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A Palestinian girl waiting for food served by a community kitchen in Gaza city. Photo by UN News

Humanitarian Situation Update #307 | Gaza Strip

23 Jul 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 30 or 31 July.

Key Highlights

- People in Gaza continue to face death, injury, displacement and trauma amid continued hostilities and the slow erosion of conditions essential for survival, including adequate access to food, water, health care and shelter.
- Over one million children are bearing the brunt of deepening starvation and malnutrition, with cases of death from malnutrition increasing by the day. Those who survive face severe, life-altering risks, including impaired cognitive and physical growth.
- More than two million people in the Gaza Strip have been squeezed into less than 45 square kilometres, the size of Gaza city, while 88 per cent of the territory now falls within Israeli-militarized zones or has been placed under displacement orders.
- A recent displacement order by the Israeli military for areas in western Deir al Balah has further strangled humanitarian operations and the functioning of key humanitarian facilities.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, issued additional displacement orders, and further expanded ground operations. On 20 July, the Israeli military issued a displacement order for areas in western Deir al Balah (see more below) and warned people not to return to areas in northern Gaza that according to the Israeli military are currently active combat zones. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel and fighting with Israeli forces have also taken place.
- Gaza's one million children continue to bear the brunt of continued bombardment, deprivation of access to life's essentials, including food, water and adequate health care, and exposure to traumatic events. In a briefing to the UN Security Council on 16 July, Catherine Russell, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), [stated](#) that more than 17,000 children have reportedly been killed and 33,000 injured in Gaza over 21 months, which is the equivalent of a classroom of 28 children killed in Gaza on average each day. "These children are not combatants. They are being killed and maimed as they line up" to access food, medicine, nutritional supplies and water and they continue to endure "catastrophic living conditions," she said. She emphasized that "the simple truth is that we are failing Gaza's children. Seen through their eyes, our failure is a betrayal of their right to be children."
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 16 and 23 July, 646 Palestinians were killed, and 3,438 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 23 July 2025, the MoH in Gaza reported that at least 59,219 Palestinians were killed, and 143,045 Palestinians were injured. This includes 8,363 people killed and 31,004 injured since the re-escalation of hostilities on 18 March 2025, according to MoH. The MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access food supplies has increased to 1,060 fatalities and more than 7,207 injuries since 27 May 2025.

- MoH in Gaza has warned that medical teams have reported a notable increase in hunger-related deaths and complications from malnutrition (see more below), at a time when health facilities lack the capacity and resources to treat the consequences of this catastrophe. Emergency departments are receiving unprecedented numbers of severely weakened and exhausted people of all ages, suffering from extreme fatigue and physical collapse, MoH added. The Ministry highlighted that hundreds, whose bodies have wasted away from starvation and surpassed the limits of their physical endurance, are now severely weakened by hunger and at imminent risk of death.
- Between 16 and 23 July, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 23 July 2025, according to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,651 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. This includes 451 soldiers killed, in addition to 2,821 soldiers injured, in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation in October 2023. As of 23 July, it is estimated that 50 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- Between 16 and 23 July, the Israeli military issued three displacement orders for parts of North Gaza, Gaza and Deir al Balah governorates, covering 10.5 square kilometres. Since 18 March, the Israeli military has issued displacement orders for 303.2 square kilometres (83 per cent of the Gaza Strip). According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), more than 762,500 Palestinians in Gaza were newly displaced between 18 March and 22 July. This includes over 25,000 people displaced between 15 and 22 July. With no safe place to go, many people have sought refuge in overcrowded displacement sites, makeshift shelters, damaged buildings, streets and open areas. People have been confined to ever-shrinking spaces; as of 20 July, around 88 per cent of the Gaza Strip is within Israeli-militarized zones or placed under displacement orders (they largely overlap) since 18 March 2025. The most recent displacement order on 20 July has had especially concerning consequences given that it affects an area of Deir al Balah that has served as a hub for humanitarian operations, including offices, guesthouses, medical facilities, warehouses and other critical infrastructure (see below).
- “The latest Israeli displacement orders, followed by intensive attacks, on southwestern Deir El Balah, in the Gaza Strip, have added more misery to the suffering of hungry Palestinians,” [stated](#) the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk. “It seemed the nightmare couldn’t possibly get worse. And yet it does,” he said, warning that “Israeli airstrikes and ground operations will invariably lead to further civilian deaths and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Given the concentration of civilians in the area, and the means and methods of warfare employed by Israel until now, the risks of unlawful killings and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are extremely high.” He added that “homes have already been destroyed, and thousands have been forced to flee the area again. Their only choice is to go to the ever-shrinking areas of Gaza where hundreds of thousands are being forced to gather, rendering difficult any attempt to deliver humanitarian assistance. Even these areas are not safe.”
- Between 16 and 22 July, out of 75 attempts to coordinate planned aid movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, nearly 23 per cent were denied. An additional 21 per cent were initially accepted but faced impediments, including blocks or delays on the ground potentially resulting in missions being aborted or partially accomplished. Another 31 per cent were fully facilitated, and the remaining 25 per cent had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons. All these include 29 attempts to coordinate aid movements in or to northern Gaza, of which 28 per cent (eight) were facilitated, 28 per cent (eight) were denied, 21 per cent (six) faced impediments, and 24 per cent (seven) were withdrawn. In southern Gaza, out of 46 attempts, 33 per cent (15) were facilitated, 19 per cent (nine) were denied, 22 per cent (10) faced impediments and 26 per cent (12) were withdrawn.
- After two weeks without medical evacuations, on 17 July, the World Health Organization (WHO) led the medical evacuation of 35 patients, mostly children, accompanied by 72 companions, to Jordan. According to WHO, over 10,000 patients require medical evacuation abroad.
- According to Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)), Israeli authorities have allowed only a few of those requesting medical evacuation to do so, with many critical cases being delayed or denied regardless of medical urgency. MSF’s project coordinator for medical evacuations in Gaza said: “You don’t know what is the reason [sic] behind denying cases. Sometimes, when they approve a case, they refuse the companion. You are talking about separation of families, impacting people in need. And this has also impacted many countries that were very active and motivated to take cases out of Gaza, but were blocked because of [Israel’s] refusal.”
- Reports of children disappearing after going to access food at militarized distribution points were reported. According to [HaMoked](#), an Israeli NGO, in the past month, it has been contacted by nine families after their teenage sons went to get food at militarized distribution sites in Gaza and did not return. The Israeli military confirmed to HaMoked that they detained five of the boys. Four of them, ages 15 to 17 years, are being denied access to an attorney, according to HaMoked, while the fate of the other four missing boys is unknown. HaMoked expressed grave concern that they may have been killed.
- On 22 July, the Ministry of Education, with the support of Education Cluster and humanitarian partners, successfully concluded the first phase of the General Secondary Education Examinations (Tawjihi) targeting students who missed their exams in 2023. Out of over 1,800 students who initially registered for the exam, most have taken the exams on 19 and 22 July, with the second session also organized to support students who experienced technical issues, lacked internet access, or were unable to perform their best during the 19 July session. This milestone reflects strong coordination and partners’ support under extremely challenging conditions. Planning is ongoing for the second and third phases; however, their implementation remains dependent on improvements in the security and access environment, particularly the possibility of a ceasefire. A total of 77 learning spaces have already been identified to host the next round of exams, although substantial logistical preparations are still required to ensure readiness.

Strikes Resulting in Casualties

- On 17 July, the compound of the Holy Family Church in Gaza city was hit, killing three people, including one woman, and injuring 10 others. The Patriarchate of Jerusalem [stated](#) that the church was sheltering 600 displaced persons, the majority of whom are children and 54 people are with special needs. It was noted that large parts of the church were destroyed, and the people with special needs were forced to evacuate, some of whom without being able to take the respirators they rely on for survival. On 18 July, the Latin Patriarch and the Greek Orthodox Patriarch [entered](#) Gaza to assess the needs. In coordination with humanitarian partners, the delivery of essential assistance to the Christian community and as many families as possible was secured. This included hundreds of tons of food supplies, first aid kits, and urgently needed medical equipment. In addition, the Patriarchate ensured the evacuation of people injured in the attack to medical institutions outside Gaza where they will receive care.
- Casualties among people trying to access food supplies continue to be reported. Key incidents include:
 - On 16 July, at about 08:20, 18 Palestinians, including one female, were reportedly killed in a stampede near a militarized distribution point in Khan Younis.
 - On 18 July, at about 17:00, nine Palestinians were reportedly shot and killed near a militarized distribution point in northwest Rafah.
 - On 19 July, during the morning hours, Nasser Hospital, in Khan Younis, [reported](#) that it received 25 Palestinian fatalities and more than 100 injured people from areas where people were seeking aid.
 - On 20 July, according to a statement by the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)), a 25-truck WFP convoy carrying vital food assistance crossed Zikim crossing, in northern Gaza, and subsequently encountered large crowds of civilians anxiously waiting to access desperately needed food supplies. "As the convoy approached, the surrounding crowd came under fire from Israeli tanks, snipers and other gunfire," resulting in mass casualties. At 14:45, the MoH reported that 73 people had been killed and more than 150, some in critical condition, were injured in the incident. Dr. Mohammed Abu Selmiyah, the director of Al Shifa Hospital, [stated](#) that the hospital was overwhelmed with the influx of casualties and that most of the received injuries were in the head or chest. Based on available reports, this appears to be the highest number of fatalities among Palestinians seeking food in a single location and on a single day since 27 May.
- Mass casualties, including in strikes on people sheltering in schools, tents and residential buildings, continue to be reported. Key incidents include:
 - On 16 July, at about 11:45, six Palestinians, including two girls, two boys and a woman, were reportedly killed when IDP tents were hit in Khan Younis.
 - On 16 July, at about 17:40, seven Palestinians, including one boy and one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured, including children and at least one woman, in a strike in Al Bureij Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 16 July, at about 16:15, at least five people, including a female infant, were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in As Sabra area, in Gaza city.
 - On 17 July, at about 01:45, five Palestinians, including three females, were reportedly killed and 17 others injured, some critically, when an IDP tent inside a school was hit in Al Bureij camp in Deir al Balah.
 - On 17 July, at about 07:30, eight Palestinians guarding humanitarian aid were reportedly killed in a strike on At Twam area, south of Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza. Reports indicated that fatalities included men who belonged to tribes and families volunteering to guard humanitarian convoys.
 - On 17 July, at about 18:45, a Palestinian woman and her son were reportedly killed and nine others injured when a school housing IDPs was hit west of Khan Younis.
 - On 18 July, at about 03:15, at least five Palestinians, including two females, were reportedly killed and 10 others injured when a residential building was hit west of Khan Younis.
 - On 18 July, at about 20:00, three Palestinians were reportedly killed and three others injured when a school sheltering IDPs was hit in Ash Sheikh Radwan, north of Gaza city.
 - On 20 July, at about 14:20, 14 Palestinians, including a girl, were reportedly killed in strikes on tents in Al Mawasi, in western Khan Younis. The Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) reported that its facility in the area was hit, resulting in the killing of one staff member and the injury of five others. According to PCD, this incident marks the 11th time PCD points and centres were targeted, and the 25th attack on personnel while on duty, with a total of 134 PCD staff killed and 336 injured since October 2023.
 - On 21 July, at about 14:00, five Palestinians, including a woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when a water filling point was hit in Al Rimal neighbourhood, west of Gaza city.
 - On 22 July, at about 01:00, 15 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and around 50 others were injured when IDP tents were hit in Ash Shati' (Beach) Camp, west of Gaza city.
 - On 22 July, at about 18:30, 15 Palestinians, including six children, were reportedly killed and many others injured when a residential building was hit in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza. Reportedly, some paramedics were also injured, and at least one

ambulance was damaged, as the residential building is located near an ambulance station.

- In less than two months, the UN Human Rights office (OHCHR) has [recorded](#) at least 10 strikes in Gaza that killed at least 10 doctors and five nurses, including seven strikes on residential buildings or tents that killed medical professionals along with their families. In one incident on 14 July, a nurse was killed in a strike on his tent, in Khan Younis, along with his three daughters, all children. Another strike on 5 July on the tent of a physician in Al Qarara, in Khan Younis, killed him along with his two daughters and son. Earlier on 6 June, a strike on a residential building in North Gaza killed five physicians and one nurse from the same family. And on 23 May, a strike on a residential building in southern Khan Younis killed a doctor and nine of his children. OHCHR noted that it “has not received any indication that [these medical professionals] or their families were in any way directly participating in hostilities, raising serious concerns regarding possible wilful killings or attacks directed at civilians, which would amount to war crimes.” Coupled with the destruction of hospitals and the absence of medicine and equipment, these “killings in this context further limit or negate the availability of life saving treatment for Palestinians,” OHCHR added.
- On 20 July, according to the Education Cluster, a school serving children in kindergarten and 1st through 6th Grade was hit in Gaza city. At the time of the incident, approximately 200 children were present. The strike caused significant structural damage and injured a six-year-old boy. The school had previously sustained damage from tank shelling, which had been temporarily repaired using tarpaulins, allowing for a limited resumption of learning activities. Following the latest incident, the school has suspended all learning to allow for debris clearance and a full damage assessment. All students and staff urgently require mental health and psycho-social support and sustained learning support to safeguard their well-being and minimize disruption to their learning.

Starvation in Gaza is Deepening and Claiming Lives Daily

- Over the past 65 days, humanitarian organizations have been able to bring into Gaza only limited quantities of aid to address acute levels of food insecurity and other basic needs essential for the survival of the civilian population. This is due to a number of interdependent factors, including: bureaucratic, logistical, administrative and other operational obstacles imposed by Israeli authorities; ongoing hostilities and access constraints within Gaza; and rising incidents of looting and shooting at desperate people gathering to offload aid supplies along convoy routes, which have placed people and humanitarian staff at grave risk and forced aid agencies on many occasions to pause the collection of cargo from crossings controlled by the Israeli authorities. Under these conditions, most of the extremely limited humanitarian assistance collected by humanitarian organizations has been either looted or offloaded by desperate crowds under fire, and the little assistance that could reach warehouses, distribution points and humanitarian facilities has been woefully insufficient to curb starvation or sustain the continued operation of key lifesaving interventions, particularly amid the ongoing issuance of displacement orders and increased civil unrest. Meanwhile, critical items like tents have not been allowed into Gaza for over 140 days.
- According to the Food Security Sector (FSS), limited food is available in the Strip, but accessing it remains challenging, if not impossible – prices have skyrocketed for the food items that remain available in markets while other limited quantities are often accessed under fire. All UN-supported bakeries remain closed. Less than 160,000 cooked meals are currently being prepared at community kitchens that remain operational, including 100,000 in northern Gaza and about 60,000 in central and southern Gaza. Meanwhile, people continue to risk their lives trying to secure food at militarized distribution points (see above) and generally survive on a single nutritiously poor meal per day. Nearly one person in three goes entire days without eating, according to [WFP](#). To survive, people have been forced to resort to increasingly desperate and undignified coping strategies ranging from fasting to reducing meal size, rationing bread for children, borrowing, begging, and scavenging for food from garbage. Despite this, the risk of famine persists as families are increasingly unable to protect their most vulnerable members from the impacts of prolonged and high levels of food insecurity.
- Gaza's population now faces dangerously imbalanced, nutrient-deficient diets, with food diversity at its most critical point. According to the most recent market monitoring and food security [analysis](#), issued in June, food diversity has plummeted. Dairy products no longer form part of people's diets, dropping from an average consumption of four days per week prior to October 2023. Vegetable consumption also dropped dramatically to just half-a-day a week, compared with six days pre-October 2023, and fruit intake is almost absent. Protein sources, such as meat, poultry and eggs – which were previously consumed three days per week – have completely disappeared from household diets. Only pulses and bread remain somewhat available; pulses are consumed about four days weekly (similar to pre-October rates), but bread consumption has sharply declined from an average of seven to only four days per week. Lack of food diversity leads to multiple nutrient deficiencies and increases the risk of acute malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Hunger and malnutrition increase the risk of illness that weakens the immune system, which leads to risks of excess morbidity and mortality due to disease. The impact of food scarcity on pregnant and lactating women is especially severe; their babies are more likely to be born with health complications, and it becomes harder for mothers to breastfeed, putting children at increased risk of contracting infectious diseases. Without a nutritious diet, caregivers and children are at increased risk of illness. Similarly vulnerable are the elderly, people with disabilities, and people suffering from chronic diseases.
- Each day, humanitarian metrics show a further decline, now also measured in the number of child deaths from acute malnutrition. Data collected from nutrition cluster partners show that malnutrition in Gaza has reached very critical thresholds. In the first two weeks of July, nearly 5,000 of about 56,000 children under the age of five screened for malnutrition in Gaza, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates were found to be acute malnourished; this is a rate of nine per cent up from six per cent in June and 2.4 per cent in February. The prevalence of malnutrition in Gaza city is even more alarming, with roughly 16 per cent of about 15,000 children screened for malnutrition found to suffer from acute malnutrition, compared with four per cent in February. In June, a nutrition cluster survey found that over 95 per cent of children in Gaza consumed two or fewer out of eight food groups. Since January 2025, partners have documented the cases of 20 children who died from severe acute malnutrition, of whom 13 have died in July so far, and the number is increasing daily. According to the MoH in Gaza, as of 22 July, they have documented 101 deaths from malnutrition, including 80 children, of whom 11 adults and four children died in hospitals in the preceding 24 hours.

- In mid-May, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis [projected](#) that nearly 71,000 annual cases of acute malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months, including 14,100 severe cases, are expected to occur between April 2025 and March 2026. So far, since April 2025, nutrition cluster partners have identified over 3,600 cases of acute malnutrition out of more than 23,760 screened children under five and are warning that the situation is worsening by the day. Malnutrition in children in Gaza is driven by poor diets, inadequate feeding and caregiving practices, and limited access to essential health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services – all of which are severely compromised in the current context. According to the Nutrition Cluster, a severely malnourished child is over ten times more likely to die than a well-nourished child. Beyond the immediate risk to life, the consequences for those who survive can be long-lasting: malnutrition during early childhood can impair brain development, weaken the immune system, reduce the body's ability to absorb nutrients, and hinder both cognitive and physical growth – affecting their well-being far into the future.
- To avert this looming catastrophic situation, food security partners and all aid actors urge all parties to the conflict and those with influence on their conduct to take immediate action to facilitate the at-scale resumption of humanitarian aid flows into the Gaza Strip via all crossing points and address access challenges inside Gaza in ways that ensure that there is a secure and enabling environment for the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance in line with humanitarian principles. The previous IPC analyses for Gaza show that food security and malnutrition can deteriorate, and also recover, swiftly in response to the amount of food supplies that are permitted to enter the Gaza Strip and can be distributed.

Worsening Access to Water

- According to the WASH Cluster, the water crisis in Gaza continues to deteriorate rapidly amid a severe fuel shortage, extensive infrastructure damage, and inaccessible water sources. As of 20 July, 82 per cent of public WASH facilities and assets (573 out of 696) are within the Israeli-militarized zone or under displacement orders since 18 March. With only 79 wells accessible and functional across the Gaza Strip, compared with more than 220 in April, groundwater well output has dropped sharply, declining from 100,000 cubic metres (m³) per day during the ceasefire to just 31,000 cubic metres (m³) per day at present – a 69 per cent reduction. Losses through the dilapidated and heavily damaged networks are critically high, ranging between 50 and 80 per cent, depending on the location, further reducing water availability. In addition, insufficient energy and the lack of spare parts have led to a significant decline in water production from public desalination plants, which are now producing only 4,700 m³ per day, despite having a potential capacity exceeding 22,000 m³ per day.
- Water supply from the three Mekorot lines from Israel has continued to shrink, with only the Khan Younis line currently operational, the WASH Cluster reported. The line was repaired on 19 July and water flow to As Sater reservoir has resumed; water trucking is expected to restart once access is granted. However, the Gaza city Mekorot line ceased functioning as of 20 July, aggravating water accessibility, which like other areas of the Gaza Strip, has already been constrained by widespread damage to water infrastructure and the inaccessibility of many water assets that remain functional. According to the [Gaza Municipality](#), the main desalination plant in northern Gaza is completely non-functional and large portions of Gaza city have reportedly been without water for several consecutive days. The Municipality added that the still functional wells now provide less than 12 per cent of the city's minimum daily water needs, with daily per capita water share at some displacement sites now as low as two litres, even in areas still served by functioning wells.

A Recent Displacement Order Further Strangles Humanitarian Operations

- The displacement order issued by the Israeli military on 20 July cuts through Deir al Balah all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, further fragmenting the Strip and pushing people into overcrowded, unsafe areas with no shelter or essential services. The Israeli military [urged](#) residents, including those in tents, to immediately relocate southwards to Al Mawasi. Initial estimates indicate that 50,000 to 80,000 people, including over 32,000 in 57 displacement sites, and 59 humanitarian sites are present in the area. In a matter of hours, over 1,000 families were displaced, with reports of subsequent waves of displacement taking place. While humanitarians were also asked to evacuate, the UN is sheltering in place in notified sites, spread across several UN premises. On 21 July, the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General António Guterres [stated](#) that this order “pushes people into more desperate conditions and further displacement and restricts the United Nations’ ability to deliver life-saving aid. UN staff remain in Deir al Balah, and two UN guesthouses have been struck, despite parties having been informed of the locations of UN premises, which are inviolable.”
- On 21 July, WHO reported that its main warehouse in Deir al Balah, which is in the area slated for displacement, was damaged after an attack caused explosions and fire and was subsequently looted by crowds. The WHO staff residence was also [attacked](#) three times and the Israeli military entered the premises, forcing women and children to evacuate on foot toward Al Mawasi. “Male staff and family members were handcuffed, stripped, interrogated on the spot, and screened at gunpoint. Two WHO staff and two family members were detained. Three were later released, while one staff member remains in detention. Thirty-two people, including women and children, were collected and evacuated to the WHO office in a high-risk mission, once access became possible,” WHO added. Most of WHO's staff housing is now inaccessible and 43 staff and their families were already relocated from several staff residences to the WHO office, which is close to the area slated for displacement.
- On 21 July, the Executive Director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) [stated](#) that the UNOPS central Gaza premises in Deir al Balah have been hit; buildings are damaged, power lines from our generator and solar panels are cut, and there are no functioning water supplies. Thirteen UNOPS colleagues currently based at this location, have been working tirelessly in extremely difficult circumstances to deliver critical fuel and aid. UNOPS added that this is the same location struck by a tank round in March this year when a UNOPS colleague was killed.
- As many humanitarian facilities are located in or near the area slated for displacement in Deir al Balah, humanitarian operations have been further strangled. While the UN is sheltering in place in notified sites, many partners evacuated their facilities,

interrupting service provision. Affected facilities include the following:

- Nine medical points and Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) are located in the area, according to the Health Cluster. As of 21 July, at least three of the PHCs and one medical point were forced to suspend services. This includes the Solidarity Polyclinic [operated](#) by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), which was treating 320 people every day. Furthermore, Premiere Urgence International ([PUI](#)) teams were forced to evacuate two medical points they had been operating, where about 415 displaced people were receiving primary healthcare, mental health support, sexual and reproductive health services, and nutrition assistance on a daily basis.
- Four community kitchens out of seven located within or near the affected area have been temporarily closed as of 22 July, of which one re-opened on 23 July.
- Key WASH infrastructure has been impacted by the order, including the Southern Gaza Desalination Plant (SGDP) – a critical source of drinking water for displaced people in Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis, producing about 2,500 cubic metres per day. As of 21 July, the plant remained operational but was no longer accessible and all water trucking from this source ceased. If the plant goes out of service for more than 72 hours, the reverse osmosis membrane will be irreparably damaged, with a catastrophic impact for the population. Moreover, the only two solid waste dumping sites have become inaccessible, prompting the urgent need to identify alternative dumping areas to manage solid waste in Deir al Balah.
- At least nine Protection Cluster partners were directly affected, with over 100 staff members displaced, and several protection facilities rendered inaccessible. As a result, over 15,000 people are now facing fully suspended or severely disrupted services. This includes 700 displaced people sheltering in one safe space with dedicated services to persons with disabilities that had to be evacuated, and over 520 Palestinians receiving daily MHPSS, Psychological First Aid, case management, including in relation to gender-based violence, and structured awareness activities. Approximately 1,000 people were also affected by the suspension of food and hygiene kit distributions and 350 children were impacted by the suspension of psychosocial support in educational spaces. Protection partners, lacking fuel for over a month, have faced severe constraints in re-establishing any of the above services as mobile ones in new areas of displacement. The displacement order has also aggravated the psychological toll on protection staff, who like other aid workers, are facing ongoing starvation, accumulating fatigue and emotional distress.
- Three displacement camps, run by Action for Humanity, have been directly [affected](#) by the displacement order and intensifying military operations. Two of the camps were fully evacuated while in the third camp, where 56 families have their tents fixed and difficult to move, women and children have relocated to safer areas in Deir al Balah. Action for Humanity reported that all of its humanitarian activities in the area slated for displacement have been suspended.
- A Temporary Learning Space (TLS) consisting of 10 tents, which had been serving over 1,500 children, was destroyed. This site is one of seven TLS affected by the displacement order in the area. According to the Education Cluster, if families return, children previously enrolled will have no functional learning spaces to continue their education. Partners are severely constrained in re-establishing education services and ensuring continuity of learning for affected students.

Funding

- As of 21 July 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$783 million out of the \$4 billion (19 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 [Flash Appeal](#) for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during June 2025, the [oPt Humanitarian Fund](#) managed 122 ongoing projects, totalling \$70.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 58 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 48 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 42 out of the 74 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

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



Seven-month-old Iman, with her mother, at a medical point in a school-turned-shelter in Gaza city. She was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition at six months and UNRWA health teams have been providing her with emergency treatment and supplementary food. Photo by © 2025 UNRWA

Humanitarian Situation Update #309 | Gaza Strip

30 Jul 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 6 or 7 August.

Key Highlights

- The Gaza Strip is on the brink of famine, UN agencies warn, based on the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification alert findings.
- In the first two weeks of July, 96 per cent of surveyed households experienced moderate to high levels of water insecurity, a three per cent increase compared with June.
- Israeli authorities announced daily, ten-hour tactical pauses in military activity in areas of Al Mawasi, Deir al Balah and Gaza city, among other steps to increase the scale of humanitarian aid entering Gaza.
- The Israeli authorities connected the Southern Gaza Desalination Plant to the power grid, enabling it to operate at full capacity.
- As airdrops resume, the Protection Cluster warns that this modality could kill or injure civilians and is insufficient in scale to meet the extensive needs inside Gaza, among other concerns.
- Medical evacuations are declining; nearly two-thirds of patients evacuated from Gaza for urgent treatment abroad exited prior to the closure of Rafah crossing in May 2024.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, alongside continued ground operations. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel and fighting with Israeli forces have also taken place. Since 20 July, no new displacement orders have been issued by Israeli authorities. On 27 July, the Israeli authorities informed humanitarian organizations that they have rescinded the displacement order issued on 20 July for an area of Deir al Balah that had served as a hub for humanitarian operations, including offices, guesthouses, medical facilities, warehouses and other critical infrastructure. Across the Gaza Strip, the number of displaced people has increased by over 5,000 between 22 and 29 July, reaching more than 767,800 people since 18 March, according to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)); these figures may count the same person more than once if they have been displaced multiple times. Based on available information, about 80 per cent of newly recorded movements originated from or took place within Khan Younis governorate, SMC reported.
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 23 and 30 July, 640 Palestinians were killed, and 3,224 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 30 July 2025, the MoH in Gaza reported that at least 60,138 Palestinians were killed, and 146,269 Palestinians were injured. This includes 8,970 people killed and 34,228 injured since the re-escalation of hostilities on 18 March 2025, according to MoH. The Ministry said that the cumulative figure, since October 2023, includes 279 fatalities who were

retroactively added on 24 July 2025 after their identification details were consolidated and approved by a ministerial committee. The MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access food supplies has increased to 1,239 fatalities and more than 8,152 injuries since 27 May 2025.

- Between 23 and 30 July, three Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 30 July 2025, according to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,654 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. This includes 454 soldiers killed, in addition to 2,864 soldiers injured, in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation in October 2023. As of 30 July, it is estimated that 50 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- On 29 July, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Initiative issued an [alert](#), noting that the worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip, amid widespread starvation, malnutrition and disease, mass displacement, severely restricted humanitarian access, and the collapse of essential services, including health care. The latest data indicate that famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of the Gaza Strip and for acute malnutrition in Gaza city (see alert for threshold definitions). Data remotely collected in July 2025 using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) confirm that food consumption across the Gaza Strip has worsened dramatically, reaching its lowest level since October 2023; in July, 81 percent of households reported poor food consumption (up from 33 percent in April) and 24 percent of households are experiencing very severe hunger (up from four per cent in April), crossing the famine threshold for food consumption. Moreover, acute malnutrition rates doubled in Khan Younis and increased by 70 per cent in Deir al Balah between May and July and, in Gaza city, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate soared from 4.4 per cent in May to an alarming 16.5 per cent in the first half of July, thereby reaching the Famine threshold for acute malnutrition. The situation in North Gaza governorate, which faces similar challenges, cannot be verified due to the lack of data. The alert highlighted that nearly nine out of ten households have resorted to extremely severe coping mechanisms to feed themselves, such as taking significant safety risks to obtain food, and scavenging from the garbage.
- “The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Alert confirms what we have feared: Gaza is on the brink of famine. The facts are in – and they are undeniable,” [said](#) the UN Secretary-General. He added that “Palestinians in Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. This is not a warning. It is a reality unfolding before our eyes. The trickle of aid must become an ocean. Food, water, medicine and fuel must flow in waves and without obstruction. This nightmare must end.”
- On 29 July, the World Food Programme’s (WFP) Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Ross Smith, [called](#) for immediate action, noting that tactical pauses (see below) are welcome, but that the volume of humanitarian assistance remains insufficient, including food, nutrition and health supplies, water and sanitation support, and everything needed “to alleviate the really desperate levels that we are seeing both from this IPC alert but also on our television screens every day,” he added.
- On 24 July, MoH in Gaza stated that it has documented a total 113 malnutrition-related deaths, including 81 children and 32 adults; these included four deaths in 2023, 50 in 2024 and 59 in 2025. According to the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), as of 27 July, 74 malnutrition-related deaths were documented in 2025, including 63 in July. As of 30 July, malnutrition-related deaths surged to 154, including 89 children, according to [MoH](#), of whom seven died in hospitals in the preceding 24 hours.
- The Israeli military [announced](#) that as of 27 July, “a local tactical pause in military activity will take place for humanitarian purposes from 10:00 to 20:00” in areas of Al Mawasi, Deir al Balah and Gaza city “to increase the scale of humanitarian aid entering Gaza.” Other [announced](#) steps include daily airdrop operations, each carrying seven pallets of flour, sugar and canned food, reconnecting the power line from Israel to the southern Gaza desalination plant, lifting customs barriers on food, medicine and fuel from Egypt, and the designation of secure routes for UN humanitarian convoys. Welcoming these steps as progress toward staving off famine and a catastrophic health crisis, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, [stressed](#) that sustained action entails faster clearances, multiple daily trips to collect aid cargo, safe routes that avoid crowded areas, and no more attacks on people gathering for food. He further noted that ultimately what is needed is a permanent ceasefire.
- On 28 July, the Protection Cluster in the OPT welcomed the establishment of humanitarian corridors and tactical pauses, but [cautioned](#) that airdropped aid poses the risk of harm to civilians, referencing reports that airdropped aid during the night on 27 July landed on tents, injuring people, and on damaged buildings where people trying to reach aid faced the risk of bodily harm by explosive ordnance. The Cluster added that airdrops “result in inequitable distribution and exclusion of vulnerable groups most in need...include high risk of diversion, undermine humanitarian principles, compromise dignity of the affected population, are insufficient in scale to meet the extensive needs inside Gaza, and risk deflecting from legal obligations of Israel to facilitate meaningful humanitarian access.”
- Between 23 and 29 July, out of 92 attempts to coordinate planned aid movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, nearly 16 per cent were denied. An additional 26 per cent were initially accepted but faced impediments, including blocks or delays on the ground potentially resulting in missions being aborted or partially accomplished. Another 47 per cent were fully facilitated, and the remaining 11 per cent had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons. All these include 47 attempts to coordinate aid movements in or to northern Gaza, of which 46.8 per cent (22) were facilitated, 23.4 per cent (11) were denied, 23.4 per cent (11) faced impediments, and 6.4 per cent (three) were withdrawn. In southern Gaza, out of 45 attempts, 47 per cent (21) were facilitated, nine per cent (four) were denied, 29 per cent (13) faced impediments and 15 per cent (seven) were withdrawn.
- According to the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), between 7 October 2023 and 17 July 2025, 7,460 patients including 5,160 children were evacuated from Gaza for medical treatment abroad. Sixty-six per cent of the total (4,947 patients including 4,034

children) were evacuated through the Rafah crossing with Egypt prior to its closure on 7 May 2024. Following that, 459 patients were evacuated via Kerem Shalom crossing between 8 May 2024 and 18 January 2025, 1,702 patients including 606 children were evacuated during the ceasefire between 19 January and 17 March 2025, and only 352 patients including 249 children were evacuated abroad between 18 March and 16 July. Trauma and oncology are the top medical conditions among those evacuated. Most patients were referred to Egypt (3,995), United Arab Emirates (1,387) and Qatar (970).

- Overcrowding in shelters, lack of privacy, and increasing levels of food insecurity continue to elevate the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) for women and girls amid serious disruptions to service continuity. In southern Gaza, the situation is especially dire since there is no longer a safe shelter for GBV survivors, following the issuance of a displacement order on 20 July that forced the relocation of services to Gaza city, and most staff addressing GBV have themselves been displaced who, like the rest of the population, have been suffering from hunger, insecurity and poor living conditions that have constrained their capacity to provide support. So far in July, partners addressing GBV provided 3,017 women with individual counselling to promote well-being and recovery, and 332 GBV survivors with cash assistance, compared with 2,221 women who received counselling and 409 GBV survivors who received cash assistance in June.

Strikes Resulting in Casualties

- Key casualty incidents, including in strikes on people sheltering in schools, tents and residential buildings, include the following:
 - On 23 July, a journalist was reportedly killed along with her husband, four children and three other people when a residential building was hit southwest of Gaza city.
 - On 24 July, a photojournalist was reportedly killed along with another two men and two boys when a tent for internally displaced people (IDPs) was hit in central Gaza city.
 - On 25 July, at about 12:30, five Palestinian males were reportedly killed and others injured when a school sheltering IDPs was hit in Al Rimal neighbourhood in central Gaza city.
 - On 26 July, at about 23:00, six Palestinians, including two women, were reportedly killed and others, including children, injured when an apartment was hit west of Gaza city.
 - On 27 July, at about 10:30, five Palestinians, including a woman and her four children, were reportedly killed when an apartment in a residential building was hit in Al Rimal neighbourhood in Gaza city.
 - On 26 July, at about 14:30, eight Palestinians, including at least one female, were reportedly killed when a tent was hit in an IDP site in southwestern Khan Younis.
 - On 27 July, at about 02:00, seven Palestinians, including at least three children, were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit in Asda'a area, in northwestern Khan Younis.
 - On 28 July, at about 0:10, at least 20 Palestinians, including at least nine females, were reportedly killed and 25 others injured when a residential building was hit in Al Mawasi area in Khan Younis. Several casualties were reported among IDPs living in tents near the building.
 - On 28 July, at about 0:40, at least 15 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit and destroyed in western Khan Younis.
 - During the night of 28-29 July, at least 29 Palestinians from three families, including 12 children and 14 women (of whom two were pregnant), were reportedly killed when residential buildings were hit in the New Camp area north of An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 29 July, at about 10:00, five Palestinians, including a man and his four children were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit in Al Mawasi, in western Khan Younis.
- Key incidents of casualties among people trying to access food supplies include the following:
 - On 24 July, at about 15:15, at least 14 Palestinians, including at least one female, were reportedly killed when fire was opened towards Palestinians who gathered near the militarized distribution point in southwestern Khan Younis.
 - On 24 July, the Red Cross Field Hospital [received](#) 17 wounded women, with two women declared dead on arrival, after a militarized distribution point in Rafah was announced open for women. Those responsive among the injured said they had been trying to access the distribution site.
 - On 25 July, at about 20:00, 20 Palestinians were reportedly killed and more than 300 others injured when fire was opened towards Palestinians waiting for a humanitarian aid convoy in the Zikim area, in North Gaza.
 - On 26 July, at about 19:30, 10 Palestinians were reportedly killed and dozens of others injured when fire was opened on Palestinians waiting for a humanitarian aid convoy in North Gaza.
 - On 26 July, at about 17:45, 12 Palestinian males were reportedly killed when they and other Palestinians waiting for a humanitarian aid convoy were hit in southeastern Khan Younis.

- On 28 July, at about 19:30, 10 Palestinians, including children, were reportedly killed and several others injured while waiting for humanitarian aid convoys in As Sudaniya area, southwest of Beit Lahiya in North Gaza.
- On 28 July, at about 15:30, at least 28 Palestinian males were reportedly killed and several others injured when fire was opened towards people waiting for a humanitarian food convoy in the Morag area, in Khan Younis.
- On 28 July, according to [Al Awda](#) Health and Community Association, their hospital in An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah, received seven fatalities and 22 injured people due to strikes on people near the militarized distribution point on Salah ad Din Street, south of Wadi Gaza.
- On 29 July, at about 11:23, at least 13 people were reportedly killed and at least 105 others injured in strikes on people waiting near the Wadi Gaza militarized distribution point.
- On 29 July, between 12:00 and 17:30, at least eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and 126 others injured due to open fire and heavy artillery shelling at people waiting for humanitarian food convoys in the Zikim crossing area, northwest of Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.

Continued Plummeting of Nutrition and Food Security Indicators

- Based on the findings of the IPC Alert, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) [warned](#) that time is running out to mount a full-scale humanitarian response in Gaza, with more than 500,000 people enduring famine-like conditions, the remaining population facing emergency levels of hunger, and fewer than 15 per cent of essential nutrition treatment services currently functional. As of July 2025, over 320,000 children, the entire population under five years of age in the Gaza Strip, are at risk of acute malnutrition, with thousands suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the deadliest form of undernutrition. The agencies added that acute malnutrition and reports of starvation-related deaths – the third core famine indicator – are increasingly common but collecting robust data under current circumstances in Gaza remains very difficult. “Gaza is now on the brink of a full-scale famine. People are starving not because food is unavailable, but because access is blocked, local agrifood systems have collapsed, and families can no longer sustain even the most basic livelihoods,” said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu. “Emaciated children and babies are dying from malnutrition in Gaza,” said UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell, adding that immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access across Gaza is needed to scale up the delivery of life-saving food, nutrition, water and medicine.
- The Nutrition Cluster reported that adults’ prioritization of feeding children over themselves, which have, along with supplementary feeding programmes, mitigated a rise in acute malnutrition prior to April, is no longer sufficient in maintaining children’s dietary diversity and nutritional status. While children’s dairy consumption has been steadily declining since January, the April-June period saw a sharp decline from 31 per cent in April to 18 per cent in May and nine per cent in June. Micronutrient deficiencies are likely rising rapidly alongside acute malnutrition, with dire impacts on children’s health, development, and risk of mortality. Between 1 and 15 July, 5,550 children under five years of age have been admitted for the treatment of acute malnutrition, of whom 998 were severely malnourished, compared with 6,500 children in June of whom 1,200 were severely malnourished, according to the Nutrition Cluster. These include 2,724 cases in Gaza city, compared with 2,400 in all of June.
- UN Women [stated](#) that one million “women and girls in Gaza are facing mass starvation, violence and abuse. Malnutrition is soaring and essential services have long collapsed, forcing women and girls to adopt increasingly dangerous survival strategies.” “Women and girls in Gaza are facing the impossible choice of starving to death at their shelters or venturing out in search of food and water at the extreme risk of being killed. Their children are starving to death before their eyes. This is horrific, unconscionable and unacceptable. It is inhumane,” said UN Women’s Executive Director, Sima Bahous. Women in Gaza are reportedly boiling discarded food scraps to feed their children, and risk being killed when searching for food and water. Some women are also enduring pregnancies without food, and high-risk deliveries without water or medical care, UN Women said.
- On 28 July, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) likewise [warned](#) of a deepening malnutrition emergency in Gaza, noting that a medical point operated by their local partner, Ard El Insan, in Deir al Balah reported that 44 per cent of screened pregnant and breastfeeding mothers suffered from severe malnutrition and urgently needed to be referred for medical treatment, up from 35 per cent in May. The medical point, which provided essential care and nutrition services to some 200 malnourished women and children, was forced to shut down on 20 July following the issuance of a displacement order by the Israeli authorities. According to MAP, infants remain the most vulnerable due to a critical shortage of baby formula, with no suitable alternatives currently available. MAP’s Deputy Director of Programmes in south Gaza said that malnutrition-related deaths are increasing not only among children but also the elderly. The parents of two siblings with severe malnutrition signs told a MAP’s Community Health Worker who gave them ready-to-use therapeutic food that “on their luckiest day, they survive on just dry bread and tea.”
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also [reported](#) an increasing number of malnourished patients at its clinics. Across screenings at MSF facilities last week, 25 per cent of children aged 6 months to 5 years old and pregnant or breastfeeding women were malnourished. At the MSF clinic in Gaza city, the number of people enrolled to receive malnutrition treatment has quadrupled since 18 May, while rates of severe malnutrition in children under five have tripled in the last two weeks alone. “We are now enrolling 25 new patients every single day [to receive] malnutrition [treatment]. We see the exhaustion and the hunger in our own colleagues,” said a project coordinator at the MSF clinic in Gaza city. MSF added that it treated dozens of patients from flour convoy routes, highlighting that one day, at Sheikh Radwan clinic in Gaza city, MSF and MoH medical teams treated 122 people with gunshot wounds who had been fired on while waiting for flour. An additional 46 people were dead on arrival.
- Similarly, Save the Children [reported](#) that the number of children under five years of age with acute malnutrition at its Gaza clinics surged 10-fold in four months. Of the 3,533 children Save the Children screened for malnutrition during the first half of July, 259

were admitted for treatment (seven per cent), compared with 28 (one per cent) in March. Additionally, more than four in 10 pregnant and breastfeeding women – 43 per cent - screened at Save the Children's clinics so far in July were found to be malnourished, almost three times as many as in March (16 per cent).

Access to Water

- On 26 July, the Israeli authorities reconnected the Southern Gaza Desalination Plant to the electricity grid, significantly boosting its capacity to produce safe drinking water – from 2,500 cubic metres per day (previously sustained by generators) to its full operational capacity of 18,000 cubic metres per day. This output has the potential to serve up to one million people with drinking water at a rate of six litres per person per day, when complemented by domestic water for other uses. However, the WASH Cluster has emphasized that this progress is dependent on several critical factors related to water distribution: the availability of fuel and spare parts for water trucks, the operation and construction of filling stations, the establishment of water distribution points, and the feasibility of expanding the water distribution network. Following the reconnection, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility has [begun](#) upgrading and maintaining the carrier line that delivers desalinated water from the Plant to improve water distribution and service delivery.
- The WASH Cluster conducted the monthly Light-Touch Monitoring ([LTM](#)) survey between 7 and 12 July to monitor the evolution of perceived WASH needs, identify key barriers to accessing WASH services, and evaluate the availability and affordability of essential WASH items. The findings reveal that 96 per cent of surveyed households experienced moderate to high levels of water insecurity in early July, up from 93 per cent in June, only four per cent have no or limited water insecurity, and 90 per cent reported a worsened drinking water availability. The change was particularly significant in Gaza and North Gaza governorates, where 85 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively, of key informants reported a deterioration in water access for most people in their community in the first two weeks of July; this is attributed to more severe fuel shortages in northern Gaza due to operational challenges in transporting fuel from the south, the inaccessibility of key wells and valves, and the inflows of IDPs who are relocating faster than WASH interventions can adapt. Hygiene access is similarly deteriorating, with 40 per cent of households lacking soap and 97 per cent of key informants reporting barriers to accessing hygiene items due to high costs and insufficient distributions. In addition, 50 per cent of key informants reported worsened access to toilets and 75 per cent of households reported facing access barriers, mainly because facilities were not clean or functional.

Funding

- As of 29 July 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$852 million out of the \$4 billion (21 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during June 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 122 ongoing projects, totalling \$70.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 58 are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 48 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 42 out of the 74 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).
- * Asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.



Palestinians struggling to survive in Gaza city amid displacement, widespread destruction, lack of fuel and extreme heat. Photo by OCHA/Olga Cherevko, August 2025.

Humanitarian Situation Update #311 | Gaza Strip

06 Aug 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 13 or 14 August.

Key Highlights

- Following 22 months of hostilities, UN agencies urge immediate action to flood Gaza with aid and commercial cargo to address catastrophic humanitarian conditions, including starvation and deaths from malnutrition.
- Nearly 12,000 children under five years in Gaza were identified to be suffering from acute malnutrition in July, the highest monthly figure recorded to date, according to the Nutrition Cluster.
- The latest satellite imagery shows that 86 per cent of cropland in the Gaza Strip has been damaged while most of the remaining cropland is inaccessible, leaving only 1.5 per cent of Gaza's cropland currently accessible and not damaged.
- The World Health Organization facilitated the evacuation of 62 patients for medical treatment abroad over the past week while over 14,800 are estimated to be in urgent need of medical evacuation.
- Mass casualty incidents and the spread of disease continue to overwhelm Gaza's healthcare system, resulting in extremely high bed occupancy rates.

Humanitarian Developments

Impact of Military Activity

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, alongside continued ground operations. Detonation and demolition of residential buildings also continued to be reported, particularly in Gaza and Khan Younis governorates. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel and fighting with Israeli forces have also taken place. On 6 August, the Israeli military issued two displacement orders for parts of [Gaza](#) and [Khan Younis](#) governorates, covering 3.7 square kilometres. Across the Gaza Strip, there are continued reports of casualties due to strikes on schools, tents and residential buildings and among people trying to access food supplies at militarized distribution points or waiting for humanitarian aid convoys.
- On 31 July, the UN Human Rights Office ([OHCHR](#)) said that shooting and shelling of Palestinians seeking food continued despite the Israeli army's announcement on 27 July that it would pause military activity in western areas from Gaza city to Al Mawasi. Calling for prompt and independent investigations and accountability, OHCHR reported that as starvation deepens across Gaza, at least 1,373 Palestinians were killed between 27 May and 31 July 2025 while seeking food, including 859 near the militarized distribution points and 514 along routes of humanitarian food convoys. OHCHR stated that most of the killings were committed by the Israeli military and most of the fatalities appear to be young men and boys who were seeking to survive along with their

families and dependents, adding that the Office has no information that they were directly participating in hostilities or posed any threat to Israeli forces or other people.

- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 30 July and 6 August, 730 Palestinians were killed, and 5,173* were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023 to 61,158 fatalities and 151,442 injuries, according to MoH; the total number includes 290 fatalities who were retroactively added on 3 August 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access food supplies has increased to 1,655 fatalities and more than 11,800 injuries since 27 May 2025.
- On 4 August, the MoH in Gaza published a list of its records of 60,199 Palestinian fatalities in the Gaza Strip between 7 October 2023 and 31 July 2025, out of the total number of reported fatalities (see above). According to the list, 18,430 children (31 per cent), 9,735 women (16 per cent), 27,605 men (46 per cent) and 4,429 elderly persons (seven per cent) have been killed. (also available on the Health Cluster's [Unified Dashboard](#)).
- According to the Israeli military, between 30 July and 6 August, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the ground operation in October 2023 stands at 454 fatalities and 2,870 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,654 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 6 August, it is estimated that 50 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- Since 7 October 2023, at least 508 aid workers have been killed in Gaza, including 346 UN staff, 51 staff and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), four staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 107 other staff of humanitarian organizations. Over the past week, one [PRCS](#) staff member was killed by artillery [shelling](#) at the PRCS headquarters in Khan Younis and a PRCS volunteer was killed while [searching for food](#) at the militarized distribution point west of Rafah. On the attack on their headquarters, PRCS said that "repeated strikes [at the building] during evacuation and rescue operations clearly demonstrate that the shelling was deliberate and systematic." Expressing outrage that many staff and volunteers of PRCS and other first responders have been killed or injured, [ICRC](#) stated that it is "unacceptable that first responders in Gaza...go to work every day fearing they may not return to their families."
- Other key incidents resulting in fatalities over the past week include the following:
 - On 30 July, between 16:30 and 19:00, at least 60 Palestinians were reportedly killed and 700 others injured when heavy fire was opened toward people waiting for humanitarian food convoys in Zikim area, in North Gaza.
 - On the morning of 31 July, at least 15 Palestinians were killed and 65 injured when fire was opened toward Palestinians seeking food near the militarized distribution point on Salah ad Deen Road, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 1 August, the PRCS's Al-Quds hospital in Gaza city [received](#) 12 fatalities and 90 injured people due to strikes on people waiting for aid trucks in An Nabulsi area southwest of Gaza city.
 - On 1 August, at about 08:41, five Palestinians, a married couple and their three children, were reportedly killed when a tent was hit west of Deir al Balah.
 - On 2 August, at about 01:00, a couple and their three children were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in At Ta'abeen area in Deir al Balah.
 - On 3 August at about 00:45, two Palestinian males were reportedly killed and others injured when a school sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs) was hit in Al Amal neighbourhood, in western Khan Younis. Three children (two girls and their brother) reportedly sustained injuries and later succumbed to their wounds, including a 10-year-old girl who suffered from burn injuries.
 - On 3 August, during the afternoon and evening hours, at least 16 Palestinians were reportedly killed and 270 injured while seeking aid in the Zikim area, in North Gaza.
 - On 4 August, a male nurse was reportedly hit and killed by airdropped aid in Az Zawayda, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 4 August, at least nine Palestinians were reportedly killed and 50 others injured while seeking aid in the Zikim and As Sudaniya areas, in North Gaza.
 - On 5 August, at least nine Palestinians were reportedly killed and nine others injured near the militarized distribution point around Wadi Gaza, in Deir al Balah.
- According to the latest satellite imagery-based agricultural damage [assessment](#) conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), approximately 86 per cent of Gaza's permanent crop fields (about 130 out of 150 square kilometres) exhibited a significant decline in health and density in July 2025, representing a three per cent increase compared with [April 2025](#). The analysis covered orchards and other trees, field crops and vegetables, for which the decline can be observed "due to the impact of activities such as razing, heavy vehicle activity, bombing, shelling, and other conflict-related dynamics." North Gaza currently has the highest proportion of damage among all governorates (94 per cent), followed by Gaza (91 per cent), Deir al Balah (84 per cent), Khan Younis (81 per cent) and Rafah (79 per cent). The analysis indicates a notable rise in damaged cropland over the past three months in Khan Younis governorate, increasing from 77 to 81 per cent, and in North Gaza

Governorate, increasing from 91 to 94 per cent. FAO and UNOSAT additionally [reported](#) that only 1.5 per cent of Gaza's cropland is currently accessible and not damaged.

- The latest satellite imagery-based Gaza Comprehensive Building Damage [Assessment](#) by UNOSAT indicates a significant increase in the destruction of buildings throughout the Gaza Strip as of 8 July 2025, with more than 20,000 buildings newly assessed as destroyed, severely damaged or moderately damaged compared with the April 2025 analysis. According to the satellite imagery analysis, UNOSAT identified a total of 192,812 affected structures, comprising about 78 per cent of the total structures in the Gaza Strip; these include 102,067 destroyed structures, 17,421 severely damaged structures, 41,895 moderately damaged structures, and 31,429 possibly damaged structures. The governorates of Khan Yunis and Rafah have experienced the highest rise in damage compared to the 4 April 2025 analysis, with around 8,681 new structures damaged in Khan Yunis and around 7,112 in Rafah. Overall, the highest number of damaged buildings (all types) are in Gaza, Rafah and Khan Younis cities, Jabalya and Beit Lahiya – these five localities together account for about 60 per cent of all damaged structures.
- According to a [new](#) assessment by the Education Cluster, which relies on satellite imagery collected on 8 July 2025, nearly 91.8 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip (518 out of 564) were directly hit or damaged and are estimated to require either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again. These include 95 school buildings in North Gaza governorate, 194 in Gaza, 40 in Deir al Balah, 123 in Khan Younis and 66 in Rafah. Most school buildings (432) have been directly hit, an increase of 26 school buildings compared with the last assessment – which was based on satellite imagery collected on 4 April – and include schools that were previously classified as damaged. Of the 26 newly hit schools, 11 are government-run schools, eight are UNRWA schools, and seven are private schools. Roughly two-thirds of school buildings that have served as shelters for IDPs have been directly hit.
- The impact of ongoing hostilities and rapidly deteriorating survival conditions continues to disproportionately affect children, who comprise about half of Gaza's population. For example, on 28 July, a joint inter-cluster field visit to displacement sites in Deir al Balah revealed severe child protection concerns, including a distressing rise in child neglect, forced child begging, and increased exposure to harm. Child protection partners are receiving a high volume of complex cases involving children affected by a range of vulnerabilities, including violence, family separation, disabilities, and conflict-related injuries. Yet, since the end of the ceasefire in March 2025, 134 safe spaces have been forced to shut down, rendered non-operational or became inaccessible, leaving only 88 safe spaces currently functional for partners to offer case management, mental health and psychosocial support and group activities, serving 50,000-60,000 children and approximately 10,000-15,000 caregivers. These include 16 in North Gaza, 52 in Gaza city, 10 in Deir al Balah and 10 in Khan Younis. This has led to severe overcrowding in the remaining functional spaces, reducing privacy, duration and effectiveness. Recently, to expand support for injured children, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partners, in coordination with health actors, have begun deploying dedicated teams of social workers to major paediatric trauma hospitals to facilitate referrals to child protection services before discharge from hospitals.

Access Developments

- Since 20 July, the main food assistance partners have resumed regular cargo collection from Zikim crossing in northern Gaza and Kerem Shalom crossing in southern Gaza. Between 20 July and 3 August, according to the [UN2720 Monitoring and Tracking Dashboard](#), at least 12,000 metric tons (MT) of food items procured through the UN-coordinated aid mechanism, including wheat flour, food parcels and bulk food items for community kitchens, have been brought into Gaza, but most of the collected supplies were offloaded by hungry crowds or looted along aid convoy routes. On 29 July, following prolonged denials, a team from the Logistics Cluster was authorized by Israeli authorities to reach the Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem platform to carry out an inventory of humanitarian aid. However, the team could not complete the inventory due to the very restricted time window allotted to the mission.
- For a week between 27 July and 3 August, Israeli authorities exempted UN agencies from the newly imposed customs clearance for cargo moving through the Egypt corridor. International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) could also be granted customs exemptions for health items only, but on a case-by-case basis. According to the Logistics Cluster, while the customs exemption mechanism for cargo transported from Egypt has not been officially extended, it appears to be still in place.
- While limited quantities of fuel have been entering Gaza over the past week, fuel supplies remain critically limited and unpredictable, significantly undermining the ability of humanitarian partners to deliver and sustain lifesaving services, particularly those related to water production and distribution. According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene ([WASH](#)) Cluster, in July, approximately 852,000 litres of diesel were available for WASH partners – covering only 62 per cent of the 1.36 million litres required for critical interventions and just 41 per cent of the 2.10 million litres needed to maintain all emergency WASH operations. This severe shortfall has had a direct and widespread impact on water availability across Gaza, restricting both production and delivery capacity. For example, production from groundwater wells has dropped by 70 per cent compared with the ceasefire period when fuel was more readily available. Moreover, the situation has been especially acute in northern Gaza, where additional fuel has been urgently required to operate water wells and compensate for the disruption caused by damage to the Al Muntar water pipeline from Israel, which remained out of service from 20 July to 4 August, causing a loss of 20,000 cubic metres per day. This interruption has had a significant impact on water availability in the area, further straining already limited resources. Overall, according to the Cluster's latest monthly Light-Touch Monitoring ([LTM](#)) survey, 90 per cent of key informants reported worsened drinking water availability between 7 and 12 July.
- Since 1 August, several thousand hygiene kits have successfully entered Gaza for the first time since 2 March but have been looted or offloaded by people in urgent need of basic necessities before reaching partners' warehouses for planned distribution, reflecting the deep desperation among people awaiting humanitarian assistance. According to the WASH Cluster, more than 100,000 hygiene kits, enough to support at least one-third of the population, are currently stuck outside Gaza due to delays in registration and a lack of approval for INGOs. The latest Cluster's LTM survey found that more than 40 per cent of households lack

soap at home, and hygiene-related expenses are rising. Large quantities of soap and water containers are critically needed to support basic hygiene practices and to prevent further deterioration of public health conditions.

- While more than one million shelter items, including tents, tarps and sealing-off materials, and 2.3 million non-food items (NFIs) have been procured and are now stranded in Jordan and Egypt, Israeli authorities have not allowed the entry of any shelter materials since 2 March 2025 and previous shelter stocks have been fully depleted. As a result, the shelter crisis in Gaza continues to deteriorate, with most families living in severely overcrowded, unsafe, and undignified conditions and some living without any form of shelter. A recent phone-based assessment carried out in July across 44 displacement sites in Gaza city found that 43 sites had families without any shelter, and 11 per cent of over 6,500 surveyed households were living out in the open. Overall, according to the most recent assessment carried out by the Shelter Cluster on 7 July, an estimated 1.35 million people require emergency shelter items and 1.4 million need essential household items. This dire situation is compounded by ongoing bombardment, displacement orders and growing insecurity, which not only continue to displace families but have also forced many humanitarian workers to relocate and reduced operational capacity. Also driving the rapid expansion of the gap in coverage of shelter needs is the repeated disassembly and reassembly of shelters and the associated loss or abandonment of shelter items and weather conditions that accelerate the deterioration of shelter materials.
- Israeli authorities also continue to impose restrictions that prevent the entry into Gaza of about 100 truckloads of educational supplies that have been procured and stranded in Egypt and Jordan, and severe fuel shortages continue to hinder the mobility of partners running learning programmes, impede the organization of group sessions that require electricity and the printing of learning materials, and disrupt children's access to e-learning platforms that require power and internet. While more than 658,000 students remain without access to formal, classroom-based education amid ongoing hostilities and widespread destruction of school infrastructure (see above), displacement orders issued by Israeli authorities since 18 March have disrupted learning activities, leaving only about half (299 out of 626) of the temporary learning spaces (TLS) serving 113,000 students currently functional, according to the Education Cluster. Compounding these operational and access challenges are shortfalls in funding needed to support alternative learning modalities and the need to re-engage displaced and unemployed teachers, including through cash-for-work programming, mental health support and capacity strengthening in emergency pedagogy, as teachers who have been contributing to learning activities have been doing so on a voluntary basis, the Cluster added. Currently, less than 10 per cent of the US\$230.3 million requested by the Education Cluster under the 2025 Flash Appeal has been received.
- On 5 August, following the Israeli Cabinet's decision to expand the scope of humanitarian aid for Gaza, Israeli authorities [announced](#) that private sector trade will partially resume, subject to thorough inspections, to increase the volume of aid while reducing reliance on humanitarian aid. Moreover, Israeli authorities reported that [785](#) humanitarian aid packages had been airdropped over Gaza as of 5 August, with the participation of eight countries.
- Delays and impediments of humanitarian movements continue to be reported. While fewer humanitarian movements have been denied outright, missions that are approved still take hours to complete. Some missions have taken more than 18 hours to be completed and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous, congested or impassable. Between 30 July and 5 August, out of 72 attempts to coordinate planned aid movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, two (three per cent) were denied and five (seven per cent) were withdrawn by the organizers. More than half of movements were facilitated (37 or 51 per cent), including missions to collect fuel, food and medical supplies and staff rotations. The 28 impeded missions (39 per cent) entailed extensive delays, including at the ad-hoc checkpoint that has been set up by Israeli forces along the Morag route on 29 July where missions have experienced delays of more than two hours. Among the impeded missions, seven were fully accomplished, including a mission to collect medical supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing. Three of the impeded missions were not accomplished, including a mission to clear rubble along Salah ad Deen Road, while the remaining 18 missions were partially accomplished, including a UN mission to collect fuel from Kerem Shalom crossing. Of the total 72 movements, 33 movements were planned to collect supplies from Gaza's crossings while the remaining movements aimed to support other ongoing humanitarian operations.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) [facilitated](#) on 30 July the medical evacuation of 47 Palestinians from Gaza, along with 129 companions, and on [6 August](#) the medical evacuation of 15 child critical patients, along with 47 companions. Between 7 October 2023 and 31 July 2025*, more than [7,500 Palestinians](#), including roughly 5,200 children, were medically evacuated abroad, of whom about 2,100 patients were medically evacuated since 1 February, while more than 14,800 are estimated to be in need of urgent medical treatment outside Gaza. According to WHO, an average of 50 to 100 patients were exiting Gaza daily for medical treatment before 7 October 2023, a rate that has since dropped to an average of 11 patients per day.

Hunger and Malnutrition-related Deaths

- As the death toll from malnutrition continues to rise, there is a humanitarian imperative to immediately flood Gaza with large-scale aid, including food aid and nutrition supplies to prevent mass starvation and address acute malnutrition and all other types of assistance to sustain lifesaving services. [As stated](#) by the World Food Programme's (WFP) Executive Director, "[w]aiting for official confirmation of famine to provide life-saving food aid... is unconscionable." UNRWA similarly [urged](#) urgent action, otherwise people will continue to die from starvation and bombardment in a "completely man-made situation," and [noted](#): "When you are in a situation where even the caregiver starts to faint, that means the entire humanitarian structure is collapsing. And this is exactly what we are observing today in Gaza." Speaking from the Friends of the Patients Society Hospital in Gaza city, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Ted Chaiban, also [stressed](#) that while humanitarian partners continue to provide as much support as possible, the resumption of humanitarian aid at scale and the entry of commercial cargo are critical to address hunger and acute malnutrition, which are the culmination of more than 20 months of war and over two months of a full blockade.
- According to MoH in Gaza, as of 6 August, 193 malnutrition-related deaths were documented, including 96 children. This includes five people who died in hospitals in the preceding 24 hours.

- [Nutrition Cluster](#) partners continue to carry out malnutrition screenings across the Gaza Strip, but individual screening data remains limited in North Gaza and Rafah due to access constraints and limited operational presence. Based on available data as of 6 August for the month of July, out of 136,000 children between six and 59 months screened, 11,877 children were identified to be suffering from acute malnutrition, the highest monthly figure recorded to date. These comprise 2,562 children who suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), of whom 40 were hospitalized at stabilization centres. In June and July, 18 per cent of all acutely malnourished children were of severe form (SAM), compared with 12 per cent of children between March and May 2025. Amid this critical situation, in July, partners were only able to reach three per cent (8,169 out of 290,000) of children under five who require feeding and micronutrient supplements due to the limited entry into Gaza of lipid-based nutrient supplements - medium quantity (LNS - MQ). Compared with the average of about 76,000 children reached per month between April and June (26 per cent of the target population), July figures reflect a collapse in the malnutrition prevention programme. The distribution of other prevention supplies to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and the number of children reached with complementary food have also declined. Overall, the volume of nutrition supplies entering Gaza remains insufficient to prevent further deterioration in the nutritional situation.
- According to WFP's Gaza [Market Monitor](#), the situation of Gaza's market deteriorated sharply during the second half of July, reaching its worst point since the start of the escalation; prices soared to unprecedented levels, and almost all essential food items disappeared from the markets. Wheat flour prices decreased with the entry of aid trucks, stabilizing at 45-55 NIS per kilogramme during the fourth week of July. However, prices remain highly volatile, with fluctuations occurring even within a single day, reflecting unstable availability and dysfunctional markets. Sugar remains one of the most expensive items, with prices reaching up to 600 NIS per kilogramme, forcing many to buy only small amounts. Dietary diversity deteriorated further in July to the worst level since the escalation started, highlighting a severe breakdown in access to diverse and nutritious foods and worsening acute food insecurity. The proportion of households relying on humanitarian aid as their main food source has declined due to limited aid entry, while markets remain unreliable due to shortages and soaring prices. Cash withdrawal fees remain very high at 45 per cent of the transferred amount during second half of July. Limited cash supply and market liquidity, along with scarce commodities, increase reliance on physical cash often accessed with liquidity fees, as suppliers are increasingly reluctant to accept digital payments.

Spread of Disease and Challenges Facing the Health System

- WHO and MoH in Gaza reported that, across the Gaza Strip, there is a concerning rise in Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) cases – a rare and potentially life-threatening condition in which the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. According to the epidemiology department, 64 cases, including 27 cases of children under 15 years of age, have been reported as of 31 July 2025 compared with only five cases per year before the escalation of hostilities. These include 32 cases in Khan Younis governorate (50 per cent), 28 cases in Gaza governorate (44 per cent), and four cases in Deir al Balah governorate (six per cent). Although numerous cases have been reported in highly concentrated and populated areas, especially Khan Younis and Gaza governorates, no cluster of cases has been reported within defined geographical locations. According to WHO, there is currently no available stock of Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG), the primary medication for the treatment for GBS. On 4 August, MoH [confirmed](#) three GBS-related deaths, including two children, and warned that the lack of necessary treatment threatens to worsen the situation. According to WHO, 30 per cent of GBS patients require Intensive Care Unit admission.
- Between 1 and 31 July, a total of 420 suspected meningitis cases were reported across the Gaza Strip, the highest number recorded since the beginning of the escalation. These include 197 cases in Khan Younis governorate, 150 cases in Gaza governorate, and 73 cases in Deir al Balah. The destruction of WHO's main medical warehouse in Deir al Balah has led to a critical shortage of antibiotics, which are essential for the treatment of meningitis. Isolation measures have been implemented, including the separation of the external department at Al Khair Hospital from the Nasser Medical Complex and the establishment of isolation tents at Al Aqsa Hospital to safely manage suspected cases.
- Hospitals in Gaza are overwhelmed by a surge in casualties that has exceeded their capacity, MoH in Gaza [stated](#) on 2 August. Bed occupancy rates at trauma hospitals have risen significantly: Al-Ahli Arab Hospital at 300 per cent, Al-Shifa Hospital at 240 per cent, Al Rantisi Hospital at 210 per cent, and Nasser Hospital at 180 per cent. MoH added that this has forced hospitals to place patients on floors and in hallways due to the lack of available bed space. The Health Cluster also reported that specialized rehabilitation facilities, including Hamad Hospital, Al Amal Hospital, and Al Wafaa Hospital, are overwhelmed with trauma injuries (complex polytrauma) and GBS cases. Waiting lists have reached up to one year, despite reduced admission durations. Furthermore, patients with non-escalation-related disabilities are being neglected and are not receiving the necessary care. The Health Cluster also reported that hospitals are overwhelmed by mass casualty incidents, with an average of eight incidents per day.
- On 31 July, Al Aqsa Hospital [stated](#) that it is facing an increasingly critical humanitarian and health crisis amid the growing number of casualties and urgent medical needs. Hundreds of injured people are arriving at the hospital, overwhelming the facility's capacity. The emergency department is unable to accommodate the rising number of critical injuries, and all inpatient wards are fully occupied. Operating rooms have ceased functioning due to the lack of available inpatient beds, with some patients left inside operating theatres because there is no space to move them. Similarly, the head of the Kuwaiti Specialized Field Hospital in Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis, [reported](#) that the hospital receives hundreds of critical injuries of people seeking food daily, adding immense pressure on overstretched medical teams amid the near-total collapse of the health system. The wound care unit has halted operations due to a complete lack of essential medical supplies. The operational capacity of the hospital has been exceeded, and it can no longer absorb the rising number of casualties amid the lack of supplies. The head of the hospital urgently called on people to avoid going to the militarized distribution points to preserve life.
- An [analysis](#) of medical data by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), covering more than 200,000 medical consultations in six MSF-supported health facilities in the Gaza Strip in 2024, found that explosive weapons, such as bombs and grenades, were

responsible for 83 per cent of wound-care consultations for victims of violence. According to a former MSF emergency coordinator, "explosive weapons are indiscriminate, causing complex injuries due to blast, fragmentation, and heat." He added: "In two hospitals, we observed that nearly 60 percent of the injuries were related to explosive weapons. The makeshift shelters in which the population is forced to live offer little to no protection against these weapons." MSF analysis flagged a very high wound infection rate of more than 18 per cent among patients seeking care for the first time. This is a result of unhygienic living conditions for people who have been forcibly displaced multiple times. Highlighting the lack of protection of civilians, MSF said that 29.6 per cent of all medical consultations for wounds were for children under 15 years of age, and 32 per cent of the consultations were for women.

Funding

- As of 6 August 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$882 million out of the \$4 billion (22 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during July 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 111 ongoing projects, totalling \$65.2 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 54 are being implemented by INGOs, 43 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 39 out of the 68 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

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



Janah, a Palestinian girl, was recently admitted to Al Rantisi Hospital in Gaza city and diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. Doctors initially suspected celiac disease, but she did not improve on a gluten-free diet. Photo by OCHA/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #313 | Gaza Strip

13 Aug 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 20 or 21 August.

Key Highlights

- The UN Secretary-General called for an independent and impartial investigation into the killing of six Palestinian journalists in an Israeli strike in Gaza city on 10 August, which highlights the extreme risks that journalists and media workers covering the war continue to face.
- Hunger-related deaths are rising, and the Gaza Strip continues to face starvation. Eight people have reportedly died in the past 24 hours.
- Child malnutrition can lead to lifelong harm and generational poverty, says Save the Children.
- To push back escalating starvation, the Food Security Sector calls for the immediate resumption of large-scale humanitarian assistance with guaranteed safe, unimpeded and sustained access, and for scaling up the entry of nutritious food through the commercial sector.
- Primary health-care response in Gaza is undermined by the lack of adequate medical supplies, leaving thousands of chronic disease patients and those suffering from communicable illnesses without life-saving support, and heightening the risk of a large-scale public health crisis, UNRWA warns.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, alongside continued ground operations. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel and fighting with Israeli forces have taken place. There are continued reports of casualties due to strikes on schools, tents and residential buildings and among people trying to access food supplies at militarized distribution points or waiting for humanitarian aid convoys, detonation and demolition of residential buildings, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and large-scale displacement. According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), more than 780,000 Palestinians in Gaza were displaced between 18 March and 12 August, including over 12,500 displacement movements reported between 29 July and 12 August, 68 per cent of which originated from Gaza governorate, mostly between 10 and 11 August.
- In a briefing to the UN Security Council on Gaza, OCHA's Director of the Coordination Division, Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, [expressed](#) concern over the prolonged conflict and reports of atrocities and signalled worry of further human toll following the Government of Israel's decision to expand military operations: "Gaza lies in ruins. Almost everyone in Gaza has been forcibly displaced at some point over the past two years and at least once. Palestinians in Gaza have been forced into an area that amounts to less than 14 per cent of the territory, in areas that are not safe and are lacking basic services or shelter. Further expansion of military operations will make these conditions even worse." He highlighted that hunger-related deaths are rising,

noting that this is “no longer a looming hunger crisis – this is starvation, pure and simple,” and that humanitarian conditions remain largely unchanged despite some improvements in operations enabled by the Israeli military’s “tactical pauses” and the Israeli authorities’ recent approval of a mechanism for the gradual resumption of controlled commercial goods into Gaza.

- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 6 and 13 August, 564 Palestinians were killed, and 3,083 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 61,722 fatalities and 154,525 injuries. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access food supplies has increased to 1,859 fatalities and more than 13,594 injuries since 27 May 2025.
- According to the Israeli military, between 6 and 13 August, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the ground operation in October 2023 stands at 454 fatalities and 2,872 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,654 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 13 August, it is estimated that 50 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- On 10 August, the Israeli military hit a tent used by journalists outside the main gate of Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city, killing six journalists and media workers, including four staff (two correspondents and two cameramen) of Al Jazeera Media Network in Gaza city. The UN Secretary-General [called](#) for an independent and impartial investigation into these latest killings, which highlight the extreme risks that journalists in Gaza continue to face when covering the ongoing war. The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) strongly condemned the incident and [stated](#) that with the killing of the six journalists, the total number of journalists and media workers killed since the start of the escalation has risen to 238. In July 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) had [called](#) for the protection of one of the journalists killed, citing concerns that he was being targeted by an Israeli military smear campaign. CPJ Regional Director, Sara Qudah, [said](#) that “Israel has killed more journalists in the 22 months since the start of the war than were killed worldwide in the preceding three years.”
- Other key incidents resulting in casualties over the past week include the following:
 - On 7 August at about 10:00, at least five Palestinians, including at least one woman, were reportedly killed and more than 30 others injured when fire was opened towards Palestinians seeking food near the militarized distribution point in Ash Shakoush, in northern Rafah.
 - On 7 August, at about 16:15, six Palestinians, including a couple and three of their children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a tent for internally displaced people (IDP) was hit in Ash Sheikh Radwan, northwest of Gaza city.
 - On 7 August, at about 21:00, five Palestinians were reportedly injured when a school sheltering IDPs was hit in Ad Daraj, in eastern Gaza city.
 - On 8 August, at about 16:00, nine Palestinians, including a couple and their five children and another female, were reportedly killed when a residential building sheltering IDPs was hit in Bani Suheila, east of Khan Younis.
 - On 8 August, in the afternoon, nine Palestinians, including three children, were reportedly injured by air-dropped aid on Al Jalal Street, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 9 August, at about 12:30, a 14-year-old Palestinian boy was reportedly killed when hit by a crater of air-dropped aid in An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 11 August, at about 10:00, at least three Palestinians were reportedly injured when a school was hit in Az Zaytoun, in Gaza city.
 - On 11 August, in the early morning, nine Palestinians, including six children (siblings), were reportedly killed when a residential building was shelled in Az Zaytoun, in Gaza city.
 - On 11 August, at about 14:45, seven Palestinians, including a couple and at least two of their daughters, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Az Zaytoun, in Gaza city.
 - On 11 August, at about 19:15, eight Palestinian who were seeking aid were reportedly killed and others injured while waiting for aid convoys in As Sudaniya area, in western Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 11 August, at about 18:16, six Palestinians, including two boys and an elderly woman, were reportedly killed when a mobile charging point was hit in southern Deir al Balah.
 - On 12 August, at about 1:30, at least five Palestinians, including a man, his seven-month-old son, a couple and their son, who is a fire fighter with the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD), were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit in Al Mawasi, in western Khan Younis. PCD stated that the killing of the fire fighter increased the number of PCD personnel killed since October 2023 to 137.
- Between 27 May and 8 August, the Red Cross Field Hospital in Rafah [treated](#) more than 4,500 weapon-wounded patients, most of whom reported that they were attempting to reach food distribution sites when they were injured. Since the opening of these distribution sites, there have been more than 30 mass casualty incidents received at the field hospital. Also in southern Gaza, Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) reported that 1,380 casualties, including 28 fatalities, were received at its Al-Mawasi and Al-Attar clinics, located near the militarized distribution points, between 7 June and 24 July 2025. During those seven weeks, MSF teams

treated 71 children for gunshot wounds, 25 of whom were under the age of 15. “Children shot in the chest while reaching for food. People crushed or suffocated in stampedes,” said the General Director of MSF Spain, adding: “In MSF’s nearly 54 years of operations, rarely have we seen such levels of systematic violence against unarmed civilians.” MSF also received tens of patients that were injured either in the crush of the crowd or by being beaten and robbed of their supplies immediately after receiving them. MSF teams treated 196 patients with injuries following chaotic scrambles at the distribution sites, including a five-year-old boy with severe head injuries and a woman who died of asphyxiation, likely caused by the suffocating crush of a crowd.

- On 13 August, the World Health Organization (WHO) [supported](#) the medical evacuation of 38 Palestinian patients from Gaza, including 32 children and six adults, alongside 99 companions. Patients were evacuated to Italy, Belgium and Türkiye. According to WHO, more than 14,800 patients still need lifesaving medical care that is not available in Gaza.
- Delays and impediments of humanitarian movements continue to be reported. Recently, while fewer humanitarian movements have been denied outright, missions that are approved still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous, congested or impassable. Between 6 and 12 August, out of 81 attempts to coordinate planned aid movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 35 were facilitated (43 per cent), 29 were initially approved but then impeded on the ground (36 per cent), 12 (15 per cent) were denied and five (six per cent) had to be withdrawn by the organizers. Facilitated movements included missions to transfer fuel, staff movements and rotations. Denied movements included missions for essential road repairs along Salah ad Din Road. Among the 29 impeded missions, 14 were fully accomplished despite the impediments, including missions to collect fuel and supplies from Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings and staff movements between southern and northern Gaza. Six of the impeded missions were not accomplished, including two road repair missions and two missions to collect supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing. The remaining nine missions were partially accomplished. Overall, 33 out of 81 movements were planned to collect fuel and other supplies from Gaza’s crossings, 21 were staff movements and rotations, and 27 aimed to support other ongoing humanitarian operations.
- On 10 August, PCD [stated](#) that most of the coordination requests it submitted through humanitarian agencies since 18 March 2025 have been denied, with only 10 per cent of 300 submitted requests facilitated by Israeli authorities. PCD said that over 2,500 people who were initially injured and to whom PCD was denied access lost their lives. PCD called on the international community to put pressure on Israeli authorities to positively respond to coordination requests related to PCD’s lifesaving work.

The Hunger and Malnutrition Crisis

- Starvation in Gaza is at the worst level since October 2023 and the amount of aid entering the Strip is insufficient to meet the scale of needs. According to the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)), one of only [eight](#) organizations able to dispatch humanitarian aid to Gaza through the UN-coordinated manifest, aid convoys are limited each day and routes inside Gaza remain risky. Additionally, desperate crowds often offload food supplies from trucks to feed their families – while looting also prevents aid from reaching its intended destinations. In July 2025, WFP [collected](#) 1,012 trucks carrying nearly 13,000 metric tons (MT) of food supplies from Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings, but only 10 trucks reached warehouses and the rest were offloaded en route. As of 4 August, WFP has about 167,000 MT of food destined for Gaza currently stored, under procurement, or in transit in the region. Overall, the Food Security Sector (FSS) reports that WFP and other partners have enough food in or en route to the region to feed the entire population of 2.1 million people for at least three months, but the risk of spoilage and infestation of the stranded food supplies has significantly increased, and some of them are nearing their expiry dates. To push back escalating starvation, FSS calls for the immediate resumption of large-scale humanitarian assistance with guaranteed safe, unimpeded and sustained access, complemented by scaling up the entry of nutritious food through the commercial sector.
- According to FSS, while more food is entering Gaza, the quantity and quality remains insufficient to reach the minimum daily caloric and nutritional needs of the population. As of 10 August, 324,000 individual meals are being prepared daily at 81 community kitchens supported by 16 FSS partners. This includes about 99,000 meals delivered in the north and around 225,000 meals delivered in the south and central Gaza. This reflects a noticeable increase compared with the 259,000 daily meals prepared two weeks ago but remains far below the over one million daily meals that partners were able to distribute in April. People continue to suffer from extremely imbalanced diets that lack essential nutrients, increasing the risk of acute malnutrition, with an especially severe impact on pregnant and breastfeeding women and newborns who are more likely to be born with health complications.
- Prior to October 2023, Gaza was largely self-sufficient in nutritious food, including eggs, fresh milk, fish, poultry, olive oil and red meat – a context that has drastically changed in the past 22 months. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), about 96 per cent (approximately 15,000) of Gaza’s cattle, 61 per cent of goats, 64 per cent of sheep, and 98 per cent of layers and broilers have died and nearly all calves were slaughtered. Likewise, agricultural land sustained severe damage, with [86 per cent](#) of permanent crop fields damaged and only [1.5 per cent](#) of Gaza’s cropland currently accessible and not damaged as of July 2025. According to the World Bank’s Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment ([IRDNA](#)), issued in February 2025, economic losses in the agricultural sector are estimated at US\$1.3 billion, and US\$1.06 billion is required to address agricultural and food systems needs in the immediate and short terms (up to three years), with a focus on stabilizing infrastructure and basic needs to achieve 70 per cent functionality of critical assets in the first year and increase local food production by 40 per cent.
- Within this context of collapsed food systems, the large-scale entry of commercial food into Gaza is critical to improve dietary diversity and ensure the population has access to a wide range of nutritious food, such as fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, and dairy products, FSS emphasizes. Following the Israeli authorities’ approval on 5 August of a mechanism for the gradual and controlled entry of commercial goods into Gaza, different types of food have started to trickle into the markets. While humanitarian partners have observed some level of price decrease in some items, the prices keep fluctuating based on speculations rather than actual availability. For example, the price of sugar, which reached NIS 600 (\$177) per kilogram at one point during the past three weeks, has dropped to NIS 30-40 (\$9-12) per kilogram on 10 August. On the other hand, energy prices have skyrocketed, with cooking gas

disappearing from the market already five months ago and firewood becoming further unaffordable. More people have been forced to use waste and scrap wood as alternative cooking sources, which hinders proper food preparation and intake, exacerbates health and protection risks, and causes environmental hazards.

- The nutritional status of children in Gaza continues to deteriorate. According to the Nutrition Cluster, almost 13,000 new admissions of children for acute malnutrition treatment were recorded in July. Moreover, the severity of cases continues to grow; in July, over 2,800 cases were found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) out of approximately 13,000 acute malnutrition cases (22 per cent). There are currently 106 outpatient sites providing treatment of malnutrition in the Gaza Strip. The most severe cases of children suffering from SAM with complications, who need to be hospitalized and treated in stabilization centres, have also increased, with 129 cases in July alone compared with 215 cases between January and June. Despite the growing caseload, there are only five SAM stabilization centres across the Gaza Strip, including two in Gaza city, one in Deir al Balah, and two in Khan Younis, with a combined bed capacity of 43 that is insufficient to cope with the high number of cases.
- According to MoH in Gaza, as of 13 August, 235 malnutrition-related deaths, including 106 children, were documented since October 2023. This includes 170 deaths since 1 July 2025, of whom 45 were children, and eight people who died in the past 24 hours.
- On 10 August, Save the Children [stated](#) that the reported death of 100 children due to starvation in Gaza since October 2023 is a “devastating milestone that shames the world and demands long overdue urgent action,” and highlighted the devastating, long-term health repercussions of acute malnutrition on children. Save the Children’s Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe, Ahmad Alhendawi, said that “these figures are just the tip of the iceberg,” adding that malnutrition among children “can lead to lifelong health issues like stunting, weakened immune systems and organ failure. The effects of malnutrition can span generations, with its impacts on children making learning and development harder, creating a cycle of poverty for the entire population.” He emphasized that “nearly two years of war and a chokehold on lifesaving aid have condemned children to mass deaths, suffering, and shattered futures – all of which are entirely preventable.”

Challenges Facing the Health System

- Since 25 June 2025, when medical supplies were allowed into Gaza following over three and a half months of suspension, WHO has brought into Gaza [80](#) trucks with medical supplies. Yet, entry processes remain difficult and ever changing, [reported](#) Dr. Rik Peeperkorn, WHO representative in the OPT, who called for the opening of multiple crossings to allow the delivery of humanitarian supplies and for access to deliver all the essential medicines needed in Gaza. He explained: “Staff members’ inspection activities at [crossing] points had been delayed by restrictions. Many items, such as assistive devices, intensive care unit beds, freezers, cold chain medicines, anaesthesia machines, had been denied entry. Some 282 pallets of supplies had entered via Ben Gurion Airport, but the clearance process was far too slow.” Among the supplies that were brought into Gaza, WHO [delivered](#) 6,000 blood units to Al Shifa and Nasser hospitals. These amounts, however, are only a fraction of what is needed to meet the scale of needs, [underlined](#) WHO’s Director General. Health facilities continue to struggle to provide the required treatment to patients while facing ongoing mass casualty incidents and growing numbers of patients suffering from infectious diseases. Shortages of fuel needed to operate generators are also one of the key challenges facing about [230](#) health points that remain partially functional across the Gaza Strip – including 18 hospitals, 10 field hospitals, 66 primary health-care clinics, 112 medical points or mobile clinics and 25 ambulance centres – in addition to the lack of spare parts and engine oils needed to repair and maintain the generators. WHO [said](#) it is seeking to stock up hospitals and build its own reserves in the context of a potential military operation in Gaza city but has not been able to do so sufficiently.
- UNRWA plays a critical role in providing primary health-care services in Gaza, serving over 100,000 registered patients suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCD), providing antenatal, post-natal and family planning care, physiotherapy rehabilitation services, and administering routine vaccinations. However, for over five months since 2 March, these services have been severely disrupted due to UNRWA’s [inability](#) to bring in lifesaving medicines and medical supplies, critical shortages of fuel, and obstacles to safe movements. This has left health facilities currently managed by UNRWA across the Gaza Strip – including four primary health-care centres, two temporary clinics and many medical points (21 as of 10 August) – with dwindling stocks to provide the needed care and treatment for tens of thousands of patients. At present, 59 per cent of essential medicines (56 out of 95 items) are out of stock at these health facilities, including antihypertensive drugs, oral antibiotics for adults, antiparasitic products, and iron supplements for children, while 12 per cent (11 items) are only available to cover one month of needs. Moreover, over the past week, limited fuel supplies have forced some UNRWA health centres to operate one shift instead of two.
- Shortages of medicines, fuel and basic infection control materials are having devastating consequences for patient care; according to UNRWA, NCD patients, including those with diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, are increasingly unable to access their prescribed treatment due to depleted stocks, which will have serious repercussions on their health. At the same time, the lack of antibiotics, antiparasitic and antifungal medications is hampering treatment of infectious diseases, which are on the rise due to overcrowding, poor sanitation conditions, and limited access to clean water. UNRWA reports that on average, 10,300 cases of patients suffering from infectious diseases are received at its health centres and medical points per week, with acute respiratory infections and watery diarrhoea being the most reported diseases across all areas and a growing number of cases of acute bloody diarrhoea being observed, particularly in Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis. UNRWA warns that without adequate medical supplies, primary health-care response is undermined, leaving thousands of chronic disease patients and those suffering from communicable illnesses without life-saving support and heightening the risk of a large-scale public health crisis.
- Widespread starvation, malnutrition and disease are having particularly catastrophic consequences for pregnant and breastfeeding women and newborns, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). New mothers are often too malnourished to breastfeed, and both safe water and milk formula are scarce. Over 100 frontline midwives are working to reach women in health facilities in overcrowded shelters that lack electricity and water, often travelling long distances on foot. Amid insecurity and

movement restrictions, since 1 July, midwives deployed by MoH and 10 national and international partners, with support from UNFPA, have assisted in the delivery of approximately 3,500 babies across 13 comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities that are still partially functioning in Gaza. Emergency deliveries outside hospitals have also been reported, taking place at home, in unequipped health centres, or during transport to hospitals. These situations highlight severe access barriers caused by insecurity and fuel shortages.

- The ability of partners to provide essential maternal and neonatal care is further constrained by shortages of supplies, services, food and water, affecting both patients and sexual and reproductive health providers, UNFPA reports. Exhaustion among health workers has forced maternity service providers to shorten shifts, reducing the availability of lifesaving care. Since July 2025, UNFPA has only been able to deliver six types of Reproductive Health Kits prepositioned during the ceasefire to partners across Gaza, serving about 5,400 people. Since 2 March, UNFPA has not been able to deliver any other supplies to the Gaza Strip, while more than 170 truckloads of lifesaving items remain in Al Arish, in Egypt, and the West Bank. These include reproductive health kits, midwifery kits, postpartum kits, maternal health medicines and consumables, medical equipment, family planning commodities, hygiene kits, and shelter materials sufficient to serve an estimated 470,000 women and girls over the next three months.

Funding

- As of 13 August 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$914 million out of the \$4 billion (22 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during July 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 111 ongoing projects, totalling \$65.2 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 54 are being implemented by INGOs, 43 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 39 out of the 68 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

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



Worn out makeshift shelters in Gaza city. Photo by OCHA/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #315 | Gaza Strip

21 Aug 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 27 or 28 August.

Key Highlights

- Hunger-related deaths, casualties among people seeking food, and casualties in strikes on schools, tents and residential buildings continue to be reported.
- The UN and NGOs will maintain presence in Gaza city, warning that the Israeli authorities' plan to intensify military operations there will have a horrific humanitarian impact.
- Major international NGOs face imminent de-registration by the Israeli authorities, and most have been unable to deliver any supplies to Gaza since 2 March.
- People with disability are gravely affected by the dearth of adequate rehabilitation services, which suffer restrictions on the entry of equipment and personnel.
- Sewage continues to be diverted into stormwater basins and the sea, causing severe environmental pollution.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, alongside continued ground operations. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel and fighting with Israeli forces have taken place. There are continued reports of casualties due to strikes on schools, tents and residential buildings and among people trying to access food supplies at militarized distribution points or waiting for humanitarian aid convoys, detonation and demolition of residential buildings, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and large-scale displacement. The Israeli authorities [announced](#) that, as of 17 August, and as part of preparations by the Israeli military to "move the population from combat zones to southern Gaza for their protection, the supply of tents and shelter equipment to Gaza will resume." On 20 July, the Israeli military [reported](#) that in recent days, Israeli forces have resumed extensive military activity in Jabalya area and the outskirts of Gaza city. As of late July, it is estimated that about one million people are in northern Gaza. According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), between 12 and 20 August, intensified military operations in Gaza city prompted over 16,000 displacement movements by people from the eastern parts of Gaza city, such as Az Zaytoun, to the south and the west. In total, over 796,000 displacement movements have been recorded since 18 March 2025.
- On 18 August, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), comprising UN agencies and over 200 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), [welcomed](#) the Israeli authorities' announcement that tents and other shelter equipment will again be allowed entry into Gaza but found it "deeply troubling ... that it comes in connection with a looming offensive." The HCT said that the lifting of the shelter ban would allow humanitarian partners to deliver much needed supplies across the Gaza Strip, including in Gaza city, noting that this scale-up will take effect to the extent "that systematic restrictions – such as Israeli customs clearance, access to crossings and insecurity – are addressed." The HCT further warned that the Israeli

authorities' plan to intensify military operations in Gaza city "will have a horrific humanitarian impact on people already exhausted, malnourished, bereaved, displaced, and deprived of basics needed for survival" and that "[f]orcing hundreds of thousands to move south is a recipe for further disaster and could amount to forcible transfer." The HCT affirmed that the UN and NGOs will maintain presence in Gaza city to provide lifesaving support.

- According to the [Shelter Cluster](#), more than one million tarpaulins and sealing-off kits, 86,000 tents and about five million non-food items have been procured or in-process for delivery to Gaza. However, ongoing restrictions on INGOs and UNRWA continue to block shelter deliveries, with critical materials denied entry even after approval. Following the announcement by the Israeli authorities that the ban on the entry of shelter supplies would be lifted, partners continue to face major challenges, including in relation to registration. Meanwhile, amid ongoing hostilities and displacement, shelter needs continue to grow, with more families living in severely overcrowded, unsafe, and undignified conditions and some living without any form of shelter. At present, the Shelter Cluster estimates that 1.4 million people require emergency shelter items and 1.45 million need essential household items.
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 13 and 20 August, 400 Palestinians were killed, and 2,683 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 62,122 fatalities and 156,758 injuries. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access food supplies has increased to 2,018 fatalities and more than 14,947 injuries since 27 May 2025.
- According to the Israeli military, between 13 and 20 August, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the ground operation in October 2023 stands at 454 fatalities and 2,874 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,654 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 13 August, it is estimated that 50 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- Key incidents resulting in fatalities over the past week mainly occurred in Gaza city and included the following:
 - On 13 August, at about 10:00, at least 14 Palestinian males were reportedly killed when fire was opened towards Palestinians seeking food near the militarized distribution point in Khan Younis.
 - On 13 August, around dawn, seven Palestinians, including five children, were reportedly killed when a tent for internally displaced people (IDPs) was hit in Tel Al Hawa, in southwestern Gaza city.
 - On 13 August, around dawn, 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Az Zaytoun, in southeastern Gaza city.
 - On 14 August, at about 9:15, at least 12 Palestinian males were reportedly killed and many others injured when fire was opened towards people waiting for aid convoys in the Morag area, south of Khan Younis.
 - On 14 August, around dawn, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Az Zaytoun, in southeastern Gaza city.
 - On 14 August, at about 18:15, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and 15 others injured while waiting for aid convoys near Zikim crossing, in North Gaza.
 - On 15 August, at about 16:00, seven Palestinians, including two boys, were reportedly killed when a school sheltering IDPs was hit in Ad Daraj, in central Gaza city.
 - On 15 August, at about 20:00, seven Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit near a school, west of Gaza city.
 - On 16 August, during the morning, a Palestinian fisher was reportedly killed and others injured when fire was opened at a fishing boat off the coast of Gaza city.
 - On 17 August, at about 1:30, seven Palestinian males were reportedly killed and others injured in the yard of Al Ahli Hospital, in central Gaza city.
 - On 17 August, between the morning and evening hours, at least 31 Palestinians were reportedly killed when fire was opened towards Palestinians waiting for supply trucks in the Morag area, south of Khan Younis.
 - On 18 August, at about 9:00, a Palestinian fisher was reportedly killed and his brother injured on a fishing boat, west of Gaza city.
 - On 18 August, at about 2:00, three Palestinians including a girl were reportedly killed when a governmental building sheltering IDPs was hit in Ad Daraj, in central Gaza city.
- According to records of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), since the establishment of a militarized distribution system in the Gaza Strip on 27 May and as of 18 August, at least 1,889 people – mostly young men and boys – were killed while seeking food in Gaza – 1,025 near militarized distribution sites and 864 along convoy supply routes – [most](#) of whom appear to have been killed by the Israeli military, and with no [information](#) to suggest that these people "were directly participating in hostilities or posed any threat" to Israeli forces or other people.

- Since the beginning of August 2025, OHCHR has [recorded](#) 11 incidents involving attacks on Palestinians guarding convoys in North Gaza and Deir al Balah, resulting in the killing of at least 46 Palestinians, mainly those providing security to humanitarian and other supply convoys, along with some seeking aid, and the injury of many others. OHCHR stressed that these attacks have contributed to the breakdown of law enforcement and worsened the starvation of Palestinians. This is in addition to the dozens of incidents recorded by OHCHR since October 2023 where “the Israeli military unlawfully targeted civilian police officers not taking part in hostilities, contributing to the collapse of law enforcement, leading directly to disorder around supply convoys, as the population becomes increasingly desperate to access food in the face of deepening starvation.”
- Delays and impediments of humanitarian movements continue to be reported. Recently, while fewer humanitarian movements have been denied outright, missions that are approved still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous, congested or impassable. Between 13 and 19 August, out of 79 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 45 were facilitated (57 per cent), 21 were initially approved but then impeded on the ground (27 per cent), five (six per cent) were denied and eight (ten per cent) had to be withdrawn by the organizers. Facilitated movements included missions to transfer fuel, collection of medical, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies, staff movements and rotations. Denied movements included water pipe connection repairs, movements of WASH chemical supplies and road repairs. Among the 21 impeded missions, five were fully accomplished despite the impediments, including missions to collect supplies from Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings and medical evacuation of patients through Kerem Shalom crossing. The remaining 16 missions were partially accomplished. Overall, five out of the 79 movements involved fuel collection, 24 involved the collection of other supplies from Gaza’s crossings, 18 were staff movements and rotations, and 32 aimed to support other ongoing humanitarian operations.
- On 13 August, over 100 international NGOs [raised](#) the alarm over increasing obstructions by Israeli authorities on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. “Despite claims by Israeli authorities that there is no limit on humanitarian aid entering Gaza, most major international NGOs have been unable to deliver a single truck of lifesaving supplies since 2 March,” which “has left millions of dollars’ worth of food, medicine, water, and shelter items stranded in warehouses across Jordan and Egypt, while Palestinians are being starved,” they stated. This obstruction is tied to a new registration process introduced by Israeli authorities for international NGOs, where, according to the statement, “registration can be denied based on vague and politicized criteria, such as alleged “delegitimization” of the state of Israel” and where registration requirements include the submission of sensitive donor and staff data. Failing to comply could force organizations to halt operations in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and remove all international staff within 60 days. Some organizations have already been issued a seven-day ultimatum to provide Palestinian staff lists. International NGOs made clear that sharing the requested data violates data protection laws and undermines humanitarian principles. On 6 August, UN agencies and NGOs [called](#) on Israeli authorities to rescind the requirement introduced on 9 March obliging international NGOs to share sensitive personal information about their Palestinian employees or face termination of their humanitarian operations.

