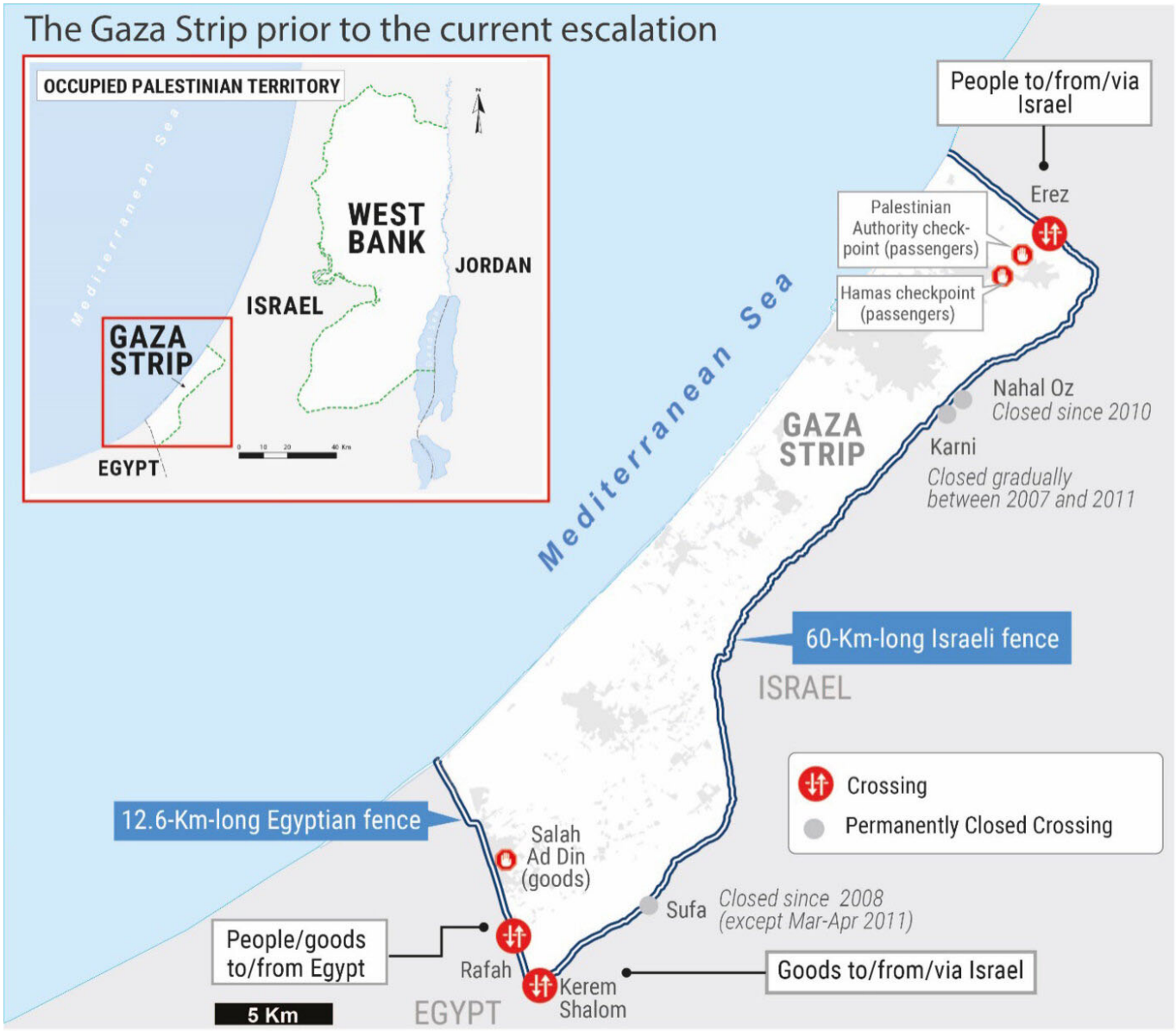
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.

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The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
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Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
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GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
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Goods to/from/via Israel
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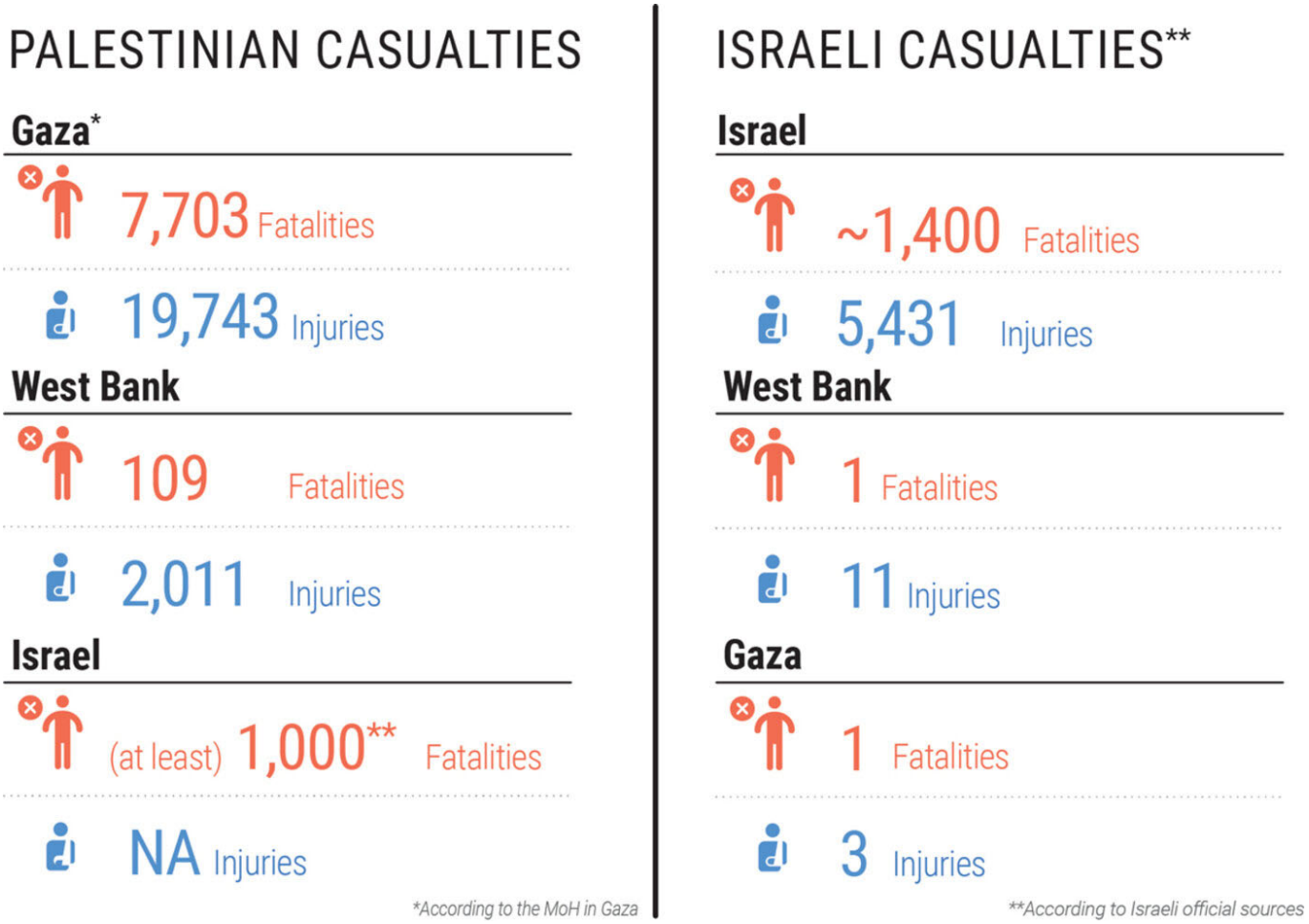
Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #22

28 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- Since 27 October at about 18:00, contact with the Gaza Strip has been cut off, following the shutdown of landlines, cellular and internet services. As a result, this Flash Update contains minimal updated information about the humanitarian situation in Gaza over the past 24 hours. For an overview of the situation prior to the disruption, refer to the previous Flash Update.

- The telecommunications shutdown has brought the already challenging delivery of humanitarian assistance to a complete halt and is depriving people of life-saving information. As noted on 28 October by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, “the bombing of the telecommunications infrastructure places the civilian population in grave danger. Ambulances and civil defence teams are no longer able to locate the injured, or the thousands of people estimated to be still under the rubble. Civilians are no longer able to receive updated information on where they can access humanitarian relief and where they may be in less danger.”



- Fragmented information available indicates that the past 24 hours (as of 21:00 on 28 October) have witnessed the most intense Israeli airstrikes and artillery shelling since the start of the hostilities. Additionally, Israeli infantry and armored vehicles entered various areas within Gaza and clashed with Palestinian armed groups.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza reported that between 27 October, 18:00, and 28 October around noon time, at least 377 Palestinians, including 157 children, had been killed in Gaza. This brings the cumulative reported fatality toll in Gaza since the start of hostilities to 7,703, of whom nearly 66 per cent are reportedly children and women.
- As of 27 October, an estimated 1.4 million people in Gaza were internally displaced, with some 657,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities. The average number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) per shelter was almost three times their intended capacity. Forty-two UNRWA installations, including several shelters, have been damaged during the hostilities resulting in 13 fatalities and 195 injuries among IDPs.
- The complete siege of Gaza imposed by Israel continues, as all crossings have remained closed. Since 21 October, 84 trucks carrying water, food, and medical supplies have entered Gaza via the Rafah crossing with Egypt; entry of desperately needed fuel remains banned by the Israeli authorities.
- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population intensified over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities reported. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.
- According to the Israeli authorities, 230 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicated that about 30 of the hostages are children. Four hostages were released on 20 and 23 October. On 26 October, Hamas claimed that 50 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.
- On 27 October, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce," the release "of all civilians who are illegally being held captive," the protection of

international institutions, and ensuring the safe passage of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

- In the West Bank, since the afternoon of 27 October (as of 21:00 on 2 October), one Palestinian man was killed by an Israeli settler. This brings the total number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 109, including 33 children. Of these fatalities, 102 were killed by Israeli forces and seven by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

- As of 27 October, Member States have pledged nearly US$108 million in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 37 per cent of the initial estimated requirement when the Appeal was launched. Private donations to the oPt Humanitarian Fund can be provided online.



Smoke billows during Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, 12 October 2023. Photo by WHO

West Bank Humanitarian Overview

Casualties

In the West Bank, between the afternoon of 27 October and 21:00 on 28 October, one Palestinian man was killed by an Israeli settler (see details below). No Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces have been recorded during this time. Additionally, a 19-year-old Palestinian man succumbed to previous injuries allegedly caused by Palestinian Security forces during confrontations that erupted in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza on 18 October.

Almost 50 per cent of the 109 Palestinian who were killed by Israelis in the West Bank since 7 October were hit during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations; about 40 per cent in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent during attacks and alleged attacks by Palestinians against Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.

Since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have injured 2,011 Palestinians, including at least 180 children. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January and 6 October 2023.

Settler-related Violence

On 28 October, in As Sawiya village (Nablus), a group of Israeli settlers threw stones and opened live fire at Palestinians who were harvesting their olive trees. As a result, one Palestinian man was killed. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by settlers since 7 October to seven, including one child, accounting for half of all Palestinian fatalities by settlers in the West Bank so far in 2023 (14).

October marks the beginning of the olive harvest season. To access olive groves located within or nearby Israeli settlements, or in the closed military area behind the Barrier (the “Seam Zone”), Palestinian farmers must obtain permits or permissions from the Israeli authorities. However, since 7 October, these procedures have been halted, rendering large areas inaccessible or accessible at risk of facing settler attacks. Consequently, some families risk losing their income for the entire year.

Since the start of the current olive harvest season, at least 32 incidents of settler violence, in addition to harassment of Palestinians harvesting their olive trees, have been recorded, resulting in one fatality and 27 injuries, either by settlers or by Israeli forces who intervened following settler attacks.

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 154 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (23 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (105 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (26 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

More than one-third of the incidents involved threats with firearms, including shooting, by settlers. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 24 residential structures, 40 agricultural/animal-related structures, 68 vehicles and more than 650 trees and saplings.

Access Restrictions

In addition to the access restrictions affecting farmers, since 7 October, the Israeli authorities have imposed multiple additional restrictions across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This has been done either by closing road gates, erecting flying checkpoints at main road junctions, creating earth mounds or placing concrete roadblocks. These measures have been accompanied by the deployment of significant military personnel. Some movement obstacles have been erected by Israeli settlers.

These restrictions have been particularly severe in areas near Israeli settlements, in areas behind the Barrier, and in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city (H2), further isolating Palestinian communities and severely limiting their access to essential services.

Displacement

On 28 October, Israeli forces demolished a three-story residential building in Area C, next to Al Jalazun refugee camp (Ramallah) on grounds of lack of Israeli building permits, displacing three families (12 people, including five children). Since 7 October, 65 Palestinians have been displaced following similar demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, and another 20 following punitive demolitions, targeting the family homes of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of fatal attacks against Israelis.

In addition, there has been an increase in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. Since 7 October, at least 82 households comprising 607 people, including 211 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 13 herding/Bedouin communities.

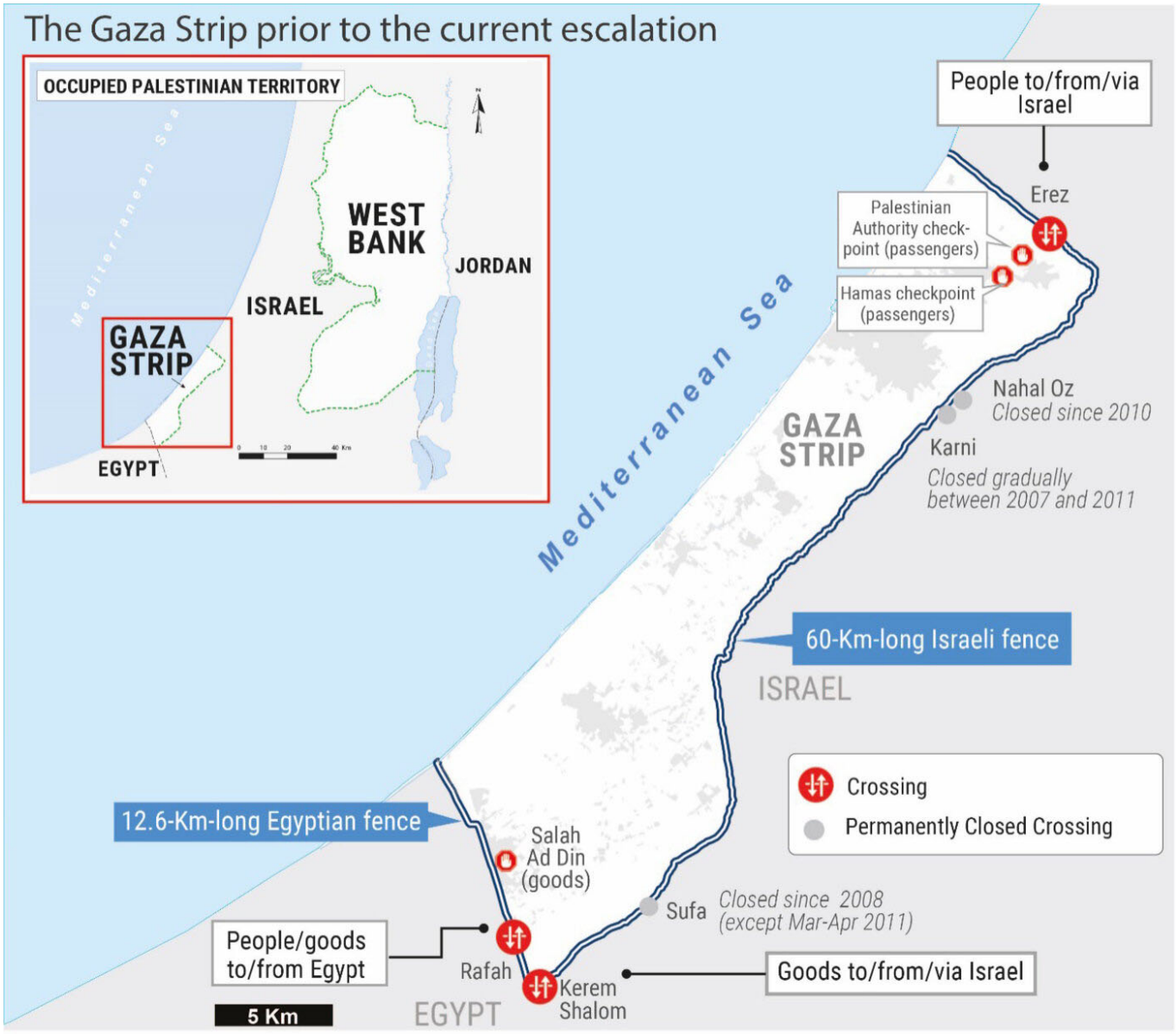
One such incident occurred on 12 October when eight households, comprising 51 people, were displaced from Shihda Wa-Hamlan herding community in Nablus, after armed settlers threatened them at gunpoint, warning that they would be killed and that their tents would be set on fire during the night. One of the family members, 52-year-old Abu Ismail, stated:

> *"I had no choice but to leave everything behind to protect my children."*

Attacks on health care

Since 7 October, WHO has documented 118 attacks on health care in the West Bank affecting 99 ambulances and including 67 attacks involving obstruction to delivery of health care; 61 involving physical violence towards health teams; 19 involving detention of health staff and ambulances; and 12 involving militarized search of health assets.

For the latest available information on humanitarian needs and responses see the previous Flash Update.

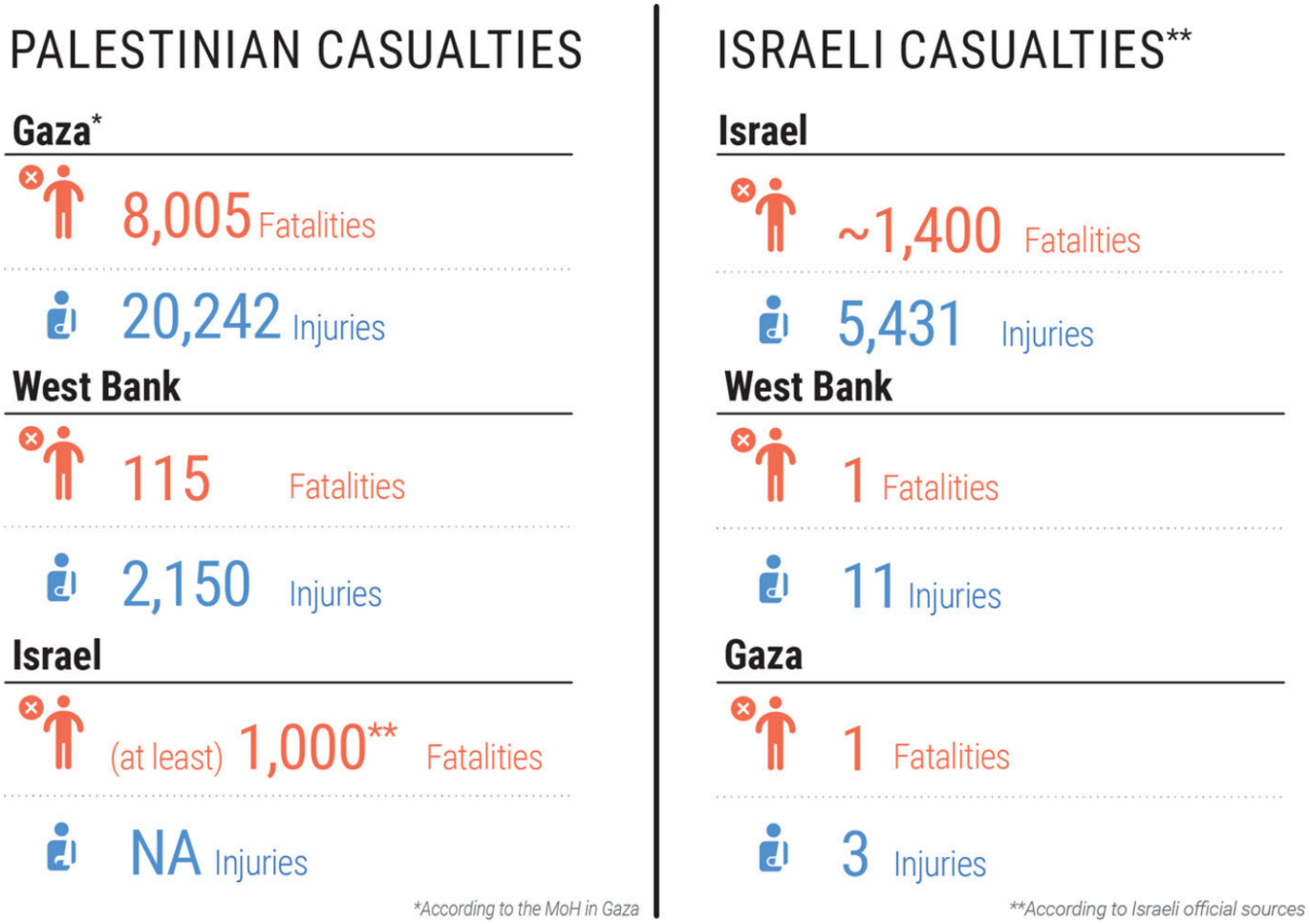


Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #23

29 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- On 28 and 29 October, the vicinities of Shifa and Al Quds hospitals in Gaza city and of the Indonesian hospital in northern Gaza have been reportedly bombarded, causing damage. This followed renewed calls by the Israeli military to evacuate these facilities immediately. All 13 hospitals* still operational in Gaza city and northern Gaza have received repeated evacuation orders in recent days. Thousands of patients and medical staff, as well as about 117,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), are staying in these facilities.
- On 28 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) called upon “all parties to the conflict to take all precautions to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure [including] health workers, patients, health facilities and ambulances, and civilians who are sheltering in these facilities.” WHO reiterated “that it is impossible to evacuate patients without endangering their lives.” On 26 October, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lynn Hastings, stated that “for people who can’t evacuate – because they have nowhere to go or are unable to move – advance warnings make no difference.”



- On 28 October, thousands of people broke into several UNRWA warehouses and distribution centres in the middle and southern areas of Gaza, taking wheat flour, hygiene supplies and other items. On 29 October, UNRWA's Operations Director, Tom White, indicated that "this is a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza."

- On 29 October, at least 33 trucks carrying water, food, and medical supplies entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt. This is the largest delivery of humanitarian aid since 21 October, when limited deliveries resumed. While this increase is welcome, a much larger volume of aid is needed on a regular basis to prevent further deterioration in the dire humanitarian situation, including civil unrest. In particular, entry of fuel to operate medical equipment and water and sanitation facilities is urgently required.

- Telecommunication in Gaza, including cellular lines and internet services were largely restored by the morning of 29 October, after being shut down on the evening of 27 October.

- 302 Palestinians were killed in Gaza between 18:00 on 28 October and noon on 29 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. This brings the cumulative reported fatality toll in Gaza since the start of hostilities to 8,005, of whom 67 per cent are reportedly children and women.

- As of 29 October, more than 1.4 million people in Gaza were internally displaced, with some 671,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities. The average number of IDPs per shelter is over three times their intended capacity.

- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population continued over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities reported. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 239 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Forty people are still reported missing. Media reports indicated that about 30 of the hostages are children. Four

adult hostages were released on 20 and 23 October. On 26 October, Hamas claimed that 50 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.

- In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians between the afternoon of 28 October and 21:00 on 29 October. During this time, another Palestinian died of wounds sustained previously. This brings the total number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 115, including 33 children, alongside one Israeli soldier killed by Palestinians.

- Nearly 1,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced from their homes in the West Bank since 7 October. This includes at least 98 Palestinian households, comprising over 800 people, driven out from 15 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions. Another 121 Palestinians were displaced following the demolition of their homes by the Israeli authorities on grounds of lack of Israeli-issued building permits or on punitive grounds.



Devastation in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

Gaza Humanitarian Overview

Hostilities and Casualties

Israeli bombardment and airstrikes continued during the past 24 hours. According to the Israeli military spokesperson, Israeli forces expanded their ground operations within the Gaza Strip.

While communication lines were largely restored by the morning of 29 October, it is difficult to assess the real extent of damages and fatalities on 27-29 October, with Civil Defense and medical personnel struggling to reach casualties. According to anecdotal evidence, in the north of Gaza, airstrikes appear to be systematically destroying sections of entire residential areas.

Among the deadliest attacks reported in the past 24 hours were airstrikes targeting residential structures. In the early hours of 29 October, airstrikes reportedly struck a house in Jabalia, northern Gaza, killing 26 Palestinians, while 14 others are still under the rubble. About the same time, another house was hit in Khan Younis Camp, southern Gaza, killing 16 Palestinians and injuring 25 others.

Since 7 October, 8,005 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 3,324 children and 2,062 women, and about 20,242 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Over two thirds of fatalities are said to have been killed in their homes alongside their family members.

Among these fatalities, 995 have not been identified yet, including at least 248 children. As of 27 October, over 60 per cent of the fatalities were reported in the northern region of Gaza.

As of 29 October, about 1,800 people, including at least 940 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their missions, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced that, due to the lack of fuel, it was forced to reduce the number of ambulances it operates.

Palestinian Civil Defense has stated that the decomposition of bodies under collapsed buildings, amid the limited rescue missions, raises humanitarian and environmental concern.

According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 27 October, 192 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members, 136 Palestinian families had lost 6 to 9 members, and 444 families had lost two to five of their members.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,431 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 25 October, the names of 1,117 of these fatalities have been released, including 808 civilians, 309 soldiers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 30 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 671,397 people staying in 150 UNRWA facilities, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 83,000 in 72 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.

Reports suggest that IDPs are moving from one area to another based on the availability of means to survive, food and water, and security concerns.

As of 29 October, MoH in Gaza agreed to provide services to at least 117,000 IDPs sheltering in 13 hospitals and other health care facilities, mainly in Gaza city and north Gaza. These services will be administered through the Ministry of Social Development similar to the services provided in other public shelter centres.

Over 15 percent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

Since 11 October, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel.

Health care

Hospitals are facing an unprecedented level of devastation, primarily driven by the overwhelming number of injuries, critical shortages of vital resources and concerns of being targeted by airstrikes. Over the past 24 hours, on two separate occasions, the vicinity of the Al Quds hospital in the North of Gaza was bombarded; affecting staff, patients and 14,000 IDPs. In the same time period, residential buildings near the Indonesian Hospital, in Beit Lahia and Shifa Hospital in Gaza city, were hit, reportedly by airstrikes.

Since the start of hostilities, over one-third of hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational. All ten hospitals* in the north have received evacuation orders.

On 29 October, at least 33 trucks entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing, including 12 trucks carrying medical supplies and 3 trucks carrying medical supplies and other items.

Overall, at least 70 out of the 117 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, carried medical supplies. While limited in volume, these supplies play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services.

The distribution plan for these supplies is based on the needs confirmed on the ground by technical officers, by WHO, and by PRCS in Gaza. After delivery into Gaza and reception, the technical officers accompany the supplies to each hospital. Post-delivery monitoring is carried out regularly to assess consumption.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals in Gaza, forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza. The hospitals continue to suffer from a severe fuel shortage, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Two out of the 33 trucks that entered Gaza on 29 October through the Rafah crossing carried WASH supplies and other items. Overall, out of the 117 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, at least 13 carried WASH supplies.

On 29 October, the Israeli authorities informed the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) that they would resume water supply from Israel to the Middle Area and that PWA personnel is authorized to repair the damage sustained by the relevant pipeline. Once repaired, this connection is expected to supply about 500 cubic metres of drinking water per hour. This would be the second pipeline from Israel (out of three) to resume operations, after the connection supplying southern Gaza was reactivated on 15 October.

Additionally, water supply to the areas south of Wadi Gaza have witnessed significant improvement since 22 October, following daily deliveries of small amounts of fuel by UNRWA and UNICEF from their reserves within Gaza to key water facilities.

These deliveries have enabled two seawater desalination plants in the Middle Area and Khan Younis to resume operations at 30 per cent of their full capacity (the third seawater desalination plant in northern Gaza remains closed). Furthermore, the supply of piped water to other areas in the south, primarily brackish water, was made possible by the operation of 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations. On the other hand, about 70 per cent of leakage was identified in one of the main pipelines between Rafah and Khan Younis, due to the damage it sustained, compelling water providers to resort to less efficient water trucking.

Food security

As of 29 October, only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), and eight additional bakeries (one in Rafah, four in Khan Younis, and three in the Middle area) are operational and supplying bread to shelters. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand. Unless fuel is allocated to them, most bakeries will shut over the next few days.

During the same nine-day period, ten bakeries were struck and destroyed; six in Gaza city, two in northern Jabalia, and two in the Middle Area (Maghazi Camp and Nusseirat). As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Long queues between 4-6 waiting hours are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

WFP estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in Gaza are sufficient for about eight days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security.

Out of the 117 trucks that have entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing since 21 October, at least 57 carried food and three carried nutrition items, including ready-to-eat food such as canned tuna, canned meat, and other non-perishables. All food items are being distributed in UNRWA shelters. With delivery, WFP began the distribution of corned beef and canned tuna at a DES in the Khan Younis Training Center.

Movement and access

Thirty-tree trucks with humanitarian supplies entered on 29 October through the Rafah crossing with Egypt after passing through Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities. The trucks contained beds, food, medical and WASH items.

Prior to the hostilities, patients, including some 2,000 cancer patients from Gaza, had been referred for regular treatment in hospitals in East Jerusalem and Israel. However, this practice has been halted since 7 October.

Access to the sea along Gaza's shore has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity ceased when the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

On 28 October, thousands of people entered several UNRWA warehouses and took food supplies and hygiene kits. One of the warehouses, in Deir al Balah, is where UNRWA stores supplies from the humanitarian convoys coming from Egypt.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

As of 27 October, about US$107.93 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 37 per cent of the estimate required when the Appeal was first launched. Of the total amount pledged, 88 per cent are for UN agencies and

12 per cent for national and international NGOs. About $81.85 million were earmarked for UNRWA; $7.1 million for WHO, and $4 million for WFP.

Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

West Bank Humanitarian Overview

Casualties

In the West Bank, between the afternoon of 28 October and 21:00 on 29 October, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians, and another one died from wounds sustained previously. Three Palestinians were killed during search-and-arrest operations in Beit Rima (Ramallah), Ad Duheisha Refugee Camp (Bethlehem), and Tammun (Tubas). In two separate incidents, one Palestinian was killed, and another died from wounds sustained after being shot by Israeli forces during confrontations that occurred during punitive demolitions in Askar and Balata Refugee Camps (both in Nablus).

Since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have killed 115 Palestinians, including 33 children. Almost 50 per cent of the total were killed during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations; about 40 per cent in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent during attacks and alleged attacks by Palestinians against Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.

Since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have injured 2,150 Palestinians, including at least 193 children. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January and 6 October 2023.

Settler-related Violence

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 167 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (26 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (113 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (28 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

More than one-third of the incidents involved threats with firearms, including shooting, by settlers. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 24 residential structures, 41 agricultural/animal-related structures, 73 vehicles and more than 650 trees and saplings.

Displacement

Since 7 October, 65 Palestinians have been displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 20 following punitive demolitions, targeting the family homes of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of fatal attacks against Israelis.

In addition, there has been an increase in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. Since 7 October, at least 98 households comprising 828 people, including 313 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

On 28 October, 24 Palestinians households, comprising 141 people, half of them children, were displaced from Khirbet Zanuta herding community in Hebron, after settlers pointed guns at them, threatening to kill them if they do not leave. The following day, the families dismantled about 50 residential and animal structures and left the area along with the

5,000 livestock. One of the family members, 43-year-old Abu Khaled, stated:

> *"On 26 October, settlers attacked us, destroying our homes, water tanks, solar panels, and cars. That day, I felt the presence of death so tangibly as if I saw it with my own eyes. I was torn between staying in or leaving the place I love, where I belong, where I may die. On 28 October, I made the hardest decision in my life: to leave Zanuta and leave everything behind, as memories. I did this to protect my children."*

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 13,241 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tularm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.

- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and WB).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- About 671,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to Date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.

- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- Due to the complete internet and cellular blackout in the Gaza Strip, WFP was not able to contact contracted shops and bakeries, operations were at a halt for 36 hours.
- UNRWA started distributing corned beef, together with the canned tuna distributed by WFP in the DES operating in the Khan Younis Training Center.
- WFP reached some 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. On 27 October, 22,493 displaced persons in UN shelters received fresh bread; As of 27 October, 12,821 people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

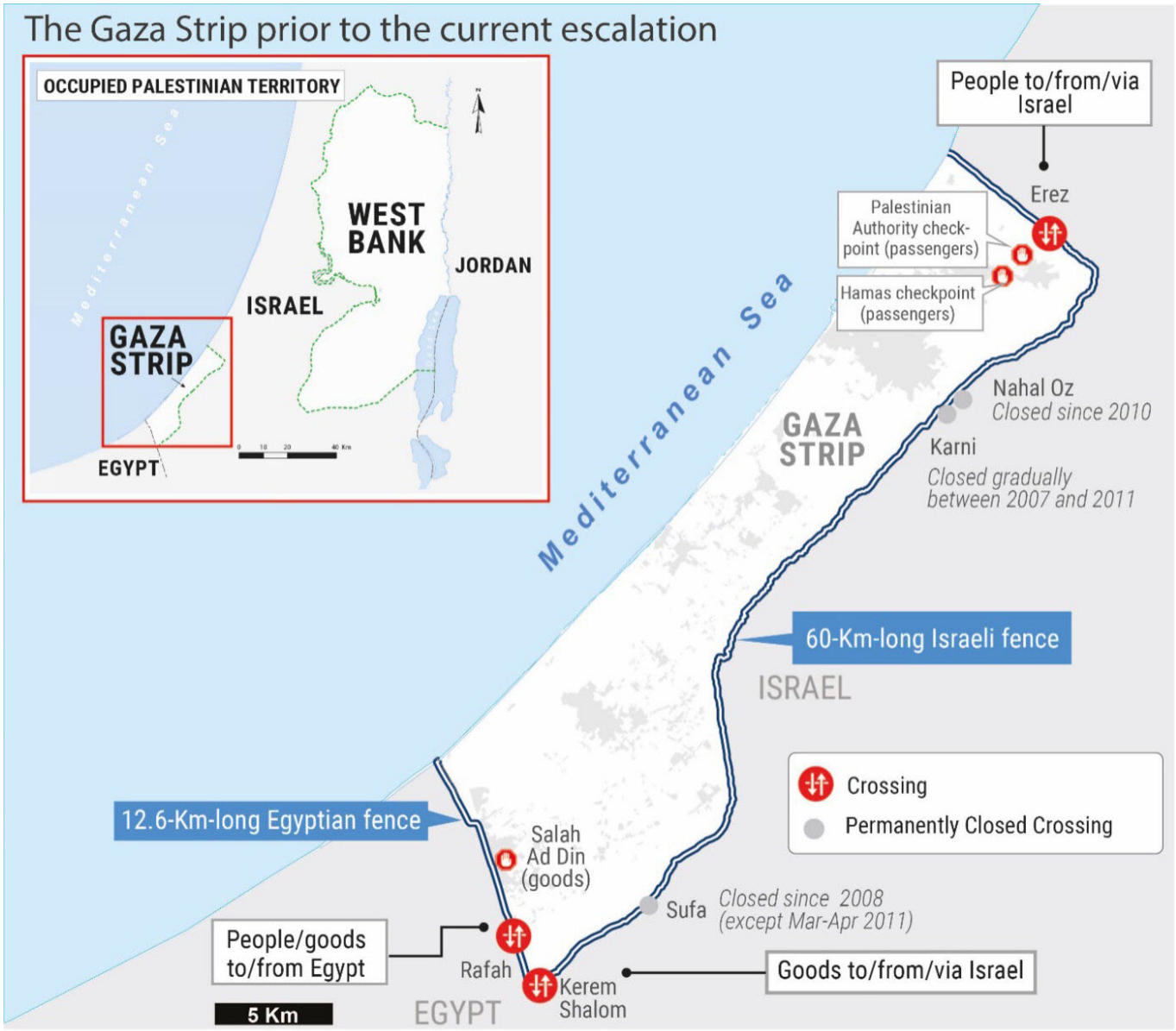
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.

- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to the families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.
- Four water storage tanks with a capacity of 10 cubic metres and twenty others with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each to be used at community and IDP centre levels were received through Rafah crossing.
- 8,000 unit of ten litres of water capacity were delivered through Rafah crossing
- 4,000 purification water tools for the hosted families at the vulnerable communities and IDP centers were delivered through Rafah crossing.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



* This figure has been rectified following the publication of this update.