The Hunger and Malnutrition Crisis

- Starvation in Gaza is at the worst level since October 2023 and the amount of aid entering the Strip is insufficient to meet the scale of needs. According to the Food Security Sector (FSS), as of 17 August, 404,000 individual meals were prepared daily at 86 community kitchens supported by 19 FSS partners, including about 132,000 meals in the north and 272,000 meals in southern and central Gaza. While reflecting a noticeable increase compared with the 259,000 daily meals prepared two weeks earlier, this remains far below the over one million daily meals that partners were able to distribute in April. Amid this reality, people continue to suffer from extremely imbalanced diets that lack essential nutrients, increasing the risk of acute malnutrition, with an especially severe impact on elderly people, pregnant and breastfeeding women, children under five, and newborns who are more likely to be born with health complications.
- The FSS estimates that more than 62,000 metric tons of food is required every month only to cover basic humanitarian food assistance needs and the World Food Programme (WFP) [confirms](#) that it has some 170,000 metric tons of food currently stored, under procurement, or in transit in the region to feed the entire population for nearly three months. Yet, between 19 May and 18 August 2025, available [data](#) on aid delivered to Gaza through the UN2720 mechanism, which covers only humanitarian relief consignments processed through the mechanism, indicates that humanitarian organizations were able to collect from crossings only about 54,000 metric tons of food supplies (out of the roughly 57,000 metric tons collected in total). To address rising food insecurity, FSS calls for the scaled-up entry of nutritious food through the commercial sector, including fresh produce and foods fortified with micronutrients, and for unfettered humanitarian access to enable the large-scale entry of humanitarian food aid by all humanitarian partners.
- While data for the first two weeks of August is not yet available, in July, partners reported more than 13,000 admissions of acutely malnourished children, double the number of admissions recorded in June and more than a six-fold increase compared with the 2,000 admissions in February. On 7 August, the UN Children’s Fund ([UNICEF](#)) said that the pace of this deterioration was alarming and demanded that nutrition supplies urgently reach children before more lives are lost. The number of the most severe cases, who need to be hospitalized in stabilization centres, is also increasing, with 54 admissions reported by WHO for the first two weeks of August. Despite the growing caseload, there are only five centres for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition across the Gaza Strip, including two in Gaza city, one in Deir al Balah, and two in Khan Younis, with a combined bed capacity of 43 that is insufficient to cope with the high number of cases. However, at present, malnutrition prevention stocks are almost depleted after months of total blockade and only limited aid entry since 19 May. Both the WFP’s blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are now on hold due to the lack of lipid-based nutrient supplements.
- On 15 August, Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) reported that their teams in Gaza city and Khan Younis are seeing a significant and steady increase in malnourished patients since mid-June. Unable to conduct community level screenings due to insecurity,

MSF teams at primary health-care centres have been screening more than 1,000 people per week and are reporting a 20 per cent rate of global acute malnutrition. The situation is especially critical in Gaza city; according to MSF, as of 9 August, 1,599 people were enrolled as outpatients for malnutrition care in MSF facilities in Gaza city, a 10-per-cent increase compared with the preceding week and a five-fold increase compared with the end of May 2025. MSF cautioned, however, that malnutrition is not just a food shortage, but a life-threatening medical condition that requires, among others, immediate access to treatment, including therapeutic foods, and more capacity to provide inpatient care for complicated cases to save lives.

- According to MoH in Gaza, as of 20 August, 269 malnutrition-related deaths, including 112 children, were documented since October 2023. This includes 204 deaths since 1 July 2025, of whom 51 were children, and three people who died in the past 24 hours.

Challenges Facing the Health System

- Diabetes patients in Gaza are increasingly unable to access their treatment due to severe medication shortages, leading to serious consequences for their health. An estimated 71,000 diabetes patients, including about 2,500 patients with type 1 diabetes, are dependent on insulin, which has only one month of stock remaining. About 30,000 units of insulin were needed per month prior to October 2023. Securing both insulin and adequate food remains a daily challenge. According to the [UNRWA](#) Director of Health, people with type 1 diabetes, including children, require multiple daily insulin injections, but insulin sometimes works too strongly, causing hypoglycemia – a drop in blood sugar that can lead to unconsciousness and even death. This condition is typically easy to manage with simple solutions like juice, candy, or sugar, but widespread shortages of these basic items and unaffordable prices make timely treatment of such side effects nearly impossible. Additionally, devices to monitor blood glucose levels (glucometers and testing strips) are unavailable.
- The ongoing escalation in hostilities in Gaza for over 22 months has resulted in more than 156,000 injuries, according to MoH, many leading to life-long disabilities. This week, the Director of Al-Shifa Hospital, Dr. Mohammed Abu Selmiyah, [indicated](#) that limb amputations have increased due to the inability of antibiotics to combat bacteria. According to a recent peer-reviewed [study](#) by the Lancet Infectious Diseases, 982 out of over 1,300 samples taken from the microbiology laboratory of Al Ahli Hospital between November 2023 and August 2024 showed bacterial growth, and in two thirds of these samples multi-drug resistant bacteria was present. According to [MoH](#) in Gaza, there is only one workshop that manufactures and repairs artificial limbs. Ongoing shortages of electricity and fuel severely limit the facility's ability to meet the growing demand for prosthetic care, which continues to rise daily. A lack of medications and medical consumables further hamper the provision of adequate services to patients with limb injuries.
- Rehabilitation services in Gaza remain limited; according to the [Health Cluster](#), only 45 out of 112 rehabilitation service facilities (approximately 40 per cent) are operational, all partially, including 10 hospitals, two field hospitals, 19 medical points, and 14 primary health care centres, reflecting a significant gap in service provision. Highlighting the challenges facing organizations supporting people with disability in the OPT, including the Gaza Strip, the Global Disability Fund noted in a recent [report](#) that “humanitarian actors, including UN agencies and NGOs, face increasing access and operational restrictions, including entry restrictions on essential equipment and aid, legal restrictions related to registration, and obstructions on the entry of humanitarian personnel, significantly impacting their ability to implement operations and deliver services to the population, with persons with disabilities often being the most difficult to reach and assist.” The report emphasizes that these realities have “placed an increased burden on local disability-focused organizations who are under-resourced in the context of soaring needs and whose operations have been critically impacted by the ongoing escalations, including through the destruction of physical infrastructure, loss of assets, and death, injury or displacement of staff members.”
- Gaza's laboratory testing services are facing a near-total collapse due to severe shortages of essential supplies and equipment. According to [MoH](#), nearly 49 per cent of laboratory test materials have been depleted, and over 60 per cent of the remaining core lab items are expected to run out within a month. In addition, 51.4 per cent of laboratory consumables and supplies have less than one month of stock remaining. Critical tests in operating rooms and intensive care units have already run out or are nearing depletion as well as materials required to monitor drug levels in patients with kidney and liver transplants. Complete Blood Count test kits, among the most basic and frequently used diagnostics, are nearly exhausted and can only sustain operations for a few more days while supplies for screening blood units for viruses (HBsAg, HCV, HIV) are also nearly depleted, posing a serious risk of unsafe blood transfusions. Furthermore, approximately 45 per cent of laboratory equipment has been damaged or destroyed and urgently requires maintenance and spare parts.
- The World Health organization ([WHO](#)) has documented 772 attacks on health care since October 2023 in the Gaza Strip. This [includes](#) 115 attacks reported between 1 January and 10 August 2025, which resulted in the killing of 50 people and the injury of 119. The highest number of attacks took place in North Gaza followed by Khan Younis, with May being the most intense month. Some 46 per cent of the attacks involved violence with heavy weapons, 28 per cent involved violence with individual weapons, and 38 per cent involved obstruction to health-care delivery (a single incident can involve more than one type of attack). Nonetheless, humanitarian and health workers continue to step up risking everything to save others, added WHO.
- On 2 August 2025, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [announced](#) the opening of a new Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Al-Mawasi Field Hospital in western Khan Younis, in response to the growing needs of pregnant women in shelters and in Al-Mawasi area following recent displacement orders. The department offers natural and caesarean deliveries, prenatal and postnatal care, routine pregnancy follow-ups, and essential gynaecological surgeries. Al-Mawasi Field Hospital, one of the largest field hospitals, currently includes 70 beds across various departments, including surgery, radiology, and outpatient clinics, with plans to increase to 150 beds pending the availability of large-capacity generators. According to the Health Cluster, the opening of this department brings the total number of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (CEmOC) to 13 facilities, in addition to a

total of nine Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU). This includes four CEmOC and five NICU in Gaza governorate, two CEmOC and two NICU in Deir al Balah, six CEmOC and two NICU in Khan Younis and one CEmOC in Rafah.

Water and Sanitation Crisis

- Water supply from the three main Israeli Mekorot water lines remains inconsistent. The water provided from the Mekorot (Al-Muntar) line in northern Gaza was providing suitable quantities of water to the eastern side of Gaza city, but damage to the control valves prevented the water from entering the network, forcing a heavy reliance on water trucking for nearly one million people. In southern Gaza, one of the Mekorot lines (Bani Saeed), which used to supply Deir al Balah with water, has been nonfunctional since 20 January 2025, with attempts to conduct repairs repeatedly denied. The third Mekorot line (Bani Suhaila), in Khan Younis, which provides water to Rafah and Khan Younis, is intermittently operational, due to recurrent damage and, for six days now, it has been non-operational. To compensate for the shortage of water from the Mekorot lines in southern Gaza, seawater and brackish desalination plants have increased production despite critical fuel shortages.
- Since October 2023, all wastewater treatment plants in Gaza have ceased operations due to the lack of electricity, infrastructure damage, and restricted access. As a result, sewage is being diverted into stormwater basins and the sea, causing severe environmental pollution. For example, wastewater is currently being discharged from the Sheikh Radwan Lagoon in Gaza city into the sea to prevent overflow and flooding in surrounding neighbourhoods. This practice is expected to continue as long as fuel supplies remain available. However, increased reliance on generators has also driven up the demand for engine oil and filters, making their availability equally critical. Over 130,000 metres of sewage pipelines are damaged, 67 per cent of pumping stations are nonfunctional, and untreated sewage continues to spill into streets, shelters, and residential areas, posing significant public health risks.
- Solid waste management in Gaza remains a persistent challenge, with access to official landfills not possible amid frequent displacement orders and denied access to militarized zones. Fuel shortages are the primary constraint affecting solid waste collection across Gaza, with solid waste fuel allocations only being given on an emergency basis. Primary solid waste collection in south Gaza is currently sustained by UNICEF with approximately 500 cubic metres collected daily. In North Gaza, collection is severely limited due to fuel restrictions, with approximately 7,000 cubic metres of uncollected waste in streets, shelters and hospitals. Temporary dump sites that are accessible are full and WASH partners are advocating for the decongestion of these sites. Medical waste management also remains severely constrained, with no available final treatment locations. The recent securing of 11 freezers for storing medical waste (placentas mainly) is helping reduce the burden and recent approvals for the entry of tipper trucks and medical waste vehicles is expected to facilitate the separation of medical and domestic waste.

Risks Facing Children

- Children in Gaza, who comprise about half of the population, continue to face heightened protection risks amid the ongoing escalation of hostilities. Between early July and mid-August, child protection partners observed a noticeable rise in child labour, with more children engaged in hazardous activities such as rubble collection, street vending, and informal work in markets. Additionally, there has been an increase in visible begging among children and women in urban areas. Psychosocial distress is also widespread, particularly among children who have been repeatedly displaced, with growing reports of children experiencing nightmares, social withdrawal, aggression, and anxiety. Yet, the ability of child protection partners to address these needs has been limited due to fuel shortages, staff displacement and burnout, access constraints, and the lack of supplies, with negative impacts on service delivery and children's well-being. Essential child-focused supplies, including mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) kits, tents for group activities, and assistive devices are largely unavailable in the Gaza Strip, and none have been permitted to enter since 2 March, severely limiting the scope and quality of child protection activities, including the development of services that are more inclusive of children with disabilities. These challenges also continue to limit the ability of partners to provide case management and psychosocial support to children; according to the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), between 1 and 13 August, partners provided only 687 children across the Gaza Strip with case management services and 6,850 children attended psychosocial support sessions. This reflects a reduction in outreach compared with July, when 2,383 children received case management services and 50,070 participated in psychosocial support sessions. Distributions of identity bracelets to address the heightened risk of family separation during displacement have likewise decreased, as stocks that were last replenished during the ceasefire have become nearly depleted.

Funding

- As of 16 August 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$912 million out of the \$4 billion (22 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during July 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 111 ongoing projects, totalling \$65.2 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 54 are being implemented by INGOs, 43 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 39 out of the 68 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

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Children scavenging on Gaza's shore. Photo by OCHA/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #317 | Gaza Strip

28 Aug 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 3 or 4 September.

Key Highlights

- Famine is now occurring in Gaza governorate and is projected to expand further to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis by the end of September.
- At least 2,000 people seeking aid have been killed in three months, according to records from the UN Human Rights Office.
- Nearly 120,000 displacement movements have been recorded in two months, including about 23,000 in the past week, reports the Site Management Cluster.
- If the Israeli-announced offensive on Gaza city goes ahead, the Gaza Strip could lose half of its hospital bed capacity.
- Acute respiratory infections and acute watery diarrhoea remain the most commonly reported illnesses in the Gaza Strip.
- Humanitarian officials call for the lifting of impediments to large-scale flows of humanitarian and commercial supplies into and throughout the Gaza Strip, including directly to the north and to Gaza city.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have carried out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, alongside continued ground operations. Reports continue to emerge of demolitions of residential buildings and of strikes on schools, tents, residential buildings, and on people trying to access food supplies. According to records of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), since the establishment of a militarized distribution system in the Gaza Strip on 27 May and as of 26 August, at least 2,014 people seeking aid – mostly young men and boys – were killed in Gaza – 1,074 near militarized distribution sites and 940 along convoy supply routes.
- In its updated analysis on the Gaza Strip, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification ([IPC](#)) global initiative found with reasonable evidence that famine (IPC Phase 5) is currently occurring in Gaza governorate and projected to expand to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates by the end of September 2025 (see more below). In a [statement](#) on 22 August 2025, the UN Secretary-General said that “just when it seems there are no words left to describe the living hell in Gaza, a new one has been added: ‘famine’. This is not a mystery – it is a man-made disaster, a moral indictment, and a failure of humanity itself. Famine is not only about food; it is the deliberate collapse of the systems needed for human survival. People are starving. Children are dying. And those with the duty to act are failing. As the occupying power, Israel has unequivocal obligations under international law – including the duty of ensuring food and medical supplies of the population.”
- The Israeli military intensified its operations in North Gaza and Gaza governorates and issued additional displacement orders. Since the beginning of August, six displacement orders have been issued by Israeli forces, including most recently on 26 August

when dropped leaflets showed parts of two neighbourhoods of Gaza governorate marked for displacement (Ash Sheikh Radwan and Ad Daraj), part of which had already been included in orders issued over the past three months. Among other civilian infrastructure, the area includes the [Ash Sheikh Radwan Pond](#), three water wells, three wastewater pumping stations, two medical points and one ambulance centre. According to the Site Management Cluster (SMC), nearly [54,000](#) displacement movements were recorded in July and over 65,000 displacement movements have been recorded since 1 August, including [23,199](#) over the past week, bringing the total recorded since 18 March to over 833,000 displacement movements. Most displacement flows in August originated from Gaza governorate, followed by North Gaza, and include nearly 18,700 movements reported to have crossed from northern to southern Gaza since 14 August, primarily to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. A single person may be counted multiple times if displaced more than once.

- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 20 and 27 August, 475 Palestinians were killed, and 2,169 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 62,895 fatalities and 158,927 injuries. According to MoH, the total number includes 298 fatalities who were retroactively added on 23 August 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access food supplies has increased to 2,158 fatalities and more than 15,843 injuries since 27 May 2025.
- According to the Israeli military, between 20 and 27 August, as of noon, one Israeli soldier was killed in Gaza. This brings the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 455 fatalities and 2,883 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,655 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 27 August, it is estimated that 50 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- On 25 August, at about 10:00, Nasser Medical Complex in central Khan Younis was hit by two strikes carried out by Israeli forces, killing 22 Palestinians, including two who died of their wounds on 27 August according to MoH. Among the fatalities were one female photojournalist, four male journalists, a Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) driver, a doctor and three other medical staff. Over [30 people](#) were reportedly injured, including one doctor and one nurse, critically ill [patients](#) who were receiving care at the complex, [two](#) journalists, [one](#) Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) paramedic, and seven PCD officers who got injured live on the news while attempting to rescue the injured and retrieve the fatalities from the first strike. The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) [said](#) that the strikes hit the hospital's main building, which houses the emergency department, inpatient ward and surgical unit, and damaged the emergency staircase. On the same day, at about 16:45, two Palestinians, including a journalist, were reportedly killed and several others injured when tents sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs) were hit, northwest of Khan Younis. Earlier on 23 August, at about 18:00, a Palestinian journalist was reportedly shot and killed while he was covering events near Zikim crossing, in North Gaza.
- The UN Secretary-General [condemned](#) the killing of Palestinians in the Israeli strikes that hit Nasser Medical Complex and extended condolences to the families and friends of journalists. He stated that “these latest horrific killings highlight the extreme risks that medical personnel and journalists face as they carry out their vital work amidst this brutal conflict” and called for “a prompt impartial investigation into these killings.”
- On 26 August, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) [stated](#) that, since October 2023, 245 journalists and media workers, including 33 female journalists, have been killed, at least 520 have been injured, and 39 have been arrested by Israeli authorities, of whom 22 remain in detention. This is in addition to at least 800 family members of journalists killed in Gaza, PJS said. According to PJS, “more than 800 journalists in Gaza continue to live under conditions of repeated displacement from the north to the south of the Strip, facing severe hardships including lack of safety due to Israeli airstrikes on their tents, the absence of basic living conditions, and the lack of electricity and internet necessary to continue their work.” PJS added that Israeli forces have carried out airstrikes and tank assaults that destroyed 115 media institutions in the Gaza Strip, encompassing all types of media outlets.
- Other key incidents resulting in fatalities over the past week included the following:
 - On 20 August, at about 21:00, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and at least 10 others injured when the vicinity of a school sheltering IDPs was hit in Ash Shati’ (Beach) Camp, in western Gaza city.
 - On 21 August, at about 16:00, at least eight Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in As Sabra, in southern Gaza city.
 - On 22 August, at about 8:30, 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed and dozens injured when a school and surrounding IDP tents were hit in Ash Sheikh Radwan, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 23 August, at about 3:50, 17 Palestinians, including three women and at least five boys and two girls aged between 6 months and 13 years, were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit north of Khan Younis.
 - On 24 August, between 18:00 and 19:00, 10 Palestinians were reportedly killed and more than 50 injured while waiting for aid convoys in As Sudaniya area, west of Beit Lahiya.
 - On 26 August, at about 0:15, six Palestinians, including a couple, their three children and a woman, were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit in Al Qarara area, north of Khan Younis.
 - On 26 August, at about 3:30, nine Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in As Sabra, in southern Gaza city. Seven of the fatalities, including five females, were recovered while the other two fatalities, including a girl, reportedly remained missing under the rubble.

Impediments to Humanitarian Access

- Delays and impediments of humanitarian movements continue. Recently, fewer humanitarian movements have been denied outright by Israeli authorities. However, missions that are approved still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous, congested or impassable. Between 20 and 26 August, out of 89 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 53 were facilitated (59 per cent), 23 were initially approved but then impeded on the ground (26 per cent), seven (eight per cent) were denied and six (seven per cent) had to be withdrawn by the organizers. Facilitated movements included missions to transfer fuel, collection of medical, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies, staff movements and rotations. Denied movements included missions aiming to repair water pipe connections and roads and to relocate WASH chemical supplies. Among the 23 impeded missions, five were fully accomplished despite the impediments, including missions to collect supplies from Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings and medically evacuate patients through Kerem Shalom crossing. The remaining 18 missions were partially accomplished. Overall, eight out of the 89 movements involved fuel collection and transfer, 26 involved the collection of other supplies from Gaza's crossings, 21 were staff movements and rotations, and 34 aimed to support other ongoing humanitarian operations.
- In recent weeks, the number of trucks and fuel tankers entering Gaza through UN coordination have increased. For example, according to the [UN2720](#) mechanism, the UN and its partners have collected more than 27,000 metric tons of food supplies from Gaza's crossings so far in August, compared with over 13,000 metric tons in July. Moreover, according to the Food Security Sector (FSS), as of 26 August, 453,000 individual meals were prepared daily at 99 community kitchens supported by 19 FSS partners, including about 131,000 meals in the north and 322,000 meals in southern and central Gaza. While reflecting a noticeable increase compared with the 259,000 daily meals prepared in early August, this remains far below the over one million daily meals that partners were able to distribute in April, when stocks from the ceasefire period were still available. Vital medical supplies, including blood units, also continue to be delivered and the World Health Organization (WHO) has [re-established](#) its warehouse in Deir Al Balah, enabling the continuation of large-scale support, after it was destroyed in the July 2025 [attacks](#). Limited commercial support has resumed, helping to bring down prices that, nonetheless, remain elevated and largely out of reach for much of the population. In recent days, the entry of animal fodder has also resumed. Describing these important developments, Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, cautioned in a [briefing](#) to the Security Council on 27 August that these developments "will neither reverse famine nor stop it in its tracks." She called on the Council and Member States to immediately work to ensure: an immediate and sustained cessation of hostilities; the release of all hostages, immediately and unconditionally; the protection of civilians and critical infrastructure; the safe, rapid and unimpeded delivery of large-scale, multi-sector humanitarian assistance through all entry points, including the lifting of restrictions on essential items and halting the delays and denials that undermine humanitarian work; and the at-scale restoration of commercial flows, market systems, essential services and local food production.
- Hundreds of thousands of families across the Gaza Strip continue to live in overcrowded, undignified and unsafe conditions in displacement sites, where site density has fallen below 30 square metres per person, [according](#) to the Shelter Cluster. While Israeli authorities have recently issued limited approvals for the entry of shelter materials, following five months of no entry of any shelter items, none have yet entered Gaza. Approvals of shelter items appear to be conditional on the entry of items through Kerem Shalom crossing in southern Gaza, the cluster added. Moreover, according to the cluster, five partners have recently reported that their requests for the entry of shelter items have been rejected at the pre-clearance stage, which happens before they can enter Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Meanwhile, already, 1.4 million people are estimated to require basic emergency shelter – needs that are expected to drastically increase due to ongoing bombardments and Israeli military [calls](#) on people in northern Gaza, including Gaza city, to evacuate and move southward. Shelter Cluster partners warned that humanitarian aid must not be used to facilitate or legitimize mass displacement.
- On 21 August, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) that the lack of equipment and sufficient fuel to repair and operate damaged water pipes and desalination plants is making it impossible for people in Gaza to get enough water and leading to an increase in disease. Since June 2024, for every 10 import requests of items for water desalination, MSF has had only one approved by Israeli authorities, and the organization's efforts to deliver nine new treatment units to Gaza have faced continued denials for months. According to MSF, the reliance on water trucking, coming from desalination plants, means that people do not always know when or where their next glass of drinking water will come from. In addition, the expansion of military activities and bombardments have disrupted service provision, with MSF forced to stop providing water at least at 137 distribution points so far in 2025. In terms of repairing damage incurred by water infrastructure, MSF noted that there is currently reliance on improvised repairing techniques in reachable locations, such as locally sourcing spare parts or using parts from one generator or broken sites to fix another.

Famine Confirmed in Gaza Governorate

- On 22 August, the IPC [confirmed](#) that famine is currently occurring in Gaza governorate and is projected to expand to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates. Conditions in North Gaza are estimated to be as severe – or worse – than in Gaza city. However, limited data prevented an IPC classification, highlighting the urgent need for access to assess and assist. Rafah was not analyzed, given indications that it is largely depopulated. Analyzing a population of 1.98 million people in Gaza, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates, the IPC projected that, by the end of September 2025, more than 640,000 people will face catastrophic levels of food insecurity – classified as IPC Phase 5 – across the Gaza Strip. An additional 1.14 million people in the Gaza Strip will be in emergency (IPC Phase 4), and a further 198,000 people in crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions. Through June 2026, at least 132,000 children under five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition – double the IPC estimate from May 2025. This includes over 41,000 severe cases of children at heightened risk of death, up from 14,100 cases estimated in May. Nearly 55,500 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women will also require urgent nutrition response by mid-2025, triple the IPC estimate of 17,000 in May.

- Presenting the findings, the Famine Review Committee (FRC), made two main [recommendations](#) to senior decision makers and resource partners: to “act without delay to put in place an immediate humanitarian response at a large enough scale to prevent further deepening of suffering and avoidable mortality from this entirely man-made catastrophe,” noting that partial and temporary relaxations of restrictions have been repeatedly implemented in response to previous reviews and alerts, only for restrictions to be reapplied; and to “exert maximum pressure to achieve a ceasefire... to allow for restoration of essential, lifesaving services at the scale required” to reverse famine conditions.
- Following the issuance of the IPC report confirming famine in Gaza governorate, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, [stated](#): “It is a famine within a few hundred metres of food, in a fertile land. It is a famine that hits the most vulnerable first. Each with a name, each with a story. That strips people of dignity before it strips them of life. That forces a parent to choose which child to feed. That forces people to risk their lives to seek food. It is a famine that we repeatedly warned of. But that the international media has not been allowed in to cover. To bear witness. ... It is a famine on all of our watch. ... It is a predictable and a preventable famine.”
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and WHO [underscored](#) that famine must be stopped at all costs, noting that famine warnings have been clear for months and that they have consistently highlighted “the extreme urgency for an immediate and full-scale humanitarian response given the escalating hunger-related deaths, rapidly worsening levels of acute malnutrition and plummeting levels of food consumption, with hundreds of thousands of people going days without anything to eat.” The agencies also expressed grave concern about the threat of an intensified military offensive in Gaza city, where famine conditions already exist. They added that whereas aid supplies entering Gaza increased slightly since July, they “remained vastly insufficient, inconsistent and inaccessible compared to the need.” Warning that there is no time to lose, WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said: “The world has waited too long, watching tragic and unnecessary deaths mount from this man-made famine. Widespread malnutrition means that even common and usually mild diseases like diarrhoea are becoming fatal, especially for children. The health system, run by hungry and exhausted health workers, cannot cope. Gaza must be urgently supplied with food and medicines to save lives and begin the process of reversing malnutrition.”
- In a statement, the UN [Human Rights Chief](#), Volker Türk, attributed the famine confirmed in Gaza governorate by the IPC to actions taken by the Israeli government: “It has unlawfully restricted the entry and distribution of humanitarian assistance and other goods necessary for the survival of the civilian population in the Gaza strip. We have already seen deaths from starvation and malnutrition across the strip. The Israeli military has destroyed critical civilian infrastructure and almost all agricultural land, banned fishing, and forcibly displaced the population – all drivers of this famine.” Recalling that it is a war crime to use starvation as a method of warfare, the Human Rights Chief said that the “Israeli authorities must take immediate steps to end the famine in the Gaza governorate and prevent further loss of life across the Gaza strip.”
- For pregnant and breastfeeding women and their newborns in Gaza, famine is “a possible death sentence,” the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [stated](#). “For mothers in Gaza, it means being forced to give birth while malnourished, exhausted and at heightened risk of death. It means their babies are born too small, too weak or too early to survive. It means mothers unable to breastfeed because they, too, are starving. And it forces mothers to make the impossible choice between which of their children to feed, and which must be left to perish,” UNFPA added. The consequences are all too visible, according to UNFPA, with one in five babies born prematurely or underweight and one in seven newborns in need of emergency neonatal care because of severe complications. UNFPA added that the children who survive will be marked by lasting scars, including stunting, developmental delays, weakened immunity, and increased risk of chronic disease in adulthood. Famine today will shape the health prospects of Palestinians for generations, UNFPA emphasized.
- According to [Save the Children](#), 61 per cent of pregnant women and new mothers screened at its two primary health-care clinics in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah in the first two weeks of August were found to be malnourished, nearly seven times higher than the nine per cent recorded in the first two weeks of March, before aid and goods were almost entirely cut off. It added that cases of acute malnutrition among children under five seen at its two clinics have surged tenfold in four months. While Save the Children has been unable to get any of its own aid into Gaza since 2 March, doctors at its two clinics are seeing about 100 patients per day, double the recommended caseload, carrying out malnutrition screenings and medical interventions, and providing supplements, high calorie biscuits and pastes to malnourished children and mothers.
- According to MoH in Gaza, as of 27 August, 313 malnutrition-related deaths, including 119 children, were documented since October 2023. This includes 248 deaths since 1 July 2025, of whom 58 were children, and 10 people who died in the past 24 hours.

Challenges Facing the Health System

- Hospitals across Gaza continue to face extreme challenges that are hampering their ability to provide adequate health care to patients across Gaza. According to [WHO](#), Al-Shifa and Al-Ahli hospitals, in Gaza city, are operating at nearly 300 per cent over capacity, with a constant influx of complex trauma injuries. Al-Ahli and Patient Friends Association hospitals lie close to displacement areas and risk becoming nonfunctional if not protected, WHO warned. During his visit to Al-Shifa hospital, Dr. Richard Peeperkorn, WHO representative in the OPT, [said](#) that Al-Shifa hospital was turned to “one massive trauma ward,” with trauma patients all over the hospital, including floors, stairs and even in the new maternal and child health department. According to [WHO](#), the total hospital bed capacity in the Gaza Strip is currently at 2,085 beds, including 1,547 inpatient beds, 68 intensive care units (ICUs), and 92 incubators, and the 11 hospitals still partially functional in Gaza city represent 49 per cent (1,022) of total hospital beds, 47 per cent (722) of inpatient beds, and 51 per cent (35) of all ICU beds in the Gaza Strip. In other words, if the Israeli-announced offensive on Gaza city goes ahead, the Gaza Strip could lose half of its hospital bed capacity.

- Infectious diseases in Gaza continue to spread, threatening public health. According to [WHO](#), this is driven by overcrowding, poor WASH conditions, and malnutrition-related weakened immunity. Acute respiratory infections and acute watery diarrhea remain the most frequently reported conditions, accounting for 58 per cent and 41 per cent of all reported illnesses, respectively, between 3 and 9 August. In addition, the Health Cluster reported that between 1 and 22 August, a total of 115 cases of meningitis were reported across the Strip, bringing the total number of cases since May to 1,043. The number of suspected Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) cases has also increased to 94, with about 25 per cent requiring ICU treatment and 10 associated deaths reported. GBS treatment options, such as plasmapheresis (plasma exchange) filters and intravenous immunoglobulin, remain out of stock, with efforts to replenish supplies ongoing.
- On 20 August, the World Health Organization (WHO) [supported](#) a large-scale medical evacuation of critically injured and sick patients to the UAE. This [included](#) 63 patients, including 37 children, along with 92 companions. In a second evacuation this week, on 27 August, WHO [evacuated](#) 19 patients, including 18 children, along with 62 companions from Gaza to Jordan. According to WHO, more than 15,800 critical patients in Gaza remain in urgent need of specialized medical care that they cannot receive in Gaza. WHO calls on more countries to step forward to accept patients, and for the restoration of medical evacuations to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- [According](#) to Dr. Ahmad Al-Farra, Head of the Paediatric Department at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, the health situation in southern Gaza has reached a catastrophic level, with significantly more hospitals needed to accommodate the growing number of children suffering from malnutrition. He noted that just a few months ago, Nasser Complex allocated only eight beds for the treatment of malnutrition cases, while 25 children are currently admitted. Some are lying on the floor due to the lack of available beds, with most in critical condition. Dr. Al-Farra indicated that the hospital's malnutrition clinic, operating only two days a week, is receiving 10 times the previous caseload.
- On 24 August, the head of the Nutrition Department at Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza, Dr. Mohammed Kuhail, [said](#) that the hospital is currently treating over 800 cases of malnutrition. He highlighted the risks facing post-operative patients and that pregnant and breastfeeding women are suffering from anaemia and severe deficiencies in essential vitamins and minerals, increasing the risk of premature birth and low birth weight. In addition, elderly patients, as well as those with kidney failure and stroke, require special dietary regimens that are currently unavailable. He further emphasized that the absence of animal protein, fresh vegetables, and fruits is exacerbating the health crisis, while reliance on canned food is insufficient and delays recovery.

Funding

- As of 26 August 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$950 million out of the \$4 billion (23 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during July 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 111 ongoing projects, totalling \$65.2 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 54 are being implemented by INGOs, 43 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 39 out of the 68 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

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



More than two million people face dire conditions amid famine and ongoing war. Credit: OCHA/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #319 | Gaza Strip

04 Sep 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both Issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 10 or 11 September.

Key Highlights

- Across the Gaza Strip, casualties due to strikes on tents, schools, residential buildings, health facilities and people seeking aid continue to be reported.
- Amid famine and growing displacement, humanitarian organizations highlight deplorable conditions at displacement sites.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross warns that a mass evacuation of Gaza city cannot be done in a safe and dignified manner under the current conditions.
- Since January, about 44,000 admissions of children for the treatment of acute malnutrition have been reported, according to the Nutrition Cluster.
- Ongoing hostilities are depriving over 700,000 children of their right to education, including more than 658,000 children who already lost two academic years.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip. Fighting between Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces has taken place. Military ground operations continue to be especially intensive in Gaza city as well as in Jabalya and surrounding neighbourhoods in North Gaza, driving additional waves of displacement. According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), 83 per cent of displacement movements between 27 and 31 August were from parts of Gaza city, primarily to western Gaza city and also southwards to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. Field reports also suggest that since coastal areas in Gaza city are already extremely crowded with tents, some people have been forced to flee Gaza city to the northwest, coastal areas near Zikim crossing that are under displacement orders. Overall, since the reescalation of hostilities on 18 March, more than 856,000 displacement movements have been recorded across the Gaza Strip, SMC reported; these figures may count the same person more than once if they have been displaced multiple times.
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 27 August and 3 September, 571 Palestinians were killed, and 2,318 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 63,746 fatalities and 161,245 injuries. According to MoH, the total number includes 280 fatalities who were retroactively added on 30 August 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access aid supplies has increased to 2,339 fatalities and more than 17,070 injuries since 27 May 2025.
- According to the Israeli military, between 27 August and 3 September, as of noon, one Israeli soldier was killed in Gaza. This brings the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 456 fatalities and 2,888 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than

1,656 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. On 29 August, the Israeli military [announced](#) that it had recovered the body of one hostage who was killed on 7 October 2023 and that the remains of another hostage were being identified. On 30 August, the Israeli military [confirmed](#) the recovery of the second identified hostage. As of 3 September, it is estimated that 48 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.

- As of September 2025, according to [data](#) provided by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) to Hamoked, an Israeli human rights NGO, there are 11,040 Palestinians in Israeli custody, including 1,540 sentenced prisoners, 3,351 remand detainees, 3,577 administrative detainees held without trial, and 2,662 people held as “unlawful combatants.” These figures do not include Palestinians from Gaza who have been detained by the Israeli military since 7 October 2023.
- Delays and impediments of humanitarian movements continue. Recently, fewer humanitarian movements have been denied outright by Israeli authorities. However, missions that are approved still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous, congested or impassable. Between 27 August and 2 September, out of 86 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 50 were facilitated (58 per cent), 22 were initially approved but then impeded on the ground (26 per cent), five (six per cent) were denied and nine (10 per cent) had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons. Facilitated movements included missions to transfer fuel, collection of medical, nutrition and WASH supplies, staff movements and rotations. Denied movements included missions aiming to retrieve nutrition supplies, to inspect a dumpsite to expand solid waste operations, as well as missions to repair roads to ensure safe passage of trucks along routes. Among the 22 impeded missions, five were fully accomplished despite the impediments, including missions to collect supplies from Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings and medically evacuate patients through Kerem Shalom crossing. The remaining 17 missions were partially accomplished, including missions to pick up food, fuel, and other supplies from Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings. Overall, eight out of the 86 movements involved fuel collection and transfer, 24 involved the collection of other supplies from Gaza’s crossings, 19 were staff movements and rotations, and 35 aimed to support other ongoing humanitarian operations.
- On 29 August, the United Arab Emirates [inaugurated](#) a 6.7-kilometre pipeline to deliver desalinated water from the UAE-funded desalination plant in Egypt, which was established in early 2024, to Khan Younis in southern Gaza. The installation of the new trunkline was completed by the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) and [Khan Younis Municipality](#) and has the capacity of providing up to 10,000 cubic metres of clean water to over one million people daily. The system is under a trial operation and is not yet delivering at full capacity. According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, the plan is to distribute water to displaced households in Al Mawasi through 50 water tanks of five cubic metres each across sites hosting internally displaced people (IDPs), to install three water trucking filling stations, and to connect the trunkline with the water network in Khan Younis. However, the pipeline sustained damage on 31 August and was repaired within a day, underscoring its vulnerability in the future.

Strikes on Tents, Schools, Buildings, Health Facilities and People Seeking Aid

- Incidents of detonation and demolition of residential buildings, including through the use of explosive robots, continue to be reported, alongside strikes on schools, tents, residential buildings, and on people trying to access food supplies. According to records of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), since the establishment of a militarized distribution system in the Gaza Strip on 27 May and as of 2 September, at least 2,146 people seeking aid – mostly young men and boys – were killed in Gaza – 1,135 near militarized distribution sites and 1,011 along convoy supply routes.
- Between 31 August and 2 September, two Palestinian journalists were killed in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS). On 31 August, a journalist was killed with her husband and children in an Israeli [airstrike](#) that hit their apartment in Gaza city. On 2 September, a [photojournalist](#) was killed in an Israeli strike near Al Jala’ square in Gaza city. In total, since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023, 247 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza, PJS reported.
- On 1 September, a tent on the roof of the outpatient clinic building at Al Aqsa Hospital, in Deir al Balah, was hit, injuring at least two people, one of whom reportedly succumbed to his wounds on 2 September, and causing structural damage. According to the hospital, this [marked](#) the 14th time the hospital has been hit and it caused significant damage to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department and its equipment, rendering the department out of service. This department was serving more than 70 patients daily for essential examinations and treatments, in addition to providing care for injured people, the hospital added, noting that efforts are ongoing to reactivate the department despite the critical shortage of resources.
- Casualties among IDPs sheltering in tents or schools continue to be reported, including the following incidents:
 - On 28 August, at about 11:45, a woman and her son were reportedly killed when IDP tents were hit in Asdaa area, northwest of Khan Younis.
 - On 28 August, at about 16:00, five people were reportedly killed and others injured when the gate of a school used as a shelter for IDPs was hit in Jabalya An Nazla, in North Gaza.
 - On 28 August, at about 18:50, four people, including two children, were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit at the entrance to Al Bureij Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 29 August, at about 1:00, a young couple and a man were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit south of Al Mawasi area, in western Khan Younis.
 - On 1 September, at about midday, two people were reportedly killed and others injured while setting up IDP tents around Ash Shuja’iyyeh junction, in northeastern Gaza city.

- Other incidents resulting in fatalities over the past week included the following, the majority in relation to people seeking aid near militarized distribution sites or along routes of humanitarian aid convoys, and some while tending to their livelihoods:
 - On 28 August, between 0:45 and the early morning, at least seven people were reportedly killed and others injured near a militarized distribution site in Wadi Gaza area, north of Deir al Balah.
 - On 29 August, at about 8:14, three men were reportedly killed, and one was injured, when farmers were hit on Abu Hosni Street, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 29 August, at about 18:45, a Palestinian fisher was reportedly killed when a fishing boat was hit off the coast of Al Qarara, northwest of Khan Younis.
 - On 29 August, nine people seeking aid were reportedly killed and others injured in the Zikim crossing area, in North Gaza.
 - On 29 August, at about 23:30, eight Palestinians, including at least one woman and two girls, were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit south of An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 30 August, at about noon, at least 12 Palestinians, including five children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a bakery surrounded by IDP tents was hit on An Naser Street, northwest of Gaza city.
 - On 30 August, at about 20:00, five people, including a woman, were reportedly killed when a café was hit in Ash Shati' (Beach) Camp, northwest of Gaza city.
 - On 31 August, in the early morning, seven people were reportedly killed and 10 others were injured near a militarized distribution site in Wadi Gaza, north of Deir al Balah.
 - On 31 August, between 12:15 and 16:30, 14 people were reportedly killed while waiting for aid near the Morag axis, south of Khan Younis.
 - On 31 August, at about 13:45, seven people, including four females, were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Jabalya, in North Gaza.
 - On 31 August, at about 17:15, seven people were reportedly killed while seeking aid in As Sudaniya area, west of Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 31 August, at about 18:45, eight people were reportedly killed when a residential apartment near As Sahaba Medical Complex was hit, in Gaza city.
 - On 1 September, at about 13:00, at least three people including one boy were reportedly killed and others injured when a donkey cart was hit in a crowded market on An Naser Street, in Gaza city.
 - On 2 September, in the morning, ten people were reportedly killed and at least 10 others injured near a militarized distribution site in Wadi Gaza, north of Deir al Balah.
 - On 2 September, at about 2:20, at least seven people were reportedly killed including a married couple and their three children, when two residential buildings were hit near Ash Sheikh Radwan Bridge, in Gaza city.
 - On 2 September, at about noon, at least ten people were reportedly killed near a militarized distribution site southwest of Khan Younis.
 - On 2 September, at about 13:30, at least nine Palestinians, including six children (three girls, including two sisters, and three boys) and three men, were reportedly killed and several others injured in multiple airstrikes on a group of people collecting water in the Al Attar area, in Al Mawasi, west of Khan Younis.

Escalating Israeli Military Activity and Forced Displacement from Gaza City

- On 29 August, the Israeli military [announced](#) that the 10-hour tactical pauses in military activity, declared to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid, would no longer apply to Gaza city, describing the area as a “dangerous combat zone.” On 2 September, the Israeli military additionally [announced](#) that, in preparation for the expansion of military activity in Gaza city, Al Mawasi area, in Khan Younis, “will witness the provision of better humanitarian services, particularly those related to health care, water, and food,” warning people not to approach or return to previously declared combat zones or areas where Israeli forces are operating.
- On 30 August, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mirjana Spoljaric, [warned](#) that a mass evacuation of Gaza city cannot be done in a safe and dignified manner under the current conditions. Describing such an event as unfeasible and incomprehensible, she stated: “Such an evacuation would trigger a massive population movement that no area in the Gaza Strip can absorb, given the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and the extreme shortages of food, water, shelter and medical care. The order would be imposed on civilians who are already traumatised by months of fighting and terrified by what could come next. Many are unable to comply with evacuation orders because they are starving, sick, injured or suffering from physical disabilities. All civilians are protected by international humanitarian law (IHL), whether they leave or stay behind, and must be allowed to return home.”

- For several months, the WASH Cluster has reported that due to ongoing displacement, limited fuel supplies needed to operate water and sanitation facilities, massive destruction or inaccessibility to water and sanitation infrastructure, and the inability to carry out needed repairs, most people in Gaza have been receiving less than the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day. A further deterioration in the situation in the northern Gaza Strip, especially in Gaza city, could endanger the operation of the few remaining water and sanitation facilities serving nearly one million people. Ongoing displacement has further compounded the crisis, placing additional pressure on already overstretched water services. Many displacement sites are reporting severe gaps in water supply, underscoring the urgent need for increased response capacity.
- On 2 September, the Gaza Municipality [warned](#) that intensified military operations and associated security threats have prevented municipal crews from accessing and operating critical infrastructure in Al Manara area and around Ash Sheikh Radwan rainwater basin in the northwestern part of Gaza city. The Municipality said that its inability to access and operate two wastewater pumping stations east of the Az Zaytoun neighbourhood, in southern Gaza city, may lead to sewage overflow and flooding of homes. According to the WASH Cluster, access to Sheikh Radwan pond is critical as it is Gaza city's largest rainwater collection pond and is now contaminated with untreated sewage. Limited fuel supplies have hampered efforts to pump water into the sea, causing the pond to reach critical levels several times and increasing the risk of overflow. Without sustained access to the site and reliable operation of the pumping stations that empty it, even limited rainfall could trigger overflow, potentially flooding surrounding neighbourhoods and significantly increasing the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks and groundwater contamination, the WASH Cluster warns.
- In a [statement](#) on 3 September, the Site Management Cluster expressed grave concern at the intensifying humanitarian catastrophe unfolding across the Gaza Strip, and reported 82,000 new displacement movements since 14 August, including 29,700 movements observed from northern to southern Gaza between 14 and 31 August. The cluster noted deplorable conditions at displacement sites, including severe overcrowding, unsanitary conditions and lack of water, and highlighted concerns that land in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis is already sheltering thousands of displaced families and cannot adequately accommodate displaced people from Gaza city.
- While Israeli authorities had [announced](#) that they would lift the ban on the entry of shelter supplies into Gaza as of 17 August, the number of tents approved for entry by the Israeli authorities through UN coordination has so far been limited. According to the Shelter Cluster, as of 30 August, more than 86,000 tents, over one million tarpaulins and sealing-off kits, and some five million non-food items are currently in the Shelter Cluster pipeline awaiting clearance and entry into Gaza. Humanitarian organizations are reiterating their call for shelter materials and other supplies to be allowed into all parts of Gaza, including through the northern crossings and to Gaza city, emphasizing their commitment to serve people wherever they are.
- In a positive development, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [announced](#) the opening of the Cardiac Catheterization Department at Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza city on 30 August 2025, as part of its plan to expand medical services in the hospital. Dr. Haider Al-Qidra, PRCS's Executive Director, emphasized that engineering and technical teams managed to rehabilitate the cardiac catheterization device which has enabled the medical teams to perform numerous vital medical interventions and decrease the pressure caused by long patient waiting lists.

Right to Learning under Grave Threat

- The official beginning of the school year in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) this week also marks the start of the third, consecutive academic year in which children in Gaza will be deprived of their right to education, with lasting consequences for an entire generation, the Education Cluster warns. Over 700,000 students should be starting the new school year this week, including about 56,000 six-year-olds who should enter school for the first time and more than 658,000 who have already lost two consecutive academic years. Of the total, some 71,000 students in Gaza cannot transition to higher education because they have been unable to sit for the General Secondary Education Examinations (Tawjihi) in the past two years. Only 1,730 students from the 2022-2023 cohort were able to take the Tawjihi exams organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoE) in July 2025, of whom roughly 94 per cent passed, and there are plans underway to hold additional exams for the 2023-2024 cohort in the coming two weeks. According to the Education Cluster, only about 38 per cent of school-aged children (250,000 out of 658,000) have been able to access some form of learning organized or supported by cluster partners in the past two years through temporary learning spaces (TLS), which have offered a combination of psychosocial support, social-emotional learning, recreational activities, and some continuity of education. In other words, over 60 per cent of school-aged children have had no access to any form of learning or support in nearly two years.
- According to the Education Cluster, partners continue to face immense challenges in expanding learning outreach to children across the Gaza Strip amid continued hostilities, bombardment, destruction, displacement, access impediments and funding constraints. Over 86 per cent of Gaza are within Israeli-militarized zones or fall within areas placed under displacement orders, with 166 TLS forced to pause their activities due to insecurity and displacement orders since the start of 2025. During the same period, 239 additional TLS have been either destroyed or closed due to funding constraints. Limited internet access hinders online learning, including classes organized by UNRWA and MoE. Basic supplies, such as tents, notebooks, pens, backpacks and paper, have largely not yet been approved for entry into Gaza by Israeli authorities, with only limited quantities of tents and stationary allowed entry during the ceasefire in early 2025. These restrictions likewise apply to about 10,000 tablets needed to administer the Tawjihi exams that are available to be sent to Gaza from the West Bank. Attacks on education and educational infrastructure also continue, including airstrikes and shelling by the Israeli military on schools providing shelter to internally displaced people, with a total of 394 incidents recorded by the Education Cluster since October 2023, of which 117 incidents were documented between January and August 2025. These attacks not only kill and injure civilians, but also fuel fear among parents, children and teachers, undermining participation in emergency education activities. With winter approaching, the Education Cluster reports that all 295 TLS that remain operational lack insulation and heating – as of 2 September, these include six TLS in North Gaza, 89 in Gaza

governorate, 100 in Deir al Balah, and 100 in Khan Younis – and children lack adequate winter clothing, which would make safe and dignified learning nearly impossible.