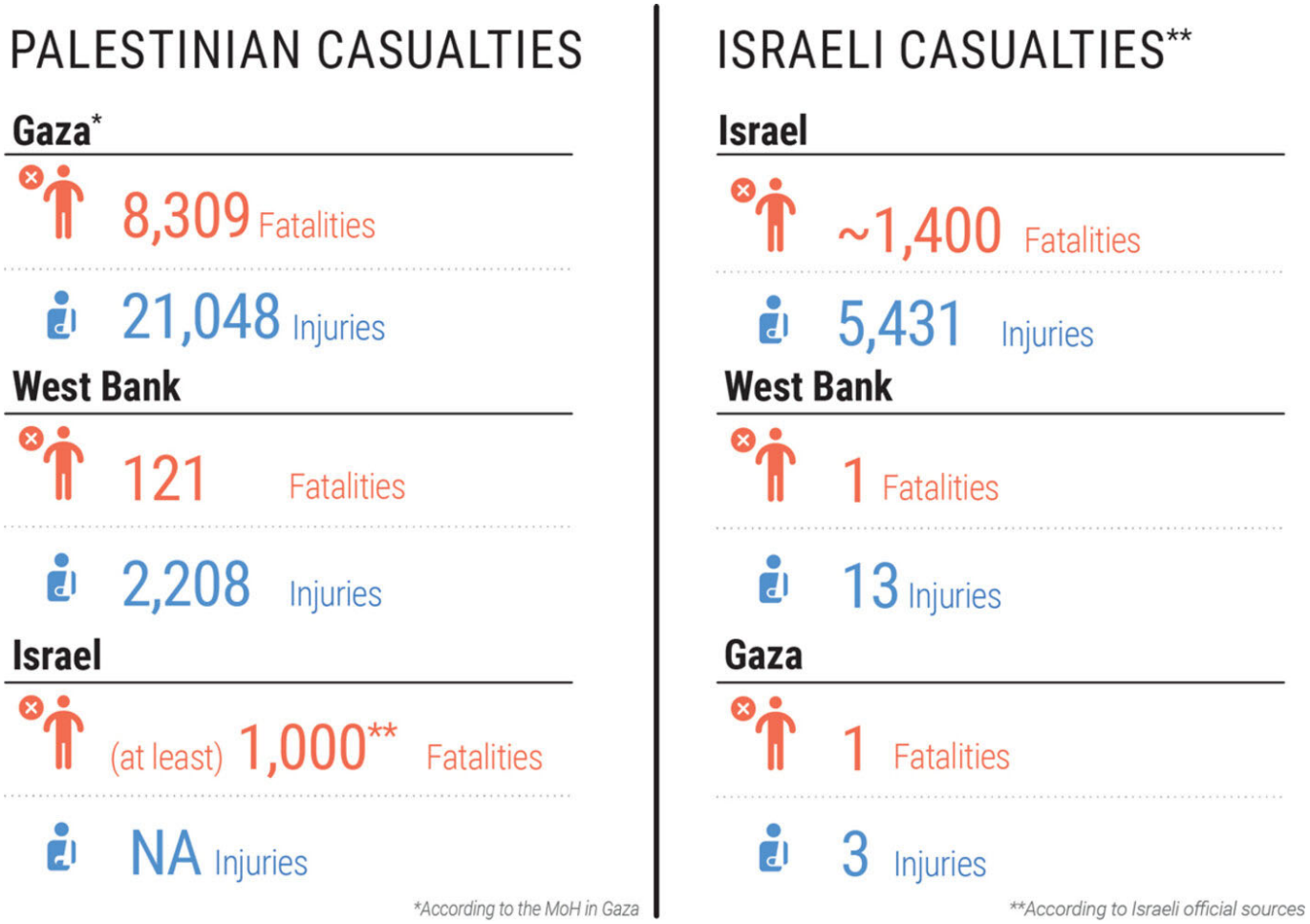
Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #24

30 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- On 30 October, significant Israeli ground operations within Gaza continued for the fourth consecutive day, alongside intense bombardments. A total of 304 Palestinians were killed in Gaza on 29 October, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. This brings the cumulative fatality toll reported by MoH in Gaza since the start of hostilities to 8,309, of whom 70 per cent are said to be children and women.

- For the second consecutive day, the vicinities of two hospitals in Gaza city and northern Gaza have reportedly been bombarded, resulting in damage. All 13 hospitals that are still operational in these areas have received repeated Israeli evacuation orders in recent days. Thousands of patients and medical staff, as well as about 117,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), are staying in these facilities. Remarks delivered to the Security Council today on behalf of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, stated "we are deeply concerned by allegations of military installations in the close vicinity of hospitals and the request by Israeli authorities for hospitals, including Al Quds and Shifa, to be evacuated – there is nowhere safe for these patients to go, and for those on life support and babies in incubators, moving would almost certainly be a death sentence."



- On 30 October, a total of 26 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt. While the increase in the volume of aid entering Gaza during the past two days is welcome, current amounts are a fraction of what is needed to prevent further deterioration in the already-dire humanitarian situation, including civil unrest. As stated by Griffiths in his message to the Security Council, it is "urgent for us to replenish fuel supplies, which are vital for powering most essential services, including hospitals and water desalination plants, and to transport humanitarian relief inside Gaza."

- Water supply from Israel to southern Gaza came to a halt on 30 October for unknown reasons, while the announced repair of another pipeline from Israel to the Middle Area, ahead of its reactivation, did not take place. This follows several days of gradual improvement of water supply in central and southern Gaza following the distribution of limited amounts of fuel available in Gaza to key water facilities, enabling their reactivation. At the time of writing, no water is provided to Gaza from Israel.

- As of 30 October, more than 1.4 million people in Gaza were internally displaced, with nearly 672,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities. The average number of IDPs per shelter is over three times their intended capacity.

- Palestinian armed groups' indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population continued over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities reported. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.

- On 30 October, as part of their ground operations, Israeli forces released one female Israeli soldier who was held captive in Gaza. This followed Hamas' release of four civilian hostages on 20 and 23 October. According to the Israeli authorities, 238 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicated that about 30 of the hostages are children. On 26 October, Hamas claimed that 50 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.

- In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed six Palestinians and an Israeli settler killed another Palestinian between the afternoon of 29 October and 21:00 on 30 October. This brings the total number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 121, including 33 children, alongside one Israeli soldier killed by Palestinians.

- Nearly 1,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced from their homes in the West Bank since 7 October. This includes at least 98 Palestinian households, comprising over 800 people, driven out from 15 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions. Another 121 Palestinians were displaced following the demolition of their homes by the Israeli authorities on grounds of lack of Israeli-issued building permits or as a punitive measure.



Aid supplies management in a UN facility in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

Gaza Humanitarian Overview

Hostilities and Casualties

According to the Israeli military, infantry and armored forces expanded their ground operations within the Gaza Strip overnight. Media reports indicate that such operations have focused on the outskirts of Gaza city, and on the northeast area of the Strip, including clashes with Palestinian armed groups. Bombardment and airstrikes continued over the past 24 hours, and some 600 targets were reportedly attacked.

In one of the deadliest incidents, on 30 October afternoon, airstrikes struck a wedding hall in Nusseirat in the Middle area, killing 26 IDPs, as the structure was being used as an informal shelter. Earlier in the day, airstrikes reportedly struck a residential building in Az Zawayda, also in the Middle Gaza, killing 11 Palestinians. A house was hit in western Khan Yunis, reportedly killing 16 Palestinians and injuring more than twenty.

Since 7 October, 8,309 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 3,457 children* and at least 2,062 women, and about 21,048 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Among these fatalities, 995 have not been identified yet including at least 248 children.

As of 29 October, about 1,950 people, including at least 1,050 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their missions, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced that, due to the lack of fuel, it was forced to reduce the number of ambulances it operates.

The Palestinian Civil Defense has stated that the decomposition of bodies under collapsed buildings, amid the limited rescue missions, raises humanitarian and environmental concerns.

According to the MoH in Gaza, over two thirds of the fatalities have been reportedly killed in their homes. Relatedly, a total of 192 Palestinian families have lost ten or more of their members, 136 Palestinian families have lost 6 to 9 members, and 444 families have lost two to five of their members, the Ministry says.

Since 7 October, 19 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 310 have been injured. In total, 44 UNRWA installations have been damaged since 7 October.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented three new attacks on health care since noon on 29 October, with damage to two hospitals and destruction of an ambulance. One of the attacks on 30 October was against the PRCS Al Quds Hospital, in Tel Al Hawa neighbourhood of Gaza city, where damages due to nearby bombardment resulted in severe debris and dust entering the hospital with inhalation and suffocation among patients, staff, and IDPs.

Additionally, on 30 October, Israeli forces continued for the second consecutive day to target the vicinity of hospitals causing damage to An Nasser hospital, the Turkish Friendship Hospital (the only cancer hospital), and an UNRWA health centre. Additionally, the PRCS warehouses next to Al Quds Hospital were hit and damaged.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,431 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Israeli media reported that, as of 25 October, the names of 1,135 of these fatalities have been released, including 823 civilians and police, and 312 soldiers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 30 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 672,00 people staying in 150 UNRWA facilities, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 83,000 in 72 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are residing with host families.

Provision of assistance to about 300,000 IDPs hosted in 100 shelter centres in Gaza city and Northern Gaza is increasingly challenging, due to the intensity of airstrikes and hostilities. At least 117,000 of these IDPs are taking refuge in 13 hospitals and other healthcare facilities. On 29 October, the MoH in Gaza committed to provide services to the latter IDPs, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development, similar to the services provided in other public shelter centres.

The average number of IDPs per shelter in UNRWA facilities has reached almost four times their intended capacity. The Khan Younis Training Centre is currently the most crowded shelter, hosting 22,100 IDPs, more than 10 times its capacity.

Reports suggest that IDPs are relocating from one area to another based on the availability of means to survive, such as food and water, alongside security concerns. Consequently, the abovementioned figures continuously change.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

Since 11 October, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel.

Health care

Of the 26 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing on 30 October, at least eight carried medical supplies and two additional trucks carried medical supplies alongside other items. Overall, at least 52 out of the 143 trucks that have entered since 21 October, carried medical supplies. While limited in volume, these supplies play a crucial role in bolstering trauma response and sustaining essential healthcare services.

The distribution plan for these supplies is based on the needs confirmed on the ground by technical officers, by WHO, and by PRCS in Gaza. After delivery into Gaza and reception, the technical officers accompany the supplies to each hospital. Post-delivery monitoring is carried out regularly to assess consumption.

Hospitals are facing an unprecedented level of devastation, primarily driven by the overwhelming number of injuries, critical shortages of vital resources and concerns of being targeted by airstrikes.

Since the start of hostilities, over one-third of hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational. All 13 hospitals still operational in Gaza city and Northern Gaza have received evacuation orders.

Nine UNRWA health centres (out of 22) are still operational in the Middle and South areas. On 28 October (last available figure) they received 4,400 patients' visits.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals in Gaza, forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza. The hospitals continue to suffer from a severe fuel shortage, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

On 30 October, as of 14:00, water supply from Israel to western Khan Younis stopped for the first time since this line was reactivated on 15 October; the reasons remain unknown. This line previously supplied 600 cubic metres of drinking water per hour.

The resumption of water supply from Israel to the Middle Area, through the reactivation of a second pipeline to provide some 500 cubic metres of drinking water per hour, is yet to start. On 29 October, the Israeli authorities informed the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) of their intention to do that and authorized them to repair the damage sustained by the relevant pipeline; however, no repairs have taken place. A third pipeline from Israel to northern Gaza remains is also closed since 8 October.

On the other hand, in the Middle Area and southern Gaza, the operation of two seawater desalination plants at about 40 per cent of their capacity, alongside 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, has continued. This has been enabled by the delivery of small amounts of fuel by UNRWA and UNICEF. As a result, households still connected to the water network have been receiving water for a few hours a day, while others have received water by trucks.

By contrast, access to water in Gaza city and northern Gaza is far more challenging than in the south. Neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline supplying those areas is operational. While UNRWA and UNICEF have also provided limited amounts of fuel to a number of water wells, water is provided by trucks only. On 30 October, water trucking activities came to halt due to the ongoing military operations.

Overall, out of the 143 trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October, at least 15 carried drinking water (jerrycans and bottles), water tanks, water purification equipment, and hygiene kits.

Food security

As of 30 October, only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), and eight additional local bakeries (one in Rafah, four in Khan Younis, and three in the Middle area) are operational and supplying bread to shelters. UNRWA continued to cooperate with these local bakeries and supply them with flour, allowing them to offer bread to families at half the cost. However, the shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand. Unless fuel is allocated to them, most bakeries will shut over the next few days.

Since 7 October, ten bakeries were struck and destroyed; six in Gaza city, two in northern Jabalia, and two in the Middle Area (Maghazi Camp and Nusseirat). As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Hours-long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

WFP estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in Gaza are sufficient for about seven more days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security.

Whenever possible, UNRWA has been distributing hot meals to IDPs in shelters, mostly donations received from host communities. While limited, this assistance plays an important support role, given the limited access to the local market and the inability of many IDPs to prepare hot meals at their shelters.

Of the 26 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing on 30 October, at least 13 carried food, including ready-to-eat food, such as canned tuna, canned meat, and other non-perishables. Overall, at least 58 out of the 143 trucks that have entered since 21 October, carried food. All food items are being distributed in UNRWA shelters. With delivery, WFP began the distribution of corned beef and canned tuna at a DES in the Khan Younis Training Centre.

Movement and access

Twenty-six trucks with humanitarian supplies entered on 30 October through the Rafah crossing with Egypt after passing through Nitzana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometres south of Rafah) for security checks by the Israeli authorities. The trucks contained mattresses, food, medical and WASH items.

Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, as well as the Erez passenger crossing connecting Gaza with Israel and the West Bank, have remained closed.

Access to the sea along Gaza's shore has been prohibited by the Israeli military, and all fishing activity ceased when the hostilities began. Access to areas near Israel's perimeter fence remains prohibited, and it has expanded from 300 to 1,000 metres from the border, barring entry to key agricultural areas.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

On 28 October, thousands of people entered several UNRWA and one WFP warehouses and took food supplies and hygiene kits. One of the warehouses, in Deir al Balah, is where UNRWA stores supplies from the humanitarian convoys coming from Egypt.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

> As of 27 October, about US$107.93 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 37 per cent of the estimate required when the Appeal was first launched. Of the total amount pledged, 88 per cent are for UN agencies and 12 per cent for national and international NGOs. About $81.85 million were earmarked for UNRWA; $7.1 million for WHO, and $4 million for WFP.
>
> Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

West Bank Humanitarian Overview

Casualties

In the West Bank, between the afternoon of 29 October and 21:00 on 30 October, Israeli forces killed six Palestinians and an Israeli settler killed another one. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 121, including 33 children. Of these 113, including 32 children, were killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

The deadliest incident, which resulted in four of these fatalities, occurred during a search-and-arrest operation in Jenin Refugee Camp on 30 October, which involved armed clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces. During the incident, Israeli forces launched an airstrike using a drone, which destroyed two homes and displaced two households. Extensive damage to infrastructure and public buildings was also reported.

One fatality was recorded on 30 October during confrontations that erupted during a protest in solidarity with Gaza near Zif junction (Hebron). In East Jerusalem, a Palestinian man reportedly stabbed and injured an Israeli police officer and was subsequently shot and killed.

Another Palestinian man died of wounds sustained after armed Israeli settlers opened fire at a vehicle near Ras Karkar in Ramallah on 24 October.

Out of the Palestinian fatalities since 7 October, almost 50 per cent were killed during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations; 35 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.

Since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have injured 2,156 Palestinians, including at least 201 children, an additional 52 Palestinians have been injured by settlers, including nine with live ammunition. About 1,200 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli forces in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January and 6 October 2023.

Settler-related Violence

The most severe incidents of settler violence during the past 24 hours were reported in southern Hebron. In one, Israeli settlers, reportedly from Havat Ma'on, broke into a home in Tuba, physically assaulted its residents, stole their mobile phones, and killed six sheep. Reportedly, the settlers threatened the family to leave the community, or they would be killed.

In another incident, a group of masked and armed settlers physically assaulted Palestinian farmers harvesting their olives near Qawawis (Hebron). The settlers threatened to kill the harvesters if they didn't leave. Israeli forces who arrived injured three Palestinians farmers and detained them for several hours.

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 171 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (26 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (115 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (30 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

Out of the 171 settler attacks, more than one-third involved threats with firearms, including shooting. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 24 residential structures, 42 agricultural/animal-related structures, 74 vehicles and more than 670 trees and saplings.

Displacement

Since 7 October, 76 Palestinians, including 35 children, have been displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children following punitive demolitions, targeting the family homes of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of fatal attacks against Israelis.

In addition, there has been an increase in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. Since 7 October, at least 98 households comprising 828 people, including 313 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

On 28 October, 24 Palestinians households, comprising 141 people, half of them children, were displaced from Khirbet Zanuta herding community in Hebron, after a series of settler attacks including the injury of three Palestinians on 12 October, vandalizing solar panels and vehicles at night on 21 October, and vandalizing four residential structures, water

tanks and solar panels on 26 October. Additionally, settlers pointed guns at residents, threatening to kill them if they didn't leave. On 28 October, the families dismantled about 50 residential and animal structures and left the area along with their 5,000 livestock.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- · Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 17,874 households (HH) started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and WB).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- Nearly 672,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to Date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP reached some 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. On 29 October, 16,663 displaced persons in UN shelters received fresh bread. As of 29 October, 32,852 people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.
- Oxfam covered 189 HHs in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 HHs sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPS HHs in non-URWA shelter or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food Parcels, 80% to UNRWA DES shelters, 20% to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 HHs in North Gaza and 12,000 HHs in Khan Yunis have already been covered. 10,000 HHs in Middle Area are still ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters, for a total of 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

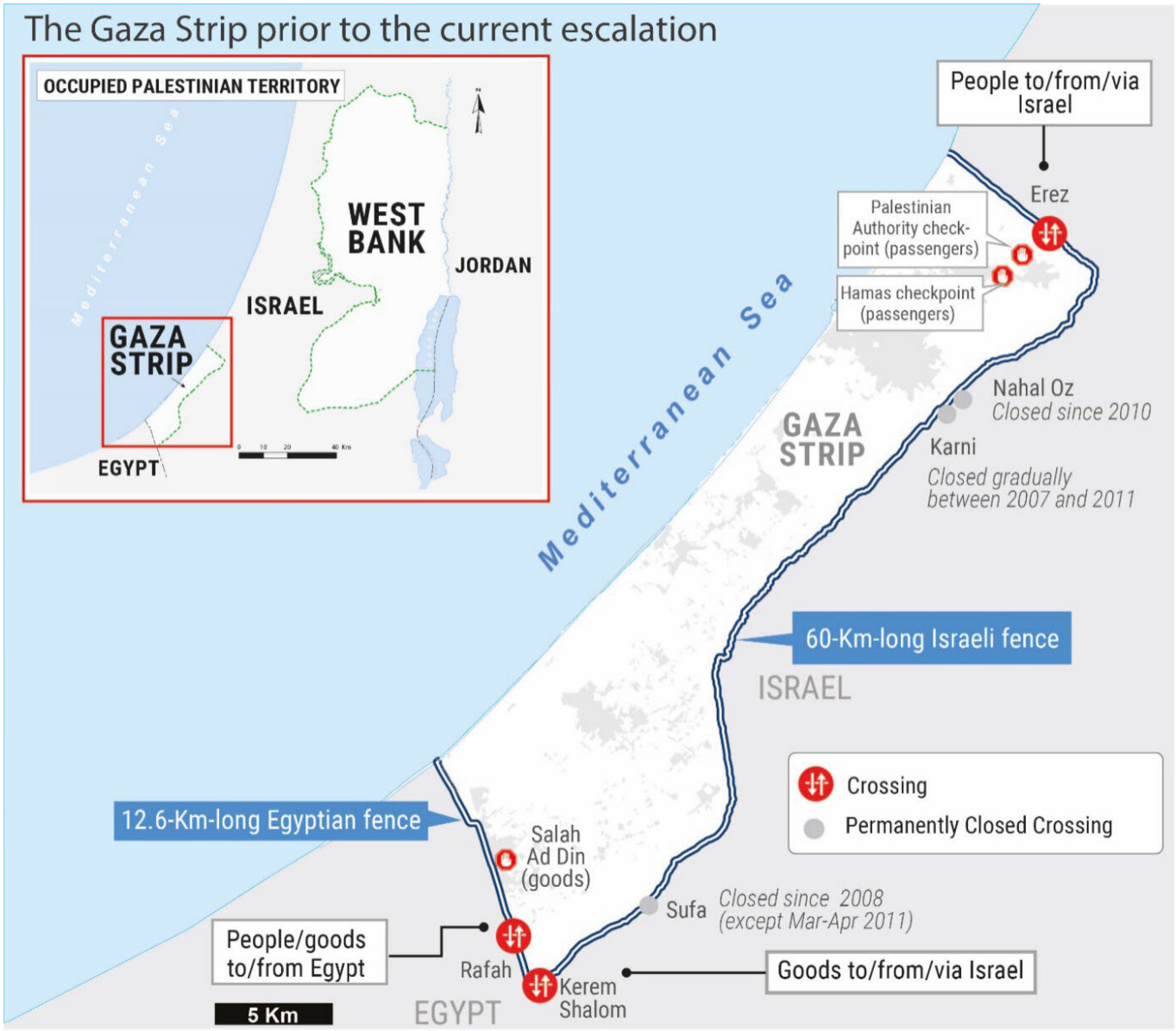
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.

- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used at community and IDP centres were received through Rafah crossing.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity were delivered through Rafah crossing
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centers were delivered through Rafah crossing.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



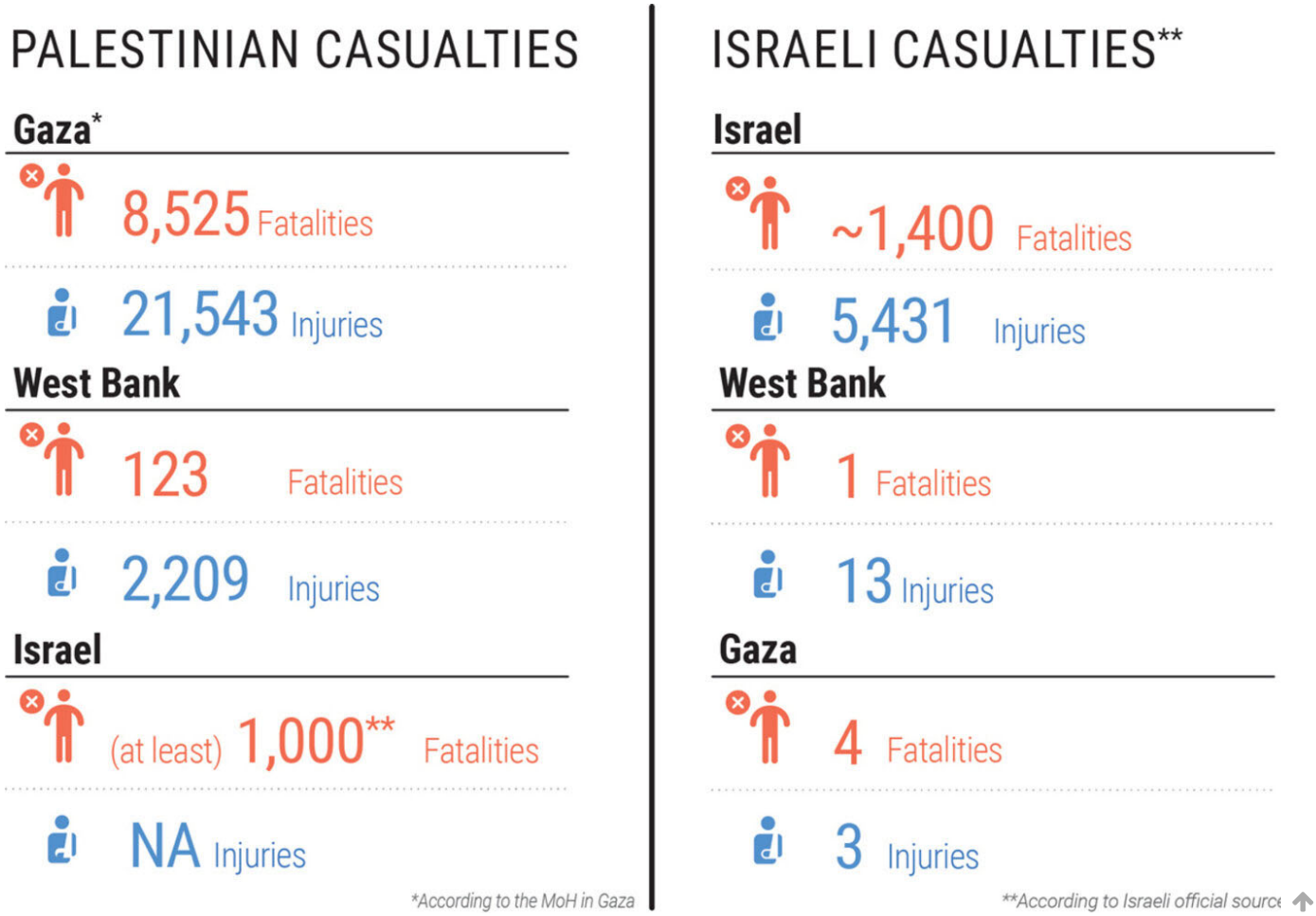
* This figure has been rectified following the publication of this update.

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #25

31 Oct 2023

KEY POINTS

- The 25th day of hostilities witnessed the largest Israeli ground operation to date, primarily in northern Gaza and the outskirts of Gaza city, alongside intense bombardments. Between 30 October (15:00) and 31 October (noon), 216 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. The fatality toll reported by MoH in Gaza since the start of the hostilities is 8,525, of whom 67 per cent are children and women.
- On 31 October, 59 trucks carrying water, food and medicines entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt. This is the largest convoy since delivery of aid resumed on 21 October, bringing the total number of trucks that entered to 217. Entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate life-saving equipment, remains banned. Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed.



- The UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated on 31 October that the “level of humanitarian assistance that has been allowed into Gaza up to this point is completely inadequate and not commensurate with the needs of people in Gaza, compounding the humanitarian tragedy.” Guterres also reiterated his “appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of those civilians held hostage by Hamas,” as well as “for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.”

- Assisting an estimated 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in shelters and hospitals in Gaza city and Northern Gaza is increasingly challenging, due to the hostilities and related inability of humanitarian actors to access them. Martin Griffiths, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, who visited Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, stated that “people are becoming increasingly desperate, as they search for food, water and shelter amid the relentless bombing campaign that is wiping out whole families and entire neighbourhoods.”

- The two passenger crossings with Egypt (Rafah) and Israel (Erez) have remained closed since 7 October, preventing civilians seeking a safe haven to flee the Gaza Strip. The closure has also prevented the transfer of patients and critically wounded people to hospitals outside Gaza.

- As of 30 October, more than 1.4 million people in Gaza were internally displaced, with over 689,000 sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities. In recent days, tens of thousands of IDPs, who were previously staying with host families, have relocated into public shelters, seeking food and basic services, putting pressure on already overcrowded shelters. The average number of IDPs per UNRWA shelter is nearly four times their intended capacity.

- On 31 October, Israeli media reported that three Israeli soldiers were killed fighting in the north of Gaza. Meanwhile, indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population continued over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities reported. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 240 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicated that about 30 of the hostages are children. On 30 October, Israeli forces reportedly rescued one female Israeli soldier who was held captive in Gaza. On 20 and 23 October, Hamas released four civilian hostages. On 26 October, Hamas claimed that 50 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.

- In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed two Palestinians, including one child, between the 30 October (afternoon) and 31 October (noon). This brings the total number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 123, including 34 children, alongside one Israeli soldier killed by Palestinians.

- Nearly 1,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced from their homes in the West Bank since 7 October. This includes at least 98 Palestinian households, comprising over 800 people, driven out from 15 herding/Bedouin communities in Area C, amid intensified settler violence and access restrictions. Another 121 Palestinians were displaced following the demolition of their homes by the Israeli authorities on grounds of lack of Israeli-issued building permits or as a punitive measure.



Displaced Palestinians staying at Al Quds hospital in Gaza, 29 October 2023. Photo by WHO

Gaza Humanitarian Overview

Hostilities and Casualties

According to the Israeli military, infantry and armoured forces massively expanded their ground operations within northern Gaza. Media reports indicate intense clashes in the southern and northwestern outskirts of Gaza city. Bombardment and airstrikes continued over the past 24 hours, and some 300 targets were reportedly attacked.

Despite Israel's repeated calls on residents of Gaza city and northern Gaza to move to southern Gaza for safety, strikes in the Middle Gaza and two southern governorates continued. The strikes in the Middle Gaza have been particularly fierce over the last 48 hours.

On 31 October, at about 14:00, heavy airstrikes hit Jabalia Refugee Camp, reportedly destroying an entire quarter with 30 residential buildings. Initial reports indicated at least 50 people killed and many being trapped under the rubble. At around midnight ending 30 October, an airstrike reportedly hit the Abu Shamala family house, in Az Zawayda (Middle area), killing 18 Palestinians and injuring several others. In this incident, an entire family of three generations, mostly children and women, was reportedly killed. Shortly thereafter, another airstrike reportedly struck Abu Sariyah family house in Az Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza city, killing at least 15 Palestinians.

Since 7 October, 8,525 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 3,542 children and 2,187 women, and about 21,543 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza. Among the fatalities, 995 have not been identified yet, including at least 248 children.

As of 29 October, about 1,950 people, including at least 1,050 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their missions, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced that, due to the lack of fuel, it was forced to reduce the number of ambulances it operates. Anecdotal evidence indicates that, due to the shortage of ambulances and the lack of fuel to run vehicles, the evacuation of injured people is increasingly relying on donkey carts.

According to the MoH in Gaza, over two thirds of the fatalities have been reportedly killed in their homes. Relatedly, a total of 192 Palestinian families have lost ten or more of their members, 136 Palestinian families have lost six to nine members, and 444 families have lost two to five of their members, the Ministry says.

Since 7 October, 19 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 310 have been injured. In total, 44 UNRWA installations have been damaged since 7 October. As of 31 October, 67 UNRWA staff have been killed during the hostilities; this is the highest number of UN aid workers to be killed in such a short period of time.

The Committee to Protect Journalists says that 31 journalists have been killed thus far since the start of the hostilities, including 26 Palestinians, four Israelis and one Lebanese.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,400 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Since Israeli forces began its ground assault, three Israeli soldiers have reportedly been killed. Israeli media reported that, as of 31 October, the names of 1,138 of these fatalities have been released, including 826 civilians and police, and 315 soldiers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 689,000 people staying in 150 UNRWA facilities, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and nearly 83,000 in 72 non-UNRWA schools. The remaining 550,000-600,000 IDPs are residing with host families, with as many as 150,000 having relocated to shelters in the past few days, seeking food and basic services.

Provision of assistance to about 300,000 IDPs hosted in 100 shelters and public buildings in Gaza city and Northern Gaza is increasingly challenging, due to the intensity of hostilities. At least 117,000 of these IDPs are taking refuge in 13 hospitals and other healthcare facilities. On 29 October, the MoH in Gaza committed to provide services to the latter IDPs, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development, similar to the services provided in other public shelter centres. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Development has appealed to humanitarian agencies to provide food, water, including drinking water, as well as relief assistance to IDPs in those areas.

The average number of IDPs per shelter in UNRWA facilities has reached almost four times their intended capacity. The Khan Younis Training Centre is currently the most crowded shelter, hosting 22,100 IDPs, more than ten times its capacity.

Poor sanitation conditions and consumption of unsafe water among IDPs raise serious concerns about potential public health risks. Limited resources generate frustration and tensions among IDPs, exacerbating risk of abuse and gender-based violence.

Healthcare services are maintained in the 92 UNRWA shelters in the Middle and Southern

areas, with the support of mobile medical units and medical teams, serving 9,100 people on 30 October.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers for people unable to move and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions.

In recent days, UNRWA, in cooperation with the ‘Humanity and Inclusion’ NGO, provided 2,600 persons with disabilities, injured persons, children and the elderly with hygiene kits, assistive devices, eyeglasses, first aid kits and baby kits.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

Since 11 October, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel.

Health care

Hospitals are facing an unprecedented level of devastation, primarily driven by the overwhelming number of injuries, critical shortages of vital resources and concerns of being hit by airstrikes.

During the past 24 hours, there have been three attacks affecting health facilities, including one resulting in the destruction of a primary care clinic, alongside damage to two hospitals, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). One of the affected hospitals is the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, the main cancer treatment centre in Gaza city, which was hit for the second night in a row. The hospital was directly hit in an aerial bombardment, with damage to the third floor and smoke causing suffocation and panic among the staff and people sheltering there. On 30 October, WHO's Director-General stated that "cancer patients are already fragile, and it's imperative to do everything possible to ensure they're receiving the care they need. It's truly a matter of life or death."

All 13 hospitals that are still operational in Gaza city and northern Gaza have received repeated Israeli evacuation orders. Thousands of patients and medical staff, as well as about 117,000 IDPs, are staying in these facilities, and for some it is impossible to move.

Since 7 October, 37 health care facilities (including 21 hospitals) and 28 ambulances have been damaged in attacks and 16 health care workers on duty have been killed and another 30 injured.

Since the start of the hostilities, over one-third of the hospitals in Gaza (12 of 35) and nearly two-thirds of all primary health care clinics (46 of 72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel, increasing the pressure on the remaining health facilities that are still operational. All 13 hospitals still operational in Gaza city and Northern Gaza have received evacuation orders.

Nine UNRWA health centres (out of 22) are still operational in the Middle and South areas. On 30 October, they received some 4,300 patients' visits.

Of the 59 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing today (31 October), at least 19 carried medical supplies. Overall, at least 75 out of the 217 trucks that have entered since 21 October, carried medical supplies.

On 31 October, UNICEF delivered content of three trucks that entered Gaza on 30 October to An Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. The trucks carried dozens of pallets of, primarily disposables and antibiotics. Another six trucks brought by UNICEF carrying similar items could not be delivered to hospitals due to the hostilities; they were supposed to reach Al Aqsa Hospital in the Middle Area and Shifa hospital in Gaza city. Since the hostilities began, UNICEF delivered 17 trucks to different hospitals, which in addition to medicines and consumables, also included blankets and special tents for triage centers.

The distribution plan for these supplies is based on the needs confirmed on the ground by technical officers, by PRCS, WHO, and UNICEF in Gaza. After delivery into Gaza and reception, the technical officers accompany the supplies to each hospital. Post-delivery monitoring is carried out regularly to assess consumption.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals in Gaza, forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza. The hospitals continue to suffer from a severe fuel shortage, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

As of 17:00 on 31 October, one out of the three water supply lines from Israel, servicing the Middle area, was restored for the first time since it was cut off on 8 October. While water provision resumed in Nuseirat, Bureij, Maghazi, and Zawaida areas, the volumes received have yet to be assessed. On the other hand, on 30 October, two main water wells in Nuseirat were struck and seriously damaged.

Additionally, the second supply line from Israel to western Khan Younis, which stopped on 30 October was not restored. This line previously supplied 600 cubic metres of drinking water per hour. The third pipeline from Israel to northern Gaza remains also closed since 8 October.

In the Middle Area and southern Gaza, the operation of two seawater desalination plants at about 40 per cent of their capacity, alongside 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, has continued. This has been enabled by the delivery of small amounts of fuel by UNRWA and UNICEF. As a result, households still connected to the water network have been receiving water for a few hours a day, while others have received water by trucks.

Almost all water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support is largely limited to southern Gaza, while access to water in Gaza city and northern Gaza is far more challenging. Neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline supplying those areas is operational. While UNRWA and UNICEF have also provided limited amounts of fuel to a number of water wells, water is provided by trucks only. Over the past two days, water trucking activities came to a halt due to the ongoing military operations.

On 31 October, three trucks out of the aid convoy were carrying about 3,700 hygiene kits and 22,000 bottles of water, which are set to be distributed among the IDP centres in the south of Gaza. Overall, out of the 217 trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October, at least 18 carried drinking water (jerrycans and bottles), water tanks, water purification equipment, and hygiene kits.

Food security

On 30 October afternoon, Israeli airstrikes reportedly hit and damaged a bakery in Al Amal neighbourhood of Khan Yunis, injuring ten people. This brings to eleven the number of bakeries that were struck and destroyed since 7 October (six in Gaza city, two in Jabalia, two in the Middle Area and one in Khan Younis). As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Hours-long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

As of 31 October, only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), and eight additional local bakeries (one in Rafah, four in Khan Younis, and three in the Middle area) are operational and supplying bread to shelters. UNRWA continued to cooperate with these local bakeries and supply them with flour, allowing them to offer bread at half the cost. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand.

WFP estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in Gaza are sufficient for about seven more days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security.

Whenever possible, UNRWA has been distributing hot meals to IDPs in shelters, mostly donations received from host communities. While limited, this assistance plays an important support role, given the limited access to the local market and the inability of many IDPs to prepare hot meals at their shelters.

Forty of the trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing on 31 October carried food items, including ready-to-eat food, such as canned tuna, canned meat, and other non-perishables. Overall, over 100 out of the trucks that have entered since 21 October, carried food.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

> As of 27 October, about US$107.93 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 37 per cent of the estimate required when the Appeal was first launched. Of the total amount pledged, 88 per cent are for UN agencies and 12 per cent for national and international NGOs. About $81.85 million were earmarked for UNRWA; $7.1 million for WHO, and $4 million for WFP.
>
> Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

West Bank Humanitarian Overview

Casualties

In the West Bank, between the afternoon of 30 October and 21:00 on 31 October, Israeli forces killed two Palestinians, including one child and an elderly man. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 123, including 34 children. Of these 115, including 33 children, were killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

On 30 October, Israeli forces shot and injured with live ammunition a 14-year-old child during confrontations over the course of a search-and-arrest operation near Zawata junction in Nablus city; the boy succumbed to his wounds the following day. On 31 October, a bystander elderly man was shot and killed during a search-and-arrest operation in Tubas city that involved exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinians.

Of the Palestinian fatalities since 7 October, almost 50 per cent were killed during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations; 35 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.

Since 7 October, Israeli forces and settlers have injured 2,157 Palestinians, including at least 201 children, with an additional 52 Palestinians have been injured by settlers, including nine with live ammunition. About 1,200 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli forces in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of the injuries have been caused by live ammunition. The number of Palestinian injuries from live ammunition is almost eight times higher than the average of such injuries between 1 January and 6 October 2023.

Settler-related Violence

On 30 October, a group of Israeli settlers broke into the Isfey al Tahta herding community in southern Hebron, and set fire to a donor-funded residential structure. This community is located within an area declared closed for Israeli military training (Firing Zone 918), where some 1,300 Palestinians are at high risk of a forcible transfer.

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 178 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (26 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (121 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (31 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

Out of the 171 settler attacks, more than one-third involved threats with firearms, including shooting. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out the attacks. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 25 residential structures, 42 agricultural/animal-related structures, 74 vehicles and more than 670 trees and saplings.

Displacement

No new displacements were recorded over the past 24 hours.

Since 7 October, 76 Palestinians, including 35 children, have been displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children following punitive demolitions, targeting the family homes of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of fatal attacks against Israelis.

In addition, there has been an increase in the displacement of Palestinians amid settler violence and access restrictions. Since 7 October, at least 98 households comprising 828 people, including 313 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- · Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- · Some 17,874 households (HH) started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and WB).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centers and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- Nearly 672,000 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to Date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP reached some 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. On 29 October, 16,663 displaced persons in UN shelters received fresh bread. As of 29 October, 32,852 people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.
- Oxfam covered 189 HHs in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 HHs sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.

- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPS HHs in non-URWA shelter or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food Parcels, 80% to UNRWA DES shelters, 20% to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 HHs in North Gaza and 12,000 HHs in Khan Yunis have already been covered. 10,000 HHs in Middle Area are still ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters, for a total of 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

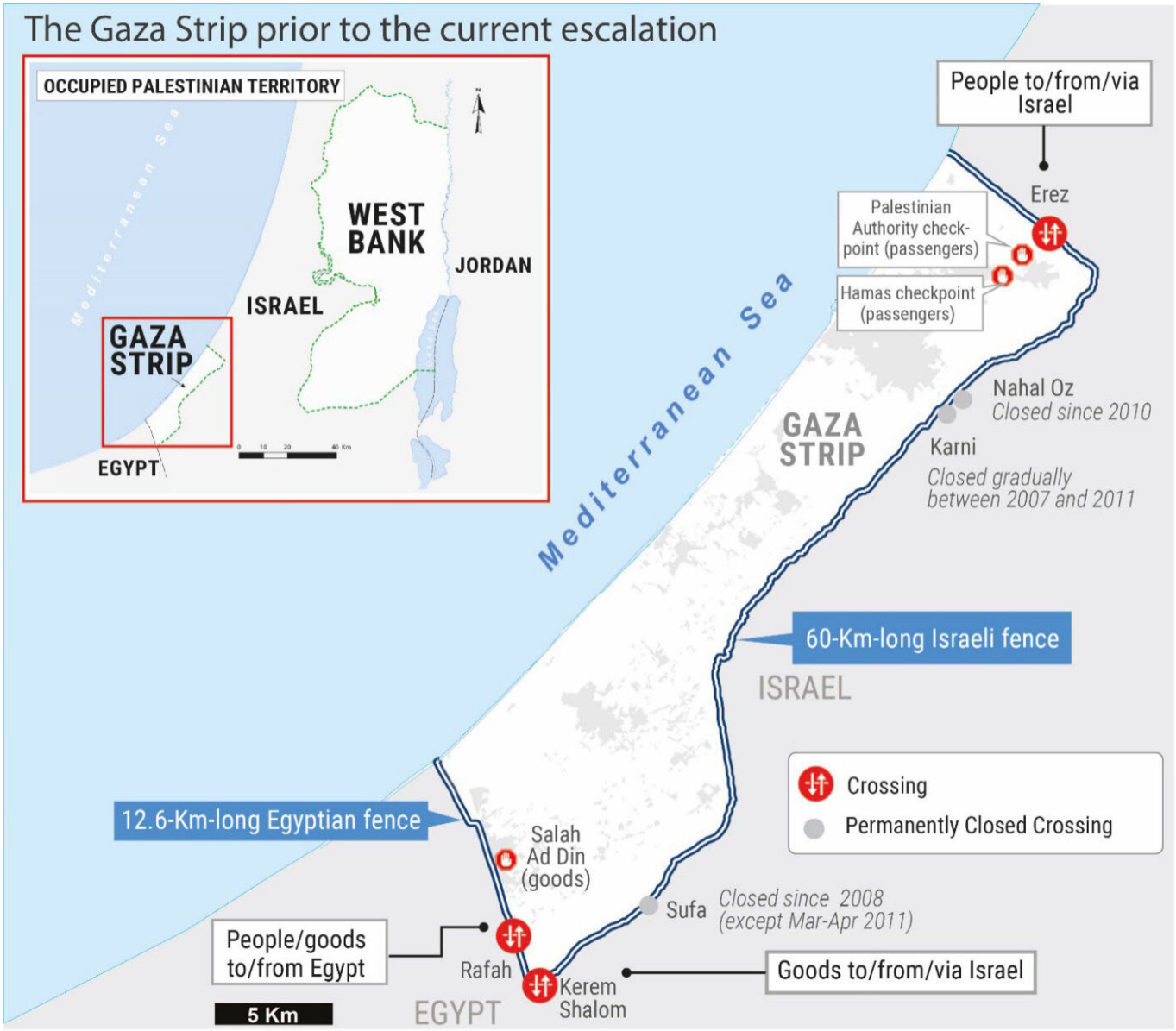
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centers, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used at community and IDP centres were received through Rafah crossing.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity were delivered through Rafah crossing

- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centers were delivered through Rafah crossing.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



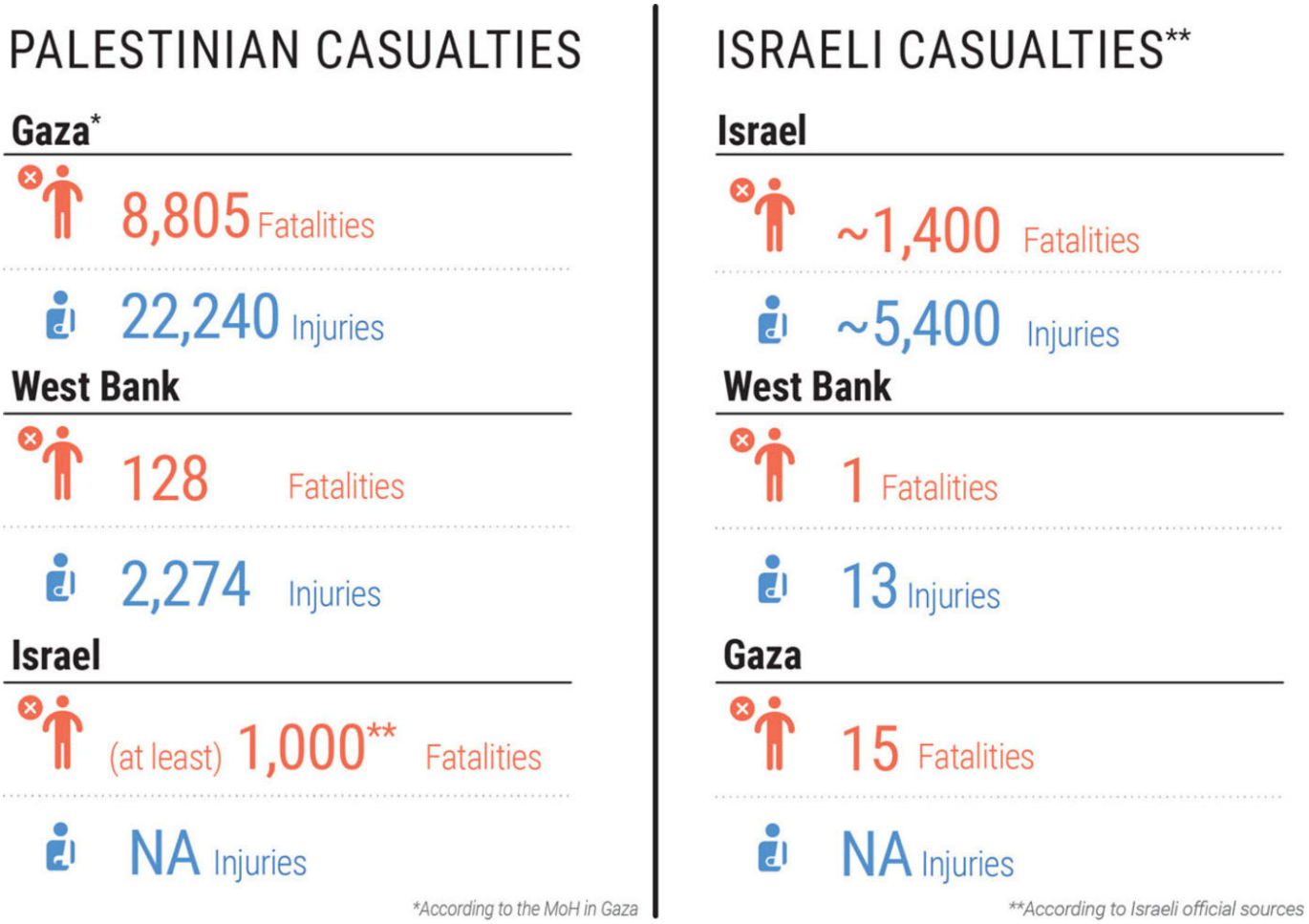
* This figure has been rectified following the publication of this update.

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #26

01 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- On 1 November at 11:00, the Rafah Crossing between Gaza and Egypt opened for the movement of people, allowing the evacuation of about 81 wounded Palestinians to an Egyptian field hospital, alongside some 345 foreign passport holders. This is the first time since 10 October that Rafah has opened for the movement of people. The Erez crossing with Israel remains closed.
- On 1 November, the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship hospital in Gaza city reportedly ran out of fuel and was forced to stop most of its activities, rendering 70 cancer patients at serious life risk. Today at 20:00, the Al Hilo Hospital, also in Gaza city, was reportedly struck by shelling; the hospital had absorbed and replaced Shifa hospital's maternity ward, which is being used now to treat the wounded. Currently, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities across Gaza are not functioning.



- The 26th day of hostilities witnessed the continuation of Israeli ground operations, primarily in northern Gaza and the outskirts of Gaza city, alongside intense bombardments. Between 31 October (noon) and 1 November (14:00), 280 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, bringing the reported fatality toll since the start of the hostilities to 8,805, of whom about two-thirds are children and women, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. On 31 October, 13 Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza during the ground operations, according to Israeli official sources.

- Gaza city and northern Gaza have been largely cut off from the rest of the strip as a result of the Israeli ground operations and related clashes with Palestinian armed groups. Delivery of humanitarian aid from the south to about 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the north has come to a halt.

- On 1 November, as of 14:00, ten trucks carrying water, food and medicines had entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing, bringing the total number of trucks entering since 21 October to 227. The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities. Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed. The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, stated on 1 November that the “trucks which have crossed into Gaza so far following painstaking negotiations offer some relief but are nowhere near enough.”

- Between 03:00 and 11:15 on 1 November, Gaza’s telecommunication and internet services were cut for the second time in six days, leaving the civilians in grave danger amid heavy Israeli bombardments from air and land.

- As of 1 November, more than 1.4 million people in Gaza were internally displaced, with over 690,400 sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities. In recent days, tens of thousands of IDPs, who were previously staying with host families, have relocated into public shelters, seeking food and basic services. This has increased pressure on already overcrowded shelters. The average number of IDPs per UNRWA shelter is nearly four times their intended capacity.

- Indiscriminate rocket firing towards Israeli population continued over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities reported. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the

vast majority on 7 October.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 240 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages were released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. On 1 November, Hamas claimed that seven hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes in Jabalia Refugee Camp. This follows their earlier claim that another 50 hostages had been killed in similar circumstances.

- The Emergency Relief Coordinator called on 1 November to "the warring parties to agree to pauses in the fighting," adding that "this is the only viable option to get relief items into Gaza right now … alleviating people's suffering and reducing the risk of civil disorder."

- In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed five Palestinians, including one child, between the afternoon of 31 October and noontime on 1 November. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 128, including 35 children, alongside one Israeli soldier killed by Palestinians.

- In the night between 31 October and 1 November, Israeli forces arrested at least 70 Palestinians, across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, bringing the total number of those arrested since 7 October to at least 1,830, according to Palestinian sources. UN's Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has received consistent and credible reports of widespread cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees. Two Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli custody since 7 October.



Packaging food parcels in a United Nations facility. Photo by UNRWA/Hussein Owda

Gaza Humanitarian Overview

Hostilities and Casualties

According to the Israeli military, infantry and armoured forces continued their ground operations within northern Gaza, especially in the Al Karama area, Jabalia – northwest of Gaza city, and Az Zaitoun neighbourhood, east of Gaza city. Exchanges of fire and airstrikes reportedly continued also in the Middle Gaza, especially in east Al Maghazi and Al Bureij, as well as in An Nuseirat camp. Bombardment and airstrikes continued over the past 24 hours.

The following were some of the deadliest incidents: on 1 November, at about 13:00, for the second day in a row and within less than 24 hours, heavy airstrikes hit Jabalia Refugee Camp, reportedly destroying multiple residential buildings, and killing dozens. On 31 October, an Israeli airstrike hit the nine-floor 'Mohandessin Tower' in An Nuseirat camp (Middle Area), reportedly killing 45 Palestinians and injuring dozens. On 1 November, at around 04:15, airstrikes reportedly hit two buildings in Khan Yunis, killing 12 Palestinians and injuring 40 others.

Since 7 October, 8,805 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 3,648 children and 2,187 women, and about 22,240 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza.

Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their missions, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment. This is particularly concerning as thousands are estimated to be trapped under rubble. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced that, due to the lack of fuel, it had been forced to reduce the number of ambulances it operates.

According to the MoH in Gaza, over two thirds of the fatalities were killed in their homes. Relatedly, as of 26 October, a total of 192 Palestinian families have lost ten or more of their members, 136 Palestinian families have lost six to nine members, and 444 families have lost two to five of their members, the Ministry says.

Since 7 October, 19 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 310 have been injured. In total, 44 UNRWA installations have been damaged since 7 October. As of 1 November, 70 UNRWA staff have been killed during the hostilities; this is the highest number of UN aid workers to be killed in such a short period of time.

On 31 October, the Committee to Protect Journalists indicated that 31 journalists had been killed thus far since the start of the hostilities, including 26 Palestinians, four Israelis and one Lebanese.

Indiscriminate rocket firing by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population continued over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities or injuries reported.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,400 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Since Israeli forces began their ground assault, 15 Israeli soldiers have reportedly been killed. Israeli media reported that, as of 31 October, the names of 1,138 of these fatalities have been released, including 826 civilians and police, and 315 soldiers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 690,400 people staying in 149 UNRWA facilities, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and about 96,400 in 76 non-UNRWA schools. The remaining 550,000-600,000 IDPs are residing with host families, with as many as 150,000 having relocated to shelters in the past few days, seeking food and basic services.

The average number of IDPs per shelter in UNRWA facilities has reached almost four times their intended capacity. The Khan Younis Training Centre is currently the most crowded shelter, hosting 22,100 IDPs, more than ten times its capacity.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers for people unable to move and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions. In recent days, UNRWA, in cooperation with the 'Humanity and Inclusion' NGO, has provided 2,600 persons with disabilities, injured persons, children and the elderly with hygiene kits, assistive devices, eyeglasses, first aid kits and baby kits.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

Since 11 October, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel.

Health care

Following the shutdown of services due to lack of fuel and electricity in the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship hospital, the MoH in Gaza stated that Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and the Indonesian Hospital, in Beit Lahiya, were almost out of fuel, and appealed to the international community and locals in assisting with providing fuel. They warned that 42 children under life support devices, 62 wounded using respiration equipment and 650 patients with kidney failure were at the highest risk, should the electricity cut off.

Currently, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities are not functioning, in addition to two outpatient specialist centres. Additionally, 71 per cent (51/72) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) are not functioning, including 74 per cent of those located in Gaza City and 92 per cent of those in northern Gaza.

All operating hospitals and clinics are affected by severe fuel shortages, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

Health partners have documented an increase in cases of skin and diarrheal diseases among IDPs in shelters due to the inadequate access to water and sanitation services. Upper respiratory infections are also on the rise due to the overcrowding and poor living conditions within the shelters, especially as the temperatures have started to drop.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals in Gaza, forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

As of 17:00 on 31 October, one out of the three water supply lines from Israel, servicing the Middle area, was restored for the first time since it was cut off on 8 October, providing some 500 cubic metres of drinking water per hour to Nuseirat, Bureij, Maghazi, and Zawaida areas.

By contrast, supply from Israel to western Khan Younis, which stopped on 30 October for unclear reasons, was not restored. This line previously supplied 600 cubic metres of drinking water per hour. The third pipeline from Israel to northern Gaza remains also closed since 8 October.

In the Middle Area and southern Gaza, the operation of two seawater desalination plants at about 40 per cent of their capacity, alongside 120 water wells and 20 pumping stations, has continued. This has been enabled by the delivery of small amounts of fuel by UNRWA and UNICEF. As a result, households still connected to the water network have been receiving water for a few hours a day, while others have received water by trucks.

All water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support is currently limited to southern Gaza. Neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline supplying Gaza city and northern Gaza are operational. While UNRWA and UNICEF have also provided limited amounts of fuel to several water wells, water is provided by trucks only. In recent days, water trucking activities inside Gaza stopped due to ongoing military operations.

On 1 November, eight trucks out of the aid convoy carried about 80,000 litres of water, which will cover water needs for 15,000 people for one day and is set to be distributed among the IDP centres in the south of Gaza. Overall, out of the 227 trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October, at least 26 carried drinking water (jerrycans and bottles), water tanks, water purification equipment, and hygiene kits.

Food security

Eleven bakeries have been struck and destroyed since 7 October (six in Gaza city, two in Jabalia, two in the Middle Area and one in Khan Younis). As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Hours-long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

As of 1 November, only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), and eight additional local bakeries, mainly in the southern and middle areas, were operational and supplying bread to shelters. UNRWA continued to cooperate with these local bakeries and supply them with flour, allowing them to offer bread at half the cost. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand.

Whenever possible, UNRWA has been distributing hot meals to IDPs in shelters, mostly donations received from host communities. While limited, this assistance plays an important support role, given the limited access to the local market and the inability of many IDPs to prepare hot meals at their shelters.

Forty of the trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing on 31 October carried food items, including ready-to-eat food, such as canned tuna, canned meat, and other non-perishables. Overall, over 100 out of the trucks that have entered since 21 October, carried food.

Telecommunications

Between 03:00 and 11:15 on 1 November, Gaza's telecommunication and internet services were cut for the second time in six days. Ambulances and Civil Defense teams were unable to locate the injured, as thousands of people were estimated to be still under the rubble. Civilians were unable to receive updated information on where they can access humanitarian relief and where they may move to be in lesser danger.

Since the escalation of hostilities, the Gaza Strip has experienced a significant reduction in internet access. Sixty per cent of electric boxes and remote switches were out of service, 65 per cent of households and businesses have lost access to the network and 36 per cent of local fiber routes were lost due to fiber cuts affecting both fixed and mobile networks. Almost half of local networks were damaged as well, which included street poles, cables, and fiber trenches.

The mobile company Jawwal, which serves over 85 per cent of Gaza's residents, has lost 65 per cent of its radio sites.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

Additionally, the dramatic shutdown in internet connectivity has hindered efforts to monitor, document and report, including possible violations and abuses of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

> As of 27 October, about US$107.93 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 37 per cent of the estimate required when the Appeal was first launched. Of the total amount pledged, 88 per cent are for UN agencies and 12 per cent for national and international NGOs. About $81.85 million were earmarked for UNRWA; $7.1 million for WHO, and $4 million for WFP.
>
> > Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

West Bank Humanitarian Overview

Casualties

In the West Bank, between the afternoon of 31 October and 21:00 on 1 November, Israeli forces killed five Palestinians, including one child and an elderly man. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 128, including 35 children. Of these, 120 people, including 34 children, were killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

The number of Palestinians killed since 7 October represents more than one third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank so far in 2023 (372).

The deadliest incident, which resulted in three of these fatalities, took place during an Israeli search-and-arrest operation in Jenin Refugee Camp on 1 November. The operation involved clashes between residents and Israeli forces, as well as exchange of fire, during which one Palestinian was killed. Also, during the incident, Israeli forces launched an airstrike using a drone, causing damage, and bulldozed sections of a road. Damage to water networks and homes is yet to be assessed. This is the fourth Israeli operation in Jenin Refugee Camp in the past ten days (since 22 October).

Two additional fatalities were documented in two separate incidents. On 31 October, Israeli forces shot and killed with live ammunition a 16-year-old child during confrontations that erupted over the course of a protest in solidarity with Gaza in Beit Ummar village (Hebron). On 1 November, Israeli forces shot and killed a bystander elderly man with mental disability during a search-and-arrest operation in Tulkarm city that involved exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinians.

Of the Palestinian fatalities since 7 October, almost 50 per cent were killed during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations; 35 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.

Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,214 Palestinians, including at least 234 children.60 Palestinians were injured by settlers, including nine with live ammunition. About 1,200 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli forces in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

Settler-related Violence

In the past 24 hours, in three incidents, Israeli settlers broke into At Taybe community near Tarqumia town (Hebron) and Khallet al Louza community and Al Khadr town (both in Bethlehem) and vandalized two residential and three agricultural-related structures.

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 186 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (26 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (128 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (32 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

Out of the 186 settler attacks, more than one-third involved threats with firearms, including shooting. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting the attackers. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 25 residential structures, 42 agricultural/animal-related structures, 74 vehicles and more than 670 trees and saplings.

Displacement

In the past 24 hours, a total of 36 Palestinians were displaced due to settler violence in Hebron and another 21 due to the demolition of their homes in East Jerusalem.

On 31 October, Palestinian families were forced to demolish their homes in Ras Al ‘Amud and Sur Bahir areas in East Jerusalem, citing the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, which are almost impossible to obtain. As a result, four Palestinian households, comprising 21 members, including eleven children were displaced. Since 7 October, 113 Palestinians, including 54 children, have been displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children following punitive demolitions, targeting the family homes of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of fatal attacks against Israelis.

On 1 November, five Palestinian households, comprising 36 members, including 20 children, were displaced from Al Ganoub community in Hebron, after a series of settler attacks including vandalizing water tanks, solar systems, setting fire to two residential structures with all the families’ belongings inside, including medicine, money, clothes, and food. Additionally, settlers pointed guns at residents, threatening to kill them if they did not leave and then stole their livestock. Earlier, on 11 October, five families, comprising 40 members, including 20 children left the area along with their livestock.

Since 7 October, at least 103 households comprising 864 people, including 333 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

Detention and ill-treatment

UN's Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has received a number consistent and credible reports of systematic cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees, and of physical and psychological violence against family members.

OHCHR documented one of these cases, where a man arrested by Israeli forces on 31 October. A video shows an Israeli soldier kicking the man several times in the stomach and calling him with racist names, while the man is kneeled, blindfolded and with hands tied behind his back. During the same arrest operation, Israeli forces damaged the house contents and reportedly threatened the man's family with shooting if they did not cooperate. OHCHR has documented similar cases of beating and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees, possibly amounting to torture.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 17,874 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.

- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- Some 690,400 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to Date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.

- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP has reached more than 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. On 1 November, 3,400 displaced persons in host families received food parcels. As of 1 November 23,721, people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPS in non-URWA shelter or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 Households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. 10,000 households in the Middle Area are still ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters, for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff as soon as the situation allows.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

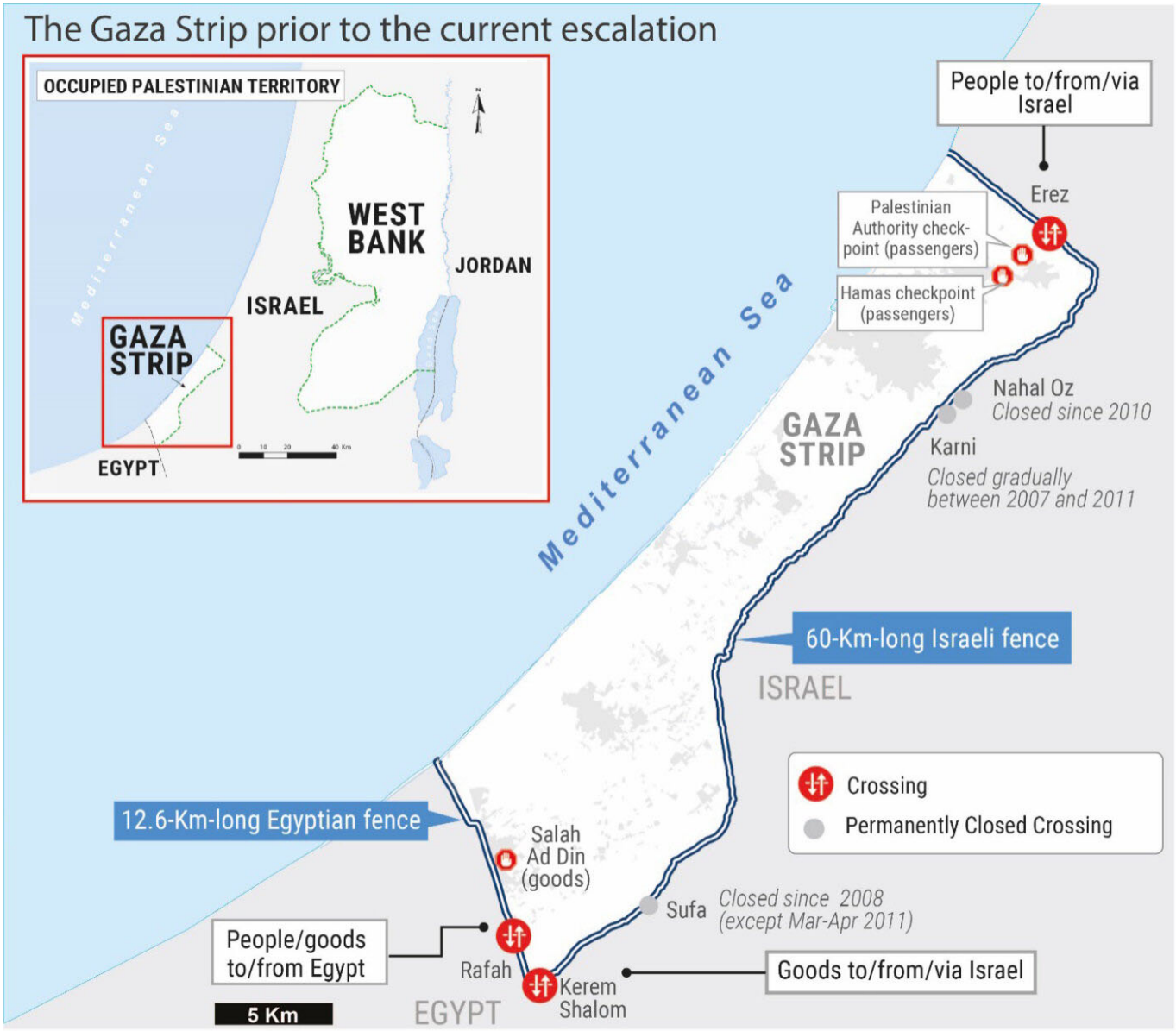
Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

- Some 9,000 hygiene kits were distributed to families in the UNRWA IDP centres since 7 October.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water have been trucked to IDP centres and host families since 7 October.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water distributed among IDPs in UNRWA shelters since 7 October.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used at community and IDP centres were received through Rafah crossing.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity were delivered through Rafah crossing
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centers were delivered through Rafah crossing.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.

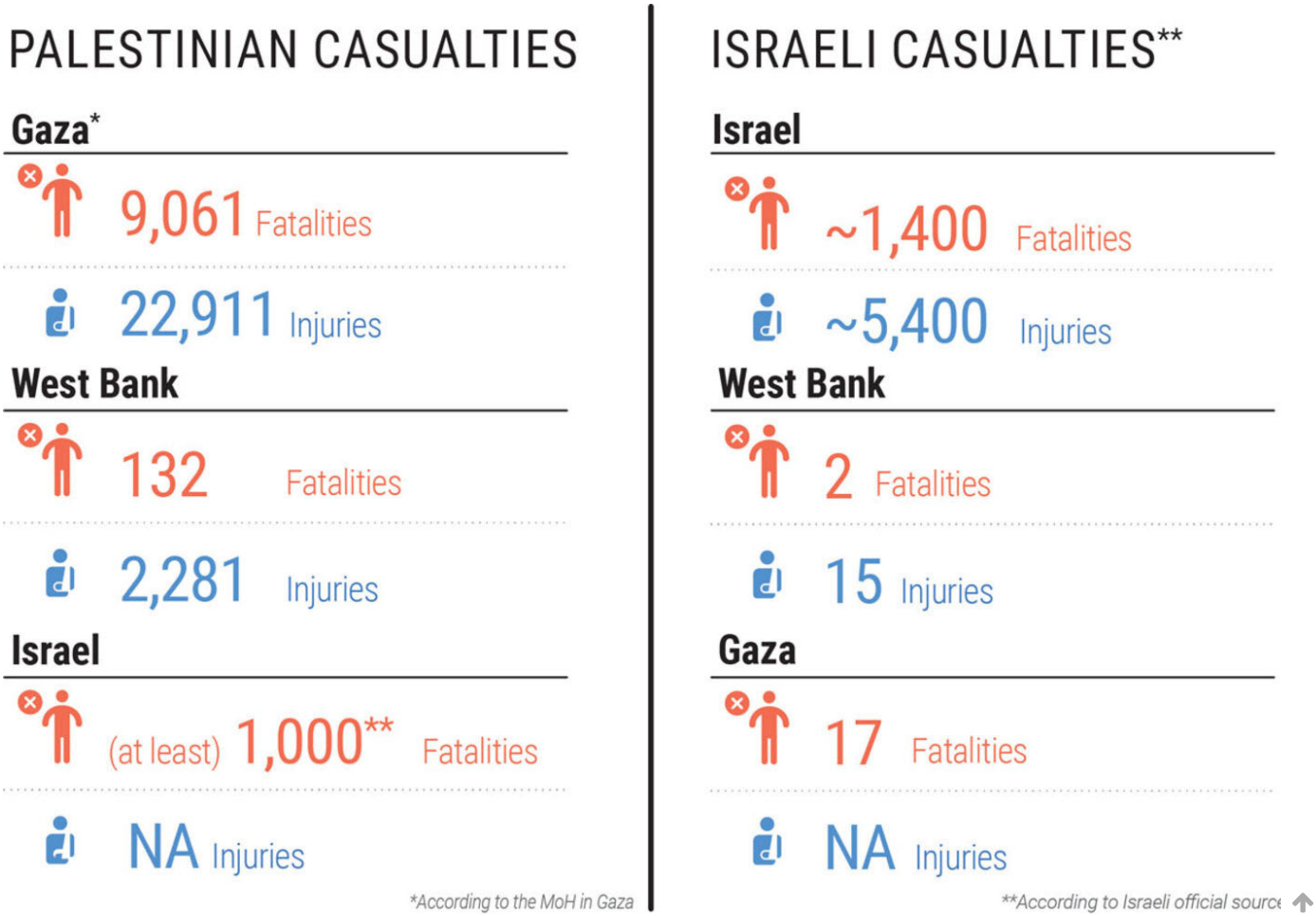

The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #27

02 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- For the second consecutive day, on 2 November, the Rafah Crossing between Gaza and Egypt opened for the movement of people, allowing the evacuation of about 60 wounded Palestinians to an Egyptian field hospital, alongside some 400 foreign passport holders. The Erez crossing with Israel remains closed.
- Israeli ground operations in northern Gaza and Gaza city, alongside intense bombardments, continued. Between 1 November (noon) and 2 November (14:00), 256 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, bringing the reported fatality toll since the start of the hostilities to 9,061, of whom about two-thirds are children and women, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. On 2 November, two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 17.



- On 2 November, the MoH reported that the main electricity generator of the Indonesian Hospital, in northern Gaza, had ceased to operate due to lack of fuel. This hospital has been receiving hundreds of people injured during the recent hostilities in Jabalia camp. Exposing hundreds of patients with serious injuries to imminent risk of death or lifelong disabilities. Shifa Hospital in Gaza city is reportedly almost out of fuel. Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities are not functioning and 51 (71 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) are not functioning due to damage or lack of fuel.

- On 2 November, 102 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing. This is the largest convoy since delivery of aid resumed on 21 October, bringing the total number of trucks that entered to 374 The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities. Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed. The available aid remains insufficient to cover people's basic needs.

- As of 2 November, nearly 1.5 million people in Gaza were internally displaced, with over 690,400 sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities. In recent days, tens of thousands of IDPs, who were previously staying with host families, have relocated into public shelters, seeking food and basic services. This has increased pressure on already overcrowded shelters. The average number of IDPs per UNRWA shelter is nearly four times their intended capacity.

- On 2 November, four UNRWA shelters hosting nearly 20,000 IDPs were hit; as a result, at least 23 people were killed, and dozens were injured. Since the start of hostilities, nearly 50 UNRWA facilities have been damaged and 72 staff have been killed.

- The operation of water wells and desalination plants in the southern half of Gaza stopped almost completely on 2 November, after their fuel reserves had been exhausted. Only one of three water pipelines supplying water from Israel is active. There is not enough clarity on access of people to water in northern Gaza.

- Indiscriminate rocket firing by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres continued over the past 24 hours, with no fatalities reported. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 242 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages were released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. On 1 November, Hamas claimed that seven hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes in Jabalia Refugee Camp. This follows their earlier claim that another 50 hostages had been killed in similar circumstances.

- In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed three Palestinians, including one child, and another one died from wounds sustained previously, between the afternoon of 1 November and noontime on 2 November. An Israeli settler was killed in a drive-by shooting attack near Tulkarm, reportedly by Palestinians. The total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October has reached 132, including 41 children, alongside two Israelis killed by Palestinians.

- Between 1 and 2 November, Israeli forces arrested at least 135 Palestinians, including two women, across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, bringing the total number of those arrested since 7 October to at least 1,900, according to Palestinian sources. UN's Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has received consistent and credible reports of widespread cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees. Two Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli custody since 7 October.



Flames and smoke billow during Israeli strikes in Gaza, 19 October 2023. Photo by WHO

Gaza Humanitarian Overview

Hostilities and Casualties

According to the Israeli military, infantry and armoured forces continued their ground operations in and around Gaza city and northern Gaza, amid intense clashes with Palestinian armed groups. Heavy shelling and airstrikes continued, primarily in the northern area.

At least 195 Palestinian were killed and about 800 injured in less than 24 hours between 31 October and 1 November, in two rounds of Israeli airstrikes on Jabalia Refugee Camp, in northern Gaza, according to the MoH in Gaza. Some 120 people were believed to be trapped under the rubble by midnight on 1 November. The Israeli military stated that the two attacks had targeted buildings where members of armed groups, including a senior Hamas commander, were hiding. OHCHR has expressed serious concerns about these attacks.

On 2 November, also in the Jabalia Refugee Camp, an UNRWA school sheltering thousands of IDPs was hit; as a result, at least 20 people were reportedly killed and five were injured. Another UNRWA shelter at Beach Refugee Camp, also in northern Gaza, was hit, with one child reportedly killed. In the Al Bureij Refugee Camp, south of Wadi Gaza, two UNRWA shelters were hit, reportedly killing two people and injuring over thirty.

Since 7 October, 9,061 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 3,760 children and 2,326 women, and about 22,911 have been injured, according to the MoH in Gaza.

Rescue teams, primarily from the Palestinian Civil Defense, are struggling to carry out their missions, amid continuous airstrikes, severe shortage of fuel to run vehicles and equipment. This is particularly concerning as thousands are estimated to be trapped under rubble. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced that, due to the lack of fuel, it had been forced to reduce the number of ambulances it operates.

According to the MoH in Gaza, over two thirds of the fatalities were killed in their homes. Relatedly, as of 26 October, a total of 192 Palestinian families had lost ten or more of their members, 136 Palestinian families had lost six to nine members, and 444 families had lost two to five of their members, the Ministry says.

As of 2 November, 246 school buildings have been hit, including one destroyed and 51 severely damaged.

On 31 October, the Committee to Protect Journalists indicated that 31 journalists had been killed thus far since the start of the hostilities, including 26 Palestinians, four Israelis and one Lebanese.