Famine, Food Insecurity and the Malnutrition Crisis

- The Food Security Sector (FSS) reports that increases in the entry of commercial and humanitarian supplies into the Gaza Strip in August have led to a decrease in the prices of some key food staples, such as wheat flour, and allowed humanitarian partners to produce a larger number of daily meals at community kitchens across Gaza. According to monitoring [data](#) by the UN 2720 mechanism, over 33,000 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian food supplies were collected from the crossings in August, which is roughly the same amount that was collected from the crossings between the resumption of limited aid entry on 19 May and 30 July 2025. In other words, the daily average of food supplies collected by the UN and humanitarian partners has generally more than doubled from about 445 MT in July to 1,100 MT in August. Yet, the majority of these supplies have been taken by crowds of hungry people en route or, in some cases, looted by armed criminal groups. According to FSS, the daily average volume of collected supplies through UN coordination remains far less than the 2,000 MT required daily across the Strip to meet basic food needs. As of 2 September, 20 FSS partners prepared 517,000 individual meals every day at 104 community kitchens across Gaza, including about 175,000 meals in the north and 342,000 meals in southern and central Gaza – this is compared with 453,000 daily meals at 99 community kitchens a week earlier. Yet, limited purchasing power, supply shortages, extremely expensive prices of some high demand items such as potatoes and dry onions, and persistently high liquidity fees (at 35-37 per cent) continue to limit the ability of most families to obtain needed supplies of nutritious food.
- On 26 August, after a five-month pause, the World Food Programme (WFP) [resumed](#) the cash assistance programme, so far reaching about 22,500 people (4,500 households) across Gaza out of a total target of 66,000 people. According to WFP, the decision followed improved market supply and aims to expand support for vulnerable groups with limited access to in-kind food and are most at risk of severe malnutrition, including families with malnourished children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, persons with disability, the elderly and female-headed households. WFP emphasized, however, that the “previous ceasefire has proven that famine-like conditions can be reversed if access and safety are guaranteed to reach people in need,” and that “[o]nly a ceasefire will ensure the necessary conditions to allow a massive, large-scale response to prevent famine from spreading further.”
- Since the entry of animal feed into Gaza resumed on 25 August, for the first time in more than five months, the UN and its partners have brought into Gaza about 60 MT of concentrated fodder and distributed it to about 600 livestock owners in Deir al Balah governorate, each receiving two 50-kilogramme sacks, FSS reports. The distribution of animal feed is a critical form of support to livestock-keeping households; it helps sustain surviving animals, contributes to water and solid waste transportation, and supports the local production of fresh, nutritious food – such as meat and dairy products – that are essential for a healthy diet, and currently scarce in Gaza. During the ceasefire, more than [3,000](#) livestock holders in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis, and Gaza city received over 1,000 MT of animal feed. Such support remains vital amid widespread damage of cropland, agricultural wells, fishing assets, greenhouses and other assets required for food production as well as continued restrictions on the entry of most emergency agricultural and livelihood inputs, such as seed kits and organic fertilizers; according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) [Famine Review Committee](#), the destruction of domestic food production systems has been one of the key compounding factors for the catastrophic shortage of food availability inside the Gaza Strip, which prior to October 2023 was largely [self-sufficient](#) in nutritious food.
- The lack of dietary diversity in Gaza compromises nutritional intake, increasing the risk of acute malnutrition and related health complications, particularly among children. According to the Nutrition Cluster, all children under five years in Gaza, or about 320,000 children (of whom 290,000 are between six months and five years of age) are at risk of becoming acutely malnourished. With most food items essential for dietary diversity either non-existent or prohibitively expensive, malnutrition cases among children continue to be identified. Nutrition Cluster partners continue to screen children for the early detection and treatment of acute malnutrition cases. Since January 2025 and while data for August is not yet complete, there have been about 44,000 admissions of children across Gaza for acute malnutrition treatment, including more than 8,000 cases suffering from severe acute malnutrition. In one of the cases [described](#) by UNICEF’s spokesperson, Tess Ingram, a mother who already had a daughter die of malnutrition has a second daughter who recently relapsed into severe acute malnutrition after being diagnosed with severe malnutrition 15 months earlier and receiving eight months of treatment. The girl is currently hospitalized and urgently requires medical evacuation outside of Gaza to survive. In response to the rising number of malnourished children, Nutrition Cluster partners have [distributed](#) between 17 and 30 August over 2,270 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food sufficient to treat more than 3,000 children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition for approximately six weeks. Additionally, partners are working to expand the number of stabilization centres in the Gaza Strip from five to eight, which would increase bed capacity and enhance the provision of adequate and timely treatment to a high number of severely malnourished people.
- According to MoH in Gaza, as of 3 September, 367 malnutrition-related deaths, including 131 children, were documented since October 2023. Updated data breakdowns published by MoH on 27 August indicate that of the total, four malnutrition-related deaths were documented in 2023, 49 deaths in 2024, and 260 in between January and 27 August 2025.

Funding

- As of 3 September 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$968 million out of the \$4 billion (24 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during August 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 104 ongoing projects, totalling \$62.3 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 48 are being implemented by INGOs, 42 by national NGOs and 14

by UN agencies. Notably, 35 out of the 62 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

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



Newly displaced people in Gaza city, just hours after leaving an area of Ar Rimal neighbourhood following a warning by the Israeli military that its forces would attack a high-rise tower nearby. Photo by OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #321 | Gaza Strip

10 Sep 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 17 or 18 September.

Key Highlights

- Nearly one million people estimated to be in Gaza city, where famine has been confirmed, are facing daily bombardment and compromised access to means of survival after the Israeli military placed the entire city under a displacement order.
- With no safe place left, the UN and its humanitarian partners call for a ceasefire, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and the sustained expansion of humanitarian access throughout the Gaza Strip.
- The number of aid workers killed in the Gaza Strip since October 2023 rises to 540.
- Some humanitarian facilities in Gaza city have been forced to halt services and many others risk shutdown, including temporary learning spaces and those offering sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, particularly in Gaza and North Gaza governorates. Strikes on residential buildings, tents and schools sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs), and people seeking aid have continued to be reported. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel and fighting with Israeli forces have taken place. Combined with displacement orders, Israeli military ground operations and bombardment have continued to be especially intensive in Gaza city, driving additional waves of displacement (see more information below).
- In a [statement](#) on 7 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, expressed grave concern over Israel's latest displacement order against Palestinians in Gaza city, which came after [famine](#) was confirmed in the territory and amid an Israeli intensified military offensive. He warned that the "narrow window – until the end of September – to prevent famine from spreading to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis...is now closing fast," stressing that "death, destruction, starvation and displacement of Palestinian civilians are the result of choices that defy international law and ignore the international community." The UN relief chief called for unimpeded humanitarian access, the protection of civilians, implementation of the International Court of Justice's provisional measures, the release of hostages and arbitrarily detained Palestinians, and an immediate ceasefire.
- In a [speech](#) on 8 September, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk denounced Israel's commission of "war crime upon war crime" and expressed his horror at the "open use of genocidal rhetoric" by senior Israeli officials. He decried the lack of action by the international community and asked: "Where are the decisive steps to prevent genocide?" He called on countries to do more, urging a halt to "the flow to Israel of arms that risk violating the laws of war." He warned against inaction and called on the international community to "oppose Israel's planned military takeover of Gaza."

- On 10 September, the UN and its humanitarian partners issued a [statement](#) on the “dangerous escalation in Gaza city, where Israeli forces have stepped up their operations and ordered everyone to move south.” Noting that Israeli authorities have issued these orders “without effective steps to ensure the safety of those forced to move” and directed people to an area in the south where neither the size nor the scale of provided services is fit to support those already there, let alone new arrivals, they concluded. “Nearly one million people are now left with no safe or viable options – neither the north nor the south offers safety.” They underscored the commitment of the humanitarian community to “remain in Gaza city for as long as [they] can” and stated that they “will remain across the Strip, doing all [they] can to bring aid and deliver lifesaving services.” They demanded that civilians and civilian infrastructure be protected, and humanitarian access be “expanded and sustained to include direct routes to both the north and the south.”
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 3 and 10 September, 499 Palestinians were killed, and 2,258 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 64,656 fatalities and 163,503 injuries. According to MoH, the total number includes 401 fatalities who were retroactively added on 4 September 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access aid supplies has increased to 2,456 fatalities and more than 17,861 injuries.
- According to the Israeli military, between 3 and 10 September, as of noon, four Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. This brings the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 460 fatalities and 2,892 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,660 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 10 September, it is estimated that 48 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- Over the past week, two aid workers were reported killed in the Gaza Strip, both in Gaza city. On 7 September, the offices of Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection was [hit](#), resulting in the killing of one male staff, a pregnant woman, and a child. In addition, many injuries among those present inside and around the premises were reported. In a separate incident on the same day, Tamer Institute for Community Education [announced](#) the killing of one of their female staff, working as a case management supervisor, along with her child when their home was hit. This has brought the number of aid workers killed since October 2023 to 540, including 175 women and 365 men. The total includes 373 UN staff and team members, 54 staff and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), four staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 109 aid workers with national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Key incidents resulting in fatalities among people seeking aid over the past week included:
 - On 3 September, between 15:30 and 19:45, at least ten Palestinians were reportedly killed and dozens injured while waiting for supply trucks along the Morag corridor, south of Khan Younis.
 - On 4 September, at about 13:00, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed near a militarized distribution site in northern Rafah.
 - On 6 September, at about 20:30, 13 Palestinians were reportedly killed and dozens injured while waiting for aid in As Sudaniya area, in western North Gaza.
 - On 7 September, at about 17:30, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured while waiting for supply trucks in As Sudaniya area, in western North Gaza.
 - On 8 September, at about 15:15, six Palestinians, including three males, were reportedly killed and 15 others injured while waiting for supply trucks along the Morag corridor, south of Khan Younis.
 - On 9 September, between 8:30 and 9:15, at least five Palestinians were reportedly killed near the militarized distribution point southwest of Khan Younis.
- According to records of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), since the establishment of the militarized supply sites system in the Gaza Strip on 27 May and as of 9 September, at least 2,256 people seeking assistance have been killed. This includes 1,172 near militarized supply sites and 1,084 along convoy supply routes. Younger men and older boys continue to comprise the vast majority of deaths and injuries, with most casualties reportedly the result of live fire.
- On 8 September, the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) stated that the Israeli authorities continue to deny some of the movements of its teams, obstructing their access to people trapped under the rubble of destroyed homes and their ability to carry out other humanitarian interventions. It reported that in August alone, 10 urgent appeals were submitted to the Israeli authorities via international organizations, but timely coordination was regularly denied. PCD added that since 6 September, it had been seeking approval to reach a family trapped under rubble in Bani Suhaila, in Khan Younis, after their home was hit; the mission was approved by Israeli authorities on 10 September, PCD later reported.
- According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate ([PJS](#)), August witnessed an unprecedented level of attacks against Palestinian journalists, with 15 journalists killed, of whom three were female journalists. Of the total, 11 journalists were killed in two incidents at Nasser Medical Complex and near Al Shifa Hospital. In addition, at least nine journalists were injured in August, mostly due to direct strikes that resulted in limb amputations or paralysis. Overall, PJS reported that out of 247 Palestinian journalists and media workers killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023, 31 were [female](#) journalists, including six while on duty.

- Gaza's health-care system continues to be overwhelmed by the influx of mass casualties, limited medical stocks and supplies, and a shortage of medical equipment and blood units. On 7 September, the MoH in Gaza issued an urgent call for blood donations at hospitals and the central blood bank to save the lives of patients and injured people. According to the Health Cluster, the last shipment of blood to Gaza was on 4 August and included 6,000 units that were consumed within 20 days. It is estimated that the daily need is about 350 units. Moreover, two health cluster partners have been carrying out blood donation campaigns. However, amid starvation, the spread of disease and growing displacement, a decline in the number of donors has been reported by cluster partners.
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) warns of catastrophic consequences of the Gaza city offensive on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for women and girls. UNFPA emphasizes that the health system is collapsing and could lose half of its remaining capacity if hostilities continue; UNFPA added that four hospitals providing obstetric and newborn care and 23 primary healthcare centres and medical points delivering outpatient SRH services in Gaza city are at imminent risk of shutdown. Facilities in the south are already operating above capacity and cannot absorb the growing influx of patients from the north. Access to care is increasingly constrained as families must travel long distances on damaged roads, while limited fuel supplies have crippled ambulances, private transport, and hospital operations. With hospitals overwhelmed or unreachable, more women are giving birth in unsafe conditions, such as shelters and streets. In the first seven months of 2025, more than 465 deliveries took place outside hospitals, some attended only by paramedics and many without any medical support, with June and July recording the highest numbers. To help sustain services, UNFPA and two partners supported the opening of a new Field Maternity Hospital by [Al-Awda](#) Health and Community Association on 31 August, which now provides maternity follow-up and family planning services; the facility has 23-bed inpatient capacity, seven delivery beds, and operating theatres equipped for caesarean sections (C-sections) and gynaecological surgeries. In parallel, on 24 August, UNFPA delivered six trucks with 765 reproductive health kits into Gaza for distribution to health partners, supporting an estimated 212,000 SRH services in the coming months, including clean delivery kits for 22,000 pregnant women, contraceptives for 83,000 women, and supplies to treat reproductive tract and sexually transmitted infections for 107,000 people.
- Delays and impediments to humanitarian movements continue. Missions that are approved still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous or congested. Between 3 and 9 September, out of 120 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 50 were facilitated (42 per cent), 33 were impeded (28 per cent), 22 (18 per cent) were denied and 15 (12 per cent) had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons. Facilitated movements included two missions to transfer fuel to Gaza city and two missions to collect medical supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing. Denied movements included staff movements and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)-related missions, including for water trucking and solid waste removal. Among the 33 impeded missions, 13 were fully accomplished despite the impediments, including missions to collect supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing and staff rotations. Three missions were not accomplished, including a mission to transfer a crusher machine and the remaining 17 missions were partially accomplished, including two missions to collect fuel from Kerem Shalom crossing. Overall, 13 out of the 120 movements involved fuel collection and transfer, 21 involved the collection of other supplies from Gaza's crossings, nine were staff movements and rotations, and 77 aimed to support other ongoing humanitarian operations.
- On 10 September, the World Health Organization (WHO) and PRCS [supported](#) the evacuation of 128 people from the Gaza Strip, including 30 patients and 98 companions, to receive treatment abroad. Among them were several cancer patients and injured people. According to WHO, over 15,800 critical patients require medical evacuation abroad.
- While the school year in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) officially commenced on 8 September, the Education [Cluster](#) reports that in-person, formal education remains on hold in the Gaza Strip. Formal education in Gaza will be limited to distance learning programmes managed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoE) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); an estimated 370,000 students are currently enrolled while facing severe challenges due to ongoing hostilities, displacement, and severe disruptions to telecommunications and internet services. Students from the 2023-2024 cohort have also begun this week taking the General Secondary School Examinations (Tawjihi) through a mobile application administered by MoE. Non-formal education initiatives continue by cluster partners through Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), with about 705 TLS established in the first eight months of 2025 by 52 cluster partners, including four UN agencies, 21 international NGOs (INGOs) and 27 national NGOs (NNGOs). During this period, nearly 260,000 children attended TLS, of whom about 144,000 completed at least three months of in-person learning; in other words, only about 22 per cent of school-aged children completed at least three months of in-person learning so far in 2025.

Intensification of the Israeli Military Offensive in Gaza City

- On 5 September, the Israeli military [announced](#) that it will start targeting high-rise buildings in Gaza city and issued over the ensuing days displacement orders against three specific buildings. On 6 September, the Israeli military [announced](#) that Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis, is a "humanitarian area," where residents of Gaza city should evacuate to via Al Rashid Road, and that efforts will be made to provide better humanitarian services in the area; this area comprises about 12 per cent of the Gaza Strip. On 9 September, and for the first time since the Israeli authorities [announced](#) preparations for taking control of Gaza city on 8 August 2025, the Israeli military [ordered](#) all the residents of Gaza city, from the Old City and At Tuffah in the east to the sea in the west, to evacuate immediately via Al Rashid (coastal) road to Al Mawasi area.
- Over the past week, the Israeli military issued evacuation notices to people in residential buildings and schools sheltering IDPs across Gaza city ahead of strikes on them or in their vicinity. For example, on 8 September, at about 20:50, the Israeli military reportedly issued a warning to residents of As Salam residential tower, in Ar Rimal area in central Gaza city, to evacuate before carrying out a strike on the tower, which is reportedly surrounded by hundreds of IDP tents. On the same night, the Israeli military reportedly issued a warning to people sheltering in Al Mustaqbal School and four residential buildings that are in the same block

as As Salam Tower to evacuate, and one of the houses was reportedly struck at about 22:45 but no information is available on whether there were casualties.

- On 9 September, PCD reported that in the preceding 72 hours, five high-rise buildings comprising 209 apartments and more than 350 IDP tents were bombed in Gaza city, resulting in the estimated displacement of nearly 7,600 people, including women, children and elderly people. Furthermore, on the same day, the PCD spokesperson [said](#) that their capacities are extremely limited, as they are operating with minimal resources and lack sufficient equipment to respond amid escalating attacks. They warned that without adequate support, they will be unable to provide lifesaving services, leaving people trapped under the rubble without any means of rescue.
- Between 5 and 8 September, at least the following five high-rise buildings were reportedly destroyed:
 - On 5 September, a 12-storey building was destroyed in north of Ar Rimal, in central Gaza city, injuring an unknown number of Palestinians, including due to flying debris, and reportedly leaving dozens of Palestinians displaced. The building was reportedly surrounded by thousands of IDP tents when struck.
 - On 6 September, two displacement orders were issued for two high-rise buildings in Gaza city and the surrounding blocks and IDP tents. These orders covered 1.8 kilometres in two neighbourhoods. One of the buildings consisted of two adjacent 13-storey towers containing at least 100 residential apartments. On the same day, the building was destroyed, resulting in the displacement of at least 100 families who had lived there. The second building was hit and destroyed on 7 September, resulting in the reported killing of one person and the injury of others.
 - On 8 September, a displacement order was issued for a 12-storey commercial building and the surrounding blocks and IDP tents, near Al Azahar University in Ar Rimal, in central Gaza city. The order covered one square kilometre in one neighbourhood. On the same day, the building was hit and destroyed, causing severe damage to the area.
 - On 8 September, a 15-storey residential building was hit in Ar Rimal, in central Gaza City (see reference to As Salam tower above). The strike reportedly caused debris to fly long distances and resulted in extensive destruction in the vicinity.
- In other cases, casualties were reported in strikes on IDP tents, residential buildings, schools and other facilities sheltering IDPs, and a market in different parts of Gaza city, including the following key incidents:
 - On 3 September, at about 13:00, seven Palestinians, including five males, were reportedly killed and another 18 were injured in Ash Sheikh Radwan market, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 3 September, at about 14:30, 10 Palestinian males were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in northern Gaza city.
 - On 3 September, at about 15:15, seven Palestinians, including a female and a couple, were reportedly killed and a child was injured when a residential building was hit in Ash Sheikh Radwan, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 3 September, at midnight, at least five Palestinians were reportedly killed and at least 15 others, including five children, were injured when several IDP tents were hit in An Nasr area, in western Gaza city. Three fires reportedly erupted.
 - On 4 September, at about 0:30, five Palestinians, including four children, were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit in Tel Al Hawa, in southwestern Gaza city.
 - On 4 September, at about 09:20, at least eight Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Ash Shujai'yeh, in eastern Gaza city.
 - On 4 September, at about 14:00, 11 Palestinian males including seven from one family and four from another family, were reportedly killed and around 50 others, mostly women and children, were injured when at least four houses were hit in At Tuffah area, in northeastern Gaza city. A residential block had reportedly been ordered to evacuate and when residents returned to check on their homes, the same block was reportedly hit again.
 - On 6 September, at about 12:00, eight Palestinians, including four children were reportedly killed and others injured when an apartment was hit in Ash Sheikh Radwan, in northern Gaza city.
 - On 7 September, at about 02:00, eight Palestinians, including children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a school, reportedly sheltering IDPs, was hit in central Gaza city.
 - On 7 September, at about 02:00, nine Palestinians, including four boys, were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit, in western Gaza city.
 - On 7 September, at about 17:15, 15 Palestinians, including children, were reportedly injured when the Al Jazeera Club, specializing in sports for people with disabilities, and sheltering IDPs from around 80 families was hit in central Gaza city. The occupants of the Club were reportedly ordered to evacuate prior to the hit.
 - On 8 September, at about 01:40, at least two people (brothers) were reportedly killed, and an unknown number of people were injured, when a residential apartment was hit in Ar Rimal, in central Gaza city.
 - On 8 September, between 15:00 and 16:00, three Palestinians, including two women, were reportedly killed and 20 others injured when at least one residential building and other locations were hit, in the northeast and central areas of Gaza city.

- On 9 September, at about 03:00, casualties were reported when a residential building was hit near Al Qawqa roundabout in Ash Shati' (Beach) Camp, in northwestern Gaza city, with about 25 people believed to be under the rubble. At about 14:00, PCD reported that they managed to retrieve the bodies of two people and rescue two injured persons from under the rubble of this building.
- The intensification of strikes on Gaza city has inflicted severe damage on some humanitarian facilities and disrupted the operations and delivery of essential services, such as in the following cases:
 - On 8 September, Medical Aid for Palestinians ([MAP](#)) reported that a medical point run by Ard El Insan (AEI), which partners with MAP on nutrition projects, had been forced out of service after being damaged, reportedly by a nearby attack, hindering the provision of lifesaving services. MAP's Gaza Director said: "What we are seeing in Gaza city is not collateral damage; it is the predictable and preventable result of deliberate Israeli policies and actions that harm civilians and healthcare in violation of international humanitarian law."
 - On 7 September, the Prosthetics and Paralysis Center of Gaza Municipality was [reported](#) to have been severely damaged by an Israeli strike on a nearby residential building, forcing the suspension of operations until urgent repairs are completed. The strike damaged parts of the infrastructure, operational equipment, and several rooms and sections of the centre, halting the delivery of vital humanitarian services to amputees and paralysis patients who depend on prosthetics and assistive devices to regain mobility and live with dignity.
 - On 9 September, the main offices of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) located in one of the targeted high-rise buildings was [destroyed](#).
 - On 9 September, Médecins du Monde (MdM) [stated](#) that a building that was hit the previous day was located a few metres from one of their clinics in Gaza city. While no casualties among staff and patients were reported, the facility sustained severe damage, rendering it out of service. MdM reported that no alert or request for evacuation had been directly transmitted to the teams. MdM stated that the security situation no longer allows them to continue their activities in Gaza city and was therefore forced to suspend its operations for an indefinite period in this area by closing its two clinics. This will deprive 600 patients from the care they need.
- In general, the displacement order for Gaza city is threatening humanitarian operations carried out by hundreds of partners to serve nearly one million Palestinian residents. According to the Health and Nutrition clusters, some health partners have suspended activities at primary health care centres, while 12 out of 49 outpatient therapeutic sites have halted services amid ongoing airstrikes in Gaza city. In addition, at least two community kitchens suspended operations, and three others had to relocate within the city. The intensified Israeli military operation has also forced protection cluster partners, including child protection actors, to suspend operations in premises located near high-rise buildings targeted by airstrikes. According to [WHO](#), about half of all functional hospitals are in Gaza city; this includes 36 per cent of all hospital beds and 50 per cent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds across the Strip. "The crippled health system cannot afford to lose any of these remaining facilities," warned WHO's Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
- As the Israeli military offensive on Gaza city is underway, the Education Cluster reports that schools sheltering IDPs continue to be hit (see incidents above) and is concerned that 95 TLS in northern Gaza (including 89 in Gaza city and six in North Gaza), serving about 25,000 children, may be at imminent risk of closure due to displacement orders issued by the Israeli military and ongoing insecurity, which would further disrupt efforts to provide emergency education services. As of 8 September, only 297 TLS remained functional, serving more than 112,000 students, with the rest either destroyed, closed due to funding constraints, or were forced to temporarily pause their activities due to insecurity and displacement orders. Since 7 October 2023 and as of 10 July 2025, 97 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip have sustained some level of damage, the majority (92 per cent) requiring clearance of explosive contamination and either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation to be functional again.
- On 9 September, following the issuance of displacement orders by the Israeli military in Gaza city, UNRWA's Commissioner General Philippe Lazarrini [stated](#): "Gaza is being emptied from its starving population [who is] forced to move into the so-called 'humanitarian' area of Mawasi. There is no safe place in Gaza, let alone a humanitarian zone."
- With winter approaching, Israeli military operations in Gaza city intensifying, and famine at risk of spreading from Gaza city to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, an inter-cluster preparedness and operational plan has been activated by the UN and its partners. The initially three-month plan outlines activities to scale up operations in Gaza city in the face of large-scale population movements, looming famine, the onset of winter rains, and the massive gap in essential services. While conceived as a preparedness plan, humanitarian partners warn that its implementation is severely constrained by restricted access, the limited entry of supplies and the volatile security environment.

Displacement and Shelter Crisis

- The Israeli military order to empty Gaza city follows many rounds of displacement forced by hostilities and the issuance of displacement orders. It also comes as hostilities intensify, and amid massive destruction to housing and displacement sites. "This is not an evacuation. The directive amounts to forcible transfer, an atrocity crime under international law. Families are being driven out of Gaza City into small, confined areas, under the constant threat of deportation beyond Gaza itself," said Jan Egeland, the Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council ([NRC](#)). "This is not about protecting civilians, it is about stripping them of their homes, their communities, and their right to remain on their land," he added. Already by [October 2024](#), over 90 per cent of Gaza's population were estimated to have been displaced for an average of six times, and some up to an alarming 19 times.

- According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), the majority of over 122,385 displacement movements recorded since 14 August originated from Gaza city and 60 per cent (over 73,500 movements) were recorded from northern to southern Gaza Strip via Al Rashid (coastal) Road, including about 25,000 movements observed since 7 September. On 9 September, SMC partners established two reception/counting points on Al Rashid Road, where they have been providing displaced people with water, high-energy biscuits, and referrals for protection services including to unaccompanied minors. Partners have observed some return movements from central and southern Gaza to the north, with returnees citing severe overcrowding in displacement sites in southern Gaza. Thousands of people have also been displaced to the western parts of Gaza city along the shoreline and have set up tents in the area. According to the UN Satellite Centre ([UNOSAT](#)), the expansion of tented areas along the coast raises serious risks of flooding and waterborne disease, particularly as displaced communities concentrate in low-lying shoreline areas with poor drainage and no adequate shelter materials.
- Overall, families in Gaza have nowhere to go, with displacement sites severely overcrowded and living conditions unsafe and undignified. The SMC [notes](#) that the average living space in displacement sites is only 0.5 square metres per person, which is far below the Sphere Standard of 3.5 square metres. Even when families find space, they often lack tents or shelter items, as tented areas themselves continue to be bombed (see above). For those considering to move, the related costs are alone a major deterrent: partners estimate the cost of transport within a single governorate at about ILS 950 (US\$280) and up to ILS 4,000 (US\$1,200) for transportation between governorates. For families with disabilities, these costs rise to ILS 1,330 (US\$390) within governorates and ILS 5,600 (\$1,700) between governorates.
- Repeated waves of forced displacement result in the loss or abandonment of essential shelter items, which further contribute to creating a repetitive cycle of demand for shelter assistance. According to the Shelter Cluster, as of August 2025, 1.4 million people are in need of emergency shelter items, while about 1.45 million people are estimated to require essential household items. Yet, despite the recent entry of some shelter items into the Gaza Strip, the needs far surpass available supplies; since mid-August, when Israeli authorities lifted the ban on the entry of shelter materials, only about 1,400 tents have so far been collected from the crossings through UN coordination, which is nowhere near meeting the emergency shelter needs across Gaza, according to the Shelter Cluster. The Shelter Cluster estimates that at the current rate of entry, even if 30 per cent of all cargo were allocated to shelter, it would still take five months to meet needs, roughly the same as the lifespan of the shelter materials, after which they would need to be replaced. In a position paper by the Shelter Cluster, the cluster [emphasized](#): “Shelter actors will operate under clear principles: assistance based solely on need, delivery across all areas, including northern Gaza, and solutions that remain temporary and transitional, linked to durable housing, land, and property solutions that uphold displaced families’ right to return to their homes in Gaza.”
- The burden of repeated displacement falls disproportionately on the most vulnerable, including the elderly, people with disability and pregnant women, according to the Site Management and Shelter clusters. On 9 September, Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) reported that many women in areas designated by the Israeli authorities as combat zones, such as Gaza city – are scheduled for C-sections in the coming days and weeks, yet bombardment and the challenges of safe movement have left them trapped in areas with no safe access to hospitals. When these women go into labour, they are faced with life-threatening risks.
- Highlighting the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the OPT, including the Gaza Strip, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([CRPD](#)) noted that forced displacement and the need to flee dangerous areas are particularly difficult for those sustaining war-related injuries and people with disabilities, many of whom have lost their assistive devices and are unable to afford the pricy cost of transportation (see above). In June 2025, Humanity and Inclusion (HI) [estimated](#) that about 6,000 prosthetic devices were needed, including many for children. During the first week of September, [WHO](#) said that 572 wheelchairs, including 260 for children, have entered Gaza and will be distributed to hospitals and partners in Gaza to cover urgent needs, including in relation to mass casualty management and rehabilitation. Moreover, many persons with disabilities are unable to evacuate during bombardments because warnings are issued in formats they cannot access.

Famine, Food Insecurity and Restricted Access to Markets

- The amount of aid entering the Strip is still drastically insufficient to meet the scale of needs almost three weeks after a famine was declared in Gaza. On 5 September, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), Cindy McCain, [stressed](#) that more aid needs to get into Gaza at scale and continually as this would also relieve the panic facing people who are uncertain about whether they would have access to food. This would also allow the Food Security Sector (FSS) partners to restart the community-based distribution system and re-open the UN-supported bakeries. Flooding Gaza with enough assistance and making sure it reaches the entire population is the only way to turn around a catastrophic hunger trajectory, which requires political will, WFP Palestine Country Director, Antoine Renard, recently [underscored](#): “If there is the political will, the situation can flip from one day to the next... There are no logistical issues, no lack of capacity, no lack of funding. The goods are there, ready to serve the population.”
- According to monitoring [data](#) by the UN 2720 mechanism, over 5,700 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian food supplies were collected from Gaza’s crossings through UN coordination in the first nine days of September. This is about 32 per cent of the daily minimum of 2,000 MT required across the Strip to meet basic food needs, according to FSS. As of 9 September, 19 FSS partners prepared 519,000 individual meals every day at 110 community kitchens across Gaza, including about 170,000 meals in the north and 349,000 meals in southern and central Gaza. This is compared with [468,000](#) daily meals prepared and distributed by partners as of 30 August. FSS partners are trying to keep the kitchens running to serve the people in need wherever they are, amid a very risky and unpredictable security situation. Following the issuance of a displacement order for Gaza city by the Israeli military on 9 September, at least two kitchens have seized operations, and three others had to relocate within the city.
- People’s access to markets and nutritious food across the Gaza Strip remains restricted, according to WFP’s monthly market monitoring [report](#) covering August 2025. While access to food across the Gaza Strip slightly improved for some households, most

households are still facing extreme difficulties and forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as skipping meals, eating smaller portions, or restricting adults' food intake to prioritize children. Furthermore, 50 per cent of surveyed households reported having worse access to food in August compared with July, and about 39 per cent reported going an entire day without eating at least once during the past 30 days. Other key report findings include the following:

- While a larger volume of humanitarian and commercial supplies has triggered a significant drop in the prices of some items, such as wheat flour and sugar, in August compared with July, the prices of other items have increased again in the last week of August due to the very limited amounts available – this was the case, for example, with dry onions and tomatoes, which went altogether missing from markets in Gaza city in the last days of August. Moreover, commercial goods that are entering tend to be those that can bring a large profit margin (e.g. processed cheese and salty snacks), rather than vegetables, dairy products and other items that have a high nutritious value. By August 2025, food diversity in Gaza reached one of its lowest points, with diets reduced almost entirely to cereals and pulses, while dairy products, vegetables, fruits, and proteins had disappeared from household consumption. The only exception was frozen chicken, which was allowed into the Gaza Strip at the start of the third week of August for the first time in over six months and was being reportedly sold at ILS 130 (US\$39) per kilogramme in Deir al Balah and ILS 120 (US\$36) per kilogramme in Gaza city.
 - Between 64 and 76 per cent of households across Gaza's governorates reported being unable to access markets, primarily due to a lack of cash (94 per cent) and soaring food prices (60 per cent). Moreover, an alarming 77 per cent of households reported facing safety risks while trying to obtain food. The report also highlights a continuing cash liquidity crisis that is disrupting market operations, with 74 per cent of shops unable to restock or pay suppliers. This is despite a reported decrease in digital payment and withdrawal fees by 30–35 per cent, down from 50 per cent at some point in July. Furthermore, markets continue to lack essential items, including cooking gas, which remains nearly unavailable. This has forced two-thirds of households to burn waste for food preparation.
- According to MoH in Gaza, as of 10 September, 404 malnutrition-related deaths, including 141 children, were documented since October 2023. Updated data breakdowns published by MoH on 27 August indicate that of the total, four malnutrition-related deaths were documented in 2023, 49 deaths in 2024, and 260 in between January and 27 August 2025.

Funding

- As of 10 September 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$985 million out of the \$4 billion (24 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during August 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 104 ongoing projects, totalling \$62.3 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 48 are being implemented by INGOs, 42 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 35 out of the 62 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



Palestinians displaced from Gaza city wait in heavy traffic on Al Rashid Road leading south. Photo by OCHA/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #323 | Gaza Strip

18 Sep 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 24 or 25 September.

Key Highlights

- Eleven UNRWA premises serving as emergency shelters for about 11,000 displaced people in Gaza city have been damaged in five days.
- The massive destruction of civilian infrastructure, combined with severe disruptions to humanitarian operations and access constraints, is collapsing the last remaining lifelines for civilians in Gaza city.
- About half of more than 246,800 displacement movements recorded since mid-August took place over the past week, with growing reports of displaced families sleeping on the streets or in makeshift tents and struggling to survive.
- About 28,000 cases of acute malnutrition among children under five have been identified by nutrition partners in July and August, exceeding the combined total of malnutrition cases identified in the first six months of 2025.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, particularly in Gaza and North Gaza governorates. Israeli strikes on residential buildings (including high-rise buildings), tents and schools sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs), and people seeking aid have continued to be reported, alongside [reports](#) of the destruction of whole neighbourhoods through controlled detonations. On 10 September, the Israeli military reiterated its displacement order for all civilians in Gaza city to move towards a designated zone in Al Mawasi area. [According](#) to the Israeli military, a range of operational tools have been used to warn residents of Gaza city to evacuate, including voice messages, leaflets, text messages, and phone calls in order to reach as many people as possible. On 16 September, the Israeli military [announced](#) that it expanded on 15 September the ground operation in Gaza city, striking more than 850 targets over the past week, while continuing to operate in Rafah and Khan Younis. Combined with displacement orders, Israeli military ground operations and bombardment have continued to drive additional waves of displacement, particularly from Gaza city (see more information below).
- On 10 September, the UN Office of Human Rights (OHCHR) [warned](#) against attacks on residential buildings and objects indispensable to civilian life. On 16 September, the office issued a [statement](#), reiterating its calls on Israel's military to immediately put an end to its wanton destruction of Gaza city, which it says "appears to be focused on causing a permanent demographic shift, which is tantamount to ethnic cleansing." OHCHR noted that "the ongoing bombings of residential buildings in Gaza City are destroying the last viable element of Gaza's civilian infrastructure, negating any prospect for the survival of civilians."
- On 17 September, the leaders of over 20 major aid agencies working in Gaza, [called](#) on world leaders to urgently intervene, after the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, [concluded](#) that genocide is being committed. With entire cities razed to the ground, massive displacement, and famine

spreading, they declared: "As humanitarian leaders, we have borne direct witness to the horrifying deaths and suffering of the people of Gaza. Our warnings have gone unheeded and thousands more lives are still at stake." They called on states to uphold international law and "use every available political, economic, and legal tool at their disposal to intervene."

- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 10 and 17 September, 416 Palestinians were killed, and 2,194 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 65,062 fatalities and 165,697 injuries. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access aid supplies has increased to 2,504 fatalities and more than 18,381 injuries since 27 May 2025. Moreover, according to MoH in Gaza, as of 17 September, 432 malnutrition-related deaths, including 146 children, were documented since October 2023. Updated data breakdowns published by MoH on 27 August indicate that of the total, four malnutrition-related deaths were documented in 2023, 49 in 2024, and 260 between January and 27 August 2025.
- Over the past week, three aid workers were reported killed in Gaza. On 15 September, Tamer Institute for Community Education [reported](#) that one of its staff members who was a case management officer was killed a day earlier. In a statement on 17 September, Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) reported the death of a staff member on 16 September from shrapnel injuries sustained during an Israeli airstrike near his tent five days earlier. On the same day, Maan Development Center [stated](#) that one of its staff was killed in Gaza city along with a group of people while he was collecting his belongings to evacuate from Ash Sheikh Radwan area to the southern Gaza Strip. Since 7 October 2023, at least 543 aid workers have been killed, including 373 UN staff and team members, 54 staff and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), four staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 112 aid workers with national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), some in the line of duty.
- According to the Israeli military, between 10 and 17 September, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 460 fatalities and 2,898 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,660 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 17 September, it is estimated that 48 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- Strikes on IDP shelters, residential buildings, public infrastructure, and people seeking aid continue to be reported. Key such incidents over the past week included:
 - On 10 September, at about 16:55, one Palestinian was reportedly killed while collecting firewood near the Al Mughraqa area, north of An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 10 September, at about 19:55, four Palestinian males were reportedly killed and 19 others injured when a commercial stall was hit in An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 11 September, at about 06:15, four Palestinians were reportedly killed and 49 others injured while they were seeking aid near the Wadi Gaza militarized distribution site, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 11 September, at about 17:00, at least 17 Palestinians seeking aid were reportedly killed and many others injured while waiting for supply trucks in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza.
 - On 12 September, at about 09:00, at least 14 people, including women and children, were reportedly killed and tens of others were reported missing when a residential building was hit west of Jabalya, in North Gaza.
 - On 12 September, at about 11:20, at least 17 people were reportedly injured when an IDP tent was hit south of Al Mawasi, west of Khan Younis.
 - On 12 September, at about 14:25, one Palestinian was reportedly killed while collecting firewood north of An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 13 September, at about 15:15, the headquarters of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation was hit and destroyed in Tal al Hawa in Gaza city. The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) [condemned](#) the attack and called for accountability for this and other attacks on journalism in Gaza.
 - On 13 September, at about 11:35, three Palestinians, including a female and two males, were reportedly killed and 27 others injured when a residential building was hit in As Sabra neighbourhood, in southern Gaza city.
 - On 13 September, at about 23:00, six Palestinians, including three children and two women, were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit in western Deir al Balah.
 - On 14 September, at about 09:45, at least four Palestinians were reportedly killed and 25 others injured while people were seeking aid near the militarized distribution site in Ash Shakosh area, in northwestern Rafah.
 - On 14 September, at about 14:30, at least seven Palestinians were reportedly killed, and others were reported missing under the rubble, when one or more buildings within the Islamic University were successively hit in Ar Rimal neighbourhood, in central Gaza city, after the Israeli military reportedly issued warnings for people in the area to evacuate. At least one building was sheltering IDPs, who reportedly returned to collect belongings after the second strike when the building was struck again with high-explosive missiles.

- On 16 September, at about 03:30, 12 Palestinians, including at least two children, were reportedly killed, about 40 were injured and others were reported missing under the rubble when a residential building was hit in Ash Shati' (Beach) Camp, in northwestern Gaza city.
- On 15 September, at about 15:00, a water truck was reportedly hit near a school in Ash Sheikh Radwan, in northern Gaza city, injuring an unknown number of Palestinians.
- On 16 September, at about 12:00, a school was reportedly hit in Az Zaytoun, in southern Gaza city, killing and injuring an unspecified number of Palestinians.
- According to records of OHCHR, since the establishment of the militarized supply sites system in the Gaza Strip on 27 May, and as of 17 September, at least 2,319 people, mostly young men and boys, seeking assistance have been killed, including 1,202 near militarized supply sites and 1,117 along convoy supply routes. Of the total, 210 were killed in the first two weeks of September. While most casualties are reportedly the result of live fire, over the past week, at least nine Palestinians were killed in an airstrike while seeking aid near As Sudaniya area, in western North Gaza, on 11 September.
- Since 12 September, the Zikim crossing (Erez West/As Siafa), which is usually used to collect aid supplies going into northern Gaza, has been closed. As a result, Food Security Sector ([FSS](#)) partners have not been able to bring any food aid to northern Gaza, including Gaza city, where hundreds of thousands of people remain and where a human-made famine was [confirmed](#) on 22 August. Also on 12 September, the Israeli military [announced](#) the start of works to expand Crossing 147 (also known as Kissufim), with the aim of increasing the volume of aid entering the designated zone in Al Mawasi. After completion of the works, the truck capacity at the crossing should increase to 150 trucks per day, which is three times the current capacity, thus enabling increased entry of aid, especially food, the Israeli military added.
- Delays and impediments to humanitarian movements continue, especially for missions from southern to northern Gaza. Missions that are approved by Israeli authorities still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to wait on roads that are often dangerous or congested. Between 10 and 16 September, out of 117 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 52 were facilitated (44 per cent), 24 were impeded (21 per cent), 23 were denied (20 per cent) and 18 had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons (15 per cent). This includes 68 missions to northern Gaza, of which 31 were facilitated, 20 were denied, four were impeded and 13 had to be withdrawn. Since the closure of Zikim crossing on 12 September and until 16 September, the denial rate of movements in and to northern Gaza has increased to 41 per cent, up from 13 per cent in the preceding five days, between 7 and 11 September.
- In total, facilitated movements in southern and northern Gaza included one mission to transfer fuel to Gaza city, one mission to collect medical supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing, and a mission to transfer water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies to northern Gaza. Denied movements included emergency medical team and staff movements and WASH-related missions. Among the 24 impeded missions, seven were fully accomplished despite the impediments, including missions to collect supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing and conduct road repairs. Two missions were not accomplished, including a mission to deploy a PRCS ambulance around aid convoys coming from Kerem Shalom crossing, and the remaining 15 missions were partially accomplished, including missions to collect fuel and other supplies from Kerem Shalom crossing. Overall, eight missions involved fuel collection and transfer and 30 involved the collection of other supplies from Gaza's crossings.
- On 17 September, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) reported significant disruption to internet and landline services in Gaza city and North Gaza – while mobile networks remain operational – following damage to fibre-optic cables along the Gaza–Erez route. The disruption, caused by the intensified offensive in Gaza city, highlights the extreme fragility of Gaza's communications infrastructure – already strained by repeated blackouts, fuel shortages, and access constraints. The Cluster warned that further damage or delays in repairs could lead to a full communications collapse, cutting off civilians and humanitarians from life-saving information and coordination.

Deteriorating Access to Health Care

- Gaza's health-care system continues to be overwhelmed by the influx of mass casualties and a severe shortage of blood units, with the MoH in Gaza [reporting](#) on 15 September that the stocks in laboratory stores of blood bags, blood transfusion tools, and testing equipment have reached zero levels. The Health Cluster reported that there are currently about 1,793 in-patient hospital beds for the total population of Gaza, resulting in occupancy rates of 180 to 300 per cent across the 17 (out of a total of 36) hospitals that remain functional, all partially. In Gaza city, limited access to fuel supplies threatens the continued operation of health facilities and ambulance services, according to MoH in Gaza. On 15 September, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [warned](#) that maternal healthcare in Gaza city has been severely impacted, with most of the health facilities that serve 23,000 pregnant women now at risk of imminent shutdown. According to UNFPA, every week in Gaza, at least 15 women deliver outside a hospital or health facility, without a skilled birth attendant, risking the lives of both mothers and newborns.
- Against the backdrop of further deterioration of the health system in Gaza, both the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) and [MSF](#) drew attention to critically ill patients in need of medical evacuation – estimated to be over [15,600](#) patients as of 10 September. The Director General of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, [said](#) that since October 2023, WHO supported the evacuation of over 7,640 patients, including 5,300 children, and 2,660 companions. He added that more than 700 people have died while waiting for medical evacuation, including almost 140 children, and called on countries to receive critically ill patients from Gaza and on Israel to allow people to be treated in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Attacks on health persist. As of 11 September, according to [WHO](#), a total of 793 attacks on health care were recorded, 125 of which affected health facilities, including damage to 34 hospitals. On 14 September, [PRCS](#) reported that Israeli forces targeted a

residential building less than 50 metres from Al Quds Hospital, in Gaza city, causing severe damage to the hospital, its administrative offices, and neighboring buildings. On 16 September, according to [WHO](#), Al Rantisi Children's Hospital, also in Gaza city, was attacked, causing significant damage to rooftop water tanks, electrical and communication systems and some medical equipment. Forty patients fled for safety while 40 others remained, including four children in the pediatric intensive care unit and eight newborns, WHO added. No casualties were reported. The hospital provides specialised services, including oncology, dialysis, respiratory care and gastroenterology diseases for children. Calling for protection of health workers, health facilities and patients, the Director General of WHO emphasized that "Gaza cannot afford to lose more hospitals."

Displacement and the Struggle for Survival

- According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), the majority of over 246,800 displacement movements recorded since 14 August originated from Gaza city and 80 per cent (over 197,976 movements) were recorded from northern to southern Gaza via Al Rashid (coastal) Road. Amid intensified bombardment and issuance of displacement orders, the rate of displacement is growing, with roughly 125,600 movements recorded between 10 and 17 September, representing 51 per cent of all movements observed since 14 August. Yet, most areas in southern Gaza are already overcrowded, lacking dignified shelters and safe sanitation, and existing services are barely sufficient to accommodate the needs of people already there. Within this context, "[d]eciding whether to stay or leave is an almost impossible choice for people exhausted by war, with no guarantee of shelter or safety in the south," said [CARE](#) in a recent statement.
- People who decide to move face an unsafe and burdensome route. On 12 September, at least two people were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of displaced people were struck while moving southward along Al Rashid Road in Tel al Hawa, in southwestern Gaza city. According to the United Nations Satellite Centre ([UNOSAT](#)) road damage assessment of 8 July, imagery analysis indicates that approximately 77 per cent of the road network in the Gaza Strip has been damaged, with most of the completely destroyed roads located in the Gaza and Khan Younis governorates. Damaged and unsafe roads, coupled with prohibitively expensive transportation costs – ranging from 950 ILS (US\$256) to 5,600 ILS (\$1,500) – are forcing many to flee on foot and make displacement extremely difficult, including for people with mobility challenges. Protection partners report that displaced families are undertaking journeys of up to 12 hours in extreme heat, and with limited access to basic services, creating additional hardship and risks, particularly for injured persons - including children - and older persons.
- Those who risk the dangerous journey often arrive to find no available shelter, limited water supply, and a lack of basic services, with displacement sites and tented areas themselves being hit (see incidents above). According to the Shelter Cluster, many families are living out in the open or in makeshift shelters pieced together from worn tarpaulins, as only very limited quantities of tents and materials have entered Gaza. As of 16 September, about 1,400 tents have been collected from crossings through the UN coordination system, representing less than one per cent of the needs, the Shelter Cluster added. On 16 September, in coordination with the Shelter Cluster, partners distributed roughly 1,150 tents to displaced households, prioritizing women and girls at heightened risk, including survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) referred by the Protection Cluster.
- Israeli military operations are severely disrupting humanitarian operations and the ability of aid actors to provide relief assistance to affected people in Gaza city. For example, the Health Cluster reports that in the first two weeks of September, at least 10 primary health care clinics and medical points had to suspend services for at least one day due to insecurity. Five Women and Girls' Safe Spaces were destroyed between 31 August and 13 September and the only remaining GBV shelter in Gaza city is now at risk of relocation.
- According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), 11 UNRWA premises, including nine schools and two health centres, serving as emergency shelters for about 11,000 people in Gaza city have sustained significant damage either directly or indirectly by strikes between 11 and 16 September. The UNRWA Gaza Field Office was also significantly damaged in an indirect strike and UNRWA's only functioning health centre north of Wadi Gaza was forced to suspend operations on 13 September due to intensified attacks and incurred damage. Yet, and although the situation remains volatile and unstable, as of 16 September, UNRWA is still operating 29 emergency shelters hosting more than 4,500 families in Gaza city and continues to operate three medical points, including two conducting nutrition activities. Nutrition screening and treatment services have been severely reduced amid insecurity, the forced suspension of operations at two UNRWA-managed health facilities, and the inability of many staff to report to duty. On average, UNRWA staff screened 153 children for malnutrition and treated 40 per day in Gaza city in August, compared with 50 screened and 15 treated per day in the first two weeks of September. Other services were temporarily suspended for a day before resuming, such as water trucking and solid waste management; UNRWA estimates that it is currently providing water for domestic use to 350,000 people in Gaza city, the majority being served by the main water well in Ash Shati' (Beach) Camp in western Gaza city.
- With over one million women and girls being repeatedly displaced, safety has become an illusion. As UN Women [notes](#), "each move has meant searching for a small piece of land, often at unbearable rental costs, and many families end up building makeshift tents." According to the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), escalating hostilities and the destruction of safe spaces have drastically reduced access points for women and girls, compounding already severe protection risks. Overcrowded shelters are further increasing exposure to harassment, while critical shortages of dignity kits and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) items leave women and girls without the most basic support. UN Women [underscores](#) the scale of this deprivation: "Hygiene is another daily indignity. With sanitary pads largely unavailable or unaffordable, and no privacy, nearly 700,000 women and girls of reproductive age struggle to manage menstruation, often in overcrowded or unsafe facilities." Moreover, many local NGOs providing relief assistance have had their offices damaged; for instance, since October 2023, nearly [89 per cent](#) of women-led organizations in Gaza have suffered severe damage, with offices destroyed and aid workers killed. Despite challenges, GBV and other protection partners continue to deliver life-saving services where possible across the Gaza Strip, including awareness sessions, psycho-social support, case management, and the distribution of dignity kits, with referral pathways and help desks at reception points south of Wadi Gaza, ensuring continued access to critical support.