According to Israeli sources, at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, and at least 5,400 have been injured, the vast majority on 7 October. Since Israeli forces began their ground assault, 17 Israeli soldiers have reportedly been killed in Gaza. Israeli media reported that, as of 31 October, the names of 1,159 of these fatalities have been released, including 828 civilians and police, and 331 soldiers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

Displacement

The cumulative number of IDPs since the start of hostilities in Gaza is estimated neatly 1.5 million. This figure includes nearly 690,400 people staying in 149 UNRWA facilities, 121,750 sheltering in hospitals, churches, and other public buildings, and about 99,150 in 82 non-UNRWA schools. The remaining 550,000-600,000 IDPs are residing with host families, with as many as 150,000 having relocated to shelters in the past few days, seeking food and basic services.

An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in the north and in Gaza city. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on their needs and conditions since the evacuation order from the Israeli authorities on 13 October.

The average number of IDPs per shelter in UNRWA facilities has reached almost four times their intended capacity. This means that, in some shelters, up to 240 people are living in a classroom of about 40 to 60 square metres. The Khan Younis Training Centre is currently the most crowded shelter, hosting 22,100 IDPs, more than ten times its capacity.

Poor sanitation conditions and consumption of unsafe water among displaced people raise serious concerns about potential public health risks; reports indicate increasing cases of upper respiratory infections, and skin and diarrheal diseases among IDPs.

Over 15 per cent of the IDPs are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs. Shelters lack the required medical mattresses and beds, causing ulcers for people unable to move and other medical issues that cannot be treated in unsterilized conditions. In recent days, UNRWA, in cooperation with the 'Humanity and Inclusion' NGO, has provided 2,600 persons with disabilities, injured people, children and the elderly with hygiene kits, assistive devices, eyeglasses, first aid kits and baby kits.

In Israel, hundreds of thousands of people residing near the Gaza Strip, as well as along the border with Lebanon, have fled or been evacuated, with the Israeli authorities providing for the needs of these IDPs (this report focuses on the humanitarian situation in Gaza).

Basic services and livelihoods

Electricity

Since 11 October, Gaza has been under a full electricity blackout, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply to Gaza, which in turn triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant. This has forced essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, which are limited by the scarcity of fuel in the Strip. Goods entering Gaza since 21 October through the Rafah crossing have not included fuel.

Health care

Following the shutdown of services due to lack of fuel and electricity in the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship hospital, the MoH in Gaza stated that Shifa Hospital in Gaza city and the Indonesian Hospital, in Beit Lahiya, were almost out of fuel, and appealed to the international community and locals in assisting with providing fuel. They warned that 42 children under life support devices, 62 wounded using respiration equipment and 650 patients with kidney failure were at the highest risk, should the electricity cut off.

Currently, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities are not functioning, in addition to two outpatient specialist centres. Additionally, 51 (71 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) are not functioning, including 74 per cent of those located in Gaza city and 92 per cent of those in northern Gaza.

Nine UNRWA health centres are still operational in the South and recorded 4,400 patient visits on 31 October, including refugees and non-refugees. Healthcare services in UNRWA shelters were maintained with the support of 92 mobile medical units and medical teams, serving 9,800 patients at shelters on 31 October.

All operating hospitals and clinics are affected by severe fuel shortages, leading to stringent rationing and limited use of generators for only the most essential functions. Moreover, maintaining and repairing backup generators, originally not intended for continuous operation, is growing increasingly challenging due to the scarcity of spare parts.

Health partners have documented an increase in cases of skin and diarrheal diseases among IDPs in shelters due to the inadequate access to water and sanitation services. Upper respiratory infections are also on the rise due to the overcrowding and poor living conditions within the shelters, especially as the temperatures have started to drop.

The ongoing hostilities have displaced most of the medical professionals in Gaza, forcing the hospitals to operate with less than one-third of their normal staffing levels, according to MoH in Gaza.

Of the 102 trucks that entered Gaza through the Rafah Crossing on 2 November, at least 25 carried medical supplies. Overall, at least 103 out of the 374 trucks that have entered since 21 October, carried medical supplies.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Some 120 public wells and one desalination plant in the Middle and southern area of the Gaza Strip reportedly shut down on 2 November, after depleting their fuel reserves. The other desalination plant that was active reduced its production to a minimum level and is providing only for water trucking distribution. The last fuel delivery to these facilities by UNRWA and UNICEF took place on 29 October.

Only one out of the three water supply lines from Israel, servicing the Middle Area, is currently operational providing some 500 cubic metres of drinking water per hour to Nuseirat, Bureij, Maghazi, and Zawaida areas. Supply from Israel to western Khan Younis, which stopped on 30 October for unclear reasons, was not restored. This line previously supplied 600 cubic metres of drinking water per hour. The third pipeline from Israel to northern Gaza remains also closed since 8 October.

As a result, WASH partners estimate that water consumption has dropped from 25 to only five liters per day per capita. Except for some households in the Middle Area connected to the network, most people rely on water trucking and bottled water provided as assistance.

On 2 November, three trucks out of the aid convoy carried about 100,000 litres of water, which will cover the drinking water needs for some 20,000 people for one day and is set to be distributed among the IDP centres in the south of Gaza. Overall, out of the 374 trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October, at least 26 carried drinking water (jerrycans and bottles), water tanks, water purification equipment, and hygiene kits.

Food security

Of the trucks that entered Gaza on 2 November through Rafah, 54 carried food items, including ready-to-eat options like canned tuna, canned meat, and other non-perishables. In total, out of the trucks that have entered since 21 October, more than 150 have transported food.

These food supplies are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families, with only flour being provided to bakeries. Food assistance covers about 10 per cent of the minimum caloric intake requirement, according to the Food Security Sector.

WFP estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities in the market are sufficient for about seven more days. However, at the shop level, the available stock is expected to last for five days. Retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction and lack of security.

As of 2 November, only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP and eight local bakeries in the southern and Middle areas have been intermittently providing bread to shelters and IDPs, depending on the daily availability of flour. UNRWA has been supplying flour to these local bakeries to offer bread at half the cost. However, UNRWA reports that the available wheat stocks will only last for another five to six days before being depleted. The shortage of fuel is the primary obstacle preventing these bakeries from meeting local demand, and there is also a shortage of clean water required for utilizing the available flour in bread production, further hindering bakery operations.

Eleven bakeries have been struck and destroyed since 7 October (six in Gaza city, two in Jabalia, two in the Middle Area and one in Khan Younis). As a result, people are struggling to obtain bread. Hours-long queues are reported in front of bakeries, where people are exposed to airstrikes.

Telecommunications

After being cut at around 03:00 on 1 November, Gaza's telecommunication and internet services were gradually restored after almost nine hours of blackout. Ambulances and Civil Defense teams were unable to locate the injured, as thousands of people were estimated to be still under the rubble. Civilians were unable to receive updated information on where they can access humanitarian relief and where they may move to be in lesser danger.

Since the escalation of hostilities, the Gaza Strip has experienced a significant reduction in internet access. Sixty per cent of electric boxes and remote switches are out of service, 65 per cent of households and businesses have lost access to the network and 36 per cent of local fiber routes have been lost due to fiber cuts affecting both fixed and mobile networks. Almost half of local networks were damaged as well, which includes street poles, cables, and fiber trenches.

The mobile company Jawwal, which serves over 85 per cent of Gaza's residents, has lost 65 per cent of its radio sites.

Humanitarian operations

All humanitarian agencies and personnel have faced significant constraints in providing humanitarian assistance, due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines, and other essential items. Humanitarian partners cannot safely access people in need and warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

Additionally, the dramatic shutdown in internet connectivity has hindered efforts to monitor, document and report, including possible violations and abuses of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors are working around the clock to support the most vulnerable. The major operation entails the hosting of IDPs in UNRWA schools, where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope. Other interventions include the distribution of food and cash assistance to IDPs and

emergency fuel to WASH facilities, psychosocial support helplines, and a mass media campaign to raise awareness about the risks of unexploded ordnance (for further detail, see Humanitarian Needs and Responses).

As of 2 November, about US$ 126 million worth of pledges have been confirmed in support of the inter-agency Flash Appeal launched on 12 October by the oPt Humanitarian Country Team. This represents about 43 per cent of the estimate required when the Appeal was first launched. Of the total amount pledged, 90 per cent are for UN agencies and 10 per cent for national and international NGOs. About $81.85 million were earmarked for UNRWA; $7.1 million for WHO, and $22 million for WFP.

Private donations to the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund are collected online through this link: crisisrelief.un.org/opt-crisis.

West Bank Humanitarian Overview

Casualties

In the West Bank, between the afternoon of 1 November and 21:00 on 2 November, Israeli forces killed three Palestinians, including one child; another child died from wounds sustained previously. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since 7 October to 132, including 41 children. Of these, 124 people, including 40 children, were killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. One member of Israeli forces was killed by Palestinians.

On 2 November, an Israeli settler travelling in a vehicle was killed in a drive-by shooting attack reportedly by Palestinians near Beit Lid (Tulkarm).

The number of Palestinians killed since 7 October represents more than one third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank so far in 2023 (376).

On 2 November, in two separate incidents in Qalqilya city and Al Bireh in Ramallah, Israeli forces shot and killed three Palestinians, including a 14-year-old child and injured four others, including one child with live ammunition during confrontations over the course of a search-and-arrest operation. On 30 October, Israeli forces shot and injured with live ammunition a 14-year-old child during confrontations over the course of a search-and-arrest operation near Zawata junction in Nablus city; the boy succumbed to his wounds on 2 November, bringing the total number of children killed by Israeli forces since 7 October to 40, half of whom were reported killed during search-and-arrest operations.

Of the Palestinian fatalities since 7 October, almost 50 per cent were killed during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, mainly in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates; 35 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.

Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,219 Palestinians, including at least 236 children. 62 Palestinians were injured by settlers, including nine with live ammunition. About 1,200 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli forces in the context of demonstrations. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

Settler-related Violence

The already high level of Israeli settler violence recorded during the first nine months of 2023 has sharply increased since the escalation of hostilities. Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 186 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (26 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (128 incidents), or both casualties and damage

to property (32 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

Out of the 186 settler attacks, more than one-third involved threats with firearms, including shooting. Almost half of all incidents involved Israeli forces accompanying or actively supporting the attackers. Many of the latter incidents were followed by confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians, where three Palestinians were killed, and dozens injured. Affected properties included 25 residential structures, 42 agricultural/animal-related structures, 74 vehicles and more than 670 trees and saplings.

Displacement

In the past 24 hours, a total of 41 Palestinians were displaced amid settler violence in Hebron.

On 2 November, eight Palestinian households, comprising 41 members, including 23 children, were displaced from Khirbet Zanuta community in Hebron, after a series of settler attacks including where several residential and animal related structures were vandalized. Additionally, settlers pointed guns at residents, threatening to kill them if they did not leave. Earlier, on 28 October, 24 families, comprising 141 members, including 70 children, left the area along with their livestock.

Since 7 October, at least 111 households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced in this context. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities. Seven of these communities had schools which are not accessible anymore; at least three of these schools have been vandalized by Israeli forces and/or settlers and are now at a higher risk of demolition.

On 21 October, following the forced displacement of Wadi as Seeq Bedouin community, situated in Area C to the northeast of Ramallah, on 11 October, Israeli settlers raided the deserted community and destroyed the belongings left behind, including the donor-funded school structure and school-related properties inside.

Additionally, since 7 October, 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, have been displaced following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children following punitive demolitions, which target the family homes of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators of fatal attacks against Israelis.

Detention and ill-treatment

OHCHR has received a number consistent and credible reports of systematic cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees, and of physical and psychological violence against family members.

OHCHR documented one of these cases, where a Palestinian man was arrested by Israeli forces on 31 October. A video shows an Israeli soldier kicking the man several times in the stomach and calling him racist names, while the man is kneeled, blindfolded and with hands tied behind his back. During the same arrest operation, Israeli forces damaged the house contents and reportedly threatened the man's family with shooting if they did not cooperate. OHCHR has documented similar cases of beating and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees, possibly amounting to torture.

On 1 November, according to Israeli media, Israeli forces stated that they were investigating the abuses and that one reserve soldier involved had been dismissed from reserve service. OHCHR has documented other similar cases of beating and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees, possibly amounting to torture, indicating that such cases are not isolated.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority Needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to Date

- Some 17,874 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority Needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to Date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority Needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.

- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to Date

- Some 690,400 IDPs are hosted at 150 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority Needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to Date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority Needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.

- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to Date

- WFP has reached more than 550,000 people with emergency food and cash assistance since the crisis began, most of them IDPs in UNRWA DES. On 1 November, 3,400 displaced persons in host families received food parcels. As of 1 November 23,721, people redeemed WFP's cash-based transfer assistance in active shops.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPS in non-URWA shelter or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. 10,000 households in the Middle Area are still ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters, for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.

Education

Priority Needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned Responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff to around 20 school shelters.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority Needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.

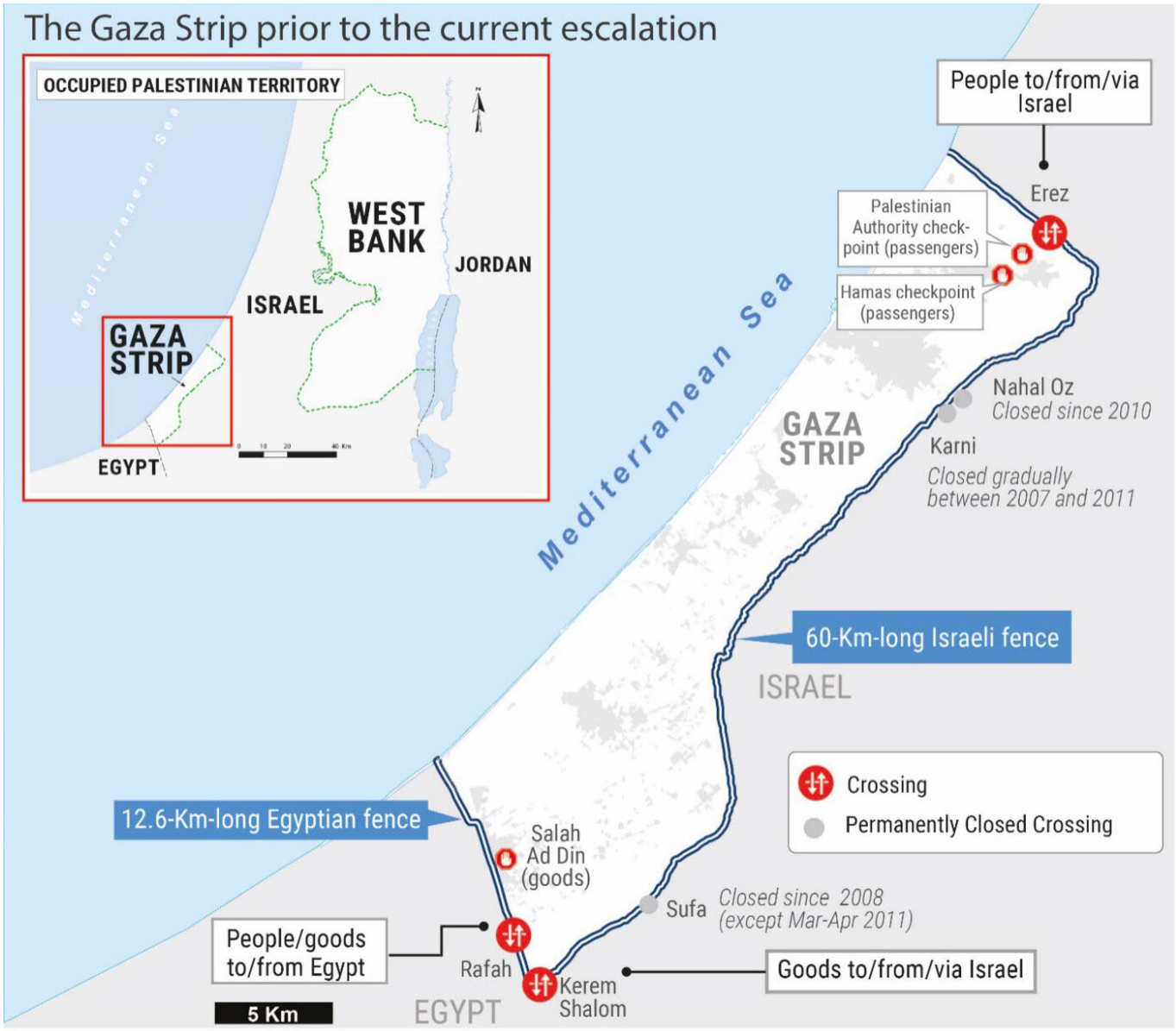
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to Date

Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:

- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used at community and IDP.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centers
- 211 cubic meters of fuel to WASH facilities
- 5 cubic meters of anti-scalant to desalination plants

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT



Ghazal, 14, became homeless when her family home was destroyed in early October 2023. When she was just five, she lost her previous home in hostilities and remained displaced for two years. Photo by © UNICEF/El Baba, 2 November 2023

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #28

03 Nov 2023

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Israeli ground operations in northern Gaza have continued, with troops and tanks reportedly surrounding Gaza city from multiple directions. Further clashes with Palestinian armed groups have taken place, alongside intense bombardments across the Gaza Strip, including in the Middle and southern areas.
- Between 2 November (noon) and 3 November (14:00), 196 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, bringing the reported fatality toll since the start of the hostilities to 9,257, including 3,826 children, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza.
- On 2 November, seven Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 24.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns

Access and movement (Gaza Strip)

- For the third consecutive day, on 3 November, the Rafah Crossing between Gaza and Egypt opened for the movement of people, allowing the exit of 300-400 foreign passport holders. The Erez crossing with Israel remains closed.
- On 3 November, 3,026 Palestinian workers, who had been stranded in Israel and the West Bank since the start of the hostilities, were returned to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing. The Israeli authorities had held them in custody

for most of the period, allegedly interrogating and subjecting people to ill treatment.

- On 3 November, 47 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies crossed from Egypt into Gaza through Rafah Crossing, bringing the total number of trucks that have entered since 21 October to 421. Of these, at least 158 trucks carried food, 102 carried health supplies, 44 carried water or hygiene products, 32 carried non-food items, and eight carried nutrition supplies, alongside other trucks carrying mixed cargo. The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- Nearly 1.5 million people in Gaza are internally displaced (IDPs). Of them, some 690,000 are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, 122,000 in hospitals, churches, and public buildings, 99,000 in 82 non-UNRWA schools, and the remainder with host families.
- In recent days, tens of thousands of IDPs, who were previously staying with host families, have relocated into public shelters, seeking food and basic services. This has increased pressure on already overcrowded shelters.
- Over 530,000 people are sheltering in 92 UNRWA facilities in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas. Shelters have exceeded their limit and are unable to accommodate new arrivals, and many IDPs are sleeping in the streets close to UNRWA premises seeking safety.
- An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in the north and in Gaza city. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on their needs and conditions since the Israeli evacuation order on 13 October.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On the afternoon of 3 November, a convoy of ambulances evacuating patients from Shifa hospital in Gaza city to the Rafah crossing with Egypt, was struck three times in the vicinity of the hospital. Initial reports indicate that at least 13 people were killed and 26 injured. According to the Israeli military, its forces targeted an ambulance used by Hamas personnel. At about the same time, Al Quds hospital in Gaza city and the Indonesian hospital in northern Gaza were hit, reportedly during airstrikes, resulting in a large yet unconfirmed number of casualties.
- On 3 November, one of the generators in Shifa hospital reportedly stopped working due to lack of fuel. Another generator is still operating, covering about half of the hospital's needs. Shifa is the largest hospital in Gaza, treating hundreds of patients and hosting tens of thousands of IDPs.
- Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities have stopped functioning and 51 (71 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel.
- This week, the World Health Organization (WHO) distributed 80 pallets of supplies, including surgical equipment, trauma kits, and medicines, to four hospitals in the south and Middle areas of Gaza. This brings the total number of pallets distributed to date by WHO to 205.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- Water supply from Israel to western Khan Younis, which stopped on 30 October due to technical reasons, resumed on 3 November, at 600 cubic metres per hour. Another pipeline from Israel servicing the Middle Area, which was

reactivated on 31 October, is also operational.

- In the northern areas of the Gaza Strip, access to drinking water is uncertain. Water supply from Israel came to a halt on 8 October. Furthermore, following the intensification of Israeli ground operations, most water trucking operations and distribution of bottled water were suspended. Most municipal water wells have reportedly shut down after depleting their fuel reserves.

Food security

- Food supplies entering from Egypt are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, with only flour being provided to bakeries. At the shop level, the World Food Program (WFP) estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities will be sufficient for about five more days, with retailers facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction, insecurity, and lack of fuel.

- Access to bread is increasingly challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been struck and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP, and eight other bakeries in the southern and Middle areas have been intermittently providing bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People wait long hours in bakeries' queues, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- Distribution of food assistance to IDPs in the northern part of the Gaza Strip was almost completely halted for the past few days, following the intensification of ground operations. Anecdotal information suggests that limited food assistance by local NGOs and community-based organizations continues.

- In the southern Gaza Strip, humanitarian partners have been assisting through in-kind food distribution and cash-based transfers to individuals and households in UN and other shelters. WFP distributes fresh bread for IDPs in UN shelters, as well as canned food and date bars. UNRWA continued to cooperate with local bakeries and supply them with flour, allowing them to offer bread at half the cost.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- Indiscriminate rocket firing by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours with low intensity, resulting in no fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 3 November, the names of 1,159 of these fatalities have been released, including 828 civilians. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 242 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages were released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces killed 11 Palestinians between the afternoon of 2 November and noontime on 3 November. The deadliest incident, which lasted for over 11 hours, took place in the Jenin Refugee Camp and resulted in five Palestinians killed, including a child. The operation involved armed clashes with Palestinians, during which Israeli forces launched airstrikes and destroyed infrastructure. This is the seventh operation in the camp since 7 October, with a combined fatality toll of 26 Palestinians.

- Another five fatalities were reported during search-and- arrest operations in Tell (Nablus), Budrus (Ramallah), Qalandiya (Jerusalem) and Al Fawwar (Hebron) refugee camps. One Palestinian was killed after he reportedly

attempted to stab Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint (Tubas).

- Since 7 October, 135 Palestinians, including 42 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. Two Israelis were killed by Palestinians.
- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (382). Nearly 50 per cent of these fatalities occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates.
- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,247 Palestinians, including at least 239 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-two Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.
- In the past 24 hours, in three incidents, Israeli settlers raided the villages of Jit (Qalqiliya), Deir Sharaf and Ein Shibli (both in Nablus), where they set fire and vandalized homes, agricultural structures, vehicles and crops.
- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 195 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (27 incidents), damage to Palestinian property (135 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (33 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.
- Between 1 and 2 November, Israeli forces arrested at least 135 Palestinians, including two women, across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, bringing the total number of those arrested since 7 October to at least 1,900, according to Palestinian sources. UN's Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has received consistent and credible reports of widespread cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees. Two Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli custody since 7 October.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 111 households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.
- An additional 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, have been displaced since 7 October following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children, following punitive demolitions.

Funding

- The Humanitarian Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory will release an updated Flash Appeal on 6 November, requesting US$1.2 billion. Interventions included in the Appeal aim at meeting the needs of 2.7 million people – including the entire population of Gaza and 500,000 people in the West Bank – by the end of 2023. The original appeal, launched on 12 October, asked for $294 million to support nearly 1.3 million people.
- Private donations are collected through the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 17,874 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid (PFA) and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 690,400 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC/PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist in UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA DES in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPS in non-URWA shelters or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are still ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelter.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority eeds

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned responses

- Provision of school-based psychosocial support and recreational activities for at least 70,000 children and school staff to around 20 school shelters.
- Emergency rehabilitation for at least 20 damaged schools, following a cluster rapid needs assessment.
- Provision of emergency supplies and learning kits to 10,000 children in DES and 50,000 children in schools once they reopen.
- Provision of catch-up classes, especially to displaced children (at least 20,000 children).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

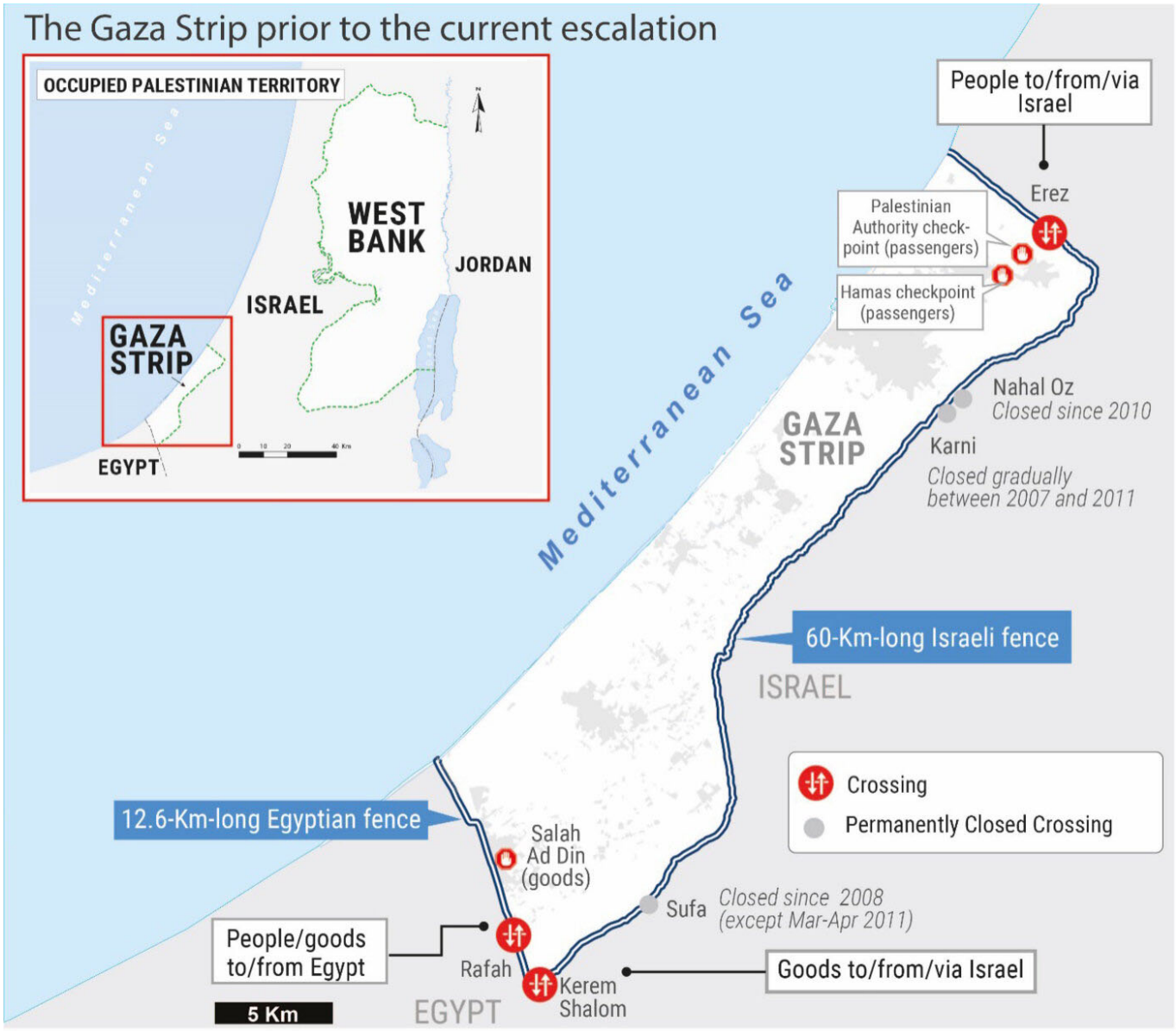
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:

- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scalant to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT



A child carrying empty jerry cans on his way to refill them with drinking water. "I dream of becoming an astronaut," he says. Photo by © UNICEF/El Baba

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #29

04 Nov 2023

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Israeli ground operations in northern Gaza have continued, with troops and tanks reportedly surrounding Gaza city from multiple directions. Further clashes with Palestinian armed groups have been reported, alongside intense bombardments across the Gaza Strip, including in the Middle and southern areas.
- Between 3 November (noon) and 4 November (14:00), 231 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, bringing the reported fatality toll since the start of the hostilities to 9,488, including 3,900 children, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. About 2,000 others are reported missing in Gaza, including 1,250 children. Most are presumed to be trapped under the rubble.
- At least 70 Palestinians were killed and another 60 injured, according to the MoH, during two separate airstrikes in the past 24 hours, hitting two schools sheltering IDPs in the Jabalia Refugee Camp, north of Gaza city. Most of the fatalities are said to be women and children. Since the start of hostilities, 258 school buildings have sustained damage, representing more than 51 per cent of all schools in Gaza.
- On 4 November, four Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 28, according to Israeli sources.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns

Access and movement (Gaza Strip)

- No movement of dual nationals, internationals, or patients from Gaza to Egypt was reported on 4 November. Media reports indicated that Hamas, demanding guarantees of safe passage, had prevented people from reaching the crossing, following an Israeli attack on the ambulance convoy leaving Shifa hospital to Rafah on 3 November. More than 1,100 people reportedly crossed from Gaza to Egypt on 2 and 3 November.
- On 4 November, the Israeli military continued calling on residents of Gaza city and northern Gaza to move southwards and announced that people would be allowed to do so safely between 13:00 and 16:00. According to Israeli sources, Palestinian armed groups attacked Israeli forces as that were attempting to enable the access of people southwards.
- On 4 November, 30 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies crossed from Egypt into Gaza through Rafah crossing. Since 21 October, 451 trucks have entered Gaza. Of these, at least 158 trucks carried food, 102 carried health supplies, 44 carried water or hygiene products, 32 carried non-food items, and eight carried nutrition supplies, with the remaining trucks carrying mixed cargo.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed. The Erez pedestrian crossing with Israel also remains closed.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- Nearly 1.5 million people in Gaza are internally displaced (IDPs). Of them, 710,275 are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, 122,000 people are in hospitals, churches, and public buildings, 109,755 people are in 89 non-UNRWA schools (previously 82), and the remainder are residing with host families.
- Overcrowding conditions continue to create severe health and protection risks for IDPs and are taking a heavy toll on their mental health. Damage to water and sanitation infrastructure and the limited availability of fuel to pump water creates additional public health risks. Several cases of acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and chicken pox have already been reported among people taking refuge at UNRWA shelters.
- Over 530,000 people are sheltering in 92 UNRWA facilities in the southern governorates of Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah areas. Shelters have exceeded their capacity and are unable to accommodate new arrivals. Many IDPs are seeking safety by sleeping in the streets, near to UNRWA premises
- An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in the north and in Gaza city. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on people's needs and conditions since the Israeli evacuation order on 13 October.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel's halt of its electricity and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant.
- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.
- Multiple solar panels on the roofs of standing buildings, particularly in Gaza city, have reportedly been destroyed in the past few days during Israeli bombardments. Affected facilities include Shifa and Nasser hospitals, several water wells, and bakeries. This has eliminated one of the remaining sources of energy, which is not dependent on fuel.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On 4 November, the entrances of both Nasser Children's Hospital in Gaza city and Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city were reportedly hit during Israeli airstrikes. Two people were reportedly killed, dozens were injured, and damage was caused to the entrances of these health facilities. Al Quds Hospital is currently a refuge for about 14,000 IDPs.

- Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities have stopped functioning and 51 (71 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- Hundreds of thousands of residents in Gaza city and the northern areas face a severe water shortage, raising concerns of dehydration and waterborne diseases due to consuming water from unsafe sources. However, a precise assessment is uncertain due to the hostilities and access restrictions.

- Over the past few days, most water facilities in the abovementioned areas, including some 60 municipal water wells, have shut down due to the lack of fuel and the inability of staff to reach them. This compounds the situation generated by the shutdown of the single seawater desalination plant in the north, and Israel's halt in the water supply during the first week of hostilities. Consequently, nearly all water supplies through the network, as well as trucking activities, have reportedly ceased. Residents rely on the minimal volume from private wells and purification plants and consume unsafe water from agricultural wells.

- At least 25 sewage pumping stations in Gaza city and the northern areas have also ceased operating. The municipality of Gaza city has warned about the imminent risk of sewage flooding in large areas of the city, including Az Zaytoun and Ad Daraj neighbourhoods.

Food security

- Food supplies entering from Egypt are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in southern Gaza, with only flour being provided to bakeries. At the shop level, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that current stocks of essential food commodities will be sufficient for about five more days, with retailers facing significant challenges when restocking from wholesalers due to widespread destruction, insecurity, and lack of fuel.

- Access to bread is increasingly challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been struck and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP, and eight other bakeries in the southern and Middle areas have been intermittently providing bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- Distribution of food assistance to IDPs in northern Gaza was almost completely halted for the past few days, following the intensification of ground operations. Anecdotal information suggests that limited food assistance by local NGOs and community-based organizations continues.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, resulting in no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 3 November, the names of 1,159 of these fatalities have been released, including 828 civilians. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 242 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian child on 3 November during confrontations that erupted over the course of a protest in solidarity with Gaza in the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2).
- Since 7 October, 136 Palestinians, including 43 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. Two Israelis have been killed by Palestinians.
- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (383). Nearly 50 per cent of these fatalities occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 35 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; and most of the remaining 10 per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers, and in settler attacks against Palestinians.
- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,300 Palestinians, including at least 241 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-two Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.
- In three incidents recorded in the past 24 hours, Israeli settlers raided the villages of Ein Shibli (Nablus) and Ramin (Tulkarm), where they set fire to and vandalized uninhabited residential structures, an animal shelter, several vehicles, and crops.
- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 198 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (27 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (138 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (33 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying, or actively supporting, the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 111 Palestinian households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.
- An additional 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, have been displaced since 7 October following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children, following punitive demolitions.

Funding

- The Humanitarian Country Team estimates it will cost US$1.2 billion to meet critical needs for 2.7 million people across the Occupied Palestinian Territory between 1 October and 31 December 2023. For humanitarian actors to implement this plan, they must have safe and sustained access to all people in need, across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; sufficient fuel must be made available; and the flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza must increase.

- The magnitude and scope of the response, and lag time between funding pledges and the receipt of these funds, mean that the full implementation of the plan is not expected by the end of 2023. Outstanding response priorities will be rolled into the 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan or appeal extension.
- These requirements will be reflected in an updated Flash Appeal to be issued on 6 November. The original appeal, launched on 12 October, requested US$294 million to support nearly 1.3 million people.
- Private donations are collected through the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

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Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

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- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.

- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) registration, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 710,275 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
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Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary healthcare services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary healthcare services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.

- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

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- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelters.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority eeds

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Planned responses

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.