Children Facing Collapsing Lifelines

- The escalating Israeli military offensive underway in Gaza city is “already resulting in disproportionate civilian casualties and driving the near total collapse of the remaining lifelines children need to survive,” [warned](#) the Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Edouard Beigbeder. Estimating that about 450,000 children in Gaza city are affected, he emphasized that the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas leads to “devastating, compounding harms – killing and maiming of civilians, including children, destruction of homes, schools and vital water systems – running the risk of effectively rendering the city uninhabitable.” With nowhere safe to go to, especially vulnerable groups include children treated for severe acute malnutrition “who could starve to death,” preterm babies in incubators, injured children in intensive care units, and children with disabilities.
- Amid shrinking humanitarian space, child malnutrition in the Gaza Strip continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate according to [UNICEF](#). The percentage of children identified as acutely malnourished in screenings across Gaza increased to 13.5 per cent in August, from 8.3 per cent in July. In Gaza city, where [famine](#) has been confirmed last month, the percentage of children admitted with malnutrition was even higher, at 19 per cent, up from 16 per cent in July, UNICEF explained. In total, based on reports received as of 17 September, roughly 28,000 cases of acute malnutrition among children under five have been identified by [Nutrition Cluster partners](#) across Gaza in July and August, exceeding the combined total of malnutrition cases identified in the first six months of 2025 (about 23,000 cases). The severity of cases has also increased; about 23 per cent (about 6,400 out of 28,000) of acutely malnourished children in July and August were suffering from severe acute malnutrition, up from about 15 per cent (about 3,400 out of 23,000) between January and June 2025.
- The Nutrition Cluster warns that ongoing military operations and large-scale displacement from northern Gaza risks to further derail efforts to detect and treat new acute malnutrition cases and disrupt the continuity of care for those already enrolled. As of 16 September, 18 out of 50 treatment centres have been reportedly closed in Gaza city, according to the Nutrition Cluster. This has caused a reduction in malnutrition screenings in August compared with July and risks to compromise the recovery of children currently under treatment. Moreover, for the past two months, the World Food Programme’s (WFP’s) Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme has been on hold due to the lack of Medium Quantity Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (LNS-MQ). Other prevention supplies provided by UNICEF in August – small quantity LNS and High Energy Biscuits – have only been sufficient to support about 39,000 children, or 13 per cent of the 290,000 children between six and 59 months, and 21,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), or 14 per cent of the 150,000 PBW in need of essential nutrition support. Despite challenges, efforts continue to provide nutrition supplies and cash assistance as part of the nutrition component of the famine response.
- According to the Child Protection AoR, eight partners have been forced to suspend or relocate 34 safe spaces or service points within Gaza city or to Deir al Balah since 1 September, further straining service coverage for vulnerable children and families. At present, only 120 safe spaces for children are run by partners across the Gaza Strip, including 30 in Gaza city, down from a total of 282 safe spaces and points in February 2025. In addition to the ongoing military offensive, delivery of critical child protection services – such as case management for vulnerable children, family tracing and reunification, alternative care, and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) for children and caregivers – continues to be hindered due to insecurity, infrastructure damage, limited fuel supplies, repeated displacement and the associated reduction in operational capacity. Like everyone else in Gaza, children, caregivers and staff providing protection services are exhausted, traumatized and facing psychological strain. Partners are reporting that protective environments are shrinking; more children are being pushed into hazardous labour and high-risk environments and children with disabilities remain especially marginalized.
- Amid seemingly insurmountable challenges, Child Protection partners are endeavouring to sustain [services](#). For example, between 1 and 12 September 2025, partners distributed 6,000 psychosocial support kits procured from the local market – which comprise drawing books, toys and coloured pencils – to children in displacement sites and delivered critical MHPSS services to about 6,900 children and 2,000 caregivers in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates. MHPSS activities included recreational sessions, art therapy, and structured trauma recovery modules. Furthermore, 39 children with disabilities received nutritional supplements and fortified food, while 1,000 vulnerable children, including children with disabilities, received dignity kits. During the same period, community engagement and awareness-raising activities reached over 24,000 people with messages on child protection risks, parenting support, prevention of family separation, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and coping strategies.

Limited Access to Water and Deepening Sanitation Crisis

- Access to WASH services across the Gaza Strip continues to be limited. As of 9 September, the WASH Cluster reported that 69 per cent (520 out of 756) of WASH facilities are in areas under displacement orders or within Israeli-militarized zones. In Gaza and North Gaza governorates, this access is becoming increasingly constrained, with humanitarian partners facing major challenges in sustaining essential operations, including water trucking, hygiene kit distribution, and solid waste management. Since 11 September, all coordinated requests for water trucking have been denied, and access to Mekorot filling stations remains blocked, further limiting available water sources. Additionally, the main Mekorot pipeline in northern Gaza, one of three in the Gaza Strip, is operating below capacity due to a leakage in the Shuja’iya area, in North Gaza, resulting in a 25-per-cent reduction in potential water supply. Despite these constraints, over 15 WASH Cluster partners are maintaining the provision of minimum services, primarily in the western parts of Gaza governorate. The last fuel delivery, received on 11 September, is expected to support critical facilities for approximately one week, operating under restricted hours.
- Due to ongoing bombardments in Gaza city, which have further intensified in the past week, WASH infrastructure has suffered severe damage, including the sewage network. This has resulted in sewage overflow in the streets, posing serious public health risks. According to the WASH Cluster, the Al Samer pumping station, which plays a critical role in managing sewage flow, is currently at risk whereby any further damage or operational failure could trigger a catastrophic sanitation crisis. Additionally, the Sheikh Radwan lagoon – Gaza city’s main reservoir for receiving sewage – has been inaccessible for three weeks due to the

intensification of Israeli military operations and displacement orders in the area, making it impossible to discharge wastewater into the sea and risking the occurrence of overflow and flooding in surrounding neighbourhoods.

- Solid waste management remains extremely challenging across the Gaza Strip. In Gaza and North Gaza governorates, some projects were suspended due to safety concerns and the lack of access to safe disposal sites. The accumulation of waste in residential areas and makeshift shelters is further exacerbating public health risks, as it creates breeding grounds for disease vectors, such as rodents and ectoparasites, the WASH Cluster reports. The situation is worsened by the unavailability of chemicals needed to control their spread. In the southern governorates, solid waste management efforts continue, with approximately 1,260 cubic metres per day being transferred to the five available temporary dumping sites. However, most of these sites are nearing full capacity – presently full at 80 to 95 per cent – and urgently require decongestion. The Sofa landfill remains the only designated final disposal site in the southern governorates, but access is not possible due to displacement orders and denied access to militarized zones. In hard-to-reach areas, such as Al Bureij and An Nuseirat, people are facing significant health and environmental risks due to the absence of functioning waste management systems and unsafe disposal practices. Waste collection operations are further hindered by challenges in fleet management, as only around 20 per cent of service provider vehicles are currently functional due to the lack of preventive maintenance, spare tires, and batteries.
- On 13 September, following a month-long outage, the Bani Suhaila Mekorot water line supplying Khan Younis was repaired, allowing the resumption of water flow at a rate of 12,000 cubic metres per day through the distribution network, despite ongoing infrastructure damage. Additionally, the newly inaugurated trunk line funded by the UAE, which connects the seawater desalination plant on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing to southern Gaza, has introduced a vital new water source. However, it is currently operating at only one-fifth of its intended capacity, according to the WASH Cluster. In contrast, the Bani Said Mekorot water line, which supplies Deir al Balah, has remained non-functional since January after [sustaining](#) damage. Meanwhile, WASH Cluster partners have continued to diversify water sources through expanding the subsidized water scheme, increasing the number of operational desalination plants in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah governorates from one to six. These plants now produce a total of 2,370 cubic metres per day, serving nearly 400,000 people through water trucking, the WASH Cluster reported.
- The Gaza Municipality continues to warn about the growing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza city, [noting](#) that the approaching winter season would exacerbate the already dire humanitarian conditions. It cited unprecedented damage to infrastructure, public facilities, and civil institutions, alongside the accumulation of large quantities of solid waste in central areas, sewage overflow in the streets, and stormwater ponds that are already filled. The situation is compounded by a lack of critical supplies, including vehicles, fuel, and essential equipment to repair damaged facilities, posing a grave threat to public health and safety. The Municipality highlighted that many stormwater ponds have been contaminated with sewage due to the shutdown of pumping stations following the recent ground incursion, and that teams have been unable to access them to conduct repairs, which further heightens the already high risk of flooding in low-lying neighbourhoods and deepening the crisis.

Funding

- As of 17 September 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.05 billion out of the \$4 billion (26 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during August 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 104 ongoing projects, totalling \$62.3 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 48 are being implemented by INGOs, 42 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 35 out of the 62 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



A Palestinian family being displaced amid intensified strikes on Gaza city. Photo by OCHA/Olga Cherevko

Humanitarian Situation Update #326 | Gaza Strip

25 Sep 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 1 or 2 October.

Key Highlights

- Intensified strikes on Gaza city, including on tents, residential buildings and infrastructure, continue to inflict heavy casualties.
- Several health facilities have been shut down in Gaza city, in the north, in September, leaving hundreds of thousands of people with limited access to lifesaving medical services.
- In southern Gaza, conditions are alarming, the Shelter Cluster reports, with families squeezed into makeshift tents along the beach, packed into overcrowded schools, or sleeping in the open and amid rubble, and services are stretched beyond capacity.
- A two-kilogramme bread bundle remains unaffordable to most, sold at more than 30 NIS (US\$9), compared with two NIS (\$0.3) at UN-supported bakeries in early 2025, reports the Food Security Sector.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, particularly in Gaza governorate. Israeli strikes on residential buildings and tents sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs) and people seeking aid have continued to be reported, alongside reports of controlled detonations. Fighting between Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces was also reported and so was rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel on 21 September. Combined with displacement orders, Israeli military ground operations and bombardment have continued to drive additional waves of displacement, particularly from Gaza city (see more information below). Protection partners report significant disruption to communication channels across North Gaza governorate, hindering efforts to verify information and assess the gravity of the situation for civilians who remain in the area.
- In a [speech](#) at a UN General Assembly High-Level event on 24 September, Tom Fletcher, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, highlighted the catastrophic situation of children in Gaza: “They’ve been bombed, maimed, starved, burned alive, buried in the rubble of their homes, separated from their parents. Denied every ounce of humanity that the rules of war were designed to preserve. Killed while sleeping, playing, queuing for food and water, seeking medical care.” He called for the immediate implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) provisional measures requiring Israel to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance. He spoke about children in Israel who were killed or taken hostage on 7 October 2023 and called for the release of those still in captivity.
- In a [statement](#) issued on 23 September, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), decried the escalating attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza city, which have contributed to increasing numbers of people being displaced, and warned of the risk that this displacement will become permanent. In a 48-hour period between 19 and 20 September, the Office recorded 18 incidents involving attacks on residential buildings that killed at least 51 Palestinians, with reports indicating that almost all of those killed were civilians. The statement called on Israel’s military to “immediately end the

killing of Palestinian civilians and the wanton destruction of Gaza city, which appears to be focused on causing a permanent demographic shift, which is tantamount to ethnic cleansing.”

- In a [statement](#) on 23 September, humanitarian leaders and famine experts stated that “Israel has spent the month since the famine declaration denying existence of famine, impeding humanitarian action, and widening its military offensive in the famine zone.” Declaring that the famine can still be stopped, they urged global leaders meeting in New York this week to “utilize all diplomatic, political, and economic tools to ensure that Israel halts its assault on Gaza city and allows the UN-led humanitarian partners to mount a full and robust famine response operation.”
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 17 and 24 September, 357 Palestinians were killed, and 1,463 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 65,419 fatalities and 167,160 injuries. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access aid supplies has increased to 2,531 fatalities and more than 18,531 injuries since 27 May 2025. Moreover, according to MoH in Gaza, as of 19 September, 440 malnutrition-related deaths, including 147 children, were documented since October 2023.
- According to the Israeli military, between 17 and 24 September, as of noon, five Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. This brings the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 465 fatalities and 2,918 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,665 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 24 September, it is estimated that 48 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- Over the past week, strikes in Gaza city have been especially intensive, including on IDP tents, residential buildings and public infrastructure, with many resulting in high numbers of casualties. The following are key incidents resulting in casualties across the Gaza Strip:
 - On 19 September, at about 3:45, a four-year-old boy and a five-year-old girl were killed and others injured when an IDP tent was hit in Al Mawasi area, in Khan Younis.
 - On 19 September, at about 10:22, four Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when An Nuseirat Camp was hit, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 19 September, at about 18:20, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Tal al Hawa, in southwestern Gaza city.
 - On 20 September, at about 2:30, two Palestinian children were reportedly killed when Al-Mu'tasim School, where IDPs sheltered, was hit, near Al Yarmouk Stadium in central Gaza city.
 - On 20 September, at about 6:00, at least nine Palestinians were reportedly killed, including seven children, one woman and one man, when a residential building was hit in At Tuffah, in northeastern Gaza city.
 - On 20 September, at about 9:30, Al Awda Hospital in An Nuseirat reportedly announced receiving six Palestinians killed and 23 injured when people collecting firewood were hit, near Al Mughraqa area north of An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah. September has seen an increase in reports of the Israeli military using live fire on people collecting firewood in this area. In addition to this incident, OHCHR recorded incidents on 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22 September, with a total of at least 19 Palestinians reportedly killed, including at least one child (a 13-year-old boy), and more than 44 injured.
 - On 20 September, at about 15:35, four Palestinians were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit near Al Yarmouk Stadium, in Gaza city.
 - On 20 September in the evening, at least [20 Palestinians](#) of the same family were reportedly killed, including four women and 12 children, and others remained trapped under the rubble when three inhabited residential buildings were hit in As Sabra, in southern Gaza city.
 - On 20 September, at about 22:40, four Palestinians, including a nurse, his wife and two children, were reportedly killed in a strike on a residential building in As Sabra, in southern Gaza city.
 - On 21 September, at about midday, four Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in a strike in Ad Daraj, in central Gaza city.
 - On 21 September, at about 14:45, nine Palestinians were reportedly killed, including at least four children and two women, and others injured when a location near a clinic run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was hit in Al Bureij Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 23 September, at about 9:00, two Palestinian fishers were reportedly killed off the coast of western Khan Younis.
- According to records of OHCHR, since the establishment of militarized supply sites in the Gaza Strip on 27 May, and as of 22 September, at least 2,340 people, mostly young men and boys, seeking assistance have been reportedly killed, including 1,218 near militarized supply sites and 1,122 along convoy supply routes. Over the past week, between 17 and 22 September, 21 fatalities were reported within this context, including near three militarized supply sites in Rafah, Khan Younis and Wadi Gaza and among groups of people seeking aid along the Morag route south of Khan Younis. There were no reported casualty incidents near Zikim crossing, which has remained closed since 12 September (see more information below).

- On 17 September, 77 patients, along with 107 companions, were medically evacuated abroad. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 15,600 patients who are severely ill or injured and need lifesaving, specialized care unavailable in Gaza are currently awaiting evacuation. Between 7 October 2023 and 17 September 2025, only 7,802 patients, including 5,369 children, were evacuated abroad. On 23 September, 25 Foreign Ministers from Europe and Canada issued a joint [statement](#) calling for the restoration of the medical corridor enabling medical evacuations from Gaza to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Access and Humanitarian Space

- Delays and impediments to humanitarian movements continue, including for missions from southern to northern Gaza. Missions that are approved by Israeli authorities still take hours to complete and teams have been compelled to travel on roads that are often congested.* Between 17 and 23 September, out of 94 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 35 were facilitated (37 per cent), 13 were impeded (14 per cent), 30 were denied (32 per cent) and 16 had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons (17 per cent). Since the closure of Zikim crossing on 12 September and until 22 September, the denial rate of movements in and to northern Gaza has increased to 40 per cent, up from 18 per cent in the preceding 11 days, between 1 and 11 September.
- According to the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)), no cargo has been collected in northern Gaza since the Zikim crossing (Erez West/As Siafa) was closed on 12 September. Located in North Gaza, Zikim was used to channel aid into the area. To sustain cooked meal provision in the north, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are relying on supplies from the south, which is challenging due to road congestion on Al Rashid Road and unstable security conditions. As of 22 September, 532,000 meals were prepared and delivered by 20 FSS partners through 138 kitchens – 59,000 meals by 13 kitchens in the north and 473,000 meals by 125 kitchens in central and southern Gaza. In northern Gaza, there has been a reduction of about 50,000 daily meals compared with 109,000 meals on 21 September following the closure of some community kitchens as the military offensive continues to escalate in Gaza city. Without cooking gas and considering the high price of firewood, families across the Gaza Strip are increasingly relying on paying to use communal ovens to make their own bread, in addition to purchasing flour and other ingredients. Bread bundles remain unaffordable on the market, sold at more than 30 NIS (US \$9) per two kilogrammes, compared with 2 NIS (\$0.6) for two kilogrammes at UN-supported bakeries in early 2025. Partners are working on measures to ensure supplies can safely arrive at bakeries and warehouses from the crossings to support bakeries to resume operations at scale.
- With the continued closure of Zikim crossing since 12 September, the suspension of cargo movement from Jordan following a security incident at the Allenby Bridge on 18 September, and the closure of all Gaza crossings on 23 and 24 September due to Israeli-announced Jewish holidays, supply lines to the Gaza Strip, particularly to the famine-struck Gaza city, have been unpredictable. Between 12 and 22 September 2025, 436 truckloads were collected through the [UN 2720 mechanism](#) from Gaza's crossings, compared with about 1,040 truckloads collected in the previous 11-day period between 1 and 11 September, marking a 58 per cent decrease.
- Moreover, according to [data](#) from the UN 2720 mechanism, between 1 and 22 September, a total of 1,075 aid trucks were intercepted during transit in Gaza – either peacefully by desperate civilians or forcefully by armed criminals. These incidents accounted for 73 per cent of all collected supplies so far in September, significantly undermining the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Notably, on 18 September, armed individuals in Gaza city took over four UN Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)) trucks carrying ready-to-use therapeutic food for malnourished children, taking the supplies at gunpoint. According to UNICEF, the loss of these supplies deprived at least 2,700 severely malnourished children of life-saving nutrition.
- Cargo movements at Al Karama/Allenby Bridge border crossing have been suspended since [18 September](#), when a Jordanian truck driver transporting cargo for the Gaza Strip shot and killed two Israeli soldiers. On 23 September, Israeli authorities [announced](#) the closure of Al Karama/Allenby Bridge crossing for passenger access in both directions. The crossing is critical for commercial imports and exports, and the entry of humanitarian supplies from Jordan. In August, about one quarter of humanitarian relief items entering Gaza through the [UN 2720 mechanism](#) came via Jordan, including food, tents, and other urgently needed supplies. The closure has also disrupted the rotation of international humanitarian staff to and from the Gaza Strip. The UN is engaging with relevant stakeholders to urgently address these concerns, warning that the continued closure of this border crossing without viable alternatives would severely undermine the humanitarian response in Gaza and seriously impact the movement of Palestinians.

Shrinking Space for Lifesaving Services in Gaza City

- Constant bombardment, displacement orders and the limited availability of basic supplies are threatening the continued operation of lifesaving services in Gaza city, including ambulances, health facilities, nutrition services, and community kitchens. Fuel supplies also remain limited, with the last reported successful delivery on 20 September, when the UN Office for Projects Services (UNOPS) [delivered](#) 92,000 litres of fuel to Gaza city to support health facilities, water and sanitation services, and telecommunications.
- On 22 September, the Palestinian NGOs Network ([PNGO](#)) reported that an Israeli airstrike destroyed Ash Shawa building, in As Samer area of Gaza city, which also housed key humanitarian facilities, including a primary health-care centre of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), a training and community centre of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), and the offices of several other civil society organizations. The [GCMHP](#) centre was providing mental health and psychosocial services to thousands of people, including children, women and people with disabilities. According to PMRS, the attack [destroyed](#) its health centre which provided critical services including blood donation and testing services, trauma care, cancer medications, and chronic disease treatment. Following the incident, [WHO](#) Director-General emphasized that attacks on health care must end and warned that the "continued destruction of Gaza City's health facilities will cause more deaths and further overwhelm already

overcrowded hospitals in the south.” In addition, on 24 September, PMRS [reported](#) that their main headquarters in Tal al Hawa in Gaza city was hit. According to PMRS, this attack has rendered all PMRS health facilities in Gaza non-operational.

- On 22 September, the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) [announced](#) the relocation of the Jordanian field hospital from the Tal al Hawa area of Gaza city, where it had been operational for more than 16 years, to Khan Younis, citing staff safety concerns. Affirming their readiness to resume operations in Gaza city when conditions allow, the JAF noted that continuous shelling and heavy bombing in recent weeks had caused damage to the hospital’s façade and equipment, the hospital had become increasingly isolated, and the road leading to the hospital has become dangerous.
- On 23 September, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [reported](#) that the oxygen station at Al Quds Hospital, which it operates in the Tal al Hawa in Gaza city, has stopped functioning after being hit by gunfire from Israeli forces. As a result, the hospital is now relying only on pre-filled oxygen cylinders, which are expected to last for three days. PRCS added that Israeli military vehicles were positioned at the hospital’s southern gate, preventing anyone from entering or leaving.
- Since 1 September, four hospitals in North Gaza and Gaza governorates were forced to shut down, bringing the total number of functioning hospitals in Gaza to only 14, including eight in Gaza city, three in Deir al Balah and three in Khan Younis. None of them, however, is functioning at full capacity. The four hospitals that were rendered out of service are Al Rantisi Children’s Hospital, Ophthalmic Hospital, and [St. John Eye Hospital](#) in Gaza city and Hamad Hospital for Rehabilitation and Prosthetics in North Gaza. Hamad Hospital is one of the main three specialized rehabilitation facilities in the Gaza Strip, which was serving 250 outpatients with rehabilitation services, in addition to providing medical care for people injured while seeking aid in North Gaza at its trauma stabilization point, with about 200 patients served daily. Al Rantisi Hospital had sustained severe damage from a direct strike days earlier and most of its medical equipment, according to the Health Cluster, were transferred to Al Helou, As Sahaba and Patient Friendly hospitals, all in Gaza city, on 21 September.
- In addition, according to the Health Cluster, between 1 and 23 September, 16 medical points and 11 primary health centres were forced to suspend or shut down services in Gaza city. At the same time, the situation at the remaining eight hospitals and one field hospital in the city is critical. Those health points are overwhelmed by the influx of casualties resulting from strikes, in addition to providing medical care for non-trauma patients.

Challenges Facing the Health-care System in Central and Southern Gaza

- At Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, the situation is extremely dire. Patients, especially children, face critical shortages in both treatment services and hospital beds. According to Nasser Medical Complex, dozens are crowded into hallways and shared rooms, while families are left sitting on the floor amid a severe lack of medicines and essential care. The extreme overcrowding is largely due to the mass displacement of families from northern Gaza, leaving the facility unable to absorb the surge in patients. On 22 September, Dr. Ahmed Al-Fara, Director of the Children’s and Maternity Center at Nasser Medical Complex, [described](#) the situation as one of unprecedented overcrowding across the entire facility, and particularly in the paediatric departments. “We are witnessing extreme congestion in the neonatal units, with up to three babies sharing a single incubator – a very serious precedent in the nursery departments,” he said. He added that the paediatric departments are beyond capacity, receiving approximately 1,000 cases in just 24 hours, with nearly 200 children admitted, despite the department’s capacity of only 40 beds. “These are numbers we’ve never seen before,” he emphasized. Dr. Al-Fara also reported a dramatic increase in the number of premature and low-birth-weight infants, now accounting for 60-70 per cent of newborns, compared with 20 per cent before October 2023. “The conditions are catastrophic in every sense of the word,” he concluded.
- Like many other health facilities, Al Aqsa Hospital, in Deir al Balah, is facing severe overcrowding and insufficient bed capacity to cope with the rising number of patients. Despite having the largest bed capacity among hospitals in the area, with [350](#) beds, this remains inadequate. In response to extreme overcrowding and amid the arrival of thousands of displaced people in the central governorate, Al Aqsa Hospital has [set](#) up fully equipped medical tents to receive the injured along with an additional tent designated for emergency cases, due to the lack of available space in internal wards.
- Shortages of medical supplies and equipment continue to weaken the health system in Gaza. The Kuwait Specialized Field Hospital [announced](#), on 18 September, the forced suspension of all scheduled surgical operations, limiting its services to life-saving surgeries only. This is due to a severe shortage of medications and medical supplies and the deterioration of equipment and devices over the past two years. The hospital is also facing a significant shortage of essential medical necessities, including anaesthesia drugs, medical solutions, sterilization materials and supplies, and critical surgical instruments, the hospital added. Similarly, blood shortage remains a pressing challenge, threatening the lives of patients, with continuous appeals by MoH for blood donation campaigns at all hospitals across the Gaza Strip.

Displacement and the Struggle for Survival

- According to the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)), more than 388,400 displacement movements were recorded between 14 August and 23 September – an average of about 9,700 movements per day. The majority of these movements originated from Gaza city, with most people reportedly heading toward Khan Younis and Deir al Balah – areas that, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification ([IPC](#)), are projected to face famine by the end of September 2025. The cluster notes that the displacement figures are likely higher, as many people are also moving during the night when monitoring is limited. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of people remain in Gaza city and, according to [UNRWA](#), “are facing daily bombardment, famine and compromised access to means of survival.”
- The journey to the south is long and dangerous. On 19 September, the Israeli military [announced](#) that Salah al Din Road, which [opened](#) for 48 hours only, is closed for southward movement. Since mid-August, Al Rashid Road has been the main route

available for people moving from Gaza city southward. Prior to departure, many report waiting many days to secure space on trucks for their belongings, with high transportation costs placing an additional burden on already exhausted families. UNRWA [reports](#) that costs can reach more than US\$3,000, including for transportation, purchasing a tent and land space to set up the tent - where such space is available. According to SMC partners, many families cannot afford transport to the south, forcing some to travel on foot. Families are also facing multi-day delays and travelling along overcrowded and arduous displacement routes, often increasing the risk of family separation. This is especially the case for children under 10, UNICEF [highlights](#). Reports from partners at the four flow monitoring points on Al Rashid Road – comprising partners working on site management and protection, including child protection and addressing gender-based violence (GBV) – indicate that the road is heavily congested, with vehicles, donkey carts, tuk-tuks, and large numbers of exhausted and worn-out people travelling on foot. With the majority of people in Gaza already displaced multiple times, the most vulnerable, particularly children and the elderly, are bearing the brunt of the hardship, including the risk of dehydration during the journey. Layan, an 11-year-old student, told [UNRWA](#): “I am supposed to be in sixth grade. My school was destroyed... I am so tired of evacuation and displacement. This is our sixth time to move in search for a safe place.”

- Between 9 and 23 September, six child protection partners at the four monitoring points reached more than 24,000 people, including over 14,000 children with psychological first aid and referred 44 unaccompanied children for family tracing, reunification and temporary care arrangements. Child protection partners had distributed 4,760 identification bracelets in shelters, displacement corridors, and sites over the past three weeks to facilitate family reunification – each bracelet includes the child’s name, date of birth, caregiver contact information, and displacement site registration.
- The Shelter Cluster reports conditions in the south are alarming: families are squeezed into makeshift tents along the beach, packed into overcrowded schools, or sleeping in the open air or amid the rubble of destroyed homes, services are stretched beyond capacity and cannot meet the needs of those already present, let alone new arrivals. The majority of IDPs are arriving without tents, and tents remain both scarce and unaffordable, according to the cluster, with market prices reaching approximately \$1,000 – well beyond the means of most families. According to the Protection Cluster, severe overcrowding in displacement sites in the south is heightening risks of violence, abuse and exploitation of all groups, with a particular risk of neglect for children, and eroding dignity of displaced people. Congestion in sites is also exposing women and girls to the heightened risk of GBV. Families are additionally experiencing extreme stress and trauma, which is fuelling both community-level and intra-familial tensions. On 19 September, an inter-agency mission led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs visited three displacement sites hosting approximately 4,000 people in Khan Younis and identified critical levels of need, with the most urgent gaps in food, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, shelter, protection, child protection, GBV and site management. In Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, SMC reports that there are currently about 64 displacement sites, including 25 UNRWA designated emergency shelters and other numerous scattered sites along the beach, with a total population of about 460,000 IDPs, including about 20,600 IDPs who have newly arrived from northern Gaza.

Funding

- As of 24 September 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.06 billion out of the \$4 billion (26 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during August 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 104 ongoing projects, totalling \$62.3 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 48 are being implemented by INGOs, 42 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 35 out of the 62 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

Humanitarian Situation Update #327 | Gaza Strip

02 Oct 2025



A Palestinian woman being displaced within the Gaza Strip. Photo by UNRWA

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Tuesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 8 or 9 October.

Key Highlights

- People in Gaza city are facing deteriorating access to means of survival amid intensified bombardment, collapsing lifelines, and a growing number of aid organizations forced to suspend operations.
- Cooked meal provision in northern Gaza has dropped by 70 per cent, with only eight kitchens currently operational, the Food Security Sector reports.
- One million people are accessing less than the emergency minimum of six litres of drinking water per day, according to a recent assessment by water, sanitation and hygiene partners.
- The UN and its partners continue to face physical and bureaucratic impediments, preventing them from providing lifesaving assistance at scale in the Gaza Strip.
- Attacks on or near hospitals and other health facilities continue to be reported.
- Environmental damage in the Gaza Strip has dramatically worsened since June 2024, according to the UN Environment Programme.

Humanitarian Developments

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, particularly in Gaza and Deir al Balah governorates. Israeli strikes on residential buildings, tents sheltering internally

displaced people (IDPs) and people seeking aid have continued to be reported, alongside reports of controlled detonations. Fighting between Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces was also reported. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel was reported on 29 September and 1 October, most of which reportedly fell short inside Gaza or were intercepted. On 1 October, the Israeli military [announced](#) that Ar Rashid (coastal) Road will be closed for movement from the southern area, as of noon local time, noting that it remained open for movements from Gaza city towards the south. Access to North Gaza remains severely restricted and protection partners report significant disruption to communication channels across the governorate, hindering efforts to verify information and assess the gravity of the situation for civilians who remain in the area.

- On 29 September, the UN Human Rights office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OHCHR) [expressed](#) dismay “that the Israeli military is destroying Gaza City, forcing Palestinians to flee,” stating that while the mass displacement of IDPs from Gaza city into Deir al Balah continued, the Israeli military “intensified strikes on the northwestern part of the [Deir al Balah] governorate, covering An Nuseirat and Az Zawaida areas.” Between 24 and 28 September, the Office recorded at least 12 incidents in the An Nuseirat and Az Zawaida areas, in Deir al Balah, which reportedly killed “at least 89 Palestinians, most of whom appear to be civilians including many children and women.” The incidents included strikes on IDP tents, houses, and a crowded market. In addition, between 1 August and 23 September, OHCHR recorded 14 attacks against people gathering firewood, especially in northern Deir al Balah; the attacks reportedly killed 21 Palestinians, including at least one child. The Office stated that the “Israeli military reportedly launched airstrikes from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), artillery shelling, and live gunfire against those gathering firewood” and noted that “the use of live ammunition against Palestinians collecting firewood, appear to amount to attacks directed at civilians, demonstrably not directly participating in hostilities, and also suggest a policy of preventing Palestinians from accessing the necessities of life.”
- On 30 September, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, [welcomed](#) the announcement by the US President in relation to a ceasefire plan, noting that the “priority must be to ease the tremendous suffering caused by this conflict” and that “the UN remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting all efforts that promote peace, stability [and] a more hopeful future for the people of Palestine [and] Israel and across the region.” Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, [said](#) that the plan opens new possibilities for humanitarians to deliver life-saving aid at the scale desperately needed by civilians, as well as for hostages to finally come home. “We are ready and eager to work – in a practical and principled way – to seize this moment for peace,” he added. Highlighting the centrality of education of more than 660,000 children in Gaza to any agreement to end the war, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, [emphasized](#) that “[b]ringing them back to learning should be a collective priority to promote lasting peace [and] stability.”
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 24 September and 1 October, 429 Palestinians were killed, and 1,556 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 66,148 fatalities and 168,716 injuries. According to MoH, the total number includes 300 fatalities who were retroactively added on 27 September 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access aid supplies has reached 2,580 fatalities and more than 18,930 injuries since 27 May 2025. Moreover, according to MoH in Gaza, as of 1 October, 455 malnutrition-related deaths, including 151 children, were documented since October 2023.
- According to the Israeli military, between 24 September and 1 October, as of noon, one Israeli soldier was killed in Gaza. This brings the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 466 fatalities and 2,939 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,666 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 1 October 2025, it is estimated that 48 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- On 30 September, a photojournalist was killed in an airstrike in Deir al Balah. The Palestinian Journalists Protection Center (PJPC) [condemned](#) the killing of the photojournalist, who was displaced from northern to southern Gaza four days earlier. On 26 September, marking the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Journalists, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) had [reported](#) that since October 2023, more than 252 journalists have been killed (including one in the West Bank), with dozens more injured, missing, arrested, or forcibly displaced. The syndicate said that over 670 homes belonging to journalists have been destroyed, and more than 1,000 journalists have been forced to flee multiple times. It stressed that Palestinian journalists continue to operate in conditions devoid of basic professional or humanitarian protections, facing constant threats of death and detention.
- On 1 October, the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) reported that seven of its rescue and firefighting officers were injured and one was killed in an Israeli strike while evacuating casualties at a school sheltering displaced families in Az Zaytoun neighbourhood in Gaza city. This marks the 27th reported Israeli attack on PCD teams in the field since 7 October 2023, PCD reported.
- The following are other key incidents resulting in fatalities across the Gaza Strip over the past week, mainly in Gaza city and Deir al Balah:
 - On 26 September, at about 13:40, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit in Deir al Balah.
 - On 27 September, at about 8:10, at least 11 Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was struck in At Tuffah, in Gaza city.
 - On 27 September, at about 15:55, at least eight Palestinians from the same family, including four children, were reportedly killed and many others injured when a centre housing IDPs was hit in Ad Daraj, in Gaza city.

- On 27 September, at about 17:20, at least 17 Palestinians were reportedly killed, including at least two boys and one woman, and dozens of others were injured when a crowded market was hit, near Abu Dala Mall in An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah.
- On 28 September, at about 1:00, at least 13 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in southeastern An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
- On 28 September, six Palestinians were reportedly killed when fire was opened toward Palestinians waiting for supply trucks along the Morag route, south of Khan Younis.
- On 29 September, at about 8:50, at least 10 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a strike hit the vicinity of a UN facility sheltering IDPs in An Nasr, in Gaza city.
- On 30 September, at about 4:30, seven Palestinians, including a woman and her six children, were killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in western Deir al Balah.
- On 30 September, at about 10:00, 17 Palestinians, including at least four boys, were reportedly killed and 33 others were injured when fire was opened towards people seeking food near the militarized supply site in Wadi Gaza.
- On 1 October, at about 3:45, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Ad Daraj, in central Gaza city.
- On 1 October, at about 11:30, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a water truck was struck in western Gaza city.
- On 29 September, the World Health Organization (WHO) [supported](#) the evacuation of 14 patients and 38 companions from Gaza to Jordan and 15 other patients and 65 companions to Italy. This brings the total number of patients evacuated from Gaza since October 2023 to 7,841 while about 15,600 critical patients still require medical evacuation. For more patients to be able to be medically evacuated, WHO [notes](#) that the following are needed: restoring the medical corridor to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (the most cost-effective route); securing more receiving-country offers; increasing the use of medical evacuation corridors through Egypt and Jordan; and overcoming security challenges, fuel shortages, closures of crossings and daily exit limits.

Constrained Humanitarian Space

- UNRWA operations in Gaza city have faced severe disruptions due to the intensification of Israeli military operations, displacement orders, and the large-scale displacement of staff and their families. The absolute majority of shelter, water and sanitation and health facilities managed by UNRWA in Gaza city have now been evacuated, damaged or rendered inaccessible. Despite the challenges, nearly 2,000 out of 12,000 UNRWA personnel continue to provide critical services in the city, including at 11 designated emergency shelters hosting about 2,000 families that remain operational in Gaza city while the remaining 30 shelters have been evacuated or become inaccessible. At the functional shelters, UNRWA also operates water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, contingent on the availability of fuel. Only one UNRWA medical point remains functional in the city, representing one of the few facilities that still provide primary health care services in the area; like other humanitarian actors in Gaza city, UNRWA estimates that its capacity to deliver essential primary health-care services has declined by over 95 per cent compared with August prior to the ground invasion.
- On 26 September, Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) announced that they were forced to suspend their medical activities in Gaza city due to the intensification of Israeli military operations, which escalated risks for both staff and patients. MSF described the dire situation, noting: “Those who are able to leave face an impossible choice: either remain in Gaza City under intense military operations and the deterioration of law and order, or abandon what’s left of their houses, their belongings, and their memories, to move to areas where humanitarian conditions are rapidly collapsing.”
- On 1 October, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) [announced](#) the temporary suspension of operations at their offices in Gaza city and the relocation of staff to ICRC offices in southern Gaza due to the intensification of military operations in Gaza city. ICRC warned that people in Gaza city are facing “harrowing humanitarian conditions,” stating that their teams “will continue to strive to provide support to civilians in Gaza city, whenever circumstances allow” from their offices in central and southern Gaza and that they “remain committed to returning to Gaza city as soon as conditions allow.”
- The UN and its partners continue to face physical and bureaucratic impediments preventing them from providing lifesaving assistance at scale in the Gaza Strip. Complex authorization and inspection procedures, limited clearance capacity at various crossings, often unpredictable rejection of entry of pre-cleared cargo types, and denials or impediments to humanitarian movements by Israeli authorities hinder operations. Inside Gaza, humanitarian cargo faces a very high risk of looting – including by armed groups. At present, only 15 humanitarian partners have been authorized by Israeli authorities to manifest humanitarian trucks through UN Logistics Cluster coordination via the Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and West Bank aid routes. Following the killing of two Israeli soldiers at Allenby Bridge by a Jordanian truck driver transporting cargo for the Gaza Strip on 18 September, no Government-to-Government convoys were authorized by Israeli authorities, while two Back-to Back convoys carrying shelter items have since been authorized, offloading supplies at Kerem Shalom crossing on 29 and 30 September. The closure of Zikim crossing since 12 September by the Israeli authorities has resulted in the humanitarian community losing direct access to northern Gaza. The Israeli authorities have opened Kissufim crossing since 15 September as an alternative entry point; however, the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) notes that Kissufim does not provide adequate access to northern Gaza due to its limited capacity and insecurity (around the crossing inside Gaza), disrupting cargo collection and preventing additional deliveries. Zikim was a lifeline to directly channel aid into northern Gaza, the Logistics Cluster reports. Furthermore, the West Bank route remains highly

constrained, limited to food from one humanitarian partner and health supplies from UN agencies. Lengthy inspections cause delays and can prevent same-day offloading of supplies at Kerem Shalom crossing. At the same time, Israeli authorities continue to reject most trucks coming from the Egypt route from the manifest or have them returned from the crossing in recent weeks, citing congestion at the crossing.

- Delays and impediments to humanitarian movements persist, including for missions between southern and northern Gaza. Even when approved by Israeli authorities, missions often take hours to complete, with teams forced to use heavily congested roads. Between 24 and 30 September, out of 120 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 47 were facilitated (39 per cent), 15 were impeded (12 per cent), 50 were denied (42 per cent) and eight had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons (seven per cent). In September, the denial rate of humanitarian missions spiked, with 26 per cent (126 out of 478) of missions denied; more than triple the eight per cent (28 out of 356) recorded in August and compared with a denial rate of 20 per cent in July (69 out of 341). Since the closure of Zikim crossing on 12 September and until 30 September, the denial rate of movements in and to northern Gaza has increased to 52 per cent, up from 15 per cent in the preceding two weeks, between 28 August and 11 September. Denied missions in and to northern Gaza involved water trucking, the retrieval of critical life-saving equipment, and visits to hospitals.
- On 23 September, the UN Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)) warned that recovery from the environmental damage in Gaza could take decades. UNEP underlined that the environmental situation in Gaza has worsened dramatically across almost all indicators since the last assessment in June 2024, highlighting that freshwater supplies are severely limited and much of what remains is polluted. The collapse of sewage treatment infrastructure, the destruction of piped systems, and the reliance on cesspits for sanitation have likely increased contamination of the aquifer that supplies most of Gaza's water, while marine and coastal areas are also suspected to be contaminated. Moreover, since 2023, the Gaza Strip has lost 97 per cent of its tree crops, 95 per cent of its shrubland, and 82 per cent of its annual crops, making food production at scale impossible. Some 78 per cent of Gaza's estimated 250,000 buildings have been damaged or destroyed, generating 61 million tonnes of debris, of which about 15 per cent may be contaminated with asbestos, industrial waste, or heavy metals. "The situation is going from bad to worse, if this continues, it will leave a legacy of environmental destruction that could affect the health and wellbeing of generations of Gaza residents," said UNEP.
- Since October 2023, Mine Action (MA) partners have documented 132 Explosive Ordnance (EO) incidents that killed 47 people, including at least 14 children, and injured 249 people, including at least 71 children. Over the same period, MA partners reported coming across 508 EO items in the Gaza Strip, which they say are a threat to civilian life, dignity, and recovery efforts. Despite severe access restrictions, repeated telecommunication cuts and displacement of staff, MA partners continue to mark and cordon off areas where EO items are identified and to deliver training sessions on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (EORECPP), with more than 20,000 people reached between 14 and 27 September. These include newly displaced people at reception points on Ar Rashid Road and IDPs who have newly arrived in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. In North Gaza and Gaza city, there has been a reduced presence of MA partners over the past month due to displacement orders and the intensification of military operations, and partners who remain in the area are focusing on mixed media and digital awareness raising. The Protection Cluster notes, however, that risk taking behaviour continues to expose vulnerable communities to EO due to the dire humanitarian conditions, with people forced to shelter in areas that are considered high risk, to dig in rubble to search for survivors, and to scavenge for food, firewood or other essentials in places that are likely to be contaminated with EO.

Strained Services to IDPs

- Combined with displacement orders, Israeli military ground operations and bombardment have continued to drive additional waves of displacement, particularly from Gaza city. Since 18 March, the Site Management Cluster ([SMC](#)) has recorded more than 1,200,000 displacement movements (each movement represents one person but people are counted more than once when they have been displaced multiple times). Since mid-August, when hostilities have intensified in northern Gaza and caused massive destruction to residential buildings and displacement sites, people have continued to flee in search of safety, with over 450,000 movements recorded, about 404,000 of which were movements from northern to southern Gaza, mainly to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. On the still heavily congested Ar Rashid Road, about 15 per cent of movements observed between 20 and 27 September were reportedly people forced to travel long hours on foot, the SMC reports. According to the Protection Cluster, the financial burden of displacement has forced some families to sell their essential belongings to cover transportation costs, while those unable to afford transport had to walk, posing extreme difficulties for persons and families with mobility challenges. One of the women who made the long walk with her family from Gaza city to the south told the United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)): "When our tent was hit and the shelling surrounded us, we had to leave with nothing... We need clothes, shoes, food... winter clothes, blankets and bedding... I have been displaced three times... we are exhausted."
- It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of people remain in Gaza city and North Gaza governorate. According to the SMC, as of 27 September, 73 displacement sites have been forced to close in northern Gaza and only 40 sites remain in the area, compared with 95 displacement sites in July. Humanitarian partners' ability to provide services in these remaining sites is rapidly shrinking, as many organizations have been forced to relocate or suspend operations due to displacement orders and insecurity. The Shelter Cluster reports that many in Gaza city are sleeping in the open without any form of shelter. The last distribution by Shelter Cluster partners in the area took place between 10 and 20 September, when more than 1,100 tarpaulins were distributed to some 700 newly displaced households within Gaza city.
- Over the past week, the Protection Cluster noted continued operational challenges in delivering services, especially in northern Gaza. Many protection activities remain suspended, due to heavy bombardments and the displacement of hundreds of staff with their families. The destruction of offices, safe spaces, and administrative facilities, coupled with fuel shortages, transport constraints, and the lack of tents and essential items, have further undermined operations. As of 2 October 2025, only two Protection partner organizations remain operational in Gaza city, all at a reduced scale. This is down from 30 partners providing

services through approximately 1,030 service points in July 2025. The Protection Cluster calls for safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas of Gaza, including the north, so that essential services can be restored and shelter, food, hygiene items, and child protection supplies can urgently reach people in need across the Strip.

- In Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates, between 27 and 30 September, SMC partners reported the arrival of 127,000 people across 357 displacement sites for which information has been updated, bringing the overall population at these sites to more than half a million people. These include about 50,000 at 46 UNRWA designated emergency shelters, of which 20 were reactivated in September and provide shelter to about 15,000 IDPs. The SMC reported challenges in updating site information due to the rapid and uncoordinated establishment of makeshift sites, which are often difficult to access, and the mounting strain facing site focal points who have become increasingly unable to sustain regular reporting.
- Humanitarian partners continue to expand services in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis to address growing needs associated with the continued influx of IDPs from northern Gaza. This has included inter alia the [expansion](#), where possible, of health, water and sanitation and protection services as well as the provision of shelter materials and cooked meals. For example, in Khan Younis, UNRWA recently [rehabilitated](#) nine medical points, alongside the Japanese Health Centre and Hamad Health Centre, more than doubling the number of functioning health facilities in the area, and continues to rehabilitate shelters and medical facilities to meet the expanding needs of displaced families. Yet, the humanitarian situation remains critical: families in southern Gaza are squeezed into overcrowded schools, makeshift tents along the coast, or are sleeping in the open, amid rubble. Between 14 and 27 September, Shelter Cluster partners distributed tarpaulin sheets to about 380 households (nearly 2,000 people) and 336 tents to newly displaced households in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, amounts that fall short of meeting the needs of the 1.5 million people currently in need of shelter assistance. The Shelter Cluster highlights that the shortage in shelter materials and the lack of adequate space are exposing families to severe hardship and are detrimental for their survival and public health as the winter season approaches. The Protection Cluster similarly notes that, upon arrival in the south, IDPs face severe overcrowding, lack of privacy and safety, poor sanitation, heightened risk of child-family separation, and limited access to protection activities due to ongoing attacks and increased threats from EO.