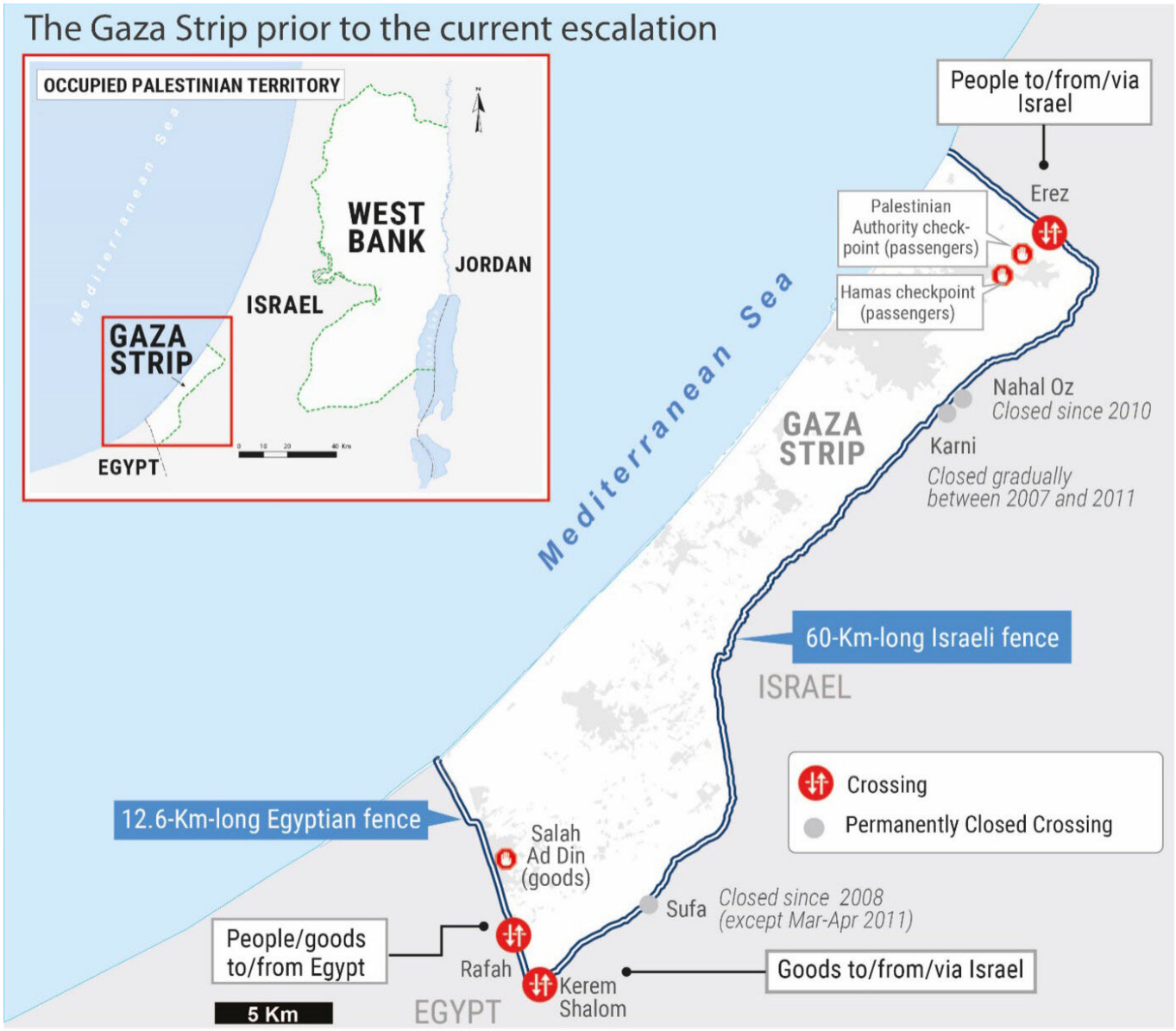
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:

- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
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WEST BANK
JORDAN
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GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT



Women and girls queueing for bread in the Gaza Strip, outside a damaged bakery. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. In southern Gaza, with no electricity or fuel, the only operative mill cannot grind wheat. Photo by UNRWA

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #30

05 Nov 2023

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- As hostilities entered the thirtieth day, ongoing armed clashes between the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups were reported in northwest and south Gaza City. Intense bombardments took place across the Gaza Strip, including in Deir Al Balah and the southern areas.
- Between 4 November (noon) and 5 November (14:00), 243 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. At least 65 of these reported fatalities were recorded during airstrikes targeting residential buildings in three refugee camps: Al Bureij and Al Maghazi, both in Deir Al Balah (at least 51 reported fatalities) and Jabaliya in North Gaza governorate (14 reported fatalities). Most of the fatalities are women and children, according to MoH.
- This brings the reported fatality toll since the start of the hostilities to 9,770 including 4,008 children and 2,550 women, according to the MoH in Gaza. About 2,260 others are reported missing in Gaza, including 1,270 children. Most are presumed to be trapped under rubble. On average, 134 children have been killed in Gaza every day since the start of the hostilities, based on the MoH figures.
- On 5 November, one Israeli soldier was reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 29, according to Israeli sources.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Access and movement (Gaza Strip)

- No exits of dual nationals or patients from Gaza to Egypt through the Rafah crossing was recorded on 5 November, for the second consecutive day. This is reportedly due to the failure of Hamas, Israel and Egypt to reach an agreement regarding the safe evacuation of patients from northern Gaza. The halt in the exit of dual nationals and patients followed an attack on an ambulance convoy on its way from Gaza city to Rafah on 3 November. More than 1,100 people reportedly crossed from Gaza to Egypt on 2 and 3 November.
- On 5 November, the Israeli military called again on residents of Gaza city and the North Gaza governorate to move southwards between 10:00 and 14:00. However, UN monitoring suggests that less than 2,000 moved. This is attributed to the heavy damage sustained by the two main traffic arteries; fear of being hit and potentially killed, as has reportedly happened to people traveling southwards; and lack of information due to the limited connectivity to cellular networks and internet. The Israeli military claims that Hamas has been physically hindering people's movement to the south.
- On 5 November, a limited number of trucks carrying humanitarian supplies crossed from Egypt into Gaza. Since 21 October, at least 451 trucks have entered Gaza. Of these, at least 158 trucks carried food, 102 carried health supplies, 44 carried water or hygiene products, 32 carried non-food items, and eight carried nutrition supplies, with the remaining trucks carrying mixed cargo.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- About 1.5 million people in Gaza are internally displaced (IDPs). Of them, some 717,000 are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, 122,000 in hospitals, churches, and public buildings, 110,000 people in 89 non-UNRWA schools, and the remainder are residing with host families.
- Overcrowding remains a major concern. Over 530,000 people are sheltering in 92 UNRWA facilities in the south and shelters are unable to accommodate new arrivals. Many IDPs are seeking safety by sleeping in the streets, near UNRWA premises.
- An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in Gaza city and the North Gaza governorate. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on people's needs and conditions since the Israeli evacuation order on 12 October.
- Several cases of acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and chicken pox have been reported among people taking refuge at UNRWA shelters.
- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel's halt of its power and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant.
- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.
- Multiple solar panels on the roofs of standing buildings, particularly in Gaza city, have reportedly been destroyed in the past few days during Israeli bombardments. Affected facilities include Shifa and Nasser hospitals, several wate

wells, and bakeries. This has eliminated one of the remaining sources of energy, which is not dependent on fuel.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- In the past 24 hours, strikes continued in the close vicinity of hospitals, including the Indonesian Hospital (Beit Lahiya) and the Al Quds Hospital in Tal Al Hawa (Gaza city). In the latter, two patients and 12 people sheltering at the hospital were reported injured, and the hospital also sustained damage. The Israeli military claims that members of armed groups have been shooting from those areas.

- Since 3 November, the main electricity generators at Shifa Hospital in Gaza city and the Indonesian Hospital in North Gaza have reportedly stopped operating due to the lack of fuel. Both hospitals operate secondary, smaller generators, which provide only a few hours of electricity a day for the most critical services.

- Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities have stopped functioning and 51 (71 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- Hundreds of thousands of residents in Gaza city and the North Gaza governorate are facing a severe water shortage, following the shutdown of all municipal water wells due to the lack of fuel, alongside the halt of water trucking activities. This situation raises concerns of dehydration and waterborne diseases due to water consumption from unsafe sources. However, a precise assessment is uncertain due to hostilities and access restrictions.

- In the south, all municipal wells have stopped operating since 2 November, due to the lack of fuel. Additionally, one of the two desalination plants in the area shut down and the other is operating at minimum levels. The two pipelines from Israel servicing these areas are operational.

- Six of the trucks that entered on 4 November from Egypt carried a total of 198 cubic metres of bottled water. They were distributed during the day at IDP shelters in the south of Gaza, meeting the drinking needs of about 66,000 IDPs for one day.

- On 4 and 5 November, seven water facilities across the Gaza Strip were directly hit and sustained major damage, including three sewage pipelines in Gaza city, two water reservoirs (in Gaza City, Rafah and Jabalia refugee camp) and two water wells in Rafah. The Gaza municipality warned about the imminent risk of sewage flooding.

Food security

- According to the World Food Programme (WFP), stocks of some essential food items in Gaza, including rice, vegetable oil and pulses, are about to be depleted in the coming 1-3 days. Additionally, retailers are facing significant challenges when restocking available items from wholesalers due to widespread destruction, insecurity, and lack of fuel.

- Food supplies entering from Egypt include mainly ready-to-eat food (canned tuna and date bars) and are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in southern Gaza, with only flour being provided to bakeries.

- Distribution of food assistance to IDPs in Gaza city and northern Gaza was almost completely halted for the past few days, following the intensification of ground operations. Anecdotal information suggests that limited food assistance by local NGOs and community-based organizations continues. Some reports indicate that no bakery is currently operational in these areas.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP, along with eight other bakeries in the southern and Middle areas, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, resulting in no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 3 November, the names of 1,159 of these fatalities have been released, including 828 civilians. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 242 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces shot and killed five Palestinians, including one child, between the afternoon of 4 November and noontime on 5 November. The deadliest incident, which lasted for over five hours, took place in the town of Abu Dis (Jerusalem) and resulted in three Palestinians killed. The operation involved armed clashes with Palestinians, during which Israeli forces fired a missile at a house where a wanted person was hiding and destroyed it. Another two fatalities, including a 17-year-old child, were reported during search-and-arrest operations in Al 'Eizariya (Jerusalem), and Nuba (Hebron).

- Since 7 October, 141 Palestinians, including 43 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers. Two Israelis have been killed by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (388). About 55 per cent of these fatalities occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 30 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; eight per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven where while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,322 Palestinians, including at least 244 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-four Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- In the past 24 hours, armed Israeli settlers stormed the community of Khirbet Yarza (Tubas), broke into homes, physically assaulted and injured four men, and threatened others. In Qusra (Nablus) and Jinsafut (Qalqiliya), according to residents, settlers vandalized a total of 500 olive trees and crops.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 202 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (28 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (141 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (33 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 111 Palestinian households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from more than 15 herding/Bedouin communities.
- An additional 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, have been displaced since 7 October following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 23, including 13 children, following punitive demolitions.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 17,874 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.

- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support the registration of unaccompanied and separated children, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 716,881 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC and PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.

- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelters.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

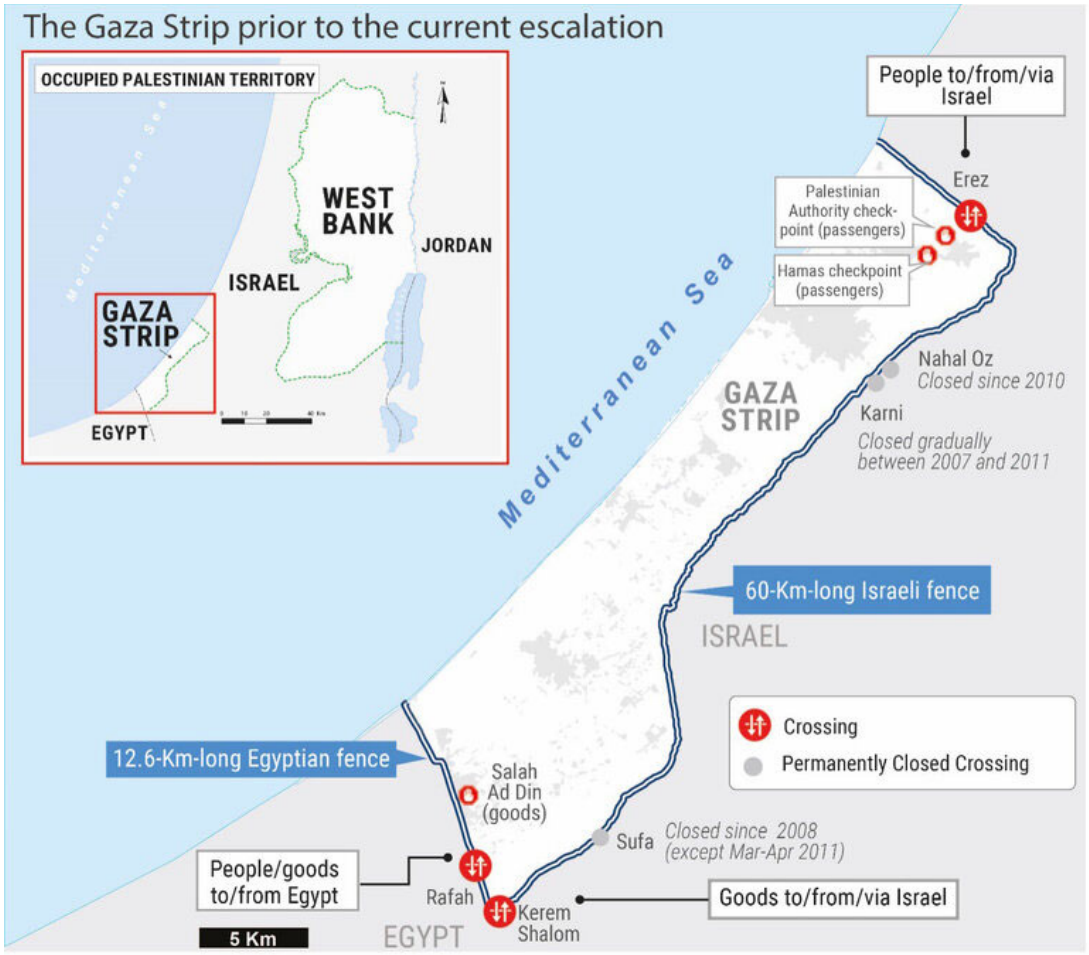
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:

- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
Mediterranean Sea
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
GAZA STRIP
Mediterranean Sea
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT



Displaced children staying at the Khan Younis Training Centre, the most overcrowded UN shelter in Gaza. With less than two square metres per person, many of the 22,000 displaced people at this facility stay outdoors. Photo by UNRWA

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #31

06 Nov 2023

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in northern Gaza reportedly intensified on 6 November. The Israeli military claimed it has fully encircled Gaza city and has been reportedly advancing into the city from the south. Intense bombardments from the air, sea and land continued across the Gaza Strip.
- Between 5 November (noon) and 6 November (14:00), 252 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. Among the deadliest incidents were two airstrikes at about 1:30 a.m., hitting residential buildings in Az Zawaidah (Middle area), killing 10 people, and in Tal As Sultan area (Rafah) killing 15 others.
- On the 31st day of hostilities, the cumulative reported Palestinian fatality toll in Gaza surpassed 10,000, including 4,008 children and 2,550 women, according to the MoH in Gaza. About 2,260 others are reported missing in Gaza, including 1,270 children. Most are presumed to be trapped under rubble.
- An additional telecommunication cut off was noticed across the Gaza Strip overnight (5 to 6 November), severely impeding the ability of ambulances and rescuers to reach those injured or trapped under collapsed buildings.
- On 6 November, one Israeli soldier was reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 30, according to Israeli sources.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

- On 5 November, the leaders of 18 UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs issued a joint statement expressing “shock and horror” at the mounting death toll from the conflict and calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Access and movement (Gaza Strip)

- On 6 November, the Egyptian border reopened for the evacuation of an unconfirmed number of foreign nationals and dual citizens, and a handful of injured people. This followed no such exits during the previous two days. On 2 and 3 November, 84 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt, along with 66 relatives who accompanied them.

- On 6 November, for the third consecutive day, the Israeli military called on residents of Gaza and the North Gaza governorates (hereafter: the north) to move southwards, opening a corridor between 10:00 and 14:00. UN monitors estimate that some 5,000 people passed. As roads leading to the main crossing junction had been heavily damaged, it was only reachable by foot. Entire families, including children, elderly people and persons with disabilities reported walking long distances, carrying their personal belongings by hand. The Israeli military has claimed that Hamas has been physically hindering people’s movement to the south.

- On 6 November, 98 trucks primarily carrying food items, medicines, health supplies, bottled water and hygiene products crossed from Egypt into Gaza, bringing the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 574.* Prior to the start of hostilities, an average of 500 truckloads entered Gaza every working day.

- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- About 1.5 million people in Gaza are internally displaced (IDPs). Of them, some 717,000 are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, 122,000 in hospitals, churches, and public buildings, 110,000 people in 89 non-UNRWA schools, and the remainder are residing with host families.

- Overcrowding remains a major concern. More than 557,000 people are sheltering in 92 UNRWA facilities in the south and shelters are unable to accommodate new arrivals. The Khan Younis Training Centre, the most overcrowded UNRWA shelter, hosts more than 22,000 IDPs: the space per person is less than two square metres, while at least 600 people are sharing one toilet.

- The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards. Thousands of cases of acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and chicken pox have been reported among people taking refuge at UNRWA shelters.

- An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in the north. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on people’s needs and conditions since the Israeli evacuation order on 12 October.

- A total of 50 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 461 injured since 7 October, in the context of hostilities.

- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel’s halt of its power and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza’s sole power plant.

- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On 5 November, the close vicinities of four hospitals in Gaza city have been struck; these strikes killed eight people and damaged buildings and some equipment, according to the WHO monitoring. The affected facilities, which include the Psychiatric Hospital, the Ophthalmic Hospital, Al Quds Hospital and Rantisi Pediatric Hospital, have remained operational.

- On 6 November, the Israeli military called for the evacuation of the Rantisi hospital claiming that armed groups were using its premises and surroundings. Similar evacuation calls had been made to all hospitals in the north, in some cases including allegations about the use of their premises by armed groups.

- At around midnight between 5 and 6 November, the Jordanian air force reportedly air-dropped urgent medical aid to the Jordanian field hospital in Gaza city, in coordination with the Israeli military.

- Since 3 November, the main electricity generators at Shifa Hospital in Gaza city and the Indonesian Hospital in North Gaza have reportedly stopped operating due to the lack of fuel. Both hospitals operate secondary, smaller generators, which provide electricity primarily to the Intensive Care Units, emergency rooms, and operating rooms.

- Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities have stopped functioning and 51 (71 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza (72) have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel. Out of the 102 attacks on health recorded by the World Health Organization (WHO), 83 were in the Gaza and North Gaza governates.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- On 6 November, UNRWA and UNICEF distributed limited amounts of fuel to 120 municipal water wells across the entire Gaza Strip, including in the north, enabling the wells to resume operations. The water extracted is brackish and therefore meant only for non-drinking domestic uses. The fuel had been stored in Gaza since before the start of hostilities.

- In northern Gaza, the two main sources of drinking water, a desalination plant and a water connection from Israel, have been shut down for several weeks. In the south, one of the two desalination plants is operational, alongside two pipelines supplying water from Israel.

- On 4 and 5 November, seven water facilities across the Gaza Strip were directly hit and sustained major damage, including three sewage pipelines in Gaza city, two water reservoirs (in Rafah and Jabalia refugee camp) and two water wells in Rafah. The Gaza municipality warned about the imminent risk of sewage flooding.

Food security

- As of 6 November, only one bakery has reportedly remained operational in Gaza city and another in northern Gaza, which are unable to meet people's needs. Therefore, those who can afford buying wheat flour and have the means to build cooking fires are preparing flatbread at home.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- Food supplies entering from Egypt include mainly ready-to-eat food (canned tuna and date bars) and are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in southern Gaza, with only flour being provided to bakeries.

- Distribution of food assistance to IDPs in the north was almost completely halted for the past few days, following the intensification of ground operations. Anecdotal information suggests that limited food assistance by local NGOs and community-based organizations continues. Some reports indicate that no bakery is currently operational in these areas.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, resulting in no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 3 November, the names of 1,159 of these fatalities have been released, including 828 civilians. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 240 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces shot and killed six Palestinians, including one child, between the afternoon of 5 November and noontime on 6 November. During a military operation in Tulkarm, an undercover Israeli unit shot and killed four men, who according to the Israeli military, were members of armed groups. Another Palestinian man was shot and killed by Israeli forces in Halhul (Hebron) in confrontations during a search-and-arrest operation. In East Jerusalem, a 16-year-old Palestinian boy stabbed and injured a female Israeli police officer and was subsequently shot and killed; the police officer, who was reportedly injured also by Israeli gunfire or shrapnel, later died of her wounds.

- Since 7 October, 147 Palestinians, including 44 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers. Three Israelis have been killed in Palestinians attacks.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (394). About 55 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 30 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; eight per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven where while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,340 Palestinians, including at least 248 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-four Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- In the past 24 hours, Israeli settlers entered the communities of Qawawis (Hebron), Al Mazra'a al Qibliya (Ramallah), and As Sawiya (Nablus), damaging trees, water pumps and a vehicle.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 208 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (28 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (147 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (33 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year.

Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 111 Palestinian households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.
- An additional 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, have been displaced since 7 October following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 27, including 13 children, following punitive demolitions.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.
- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 25,359 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support the registration of unaccompanied and separated children, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

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- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
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Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.

- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelters.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

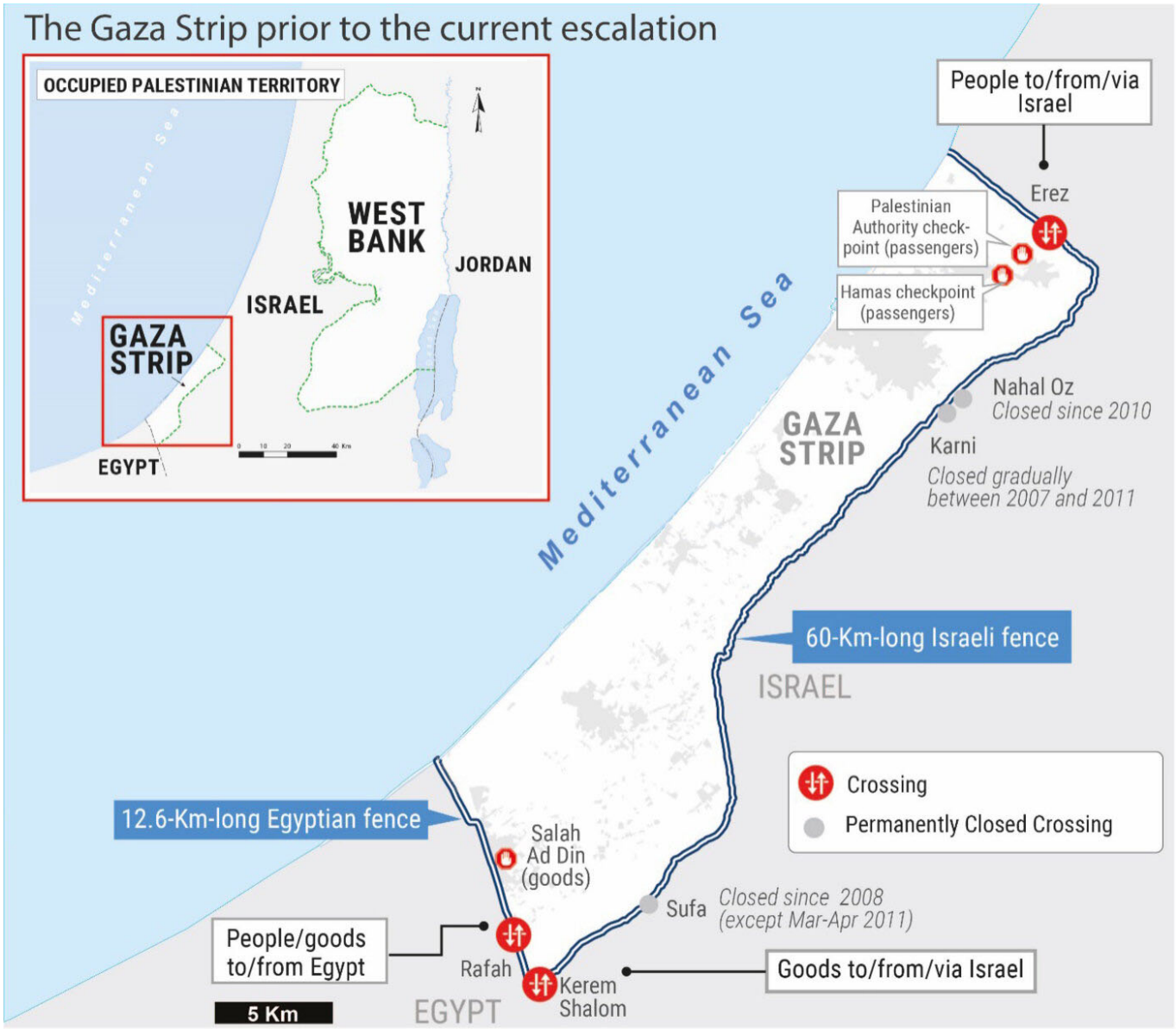
Priority needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

- Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:
- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



* This figure has been rectified following the publication of this update.



Palestinian mother and her newborn baby girl in a school used to shelter displaced people in the Gaza Strip. "There is no bathroom, no water, and no proper care," she says. "I have not checked or cleaned the caesarean section stitches yet." Screenshot from a video by UNICEF

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #32

07 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- The situation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza city and other areas north of Wadi Gaza (hereafter: the north) is increasingly dire. Armed clashes and intense bombardment continue as people struggle to secure the minimum amounts of water and food to survive.
- As of 7 November, no bakeries were active in the north, due to the lack of fuel, water and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north for the past seven days.
- Attacks continue in close proximity to hospitals in the north that are sheltering tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs), who are provided with only the most essential services. According to the World Health Organization, hospitals in the north are conducting complex surgeries, including amputations, without anesthesia, due to the lack of medical supplies.
- Shelters south of Wadi Gaza (hereafter: the south) are unable to accommodate new arrivals as they face severe overcrowding; in one shelter, over 600 IDPs are forced to share one toilet.
- The daily volume of humanitarian assistance entering from Egypt meets a fraction of people's needs. Drinking water brought in serves just 4 per cent of Gaza's residents, while desperately needed fuel remains banned.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- On 7 November, armed clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups continued in and outside of Gaza city, as well as in the North Gaza governorate. Meanwhile, intense Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land continued across the Gaza Strip, while Palestinian armed groups continued launching projectiles toward Israel.
- Between 6 November (noon) and 7 November (14:00), 306 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. Among the deadliest incidents reported overnight were three simultaneous strikes on residential buildings across east of Rafah, where more than 25 Palestinians were reportedly killed. Another airstrike hit a neighborhood in central Khan Yunis, reportedly resulting in 16 Palestinian fatalities.
- This brings the reported fatality toll since the start of the hostilities to 10,328, of whom 67 per cent are said to be children and women, according to MoH Gaza. About 2,450 others, including 1,350 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery.
- These reported fatalities include at least 192 medical staff, according to the MoH Gaza. Of them, at least 16 were on duty when killed, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The fatalities further include 89 UNRWA staff, and 18 Palestinian Civil Defense personnel.
- The death toll among Israeli soldiers in Gaza remains 30, according to official Israeli sources.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that Israeli ground operations and continued bombardment are hitting civilians, hospitals, refugee camps, mosques, churches and UN facilities, while Hamas and other militants use civilians as human shields and continue to launch rockets indiscriminately towards Israel.

Access and movement (Gaza Strip)

- On 7 November, the Israeli military continued calling on residents of the north to move southwards. For the fourth consecutive day, it opened a “corridor” along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, for residents to leave the north between 10:00 and 14:00. UN monitors estimate that up to 15,000 people may have passed, three times the figure estimated on 6 November. The majority, including children, elderly people and people with disabilities, arrived on foot with minimal belongings. Some IDPs reported that they had had to cross Israeli checkpoints to reach the area and had witnessed arrests by Israeli forces.
- The Egyptian border was opened on 7 November for the evacuation of about 600 foreign and dual nationals, and 17 injured people. Some of the latter were transported from northern Gaza in an ambulance convoy led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Additionally, 81 trucks, primarily carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water and hygiene products, crossed from Egypt into Gaza, bringing the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 650. Prior to the start of hostilities, an average of 500 truckloads entered Gaza every working day.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- About 1.5 million people in Gaza are internally displaced. Of them, nearly 725,000 are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, 122,000 in hospitals, churches, and public buildings, 131,134 in 94 non-UNRWA schools, and the remainder with host families.

- Overcrowding remains a major concern. More than 557,000 people are sheltering in 92 UNRWA facilities in the south, where shelters are unable to accommodate new arrivals. The Khan Younis Training Centre, the most overcrowded UNRWA facility, hosts more than 22,000 IDPs: the space per person is less than two square metres, while each toilet is shared by at least 600 people.
- The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards. Thousands of cases of acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and chicken pox have been reported among people taking refuge at UNRWA shelters.
- An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in the north. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on people's needs and conditions since the Israeli evacuation order on 12 October.
- On 7 November, an UNRWA school in Khan Younis was struck, killing one IDP and injuring nine others. This brings the total number of IDPs killed since 7 October to 67, while 549 others have been injured.
- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel's halt of its power and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant.
- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On 7 November, an ICRC convoy on its way to deliver lifesaving medical supplies to the Shifa and Al Quds hospitals in Gaza city, came under fire.* Two trucks were damaged, and one of the drivers was injured. The convoy ultimately reached Shifa hospital, where it delivered the medical supplies. The head of the ICRC delegation in Gaza stated that "ensuring that vital assistance can reach medical facilities is a legal obligation under international humanitarian law."
- On 7 November, areas in close proximity to the Indonesian and Kamal Odwan hospitals (both in North Gaza governorate) were struck, killing people and damaging buildings and equipment.
- For the second consecutive day, on 7 November, the Israeli military ordered the evacuation of the Rantisi hospital in Gaza city, claiming that armed groups were using its premises and surroundings. This hospital is the only pediatric facility in northern Gaza, and it also accommodates about 6,000 IDPs. According to the MoH in Gaza, its evacuation would jeopardize the lives of 15 children on life support, 38 children undergoing kidney dialysis, 10 children relying on artificial respiratory devices, and others who are injured.
- According to WHO, due to the lack of medical supplies, hospitals in the north are conducting complex surgeries, including amputations, without anesthesia.
- Since 3 November, the main electricity generators at Shifa and the Indonesian Hospital have reportedly not operated due to the lack of fuel. Both facilities operate secondary, smaller generators, which provide electricity primarily to the Intensive Care Units, emergency rooms, and operating theatres.
- Since the start of hostilities, 14 out of 35 hospitals with inpatient capacities have stopped functioning and 46 (64 per cent) of all primary care facilities across Gaza have shut down due to damage or lack of fuel. Overall, WHO

recorded 110 attacks on health affecting 39 health care facilities (including 22 hospitals damaged) and 36 ambulances.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- On 6 November, UNRWA and UNICEF distributed limited amounts of fuel to 120 municipal water wells across the Gaza Strip, including in the north, enough for the wells to operate for about two days. The water extracted is brackish and therefore meant only for non-drinking domestic uses. The fuel had been stored in Gaza since before the start of hostilities.

- In the north, neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline is operational. Municipal staff are struggling to access some of the water wells producing brackish water. For the past week, partners specializing in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) have been unable to distribute bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters in the north.

- In the south, one of the two desalination plants is operational, alongside two pipelines supplying water from Israel, providing a limited number households connected to the network with driking water for a few hours per day.

- The current water aid entering from Egypt in bottles and jerry cans is addressing only 4 per cent of the residents' water needs per day, based on an allocation of three litres per person per day for all purposes, including cooking and hygiene. Water assistance is being primarily distributed in the south, where over 700,000 people have sought refuge in shelters.

Food security

- As of 7 November, no bakeries were active in the north, due to the lack of fuel, water and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. During the day, many people desperately looking for food broke into the last three bakeries with remaining stocks of wheat flour and took about 38 metric tons. Currently, wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market throughout the north.

- Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north during the past seven days. Reports by IDPs indicate that no food is provided in the shelters and people are merely surviving with limited assistance by local NGOs and community-based organizations, alongside reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as eating food with limited nutritional value or unfit for human consumption.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- WFP and its partners report that some essential food items such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil are nearly depleted in the market. Other items, including wheat flour, dairy products, eggs, and mineral water, have disappeared from the shelves in shops across Gaza over the past two days. Despite limited stock at the wholesale level, these items cannot reach retailers due to extensive damage, security issues, and the lack of fuel.

- While about 9,000 tons of wheat grain are stored in mills in Gaza, a significant portion of it cannot be used, due to massive destruction, security concerns, and shortages of fuel and electricity.

- Food supplies entering from Egypt include mainly ready-to-eat food (canned tuna and date bars) and are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in the south, with only flour being provided to bakeries.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, resulting in no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 3 November, the names of 1,159 of these fatalities have been released, including 828 civilians. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 240 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces shot and killed three Palestinians, between the afternoon of 6 November and noontime on 7 November in three incidents involving confrontations with Palestinians: during a search-and-arrest operation in Sa'ir (Hebron), and during protests in solidarity with Gaza in Beit 'Anan (Jerusalem) and Beit Fajjar (Bethlehem).

- Since 7 October, 150 Palestinians, including 44 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (397). About 55 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 30 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; eight per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven where while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,375 Palestinians, including at least 251 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-four Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- Between 5 and 7 November, OCHA verified five settler attacks. In three of these incidents, armed assailants known by Palestinian residents to be settlers, but who were wearing Israeli forces' uniforms, raided the communities of Ar Rakeez and Umm Fagarah (both in Hebron), and Hizma (Jerusalem) where they vandalized a residential structure and water tanks and punctured the tires of vehicles. In two other incidents, in Burqa (Ramallah) and Kafr ad Dik (Salfit), at least 70 Palestinian-owned trees, in restricted areas near settlements, were vandalized.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 218 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (28 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (157 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (33 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 111 Palestinian households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

- An additional 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, have been displaced since 7 October following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 27, including 13 children, following punitive demolitions.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.
- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- · Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- · Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- · Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- · Some 27,634 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.

- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support the registration of unaccompanied and separated children, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 716,881 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC and PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.

- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
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Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
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- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

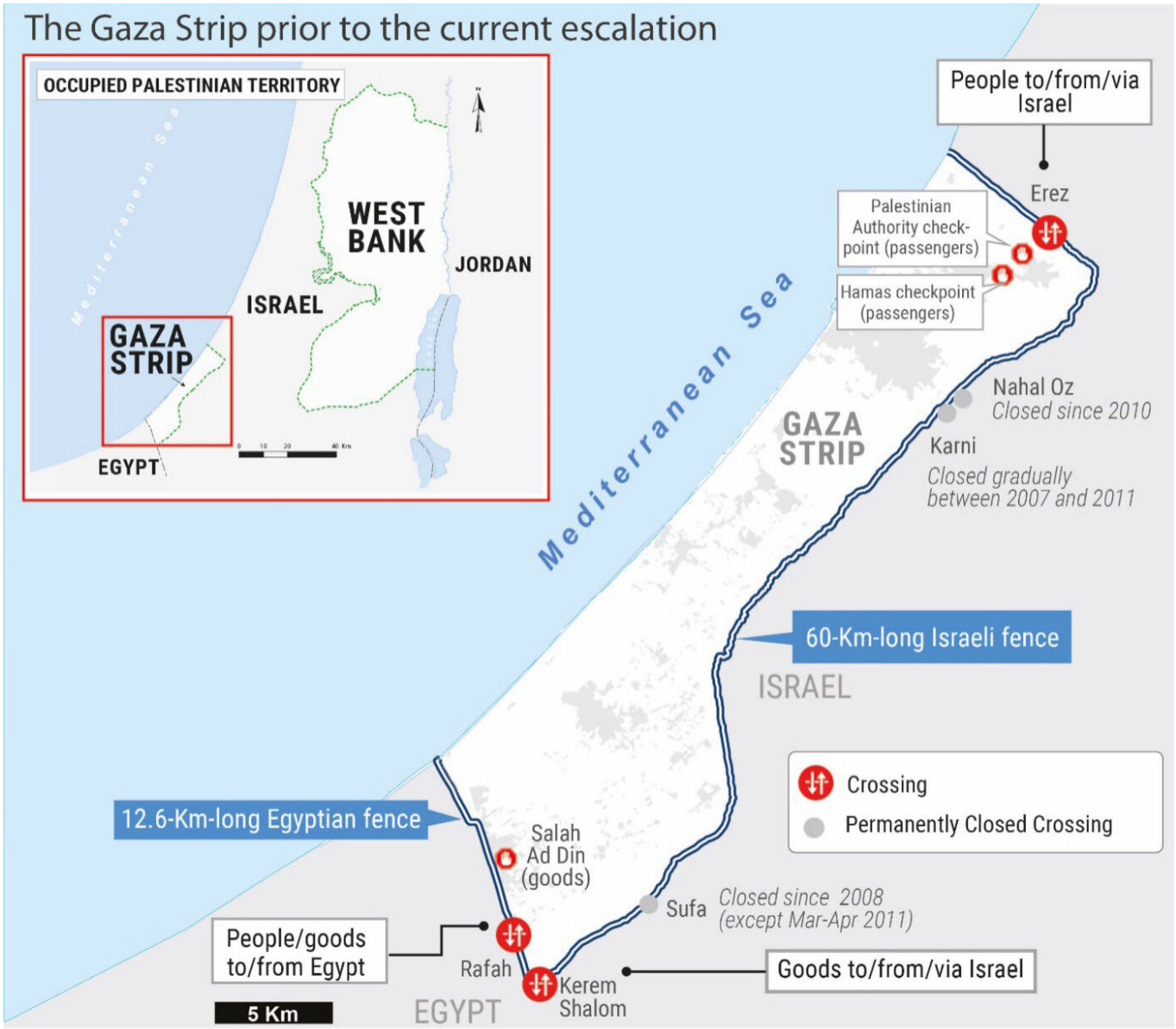
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:

- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

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* This sentence has been rectified following the publication of this update.



Water distribution in Deir al Balah. Photo by UNRWA

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #33

08 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- About 50,000 more people evacuated the north of Gaza to the south through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military on 8 November.
- Hundreds of thousands of people remaining north of Wadi Gaza, including IDPs, are facing a dire humanitarian situation and are struggling to secure the minimum amounts of water and food to survive.
- Due to the lack of fuel to run generators, Al Quds hospital in Gaza city shut down key services on 8 November, and Al Awda hospital, the only provider of maternity services in northern Gaza, warned about an imminent closure.
- On 7 November, UNRWA and the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered medical supplies and medicines to Shifa hospital in Gaza city.
- On 8 November, an UNRWA school in Gaza city sheltering thousands of displaced people was hit by an airstrike, resulting in dozens of Palestinians fatalities, according to initial reports.
- Shelters are unable to accommodate for the overwhelming number of IDPs. In UNRWA shelters, every toilet is shared by 160 people on average.
- The daily volume of humanitarian assistance entering from Egypt meets a fraction of people’s needs. Drinking water brought in serves just 4 per cent of Gaza’s residents, while desperately needed fuel remains banned.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- On 8 November, clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups continued in and outside of Gaza city, as well as in the North Gaza governorate. Meanwhile, intense Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land continued across the Gaza Strip, while Palestinian armed groups continued launching projectiles toward Israel. The north and the south of Gaza have reportedly been disconnected by Israeli ground troops.