Food Insecurity

- The amounts of food aid entering the Gaza Strip, including through UN coordination, remain inadequate and are far below the quantities that entered Gaza during the ceasefire between 19 January and 1 March 2025. However, and while the majority of aid collected through UN coordination continues to be looted or taken off the back of the trucks by people en route, relatively larger quantities of food aid collected from Gaza's crossings through UN coordination have reached their destinations in September compared with August. According to monitoring [data](#) by the UN 2720 mechanism, more than 5,000 metric tons (MT) of food supplies reached their destinations in September out of about 22,000 MT collected. In comparison, over 2,600 MT of food aid reached their destinations inside Gaza in August, out of over 36,000 MT collected. Moreover, according to [data](#) published by the Israeli authorities, the number of truckloads of food entering Gaza through all delivery routes by land, and via humanitarian, bilateral and private sector channels, amounted to over [6,500](#) truckloads in September, compared with more than [10,500](#) truckloads of food that entered Gaza in February, during the ceasefire.
- The ability of humanitarian partners to respond effectively to the food security situation in Gaza continues to be limited by the lack of an enabling environment for humanitarian activities, including continued bombardment, displacement orders, and access constraints. Moreover, as noted by [OHCHR](#) in August, repeated attacks on the civilian police and other Palestinians attempting to provide security to humanitarian convoys, have contributed to the collapse of public order and safety and the disorder around supply convoys, as the population was desperate to access food in the face of deepening starvation.
- Since the Israeli authorities closed the Zikim Crossing on 12 September, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners have generally been unable to bring any food aid to northern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people remain and where a famine was [confirmed](#) on 22 August. There has been a 70 per cent decline in the provision of cooked meals by partners in northern Gaza; as of 30 September, only eight kitchens remained active, producing about 45,000 meals daily, down from [155,000](#) daily meals by 29 kitchens, as of 30 August. Capacity to produce bread has also been very limited, with most bakeries relocating assets to southern Gaza in recent days. Partners continue to sustain support for some 50 communal ovens that allow people to bring their own dough to bake in Gaza city. These ovens operate in about 15 shelters and provide critical support amid the absence of cooking fuel.
- Limited supplies due to access impediments, restricted humanitarian space and the collapse in public order and safety have continued to prevent the resumption of general food distribution at the household level by the UN and its partners across the Gaza Strip and inhibited efforts by aid actors to target the most vulnerable households. Recent [research](#) by the Women's Refugee Commission indicated that women and girls face particular obstacles in obtaining food under these conditions, while a [study](#) by Humanity and Inclusion highlighted that lack of home delivery options, long queues, and distant distribution sites exclude persons with disabilities, particularly those without caregivers.
- Access to nutritious food also remains a key concern, according to FSS partners. Meat, vegetables and dairy products, which are normally supplied through commercial channels, remain largely unavailable or unaffordable, FSS reports. Like most commodities, the prices of fresh produce, such as potatoes and dry onions, fluctuate daily, according to WFP's recent [market](#) monitoring report, and there is very minimal local production of fresh produce currently available. Digital payments have provided some relief to about 28,200 households who were reached by partners in August and September, according to the Cash Working Group; yet, WFP notes that price volatility continues to disrupt market stability, "making it difficult for households to afford basic goods and for retailers to maintain adequate stock." About 57 per cent of surveyed households in September indicated that high food prices prevented them from affording even basic items, WFP highlighted. Overall, FSS continues to report an urgent need for the further

expansion of the entry of nutritious food through the commercial sector, including fresh produce and fortified food items, to help meet growing needs.

- For those who secure food, preparing it has become increasingly challenging. Cooking gas has been prevented from entering the Gaza Strip since 2 March 2025, and is no longer available in local markets, while firewood is becoming unaffordable and risky to collect (see above). As a result, nearly two-thirds of households resorted to burning waste to prepare food in September, WFP [reported](#), exacerbating health, safety and environmental risks. FSS partners report that challenges are especially acute for newly displaced people in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, where they are responding by expanding cooked meal provision.

Challenges Facing the Health-Care System

- On 28 October, Al-Helou maternity hospital in Gaza city sustained damage due to nearby strikes, causing panic and fear among patients and medical staff, but no injuries were reported. Citing MoH staff, MSF [reported](#) that at the time of the incident, there were 12 newborns in the neonatal intensive care unit, five patients in internal medicine department, and two obstetric patients in the hospital, among others. On 29 September, OHCHR [stated](#) that “Israel’s military attacks on and around hospitals in Gaza city are leaving sick and injured civilians with nowhere to turn to for life-saving care, as escalating attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are leading to countless casualties,” noting that it recorded at least 17 attacks on or near health facilities across Gaza city between 16 and 28 September. On 29 September, at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, a nurse was critically [injured](#) by a gunshot to the head while performing his duties inside the hospital.
- Neonatal care across the Gaza Strip is critically strained amid severe supply shortages and escalating insecurity, with facilities operating far beyond their intended capacity. The Head of the Neonatal Unit at Nasser, Dr. Hatem Duhair, [reported](#) that the neonatal unit is functioning under catastrophic conditions; the facility was designed to accommodate 17 infants, but is caring for 26, with numbers expected to increase. In some cases, two newborns are sharing a single incubator, and additional incubators have been placed between existing units to manage the high caseload. Dr. Duhair added that only five ventilators are available for all 26 infants, forcing medical teams to prioritize which infants receive life-saving support, including those in need of urgent surgery. Dr. Duhair noted that the increase in births is directly linked to the influx of displaced families from northern Gaza, placing further strain on already overstretched resources. The neonatal unit is currently operating at 150 to 170 per cent of its designed capacity, while the overflow nursery designed for nine infants is now hosting 30, he added.
- Medicine and medical consumables in the Gaza Strip are at crisis levels. On 25 September, MoH in Gaza [reported](#) that 54 per cent of essential drugs and 66 per cent of medical consumables were at zero-stock levels. In emergency departments, the situation is particularly alarming, with 45 per cent of items unavailable, including surgical supplies, critically affecting life-saving procedures. The MoH is also [facing](#) severe shortages of blood units, blood bags and transfusion sets, with supplies expected to run out imminently.
- A surge in cases of infectious diseases is a growing concern. According to the Health Cluster, over 1,300 suspected cases of meningitis (primarily viral) have been reported between May and September 2025, with no deaths to date. In parallel, since June 2025, 122 cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) have been recorded, along with 16 associated deaths; these included 19 GBS cases and three deaths reported in September, the Health Cluster reported. The response to GBS is severely constrained by the limited availability of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) and plasma filters, which are essential for treatment. The Health Cluster noted that the last shipment of Plasma filters entered Gaza in mid-September while the IVIG is planned to enter in early October 2025.

Access to Water and Sanitation Services

- The provision of WASH services in Gaza city has been significantly scaled down due to safety concerns, access constraints, the relocation of water trucks and some partners to southern Gaza where needs have increased, and growing displacement and congestion in the western part of Gaza city that have limited the ability of partners to conduct multiple trips to truck water or collect waste. Fifteen WASH Cluster partners are currently supporting water trucking through seven private desalination plants and primary solid waste collection by humanitarian partners has stopped, also because of lack of access to the temporary dump site at Feras Market. UNRWA reported that it had to suspend all WASH activities outside designated emergency shelters in Gaza city, including water trucking, solid waste removal and the maintenance of the UNRWA main well in the north. Water supply through the Israeli Mekorot pipeline into Gaza city was also cut for five days due to damage and resumed on 26 September when repairs were completed. Additionally, damage to the sewage pressure line in Al Samer on 24 September led to diverting sewage to the Sheikh Radwan lagoon, which remains at high risk of flooding the surrounding area.
- In southern Gaza, WASH partners have been expanding services, where possible, to meet growing needs. Twenty partners are supporting water trucking and, compared with the first two weeks of September, primary waste collection has increased by 30 per cent and secondary waste collection from collection points to temporary dump sites has doubled to 900 cubic metres per day. Moreover, water supply through the UAE-funded seawater desalination plant on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing has increased, supplying drinking water to Al Mawasi area, where network lines to water storage tanks are planned to reduce the trucking burden. Nevertheless, power cuts due to damages to the power lines serving the South Gaza Desalination Plant have resulted in the loss of about 25 per cent of the plant’s production capacity in September.
- Between 17 August and 5 September, WASH partners conducted the third household WASH [assessment](#) to provide an updated snapshot of WASH conditions in Gaza, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates. According to the assessment, for two years, families in Gaza have had to survive on emergency water rations, based on the minimum humanitarian standard of 15 litres per person per day – the bare minimum for drinking, cooking, and basic hygiene – down from approximately 80 to 85 litres of water per person per day available prior to 7 October 2023, which enabled relatively adequate drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry, and

hygiene. The assessment indicates some improvements in access to drinking and domestic water, which have been achieved by WASH partners since January 2025. However, currently, one million people (49 per cent of the population) still do not access six litres of drinking water per day and 500,000 people (28 per cent) cannot access nine litres of domestic water daily. Other key assessment findings include the following:

- Sanitation conditions remain dire. No one currently has access to safely managed sanitation, compared with 85 per cent connected to sewer systems and treatment facilities before October 2023. Over 1.2 million people (57 per cent) are exposed to sewage or fecal matter within 10 metres of their homes, posing severe health risks. Only half of households have access to basic private sanitation while the rest rely on shared or unsafe facilities, compromising health and dignity.
- Access to hygiene products is critically low: 63 per cent of households (1.3 million people) lack soap, mainly due to high prices. Nearly 500,000 women and girls lack adequate menstrual hygiene materials, severely affecting their health, dignity and mobility. Since 18 March, no sanitation items have entered Gaza, and hygiene items were blocked until late July. Although small private sector imports resumed in mid-August, availability remains very limited.
- Solid waste management in Gaza has sharply deteriorated due to prolonged conflict and restricted access. Collection services have been severely disrupted by fuel shortages, lack of spare parts, and inaccessible landfills. As a result, 42 per cent of families live near uncollected waste, leaving approximately 900,000 people exposed to garbage accumulation in residential areas. The collapse of waste management has created ideal conditions for disease vectors. No vector control interventions have been implemented in over two years, allowing pests and parasites to thrive. Consequently, 64 per cent of households report infestations of lice and mites, and 57 per cent report skin conditions such as rashes and scabies – conditions that are directly linked to poor hygiene, overcrowding, and waste exposure.

Funding

- As of 1 October 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.14 billion out of the \$4 billion (28 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during September 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 95 ongoing projects, totalling \$57.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 43 are being implemented by INGOs, 38 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 57 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).

Humanitarian Situation Update #329 | Gaza Strip

09 Oct 2025



An aid worker supporting the medical evacuation of an injured child in the Gaza Strip. Photo by WHO

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Wednesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 15 or 16 October.

Key Highlights

- Welcoming the ceasefire announcement, the United Nations Secretary-General said that the UN will scale up the delivery of sustained and principled humanitarian relief, urging the unimpeded entry of humanitarian supplies and essential commercial materials.
- Over the past two years, nearly 42,000 Palestinians have suffered life-changing injuries in Gaza, one in four are children and including more than 5,000 amputations, according to the World Health Organization.
- Four aid workers have been killed in the Gaza Strip on average every week so far in 2025 and at least 565 aid workers have been killed since 7 October 2023.
- About 2,400 patients have been medically evacuated from the Gaza Strip so far in 2025. This is an average of less than 10 patients evacuated per day.
- Most people in Gaza reside in inadequate shelters that fail to meet basic emergency standards, leaving them exposed to the winter conditions, the Shelter Cluster reports.

Humanitarian Developments (before the declaration of a ceasefire)

- Over the past week, Israeli forces have continued to carry out heavy bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip, particularly in Gaza governorate. Israeli strikes on residential buildings, tents sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs) and people seeking aid have continued to be reported, alongside reports of controlled detonations. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups into Israel was reported on 7 October.

- On 4 October, the [Israeli military](#) stated that Gaza city remains a dangerous battlefield that should be vacated, which came three days after [announcing](#) that Ar Rashid (coastal) Road will be closed for movement from the southern area to the north, but remained open for movements from Gaza city towards the south. A couple of hundred thousand people are believed to remain in the north, where access to basic services is severely constrained, as numerous humanitarian organizations have been forced to relocate or suspend operations due to displacement orders and heightened insecurity. Access to North Gaza remains severely restricted and protection partners report significant disruption to communication channels across the governorate, hindering efforts to verify information and assess the gravity of the situation for civilians who remain in the area.
- In a [statement](#) on 7 October 2025, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres marked two years since 7 October 2023, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages, an end to the hostilities, a permanent ceasefire and a credible political process to prevent further bloodshed. Echoing the Secretary-General's call for the hostages to be released, Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs [underscored](#) the need for all civilians to be protected and for humanitarian aid to flow freely at the needed scale.
- Calling for the rapid and unimpeded entry and passage of humanitarian assistance to be allowed and facilitated across the Gaza Strip, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sub-delegation in Gaza, Sarah Avrillaud, [said](#) on 5 October: "For two years, the civilian population has endured death, forced displacement, and the denial of dignity on a devastating level. We have seen humanity hollowed out in Gaza. Thousands of Palestinians have been separated from their families, and many remain missing. The toll of the past two years is visible on the exhausted faces of people trying to make it hour by hour. Remaining essential services cannot adequately meet the needs of civilians. Many people do not have regular access or safe access to water, hygiene facilities or medical services."
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 1 and 8 October, 315 Palestinians were killed, and 1,125 were injured. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 67,183 fatalities and 169,841 injuries. According to MoH, the total number includes 720 fatalities who were retroactively added on 4 October 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that the number of casualties among people trying to access aid supplies has reached 2,613 fatalities and more than 19,164 injuries since 27 May 2025. Moreover, according to MoH in Gaza, as of 7 October, 461 malnutrition-related deaths, including 157 children, were documented since October 2023.
- According to MoH in Gaza, between 7 October 2023 and 7 October 2025, 67,173 Palestinians were killed and 169,780 were injured. MoH's breakdowns, published on 7 October 2025, indicate that among the fatalities were 20,179 children (30 per cent), 10,427 women (16 per cent), 4,813 elderly people (seven per cent), and 31,754 men (47 per cent). Moreover, according to MoH, injuries include 44,143 children (26 per cent), 23,769 women (14 per cent), 11,885 elderly people (seven per cent), and 89,983 men (53 per cent). Of the children reported killed, 1,029 were under the age of one, and 5,031 were under five years old, the ministry noted.
- According to the Israeli military, between 1 and 8 October, as of noon, there were no Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 466 fatalities and 2,956 injuries, according to the Israeli military. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,666 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of 8 October 2025, it is estimated that 48 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose bodies are being withheld.
- The following are key incidents resulting in fatalities across the Gaza Strip over the past week, mainly in Gaza city and Deir al Balah:
 - On 1 October, at about 13:30, six Palestinians, including three females, were reportedly killed and others injured (including children) when a residential block was hit in Ash Shati' (Beach) Camp, in western Gaza city.
 - On 1 October, at about 14:50, four Palestinians, including a woman, her five-month-old infant and her 10-year-old son, were reportedly killed and others injured when a vehicle was struck on Ar Rashid Road in Deir al Balah.
 - On 1 October, at about 14:55, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when an IDP tent was struck in northwestern Deir al Balah.
 - On 1 October, at about 21:45, nine Palestinians, including seven women and a three-year-old boy, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in eastern Deir Al Balah.
 - On 2 October, at about 10:45, four Palestinians were reportedly killed in a strike on a group of people collecting firewood in Al Bureij Camp, in Deir al Balah.
 - On 2 October, at about 12:45, at least 10 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a community-run kitchen (Tekiyya) was hit in Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis.
 - On 3 October, at about 12:00 noon, at least six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in a strike on Al Mughrabi street, south of Gaza city.
 - On 4 October, at about 18:40, the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) reported that at least 17 Palestinians, including at least seven children aged between two months and seven years, were reportedly killed and over 40 others were injured when a residential building was hit in At Tuffah in eastern Gaza city, a few of hours earlier. PCD added that the rescue and search

operations to locate the missing people were ongoing, noting that more than 15 people were estimated to be under the rubble.

- On 5 October, at about 12:30, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in a strike near Al Lababidi junction, in northwestern Gaza city.
- On 5 October, at about 12:45, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in a strike near a restaurant, in western Gaza city.
- On 6 October, between 9:00 and 10:00, two Palestinians were reportedly killed when fire was opened toward people seeking aid in southern Khan Younis.
- On 7 October, before noon, one Palestinian was reportedly killed when fire was opened toward people seeking aid in southwestern Khan Younis.
- On 7 October, at about 9:00, seven Palestinians were reportedly injured when fire was opened towards people seeking aid near a militarized supply site in northwestern Rafah.
- According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate ([PJS](#)), since October 2023, 252 journalists and media workers have been killed, including 34 female journalists. These include 102 journalists killed in 2023, 91 in 2024, and 59 in 2025. PJS added that over 150 media offices were destroyed. On 3 October 2025, the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Anthony Bellanger, [said](#): “For 24 long months now, Gaza has become the most dangerous place in the world to practise [sic] our profession. Israel prohibits foreign journalists from entering the territory, so the truth relies exclusively on Palestinian reporters – almost all of whom are members of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, affiliated to the IFJ. Too often they work without protection and without refuge for their families.”
- According to PCD, since October 2023, 140 PCD staff have been killed, 355 have been injured, and 31 have been detained, of whom 11 were released. In addition, 14 PCD facilities and over 40 vehicles were destroyed, and their teams have been directly or indirectly hit at least 50 times, PCD reported. During the same period, PCD teams have received over 635,000 emergency calls, including 52,000 that could not be reached due to the lack of fuel or access restrictions, mostly in northern Gaza.
- On 7 October 2025, a security officer working at Al Awda Health and Community Association [succumbed](#) to wounds sustained when the hospital's western gate was [hit](#) a week earlier. On 2 October, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) that an attack carried out by Israeli forces killed one MSF staff member and seriously injured four others, all wearing MSF vests, while they were waiting to take a bus to the MSF field hospital in Deir al Balah. The killed staff member was an occupational therapist at the MSF clinic in Gaza city and was displaced to Deir al Balah on 13 September. The injured included a physiotherapist, an orthopaedic surgeon, a supply officer, and a finance assistant, one of whom [succumbed](#) to his injuries on 5 October and is the third MSF staff member killed in Gaza in less than 20 days, MSF reported. “While hundreds of thousands of people continue to be pushed from north Gaza to the south, for their so-called safety, they continue to be attacked and killed everywhere across the Strip. Nowhere in Gaza is safe. People have been starved and besieged for almost two years,” MSF stated.
- Since 7 October 2023, at least 565 aid workers, including 183 women, have been killed in the Gaza Strip, of whom 557 were Palestinian aid workers and eight were international aid workers. These include 376 UN staff and team members, 131 aid workers with national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 54 staff and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and four ICRC staff. Of the total, 211 were killed in 2023, 185 in 2024, and 169 so far in 2025. On average, about four aid workers have been killed in Gaza every week in 2025.
- As of October 2025, according to [data](#) provided by the Israel Prison Service to Hamoked, an Israeli human rights NGO, there are 11,056 Palestinians in Israeli custody, including 1,461 sentenced prisoners, 3,378 remand detainees, 3,544 administrative detainees held without trial, and 2,673 people held as “unlawful combatants.” These figures do not include Palestinians from Gaza who have been detained by the Israeli military since 7 October 2023. According to the UN Human Rights Office ([OHCHR](#)), between 7 October 2023 and 31 August 2025, at least 75 Palestinians, including a 17-year-old child, died in Israeli detention, including 49 from the Gaza Strip, 24 from the West Bank and two Palestinian citizens of Israel.
- Two years into the war, the Gaza Strip has sustained extensive and severe damage to both infrastructure and agricultural land. Based on a preliminary analysis of satellite imagery collected by the UN Satellite Centre ([UNOSAT](#)) on 22–23 September 2025, between 8 July and 23 September 2025, there was a seven-per-cent increase in the number of destroyed, severely or moderately damaged, and possibly damaged structures for a total of 41,221 newly affected structures. During the same period, there was a 16-per-cent increase in the number damaged housing units. The neighbourhoods of Az Zaytoun and At Turukman - Ijdeedeh in Gaza city experienced the largest increases in damage compared with July 2025, with approximately 2,568 newly affected structures in Az Zaytoun and 1,440 in At Turukman - Ijdeedeh. According to UNOSAT, approximately 83 per cent of all structures in Gaza city are damaged. Based on satellite imagery from July 2025, UNOSAT had [identified](#) 192,812 affected structures across the Gaza Strip, about 78 per cent of all structures, [reported](#) a significant decline in the health and density of 86 per cent of permanent cropland, and [estimated](#) that approximately 77 per cent of the total road network was damaged.

Constrained Humanitarian Space and Protection Risks

- The UN and its partners continue to face physical and bureaucratic impediments preventing them from providing lifesaving assistance at scale in the Gaza Strip. Complex authorization and inspection procedures, limited clearance capacity at various crossings, often unpredictable rejection of entry of pre-cleared cargo types, and denials or impediments to humanitarian movements by Israeli authorities hinder operations. The closure of Zikim crossing since 12 September by the Israeli authorities

has resulted in the humanitarian community losing direct access to channel aid into northern Gaza. Inside Gaza, humanitarian cargo faces looting – including by armed groups.

- Delays and impediments to humanitarian movements also persist, including for missions between southern and northern Gaza. Between 1 and 6 October, out of 99 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 35 were facilitated (about 36 per cent), 16 were impeded (16 per cent), 34 were denied (34 per cent) and 14 had to be withdrawn by the organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons (14 per cent). Out of 34 denied movements, 27 were to or in northern Gaza and involved fuel transfer to Gaza city and the retrieval of critical life-saving equipment from Rantisi Hospital in Gaza city. Moreover, out of 41 facilitated and impeded but fully accomplished movements, 12 were in or to northern Gaza and involved solar panel installation for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in Deir al Balah, ambulance deployment to Khan Younis, medical supply distribution in Gaza city, and a mission to evacuate the intensive care unit of Al Helou Hospital in Gaza city. Since the closure of Zikim crossing on 12 September and until 6 October, the denial rate of movements in and to northern Gaza has increased to 55 per cent, up from 11 per cent in the preceding period, between 16 August and 11 September. Overall, out of more than 2,700 planned movements coordinated with Israeli authorities in the first nine months of 2025, 36 per cent were denied.
- On 3 October, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) [announced](#) the resumption of operation of the Israeli Mekorot water pipeline, which supplies Deir al Balah governorate, after more than nine months of shutdown. Following repair works, water flow was restored to Al Maghazi, Al Bureij, An Nuseirat, Deir al Balah, and Az Zawaida, serving about one million people, PWA reported. According to the WASH Cluster, the pipeline is able to provide 12,000 cubic metres of water per day, however due to distribution network damage only an estimated 40 per cent can reach the population. In September, water trucking significantly increased to address growing water needs with the large influx of IDPs from northern Gaza into Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, where partners have established 300 new water delivery points. These developments will help to partially address the immense needs in the Gaza Strip. According to the third household WASH [assessment](#) carried out by WASH partners between 17 August and 5 September in Gaza, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates, almost half of the population in the Gaza Strip receive less than the emergency standard of six litres of drinking water per day, about a quarter receive less than the emergency standard of nine litres of domestic water per day, 77 per cent of the population collect water directly from trucks, 62 per cent lack basic water containers, and half report overcrowding at water points. Moreover, in about 15 per cent of households, children are the primary water collectors, raising protection concerns.
- According to the Child Protection (CP) Area of Responsibility (AoR), for two years now, children under the age of 18, about half of the population in the Gaza Strip, continue to be highly affected by the hostilities and extreme levels of deprivation. This has left thousands of children maimed and an entire generation traumatized. From January to September 2025, CP AoR partners have registered and provided case management services to at least 18,000 children with protection concerns, including children without parental care and unaccompanied or separated children (UASC). Thousands more have lost their family members and other figures essential to their emotional well-being and sense of security. Like other people in Gaza, they have endured cyclical shocks of displacement and family separation, and many have been killed in strikes while sheltering in makeshift tents, in their homes or in schools-turned shelters. They have also suffered from overcrowding, poor living conditions, and a lack of access to nutritious food, clean water, hygiene kits and sanitation facilities. A recent community-level [survey](#), conducted in mid-August by Ground Truth Solutions and Arab World for Research and Development, reflects the ongoing erosion of a protective environment for children; about 43 per cent of surveyed people reported sending their children out to work and look for food, an alarming increase compared with 13 per cent in 2024.
- According to the CP AoR, most child-friendly spaces in northern Gaza are now closed or inaccessible, and there are continued reports of family separation and UASC. Since 9 September, CP help desks established along Ar Rashid Road provided vital support to more than 43,000 people, including over 26,000 girls and boys. The response combined immediate needs, such as hot meals and water, psychological first aid, awareness-raising, case management, family tracing and reunification and referrals to specialized care. As of 7 October, only 74 child-friendly spaces remain functional across the Gaza Strip, including 48 in Deir al Balah governorate and 26 in Khan Younis. Meanwhile, 98 child-friendly spaces/child protection service points in Gaza city and North Gaza remain suspended due to ongoing airstrikes and insecurity.
- Interruptions to child protection services continue due to staff displacement, limited mobility, and critical resource shortages, all of which are undermining consistent service delivery – especially for case management and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. Notwithstanding the ongoing challenges, in September, CP AoR partners reached over 105,000 children (of whom 54 per cent were girls) with essential protection and psychosocial support, despite the deteriorating security situation. A total of 2,762 children received case management services addressing complex protection concerns, including violence, abuse, psychosocial distress, and family separation. Due to mass displacement and movement of people, many children became separated from their families. Through family tracing and reunification, 838 children were reunited with their families in September, while 158 UASC were provided with temporary alternative care. In addition, 4,788 children and their families benefited from emergency cash support to address protection needs (cash-for-protection), while 38,212 children engaged in mental health and MHPSS activities. Another 50,338 caregivers participated in child protection awareness sessions and risk mitigation activities. However, the mass displacement to southern Gaza, particularly in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, has resulted in severe overcrowding, limiting privacy, safety, and access to child-friendly and safe spaces for affected children.
- According to the UN Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)) and partners, reported incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) in Gaza city rose by 26 per cent between July and August, with increases across physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence, including sexual exploitation and domestic violence. The UNFPA report highlights that the increase underscores “that the crisis is not only worsening but also becoming more dangerous for those already at greatest risk. The escalation highlights the urgent need for sustained funding, strengthened protection mechanisms, and immediate access to life-saving services to safeguard the rights, safety, and dignity of women and girls.” The renewed offensive in Gaza city has contributed to the collapse of referral systems for gender-based violence in the area, leaving women and girls without safe access to life-saving protection and support services.

The Shelter Crisis

- According to the Site Management Cluster (SMC), displacement movements from northern to southern Gaza have slowed significantly, with roughly 6,700 movements recorded on 1 October and less than 200 movements per day recorded by 6 October, down from an average of about 9,000 per day the previous week. Those who remain in Gaza city are either unable to afford the journey or are too vulnerable to move, the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) reports. SMC partners emphasize that this includes people with disabling injuries and those who see no viable shelter options elsewhere. SMC estimates that there are more than 31,000 people taking shelter in 49 informal settlements and collective centres in Gaza city.
- According to the UN Children's Fund's ([UNICEF](#)) spokesperson, James Elder: "The south – the so-called 'safe zones' – are also places of death. Al Mawasi, now one of the most densely populated places on earth, is grotesquely overcrowded and stripped of the essentials of survival. Eighty-five per cent of families live within ten meters of open sewage, animal waste, piles of garbage, stagnant water or rodent infestations. Two-thirds have no access to soap. I spoke with dozens of people in Gaza city who all said the same thing: they have no money to move; no space nor tent to move into, and the south too is dangerous."
- People across the Gaza Strip are highly vulnerable to the harsh effects of the upcoming winter season, which, according to [SARI Global](#), is "forecast to bring 450–500 mm [millimetres] of rain, strong winds, and coastal surges to an environment where sewage ponds are already overflowing, half a million tons of waste (including hazardous medical waste) lie uncollected, and fragile tents are pitched on bare, flood-prone ground." With most people in Gaza now residing in a range of inadequate shelter types that fail to meet basic emergency standards, including makeshift tents and partially or heavily damaged buildings, or in the open air, the Shelter Cluster [notes](#) that these offer minimal protection and heighten people's vulnerability to extreme weather events, increasing their exposure to health and safety risks. This is compounded by limited access to sanitation and other basic services; a recent [assessment](#) by WASH partners found that only half of households have access to basic private sanitation, while the rest rely on shared or unsafe facilities, and 57 per cent are exposed to sewage and fecal matter within 10 metres of their homes.
- In Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, the SMC has records of at least 904,000 people living in displacement sites, primarily informal sites, amid severe overcrowding and scant sanitation and other services. Many families have also been forced to stay in particularly unsafe and flood-prone areas, such as on the beach. On 7 October, at about 2:00, according to OHCHR, a pregnant woman and a girl were reportedly killed and others injured when sand dunes reportedly collapsed on IDP tents near Al Qarara Port, in northwestern Khan Younis. In northern Gaza, the situation is believed to be even more acute; for example, a humanitarian mission to Gaza city on 1 October reported that multiple displaced families, including pregnant women and children, are sheltering in the parking lot of Al Shifa hospital, with some staying there for over two weeks, without access to any services.
- Multiple displacement waves combined with the blocked entry of shelter items for more than five months between March and the beginning of September, have left the Gaza Strip in a severe shelter crisis, reports the [Shelter Cluster](#). Following authorization by Israeli authorities, between mid-September and as of 6 October 2025, about 16,000 tents, 16,000 tarps, and 75,000 bedding items have been collected through UN coordination from Gaza's crossings, amounts that fall short of meeting the needs of the 1.5 million people currently in need of shelter assistance. According to the Shelter Cluster, while the cluster pipeline is enough to support 300,000 households, delivery has been restricted by the limited number of partners who received approvals to bring shelter items into Gaza, customs procedures, and the collapse of public order and safety amid scarcity that has resulted in the looting of almost half of the tents that partners were able to collect from crossings through UN coordination.
- With winter approaching, the cluster calls for immediate and consistent approvals and access to enable a life-saving winterization response, including the entry and distribution of shelter materials by humanitarian partners at scale. [Heating](#) is another matter compounding the impacts of this upcoming winter, the Shelter Cluster stresses, amid the absence of cooking gas, severe fuel shortages and Israeli authorities' ban on bringing heaters into Gaza. Last winter, people resorted to coping mechanisms such as using clay ovens, metal stoves, or burning wood, cloth, and even trash to cook and get warm. Lacking safe energy options, people are increasingly likely to resort to these unsafe practices this winter, including to risk their lives to collect unaffordable firewood.

Food Insecurity and Malnutrition

- Food access remains a challenge, although the increase in the amount of food entering Gaza has helped to significantly reduce the percentage of households with a poor food consumption score from 88 per cent in July to 46 per cent in September, according to [WFP](#). Moreover, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners have been able to significantly expand the preparation and delivery of meals in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis; as of 7 October, partners prepared 903,000 meals at 173 kitchens, which is the highest number of daily meals produced by partners in five months, since the end of [April](#). Bakeries in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis also received deliveries of wheat flour from [WFP](#) this week and are now operating 22 hours a day, producing about 100,000 bundles (two kilogrammes per bundle) of bread daily. To reach as many families as possible, WFP and partners are distributing bread through community kitchens, shelters, community points, and retailers across different areas. However, production levels are still limited compared to the needs of the population, FSS reports.
- In northern Gaza, where famine was declared two months ago, the situation remains catastrophic. Hundreds of thousands of people are believed to have been displaced from northern Gaza since mid-August, but to meet the needs of those who remain in the area, partners continue to call for unimpeded access to the north. The area has been virtually cut off from food aid since the closure of the Zikim crossing on 12 September; partners report that only 11 kitchens are functioning, preparing about 53,000 meals a day, while no UN-supported bakeries have operated since April.
- In general, while access to staple foods has improved and price spikes have somewhat eased across the Gaza Strip, people continue to face imbalanced and nutrient-deficient diets, with limited availability of meat, vegetables, fruits and dairy products, WFP notes. As a result, children are "facing extreme and life-threatening food deprivation," the Nutrition Cluster [cautioned](#),

whereby children between six and 23 months are consuming 1.3-1.4 food groups on average compared with the recommended eight food groups. According to the [UNICEF](#), children who consume, at most, two of eight defined food groups are considered to be in severe food poverty and are up to 50 per cent more likely to experience severe forms of malnutrition. The FSS and the Nutrition clusters continue to call for the increased commercial entry of nutritious foods, including fresh produce and items fortified with nutrients.

- Since January 2025, the monthly average of malnutrition screening steadily increased from 33 per cent of all children under five to 73 per in June, before dropping again to 36 per cent in August, according to the [Nutrition Cluster](#). During the same period, 43 per cent of about 50,000 admissions of children into malnutrition management programmes were reported in Gaza governorate; of these 50,000 admissions, 40,000 were cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 10,000 were cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Among the severe cases, five per cent (about 500 cases) required inpatient care, the Nutrition Cluster added.
- Screening and detection of malnutrition was severely disrupted during September as partners were forced to suspend or relocate their services from Gaza city due to the Israeli military offensive and forced displacement orders. While there were 44 nutrition sites in Gaza city and 1 in North Gaza as of 1 September, only 36 were still active by 15 September and the number has declined to only seven as of 8 October. During the same period, partners have expanded services in southern Gaza, from 45 to 63 sites in Deir al Balah, and from 40 to 56 in Khan Younis. As of 8 October, five stabilization centres for the admission and treatment of SAM cases with complications are available across the Gaza Strip, including one in Gaza city and four in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. Mass displacement of people from northern to southern Gaza also put at risk the continuity of treatment for outpatient cases, risking to compromise the recovery of children under treatment. Partners responded to these challenges by increasing the number of service points in the south and using mobile phones and SMS to link individual cases to their nearest treatment sites as they arrive in the south.
- The WFP Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP), which is critical to preventing malnutrition at a large scale, had been [suspended](#) since mid-July, but for the first time, collection of medium-quantity, lipid-based nutrition supplements (MQ-LNS) have recently been successful. WFP [reported](#) that following two delivery trials on 28 and 30 September, and a third one on 2 October, WFP successfully delivered 157 metric tons of large quantity of lipid-based nutrient supplements (LNS-LQ) for treatment and medium quantity of LNS for prevention to Deir al-Balah, using four closed box-trucks via a convoy through Kerem Shalom crossing, with the target of reaching 325,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children monthly. This first delivery in more than two months will enable partners to restart the BSFP. In the meantime, UNICEF was able to only partially compensate for shortages in September by providing supplements (small-quantity LNS) for almost 30,000 children. According to the Nutrition Cluster, an uninterrupted supply pipeline of both preventative nutrition commodities (LNS, and micronutrient supplements) and treatment (ready-to-eat therapeutic food, therapeutic milks or LNS) are needed to address the needs of about 290,000 children between six and 23 months and 150,000 PWB who are at greatest risk of malnutrition.

Challenges Facing the Health-Care System

- Health service provision in northern Gaza remains extremely limited, with significant gaps in availability and functionality. While eight hospitals, one field hospital and 22 medical points remain partially functional in northern Gaza, they continue to operate amid extreme insecurity and strained resources. Additionally, with the influx of IDPs into southern Gaza, the strain on health services in the area has been overwhelming. According to the Health Cluster, the number of outpatient daily consultations in September has increased by 15 per cent across health facilities in southern Gaza, following large-scale displacement to the south, compared with July 2025.
- On 3 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) [transferred](#) three critically ill newborn babies from Al Helou Hospital in Gaza city to Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah to receive life-saving care that could no longer be provided at Al Helou, including for one infant on critical oxygen therapy. According to WHO, a fourth baby, who had been scheduled for transfer, died on the same morning before the mission's arrival. "Al Aqsa itself is overwhelmed and facing severe shortages of medical supplies, as more people flee south from the north," [noted](#) WHO's Director-General, calling for the protection of health care and for unhindered access to aid into and across Gaza.
- Health partners have been seeking to expand service provision in southern Gaza. For example, Hamad Hospital for Rehabilitation and Prosthetics, originally located in the north, has relocated to Deir al Balah in the south and has re-established prioritized rehabilitation and hearing services. Furthermore, Saint John Hospital, which similarly relocated from the north, has salvaged part of its equipment and began providing primary-level eye care services on 30 September.
- On 5 October, Dr. Ahmed Al Farra, Director of the Children's and Maternity Centre at Nasser Medical Complex, in Khan Younis, [described](#) the overwhelming burden on the health system, particularly following the influx of IDPs into southern Gaza, noting that the situation is catastrophic. He said that three newborns are now sharing a single incubator and warned that if even one of the infants has sepsis or a bloodstream infection, it could quickly spread and risk the lives of the other infants.
- On 2 October, WHO released a [report](#) highlighting the urgent demand for trauma and rehabilitation-related services in the Gaza Strip. WHO estimates that nearly 42,000 people in the Gaza Strip have sustained potentially life-changing injuries, or 25 per cent of more than 167,000 people who according to MoH have suffered conflict-related injuries as of 24 September 2025. Although age disaggregated data remains limited, the report indicates that about a quarter of those with potentially life-changing injuries are children. Of the total number of [life-changing injuries](#), more than 22,000 are extremity injuries, more than 5,000 are amputations, 3,300 are major burns, over 2,000 are spinal cord injuries, and more than 1,300 are traumatic brain injuries. The report describes a rehabilitation system under immense strain, without sufficient specialized staff, equipment or supplies and unable to deal with the current demands. In the first year of escalation of hostilities, WHO reported that at least 42 physiotherapists and occupational therapists were killed, citing Healthcare Workers Watch, with the current figure unknown. Less than one third of rehabilitation

services are providing any services and none are fully functional due to long-standing restrictions imposed by Israel on the entry of essential supplies, including many assistive devices. Protection partners note that the lack of assistive devices (such as wheelchairs, walkers, hearing aids, glasses, crutches, prosthetic limbs, and toilet chairs) can lead to significant loss of independence and can create a cascade of protection concerns including a heightened risk of neglect, exploitation and abuse, reduced access to critical information including on the evolving security situation, and significant barriers to accessing humanitarian aid and essential services. Calling for the immediate strengthening of the rehabilitation system, WHO notes that this requires urgent protection of health care, unhindered access to fuel and supplies, and the removal of Israeli-imposed restrictions on the entry of assistive devices. It warns that failing to “address the gap in rehabilitation services will have devastating consequences for individuals, families, and Gazan society as a whole.”

- Cancer patients in the Gaza Strip continue to face extreme difficulties in accessing adequate care. The only hospital specialized in treating cancer patients in Gaza was the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, which became non-operational in November 2023 after its fuel supply was depleted and it sustained heavy damage. The situation has further deteriorated following the closure in mid-May 2024 of the European Gaza Hospital, which was the main referral centre for oncology patients in the southern governorates. According to the MoH in Gaza, there are over 11,000 cancer patients in the Gaza Strip. According to WHO [data](#), only 564 cancer patients, including 215 men, 207 women and 142 children, were evacuated abroad for medical care since January 2025. Dr. Mohammad Abu Nada, Medical Director at the Gaza Cancer Center, [told](#) Al-Mezan Center that over 70 per cent of cancer medications are currently out of stock and that interruptions in treatment worsen patients’ conditions and reduce their chances of recovery.
- On 1 October, the Palestinian Ministry of Health [stated](#) that breast cancer accounts for about 30 per cent of all cancers among women in the Gaza Strip, with an incidence rate of 29 cases per 100,000 women. On 1 October, MoH in Gaza [stressed](#) that women in Gaza have been deprived of access to early detection protocols and comprehensive programmes for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer for the second consecutive year. MoH added that diagnosed women lack the most basic access to specialized care and medical follow-up due to the destruction of primary health care centres and diagnostic imaging units. For example, a number of women urgently require radiotherapy, which is unavailable inside the Gaza Strip. In addition, MoH highlighted that poor nutrition and lack of access to a balanced diet have had catastrophic consequences for the health of women with cancer.
- Medical evacuation of patients from Gaza remains a pressing issue. According to WHO, more than [7,800](#) patients from Gaza have been medically evacuated abroad since October 2023, including [2,405](#) so far in 2025 or an average of less than 10 a day. Yet, about 15,600 patients, including 3,800 children, currently require medical evacuation, the WHO [representative](#) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) highlighted. Prior to October 2023, between 50 and 100 patients were [exiting](#) the Gaza Strip daily for medical treatment, according to WHO. For more patients to be able to be medically evacuated, WHO [notes](#) that the following are needed: restoring the medical corridor to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (the most cost-effective route); securing more receiving-country offers; increasing the use of medical evacuation corridors through Egypt and Jordan; and overcoming security challenges, fuel shortages, closures of crossings and daily exit limits.

Funding

- As of 8 October 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.14 billion out of the \$4 billion (28 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. Moreover, during September 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 95 ongoing projects, totalling \$57.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 43 are being implemented by INGOs, 38 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 57 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



A Palestinian boy in Gaza following the declaration of a ceasefire. Photo by UNICEF

Humanitarian Situation Update #331 | Gaza Strip

16 Oct 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Wednesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 22 or 23 October.

Key Highlights

- A ceasefire came into effect in Gaza at noon on 10 October, and ICRC facilitated the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees and the transfer of bodies on 13 and 14 October.
- The UN Relief Chief Tom Fletcher outlined a 60-day plan to deliver vital aid to people in Gaza, stressing that full implementation requires more crossings, rapid and unimpeded access, sustained fuel entry, restored infrastructure, protection of aid workers, and adequate funding.
- The ceasefire has allowed many humanitarian partners to gradually resume operations in areas that were previously inaccessible and begin scaling up the delivery of humanitarian aid and services.
- More than 390,000 movements of people were observed since 10 October, mainly from southern to northern Gaza, the Site Management Cluster reports.

Context Overview

- On 8 October, an agreement was announced to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza. According to the Israeli [military](#), the ceasefire agreement came into effect at noon on 10 October and Israeli forces redeployed along new operational lines in accordance with the agreement. On 10 and [14](#) October, the Israeli military [stated](#) that the movement of people from southern to northern Gaza was permitted via Al Rashid and Salah ad Din roads. It warned that it is dangerous for people to approach areas where Israeli forces remain deployed, including Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun, and Ash Shuja'iyyeh in northern Gaza, the Rafah Crossing, the Philadelphi Corridor, and where Israeli forces remain positioned in Khan Younis. On 10 October, the military cautioned that there is a high risk associated with fishing, swimming, or diving along the Gaza coastline, and warned of entering the sea in the coming days.
- On 13 October, the International Committee of the Red Cross ([ICRC](#)) facilitated the return of 20 Israeli hostages to Israeli authorities and 1,809 Palestinian detainees to Gaza and the West Bank, and the transfer of four deceased hostages to Israeli authorities. In total, according to the Palestinian Prisoners' Society, [1,968](#) Palestinian detainees were released from Israeli detention centres; this figure includes the 1,809 detainees whose release was facilitated by ICRC. On 14 October, ICRC [facilitated](#) the transfer of four additional bodies from Gaza to Israeli authorities and the transfer of 45 deceased Palestinians to Gaza. On 15 October, the Ministry of Health in Gaza [stated](#) that it received the bodies of 45 Palestinians released by the Israeli authorities through the ICRC, bringing the total number of received bodies to 90. On 15 October, the Israeli military [reported](#) that the National Institute of Forensic Medicine concluded that only three of the four bodies were deceased hostages.
- In a [statement](#) on 13 October, the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General welcomed the continued implementation of the ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinians detainees. With the ceasefire in effect, he noted that the UN and its

partners are rapidly scaling up operations and reaching people in areas that had been cut off for months, underscoring that the needs are vast and sustained access and funding are critical. Earlier, a number of humanitarian organizations issued statements welcoming the ceasefire announcement and urging full, unhindered and sustained access for humanitarian workers and supplies to enable the safe delivery of aid at scale to people in need. The [ICRC](#), [NRC](#), [Save the Children](#), and [Plan International](#) all expressed hope that the pause in hostilities would mark a turning point toward a lasting and definitive ceasefire.

- On 9 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, [outlined](#) a 60-day plan to deliver vital aid to people in Gaza, noting that supplies and staff are in place. The plan entails reaching 2.1 million people with food assistance and 500,000 with nutrition support through in-kind rations, cash assistance, and livelihood restoration. It aims to revive Gaza's health system, delivering essential medical supplies, supporting evacuations, and expanding emergency, maternal, and mental health care. Water and sanitation services will reach 1.4 million people through the restoration of water networks, repair of sewage systems, and provision of hygiene items. A massive shelter scale-up will help displaced families prepare for winter, while education support will provide temporary learning spaces and materials for 700,000 children. The UN Relief Chief further highlighted essential requirements for an effective humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip, including: the sustained entry of at least 1.9 million litres of fuel weekly; the resumption of cooking gas entry*; the opening of multiple relief corridors supported by functional crossings equipped with additional scanners; security guarantees to enable the collection of supplies from crossings; restoration of basic infrastructure; protection of humanitarian workers; rapid and unimpeded passage of aid across Gaza; and adequate funding. He additionally stressed that the UN cannot operate effectively without its partners, noting that facilitation of NGO access is crucial, including through ensuring that NGOs are not de-registered.
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 8 and 15 October, 68 Palestinians were killed, and 328 were injured, and 347 bodies were recovered. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 67,938 fatalities and 170,169 injuries. According to MoH, the total number includes 320 fatalities who were retroactively added on 11 October 2025 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH further noted that, as of 10 October, the number of casualties among people who were trying to access aid supplies reached 2,615 fatalities and more than 19,182 injuries. According to MoH in Gaza, as of 11 October, 463 malnutrition-related deaths, including 157 children, were documented since October 2023.
- According to the Israeli military, between 8 and 15 October, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, bringing the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 468 fatalities and 2,967 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,668 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 15 October 2025, it is estimated that the bodies of 21 deceased Israeli hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- In a [statement](#) on 15 October, the UN human rights office (OHCHR) highlighted ongoing risks to civilians in the Gaza Strip, including due to unlawful conduct by Palestinian armed groups, intensification of internal armed clashes, extrajudicial executions, and the killing of civilians around Israeli military redeployment lines. In one incident on 13 October, OHCHR reported that published video footage apparently showed the public summary execution of eight blindfolded and handcuffed men from the same family in Gaza city. Moreover, since 10 October, OHCHR has recorded 15 Palestinians killed in cases where they were reportedly in close proximity to, or crossed the "withdrawal line," noting that the Israeli military maintains control of more than 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip, including almost all of Rafah and large parts of Khan Younis, Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun, as well as parts of Gaza city.
- Between 10 and 14 October, more than 392,000 [movements](#) of people were recorded by Site Management Cluster (SMC) partners, primarily through Al Rashid Road. According to the SMC, most movements (93 per cent) occurred from southern to northern Gaza, mainly of single men without belongings, and more than 22,000 movements were recorded from western to eastern Khan Younis. SMC partners reported movements from northern to southern Gaza, as people reportedly returned after checking their damaged homes or due to limited availability of services.
- The United Nations Environmental Programme ([UNEP](#)) recently estimated, based on satellite imagery collected on 8 July 2025, that widespread destruction across the Gaza Strip has generated more than 61 million metric tons of debris. This is equivalent to about 169 kilogrammes of debris for every square metre. UNEP noted that field validation of these estimates is essential to inform the development of a comprehensive debris management plan for the Gaza Strip. The estimate does not include the impact of the most recent military operations in Gaza city in August and September 2025. According to the [Gaza Debris Management Working Group](#), co-chaired by UNEP and UNDP, debris removal is critical in this period following the ceasefire as it enables the reopening of blocked roads, facilitates the movement of people and goods, reduces potential hazards, and supports the resumption of essential services and the delivery of humanitarian aid. High levels of debris carry a specific risk for people with disabilities, creating a significant impediment for those with mobility issues to access services and humanitarian aid and for outreach services to be provided. Debris and rubble removal is complicated by explosive ordnance contamination and asbestos, which require attention to facilitate the dignified management and documentation of the many thousands of bodies estimated to be buried under the rubble, the Gaza Debris Management Working Group highlights. According to the Debris Management Working Group, debris removal is a key component of the enabling environment for humanitarian response and recovery, and necessitates the sustained entry of heavy machinery, spare parts, reliable and stable supplies of fuel, and access to land appropriate for debris storage and processing.

Humanitarian Access and Operations

- After the ceasefire came into effect on 10 October, the UN and its partners offloaded aid supplies from Gaza's crossings on 10, 12 and 15 October. The crossings were closed for cargo offloading on 13 October with priority given to the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees, and on 14 October for the Jewish holiday. Through the UN 2720 mechanism and via UN Logistics Cluster coordination, only 15 humanitarian partners are currently authorized by Israeli authorities to bring into Gaza aid trucks

carrying food, hygiene, shelter and health supplies. The [UN 2720 mechanism](#) reports a possible reduction in the rate of interception of supplies collected by the UN and its partners from Gaza's crossings, from the previous 80-per-cent interception rate documented between 19 May and 9 October. As of 14 October, according to the UN 2720 mechanism, 190,000 metric tons (MT) of aid are in the pipeline after being approved and cleared by the Israeli authorities. These supplies are positioned across the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, and the West Bank, and are ready for dispatch, with some shipments already on the way to Gaza, as daily deliveries continue. Government-to-Government convoys from Jordan have not restarted since 18 September, when two Israeli soldiers were killed at Allenby Bridge by a Jordanian truck driver transporting cargo for the Gaza Strip.