- Between 7 November (14:00) and 8 November (14:00), 241 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. Among the deadliest incidents was an airstrike in Gaza city that reportedly killed 43 members of one extended family. On 7 November, around 15:00, airstrikes reportedly hit two residential buildings in Deir al Balah, killing 23 Palestinians and injuring dozens of others.

- The fatality toll reported by MoH in Gaza since the start of the hostilities stands at 10,569, of whom 67 per cent are said to be children and women. About 2,450 others, including 1,350 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery.

- The reported fatalities since 7 October include at least 192 medical staff, according to the MoH Gaza. Of them, at least 16 were on duty when killed, according to WHO. The fatalities further include 92 UNRWA staff, and 18 Palestinian Civil Defense personnel.

- As of 8 November, 32 out of the 37 journalists killed since the escalation of hostilities, were Palestinians from Gaza, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Additionally, they stated that this is the deadliest month for journalists globally since their records began in 1992.

- On 8 November, three Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 33, according to official Israeli sources.

- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

- On 8 November, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, stated that “parties to the conflict have the obligation to take constant care to spare the civilian population and civilian objects, which remains applicable throughout the attacks. The actions of one party do not absolve the other party of its obligations under international humanitarian law. Attacks against medical facilities, medical personnel and the wounded and sick are prohibited.”

Access and movement (Gaza Strip)

- On 8 November, the Israeli military continued calling on residents of the north to move southwards. For the fifth consecutive day, it opened a “corridor” along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, for residents to leave the north between 10:00 and 14:00, which was then extended by one hour, as people were still moving southwards. It is estimated that about 50,000 people evacuated during the day, the largest number since the corridor opened, bringing the estimated figure since 5 November to 72,000.

- Clashes and shelling on and around the road reportedly continued, endangering evacuees with reports of corpses alongside the road. Most evacuees are moving on foot and Israeli military reportedly forced those evacuees who use vehicles to leave them at the southern edge of Gaza city, at Al Kuwaiti roundabout. The evacuees then walk 4-5 kilometres down the corridor, with an estimated distance of up to 20 kilometres for those traveling farthest.

- One of the evacuees told OCHA observers: “I’ve come from Gaza city. I’ve come with tens of my family members, sisters, brothers, children, aunts, and cousins. My aunt is old and in a wheelchair. We managed to find transportation to drop us at the Kuwaiti roundabout and had to walk for about two hours. I saw a lot of damage on my way, I saw Israeli tanks and soldiers positioned at the eastern side of the road, near Netzarim, and they did not

approach us. I saw a few dead bodies and body parts on the road. We had already been displaced inside one of the schools [in the north] and had to evacuate again due to the intensity of the bombardments. We couldn't stay any longer."

- For unconfirmed reasons, the Rafah Crossing with Egypt did not open for the movement of people on 8 November.
- A total of 106 trucks, primarily carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water and hygiene products, crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 8 November, bringing the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 756. Prior to the start of hostilities, an average of 500 truckloads entered Gaza every working day.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- About 1.5 million people in Gaza are internally displaced. Of them, nearly 725,000 are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, 122,000 in hospitals, churches, and public buildings, 131,134 in 94 non-UNRWA schools, and the remainder with host families.
- Overcrowding remains a major concern. More than 557,000 people are sheltering in 92 UNRWA facilities in the south, where shelters are unable to accommodate new arrivals. The number of toilets differs from one shelter to another; however, on average, 160 people sheltering in UNRWA schools facilities share a single toilet and there is one shower unit for every 700 people.
- The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards. Thousands of cases of acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and chicken pox have been reported among people taking refuge at UNRWA shelters.
- An estimated 160,000 IDPs are housed in 57 UNRWA facilities in the north. UNRWA, however, is no longer able to provide services in those areas and does not have accurate information on people's needs and conditions since the Israeli evacuation order on 12 October.
- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel's halt of its power and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant.
- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On 8 November, Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city announced that its main generator had been shut down, and a smaller generator is being used instead to reduce fuel consumption. As a result, the surgical ward, oxygen generation plant and MRI ward, have had to shut down. The hospital will provide two hours of electricity a day for IDPs taking shelter in its facilities. The hospital has been isolated from neighbouring areas and is facing a severe shortage of food, baby formula, medicine and disposables.
- On 8 November, areas in close proximity to the Al Quds hospital were struck, injuring patients and IDPs, and damaging buildings, according to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). Medical teams were unable to reach the hospital or leave to retrieve injured people.

- On 8 November, Al Awda Hospital indicated that its fuel stock will be exhausted within 30 hours. This hospital provides emergency services and specialized surgeries, and it is the only provider of maternity services in the northern Gaza Strip.
- According to the Director of Surgery at Shifa Hospital in Gaza city, patients who have undergone surgery are at a high risk of infection due to the unhygienic conditions and lack of equipment. In some cases, wounds have been covered by white flies and their larva, risking tissue damage, bacterial infection, and septicemia.
- On 7 November, UNRWA facilitated the delivery of the WHO's much needed emergency medical supplies and medicines to Shifa hospital in Gaza city, north of the Gaza Strip. This is only the second delivery of lifesaving supplies to the hospital since the escalation of hostilities and the total siege of Gaza began.
- WHO warned on 8 November of the risk of the rapid spread of infectious diseases and bacterial infections due to the water shortage and related consumption of contaminated water. Since mid-October, over 33,500 cases of diarrhea have been reported, of whom more than half were among children under five; by contrast, the monthly average of diarrhea cases in the latter group in 2021 and 2022 stood at 2,000.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- About half of the 120 municipal water wells across the Gaza Strip, which resumed operations on 6 November after receiving fuel from UNRWA and UNICEF, shut down on 8 November, and the rest are expected to do so on 9 November as fuel is exhausted. The water extracted from these wells is brackish and meant only for non-drinking domestic uses.
- In the north, neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline is operational. Municipal staff are struggling to access some of the water wells producing brackish water. For the past week, partners specializing in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) have been unable to distribute bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters in the north. While the situation remains largely unclear due to the hostilities and lack of access, there are serious concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases following water consumption from unsafe sources.
- In the south, the two desalination plants are currently operating at about 15 per cent of their capacity and supplying drinking water to IDP shelters through trucking. Two pipelines from Israel connected to the Deir al Balah and Khan Younis are also providing households connected to the network with driking water for a few hours per day.
- UNRWA has been providing about 1.5 litres of potable water and 3-4 litres of non-potable water per person per day in all shelters in the south. In the largest shelter located in Khan Younis (over 21,700 IDPs), UNRWA in partnership with UNICEF, installed a desalination plant, which turns brackish water extracted from wells, into potable water.
- Water entering from Egypt in bottles and jerry cans is only addressing 4 per cent of residents' water needs per day, based on an allocation of three litres per person per day for all purposes, including cooking and hygiene; well below the minimum emergency standards. Water assistance is being primarily distributed in the south, where over 700,000 people have sought refuge in shelters.
- Anecdotal reports indicate that people hosted or living near the sea, are reaching the beaches to bath and wash clothes in the sea, as well as carrying seawater to their homes and shelters for domestic consumption. This practice may carry various negative health ramifications. Even before the hostilities, seawater in most Gaza beaches was highly polluted, a situation that was exacerbated by the shutdown of all wastewater treatment and dumping of raw sewage to the sea.

Food security

- As of 8 November, no bakeries were active in the north, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. On 7 November, many people desperately looking for food reportedly broke into the last three bakeries with remaining stocks of wheat flour and took about 38 metric tons. Currently, wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market throughout the north.

- Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north during the past eight days. Reports by IDPs indicate that no food is provided in the shelters and people are merely surviving with limited assistance by local NGOs and community-based organizations. There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in front of bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- WFP and its partners report that some essential food items such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil are nearly depleted in the market. Other items, including wheat flour, dairy products, eggs, and mineral water, have disappeared from the shelves in shops across Gaza over the past two days. Despite limited stock at the wholesale level, these items cannot reach retailers due to extensive damage, security issues, and the lack of fuel.

- While about 9,000 tons of wheat grain are stored in mills in Gaza, a significant portion of it cannot be used, due to massive destruction, security concerns, and shortages of fuel and electricity.

- Food supplies entering from Egypt include mainly ready-to-eat food (canned tuna and date bars) and are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in the south.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, with no reported fatalities. As of 3 November, the names of 1,159 of fatalities in Israel have been released, including 828 civilians. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 239 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages were killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- No Palestinian fatalities were reported between the afternoon of 7 November and noontime on 8 November. Since 7 October, 150 Palestinians, including 44 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for more than one-third of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (397). About 55 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 30 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; eight per cent were

killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven occurred while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,397 Palestinians, including at least 253 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-four Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 27 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 222 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (28 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (160 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (34 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 111 Palestinian households comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

- An additional 135 Palestinians, including 66 children, have been displaced since 7 October following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits, and another 27, including 15 children, following punitive demolitions.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.

- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.

- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).

- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 27,634 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support the registration of unaccompanied and separated children, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 716,881 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC and PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters or with host families.

- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelters.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

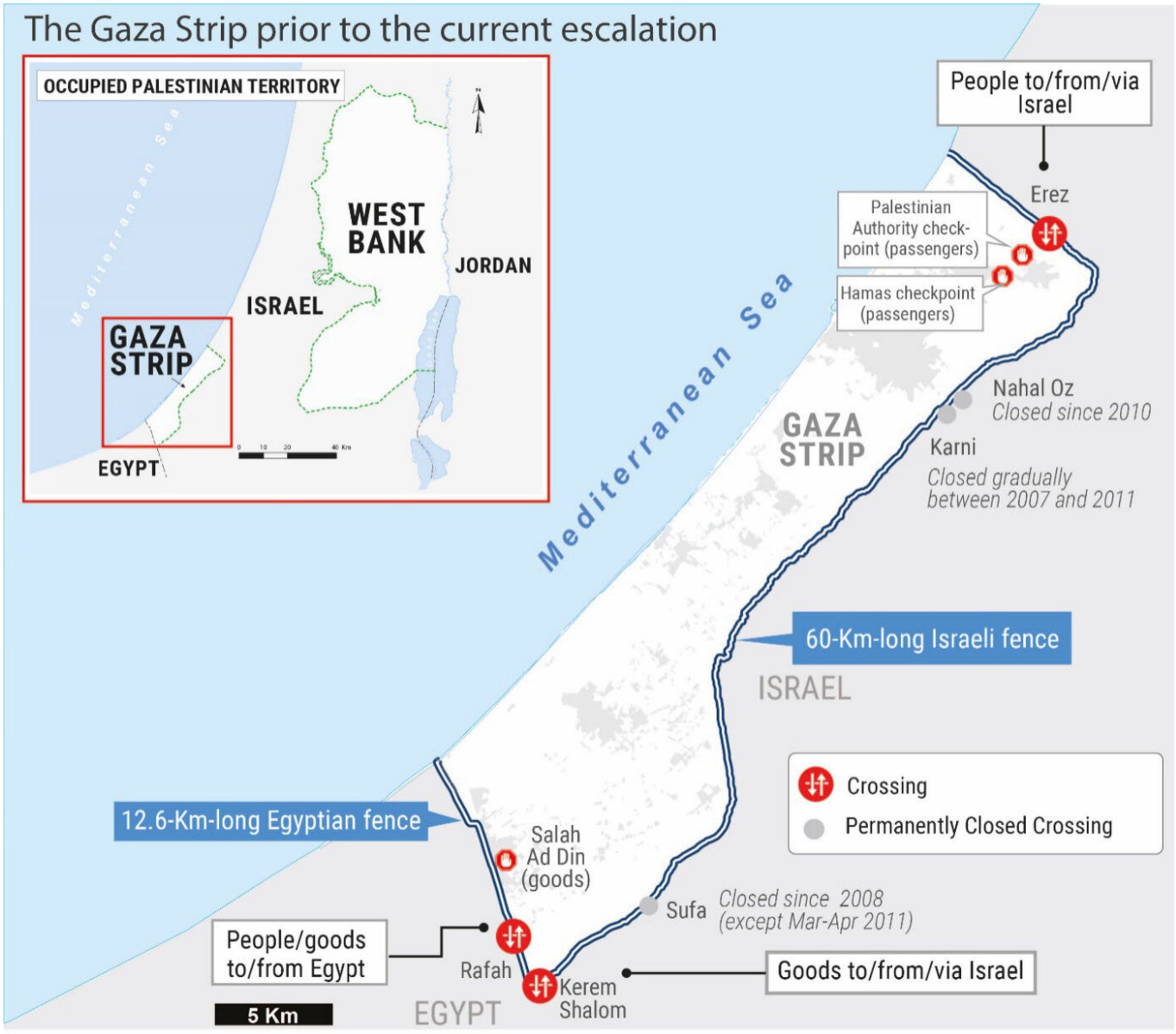
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

- Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:
- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.

- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.





People leaving the northern Gaza Strip amid hostilities, following repeated calls by Israeli forces and the opening of a “corridor.” Photo by UNRWA, 8 November 2023

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #34

09 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- On 9 November, over 50,000 people fled areas to the north of Wadi Gaza (hereafter: the north) southwards through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military.
- The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, stressed that “the UN cannot be part of a unilateral proposal to push hundreds of thousands of desperate civilians in Gaza into so-called safe zones.”
- Hundreds of thousands of people remaining in the north are struggling to secure the minimum amounts of water and food to survive.
- All municipal water wells shut down again due to the lack of fuel, halting the supply of water for domestic non-drinking uses.
- UNRWA opened two additional shelters and is now hosting 582,000 IDPs in 92 facilities south of Wadi Gaza (hereafter: the south) in increasingly overcrowded conditions: on average, every toilet is shared by 160 people, and every shower unit by 700 people.
- An Naser Children’s Hospital in Gaza city was hit during an airstrike, reportedly killing three people and injuring dozens more. The vicinity of Shifa hospital was also reportedly hit and Gaza's only psychiatric hospital stopped functioning.

- With only 65 trucks entering from Egypt on 9 November, the volume of aid entering from Egypt is “wholly inadequate,” as Griffiths put it in remarks made today, stressing that hundreds of trucks are needed every day, including fuel, and that more than one entry point should be operated.

- In the West Bank, 18 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in less than 24 hours, since the afternoon of 8 November, bringing the Palestinian fatality toll since 7 October to 175, including 46 children.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups were reported in and outside of Gaza city, in several areas in the North Gaza governorate and to a lesser extent in the Middle area. Meanwhile, intense Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land continued across the Gaza Strip, while Palestinian armed groups continued launching projectiles toward Israel. Israeli ground troops have effectively divided the Gaza Strip into northern and southern sections.

- Between 8 November (14:00) and 9 November (14:00), 243 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. According to initial information, on 8 November at about 15:30, an airstrike hit a residential building in Gaza city, killing 19 people and injuring 45; another strike at 18:00 hit a house in Jabalia Refugee Camp, reportedly killing 15 Palestinians; on 9 November after midnight, a building in eastern of Khan Yunis was hit, reportedly killing six and injuring several others.

- The fatality toll reported by MoH in Gaza since the start of the hostilities stands at 10,818, of whom 68 per cent are said to be children and women. About 2,650 others, including some 1,400 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery.

- The reported fatalities since 7 October include at least 192 medical staff, according to the MoH Gaza. Of them, at least 16 were on duty when killed, according to WHO. The fatalities further include 99 UNRWA staff, and 18 Palestinian Civil Defense personnel.

- In the past 24 hours, at least two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to at least 35, according to Israeli sources.

- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- On 9 November, for the sixth consecutive day, the Israeli military – which has called upon residents of the north to leave southwards – opened a “corridor” along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road between 9:00 and 16:00. It is estimated that, over the course of these seven hours, more than 50,000 people fled.

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) reached the main junction next to Wadi Gaza on foot or donkey carts, as vehicles were reportedly stopped by the Israel military at about 4-5 kilometres away from that point. Most were able to carry only few personal belongings. UN monitors and NGOs distributed water and biscuits next to the junction. IDPs interviewed by OCHA monitors indicated that they did not know where they would stay overnight.

- Over 1.5 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced. To cope with the increased flow of IDPs, UNRWA opened two additional shelters in the Middle area, bringing the agency’s total number of shelters in the south to 92, sheltering 582,000 IDPs.

- Overcrowding remains a major concern. On average, 160 people sheltering in UNRWA schools facilities share a single toilet and there is one shower unit for every 700 people. The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards.

- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Humanitarian Access (Gaza Strip)

- On 9 November, the Egyptian border reopened for the evacuation of an unconfirmed number of foreign nationals and dual citizens, and a handful of injured people. Between 2 and 7 November, 119 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt.
- A total of 65 trucks, carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water, blankets, and hygiene products, as well as seven ambulances, crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 9 November. This brings the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 821. Prior to the start of hostilities, an average of 500 truckloads entered Gaza every working day.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.
- In the International Humanitarian Conference held on 9 November in Paris, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths stated that "the modest number of trucks we have so far managed to get in via the Rafah border crossing is wholly inadequate compared to the vast sea of needs […] We need to get hundreds of trucks per day into Gaza, not dozens, and be allowed to reach every place people are sheltering."

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel's halt of its power and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant.
- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On 9 November, at about 5:00 a.m., the An Naser Children's Hospital in Gaza city was hit during an airstrike, reportedly killing three people and injuring dozens more. The vicinity of Shifa hospital was also reportedly hit. Gaza's only psychiatric hospital stopped functioning after sustaining damage due to an attack on 5 November. Health workers were forced to discharge inpatients and halt other services.
- On 8 November, Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city announced that its main generator had been shut down, and a smaller generator is being used instead to reduce fuel consumption. As a result, the surgical ward, oxygen generation plant and MRI ward, have had to shut down. The hospital will provide two hours of electricity a day for IDPs taking shelter in its facilities. The hospital has been isolated from neighbouring areas and is facing a severe shortage of food, baby formula, medicine and disposables.
- According to the Director of Surgery at Shifa Hospital in Gaza city, patients who have undergone surgery are at a high risk of infection due to the unhygienic conditions and lack of equipment. In some cases, wounds have been covered by white flies and their larva, risking tissue damage, bacterial infection, and septicemia.
- WHO warned on 8 November of the risk of the rapid spread of infectious diseases and bacterial infections due to the water shortage and related consumption of contaminated water. Since mid-October, over 33,500 cases of diarrhea have been reported, mostly among children under five; by contrast, the monthly average of diarrhea cases in the latter group in 2021 and 2022 stood at 2,000.

- Nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres are still operational in the south, recording 6,530 patient visits on 8 November. These centres also provide medical care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women. There are an estimated 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with more than 180 giving birth every day. A total of 718 post-natal mothers have been attended in UNRWA shelters since the beginning of October.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- On 9 November, following a few days of limited operation, all municipal water wells across the Gaza Strip shut down again due to the lack of fuel. As a result, the trucking and pumping of brackish water for non-drinking domestic uses came to a halt.

- Anecdotal reports indicate that people hosted or living near the sea, are reaching the beaches to bath and wash clothes in the sea, as well as carrying seawater to their homes and shelters for domestic consumption. This practice may carry various negative health ramifications due to the high pollution levels of seawater.

- In the north, neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline is operational. Similarly, no distribution of bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters has taken place for over a week. There is serious concern about dehydration and waterborne diseases following water consumption from unsafe sources.

- In the south, one of the two desalination plants shut down on 9 November due to a lack of fuel, while the other operated at about five per cent of its capacity supplying drinking water to IDP shelters through trucking. Two pipelines from Israel connected to the Deir al Balah and Khan Younis are also providing households connected to the network with drinking water for a few hours per day.

- UNRWA has been providing about 1.5 litres of potable water and 3-4 litres of non-potable water per person per day in all shelters in the south. In the largest shelter located in Khan Younis (over 21,700 IDPs), UNRWA in partnership with UNICEF, installed a desalination plant, which turns brackish water extracted from wells, into potable water.

- Water entering from Egypt in bottles and jerry cans can only address the drinking needs (three litres per person per day) of about 4 per cent of the people.

- Transfer of solid waste to landfills has largely stopped across the Gaza Strip, due to lack of fuel and insecurity. Waste is accumulating in the streets and outside IDP shelters, creating a high risk of airborne diseases and infestation of insects and rats.

Food security

- Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. As of 9 November, no bakeries were active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. Wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance during the past eight days. There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by the World Food Programme (WFP), along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in front of bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- Food supplies entering from Egypt include mainly ready-to-eat food (canned tuna and date bars) and are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in the south.

- WFP and its partners report that some essential food items such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil are nearly depleted in the market. Other items, including wheat flour, dairy products, eggs, and mineral water, have disappeared from the shelves in shops across Gaza over the past two days. Despite limited stock at the wholesale level, these items cannot reach retailers due to extensive damage, security issues, and the lack of fuel. The prices of available food items in the market have increased by 10 per cent since the start of hostilities, according to a WFP survey.

- While about 9,000 tons of wheat grain are stored in mills in Gaza, a significant portion of it cannot be used, due to massive destruction, security concerns, and shortages of fuel and electricity.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, with no reported fatalities. As of 9 November, the names of 1,162 of fatalities in Israel have been released, including 845 civilians and police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 31 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 239 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces shot and killed 18 Palestinians, including one child, between the afternoon of 8 November and noontime on 9 November. The deadliest incident, which lasted for over 12 hours, took place in Jenin Refugee Camp and resulted in 13 Palestinians, including one child, killed. The operation involved armed clashes with Palestinians, and airstrikes, resulting in extensive infrastructure damage. Another five fatalities were recorded during confrontations in the course of search-and-arrest operations in Anin (Jenin), Bethlehem city, Balata Refugee Camp (Nablus), Al Am'ari Refugee Camp (Ramallah), and At Tabaqa (Hebron)

- Since 7 October, 167 Palestinians, including 45 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for 42 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (415). About 59 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 27 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; seven per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,492 Palestinians, including at least 253 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-six Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 32 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- In the past 24 hours, six settler attacks resulting in damage or injuries were reported. These included raids in the villages of At Taybe (Hebron), Qusra (Nablus), Bruqin (Salfit), Khirbet Tana (Nablus), Al Mughayyir and Sinjil (the latter two in Ramallah) where settlers vandalized agricultural structures and crops. In two of these attacks, Israeli settlers physically assaulted and injured two Palestinians who were harvesting olives.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 230 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (28 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (167 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (35 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

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HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

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Priority needs

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- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
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- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

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Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

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- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC and PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.

- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

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- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

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- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
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- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

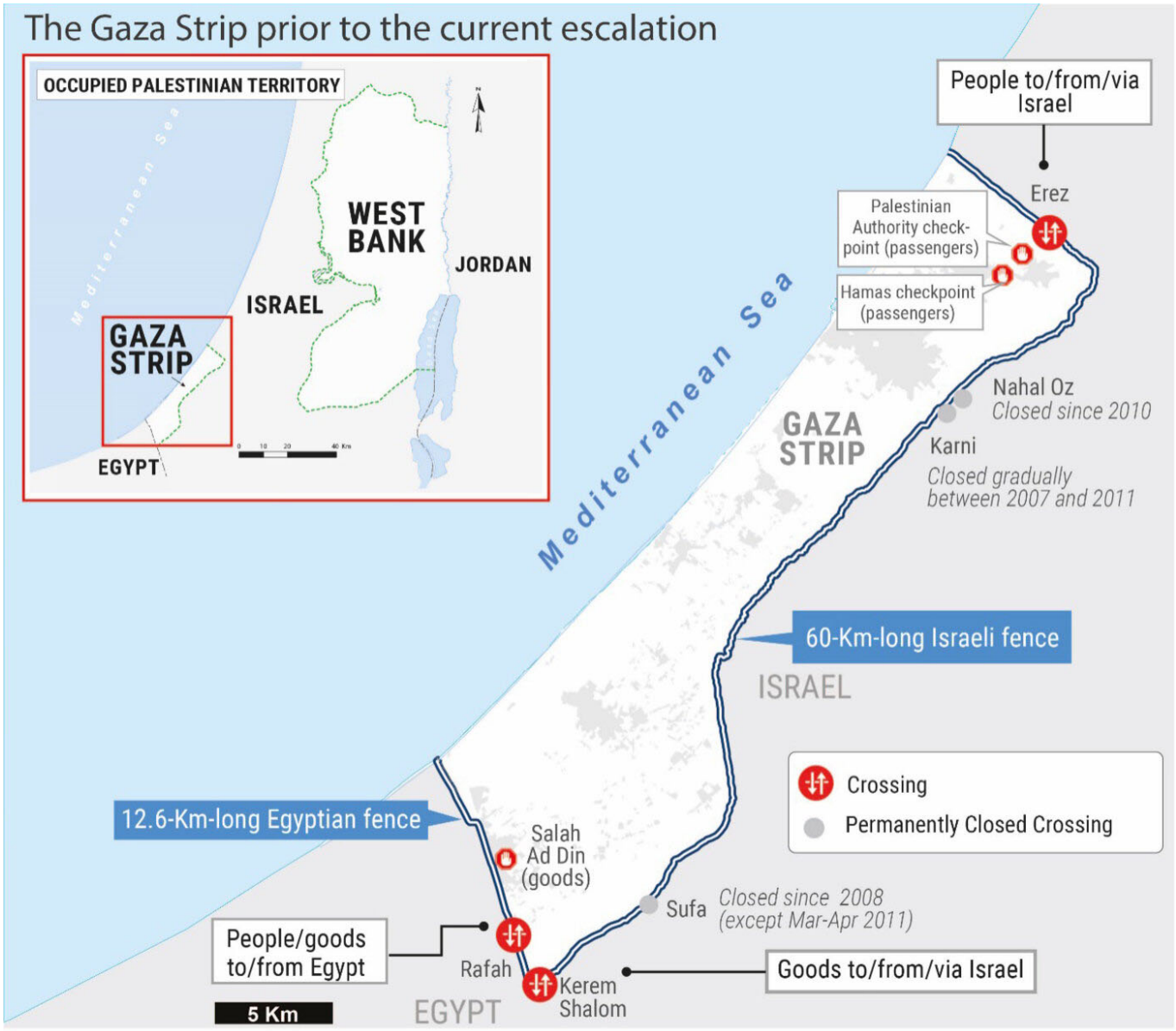
Priority needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

- Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:
- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Mediterranean Sea
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT



A Civil Defense team on a mission to rescue survivors and retrieve bodies from beneath the rubble in a residential area of Gaza. About 2,700 people, including some 1,500 children, have been reported missing. Eighteen Palestinian Civil Defense personnel have reportedly been killed since 7 October 2023. Photo by the Civil Defense, 2 November 2023.

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #35

10 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- An estimated 30,000 additional people fled areas north of Wadi Gaza (hereafter: the north) southwards through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military on 10 November. At about 15:00, several explosions were recorded in that “corridor,” resulting in fatalities and injuries, among those fleeing, according to initial reports
- Israeli bombardments around hospitals in Gaza city and the North Gaza governorate intensified on 10 November, with several being directly hit. By noon, Israeli ground forces reportedly completed the encirclement of four hospitals in An Nasser area of Gaza city. One of them, a pediatric hospital, stopped operations on 9 November after sustaining significant damage. This brings to 20 (out of 36) the number of hospitals throughout Gaza that are no longer functioning.
- The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sub-delegation in Gaza stated today that “the destruction affecting hospitals in Gaza is becoming unbearable and needs to stop. The lives of thousands of civilians, patients and medical staff are at risk.”
- On 10 November, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, stressed following reports on attacks hitting Shifa: "under international humanitarian law, hospitals must be protected" adding that "acts of war in places of grace must stop.”

- Hundreds of thousands of people remaining in the north are struggling to survive. Consumption of water from unsafe sources raises serious concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases. The World Food Programme (WFP) has expressed concern about malnutrition and starvation.

- The reported fatalities since 7 October include at least 192 medical staff, according to MoH Gaza. Of them, at least 16 were on duty when killed, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The fatalities further include 101 UNRWA staff; this is the highest number of UN personnel killed in a conflict in the history of the organization. Eighteen Palestinian Civil Defense personnel and 44 Palestinian journalists have also been killed.

- In the West Bank, 51 Palestinians were displaced from a herding community in Hebron following systematic settler violence and threats, bringing to 1,149 the number of people displaced in this context since 7 October. Another 18 people were displaced on 9 and 10 November following punitive demolitions of homes in Hebron and East Jerusalem; of whom some family members had been convicted or accused of killing Israelis.

- On 10 November, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian child in the West Bank, bringing the total number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces or settlers to 47 since 7 October.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- On 10 November, clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups were reported in and outside of Gaza city, in several areas in the North Gaza governorate and to a lesser extent in the Middle area. Meanwhile, intense Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land continued across the Gaza Strip, while Palestinian armed groups continued launching projectiles toward Israel. Israeli ground troops have maintained the effective severance of the north from the south.

- Between 9 November (14:00) and 10 November (14:00), 260 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. According to initial information, on 9 November at about 16:20, an airstrike hit a residential building in Rafah, southern Gaza, killing 26 people and injuring 15; on 10 November, in two separate strikes, buildings in Jabalia Refugee Camp in the north of Gaza were hit, reportedly killing eleven and injuring several others.

- The fatality toll reported by MoH in Gaza since the start of the hostilities stands at 11,078, of whom 4,506 are said to be children and 3,027 women. About 2,700 others, including some 1,500 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Another 27,490 Palestinians were reportedly injured.

- As of 10 November, 66 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in UNRWA shelters have been killed and 558 injured. One-third of these fatalities and the majority of those injured (at least 400) occurred in facilities in the south.

- In the past 24 hours, at least one Israeli soldier was reportedly killed in Gaza and another died from injuries sustained previously, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 42, according to Israeli official sources.

- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- On 10 November, for the seventh consecutive day, the Israeli military – which has called upon residents of the north to leave southwards – opened a “corridor” along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, between 9:00 and 16:00. It is estimated that over 30,000 people evacuated.

- These internally displaced persons (IDPs) reached the main junction next to Wadi Gaza on foot or donkey carts, as vehicles were reportedly stopped by the Israeli military at about 4-5 kilometers away from that point. Most were able to carry only few personal belongings. Most IDPs arrived exhausted and thirsty. UN monitors and NGOs distributed water and biscuits next to the junction.

- “We came from Gaza city; the way was terrifying. They [Israeli soldiers] stopped my elderly father telling him to ask one of the children to leave his bag behind. They also arrested a man in front of us” (IDP interviewed by OCHA monitors).

- Over 1.5 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced. Among them, 588,000 IDPs are staying in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south, where overcrowding is a major concern. The average number of IDPs per UNRWA shelter exceeded 6,250, which is nine times higher than their intended capacity. On average, 160 people sheltering in UNRWA schools’ facilities share a single toilet and there is one shower unit for every 700 people. The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards.

- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Humanitarian Access (Gaza Strip)

- On 10 November, the Egyptian border was closed for the evacuation of foreign nationals and dual citizens, and of injured people. Between 2 and 9 November, 131 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt.

- A total of 30 trucks, carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water, blankets, and hygiene products crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 10 November as of 18:00. This brings the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 861. This is far below the quantities needed to meet the needs of over two million people besieged in Gaza.

- Overnight (9-10 November), a group of 982 Palestinian workers from Gaza who had been stranded in Israel, and then in the West Bank, since 7 October, were transferred back to Gaza via the Israeli Kerem Shalom crossing. After boarding Israeli buses at the West Bank checkpoint of Tarqumiya (Hebron), Israeli forces reportedly cuffed the workers’ hands and legs and took their mobile phones.

- Otherwise, the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.

- In the International Humanitarian Conference held on 9 November in Paris, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths stated that “the modest number of trucks we have so far managed to get in via the Rafah border crossing is wholly inadequate compared to the vast sea of needs […] We need to get hundreds of trucks per day into Gaza, not dozens, and be allowed to reach every place people are sheltering.”

Electricity

- Gaza remains under a full electricity blackout since 11 October, following Israel’s halt of its power and fuel supply, which triggered the shutdown of Gaza’s sole power plant.

- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- Since 9 November afternoon, Israeli bombardments around hospitals in the north intensified. The vicinity of Shifa hospital was hit five times during this period, with at least seven fatalities reported, along with damage to the

maternity ward. On the evening of 9 November, buildings surrounding the Indonesian Hospital, in Beit Lahiya (northern Gaza), were repeatedly bombarded from the air, resulting in deaths and injuries. Around the same time, the Rantisi Hospital in Gaza city was directly hit, causing fires and damage. In the early hours of 10 November, the vicinities of Al Awda hospital in Jabalia, and Al Quds hospital in Gaza city were bombarded; the intensive care unit at the latter sustained damage.

- The ICRC stressed today: "The rules of war are clear. Hospitals are specially protected facilities under international humanitarian law. The ICRC urgently calls for the immediate protection of all civilians, including humanitarian workers and medical personnel. This protection is not only a legal obligation but a moral imperative to preserve human life in these terrible times".

- Since 2 November, 12 children with cancer or blood disorders have been evacuated through Rafah crossing, with their companions, to Egypt and Jordan. Before the escalation, about 100 patients were referred for treatment outside of Gaza every day. The two specialized hospitals offering care to cancer patients have been overwhelmed, undersupplied, exposed to attacks and, due to the insecurity, forced to close.

- WHO warned on 8 November of the risk of the rapid spread of infectious diseases and bacterial infections due to the water shortage and related consumption of contaminated water. Since mid-October, over 33,500 cases of diarrhea have been reported, mostly among children under five; by contrast, the monthly average of diarrhea cases in the latter group in 2021 and 2022 stood at 2,000.

- Nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres are still operational in the south, recording 6,530 patient visits on 8 November. These centres also provide medical care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women. There are an estimated 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with more than 180 giving birth every day. A total of 718 post-natal mothers have been attended in UNRWA shelters since the beginning of October.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- On 9 November, following a few days of limited operation, all municipal water wells across the Gaza Strip had to shut down again due to the lack of fuel. As a result, the trucking and pumping of brackish water for non-drinking domestic uses came to a halt.

- Anecdotal reports indicate that people hosted or living near the sea, are reaching the beaches to bath and wash clothes in the sea, as well as carrying seawater to their homes and shelters for domestic consumption. This practice may carry various negative health ramifications due to the high pollution levels of seawater.

- In the north, neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline is operational. Similarly, no distribution of bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters has taken place for over a week. There is serious concern about dehydration and waterborne diseases following water consumption from unsafe sources.

- In the south, one of the two desalination plants shut down on 9 November due to a lack of fuel, while the other operated at about five per cent of its capacity supplying drinking water to IDP shelters through trucking. Two pipelines from Israel connected to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis are also providing households connected to the network with drinking water for a few hours per day.

- UNRWA has been providing about 1.5 litres of potable water and 3-4 litres of non-potable water per person per day in all shelters in the south. In the largest shelter located in Khan Younis (over 21,700 IDPs), UNRWA in partnership with UNICEF, installed a desalination plant, which turns brackish water extracted from wells, into potable water.

- Water entering from Egypt in bottles and jerry cans can only address the drinking needs (three litres per person per day) of about 4 per cent of the people.

- Transfer of solid waste to landfills has largely stopped across the Gaza Strip, due to lack of fuel and insecurity. Waste is accumulating in the streets and outside IDP shelters, creating a high risk of airborne diseases and infestation of insects and rats.

Food security

- Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. Since 7 November, no bakeries have been active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. Wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north during the past nine days. There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP, along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in front of bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- Food supplies entering from Egypt include mainly ready-to-eat food (canned tuna and date bars) and are primarily distributed to IDPs and host families in the south.

- WFP and its partners report that some essential food items such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil are nearly depleted in the market. Other items, including wheat flour, dairy products, eggs, and mineral water, have disappeared from the shelves in shops across Gaza over the past two days. Despite limited stock at the wholesale level, these items cannot reach retailers due to extensive damage, security issues, and the lack of fuel. The prices of available food items in the market have increased by 10 per cent since the start of hostilities, according to a WFP survey.

- While about 9,000 tons of wheat grain are stored in mills in Gaza, a significant portion of it cannot be used, due to massive destruction, security concerns, and shortages of fuel and electricity.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centers has continued over the past 24 hours, with no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities as cited by the media (the reported estimate has been changed by the Israeli sources), the vast majority on 7 October. As of 10 November, the names of 1,162 of fatalities in Israel have been released, including 845 civilians and police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 33 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 239 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, renewed his call to release the hostages on 9 November.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- On 10 November Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian child during a search-and-arrest operation in Ayda Refugee Camp (Bethlehem).

- Since 7 October, 168 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for 42 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (416). About 59 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 27 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; seven per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,552 Palestinians, including at least 25 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Sixty-six Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 32 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- In the past 24 hours, armed settlers opened fire and injured with live ammunition a Palestinian herder in the village of Kisan (Bethlehem). The incident occurred as Palestinian herders were grazing sheep when settlers reportedly from Asfar settlement outpost threatened herders at gunpoint to leave, leading to stone throwing between the Palestinian herders and settlers, before one of the settlers opened live fire.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 233 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (29 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (168 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (36 incidents). This reflects a daily average of seven incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- In recent weeks, ten Palestinian households, comprising 51 people, including seven children, were displaced from At Taybe herding community (Hebron) following several raids by armed assailants, known by Palestinian residents to be settlers, who threatened to kill them if they did not leave.

- Since 7 October, at least 121 Palestinian households comprising 1,149 people, including 452 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

- On 9 and 10 November, Israeli forces demolished on punitive grounds the homes of four families whose members were convicted or accused of killing Israelis in previous months. Three of the targeted homes were in Hebron city and one in the Shu'fat Refugee Camp in East Jerusalem. As a result, 18 people, including eight children, were displaced. Punitive demolitions are a form of collective punishment and are prohibited under international law.

- In total, 45 Palestinians, including 24 children have been displaced since 7 October, following punitive demolitions, and another 135 Palestinians, including 66 children, following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing

hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.

- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 27,634 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

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- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

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- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

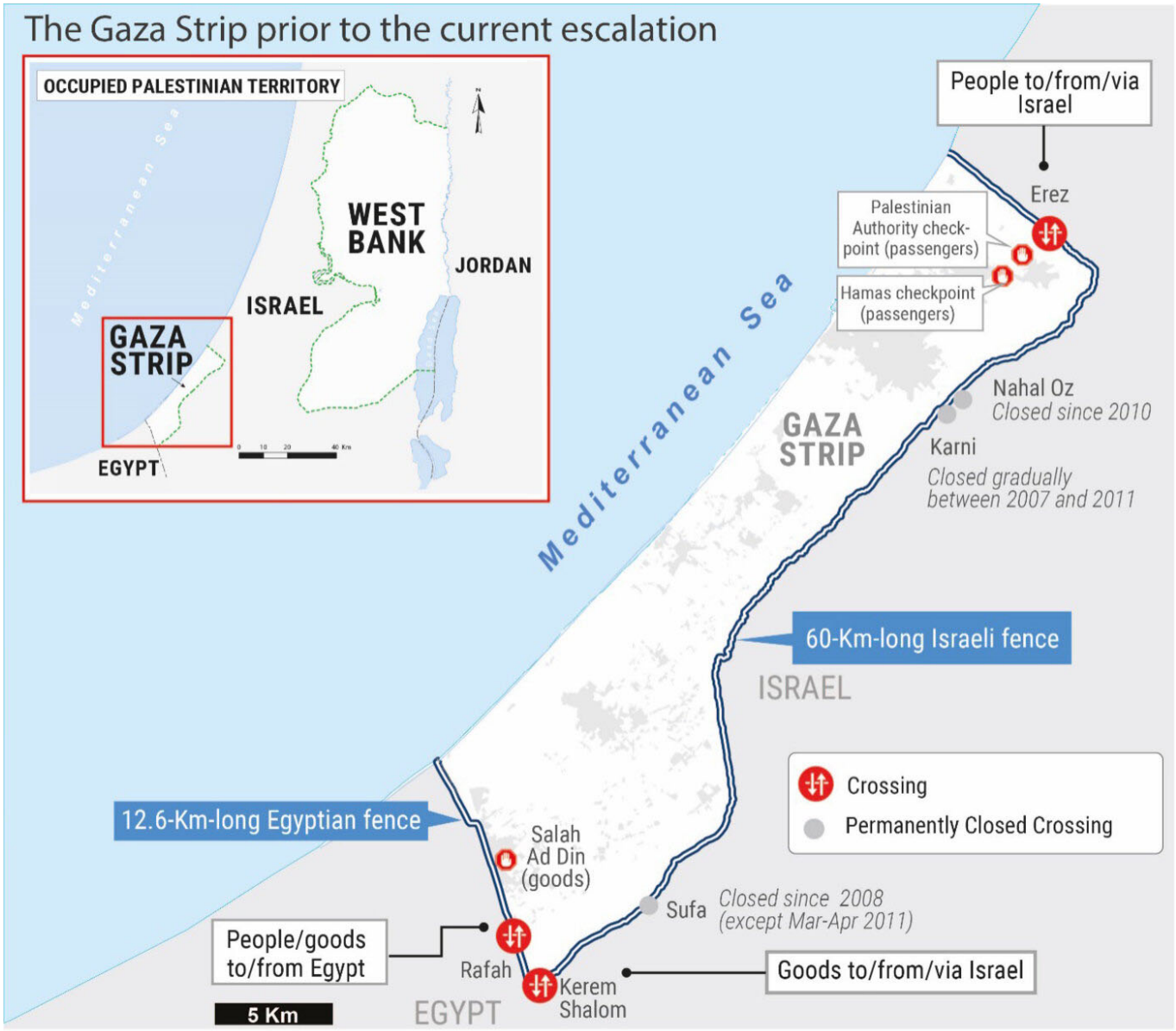
- Provision of clean drinking water.

- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
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ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Mediterranean Sea
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
GAZA STRIP
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT



Premature babies at Shifa hospital in Gaza. On 11 November, two babies died when their life support stopped working and 37 babies in incubators are said to be at imminent risk of death. Screenshot from a video by UNICEF, 16 October 2023

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #36

11 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- Israeli shelling and ground attacks intensified around hospitals in Gaza city and northern Gaza (hereafter: the north) on 11 November, with several being directly hit. According to media reports, civilians, patients, and staff were shot at while attempting to flee the Shifa hospital in Gaza city.
- On 11 November, power at the Shifa and the Indonesian hospital (northern Gaza) was reportedly cut off after fuel for generators ran out; generators at Al Quds hospital (Gaza city) failed and could not be repaired due to the bombardment and fighting. At Shifa, two babies died when their life support stopped working and 37 babies in incubators are at imminent risk of death, according to the Ministry of Health in Ramallah.
- On 11 November, following reports on the attacks hitting Shifa hospital, the OCHA Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, stated: "There can be no justification for acts of war in health care facilities, leaving them with no power, food or water, and shooting at patients and civilians trying to flee."
- Hospitals are explicitly entitled to specific protection under international humanitarian law (IHL). They must not be used to shield military objectives from attack. Any military operation around or within hospitals must take steps to spare the patients, medical staff, and other civilians, who must be protected under IHL. All feasible precautions must be taken to avoid incidental civilian harm, including effective warnings, which take into account the ability of patients, medical staff and other civilians to evacuate safely.

- The flight of tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the north southwards through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military, continued on 11 November.
- Hundreds of thousands of people who remain in the north are struggling to get the essentials for their survival. Consumption of water from unsafe sources raises serious concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases.
- The reported fatality toll since 7 October includes at least 192 medical staff, according to MoH Gaza. Of them, at least 16 medical staff were on duty when killed, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, 101 UNRWA staff have been killed, the highest number of UN personnel killed in a conflict in the history of the organization. Eighteen Palestinian Civil Defense personnel and 44 Palestinian journalists have also been killed since this crisis began.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- On 11 November, clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups were reported in and around Gaza city, in several areas in the North Gaza governorate and to a lesser extent in the Middle area. Meanwhile, intense Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land continued across the Gaza Strip, while Palestinian armed groups continued launching projectiles toward Israel. Israeli ground troops have maintained the effective severance of the north from the south, except for the “corridor” to the south.
- On 10 November, at about 17:00, an Israeli airstrike hit Al Buraq school in Gaza city, which was being used as a shelter for IDPs, killing 50 people. The Israeli military stated that the airstrike targeted a Palestinian commander hiding in the school.
- On 11 November, following the collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north, the MoH in Gaza did not update casualty figures. The Palestinian fatality toll in Gaza as of 10 November at 14:00 stood at 11,078, of whom 4,506 were said to be children and 3,027 women. About 2,700 others, including some 1,500 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Another 27,490 Palestinians have reportedly been injured.
- As of 10 November, 66 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in UNRWA shelters have been killed and 558 injured. One-third of these fatalities and most of those injured (at least 400) occurred in facilities in the south.
- In the past 24 hours, five Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 47, according to Israeli official sources.
- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- On 11 November, for the eighth consecutive day, the Israeli military – which has called upon residents of the north to leave southwards – opened a “corridor” along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, between 9:00 and 16:00. It is estimated that tens of thousands of displaced people evacuated.
- IDPs reached the main junction next to Wadi Gaza on foot or donkey carts, given that the Israeli military reportedly stopped vehicles at about 4-5 kilometres away from that point. Most were able to carry only a few belongings. Most IDPs arrived exhausted and thirsty. UN monitors and NGOs distributed water and biscuits next to the junction.
- Over 1.5 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced. Among them, almost 760,000 IDPs are staying in at least 149 UNRWA shelters, where overcrowding is a major concern. The average number of IDPs per UNRWA shelter exceeded 6,250, which is nine times higher than their intended capacity. On average, 160 people

sheltering in UNRWA facilities share a single toilet and there is one shower unit for every 700 people. The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards.

- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Humanitarian Access (Gaza Strip)

- For the second consecutive day, the Egyptian border was closed for the evacuation of foreign nationals and dual citizens, and injured people. Between 2 and 9 November, 131 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt.
- A total of 53 trucks, carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water, blankets, and hygiene products crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 11 November as of 18:00. This brings the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 914. This is far below the quantities needed to meet the needs of over two million people besieged in Gaza.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.
- In the International Humanitarian Conference held on 9 November in Paris, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths stated that "the modest number of trucks we have so far managed to get in via the Rafah border crossing is wholly inadequate compared to the vast sea of needs […] We need to get hundreds of trucks per day into Gaza, not dozens, and be allowed to reach every place people are sheltering."

Electricity

- 11 November marks one month since Gaza has been under an electricity blackout, following Israel's shutting off the electricity supply and the depletion of fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant.
- The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- On 11 November, communication was cut off from hospitals in the north of Gaza. Therefore, information has been difficult to verify and there are no updates to the reported fatality toll.
- On 11 November, the Director of Shifa hospital was cited in the media as stating that there was no more food, water or electricity. A patient in the Intesive Care Unit and two incubated babies reportedly died as their life support machines shut down due to absence of electricity. It is estimated that 15,000 people are still sheltering within Shifa Hospital.
- The Israeli military has repeatedly alleged that armed groups operate a military compound within and underneath the Shifa hospital. The hospital's management and the Palestinian MoH have strongly denied this allegation and have called for an independent investigation.
- On 11 November, it was reported that Al Quds hospital's generator had failed, and technicians were unable to fix it due to sniper fire. Out of the most critical patients, seven are in the ICU and three babies are in incubators.
- As of 11 November, according to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), seven out of their eighteen ambulances in the north were still functioning, but at risk of completely ceasing operations in the coming hours due to fuel depletion.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- As of 9 November, following a few days of limited operation, all municipal water wells across the Gaza Strip had to shut down again due to the lack of fuel. As a result, the trucking and pumping of brackish water for non-drinking domestic uses came to a halt.
- Anecdotal reports indicate that people hosted or living near the sea, are reaching the beaches to bath and wash clothes in the sea, as well as carrying seawater to their homes and shelters for domestic consumption. This practice may carry various negative health ramifications due to the high pollution levels of seawater.
- In the north, neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline are operational. Similarly, no distribution of bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters has taken place for over a week. There is serious concern about dehydration and waterborne diseases following water consumption from unsafe sources.
- UNRWA has been providing about 1.5 litres of potable water and 3-4 litres of non-potable water per person per day in all shelters in the south. In the largest shelter located in Khan Younis (over 21,700 IDPs), UNRWA in partnership with UNICEF, installed a desalination plant, which turns brackish water extracted from wells, into potable water.
- Water entering from Egypt in bottles and jerry cans can only address the drinking needs (three litres per person per day) of about 4 per cent of the people.
- Transfer of solid waste to landfills has largely stopped across the Gaza Strip, due to lack of fuel and insecurity. Waste is accumulating in the streets and outside IDP shelters, creating a high risk of airborne diseases and infestation of insects and rats.

Food security

- Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. Since 7 November, no bakeries have been active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. Wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north during the past nine days. There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as consuming combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.
- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP, along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue for long hours in front of bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.
- WFP and its partners report that some essential food items such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil are nearly depleted in the market. Other items, including wheat flour, dairy products, eggs, and mineral water, have disappeared from the shelves in shops across Gaza over the past two days. Despite limited stock at the wholesale level, these items cannot reach retailers due to extensive damage, security issues, and the lack of fuel. The prices of available food items in the market have increased by 10 per cent since the start of hostilities, according to a WFP survey.
- While about 9,000 tons of wheat grain are stored in mills in Gaza, a significant portion of it cannot be used, due to massive destruction, security concerns, and shortages of fuel and electricity.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centers has continued over the past 24 hours, with no reported fatalities. Overall, about 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities as cited by the media (the reported estimate has been revised by Israeli sources), the vast majority on 7 October. As of 10 November, the names of 1,162 of fatalities in Israel have been released, including 845 civilians and police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 33 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 239 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes. On 9 November, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, renewed his call to release the hostages.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- On 11 November, Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man during a search-and-arrest operation in Arraba village (Jenin).

- Since 7 October, 169 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for 42 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (417). About 59 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 27 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; seven per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,560 Palestinians, including at least 262 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. Seventy Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 32 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 235 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (29 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (170 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (36 incidents). This reflects a daily average of over six incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- Since 7 October, at least 121 Palestinian households comprising 1,149 people, including 452 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

- Additionally, 45 Palestinians, including 24 children, have been displaced since 7 October following punitive demolitions, and another 135 Palestinians, including 66 children, following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.
- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 27,634 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.

- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support the registration of unaccompanied and separated children, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.
- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 760,000 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC and PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.

- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.
- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelters.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

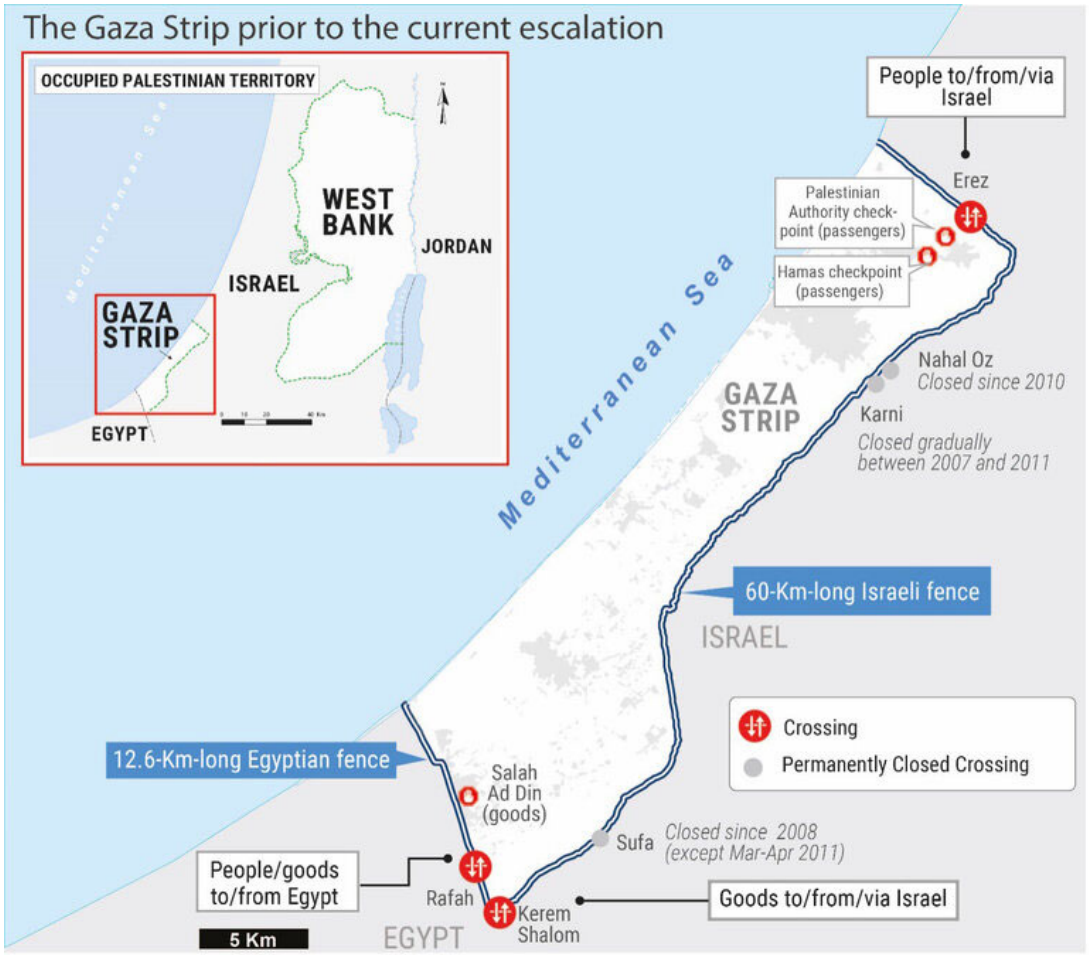
Priority needs

- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.
- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

- Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:
- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.


The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
WEST BANK
JORDAN
ISRAEL
GAZA STRIP
EGYPT
Mediterranean Sea
People to/from/via Israel
Erez
Palestinian Authority check-point (passengers)
Hamas checkpoint (passengers)
Nahal Oz
Closed since 2010
Karni
Closed gradually between 2007 and 2011
GAZA STRIP
Mediterranean Sea
60-Km-long Israeli fence
ISRAEL
Crossing
Permanently Closed Crossing
12.6-Km-long Egyptian fence
Salah Ad Din (goods)
Sufa
Closed since 2008 (except Mar-Apr 2011)
People/goods to/from Egypt
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
Goods to/from/via Israel
5 Km
EGYPT

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #37

12 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- Bombardments and armed clashes around the Shifa hospital in Gaza city intensified since the afternoon of 11 November. Critical infrastructure, including the oxygen station, water tanks and a well, the cardiovascular facility, and the maternity ward, was damaged,and three nurses killed. While many internally displaced persons (IDPs) and some staff and patients have managed to flee, others are trapped inside, fearing to leave or physically unable to do so.*
- At Shifa, two premature babies and ten other patients have died since the power outage that started on 11 November, compounded by the lack of medical consumables. Another 36 babies in incubators as well as kidney dialysis patients are at hightened risk of death. On 12 November, the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that it had lost communication with its contacts in Shifa.
- On 12 November, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) announced that the Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city was no longer operational due to the depletion of available fuel and power outage.
- On the afternoon of 11 November, an airstrike reportedly hit and destroyed the Swedish clinic in Ash Shati camp, west of Gaza city, were some 500 IDPs were sheltering. The casualty toll remains unclear. Overnight (11-12 November), another airstrike hit Al Mahdi Hospital in Gaza city, reportedly killing two doctors and injuring others.
- Hospitals and medical personnel are specifically protected under international humanitarian law (IHL). They must not be used to shield military objectives from attack. Any military operation around or within hospitals must take steps to spare and protect the patients, medical staff, and other civilians. All feasible precautions must be taken, including effective warnings, which consider the ability of patients, medical staff and other civilians to evacuate safely.
- The building of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Gaza city and an UNRWA school in Beit Lahiya, both of which were hosting IDPs, were hit on 11 and 12 November, respectively, resulting in an unclear number of casualties.
- The flight of tens of thousands of IDPs southwards from the areas north of Wadi Gaza (hereafter “the north”), through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military, continued on 12 November.
- Hundreds of thousands of people remaining in the north are struggling to survive. Consumption of water from unsafe sources raises serious concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases. The World Food Programme

(WFP) has expressed concern about malnutrition and starvation.



A hospital patient being transported southwards through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military following its calls to evacuate northern Gaza. Photo by OCHA, 12 November 2023

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in and around Gaza city, in several areas in the North Gaza governorate and to a lesser extent in the Middle area continued overnight (11-12 November), alongside Israeli bombardments from the air, sea, and land across the Gaza Strip. Israeli ground troops have maintained the effective severance of the north from the south, except for the “corridor” to the south.

- Other deadly attacks included the following: on 11 November, at about 13:00, a building in the Ash Shabora area of Rafah (in the south) was hit, reportedly killing 13 people and injuring 15 others; on 12 November, at about 2:00 a.m., two consecutive airstrikes in Jabalia camp reportedly killed 18 Palestinians; on 12 November, at about 10:00 a.m., a residential building in Bani Suhaila, east of Khan Yunis (in the south), was hit, reportedly killing at least 13 Palestinians and injuring 20 others.

- On 12 November, for the second consecutive day, following the collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza did not update casualty figures. The Palestinian fatality toll in Gaza as of 10 November at 14:00 (latest update provided) stood at 11,078, of whom 4,506 were said to be children and 3,027 women. About 2,700 others, including some 1,500 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Another 27,490 Palestinians have reportedly been injured.

- No fatalities among Israeli soldiers operating in Gaza have been reported over the past 24 hours. The total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations stands at 47, according to Israeli official sources.

- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- On 12 November, for the nineth consecutive day, the Israeli military – which has called upon residents of the north to leave southwards – opened a "corridor" along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, between 9:00 and 16:00. Additionally, the Israeli military announced via its social media channel in Arabic "a tactical halt in military activities" between 10:00 and 14:00 in Jabalia and Izbat Malin, next to Gaza city, to enable people to leave southwards. Tens of thousands of displaced people evacuated.
- IDPs reached the main junction next to Wadi Gaza on foot or donkey carts, given that the Israeli military reportedly stopped vehicles at about 4-5 kilometres away from that point. Most were able to carry only a few belongings. Most IDPs arrived exhausted and thirsty. UN monitors and NGOs distributed water and biscuits next to the junction.
- One UNRWA school and one health centre in Gaza city were hit by a strike on 11 November. The health centre was sheltering over 1,000 IDPs, some of whom were able to flee with UNRWA's coordination southwards.
- The number of IDPs in the south continues to increase, with UNRWA sheltering 618,000 people in 97 facilities, three of which were recently opened in Rafah. Following these openings, the average number of IDPs per shelter slightly declined. However, UNRWA shelters are accommodating far more people than their intended capacity. Overcrowding is leading to the spread of diseases, including acute respiratory illness and diarrhea, raises environmental and health issues and limits the Agency's ability to ensure effective and timely services.
- Over 1.5 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced, including about 778,000 IDPs who are staying in at least 154 UNRWA shelters.
- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Humanitarian Access (Gaza Strip)

- A total of 76 trucks, carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water, blankets, tents and hygiene products, crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 12 November as of 18:00. This brings the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 981.
- As of the time of writing, it is unclear whether the Egyptian border was operated on 12 November for the evacuation of foreign nationals and dual citizens, or injured people. Between 2 and 9 November, 131 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.
- In the International Humanitarian Conference held on 9 November in Paris, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths stated that "the modest number of trucks we have so far managed to get in via the Rafah border crossing is wholly inadequate compared to the vast sea of needs […] We need to get hundreds of trucks per day into Gaza, not dozens, and be allowed to reach every place people are sheltering."

Electricity

- 11 November marked one month since Gaza has been under an electricity blackout, following Israel's shutting off the electricity supply and the depletion of fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant.The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- Bombardments and clashes between Israeli troops and armed groups around the Shifa hospital in Gaza city intensified since the afternoon of 11 November.
- The Israeli military has repeatedly alleged that armed groups operate a military compound within and underneath the Shifa hospital. The hospital's management and the Palestinian MoH have strongly denied this allegation and have called for an independent investigation.
- An unconfirmed number of IDPs, along with several staff and patients have reportedly fled the Shifa hospital over the past few days, amid the intensified attacks and Israeli calls to evacuate it. The Israeli military has claimed it had opened "a corridor" for people to leave the hospital. However, reports cited by the WHO indicated that some of those fleeing have come under fire, resulting in casualties. Humanitarian agencies have received desperate calls from staff and patients' relatives willing to leave but fearing reported snipers around the hospital. Others, particularly people with disabilities, are physically unable to leave by themselves.*
- The last generator at the Shifa hospital ran out of fuel on 11 November. Since the start of the power outage, which is compounded by the lack of medical consumables, two premature babies and ten other patients have died in the hospital, according to the Palestinian MoH in Ramallah. Shifa's director has stated to the media that by tomorrow 13 November, kidney dialysis patients might die due to the inability to treat them. The MoH has also warned about the inability of the hospital staff to bury the bodies of about 100 fatalities, which began to decompose in the hospital yard, alongside risks associated with the medical waste accumulated inside the departments.
- The Israeli military has reported that, in the morning of 12 November, its troops attempted to deliver to Shifa hospital 300 litres of fuel for urgent medical purposes, and that the delivery was not taken by the hospital. Shifa's director has stated to the media that the amount delivered would have been sufficient for 15-30 minutes only, noting that the hospital would have accepted it if was delivered through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- On 12 November, PRCS reported that the Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city was no longer operational due to the depletion of available fuel and power outage. Medical staff are making every effort to provide care to patients and the wounded, even resorting to traditional medical methods amid dire humanitarian conditions and a shortage of medical supplies, food, and water.
- As of 11 November, only seven out of 18 PRCS ambulances in the north were still functioning, but at risk of completely ceasing operations due to fuel depletion.
- UNRWA has continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 124 medical teams deployed to the shelters. Between 10 and 11 November, a total of 18,076 were treated.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- As of 9 November, following a few days of limited operation, all municipal water wells across the Gaza Strip had to shut down again due to lack of fuel. As a result, the trucking and pumping of brackish water for non-drinking domestic uses came to a halt.
- Anecdotal reports indicate that people hosted or living near the sea, are reaching the beaches to bathe and wash clothes in the sea, as well as carrying seawater to their homes and shelters for domestic consumption. This practice may carry various negative health ramifications due to the high pollution levels of seawater.

- In the north, neither the water desalination plant nor the Israeli pipeline is operational. Similarly, no distribution of bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters has taken place for over a week. There is serious concern about dehydration and waterborne diseases following water consumption from unsafe sources.

- UNRWA has been providing about 1.5 litres of potable water and 3-4 litres of non-potable water per person per day in all shelters in the south. In the largest shelter located in Khan Younis (over 21,700 IDPs), UNRWA in partnership with UNICEF, installed a desalination plant, which turns brackish water extracted from wells, into potable water.

- Transfer of solid waste to landfills in most municipalities has largely stopped due to lack of fuel and insecurity. Waste is accumulating in the streets and outside IDP shelters, creating a high risk of airborne diseases and infestation of insects and rats. By contrast, solid waste collection from the camps and IDP shelters has continued intermittently: about 100 loads were transferred to temporary dumping sites on 10-11 November.

Food security

- Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. Since 7 November, no bakeries have been active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, as well as the damage sustained by many. Wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north as access has been largely cut off There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as consuming combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.

- Women, especially those pregnant or lactating, struggle to find food, putting their families at risk. Their ability to nourish themselves and their children is severely compromised, endangering their health and well-being.

- Access to bread in the south is also challenging. The only operative mill in Gaza remains unable to grind wheat due to a lack of electricity and fuel. Eleven bakeries have been hit and destroyed since 7 October. Only one of the bakeries contracted by WFP, along with eight other bakeries in the south, intermittently provides bread to shelters, depending on the availability of flour and fuel. People queue lasting over 5 hours in front of bakeries, where they are exposed to airstrikes.

- WFP and its partners report that some essential food items such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil are nearly depleted in the market. Other items, including wheat flour, dairy products, eggs, and mineral water, have disappeared from the shelves in shops across Gaza over the past two days. Despite limited stock at the wholesale level, these items cannot reach retailers due to extensive damage, security issues, and the lack of fuel. Food and beverage prices have surged by 10 per cent since the start of hostilities, with fresh vegetable prices spiking by 32 per cent, potato prices rising by 30 per cent, and fresh fruit prices increasing by 27 per cent.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, with no reported fatalities. In total, over 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities as cited by the media (the reported estimate has been revised by Israeli sources), the vast majority on 7 October. As of 10 November, the names of 1,162 fatalities in Israel have been released, including 845 civilians and police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 33 are children.

- According to the Israeli authorities, 239 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Media reports indicate that about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. Hamas has claimed that 57 of the hostages had been killed by Israeli airstrikes. On 12 November, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres renewed his call to release the hostages.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- On 12 November, a Palestinian man died of wounds sustained by Israeli forces during a search-and-arrest operation in Burqa village (Nablus).
- Since 7 October, 172 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.
- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for 42 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (417). About 59 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 27 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; seven per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.
- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,586 Palestinians, including at least 267 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. An additional, 74 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 33 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.
- In the past 24 hours, Israeli settlers, reportedly from Tappuah, threw stones, physically assaulted and injured three Palestinian farmers, including two women, in the village of Jamma'in (Nablus).
- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 241 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (30 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (174 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (37 incidents). This reflects a daily average of over six incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- No new displacements were recorded during the past 24 hours. Since 7 October, at least 121 Palestinian households comprising 1,149 people, including 452 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.
- Additionally, 45 Palestinians, including 24 children, have been displaced since 7 October following punitive demolitions, and another 135 Palestinians, including 66 children, following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.
- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Priority needs

- Access to basic needs and services is severely halted by the lack of resources and the security situation. IDPs outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance. Those are prioritized for Emergency MPCA.
- Banks are temporarily closed, limiting access to cash. The capacities of financial service providers are severely limited and change by the hour (partners currently using PalPay).
- Depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.

Response to date

- Some 27,634 households started receiving Emergency MPCA (NIS754 or $187 per household) as of 26 October. Redemption rates were reported as up to 86 per cent.

Protection

Priority needs

- An estimated 20,000 people in need of specialized mental health services, including mental health drugs, who are in precarious situations with the disruption to mental health services.
- Documentation of violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Opening roads, safe access to basic needs, medicines, mental health support, and ambulance services in the West Bank.

Response to date

- Some 3,000 IDPs have received psychosocial support and social work intervention services from UNRWA social workers and counsellors since the crisis began.
- In the West Bank, UNRWA provided psychosocial support services to 155 Palestinian workers from Gaza, in Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, and to 240 students at Nur Shams Boys' schools.
- One partner reached at least 4,000 IDPs in shelters in Gaza and provided psychological first aid and needs assessment for non-food items (NFIs) and assistive devices.
- Partners provided about 700 psychological, social, and legal consultations for gender-based violence (GBV) incidents. Furthermore, 1,144 first psychiatric medical services were provided for GBV cases.
- UNICEF is leading the mapping of orphanages and shelters which host children with a view to support the registration of unaccompanied and separated children, to facilitate identification, reunification, and alternative care options at national level (both Gaza and the West Bank).

Shelter

Priority needs

- Urgent need to provide services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs.

- Provision of NFIs and house maintenance for people displaced in urban centres and with host families.
- Provision of shelter cash assistance for IDPs (reintegration package and belongings loss compensation) for at least 25,000 families.

Response to date

- Some 760,000 IDPs are hosted at 149 UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip.
- Distribution of 20,000 NFIs in Rafah and Khan Younis, including bedding sets and dignity kits.
- Distribution of 820 hygiene kits to displaced families.
- ICRC and PRCS distributed 15,500 NFIs for displaced families, mainly mattresses and blankets.

Health

Priority needs

- Improve the nutritional status, particularly of about 283,000 children under five and pregnant or lactating women, in response to the concerning food security and water situation in Gaza.
- Ensuring the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, including preventive nutrition interventions, cash voucher assistance, curative nutrition interventions, intact nutrition supplies pipeline, and a functional nutrition coordination mechanism.
- Addressing shortages of medical supplies impacting case management.
- Fuel supply for hospitals and ambulances.
- Urgent need to restock medical supplies given depletion of stocks in the local market.
- Need for short and long-term mental health and psychosocial support services for large numbers of psychologically traumatized people.
- Access to mobile clinics for 29 communities in Area C locations in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqiliya who have not had access since escalations began.

Response to date

- UNRWA continues to provide primary health-care services in the shelters, through 95 mobile medical units and medical teams.
- PMRS has eight mobile health teams also providing primary health-care services to IDPs and expects to increase the number to twelve.
- Partners are continuing to mobilize resources in Cairo; with support from WHO, the Health Cluster has deployed a logistics team based in Cairo to assist partners with health coordination.

Food Security

Priority needs

- Electricity, fuel, and water sources to maintain agriculture.

- Many shops have food supplies to last less than a week.
- Safe access to farms, livestock, fisheries, and other livelihoods.
- Urgent import of fodder.

Response to date

- On 2 November, WFP continued to assist UN shelters by distributing bread, tuna, date bars and food parcels for host communities.
- Oxfam covered 189 households in the Gaza governorate.
- Dan Church Aid (DCA) covered 18,000 households sheltering in UNRWA designated emergency shelters in the Gaza governorate.
- Islamic Relief Palestine provided food assistance to 10,000 IDPs in non-UNRWA shelters or with host families.
- Anera provides hot meals to a total of 120,000 people. Food parcels, 80 per cent to UNRWA DES shelters, 20 per cent to hosting communities and other smaller scale shelters. 2,000 households in North Gaza and 12,000 households in Khan Yunis have already been covered. Ten thousand households in the Middle Area are ongoing. Vegetable baskets to host families and small-scale shelters for 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in Khan Younis and 2,000 IDPs (UN shelter) in the Middle Area. Planning food parcels distributed covering 1,000 IDPs in collective shelters and host families.
- Save the Children is providing food in-kind to 75,000 IDPs outside UNRWA shelters.
- UPA in partnership with PARC is providing 617 food parcels in five different shelter schools.

Education

Priority needs

- Safe access to schools and communities.

Response to date

- Provision of emergency education supplies and learning, recreational kits/stationery to 11,250 children.
- Provision of psychosocial support to 28,300 school-aged children
- Provision of recreational activities for school-aged children.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Priority needs

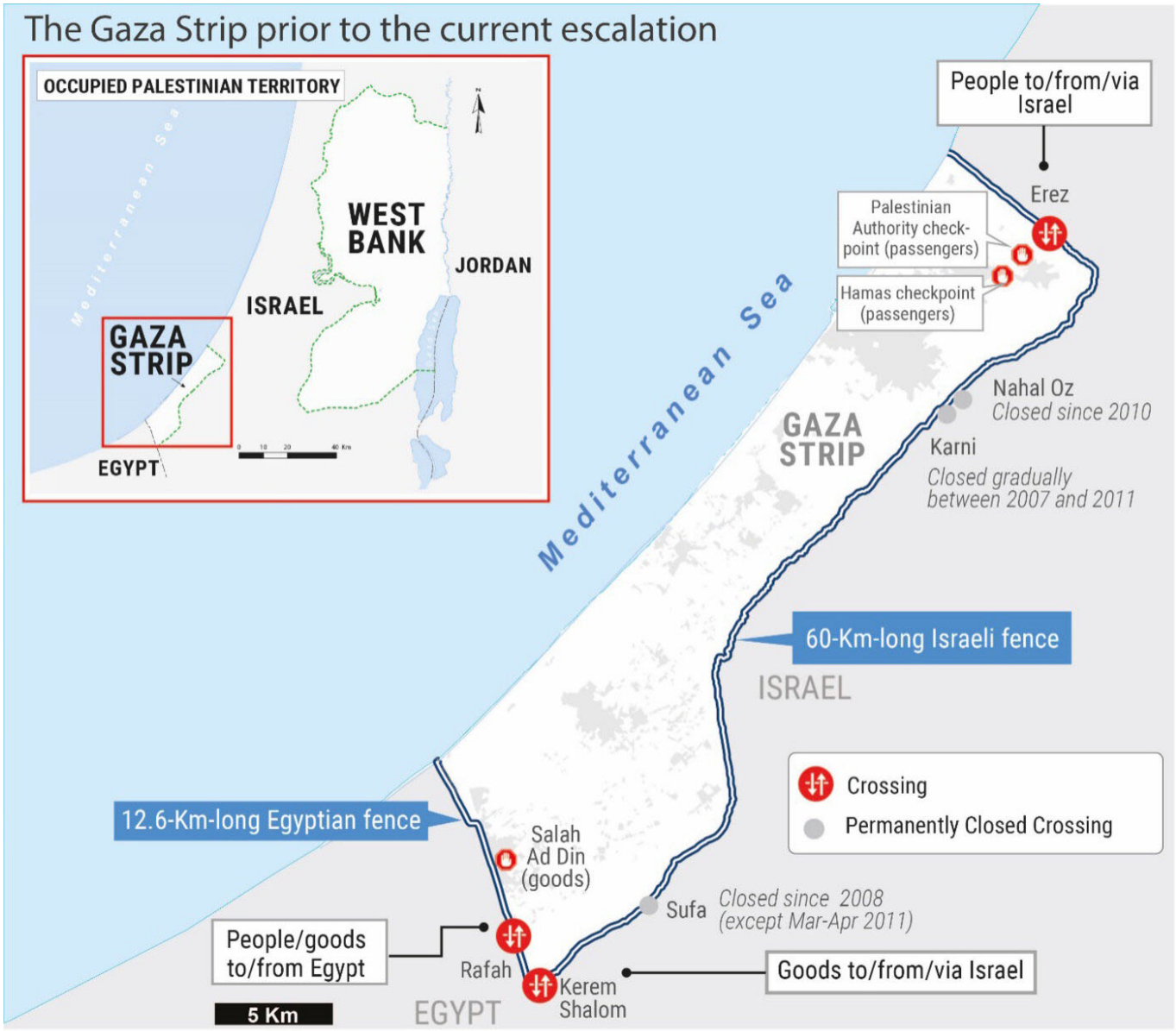
- Provision of clean drinking water.
- Provision of alternative power supply and 20,000 litres per day of emergency fuel to sustain the operation of WASH facilities, along with replenishing the chlorine supply for water treatment plants.
- Support to restore disrupted municipal services, including solid waste management, water, and sanitation operations, as appealed by the Gaza Strip municipalities.

- Delivery of essential WASH services and provisions to IDPs in collective centres, including drinking water and hygiene kits.

Response to date

- Since 7 October WASH partners have provided:
- Some 9,500 hygiene kits to families in the UNRWA IDP centres.
- 1,950 cubic metres of drinking water trucked to IDP centres and host families.
- 175 cubic metres of bottled water among IDPs in UNRWA shelters.
- Four water storage tanks, with a capacity of 10 cubic metres, and twenty others, with a capacity of 1.5 cubic metres each, to be used by communities and shelters.
- 8,000 units of ten litres of water capacity.
- 4,000 water purification tools for the hosted families in vulnerable communities and IDP centres.
- 211 cubic metres of fuel to WASH facilities.
- 5 cubic metres of anti-scaling to desalination plants.

Protection against sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a cross-cutting priority for all clusters. The SAWA helpline, reachable at 121 and through WhatsApp at +972 59-4040121 (East Jerusalem at 1-800-500-121), operates 24/7. This toll-free number is widely disseminated across all areas of intervention to report cases of SEA and to facilitate emergency counseling and referrals for affected communities to access life-saving services. The PSEA Network monitors calls daily and will increase the number of counselors if necessary.



* This text has changed after the publication.



Aid distribution in an UNRWA facility hosting displaced Palestinian families. Screenshot from a video by UNICEF

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #38

13 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- All but one of the hospitals in Gaza city and northern Gaza (hereafter: the north) are reportedly out of service, as of 13 November, due to the lack of power, medical consumables, oxygen, food and water, compounded by bombardments and fighting in their vicinities. Al Ahli Hospital, in Gaza city, which currently accommodates over 500 patients, is reportedly the sole medical facility able to receive patients, amid increasing shortages and challenges.

- In Shifa hospital, 32 patients, including three premature babies, have reportedly died since 11 November, following the power cut and amid dire conditions. As of midnight, between 12 and 13 November, some 600-650 inpatients, 200-500 staff, and 1,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were believed to have remained in the hospital. Among the patients at heightened risk of death were reportedly 36 babies in incubators and a number of kidney dialysis patients.

- Hospitals and medical personnel are specifically protected under international humanitarian law (IHL) and all parties to the conflict must ensure their protection. And they must not be used to shield military objectives from attack. Any military operation around or within hospitals must take steps to spare and protect the patients, medical staff, and other civilians. All feasible precautions must be taken, including effective warnings, which consider the ability of patients, medical staff and other civilians to evacuate safely. The Israeli authorities have called for the evacuation of hospitals in the north. However, as the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned, this would be a “death sentence,” given that the entire medical system is collapsing and hospitals in southern Gaza cannot admit more patients.

- On 13 November, UNRWA warned that its humanitarian operations, including the distribution of aid entering through the Rafah crossing, are expected to halt within the next 48 hours, following the total depletion of its fuel reserves. In this context, two primary water distribution contractors working for the agency in the south ceased operations on 13 November, leaving 200,000 people without access to potable water. Furthermore, humanitarian organizations are facing severe communication breakdowns, which is also associated with fuel depletion.

- The Israeli military continued calling and exerting pressure on residents of the north to move southwards. An estimated 200,000 have moved since 5 November through a “corridor” opened by the Israeli military, according to OCHA monitoring. Overcrowding and limited access to shelter, food and water, in the south, are of increasing concern.

- Hundreds of thousands of people, who are either unwilling or unable to move to the south remain in the north, remain amid intensified hostilities. They are struggling to secure the minimum amount of water and food for survival. The consumption of water from unsafe sources raises serious concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases. The World Food Programme (WFP) has expressed concern about malnutrition and starvation.

- UNRWA is verifying reports that Israeli forces entered one of its schools, and two of its health centres, in the north and forced IDPs that were sheltering there to leave southwards. Subsequently, the two health centres were reportedly struck with artillery fire. In Rafah, an UNRWA guest house serving as a residence for UN staff was directly hit by Israeli naval strikes, severely damaging it but resulting in no casualties. The coordinates of these facilities had been shared in advance with the Israeli military.

- UN offices globally lowered flags to half-mast on 13 November, mourning the loss of 102 UNRWA staff killed since the start of the escalation of hostilities in Gaza. This is the highest death toll among UN staff in such a short period in the history of the UN.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in and around Gaza city continued overnight, in several areas in the North Gaza governorate. Intense strikes by Israeli forces also continue in the south, and ground incursions appear to continue in the area south-east of Khan Yunis. Israeli ground troops have maintained the effective severance of the north from the south, except for the “corridor” to the south.

- Deadly attacks included the following: on 12 November, at about 04:00 p.m., a building in Khan Younis (in the south) was hit, reportedly killing 11 people and injuring 25 others; on 13 November, at about 02:00 a.m., a house was hit in As Sabra area, in Gaza city, reportedly killing 12 Palestinians; on 13 November, at about 11:00 a.m., a residential building in An Nuseirat was hit, reportedly killing seven Palestinians and injuring others.

- On 13 November, for the third consecutive day, following the collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza did not update casualty figures. The reported fatality toll of Palestinians in Gaza as of 10 November at 14:00 (latest update provided) stood at 11,078, of whom 4,506 were said to be children and 3,027 women. About 2,700 others, including some 1,500 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Another 27,490 Palestinians have reportedly been injured.

- Active ground operations in the heart of Gaza City and near the hospitals along with the lack of fuel have halted the movement of rescue teams and ambulances. Multiple appeals by stranded households and family members underneath struck buildings and homes went unanswered. According to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), hundreds of calls have been received at the emergency number from besieged Palestinians in Gaza city, urgently

requesting ambulances for the wounded, evacuation for trapped families, and assistance for those under rubble. Many of these calls for help have gone unanswered.

- In the last 24 hours, two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 49, according to official Israeli sources.

- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- On 13 November, for the tenth consecutive day, the Israeli military – which has called and exerted pressure on residents of the north to leave southwards – opened a "corridor" along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, between 9:00 and 16:00 hrs. The Israeli military also announced on its social media platforms in the Arabic language, "a tactical halt in military activities," in selected areas for a few hours, to enable the departure of people southwards.

- IDPs reached the main junction next to Wadi Gaza on foot or donkey carts, given that the Israeli military reportedly stopped vehicles at about 4-5 kilometres away from that point. Most were able to carry only a few belongings. Most IDPs arrived exhausted and thirsty. The UN and NGOs distributed water and biscuits next to the junction. Numerous accounts highlight that Israeli forces made arrests while people were passing through the corridor. Additionally, there are reports of some people being subjected to acts of violence, including being stripped, beaten, and, in some instances, fired upon.

- As a result of strikes near an UNRWA school in Deir Al Balah, three IDPs were injured. The school shelters about 4,000 IDPs. In the north, another UNRWA school was directly hit, damaging the building, with no injuries reported.

- Over 1.5 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced, including about 778,000 IDPs who are staying in at least 154 UNRWA shelters. The number of IDPs in the south continues to increase, with UNRWA sheltering 627,000 people in 97 facilities, three of which were recently opened in Rafah. UNRWA shelters are accommodating far more people than their intended capacity. Overcrowding is leading to the spread of diseases, including acute respiratory illness and diarrhea, raising environmental and health concerns and limiting the Agency's ability to deliver effective and timely services.

- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Humanitarian Access (Gaza Strip)

- A total of 115 trucks, carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water, blankets, tents and hygiene products, crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 13 November as of 18:00 hrs. This brings the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 1,096. According to UNRWA, humanitarian operations at Rafah crossing are expected to cease by 14 November, due to the depletion of fuel to operate trucks and machinery to take supplies from the border and unload them in Gaza; if no additional fuel comes in, other supplies will not come in either.

- On 13 November, the Egyptian border operated for the evacuation of about 600 foreign nationals and dual citizens, and four injured people. Between 2 and 13 November, some 135 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt.

- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed, as does the Israeli pedestrian crossing of Erez.

Electricity

- Since 11 October, the Gaza Strip has been under an electricity blackout, following Israel's shutting off the electricity supply and the depletion of fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant. The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators to run life-saving equipment, remains banned by the Israeli authorities.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- The situation of hospitals in the north remains dire. All but one of the hospitals are no longer operational. Shifa and Al Quds hospitals are being subject to heavy strikes.

- In the past 24 hours, bombardments and clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian armed groups around Shifa hospital continued. People in and near the hospital, including a technical worker, a patient and IDPs, have reportedly been shot by snipers. The ICU facility, the maternity ward, and the top floor of the surgery building, were hit and damaged A fire broke near the department treating patients with kidney disorders. .

- The Israeli military has repeatedly alleged that Palestinian armed groups operate a military compound within and underneath the Shifa hospital. The hospital's management and the Palestinian MoH have strongly denied these allegations and have called for an independent investigation.

- Today, according to the Israeli military, a Palestinian armed group opened fire from the vicinity and from within Al Quds hospital compound, run by Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), while civilians were fleeing the facility; dozens of members of these Palestinian armed gGroups were reportedly killed by Israeli forces. The PRCS strongly denied the Israeli claims about armed individuals launching projectiles from inside the hospital.

- On 13 November, a joint convoy of the PRCS with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) heading to Al Quds hospital in Gaza city to evacuate patients, was forced to return after it left Khan Younis, due to the relentless bombardment and insecurity around the hospital. The medical team, patients, and their families, reportedly remain besieged in the hospital with no food, water, or electricity.

- Active ground operations in the heart of Gaza city and near the hospitals in North Gaza governorate, have halted the movement of rescue teams and ambulances. According to PRCS, hundreds of calls has been received at emergency number from besieged Palestinians in Gaza city, urgently requesting ambulances for the wounded, evacuation for trapped families, and assistance for those trapped under rubble.

- UNRWA has continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 124 medical teams deployed to the shelters. However as of 14 November, the fuel reserves of the health centres will be depleted if no additional fuel is provided. UNRWA operations will entirely depend on solar energy, which is designed only to cater for minimum operation. Functionality of the solar energy is not guaranteed as any malfunction and/or battery failure will cause complete stop of all operation.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- In the absence of fuel, as of 14 November, UNRWA solid waste removal services will begin to shut down, posing an environmental hazard, with about 400 tons of rubish per day accumulating in overcrowded camps and IDP shelters.

- Due to lack of fuel, public sewage pumping stations, 60 water wells in the south, the two main desalination plants in Rafah and the Middle Area, the two main sewage pumps in the south, and the Rafah wastewater treatment plant have all ceased operations. Coupled with the shutdown of municipal sanitation work, this is posing a serious threat to public health, increasing the risk of water contamination and the outbreak of diseases.

- Anecdotal reports indicate that people hosted or living near the sea, are reaching the beaches to bathe and wash clothes in the sea, as well as carrying seawater to their homes and shelters for domestic consumption. This practice may carry various negative health ramifications due to the high pollution levels of seawater.

- In the north, the water desalination plant and the Israeli pipeline are not functioning. There has been no distribution of bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters for over a week, raising grave concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases due to water consumption from unsafe sources.

Food security

- Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. Since 7 November, no bakeries have been active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, and structural damage. Wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north, as access has been largely cut off. There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as consuming combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.

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Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- On 13 November, Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man while he was inside his vehicle during a search-and-arrest operation in Hebron city.

- Since 7 October, 173 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for 42 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (418). About 59 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 27 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; seven per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, and the remaining seven per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,625 Palestinians, including at least 275 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. An additional, 74 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 33 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- No settler-related incidents against Palestinians were reported in the past 24 hours.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 241 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (30 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (174 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (37 incidents). This reflects a daily average of over six incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

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- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES: 6-12 November

Protection

Mine action is one of the most critical life-saving activities for protection at present. right now is mine action. Core actions include Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) risk assessments in UNRWA shelters and some Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) messaging in the south. Scale up of assessments and clearance is planned once hostilities end, and work to bolster EORE information is being planned, including printed materials, training for focal points and use of media. Current insecurity, access restrictions, and communication blackouts greatly curtail mine work.

Further, a technical working group (comprising eight partners) is working to identify unaccompanied and separated children and processes to unite families. The group is developing an interagency registration system, documentation and tracing process and alternative care arrangements and reunification procedures. Critical challenges are the absence of safe spaces inside Gaza. An advocacy brief on Unaccompanied Children in Gaza and messages on risk mitigation for children are available.

During the reporting period, over 2,000 locally procured dignity kits were distributed to vulnerable women in Rafah, Khan Yunis and Al Remal, and cash transfers were done to 724 women including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Supply lines are grossly inadequate to meet burgeoning women's needs, especially menstrual hygiene. Power shortages and unstable communications mean that many women cannot access remote services addressing GBV. However, nation-wide hotlines (24/7) are operating for GBV case management and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). Available online information including PriorityLife-SavingActions; GBV Pocket Guide (English and Arabic); GBV Guidelines (English and Arabic) and Gaza Crisis - GBV Concerns and Priorities.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

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Health

The loss of communication with key focal points in health who normally provide regular updates is making it difficult for partners to have an overview of information on the latest casualties

The high insecurity, displacement, and lack of supplies in the north, has resulted in Partner operations in the north have largely halted due to high insecurity, displacement, and insufficient supplies. The majority of health response activities are now concentrated in the south, with a focus on supporting the nine hospitals, 18 primary health-care centres, and 130 mobile teams whicho are still partially functioning.

Partners are working to strengthen disease surveillance in the shelters to facilitate early detection of outbreak-prone diseases and ensure rapid response. Due to the high insecurity and lack of equipment, the dead bodies remain exposed or unsafely buried under the rubble.

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From the onset of the crisis, 15 Food Security Sector partners have delivered assistance to some 2 million benefiaries, including food parcels, ready-to-eat meals, and hot meals, to various shelters (UNRWA and non–UNRWA) and host families, mobilising approximatelyabout $7.5 million (excluding activities within the Flash Aappeal).

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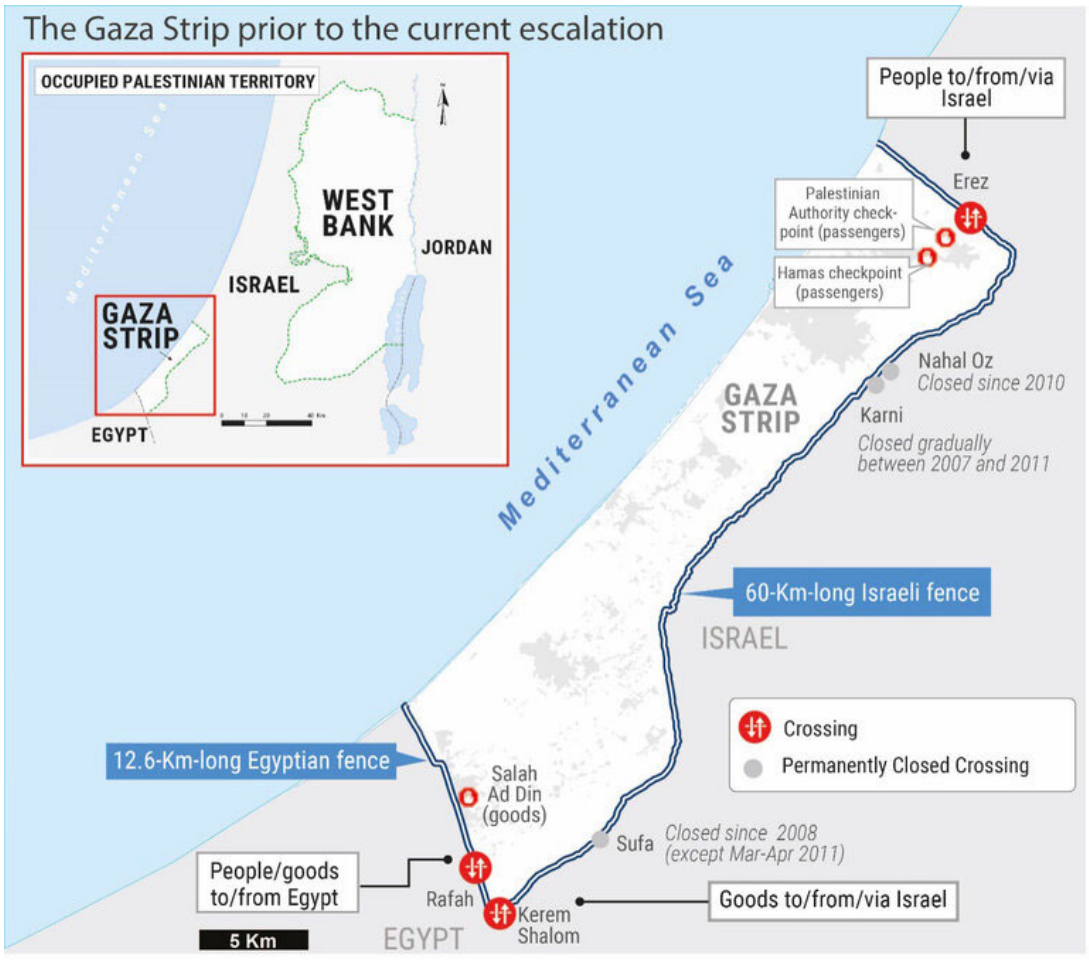
For the last two weeks, partners in the north have been unable to distribute any assistance. Partners are also facing significant challenges in providing food assistance due to insufficient supplies, widespread destructionr. Most bakeries are inactive due to destruction, lack of fuel, or lack of clean water.

Food insecurity is growing by the day. Food availability on the market is limited, prices have increased, and purchasing power has decreased. Gaza residents have no means to make use of the limited available quantities of food, due to insuffient clean water, fuel, and electricity

Emergency Telecommunications

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) was activated on 31 October, and is currently based in Cairo pending access to Gaza. ETC has prepared solar panels, satellite connectivity solutions, radios, and equipment to provide independent access to communications in Gaza for the humanitarian response. The ETC is focused on establishing pathways to import critical telecommunications equipment into Gaza to set up services for humanitarian workers. Efforts are underway to obtain necessary authorizations from the authorities, identify a route through either Egypt or Israel, and to consolidate this information for partners.

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“In Gaza city, it was difficult to secure water and food,“ a displaced Palestinian told OCHA upon arrival to the southern area on 14 November. ”When available, food is very expensive.“ Photo of a displaced family in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip. Source: WHO, 1 November 2023

Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #39

14 Nov 2023

KEY POINTS

- Only one of the hospitals in Gaza city and northern Gaza (hereafter: the north) is reportedly still operational at a minimum level for those inside the hospital, as of 14 November; all others have ceased operations due to the lack of power, medical consumables, oxygen, food and water, compounded by bombardments and fighting in their vicinities. Al Ahli Hospital, in Gaza city, currently accommodates over 500 patients and is reportedly the sole medical facility able to admit patients in the north. However, it too faces increasing shortages and challenges.
- Forty patients died in Shifa hospital on 14 November, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza. The hospital reported preparations for a mass grave inside the compound to burry 180 bodies of patients, which cannot be evacuated due to the intense fighting.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of 14 November, more than half of the hospitals in Gaza (22 out of 36) were non-functional due to lack of fuel, damage, attacks and insecurity.
- Hospitals and medical personnel are specifically protected under international humanitarian law (IHL) and all parties to the conflict must ensure their protection. Hospitals must not be used to shield military objectives from attack. Any military operation around or within hospitals must take steps to spare and protect the patients, medical staff, and other civilians. All feasible precautions must be taken, including effective warnings, which consider the ability of patients, medical staff and other civilians to evacuate safely. WHO has warned that the evacuation of

hospitals in the north, as demanded by the Israeli military, would be a “death sentence” for some patients, because operational hospitals in the south cannot admit more patients.

- On 14 November, UNRWA reported that, in 48 hours, telecommunication companies are expected to run out of fuel to operate data centres and connection sites. In some areas, they have reportedly shut down already. The companies have had to depend on fuel-run generators since Gaza’s black out on 11 October.

- Although 91 trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered from Egypt on 14 November, the distribution of supplies to shelters, clinics and other beneficiaries has largely come to a halt due to lack of fuel. The Israeli authorities have indicated that, on 15 November, they would allow the entry of a limited amount of fuel into Gaza, to be used exclusively to run trucks for the distribution of incoming humanitarian aid. This represents a fraction of the fuel needs for humanitarian operations. Meanwhile, the entry of fuel for any other use, including the operation of generators at hospitals, and at water and sanitation facilities, remains banned. This will be the first time since 7 October that fuel is allowed into Gaza.

- Hundreds of thousands of people who are unwilling or unable to move to the south remain in the north amid intense hostilities. They are struggling to secure the minimum amount of water and food for survival. The consumption of water from unsafe sources raises serious concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases. The World Food Programme (WFP) has expressed concern about malnutrition and starvation.

- In the West Bank, Israeli forces shot and killed eight Palestinians over the past 24 hours, bringing the fatality toll among Palestinians since 7 October to 182, including 46 children.

- As of 14 November, Member States have disbursed US$132.1 million against the Flash Appeal made by the UN and its partners to implement its response plan in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 in the West Bank. This constitutes about 11 per cent of the $1.2 billion requested. Additionally, $335 million has been pledged.

Hostilities and casualties (Gaza Strip)

- Overnight (13-14 November), clashes continued between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in and around Gaza city as well as in several areas in the North Gaza governorate and in Khan Younis (in the south). Intense strikes by Israeli forces also continue in the south, and ground incursions appear to continue in the area south-east of Khan Yunis. Israeli ground troops have maintained the effective severance of the north from the south, except for the “corridor” to the south.

- Deadly attacks included the following: On 13 November, at about 23:00, Israeli airstrikes reportedly hit and destroyed 12 houses near the Jabalia services sports club (in the north), killing 31 Palestinians and injuring others. The following morning, at about 5:30, Israeli airstrikes reportedly hit two buildings in Khan Yunis (in the south), killing 13 Palestinians and injuring 20 others.

- On 14 November, for the fourth consecutive day, following the collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza did not update casualty figures. The reported fatality toll of Palestinians in Gaza as of 10 November at 14:00 (latest update provided) stood at 11,078, of whom 4,506 were said to be children and 3,027 women. About 2,700 others, including some 1,500 children, have been reported missing and may be trapped or dead under the rubble, awaiting rescue or recovery. Another 27,490 Palestinians have reportedly been injured.

- Active ground operations in the heart of Gaza city and near the hospitals, along with the lack of fuel, have halted the movement of rescue teams and ambulances in those areas. Multiple appeals by stranded households and family

members underneath struck buildings, including their own homes, have gone unanswered. According to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), hundreds of calls have been received at the PRCS emergency number from besieged Palestinians in Gaza city, urgently requesting ambulances for the wounded, evacuation for trapped families, and assistance for those under rubble. Many of these calls for help have gone unanswered due to lack of fuel and insecurity.

- In the last 24 hours, two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the start of ground operations to 51, according to official Israeli sources.

- See the latest snapshot for more breakdowns.

Displacement (Gaza Strip)

- On 14 November, for the twelfth consecutive day, the Israeli military – which has called and exerted pressure on residents of the north to leave southwards – opened a "corridor" along the main traffic artery, Salah Ad Deen Road, between 9:00 and 16:00. OCHA's monitoring team estimates that about 17,000-18,000 moved on 14 November, significantly less than in the previous days.

- Numerous reports indicate that Israeli forces have been carrying out arrests among IDPs fleeing through the corridor, alongside allegations of beating, stripping and other forms of violence. On 14 November, IDPs have reported that the Israeli army had established an unstaffed checkpoint where people are directed from a distance to go through two containers, where a surveillance system is thought to be installed. People are reportedly ordered to show their IDs and undergo what appears to be a facial recognition scan.

- Over the past 24 hours, IDPs staying outside the overcrowded shelters in the south have been affected by intermittent rainfall and related flooding, which have damaged or destroyed tents and makeshifts where they lived. Alongside lower temperatures, this is exposing people to increasing risk of disease.

- Over 1.5 million people in Gaza are estimated to be internally displaced, including about 787,000 IDPs who are staying in at least 154 UNRWA shelters. UNRWA shelters are accommodating far more people than their intended capacity. Overcrowding is leading to the spread of diseases, including acute respiratory illness and diarrhea, raising environmental and health concerns, and limiting the Agency's ability to deliver effective and timely services.

- See the live IDP dashboard for the latest figures and more breakdowns.

Humanitarian Access (Gaza Strip)

- A total of 91 trucks, carrying food, medicines, health supplies, bottled water, blankets, tents and hygiene products, crossed from Egypt into Gaza on 14 November as of 18:00. This brings the number of trucks that have entered Gaza since 21 October to 1,187, representing a fraction of the needs.

- On 13 November, the Egyptian border opened for the evacuation of about 600 foreign nationals and dual citizens, and four injured people. Between 2 and 13 November, some 135 injured people were taken for medical care in Egypt.

- The Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, which prior to the hostilities was the main entry point for goods, remains closed. According to media reports, the Israeli authorities have rejected requests by Member States to operate this crossing to expedite the entry of humaitarian aid.

Electricity

- Since 11 October, the Gaza Strip has been under an electricity blackout, after the Israeli authorities cut off the electricity supply, and fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant depleted. The entry of fuel, which is desperately needed to operate electricity generators that run life-saving equipment.

Health care, including attacks (Gaza Strip)

- The situation of hospitals in the north remains dire. Only of of the hospitals is reportedly operational. Heavy fighting continues around Shifa and Al Quds hospitals.
- According to WHO, on 14 November, over half of the hospitals in Gaza (22 out of 36) are non-functional due to lack of fuel, damage, attacks and insecurity. The 14 hospitals in the south remaining open have barely enough supplies to sustain critical and lifesaving surgeries and provide inpatient care, including intensive care
- On 14 November, a power outage affected Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis, in the south, following a failure of its sole generator, according to PRCS. This put 90 patients at risk, including 25 in critical condition. Additionally, 9,000 IDPs are seeking refuge at the hospital and PRCS premises.
- On 14 November, the Nursing Director at the European Gaza Hospital was quoted in a media outlet as stating that the hospital had run out of water. This would affect over 400 patients and thousands of IDPs sheltering on the premises.
- On 14 November, Médecins Sans Frontières reported that live ammunition had been fired into one of three of their premises (near Shifa Hospital), where more than 100 people, including staff and their families, had taken shelter.
- The Israeli military has repeatedly alleged that Palestinian armed groups operate a military compound within and underneath the Shifa hospital. The hospital's management and the Palestinian MoH have strongly denied these allegations and have called for an independent investigation.
- Active ground operations in the heart of Gaza city and near the hospitals in North Gaza governorate have halted the movement of rescue teams and ambulances in those areas. According to PRCS, hundreds of calls have been received at an emergency number from Palestinians in Gaza city, urgently requesting ambulances for the wounded, evacuation for trapped families, and assistance for those trapped under rubble.
- UNRWA has continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 124 medical teams deployed to the shelters. However, the fuel reserves of the health centres may have been depleted today. UNRWA operations will entirely depend on solar energy, which is designed only to cater for minimum operation. Functionality of the solar energy is not guaranteed as any malfunction or battery failure may cause complete stop of all operation.

Water and sanitation (Gaza Strip)

- Due to the absence of fuel, on 14 November, UNRWA's solid waste removal services began shutting down, posing an environmental hazard, with about 400 tons of rubish per day accumulating in overcrowded camps and IDP shelters.
- Due to lack of fuel, public sewage pumping stations, 60 water wells in the south, the two main desalination plants in Rafah and the Middle Area, the two main sewage pumps in the south, and the Rafah wastewater treatment plant have all ceased operations. Coupled with the shutdown of municipal sanitation work, this is posing a serious threat to public health, increasing the risk of water contamination and the outbreak of diseases.

- In the north, the water desalination plant and the Israeli pipeline are not functioning. There has been no distribution of bottled water among IDPs accommodated in shelters for over a week, raising grave concerns about dehydration and waterborne diseases due to water consumption from unsafe sources.

Food security

- Lack of food in the north is of increasing concern. Since 7 November, no bakeries have been active, due to the lack of fuel, water, and wheat flour, and structural damage. Wheat flour is reportedly no longer available in the market. Food security partners have been unable to deliver assistance in the north, as access has been largely cut off. There are indications of negative coping mechanisms due to food scarcity, including skipping or reducing meals and using unsafe and unhealthy methods for making fire. People are reportedly resorting to unconventional eating, such as consuming combinations of raw onion and uncooked eggplant.

Hostilities and casualties (Israel)

- The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian armed groups towards Israeli population centres has continued over the past 24 hours, with no reported fatalities. In total, over 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities as cited by the media, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 10 November, the names of 1,162 fatalities in Israel have been released, including 845 civilians and police officers. Of those whose ages have been provided, 33 are children.

- On 14 November, Israeli sources confirmed that one of the captured soldiers had been killed. Hamas had claimed that she was among of 57 hostages killed by Israeli airstrikes. According to the Israeli authorities, 238 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. According to some media reports, about 30 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas, and one female Israeli soldier was rescued by Israeli forces. On 13 November, Humanitarian Coordinator Lynn Hastings renewed her call to release the hostages.

Violence and casualties (West Bank)

- Israeli forces shot and killed eight Palestinians, between 13 November at night and noontime on 14 November. The deadliest incident, which lasted for several hours, took place in Tulkarm Refugee Camp, and resulted in seven Palestinians killed. The operation involved armed clashes with Palestinians, and airstrikes, resulting in extensive infrastructure and residential damage. According to medical sources, during the operation, Israeli forces impeded the work of paramedics. Another Palestinian was killed after he attempted to stab an Israeli soldier positioned at Beit Einun roundabout east of Hebron city.

- Since 7 October, 182 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by Israeli forces; and an additional eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Three Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since 7 October accounts for 42 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023 (426). About 65 per cent of the fatalities since 7 October occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations, primarily in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates. Some 26 per cent were in the context of demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza; two per cent were killed in settler attacks against Palestinians, one per cent during punitive demolitions and the remaining six per cent were killed while attacking or allegedly attacking Israeli forces or settlers.

- Since 7 October, Israeli forces have injured 2,650 Palestinians, including at least 278 children, over half of them in the context of demonstrations. An additional, 74 Palestinians have been injured by settlers. Some 33 per cent of those injuries have been caused by live ammunition.

- In the past 24 hours, OCHA verified four settler attacks. In two of these incidents, armed assailants who, while known by Palestinian residents to be settlers, were wearing Israeli military uniforms, raided the communities of Umm At Tiran and the already displaced community of At Taybe (both in Hebron), where they vandalized a residential structure, agricultural, water tanks and punctured the tires of vehicles. In two other incidents, in Mantiqat Shi'b al Butum in Masafer Yatta (southern Hebron) and the displaced community of Ein ar Rashash (Ramallah), 18 tents used for residential and agricultural purposes were vandalized, along with two solar panel systems, and an electronic generator, and about 10 bags of livestock fodder.

- Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 244 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties (30 incidents), damage to Palestinian-owned property (177 incidents), or both casualties and damage to property (37 incidents). This reflects a daily average of over six incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Israeli forces were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers.

Displacement (West Bank)

- No new displacements have been recorded during the past 24 hours. Since 7 October, at least 121 Palestinian households comprising 1,149 people, including 452 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from 15 herding/Bedouin communities.

- Additionally, 45 Palestinians, including 24 children, have been displaced since 7 October following punitive demolitions, and another 135 Palestinians, including 66 children, following demolitions in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to lack of permits.

Funding

- On 7 November, the UN and its partners issued a plan that outlines the minimum necessary to scale up humanitarian operations in support of 2.2 million people in the Gaza Strip and 500,000 of the most vulnerable in the West Bank. An estimated US$1.2 billion is required to deliver existing humanitarian services amid ongoing hostilities. The UN has shared its response plan with potential donors and partners as part of an updated Flash Appeal.

- Private donations are collected through the Humanitarian Fund.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES: 6-12 November

Protection

Mine action is one of the most critical life-saving activities for protection at present. Core actions include Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) risk assessments in UNRWA shelters and some Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) messaging in the south. Scale up of assessments and clearance is planned once hostilities end, and work to bolster EORE information is being planned, including printed materials, training for focal points and use of media. Current insecurity, access restrictions, and communication blackouts greatly curtail mine-removal work.

Further, a technical working group (comprising eight partners) is working to identify unaccompanied and separated children and processes to unite families. The group is developing an interagency registration system, documentation and tracing process and alternative care arrangements and reunification procedures. Critical challenges are the absence of safe spaces inside Gaza. An advocacy brief on Unaccompanied Children in Gaza and messages on risk mitigation for children are available.

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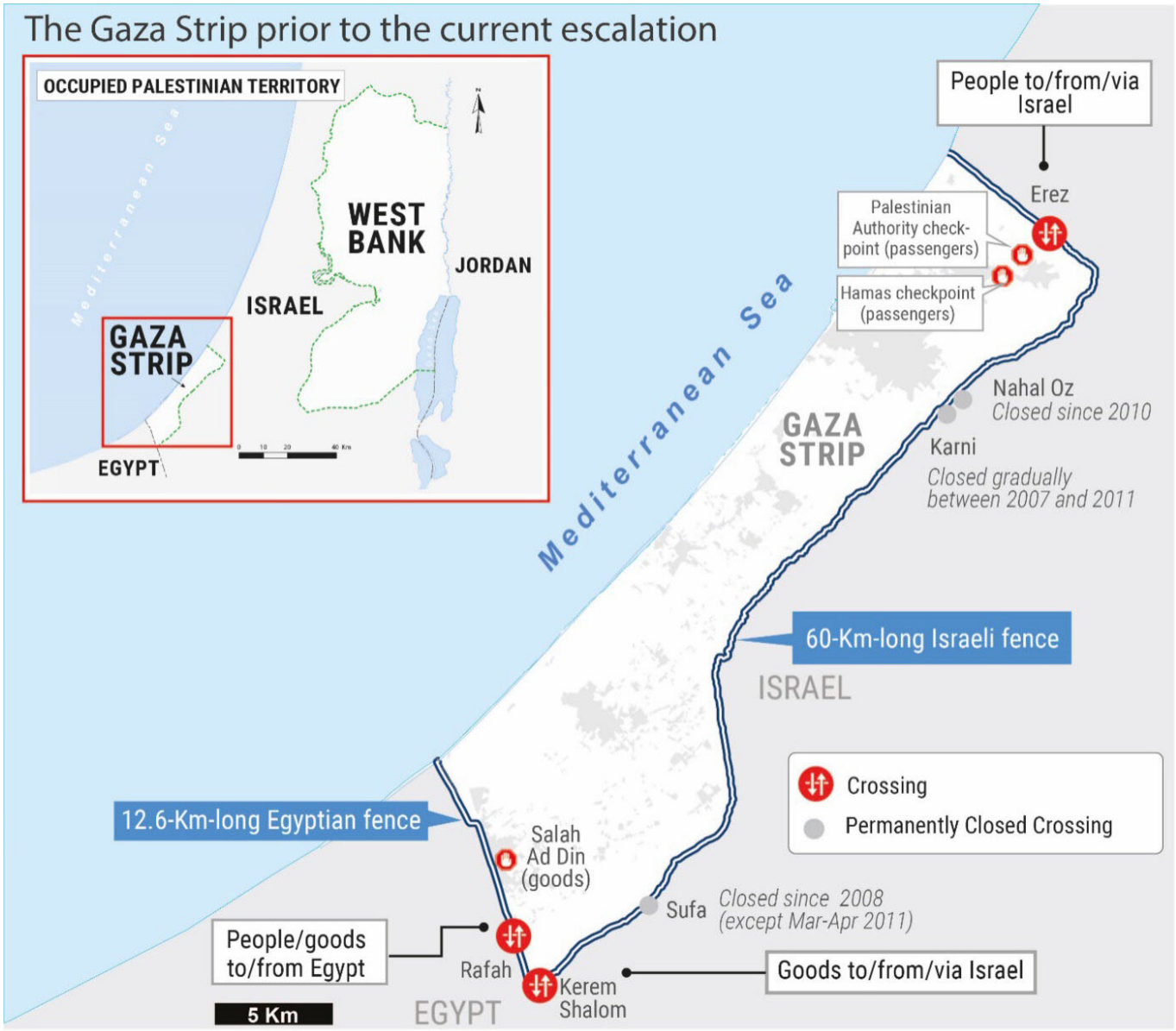
Logistics

The Palestine Logistics Cluster continues to monitor the overall situation and provide support to and from surrounding countries to the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent societies and UNRWA to deliver life-saving assistance. On 9 November, three Logistics Cluster staff deployed to Al-Arish together with OCHA, UNRWA, UNDSS, UNICEF and WHO to work with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to set up an information cell. Moreover, the Palestine Logistics Cluster Coordinator arrived in Jerusalem on 10 November to lead the coordination efforts. To further augment the transport capacity of the ERC, 20 trucks arrived in Al-Arish on 8 November. Additionally, the second and third flights of equipment donated by the Logistics Cluster arrived from the Humanitarian Response Depot in Brindisi on 10 and 11 November. Equipment includes Mobile Storage Units, inflatable cold rooms, temperature-controlled storage and prefabs for ERC volunteers. More information on the Logistics Cluster is available online.

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