- Between 7 and 12 October, out of 94 attempts to coordinate planned movements with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip, 50 (53 per cent) were facilitated, 18 (19 per cent) were impeded, 19 (20 per cent) were denied, and seven (7 per cent) were withdrawn by organizers for logistical, operational, or security reasons. As of 13 October, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip under the ceasefire agreement, coordination requests for humanitarian movements within these areas are no longer required. Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for convoy movements to Gaza's crossings as well as other areas that remain under Israeli military control. On 13 and 14 October, coordination requests by aid organizations to collect cargo from the two operational crossings (Kerem Shalom and Kissufim) were largely facilitated by Israeli authorities; out of 11 missions, six were facilitated, four were cancelled, one was impeded, and none were denied.
- On 14 October, a joint mission led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners, including the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and MoH was conducted to reallocate intensive care unit equipment, mechanical ventilators, incubators and anti-cancer medications from the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis, which remains non-functional, to Nasser Medical Complex, also in Khan Younis. According to the Health Cluster, the priority is currently to reallocate functional equipment and supplies to already functional health facilities, where they are critically needed.
- The ceasefire has allowed many humanitarian partners to gradually resume operations in areas that were previously inaccessible. For example, at least nine partners providing protection services and support have gradually resumed services in Gaza city and parts of North Gaza to reach displaced families and returnees, providing inter alia child protection case management, mental health and psycho-social support for children and caregivers, conducting community awareness sessions, and distributing assistive devices to people with disabilities. Four child-friendly spaces and three women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) have re-opened in recent days, bringing the overall number of these spaces across the Gaza Strip to 61 child-friendly spaces and 32 WGSS. The Protection Cluster has mobilized safeguarding teams from the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network and emergency protection responders to address protection concerns across the Strip. Protection partners are prioritizing the most vulnerable groups and coordinating field movements, toward strengthening coordination for return movements, expanding access to psychosocial support, and ensuring the continuity of legal assistance and civil documentation services. The Cluster is also enhancing protection monitoring efforts to safeguard the safety, dignity, and rights of returnees and displaced people and reinforcing peer-support mechanisms to sustain morale and operational continuity.
- The widespread presence of explosive ordnance (EO) continues to pose life-threatening risks to people across Gaza. According to data from the Mine Action (MA) Area of Responsibility (AoR), since 7 October 2023, 147 EO-related incidents have been recorded, resulting in 324 fatalities, including 91 children. Based on trends observed during the 42-day ceasefire earlier this year, this figure is expected to increase further as people return to damaged buildings and previously inaccessible areas, MA partners report. This underscores the urgent need to scale up EO risk education efforts and ensure improved access for MA partners to conduct the full spectrum of essential mine action activities, including EO clearance, which requires specialized personnel and equipment. As Mine Action is both a life-saving intervention and a critical enabler of wider humanitarian response, MA partners are scaling up operations across the Gaza Strip to ensure that civilian infrastructure can be repaired and schools and health facilities can be safely re-opened. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 10 October, MA partners have responded to five requests for explosive hazard assessments, supported 16 inter-agency missions, and delivered risk education sessions to about 11,000 people across the Gaza Strip.
- As of 13 October, 949,000 meals were prepared and delivered by 21 partners through 176 kitchens; these include 59,000 meals by 12 kitchens in northern Gaza and 890,000 meals by 164 kitchens in central and southern Gaza. Since 12 October, and for the first time in seven months, a limited amount of cooking gas has begun to enter the Gaza Strip. Owing to renewed access, partners are working to expand back operations in northern Gaza*, including by re-opening offices and facilities where feasible, and preparing to scale up overall food security response efforts to reach people across the Gaza Strip.
- Since 10 October, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) partners have continued and reprogrammed water delivery operations across the Gaza Strip. In Gaza governorate, 15 partners are currently delivering about 2,980 cubic metres of water per day across 351 collection points. To support operations in newly accessible areas, water trucks have been relocated from southern to northern Gaza, where water delivery has expanded. Overall, water is now being distributed at 1,440 collection points across the Strip – an increase from about 1,200 points recorded a week before the ceasefire. Partners are providing water to people on the move along Al Rashid and Salah ad Din roads. Infrastructure repairs are underway at key sites, including the Sheikh Radwan Basin pumping station in Gaza city, the Mekorot water line in the north, and the Al Satar well in Khan Younis. Waste management activities have expanded, with an additional 400 cubic metres of waste collected daily in North Gaza since 12 October, and ongoing primary and secondary waste collection in the south.
- Following the ceasefire, Education Cluster partners have begun to scale up non-formal education in temporary learning spaces (TLS) across the Gaza Strip. These efforts are designed to ensure continuity of learning by providing additional safe areas, as most schools have been damaged or continue to host displaced families. In the last few days, TLS are being established across 18 new sites, primarily within government schools located in the municipalities of Al Qarara and Khan Younis Camp (in Khan Younis) and Deir al Balah city and An Nuseirat (in Deir al Balah). To support this effort, 36 high-performance tents have been dispatched and are being installed to serve as alternative learning spaces for students.

Funding

- As of 15 October 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$1.3 billion out of the \$4 billion (31 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian responses in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. During September 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 95 ongoing projects, totalling \$57.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 43 are being implemented by INGOs, 38 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 57 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



Children in Gaza take part in social and emotional learning sessions at Temporary Learning Spaces established under the “Healing Through Learning” project. Photo by War Child Holland

Humanitarian Situation Update #334 | Gaza Strip

23 Oct 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Wednesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 29 or 30 October.

Key Highlights

- Two years of hostilities have more than doubled the need for mental health care in the Gaza Strip, from around 485,000 to over one million people, according to the World Health Organization.
- Only 10 per cent of all internally displaced people reside in collective centres, including UNRWA-designated emergency shelters, while the majority remain in overcrowded, makeshift sites, many of which were set up spontaneously in open or unsafe areas, the Site Management Cluster reports.
- On 22 October, the first medical evacuation from Gaza since 29 September was facilitated by the World Health Organization, with 41 patients and 145 companions exiting via Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem crossing.
- The UN and its partners continue to scale up operations where possible as outlined in the 60-day plan, expanding their presence in areas that were previously inaccessible and increasing assistance to meet enormous needs.

Context Overview

- On 19 October, following an [incident](#) in Rafah in which two Israeli soldiers were [killed](#), the Israeli military carried out airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, resulting in casualties (see more information below). About 5,000 displacement movements were subsequently recorded from the eastern areas of Khan Younis, many of whom reportedly returned the following day.
- The renewed enforcement of the ceasefire, which initially came into effect at noon on 10 October, was [announced](#) on 19 October, after which a general calm was reportedly observed across the Gaza Strip. On 20 October, the Israeli military, which [maintains](#) presence in more than 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip, [announced](#) that works began to demarcate the Yellow Line separating the ceasefire zone from the Israeli military-controlled area.
- Between 13 and 21 October, according to official reports cited in the media, 20 Israeli hostages and the bodies of 15 deceased Israeli hostages were returned from Gaza to Israeli authorities, and 1,968 Palestinian detainees were released from Israeli detention centres. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, as of 22 October, the bodies of 195 Palestinians were returned to the Gaza Strip, of which only 57 were identified. MoH reported that many bodies were mutilated, with some handcuffed, blind-folded, bearing signs of being run over by military vehicles, or disfigured beyond recognition.
- According to MoH in Gaza, between 15 and 22 October, 151 Palestinians were killed, and 204 were injured, and 77 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 68,234 fatalities and 170,373 injuries. MoH reported that since the ceasefire came into effect, 88 Palestinians were killed, 315 were injured and 436 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble. On 20 October, the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD)

spokesperson reported that although an estimated 10,000 bodies remain buried under destroyed buildings, their teams continue to face critical shortages of heavy and specialized equipment, along with grave risks from unexploded ordnance, that hinder retrieval efforts. The handling of decomposed bodies also exposes rescuers to serious infection and health risks, PCD spokesperson added.

- According to the Israeli military, between 15 and 22 October, as of noon, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, bringing the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 470 fatalities and 2,967 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,670 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 22 October 2025, it is estimated that the bodies of 13 deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- Over the past week, airstrikes and artillery shelling were reported across the Gaza Strip, particularly on 17 and 19 October. On 17 October, a bus carrying internally displaced people (IDPs) was hit, killing 11 Palestinians, including seven children, two women and two men, who were reportedly heading to check on their homes in Az Zaytoun area in eastern Gaza city. According to PCD, its teams initially recovered nine bodies when they were able to reach the area the next day, following approval by Israeli authorities. On 19 October, at least four Palestinian children were reportedly killed and several others were injured when an UNRWA school-turned-shelter was shelled by Israeli forces in An Nuseirat refugee camp, in Deir al Balah, [according](#) to UNRWA. Other key incidents on 19 October mainly took place in Deir al Balah, including: a strike at the entrance of a coffeeshop that reportedly killed six Palestinians; a strike on a chalet that [served](#) as the main office of the Palestinian Media Production (PMP) company that reportedly killed a journalist and the son of another journalist; a strike on an IDP tent that reportedly killed six Palestinians; and a strike on a house that reportedly killed four Palestinians.
- As of 21 October, according to the UN 2720 mechanism, about 199,000 metric tons (MT) of aid, of which about 73 per cent are food supplies, are in the pipeline after being approved and cleared by the Israeli authorities. These supplies are positioned across the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, and the West Bank, and are ready for dispatch, with some shipments already on the way to Gaza, as daily deliveries continue. Between 10 and 21 October, according to the UN 2720 mechanism, 43 aid cargo requests submitted by 12 local and international NGOs were denied by Israeli authorities on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza. The rejected items comprised about 2,712 MT of relief materials and included supplies from the food security, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and shelter clusters.
- As of 13 October, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip under the ceasefire agreement, coordination requests for humanitarian movements within these areas are no longer required. Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for convoy movements to Gaza's crossings as well as other areas that remain under Israeli military control. Between 15 and 21 October, aid organizations coordinated with the Israeli authorities to collect cargo from the two operational crossings (Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem and Kissufim), as well as to conduct rescue and road repair missions, carry out assessments, and for the crossing of humanitarian personnel; out of 59 missions, 31 were facilitated, 10 were cancelled, 15 were impeded, and three were denied. Since the ceasefire took effect, according to the [UN 2720 Mechanism](#), there has been a reduction in the interception of supplies collected by the UN and its partners from Gaza's crossings. Between 10 and 21 October, nine per cent of collected supplies were reportedly intercepted, compared with about 80 per cent previously.

Displacement Movements and Shelter Conditions

- According to the Site Management Cluster (SMC), movements of people across the Gaza Strip continue to be fluid, as people attempt to return to their hometowns if accessible or seek to settle in areas that have relatively better access to essential services. Since 10 October, about 546,000 movements of people were [recorded](#) by SMC partners, including nearly 435,000 movements crossing from southern to northern Gaza, primarily through Al Rashid Road. Some reverse movements to southern Gaza were recorded, reportedly due to the lack of essential services in the north, and over 96,000 movements were observed from western to eastern Khan Younis.
- Since 10 October, SMC partners have documented the (re-)establishment of 12 displacement sites in northern Gaza (mainly in Gaza city), with an estimated population of about 10,000 people. Over the past week, field assessments by humanitarian partners in the area indicate that most people in these sites report that drinking water, adequate shelter and food aid are their key priorities. Based on Shelter Cluster partners' observations, many people in Gaza city are living in unsafe buildings that have been fully or partially damaged, noting that extensive destruction and massive rubble obstruct access to homes and neighbourhoods and limit the amount of land available for setting up displacement sites.
- In southern Gaza, an SMC partner recently gained access to, and conducted an assessment at, six displacement sites hosting about 6,500 people in Al Mawasi area of Rafah. These sites had largely been isolated and underserved due to their proximity to former Israeli military operation zones. While families have shown strong self-organization through informal committees and local solidarity networks, the assessment identified acute humanitarian needs, including fragile shelter conditions, limited water delivery, lack of sanitation, high flood risk, and limited access to healthcare.
- The SMC estimates that, as of 21 October, around one million people are residing in about 800 displacement sites across the Gaza Strip, noting that these figures fluctuate daily as people move in response to changing conditions. The vast majority of IDPs are in makeshift and scattered sites in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, where severe overcrowding persists. Many of these sites were spontaneously established by displaced families along roads, in open areas, agricultural lands, or along the coast. Some displaced families have been forced to set up shelters in hazardous areas, where soil erosion poses severe risks, especially with the imminent onset of rain. SMC estimates that only about 10 per cent of IDPs live in collective centres, such as former schools, markets, and health facilities, including UNRWA-designated emergency shelters, many of which have sustained significant

damage during recent military incursions, further constraining available capacity. According to [UNRWA](#), as of 16 October, about 70,000 people are estimated to reside in over 70 designated UNRWA shelters and surrounding areas.

- Overall, according to the Shelter Cluster, access to adequate shelter remains a top priority, with about 1.5 million people estimated to require emergency shelter items. Between 10 and 21 October, tents and other shelter items entered the Gaza Strip, mainly through bilateral donations. Shelter Cluster partners continue to face major limitations in bringing into Gaza their supply pipeline, with only four out of 18 partners currently approved by Israeli authorities to bring shelter items into Gaza. According to the Shelter Cluster, since shelter items were approved for entry into Gaza on 16 September, more than 4,700 tents, about 25,000 blankets and 5,000 tarpaulins were distributed by partners in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah. According to the Shelter Cluster, partners are gradually reestablishing their presence in northern Gaza, including by addressing logistical challenges related to securing office spaces and identifying suitable distribution points and warehouses.

Food Security

- Food Security Sector (FSS) partners continue to expand efforts to address the urgent food security situation in the Gaza Strip through a combination of daily hot meals, bread production and food parcel distribution. As of 21 October, daily meal production had reached 945,000 across Gaza, with 165 kitchens in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates providing 872,000 daily meals and 14 kitchens in Gaza Governorate providing 73,000 daily meals. Days before the ceasefire, the World Food Programme (WFP) [restarted](#) nine bakeries it once supported, which are producing more than 100,000 two-kilogramme flatbread bundles. Partners are focusing on enhancing bread quality by adjusting production hours and improving storage practices and pickup schedules. Food parcel distribution, which resumed on 13 October, has reached more than 30,000 households as of 20 October. Food parcels are available at 27 distribution points in neighbourhoods where people live in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis and seven distribution points in Gaza city, with plans underway to expand to 145 sites since, according to [WFP](#), this is a central pillar of pushing back hunger by ensuring that families have a steady supply of food and begin rebuilding a minimum level of food security.
- It has been more than 40 days since humanitarian food convoys directly entered northern Gaza and on 21 October, [WFP](#) reported that there had not been large scale convoys into northern Gaza since the ceasefire took effect on 10 October; this is the area where the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) confirmed a famine in August. FSS notes that it is taking more time for partners to resume their operations compared with the previous ceasefire due to the level of destruction and the resupply challenges, but partners are working this week to send more food supplies to the north to resume general food parcel distribution and bread production as well as expand cooked meal delivery. FSS stresses that the opening of direct crossings to the north is vital to ensure that sufficient aid reaches people as soon as possible. According to the [IPC](#) global initiative, due to the highly volatile conditions in recent weeks and significant population movements, it has not been feasible to conduct a reliable analysis. The next IPC analysis for the Gaza Strip is tentatively planned for November, with the aim of capturing the latest developments more comprehensively, it reported.
- Between 15 October and 20 October, 150 MT of concentrated animal fodder was collected from Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem crossing. The fodder for small ruminants (mostly sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys supporting humanitarian service delivery) is being repackaged for distribution to animal herders in Deir al Balah. FSS underscores the importance of protecting surviving livestock to improve access to a diversity of foods, resuming local production of milk and dairy products, and securing animal transport which supports "last mile" delivery of water and other essential supplies. This is especially critical given widespread destruction of agricultural lands, severe soil contamination with war remnants, and hindered access to arable land, making large areas either inaccessible, dangerous or unsuitable for agricultural use and the expansion of local food production.

Protection Risks

- According to a [protection](#) monitoring exercise conducted by Protection Cluster teams between 24 September and 15 October, communities continue to report major protection risks across the Gaza Strip. Stressors driving expanding risks include the prolonged loss of income and lack of food, and are resulting in negative coping mechanisms, especially affecting female-headed households, forcing families to sell their belongings and depend on scarce humanitarian aid. Many families continue to live in overcrowded makeshift shelters that offer little privacy or protection from weather elements. The lack of secure, lockable spaces is causing heightened anxiety and risks of harassment, particularly for women and girls. Communities also expressed limited access to safe and dignified WASH facilities, increasing risks of harassment and disease, in addition to widespread psychological distress and heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV) amid displacement and poor living conditions.
- Heightened protection risks in Gaza affect all segments of the population, according to the Protection Cluster's monitoring report. Women and girls bear the heavy burden of caregiving under unsafe conditions, facing increased risks of harassment and GBV, compounded by chronic stress and exhaustion. Older persons and persons with disabilities struggle to access basic services and depend heavily on caregiver support due to mobility and infrastructure barriers. Men, traditionally viewed as family providers, report severe psychological distress as displacement and loss of livelihoods undermine their ability to care for their families, eroding their sense of dignity and purpose. Children remain among the most affected, exposed to unsafe environments, poor hygiene, and disrupted education, with growing risks of child labour and early marriage.
- To enable safe service delivery, the Protection Cluster is working to mainstream awareness on explosive remnants of war (ERW) across the humanitarian response, noting that the risk of exposure to explosive ordnance (EO) is heightened as people return to areas that witnessed heavy military presence and have become newly accessible. Since 10 October, partners have continued to carry out EO risk education sessions and mine action partners have continued to conduct explosive hazard assessments to enable partners to safely open roads and conduct repairs to damaged infrastructure.

- In parallel, protection partners are seeking to expand assessments and targeted service delivery to meet the specific needs of various vulnerable groups across the Gaza Strip. For example, a new safe space for women and girls was established within Nasser Medical Complex, in Khan Younis, to provide integrated GBV services. Service points were additionally reactivated in places that were previously inaccessible, especially in Gaza city, where offices, safe spaces and community help points have reopened and assessments have been conducted. Assessments and services remain limited in North Gaza due to safety, access and infrastructure constraints although some partners have resumed activities in the governorate, including one child protection partner who has reached children with case management services, including for separated and unaccompanied children.

Access to Health Care

- Health Cluster partners continue to restore services and expand capacity of health facilities in line with the 60-day response [plan](#). Between 10 and 22 October, five new health service points were established, including a primary health centre and a medical point in Deir al Balah, two medical points in Khan Younis, and one medical point in Gaza city. Also in Gaza city, an international emergency medical team (EMT) was deployed to Al Shifa Hospital to boost capacity for orthopaedic surgery and trauma care and set up two new operating theatres, and construction began on a new field hospital in Al-Kateeba area, which will comprise 100 beds and is expected to be operational next month. In southern Gaza, 10 neonatal ventilators were installed across three hospitals to expand neonatal intensive care unit (ICU) capacity. In parallel, since 10 October, health partners have been able to bring into Gaza much needed diagnostic and curative medical supplies, while other critical shortages continued to be reported by partners. This week, one partner was forced to suspend rehabilitation outreach activities due to a lack of medical consumables for dressing wounds, including gauze. Elective surgeries were also suspended at St John's Hospital and the Kuwaiti Specialist Hospital amid shortages of essential drugs, disposables, and IV solutions.
- On 22 October, the first medical evacuation since 29 September was facilitated by [WHO](#), with 41 patients and 145 companions exiting via Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem crossing. According to WHO, about 15,600 patients, including 3,800 children, urgently require medical care unavailable in Gaza and are awaiting medical evacuation. On 21 October, in an open letter calling on world leaders to ensure that the ceasefire leads to a scale up of medical evacuations, the International President of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [stressed](#): "Today, a patient with complex trauma-related injuries, or life-threatening and chronic conditions, such as cancer or kidney failure, faces the same impossible reality as before the ceasefire. For these patients, medical evacuation is their only chance of survival."
- Mental health care needs in the Gaza Strip are equally immense, more than doubling from about 485,000 to over one million people following two years of hostilities, [according](#) to WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. According to the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme ([GCMHP](#)), repeated exposure to trauma, displacement, loss, and the destruction of essential infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, have deepened the crisis, affecting children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, IDPs, frontline workers, and survivors of detention and torture. The report found that the prevalence of mental health disorders has sharply increased, with higher rates of depression, anxiety, and trauma-related symptoms. Children and adolescents are particularly affected, showing widespread distress such as nightmares, aggression, and fear. Over 80 per cent of displaced people report anxiety, despair, and helplessness, while vulnerable groups face heightened psychological risks due to the loss of social networks, disruption of routines, and lack of specialized care.
- Since October 2023, [WHO](#) has trained over 1,000 health workers to strengthen mental health support at all levels of care. However, as people in Gaza attempt to rebuild their lives, mental health is at an all-time low and related services remain limited, WHO added.
- UNRWA, one of the largest providers of emergency learning and psychosocial support (PSS) in the Gaza Strip, has [maintained](#) and expanded its interventions. Since October 2023, and with 236 school counsellors and over 300 assistant counsellors, UNRWA has conducted more than 330,000 PSS sessions for approximately 730,000 displaced persons, including over half a million children, and supported 240,000 displaced persons through psychological first aid, case management, and family and individual activities. This included 2,793 survivors of GBV, 5,409 children (of whom 2,245 were unaccompanied), and 28,901 persons with disabilities. Between 16 and 22 October 2025, UNRWA's health teams, including 49 psychiatrists, counsellors and supervisors, continued to provide MHPSS services in Gaza city, Deir al Balah, and Khan Younis, responding to 3,266 cases through individual consultations, psychological first aid, and awareness sessions.

Water and Sanitation

- According to the WASH cluster, partners are working to address critical needs generated by widespread damage to WASH infrastructure. Over the past 10 days, key achievements include: 500 metres of damaged pipes were replaced at Al Samer Sewage Pumping Station, in Gaza city; Al Rawda water wells in Az Zawaida, in Deir al Balah, were rehabilitated; and repairs were completed on one of the lines connected to the Mekorot pipeline coming from Israel to Gaza city, allowing an additional water filling station to become operational. In Gaza city, partners have prioritized the repair of two out of six destroyed wells in Al Zahra and Al Mughraqa areas. As of 20 October, partners are distributing water through trucked operations to 1,870 collection points across the Strip.
- On 19 October, the Gaza Municipality [reported](#) that severe damage to Ash Sheikh Radwan stormwater collection pond and its associated facilities included damage to the drainage pipelines connecting it to the sea and to the pumping systems and power generators, resulting in a complete halt in drainage operations. The Municipality indicated that the rising water level is caused by the infiltration of wastewater due to the destruction of sewer networks and pumping stations, warning that the failure to drain the accumulated water could pose serious flooding risks to nearby residents as the winter approaches. The Municipality further [reported](#) that the extensive damage sustained by the B7 wastewater pumping station in Az Zaytoun neighbourhood of eastern Gaza city has exacerbated the city's sanitation crisis, characterized by sewage overflows and environmental contamination.

Funding

- As of 22 October 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$1.3 billion out of the \$4 billion (32 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. During September 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 95 ongoing projects, totalling \$57.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 43 are being implemented by INGOs, 38 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 57 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



Displaced girls in southern Gaza walking from a temporary learning space they attend in Khan Younis, through funding by the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund. Photo by War Child Holland

Humanitarian Situation Update #336 | Gaza Strip

30 Oct 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Wednesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 5 or 6 November.

Key Highlights

- Humanitarian actors further increase the number of distribution points and meals served at community kitchens, reaching more people closer to where they reside.
- Shelter needs remain largely unmet, especially in northern Gaza, where many people are staying in severely damaged buildings at risk of collapse.
- According to the UN 2720 Mechanism, interception of aid supplies has fallen from 80 per cent of the cargo the UN and its partners collected from crossings before the ceasefire to five per cent since the ceasefire.
- Even with a modest rise in the number of international emergency medical team personnel in Gaza, entry denials remain high, at 30 per cent last week, according to the Health Cluster.
- Education partners are supporting the rehabilitation of 97 classrooms in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, out of over 2,000 classrooms that require rehabilitation across the Gaza Strip as assessed by the Ministry of Education.

Context Overview

- Over the past week, airstrikes and artillery shelling were reported across the Gaza Strip and were particularly intense on 28 and 29 October. Between 24 and 27 October, continued detonations of residential buildings were reported daily, in multiple areas where the Israeli military remains deployed, especially in eastern Khan Younis and eastern Gaza city. On the morning of 29 October, the Israeli military [announced](#) that, after a series of strikes, it has begun the renewed enforcement of the ceasefire.
- In a press [release](#) on 29 October, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, spoke of “a wave of Israeli airstrikes mainly on residential buildings, [internally displaced people] IDP tents and schools across the Gaza strip, following the death of an Israeli soldier.” He stated that the “laws of war are very clear on the paramount importance of protecting civilians and civilian infrastructure” and insisted that Israel must comply with its continuing obligations under international humanitarian law and is accountable for any violations. He stressed that all parties must act in good faith to implement the ceasefire.
- The intensification of bombing on the evening of 28 October until late morning on 29 October resulted, according to the Ministry of Health ([MoH](#)) in Gaza, in the killing of 104 people, including 46 children and 20 women, and the injury of 253 people, including 78 children and 84 women. During this period, strikes resulting in fatalities were reported across all five governorates, including against vehicles, IDP tents, and residential buildings.

- In a [statement](#) on 29 October, Save the Children's Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe, Ahmad Alhendawi, noted that children comprised a third of the reported death toll during the strikes overnight on 28 October and stated: "After some weeks of cautious optimism and hopes of rebuilding Gaza, children and families are once again reliving scenes of fear and loss. This cannot become the new normal under a ceasefire. A lasting ceasefire must mean safety, relief, and recovery for children not continued suffering. It must be fully respected and upheld."
- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 22 and 29 October, 110 Palestinians were killed (including 104 between 28 and 29 October), one died of wounds sustained earlier, 282 were injured and 46 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 68,643 fatalities and 170,655 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 32 and 220 fatalities who were retroactively added on 23 and 25 October, respectively, after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire came into effect, 211 Palestinians were killed, 597 were injured and 482 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 22 and 29 October, as of noon, one Israeli soldier was killed in Gaza, bringing the casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 to 471 fatalities and 2,978 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 29 October 2025, it is estimated that the bodies of 13 deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.

Humanitarian Access

- As of 28 October, according to the UN 2720 Mechanism, about 212,000 metric tons (MT) of aid, of which about 73 per cent are food supplies, are in the pipeline after being approved and cleared by the Israeli authorities. These supplies are positioned across the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, and the West Bank, and are ready for dispatch, with some shipments already on the way to Gaza. Between 22 and 28 October, according to the UN 2720 Mechanism, 14 aid cargo requests submitted by three local and international NGOs were denied by Israeli authorities on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza. The rejected requests comprised about 472 MT of relief materials and included supplies from the food security and shelter clusters. In total, since 10 October, 67 requests submitted by 27 local and international NGOs for the entry of over 3,200 MT of relief materials have been denied on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza.
- Amid efforts by the UN and its partners to scale up the humanitarian response and bring in urgently needed supplies, on 26 October, Israeli forces announced that, beginning the following day, all humanitarian and commercial truck movements through Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem Crossing would be rerouted via the Philadelphi Corridor and Ar Rasheed (coastal) Road, replacing the previous routes through the Morag Corridor and Salah Ad Deen Road. This route, unused for cargo collection by the UN and its partners since May 2025, is considered unsuitable for high-volume transport because the road is narrow and heavily congested with traffic as it passes through densely populated areas. As of 29 October, congestion along this route has led to delays in aid movements from and to the Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem Crossing. This further adds to the challenges already facing humanitarian aid delivery, including due to the ongoing closure of all crossings directly into northern Gaza since 12 September.
- As of 13 October, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip under the ceasefire agreement, coordination requests for humanitarian movements within these areas are no longer required. Coordination with the Israeli military continues to be required for convoy movements to Gaza's crossings as well as in or near other areas where the Israeli military remains deployed.
- Between 22 and 28 October, humanitarian organizations coordinated 64 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 42 were facilitated, eight were cancelled, 12 were impeded and two were denied. Movements included cargo collection from the two operational crossings (Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem and Kissufim), rescue and road repair missions, assessments, and the crossing of humanitarian personnel. Since the ceasefire took effect, according to the [UN 2720](#) Mechanism, there has been a reduction in the interception of supplies collected by the UN and its partners from Gaza's crossings. Between 10 and 28 October, five per cent of collected supplies were reportedly intercepted, compared with about 80 per cent between 19 May and 9 October.
- A [press](#) release issued by 41 humanitarian organizations operating in the Gaza Strip urged the Government of Israel to uphold its commitments under the ceasefire and international law and allow the free flow of aid. The press release highlights: "Between 10 and 21 of October 2025, 17 [international] NGOs have had urgent shipments of aid, including water, food, tents and medical supplies denied entry into Gaza. 94 per cent of all rejections by Israeli authorities were given to [international] NGOs. Three-quarters of these denials were issued on the grounds that organizations are 'not authorised' to deliver humanitarian aid into Gaza." Nearly \$50 million in humanitarian supplies remain stuck at crossings and warehouses, leaving many people without adequate shelter, clean water, or essential supplies ahead of the upcoming winter, the organizations reported. The press release urged that Israel's new registration system (introduced in March 2025) be rescinded to allow aid to move freely, unimpeded and unrestricted.
- Physical access to essential water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in Gaza has improved. According to WASH Cluster, 66 per cent (258 out of 392) of water wells are now accessible, including 138 wells to which access was recently regained (following the withdrawal of Israeli forces), allowing for technical assessments and, in some cases, immediate repairs. Water distribution capacity has similarly been enhanced. Since the beginning of October, water and sanitation service providers received 28 new water trucks through bilateral donations, helping to reach more communities. Access to sewage pumping stations – which are critical for discharging wastewater to the sea and preventing sewage overflow in densely populated areas – has improved. Out of 70 wastewater pumping stations, 50 are now accessible, compared with only 18 in September – this marks a first step toward restoring basic sanitation services, the WASH cluster reported. Solid waste management remains critically

constrained as there is no progress in accessing the two official landfill sites, which are essential for the safe disposal of domestic and medical waste. As these sites remain inaccessible, operations continue to rely on already-overcrowded temporary dumping areas and available space for establishing new ones is extremely limited, further compounding the environmental and public health risks.

Food Security and Nutrition

- As of 28 October, 21 Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are producing 1,047,000 daily meals through 172 kitchens across the Gaza Strip. To help families access bread more easily, partners are distributing more than 130,000 two-kilogramme bread bundles produced daily by 15 UN-supported bakeries – including nine in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis and six in Gaza city – at over 400 locations across the Strip. These include community kitchens, shelters and community points where bread is distributed for free, and in UN-contracted shops where bread is available for sale at a subsidized price of three NIS (\$0.92). Concurrently, food parcel distributions continue to expand; as of 26 October, 43 general food distribution points are operational, compared with [26 points](#) as of 21 October. Between 13 October (when general food parcel distributions restarted) and 26 October, partners have reached more than 110,000 households across the Strip, including more than 15,000 households in northern Gaza since the distribution restarted in the area on 22 October.
- To reach as many locations and people as possible, a rotation is implemented, meaning that bread may not be delivered daily to the same locations. According to FSS, partners have increased the number of contracted retailers from 22 to 43 shops in the bread distribution network to expand coverage and support the resumption of markets across the Strip. The 21 retailers in northern Gaza began selling bread at a subsidized price on 30 October. While there are efforts to further expand bread production, many bakeries were destroyed or severely damaged during the war and others are unable to operate due to a lack of spare parts.
- During the first two weeks of October, Nutrition Cluster partners screened over 53,000 children aged between six and 59 months across the Gaza Strip, at over 110 sites in central and southern Gaza and eight sites in northern Gaza. Of the total, more than 5,100 children were identified with acute malnutrition, including about 1,120 with the most severe form. Between 1 October and 28 October, Nutrition Cluster partners reached over 150,000 children between six and 59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) with blanket supplementary feeding for the prevention of malnutrition, including small quantity lipid-based nutrition supplements and high-energy biscuits. This represents about one third of the nearly 450,000 children between six and 59 months and PBW in need of essential nutrition support, according to the Nutrition Cluster. Nutrition partners continue to improve access to their services including through the deployment of 20 mobile health and nutrition teams in hard-to-reach areas, including 10 in northern Gaza.
- On 22 October the Nutrition Cluster issued a [note](#) highlighting the critical role of breastfeeding in providing infants with safe, nutritious and immune-boosting food that protects against malnutrition and infection; this is essential in Gaza as access to clean water, electricity and fuel remains limited. The Cluster estimates about 32,000 children aged 0-6 months need breast-feeding support; of these, 30 per cent are not breastfed and need ready-to-use infant formula support, and about 97,000 caregivers of children aged 6-23 months require infant and young child feeding support. To promote close contact, the Cluster notes the need for winterization packages to include simple breastfeeding support materials, such as breastfeeding covers, warm shawls, baby carriers or slings, thermal wraps and baby blankets.

Challenges to the Shelter Response

- People in the Gaza Strip continue to gradually return to their communities, wherever access is allowed. Since 10 October, more than 600,000 movements of people were [recorded](#) by Site Management Cluster (SMC) partners, including nearly 500,000 movements crossing from southern to northern Gaza, primarily through Al Rashid Road. Reverse movements to southern Gaza continue to be recorded, reportedly due to the lack of essential services in the north. More than 100,000 movements of people were recorded from western to eastern Khan Younis during the same period.
- Shelter needs remain largely unmet, as the Shelter Cluster continues to [face](#) significant challenges in bringing its supply pipeline into Gaza. Over the past week, three partners were able to distribute from available supplies only 2,300 tents, about 1,480 blankets and 1,480 tarpaulins to IDPs in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates. Ahead of the winter season, SMC partners are repurposing flour and rice bags originally distributed as food aid into sandbags to reinforce IDP shelters and provide protection against wind and rain, prioritizing 192 makeshift sites at risk of flooding, including nine in Gaza city, 74 in Deir al Balah and 109 in Khan Younis. The [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) (ICRC's) Economic Security Coordinator in Gaza, Amila Suriyarathne, highlighted that as winter approaches, "the limited access to shelter, hygiene and warm clothing are raising grave concerns." She noted that while there has been a slight improvement following the implementation of the ceasefire, living conditions are still incredibly challenging and stressed that a "drastic increase in supplies" is required to meet the needs.
- In northern Gaza, based on field observations, the Shelter Cluster estimates that many people are taking shelter in severely damaged and unsafe buildings. On 24 October, the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) reported that its teams rescued people from a house that suddenly collapsed in Tal al Hawa area of southern Gaza city and issued a general warning against sheltering in buildings that had been bombed. PCD highlighted that many buildings are at risk of collapse, especially given the imminent onset of winter rains that heighten the risk of soil erosion and further damage to already unstable structures. On 25 October, according to PCD, a nine-year old girl was killed, and three others were injured, when a damaged house hosting IDPs collapsed in As Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza city.
- In addition to the unsafe shelter conditions, returning families face the risk of unexploded ordnance. Since the ceasefire took effect on 10 October, Mine Action partners have recorded two explosive incidents, both in Khan Younis, which resulted in six injuries. Service providers and aid workers are also exposed to the risk of unexploded ordnance. Between 10 and 28 October, Mine

Action partners carried out 48 explosive hazard assessments to evaluate the safety of service facilities, including hospitals and offices of international NGOs, and provided explosive ordnance disposal support to 54 inter-agency missions.

- In his briefing to the press on 22 October following his visit to Gaza, Andrew Saberton, Deputy Executive Director for Management of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), [said](#) that with little housing left in Gaza, “people are taking shelter anywhere they can, in destroyed buildings, [and] in rag tag tents by the side of the road.” He noted that the impact is especially acute for 700,000 menstruating women and girls due to limited access to basic hygiene supplies compounded by overcrowded shelters, lack of privacy, and inadequate access to health care and water and sanitation services. According to the WASH Cluster, since 10 October, over one million baby diapers and several hundred thousand sanitary pads have been distributed. However, the distribution of full hygiene kits has been severely limited, with fewer than 10,000 kits delivered to affected populations since the beginning of the ceasefire. This is largely due to supply chain disruptions compounded by limited approvals for hygiene items linked to NGO registration processes.
- According to the Protection Cluster, the protection risks facing people returning to heavily damaged buildings, with no privacy or lighting, are highly concerning as they heighten vulnerability to physical and environmental hazards as well as the risk of exploitation, abuse, and exposure to gender-based violence. Jointly with other clusters, protection partners are working to mitigate the impact of these risks through debris clearance and lighting, winterization support, expanded mental health and psycho-social support, and community-based referral mechanisms.

Access to Health Care

- Since 10 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) has [delivered](#) over 840 pallets of life-saving medical supplies into Gaza, including insulin, assistive devices, essential medicines, cholera kits and surgical materials. [WHO](#) is also working with the Nutrition Cluster to develop specific nutrition guidelines for children aged 5-10, aiming to treat 2,500 children through the outpatient therapeutic programme and stabilization centres to ensure that this large and vulnerable age group is not overlooked in nutrition response.
- Gaza’s health system continues to face significant challenges in addressing the immense health needs, with only [34 per cent](#) of health service points (223 out of 649) functional, including only 14 out of 36 hospitals, 10 out of 16 field hospitals, 65 out of 182 primary health care centres (PHC), and 134 out of 408 medical points and ambulance centres. The health workforce is severely overstretched to deliver essential trauma and non-trauma care. According to MoH in Gaza, as of 7 October 2025, more than 1,700 health workers have been killed. This death toll represents about seven per cent of the health workforce in the Gaza Strip prior to the war, which according to the MoH 2022 annual report stood at about 25,000 health workers.
- Combined with massive destruction of civilian infrastructure and the health system, displacement and poor living conditions are creating the perfect storm for the spread of disease and people remain dangerously exposed to the elements as winter approaches, [warns](#) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). MSF emergency coordinator in Gaza described the situation in southern Gaza as “utterly unacceptable,” as families “...are crammed into makeshift tents, packed into the few remaining schools, or sleeping in the open amid rubble, piles of garbage, animal waste, and overflowing sewage.” MSF medical data from 2025 shows that diseases directly linked to poor living conditions, such as skin, eye, respiratory, and gastrointestinal infections as well as generalized aches and pains, account for 70 per cent of all outpatient consultations in MSF healthcare centres in southern Gaza. The collapse of water and sanitation systems has, furthermore, triggered a surge in waterborne diseases, particularly diarrhoeal illnesses. Over the past two years, MSF teams have treated more than 78,000 cases of diarrhoea, including over 24,000 cases since April 2025 alone. According to MSF, recovery from trauma is compromised by harsh living conditions: “We see many people with large open wounds, burns, or external fixators who are living in tents without proper hygiene, waste management, or climate control [...] Infections that would normally be preventable are now common, leading to worsening health conditions and repeated hospitalisations.”
- Since October 2023, Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have been deployed to the Gaza Strip to provide surgical, trauma, and emergency services and to support Palestinian health workers who have been working under extremely adverse conditions. According to the Health Cluster, as of 29 October 2025, 21 EMT partners (two national and 19 international), including 73 international staff, are deployed in Gaza, delivering specialized care in major hospitals and other key health facilities. Since 1 October 2025, EMTs have conducted 142,959 consultations, 880 emergency surgeries, and 450 trauma referrals, helping to fill critical service shortfalls. However, EMT deployment continues to be constrained by access restrictions, including the denial of entry into Gaza of some international health personnel, which limits the scale and continuity of these lifesaving services. Although the number of international personnel has started to slightly increase, the denial of entry of EMTs into Gaza remains a significant issue, with a 30 per cent denial rate over the past week, according to the Health Cluster.
- On 25 October, WHO, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) conducted a joint assessment to evaluate the operational status of, and access conditions at, Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, in North Gaza, where none of the six hospitals that were once operational are currently functional. Kamal Adwan, which [went out of service](#) on 27 December 2024, was the main paediatric and maternal referral facility in northern Gaza. The assessment found moderate structural damage, particularly to the emergency and rehabilitation wings, while several internal wards can potentially become functional. The facility urgently requires an electricity generator, a new submersible water pump, and portable sanitation units to restore electricity and basic access to WASH services. Overall, the assessment found that pending debris removal, installation of temporary infrastructure and the provision of medical supplies and equipment, reactivation of essential health services at Kamal Adwan is considered feasible in the short term through a phased PHC approach, allowing it to potentially provide critical health services to an estimated 20,000-30,000 people in northern Gaza.

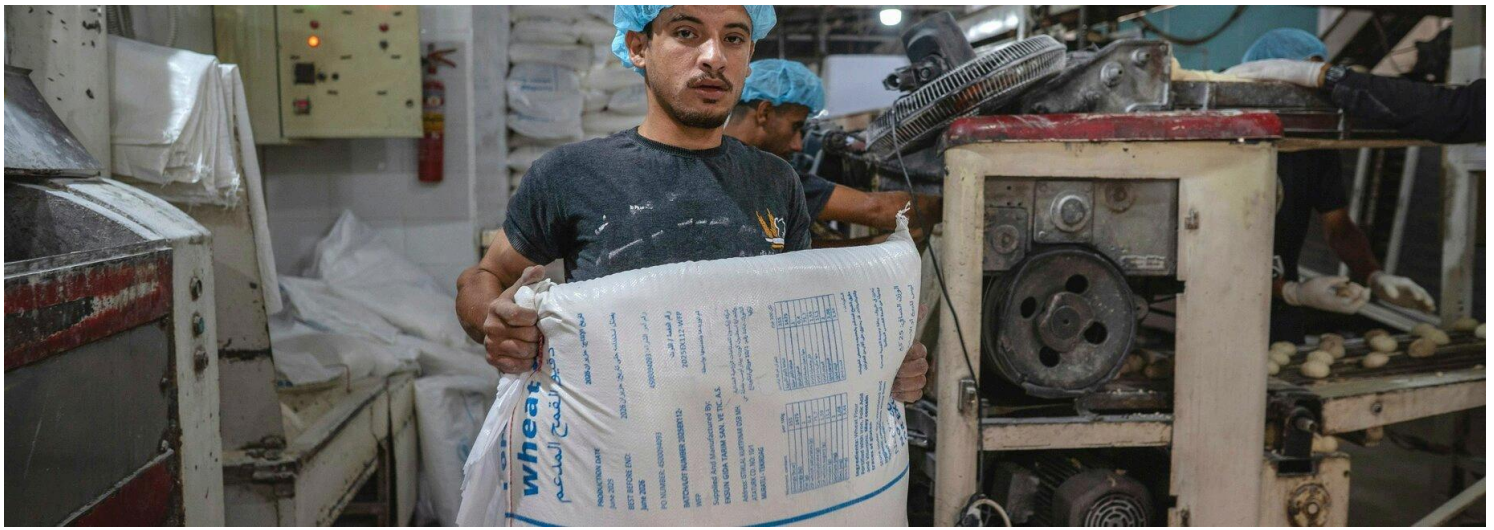
- On 26 October, [WHO](#) facilitated the medical evacuation of 55 patients and 158 companions to Jordan, United Kingdom, Spain, and Türkiye. This brings the total number of patients evacuated since 1 October 2025 to 96 patients, including 52 children, 26 men and 18 women. On 24 October, WHO's Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) said in a press [briefing](#) that "Medevac is a flagship, priority programme of WHO. We are ready to scale up to a minimum of 50 patients per day plus companions, in line with the previous ceasefire." He called for all medical corridors for patients to receive treatment outside of Gaza to be opened, emphasizing that the most important and cost-effective among them is the corridor to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where there is immediate capacity to receive patients. He also called for more countries to come forward to receive patients for treatment abroad.

Access to Learning

- Education Cluster partners are expanding their interventions where possible to restore minimum teaching and learning conditions for over 637,000 school-aged children who have had no sustained access to formal, in-person education and experienced significant learning regression over the two years of hostilities. As of 10 July 2025, 97 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip had sustained some level of damage, the majority (92 per cent) requiring clearance of explosive contamination and either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation to be functional again. Many schools continue to be used as IDP shelters, including 103 government schools (see more below), due to severe shelter shortages. Restrictions imposed by Israeli authorities on the entry of educational and learning supplies also hinder response efforts.
- On 21 October, the Ministry of Education (MoE) completed a rapid assessment of the 309 governmental schools in the Gaza Strip. Findings show that 56 schools (18 per cent) sustained moderate to medium damage, 27 (nine per cent) sustained significant damage, 46 (15 per cent) were partially destroyed, 144 (47 per cent) were fully destroyed, and 36 (12 per cent) remain inaccessible in Gaza and Rafah governorates. Currently, only 28 schools are operational in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and western Gaza city, with support from Education Cluster partners, of which 22 are used as IDP shelters. According to the MoE, 103 schools, some of which are partially damaged, continue to shelter displaced families and 203 schools require clearance and rubble removal before rehabilitation or reconstruction needs can be determined. The widespread presence of debris across school yards is preventing the use of these areas for the establishment of alternative learning spaces, which are currently being set up using available tents. The MoE also assessed that 2,090 classrooms require rehabilitation.
- Despite the challenges, in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, Education partners are supporting the rehabilitation of 97 classrooms across 10 schools, of which 40 have already been renovated, and are running 253 temporary learning spaces (TLS) serving about 138,331 children. In northern Gaza, rehabilitation efforts remain limited as all school buildings in North Gaza and most of those in Gaza city had been directly hit or severely damaged. At present, there are only three TLS operational in the area, serving about 833 children. Between 26 and 28 October, education partners visited 17 schools in northern Gaza, 13 of which were identified for the potential establishment of learning spaces in school playgrounds or yards. In total, as of 29 October 2025, there are 256 operational TLS serving 139,164 children, six of which have been newly established since 10 October. Of these, 42 are run by UNRWA, which on 18 October launched the new school year via e-learning, aiming to reach over 290,000 children through distance education. In addition, 250,000 students across the Gaza Strip have joined the distance learning programme, which was launched by the MoE on 8 September 2025. In collaboration with other clusters, Education partners are working to ensure that learning spaces provide children not only with education but also with access to fortified nutrition products, protection services, hygiene and sanitation awareness, and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education messages.

Funding

- As of 30 October 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.4 billion out of the \$4 billion (35 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2025, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds are for humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. During September 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 95 ongoing projects, totalling \$57.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 43 are being implemented by international NGOs, 38 by national NGOs and 14 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 57 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



A bakery supported by the World Food Programme in Gaza. Humanitarian organizations are distributing about 150,000 bread bundles and 1.2 million meals every day across the Gaza Strip. Photo by WFP

Humanitarian Situation Update #338 | Gaza Strip

06 Nov 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The Gaza Humanitarian Response Update is issued every other Wednesday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 12 or 13 November.

Key Highlights

- Hundreds of thousands of families face the onset of winter without essential protection from the elements, the Shelter Cluster warns.
- Only four per cent of Gaza's cropland is undamaged and accessible, recent geospatial analysis indicates.
- Relief items rejected for entry into Gaza include educational supplies and fresh meat, which Israeli authorities deem to fall outside the scope of humanitarian aid.
- UN agencies and partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Gaza, are launching an integrated catch-up campaign for routine immunization, nutrition and growth monitoring, targeting 44,000 children.
- Since 10 October, Cash Working Group partners distributed Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to over 55,000 households.

Context Overview

- Over the past week, daily detonations of residential buildings were reported in multiple areas where the Israeli military remains deployed, especially in eastern Khan Younis and eastern Gaza city. Israeli military strikes near or east of the so-called "Yellow Line" under the ceasefire agreement continue to be reported, resulting in casualties, especially in Gaza city, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis governorates. Access to humanitarian assets and agricultural land beyond the "Yellow Line" remains barred. The installation of yellow-painted concrete blocks to demarcate the "Yellow Line" have been reported in different parts of Strip, as [ordered](#) by the Israeli Minister of Defence. Access to the sea remains prohibited and the detention of Palestinian fishers at sea continues to be reported, including the reported detention of five fishers by Israeli forces on 4 November.
- In a media interview on 5 November, the UN Secretary-General [said](#) that the UN is still facing obstacles in delivering humanitarian aid. He noted that "humanitarian aid has improved and increased significantly but [the UN is] far from [having] what is necessary to eliminate famine quickly and to create the conditions for the people in Gaza to have the very, very minimum that is necessary for dignity in life."
- Between 29 October and 4 November, according to official Israeli sources, the bodies of six deceased hostages were returned from Gaza to Israeli authorities, bringing the overall number of returned bodies of Israeli hostages to 21. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, on 1 November and 5 November, the bodies of 90 Palestinians were returned to the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number of released bodies to 285, of which only 84 were identified.

- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 29 October and 5 November, 14 Palestinians were killed, one died of wounds sustained earlier, 24 were injured and 31 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 68,875 fatalities and 170,679 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 193 fatalities who were retroactively added between 24 and 31 October after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 241 Palestinians were killed, 609 were injured and 513 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 29 October and 5 November, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,978 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 5 November 2025, it is estimated that the bodies of seven deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- Between 10 October and 4 November, more than 680,000 movements of people were recorded by the Site Management Cluster (SMC) partners, including more than 553,000 movements crossing from southern to northern Gaza, primarily through Ar Rashid Road (67 per cent). During the same period, more than 113,000 movements of people were recorded from western to eastern Khan Younis. While most movements immediately following the ceasefire were undertaken by individuals to assess conditions in return locations, this was followed by a notable increase in families returning to their communities in search of safety and stability. Through SMC population monitoring, available updates indicate that about 39,000 people are present in 60 displacement sites in Gaza city and North Gaza while over one million IDPs are estimated to be present in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah governorates, mainly in makeshift sites. Between 20 and 23 October, 84 per cent of 703 randomly selected IDP households in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis reported that they intend to stay in their current displacement sites while 16 per cent expressed an intention to leave. According to SMC, these figures reflect a strong preference among IDPs to remain in place due to widespread destruction, lack of alternatives, and continued uncertainty about safety and services in areas of origin.

Humanitarian Access

- According to the [UN2720](#) Mechanism, between 10 October and 3 November, the UN and its partners collected from Gaza's crossings more than 32,500 metric tons (MT) of aid. The entry of humanitarian aid continues to be limited to only two crossings (Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem and Kissufim), with no direct access from Israel to northern Gaza since 12 September. Pipeline supplies approved and cleared by the Israeli authorities (217,000 MT) are positioned across the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, and the West Bank, and include 50,000 MT of aid that are part of the Jordan direct route corridor (Government-to-Government), which has not restarted since 18 September, when two Israeli soldiers were killed at Allenby Bridge by a Jordanian truck driver transporting cargo for the Gaza Strip.
- According to the UN2720 Mechanism, pipeline supplies that are not cleared for entry by Israeli authorities mainly include those submitted by local and international NGOs on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza or those that are rejected by Israeli authorities based on the type of item. For example, some supplies, such as fresh meat or educational supplies, are considered to fall outside the "humanitarian" category, while others are classified as "dual-use" items – goods that are considered useable for either civilian or military purposes – ranging from vehicles and their spare parts to solar panels, some types of mobile latrines, x-ray machines, and generators. Since 10 October 2025, 107 requests for the entry of relief materials were rejected by Israeli authorities, including 11 requests between 29 October and 3 November. These include 54 requests that were denied entry by Israeli authorities on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza.
- Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for humanitarian convoy movements in Gaza, to crossings as well as in or near other areas where the Israeli military remains deployed. Between 29 October and 3 November, humanitarian organizations coordinated 48 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 26 were facilitated, four were cancelled, 13 were impeded and five were denied. Movements included, among others, 29 movements to collect cargo from the two operational crossings, one search-and-rescue mission, three road repair, assessment and clearing missions, and four movements related to the crossing of humanitarian personnel.
- Since 27 October, Israeli authorities have routed collected aid movements through the Philadelphi Corridor and Ar Rasheed Road. According to the Logistics Cluster, this congested route has exposed trucks to operational challenges, such as extended convoy durations and heightened risk of opportunistic looting, while limiting the size of the convoys. Combined, the challenges meant that the daily necessary volume of aid could not be collected from the crossings. Between 11 October and 3 November (following the ceasefire), only four per cent of aid supplies collected from Gaza's crossings were intercepted, compared with about 80 per cent between 19 May and 9 October.
- Sufficient and strategically located warehouse capacity is vital to sustain the [60-day response plan](#) and maintain supply chain continuity. According to a recent [Logistics Cluster](#) Gaza Partners Warehouse Mapping Survey covering October, 25 organizations reported on 70 warehouses across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip. Of these, 55 warehouses are operational and comprise 40 per cent of the total reported area capacity, while 15 warehouses that comprise 60 per cent of the total area capacity are non-operational due to access restrictions and/or infrastructure damage. Geographically, Deir Al Balah holds the largest share of operational space (28,634 square metres), followed by Khan Younis (16,200 square metres) and Gaza city (11,018 square metres). Partners in North Gaza and Rafah report severely limited or no functional warehouse capacity, reflecting the heavy toll of access challenges and physical damage on storage infrastructure. The mapping survey revealed that 52 per cent of humanitarian partners who participated in the survey are currently in need of more storage capacity, including 10 partners in northern Gaza, seven in central Gaza, and six in southern Gaza.

- On 5 November, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [highlighted](#) that only a fraction of needed shelter materials has entered Gaza, warning that aid actors “have a very short chance to protect families from the winter rains and cold.” Calling for swift and unimpeded access, NRC noted the urgency to bring into Gaza heavy machinery to clear rubble and explosive remnants of war to facilitate even temporary shelter installations and ensure that people can safely return to their communities. According to the UN Environmental Programme ([UNEP](#)), satellite imagery from 8 July indicates that debris generated by the conflict increased to more than 61 million metric tonnes. According to the [Gaza Debris Management Working Group](#), debris removal necessitates the sustained entry of heavy machinery, spare parts, reliable and stable supplies of fuel, and access to land appropriate for debris storage and processing.
- As winter approaches, the SMC estimates that majority of displaced people remain in overcrowded, makeshift sites, many of which were established spontaneously in open or unsafe areas. Three weeks into the ceasefire, the UN-coordinated entry of shelter materials, particularly tents, into Gaza continues to face major limitations. These include a restricted number of authorized shelter partners and limited approvals for shelter items. According to the Shelter Cluster, the limited entry of shelter supplies is undermining the implementation of the [winterization plan](#) developed by the Cluster and its partners. If facilitated, the entry of all shelter materials currently in the pipeline would enable partners to meet most of the needs of the 1.45 million people requiring emergency shelter assistance. While some shelter materials have entered through bilateral donations and the commercial sector, as of 5 November, only 5,400 tents, 160,000 tarpaulins and 17,000 blankets have entered through UN coordination. Shelter operations are gradually resuming in northern Gaza, where six partners have re-established presence and began distributing tents and tarpaulins. So far, Shelter Cluster partners have distributed more than 3,700 tents, covering the needs of over 30,000 people across the Gaza Strip. Similarly, distribution of 120,000 tarpaulins is ongoing, with 16,000 already distributed. This is far from sufficient, the Shelter Cluster reports, warning that hundreds of thousands of families face the coming winter without desperately needed protection from the elements.

Access to Water and Sanitation Services

- Efforts to improve access to water across the Gaza Strip continue to face major obstacles. Service provision remains critically disrupted due to extensive damage to water infrastructure, limited incoming supplies, and persistent shortages of spare parts required to operate generators and desalination units. According to the [Palestinian Water Authority](#), more than 85 per cent of vital water facilities have been damaged since October 2023, while groundwater well production stands at only 25 per cent of its previous capacity due to extensive damage and limited accessibility. According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, Gaza’s seven wastewater treatment plants are currently out of service and out of 73 sewage pumping stations, 20 have been destroyed and 27 have sustained partial damage. Moreover, efforts to repair and maintain drainage networks ahead of the winter season, particularly in flood-prone areas near displacement sites, are hampered by a lack of essential materials to conduct the necessary repairs.
- To improve water accessibility, the WASH Cluster indicated that 44 partners are currently distributing drinking water, mainly through water trucking, via approximately 1,900 water points across the Gaza Strip. Distribution efforts have been scaled up in North Gaza governorate, where six partners are supplying water at 100 points, and in Gaza governorate, where 23 partners are supplying water at more than 658 points.
- According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), severe restrictions on the entry of spare parts, tools, and maintenance equipment, including generators, batteries and lubricants, have significantly hindered their ability to repair WASH facilities in the Gaza Strip. Dozens of UNRWA vehicles and equipment units, including water tankers and jetting vehicles, remain uncleared for entry into Gaza by Israeli authorities, and the limited availability of related supplies on local markets constrains maintenance capacity. Coupled with destruction of UNRWA water wells, including in emergency displacement shelters, water production remains relatively limited and has increased dependence on emergency water trucking. UNRWA provides about 1,400 cubic metres of water daily in Gaza city and North Gaza. It warns that the continued provision of minimal WASH services is becoming increasingly unsustainable due to critical shortages of fuel and spare parts for fleet operations and limited capacity to repair and maintain WASH infrastructure.
- On 2 November, the public health laboratory at Al Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza city resumed water testing activities, partially restoring water quality monitoring in the area. Overall, according to the WASH Cluster, six field laboratories are currently functional, including three in Gaza city and three in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, conducting basic parameter testing. Water quality monitoring remains severely limited due to extensive damage to testing facilities and restricted access to essential equipment and consumables entering the Gaza Strip. According to the WASH Cluster, the loss of this capacity has significantly limited the ability to monitor and manage water safety.

Access to Health Care

- According to a joint press release [published](#) by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 5 November, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UNRWA, WHO and partners, in collaboration with the MoH in Gaza, are launching an integrated catch-up campaign for routine immunization, nutrition, and growth monitoring in the Gaza Strip to reach 44,000 children cut off from essential life-saving services. An estimated one in five children under three years of age are either zero-dose or have missed vaccinations, putting them at risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. The campaign will be implemented in three rounds to provide three doses of Pentavalent, Polio, Rota, and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines, and two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine, with the first round scheduled to take place from 9 to 18 November. Vaccinations will take place at 149 health facilities and 10 mobile units across the Gaza Strip, with rehabilitation work ongoing for another 35 points by UNICEF and WHO. In addition, UNICEF and partners will screen children for malnutrition and refer identified cases for treatment.

- According to WHO, prior to October 2023, Gaza had 54 immunization facilities and a 98 per cent vaccination coverage rate. Today, 31 facilities are no longer operational due to damage or destruction, and routine vaccination coverage has dropped below 70 per cent. The onset of harsh winter conditions makes the vaccination campaign even more urgent, as preventable childhood diseases spread across the Gaza Strip, WHO noted. Phase two and three, providing second and third doses of vaccines, are planned for December 2025 and January 2026. "After two years of relentless violence that claimed the lives of more than 20,000 children in the Gaza Strip, we finally have an opportunity to protect those who survived," [said](#) Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF Special Representative in the State of Palestine.
- On 3 November, MoH in Gaza [announced](#) the inauguration of the Hind Al Daghma Specialized Kidney Center at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, which had sustained severe damage. According to Dr. Marwan Abu Sa'da, MoH Director General of International Cooperation and Projects, patients with kidney failure are among the most affected groups due to the destruction of specialized centres, such as Noura Al Kaabi Dialysis Center in North Gaza and the dialysis department at Al Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza city, noting that kidney patients have faced serious challenges in accessing treatment and that 40 per cent of kidney failure patients since October 2023 have died. According to WHO [data](#), since the beginning of 2025, 59 patients with renal disorder were medically evacuated from the Gaza Strip, including 31 children, 20 men and eight women.
- Screening and imaging services in Gaza continue to be compromised due to the lack of machines and equipment critical for the diagnosis of serious illness and acute trauma cases. Currently, there are [no functioning](#) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines in the Gaza Strip. In addition, only four out of 18 computed tomography (CT) scanners are functional, according to UNRWA. At UNRWA health centres, only one x-ray machine, located at An Nuseirat Health Centre in Deir al Balah, remains functional, out of seven X-ray machines that were functional before the war. As a result, many diseases cannot be accurately diagnosed, leaving patients undiagnosed and untreated. According to UNRWA, the limited screening and imaging capacity triggered a dramatic increase in referrals and excessive workload on the few functional machines, causing frequent breakdowns and maintenance issues. In addition, patients face long waiting times, delaying disease diagnoses.
- Over the past week, 50 patients were medically evacuated from the Gaza Strip. On 29 October, WHO [facilitated](#) the medical evacuation of 30 patients, including 17 children, nine women and four men, in addition to 60 companions. On 30 October, WHO [completed](#) another medical evacuation of 19 children and one adult patient from Gaza, of whom four children will receive cancer treatment at the St. Jude Research programme. This brings the total number of patients evacuated since 1 October 2025 to 146 patients, including 88 children, 30 men and 28 women. However, over 16,500 patients still need urgent specialised care unavailable inside the Strip.

Access to Emergency Food Aid, Agricultural Assets and Markets

- Three weeks into the ceasefire, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners are distributing every day about 150,000 bread bundles and 1.2 million meals. With the resumption of food parcel distributions on 13 October for the first time since April, the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) has distributed food parcels to one million people in October, with one food parcel distributed per family. In the first three days of November, according to FSS, approximately 66,000 people (13,200 households) have been assisted with two food parcels per family through 46 distribution points across the Gaza Strip, including 10 in northern Gaza. Still, the quantity of food assistance brought into Gaza remains insufficient, WFP warns, calling for the opening of all crossings, especially those in northern Gaza, and for more access to key roads inside Gaza to push back hunger and expand operations to the required level.
- Combined with additional improvements in access to emergency food aid, there is an urgent need to rehabilitate local food systems, including vegetable and fruit production and animal rearing, to reduce food gaps in Gaza and enhance dietary diversity, FSS emphasizes. To support the resumption of agricultural activities, the entry of agricultural inputs, such as seed kits, organic fertilizers and nylon sheets, through both humanitarian and private sector channels and safe access of fishers to the sea are critically required, but many agricultural inputs continue to be denied entry into Gaza by Israeli authorities and access to the sea remains prohibited, according to FSS. Since 15 October, FSS partners have supplied about 1,700 animal herders in Deir al Balah with fodder to sustain surviving livestock and enable the resumption of local production of milk and dairy products.
- One of the main challenges facing local food systems is the widespread damage to agricultural land, alongside severe soil contamination with war remnants. Two years of war have damaged most of the agricultural resources in the Gaza Strip, where, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)), agriculture accounted for about 10 per cent of Gaza's economy prior to October 2023 and over 560,000 people depended in whole or in part on crop production, herding, or fishing for their livelihoods. Recent geospatial analysis by [FAO](#) and the UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) indicates that only 13 per cent of cropland in the Gaza Strip has not been damaged, of which the majority remains inaccessible in areas where the Israeli military remains deployed (over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip). In addition, about [79 per cent](#) of greenhouse areas, 87 per cent of agricultural wells, and 86 per cent of agricultural infrastructure have been damaged. Nearly [89 per cent](#) of orchard trees (especially olive trees) have been damaged, of which 75 per cent have been destroyed, particularly in the North Gaza, Gaza and Khan Younis governorates. Between April and September 2025, the highest [increase](#) in damage to agricultural infrastructure was observed in poultry farms, followed by home barns, sheep farms and agricultural warehouses. Among the five governorates, Rafah shows the highest level of inaccessibility of agricultural infrastructure and the northern governorates are the most severely damaged. At present, out of more than [2,200](#) agricultural wells, less than nine per cent are not damaged and accessible, which negatively impacts Gaza's capacity to sustain crop and livestock production.
- Following the ceasefire, access to undamaged land that is available for cultivation has improved: Of the estimated 150* square kilometres of cropland, four per cent is now not damaged and accessible (about six out of 150* square kilometres), compared with [1.5 per cent](#) prior to the ceasefire. Overall, 37 per cent of Gaza's cropland (both damaged and undamaged) is now accessible, compared with [8.6 per cent](#) prior to the ceasefire, and can potentially be rehabilitated. According to FAO, this offers an opportunity to restore local food production and strengthen livelihoods. "As satellite imagery shows, the scale of agricultural land destruction

in Gaza has severely undermined the area's ability to produce food," [said](#) FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol. "However, the ceasefire has opened a window of opportunity. Urgent support is needed to rehabilitate agricultural land and infrastructure, enable farmers to resume fresh food production, and rebuild the fisheries and livestock sectors, as restoring these systems is essential to protecting livelihoods and ensuring families can feed themselves," she added.

- Access to markets and food consumption have slightly improved, according to WFP's monthly market monitoring [report](#) for October, and further improvements are anticipated if the inflow of food aid and commercial trucks continues. Half of surveyed households reported improved physical access to food in the first two weeks of October, 27 per cent reported no changes, and 23 per cent reported having worse access (mainly in the north). With the ceasefire announcement, a drop in prices of most food items was already observed in the second week October. Moreover, during the first half of October, households consumed an average of two meals per day, up from one meal in July, although one in five households still ate only one meal daily. Compared with pre-October 2023, food consumption has remained poor, especially in relation to protein sources, vegetables and fruits.
- A REACH assessment conducted between 20 and 27 October found that markets across the Gaza Strip continue to operate under strained conditions, constrained by damage, overcrowding, and low purchasing power. According to the Cash Working Group (CWG), cash circulation and financial access have witnessed a slight improvement since the ceasefire, with an improved security environment and expanded coverage of cash-out agents. As of early November, about 155 cash-out agents were operational across the Gaza Strip, compared with 95 in September, including 65 in Khan Younis, 40 in Deir al Balah, 35 in Gaza city, and 15 in North Gaza. This wider coverage has eased congestion and facilitated smoother access to transfers. On average, physical cash-out commission rates are at 18–22 per cent while digital withdrawal and payment fees are at [20–24](#) per cent down from 35–45 per cent prior to the ceasefire, reflecting improved cash circulation and expanding financial service capacity.
- Between 10 October and 3 November, CWG partners distributed Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to over 55,000 households, compared with 40,000 in September. Each household received 1,250 NIS (approximately US\$378) in digital payments, in line with the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) transfer value. Cumulatively, over 270,000 households in the Gaza Strip have received at least one MPCA transfer in 2025, and more than 403,000 households since October 2023. According to post-distribution monitoring conducted by CWG partners between 10 and 24 October, households continue to spend MPCA primarily on food (grains, vegetables, pulses), followed by debt repayment, hygiene items, and medicines.
- According to the Protection Cluster, cash programming is a response modality that enables people in Gaza to meet their specific needs with dignity and choice. In addition to strengthening households' ability to access basic goods, cash programming helps reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as debt, child labour, or early marriage. During Israeli military operations in North Gaza, vulnerable community members and households faced increased risks due to the high cost of safe and accessible transport, particularly affecting persons with disabilities and older people with mobility challenges. Cash for protection interventions enabled families to flee insecurity and to meet their basic needs in their displacement areas. Based on this intervention, an inter-cluster referral pathway was established for vulnerable protection cases to receive cash assistance.

Funding

- As of 5 November 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.46 billion out of the \$4 billion (36 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. During October 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 135 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.7 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 63 are being implemented by international NGOs, 56 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 69 out of the 79 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



A Mine Action specialist inspects a water well compound in Khan Younis for potential explosive hazards following the ceasefire, in support of humanitarian and recovery efforts, 19 October 2025. Photo by UNMAS

Humanitarian Situation Update #340 | Gaza Strip

12 Nov 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 19 or 20 November.

Key Highlights

- Unexploded ordnance continues to pose a serious threat across the Gaza Strip, with injuries reported among people returning to devastated areas or searching for basic necessities, according to the UN Mine Action Service.
- In the first month of the ceasefire, 165 patients were medically evacuated from Gaza, compared with 146 patients in the previous month; more than 16,500 people still require urgent specialized medical care outside Gaza.
- Four hospitals and multiple other health facilities have resumed operations since the ceasefire, but more than 60 per cent of all facilities remain non-functional.
- More than 154,000 children – nearly a quarter of all school-aged children – are enrolled at over 300 temporary learning spaces.
- Israeli authorities announced the reopening of Zikim crossing for humanitarian cargo after a two-month closure.

Context Overview

- Following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip under the ceasefire agreement, Israeli military strikes near or east of the so-called “Yellow Line” continue to be reported, resulting in casualties. Access to the sea remains prohibited and the detention of Palestinian fishers at sea by Israeli forces continues to be reported. In areas beyond the “Yellow Line,” where the Israeli military remains deployed (over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip), daily detonations of residential buildings continue to be reported and access to humanitarian assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land remains restricted or altogether barred. Between 25 October and 4 November, Site Management Cluster (SMC) partners conducted a remote assessment via phone with focal points to survey identified displacement sites located in areas where the Israeli military remains deployed. The assessment identified 46 displacement sites, of which 18 are currently active. The active sites host more than 1,350 households comprising about 13,500 internally displaced people (IDPs). Having not been able yet to carry out physical assessments in the area given the security situation, SMC partners estimate that people in these areas are largely cut off from access to basic services.
- Between 5 and 11 November, according to official Israeli sources, the bodies of three deceased hostages were returned from Gaza to Israeli authorities, bringing the overall number of returned bodies of Israeli and other hostages since the ceasefire to 24. During the same period, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, the bodies of 45 Palestinians were returned to the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number of released bodies since the ceasefire to 315, of which only 91 were identified.
- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 5 and 12 November, six Palestinians were killed, one died of wounds sustained earlier, 19 were injured and 19 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by MoH, to 69,185 fatalities and 170,698 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 284 fatalities who were retroactively added between 31 October and 7 November after their identification details were approved by a

ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 245 Palestinians were killed, 627 were injured and 532 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble. These [include](#) 104 Palestinians killed between 28 and 29 October.

- According to the Israeli military, between 5 and 12 November, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,978 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 12 November 2025, it is estimated that the bodies of four deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- As of 10 November, the SMC estimates that about one million people, out of a total population of 2.1 million, are residing in 862 displacement sites across the Gaza Strip, of which 180 sites are in Gaza and North Gaza governorates, 264 in Deir al Balah, 410 in Khan Younis and eight in Rafah. According to [UNRWA](#), as of 2 November, about 75,000 people are estimated to reside in about 100 designated UNRWA shelters and surrounding areas. SMC reports that population movements across the Gaza Strip continue as people attempt to return to their hometowns when possible or move to areas with relatively better access to essential services. Between 10 October and 9 November, more than 709,000 movements of people were recorded by SMC partners, including more than 580,000 movements crossing from southern to northern Gaza, primarily through Al Rashid Road. Over 113,000 movements were observed from western to eastern Khan Younis.
- An increase in reverse movements from northern to southern Gaza has also been observed, the SMC reports. Between 2 and 9 November, more than 1,200 such movements were recorded, compared with 850 movements the previous week. While displaced families face precarious and overcrowded conditions across the Gaza Strip, including in the south, SMC partners attribute the relative increase in southward movements to the relatively more acute shortages of adequate shelters, basic services and safe heating options in northern Gaza, with many households residing in damaged homes and having limited prospects for repair before colder weather sets in.
- Education partners continue to support the learning process by operating additional spaces to provide in-person education, previously concentrated in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, across the Gaza Strip. As of 11 November, 303 temporary learning spaces (TLS) are operational, including 16 in Gaza governorate, 140 in Deir al Balah, 147 in Khan Younis and none in North Gaza and Rafah. About 51 TLS have become operational since the ceasefire, allowing over 18,000 new children to enrol. More than 4,300 teachers at TLS are supporting a total of about 154,000 children, or some 24 per cent of Gaza's school-aged population of about 637,000. The low coverage is attributed to extensive damage of school infrastructure, the continued use of schools as IDP shelters, and restrictions on the entry of educational and learning supplies.
- In addition to serving about 44,000 children at 46 of the TLS, [UNRWA](#)'s digital learning platform is providing Arabic and mathematics education to more than 294,000 children, facilitated by over 7,600 teachers. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has also resumed in-person education in at least two universities, where hybrid learning is used. To reach all school-aged children, including the long waiting list of children trying to access learning centres, a spokesperson for the United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)), Tess Ingram, highlighted the need for additional learning spaces, rubble clearance, ensuring that explosive ordnance (EO) does not pose a risk, repair of damaged classrooms, and the establishment of temporary structures.
- According to the Food Security Cluster (FSS), in the first nine days of November, partners have assisted more than 255,000 people (51,000 households) with two food parcels per family through 47 distribution points across the Gaza Strip. As of 10 November, FSS partners are distributing every day about 160,000 bread bundles and 1.27 million meals. The bread bundles continue to be produced at 19 UN-supported bakeries and distributed free of charge through more than 400 sites, including more than 50 UNRWA shelters, community kitchens, and other local facilities. The bread is also sold at a subsidized price of 3 NIS (US\$0.90) per bundle through 71 contracted retailers, up from 43 in October, to broaden coverage and help revive markets across the Gaza Strip.

Humanitarian Access

- As of 10 November, about 227,000 metric tons (MT) of the aid positioned across the region were approved and cleared by Israeli authorities for transfer into Gaza, of which about 72 per cent are food supplies, according to the UN 2720 Mechanism. Between 10 October and 10 November, according to the [UN 2720 Mechanism](#), about 48,000 MT of aid were collected by the UN and its partners from two operational crossings, including 15,500 MT between 4 and 10 November. On 12 November, Israeli authorities [announced](#) the reopening of Zikim crossing for humanitarian cargo following a two-month closure.
- Since 10 October, more than 6,490 MT of UN-coordinated relief materials have been denied entry into Gaza. Of these, over 3,700 MT were rejected on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza. These include 10 requests by three local and international NGOs for the entry of 555 MT of aid comprising shelter, health, water and sanitation supplies, which were rejected between 4 and 10 November. Many international NGO partners continue to face difficulties in being [registered](#) in Israel, preventing them from bringing supplies into Gaza and operating at scale, and [UNRWA](#) continues to be banned by Israeli authorities from bringing in food and other supplies into Gaza. Critical items also continue to be denied entry into Gaza. For example, UNICEF reported during a recent [UN press briefing](#) that denied items included spare parts for water trucks and vehicles, materials for water treatment and purification, high-power generators, and education and recreational kits for children, which they have not been permitted to bring into Gaza for several months.
- Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for humanitarian convoy movements in Gaza, to crossings as well as in or near other areas where the Israeli military remains deployed. Between 4 and 10 November, humanitarian organizations coordinated 58 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 30 were facilitated, eight were cancelled, 16 were impeded and four were denied. Movements included, among others, 31 movements to collect cargo from the two operational crossings (Kerem

Shalom and Kissufim), two search-and-rescue missions, three road repair, assessment and clearing missions, and three movements related to the crossing of humanitarian personnel.

- On 5 November, the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) facilitated the medical evacuation of 19 patients, including 17 children and two men, in addition to 93 companions. This brings the total number of patients evacuated in the month since the ceasefire to 165 patients, including 105 children, 32 men and 28 women, compared with 146 patients evacuated from Gaza in the month prior to the ceasefire. Over 16,500 patients still need urgent specialised care unavailable inside the Strip. WHO [stated](#) that the Rafah crossing is a vital exit for medical evacuations, through which WHO has transferred to date about 4,000 patients for treatment in Egypt and abroad. WHO added that the crossing is also key to the entry of health supplies into Gaza and called for the urgent and sustained opening of Rafah and all entry points into Gaza.
- In a [statement](#) issued one month into the ceasefire in Gaza, Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said that humanitarians are continuing to seize every opportunity to save lives. He noted that the UN and its partners have provided food to over one million people, nutrition sites have been reopened, and hospital services are treating more patients. According to his statement, vital immunizations are also being resumed, while water lines have been repaired, winter supplies distributed, and mental health support provided. Despite that progress, Mr. Fletcher said that humanitarian operations in Gaza still face obstacles, including red tape and insecurity. He stressed that if these constraints are eased, humanitarians can do much more to reach more people in need with life-saving assistance.

Access to Health Care

- The functionality of health services across the Gaza Strip has improved since the ceasefire, with 18 hospitals currently partially functional, compared with 14 in September. One of the newly re-opened hospitals is Al Kheir Hospital, in Khan Younis. On 10 November, [WHO](#) reported that last week Al Kheir Hospital became functional again after it supported the rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and power systems in the facility and supplied it with medical equipment and medicines. The hospital had been forced out of service in February 2024. WHO also established a new 20-bed nutrition stabilization centre at the hospital to provide inpatient care for children with acute and severe malnutrition. In total, seven nutrition stabilization centres currently provide care to cases of severe acute malnutrition with complications, with a total of 90 inpatient beds, compared with four centres in September, according to Nutrition Cluster.
- Compared with the period prior to the ceasefire, the number of functional primary health centres (PHC) similarly increased from 62 to 76 PHCs as of 8 November. Nonetheless, the overall number of functional health services, including hospitals, field hospitals, medical points and PHCs, stands at only 36 per cent of the total number of facilities (213 out of 589). Another challenge is that large-scale displacement and the lack of available alternative shelters have led many IDPs to seek shelter in main health facilities, according to MoH, affecting the functionality of two hospitals and four health clinics across the Strip.
- With 12,000 staff on the ground in Gaza, UNRWA continues to run shelters, clinics, and essential services and has expanded service provision since the ceasefire, including in northern Gaza. The agency is now operating four medical points in Gaza city, reaching over 1,650 patients per day, compared with an average of only 50 consultations per day during military operations before the ceasefire. UNRWA provides primary health services through seven health centres and 102 mobile medical teams working at 31 health points inside and outside shelters in Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Gaza city, with efforts underway to restore health services in North Gaza despite infrastructural and supply challenges. Furthermore, UNRWA reports that its work in safeguarding public health extends beyond medical consultations to include water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and protection services in an integrated manner.
- Current living conditions in the Gaza Strip, however, continue to raise serious concerns about public health risks. Describing these conditions as appalling, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [said](#): “After being forcibly displaced repeatedly, many Palestinians are still living in makeshift tents and without access to running water and electricity, surrounded by piles of rubbish and overflowing sewage.” The health impacts of these dire conditions, MSF added, are causing many cases of respiratory, skin, and gastrointestinal infections, warning that colder temperatures, heavy rains, and strong winds will soon only worsen the situation.
- According to MoH, 343 out of 622 essential drug items (55 per cent) are currently at zero-stock levels. This includes 74 per cent of chemotherapy and blood disease drugs, 64 per cent of primary healthcare drugs, 56 per cent of mothers and child health drugs and 50 per cent of kidney transplantation and haemodialysis drugs. In addition, 710 out of 1,006 medical consumables (71 per cent) were at zero-stock levels in October 2025; these include 100 per cent of open heart and catheterization consumables, 99 per cent of orthopaedic surgery consumables, and 91 per cent of ophthalmic surgery consumables.
- Critical medical shortages have especially affected the access of diabetic patients to adequate treatment, heightening the risk of complications and death. According to MoH, there are about 71,000 people living with diabetes in Gaza. These include about 20 to 30 per cent who require approximately 25,000 vials of insulin per month and related supplies, according to the Health Cluster, but only a small fraction of these supplies are regularly available. The last shipment of insulin was delivered to hospitals in the Gaza Strip by humanitarian partners between 19 and 23 October 2025, containing 22,991 vials, the Health Cluster reported. According to UNRWA, due to the limited availability of insulin, some patients have been forced to use expired doses, further jeopardizing their health, and the lack of adequate and timely screening increases the risk of undiagnosed cases. Shortages of oral hypoglycemic agents, essential for managing Type 2 diabetes, have further undermined treatment. Combined with limited access to nutritious food, the Health Cluster notes that these challenges can lead to the prevalence of severe complications, such as diabetic foot, poor glycemic control, kidney failure, and blindness.
- The lack of treatment and diagnostic services have additionally affected cancer patients who can only access limited treatment at three facilities, according to the Health Cluster, namely: Al Razi Hospital, Al Helou Hospital, and Nasser Medical Complex.

According to [MoH](#), there are currently over 11,000 cancer patients in the Gaza Strip who need medical evacuation outside due to the lack of needed treatments. Since January 2025, according to WHO data, 594 cancer patients, including 152 children, 219 women and 223 men, were evacuated outside Gaza while many others are awaiting approvals for their evacuation from Gaza.

Protection

- According to the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR), following two years of escalated hostilities in Gaza, the collapse of education, health and social systems, compounded by displacement and repeated trauma, have eroded children's sense of stability and safety; and they will require sustained, long-term efforts to recover. In a September 2025 CP AoR assessment, the most common symptoms reported among children were aggressive behaviour (93 per cent), violence toward younger children (90 per cent), sadness and withdrawal (86 per cent), sleep disturbances (79 per cent), and education avoidance (69 per cent). Caregivers also reported being overwhelmed and unable to provide adequate emotional support, while girls and children with disabilities were found to face heightened risks of violence, neglect, and unsafe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, particularly in overcrowded shelters and informal displacement sites.
- CP AoR partners continue to scale up the delivery of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for children and caregivers across the Gaza Strip. During the first month following the ceasefire, partners provided child protection and MHPSS services to over 132,000 children across the Gaza Strip, including nearly 1,600 children with disabilities and 45,000 caregivers. Services included individual psychological counselling, structured group sessions, stress management activities, recreational psychosocial support, and referrals to multisectoral services. CP partners aim to reach over 100,000 children per month through various child protection services to help meet the needs of nearly one million children in the Gaza Strip.
- Since 10 October, nearly 59,000 out of 132,000 children reached by CP AoR partners, benefited from group and individual sessions, psychological first aid, and counselling, while over 17,000 caregivers (of whom 72 per cent were women) participated in parenting programmes aimed at promoting well-being and strengthening their capacity to support distressed children. According to partners, key issues observed during service provision included increased anxiety among children, behavioural changes, and concerns about the continued lack of safe spaces. In the same period, 2,500 highly vulnerable children were referred to multisectoral services, including shelter support, hygiene kits, and other basic assistance. Case management services reached 1,344 children, of whom 166 unaccompanied and separated children were reunified with their families and 215 children were placed in temporary alternative care. Furthermore, 350 children with conflict-related injuries or disabilities received assistive devices and rehabilitation support. According to recent data by the MoH in Gaza, amputations among children comprise about 25 per cent of 6,000 amputations recorded by the ministry during the war.
- Unexploded ordnance continues to pose a serious threat in the Gaza Strip, with injuries reported among people returning to devastated areas, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) [warns](#). In Gaza city, "unexploded shells and missiles are scattered across Al Rimal neighbourhood, visible among the rubble and along roadsides [...] exposing civilians to the risk of detonation as they attempt to return to their homes or search for basic necessities," UNMAS reported. Poor living conditions have also increased the exposure of people, including children, to EO, either while they are trying to collect firewood or upon being forced to set up tents near areas suspected of containing EO due to the lack of safe shelter options.
- Since 10 October, Mine Action (MA) partners have recorded three explosive incidents in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, which resulted in 11 injuries, including three boys. To scale up operations and facilitate the safe repair of civilian infrastructure and the reopening of schools and health facilities, since 10 October, MA partners have responded to 71 requests for explosive hazard assessments, supported 32 inter-agency missions, and delivered risk education sessions to more than 49,000 people across the Gaza Strip. Moreover, between 15 and 22 October, UNMAS conducted a training of trainers on explosive ordnance risk education and conflict preparedness and protection targeting 31 frontline humanitarian aid workers to enable them to disseminate safe messaging alongside their activities.
- Amid massive challenges, communities in the Gaza Strip continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and solidarity, a recent monitoring [report](#) by the Protection Cluster, covering the period between 10 October to 6 November, highlights. Grassroots coordination committees have re-emerged to manage disputes, organize aid distribution, and communicate needs to humanitarian actors. Youth volunteers actively support vulnerable groups and maintain site conditions, reflecting strong civic engagement. Mothers and youth have also created informal learning and support circles to provide children with basic education and emotional comfort. According to the monitoring report, enduring social cohesion and mutual assistance remain key coping mechanisms helping families navigate daily hardships.

Funding

- As of 12 November 2025, Member States have disbursed approximately \$1.49 billion out of the \$4 billion (37 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. During October 2025, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 135 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.7 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 63 are being implemented by international NGOs, 56 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 69 out of the 79 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



Najat stands outside of her tent in Gaza city, which was flooded after a sewage system nearby overflowed due to heavy rain. Photo by WFP/Maxime Le Lijour

Humanitarian Situation Update #342 | Gaza Strip

20 Nov 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 26 or 27 November.

Key Highlights

- As heavy rains flooded thousands of tents and makeshift shelters, the UN and its partners are supporting joint winterization, flood-mitigation and hygiene-enhancement efforts and calling for the entry of more humanitarian assistance.
- Access to markets and food consumption continued to show modest improvements in the first 10 days of November, but dietary diversity remains low and 25 per cent of households reported eating only one meal daily, according to the World Food Programme.
- While efforts are ongoing since 3 November to gain access to and repair the damaged main fibre line near Erez crossing, further delays can lead to a complete communications blackout and disrupt humanitarian operations.
- With about 93 per cent of school buildings damaged, learning cannot resume at scale in Gaza without reconstruction or the ability to establish new learning spaces, the Education Cluster reports.

Context Overview

- Following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip under the ceasefire agreement, Israeli military strikes near or east of the so-called “Yellow Line” continue to be reported, resulting in casualties. Access to the sea remains prohibited. In areas beyond the “Yellow Line,” where the Israeli military remains deployed (over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip), daily detonations of residential buildings continue to be reported and access to humanitarian assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land remains restricted or altogether barred. On the evening of 19 November, the Israeli military [reported](#) that its troops came under fire in Khan Younis, in response to which it carried out multiple strikes across the Strip. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, as of 20:00 on 19 November, 25 Palestinians were reportedly killed and over 77 others were injured due to the strikes. According to the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) spokesperson, casualties, mostly women and children, were reported in eastern Gaza city and Khan Younis.
- As recent rains and floodwaters destroyed what little shelter and belongings thousands of Palestinians in Gaza had left (see more information below), the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, [stressed](#) that while the UN and partners are working to respond and reach those affected, much more is needed. He called for the immediate lifting of remaining restrictions to enable the entry of more humanitarian assistance into Gaza.
- The Site Management Cluster (SMC) reports that population movements have decreased over the past week, likely due to unfavourable weather conditions. More than 34,000 displacement movements were recorded between 10 and 17 November, compared with over 46,000 movements in the preceding week. Overall, between 10 October and 17 November, more than 730,000 movements of people were recorded by SMC partners, including more than 637,000 movements crossing from southern to northern Gaza, primarily through Al Rasheed Road. Over 113,000 movements were observed from western to eastern Khan Younis during the same period.

- On 13 November, according to official Israeli sources, the body of one hostage was returned from Gaza to Israeli authorities, bringing the overall number of returned bodies of Israeli and other hostages since the ceasefire to 25. On 15 November, according to the MoH in Gaza, the bodies of 15 Palestinians were returned to the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number of released bodies since the ceasefire to 330, of which only 97 were identified.
- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 12 and 14:30 on 19 November, eight Palestinians were killed, 41 were injured and 18 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 69,513 fatalities and 170,745 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 279 fatalities who were retroactively added between 7 and 14 November after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 280 Palestinians were killed, 672 were injured and 571 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 12 and 19 November, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,978 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 19 November, it is estimated that the bodies of three deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- According to a [recent](#) assessment by the Education Cluster, which relies on satellite imagery collected on 11 October, about 93 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip (526 out of 564) were directly hit or damaged and are estimated to require either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again. These include 95 school buildings in North Gaza, 208 in Gaza, 70 in Deir al Balah, 125 in Khan Younis and 66 in Rafah governorates. North Gaza and Rafah governorates are the most affected, with 100 per cent of their school buildings either directly hit or damaged. About one-third of school buildings that were directly hit or damaged are operated by UNRWA. Eighty-seven per cent of damaged school buildings (459) were directly hit, including 267 that served as emergency shelters. This is an increase of 27 school buildings compared with the last assessment – which was based on satellite imagery collected on 8 July – and includes schools that were previously classified as damaged. Of the 27 newly hit schools, 18 are government-run schools, five are UNRWA schools and four are private schools. Of schools that served as shelters for internally displaced people (IDPs), 77 per cent (267 out of 459) were directly hit. According to the Education Cluster, without reconstruction or the ability to establish new learning spaces, learning cannot resume at scale in Gaza.

Humanitarian Access

- Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for humanitarian convoy movements in Gaza, to crossings as well as in or near other areas where the Israeli military remains deployed. Between 12 and 18 November, humanitarian organizations coordinated 51 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 27 were facilitated, five were cancelled, 15 were impeded and four were denied. Movements included, among others, 28 movements to collect cargo from the three operational crossings (Kerem Shalom, Zikim, and Kissufim), one search-and-rescue mission, two road repair, assessment and clearance missions, and four movements related to the crossing of humanitarian personnel.
- According to the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), the main fibre line near the Erez crossing, where Israeli ground forces remain deployed, was damaged on 3 November and remains unrepaired. Since 3 November, all coordination requests submitted to facilitate an urgent repair mission have been denied. Cluster partners warn that given the fragility of the remaining backup fibre, any delays in repairs can lead to a complete communications blackout across the Gaza Strip. Such a blackout will significantly disrupt humanitarian operations, impede emergency response mechanisms, and further isolate people, the majority of whom are displaced and have limited access to essential information and services. Repair efforts are made difficult by a lack of locally available spare parts compounded by restrictions on the entry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment. The Cluster is exploring alternative solutions, such as long-distance radio links, to strengthen secure communication systems and to mitigate the risk of further disruptions to humanitarian operations.
- Between 12 and 18 November, according to the [UN 2720 Mechanism](#), more than 10,600 metric tons (MT) of aid were collected by the UN and its partners, including nearly 6,800 MT from Kerem Shalom crossing, over 1,600 MT from Kissufim crossing, and about 2,200 MT from the recently re-opened Zikim (Erez West) crossing. None of the supplies collected over the past week were reportedly intercepted en route, and the last such reported incident took place on 6 November. Zikim crossing, which allows aid to enter directly to the north, resumed operations on 14 November following a two-month closure. The crossing is operating on an alternating entry and collection schedule, rotating with Kissufim crossing. Collected aid movements continue to be directed through the Philadelphia Corridor and Al Rasheed Road while Salah ad Din Road remains closed to humanitarian movements. According to the Logistics Cluster, the Al Rasheed route is congested and exposes trucks to operational challenges, such as extended mission durations and heightened risk of opportunistic looting, while limiting the size of the convoys.

Growing Winterization Needs

- According to the Shelter Cluster, on 14 and 15 November, heavy rains and stormy weather flooded thousands of tents and makeshift shelters across the Gaza Strip, leaving an estimated 13,000 tents completely damaged and exacerbating already crisis-level shelter needs. The SMC estimates that the weather events affected more than 740,000 people across 715 displacement sites, including 384 located in high flood-risk areas. Of the affected sites, 130 were in northern Gaza, 264 in Deir Al Balah, 308 in Khan Younis, and 13 in Rafah. Streets and low-lying areas were flooded, restricting movement and flooding tents and makeshift shelters. Many returning families, particularly to northern Gaza, have no choice but to remain in unsafe, destroyed structures, with winter rains further heightening risks as weakened walls and roofs deteriorate and water intrusion increases. Ahead of the storm, the PCD issued public guidance urging residents to clear drainage paths between tents, secure shelters against strong coastal winds, avoid unsafe or damaged buildings, refrain from lighting fires inside tents, and avoid flooded or hazardous roads. Still,

people living in overcrowded and exposed sites, many in makeshift tents, were ill-prepared for the season's first rains, exposing severe gaps in winter readiness amid deplorable living conditions, the Shelter Cluster reported.

- At the beginning of October, the Shelter Cluster launched a [winterization](#) plan for the Gaza Strip. The plan entailed the distribution of winterized tents as well as Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) and other essential materials for building shelters or enhancing waterproofing and insulation, such as plastic sheeting, ropes and tools. In addition, partners planned to distribute winter clothing alongside other non-food items (NFIs), such as blankets and mattresses. The full rollout of planned activities, however, requires the entry of shelter materials at scale, which, despite some improvements, continues to be [severely](#) constrained by Israeli authorities' restrictions on the entry of shelter supplies coordinated through the UN. Between 6 and 17 November, the Cluster collected from crossings 8,000 tents, 98,000 tarpaulins and 110,000 blankets through UN coordination, bringing the total number of tents and tarpaulins collected since 10 October to more than 13,000 tents and roughly 290,000 tarpaulins.
- Municipalities across Gaza have carried out emergency repairs to sewage and stormwater infrastructure to drain rainwater and manage overflows despite extremely limited resources, equipment, and machinery. Due to extensive damage to stormwater and sewage systems across the Strip, heavy rainfall resulted in overflows mixed with untreated sewage, heightening health risks. According to the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Cluster, partners have prioritized a range of preparedness measures for flood mitigation, including the repair or rehabilitation of numerous wastewater pumping stations and infrastructure, cleaning and clearing stormwater drains, gullies and wadis vulnerable to flooding*, as well as emptying and rehabilitating critical stormwater basins, such as Al Amal, Al Qarara, Ash Sheikh Radwan, Abu Rashed and Al Saftawi. However, this requires the urgent entry of critical specialized equipment, such as pumps, pipes and other electromechanical components, which continue to be denied entry, and a consistent supply of fuel.
- In response to the rains, between 14 and 17 November, Shelter partners were able to distribute more than 3,600 tents, 129,000 tarpaulins and 87,000 blankets and other NFIs, reaching nearly 130,000 people in need. The Cluster estimates that available stocks are expected to be depleted within a week. Separately, between 14 and 17 November, the Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with several partners, supported the Qatari Committee in the distribution of 9,500 tents brought into Gaza through bilateral donations. Meanwhile, partners across the humanitarian system are supporting joint winterization, flood-mitigation and hygiene-enhancement efforts. For example, WASH Cluster partners are distributing hygiene items and specialized kits, installing and repairing of latrines, desludging septic tanks, clearing stormwater drainage systems, and collecting and managing solid waste, among other emergency interventions. Food Security partners are donating empty flour and rice bags from bakeries and community kitchens to SMC partners for use as sandbags in emergency shelters. Child Protection partners have distributed over 7,000 winter clothing kits to affected families and maternity hospitals, bringing the number of these kits distributed since the ceasefire to over 48,000. Recognizing the urgent winter needs, the UN is rapidly mobilizing additional funding to support ongoing response efforts. The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, allocated US\$18 million from the oPt Humanitarian Fund to sustain critical operations across Gaza as winter sets in.
- According to the Protection Cluster, winter weather has worsened protection risks across Gaza and disrupted services, causing damage to tents used to run protection activities. Protection Cluster partners report that deteriorating conditions have increased psychological distress and created mobility challenges, particularly affecting women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Despite these challenges, service providers are adapting by shifting sessions closer to displacement sites, opening new safe spaces, and employing mobile and remote models to maintain crucial support services related to child protection, mental health support, and addressing gender-based violence.
- Partners continued to mobilize efforts to conduct assessments in areas severely affected by the heavy rain. For example, on 16 November, an assessment conducted by SMC partners found that more than 4,300 displaced households living along the shoreline of Khan Younis and Al Mawasi area of Rafah were facing extremely severe conditions. During the assessment, families voiced serious concerns about overcrowding and unsafe living conditions, particularly due to inadequate shelter with the onset of rainy and cold weather. Heavy rainfall flooded tents and threatened to submerge entire areas, while strong coastal winds collapsed shelters and latrines. The situation was further compounded by a lack of adequate heating and limited WASH facilities. Proper faecal waste disposal was absent, forcing families to resort to unsafe alternatives and posing additional water contamination and public health risks. According to the latest WASH Cluster [assessment](#) between 17 August and 5 September, only 53 per cent of households had access to [basic sanitation](#), while nine per cent relied on unimproved facilities (such as pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines, or bucket latrines) and four per cent practiced open defecation.
- Save The Children [reported](#) that after two years of bombardment and a collapsed sanitation system, rainwater no longer drains and is now mixing with sewage, soaking clothes, blankets, food and shelter materials. It noted that about 700,000 children are living in worn-out tents that cannot withstand winter conditions, with very little access to shoes, warm clothes, mattresses or blankets: "Despite the past month seeing more items in the markets, blankets and mattresses are almost nowhere to be seen, new clothes are also near-impossible to come by, with children still wearing summer clothes of shorts and t-shirts, and most of them barefoot. With families desperate for the basics to survive, they spend what little they have on food rather than new clothes."

Access to Markets and Emergency Food Assistance

- Access to markets has generally improved, according to the market monitoring report of the World Food Programme (WFP) covering the first 10 days of November. While prices generally remain significantly above October 2023 levels, there were noticeable decreases in the prices of vegetables, and wheat flour prices stabilized across governorates at about NIS 4-5 (US\$1-1.4) per kilogramme (kg). Compared with the second week of October, several staple food items saw notable price decreases. For example, three litres of sunflower oil dropped from NIS 30 (\$8) to NIS 24 (\$7). Similarly, in Khan Younis, tomato prices fell sharply, decreasing from NIS 25 (\$7.6) in the second week of October to NIS 7 (\$2) in early November. In Deir al Balah, prices for cucumbers decreased by half over the past month, to NIS 14 (\$4). Nonetheless, drastic price fluctuations continue to pose a major

challenge to market functionality, with 75 per cent of surveyed shops reporting facing this issue in November. WFP noted that “this price instability makes it harder for people to purchase and for shops to keep essential goods in stock.” Two-thirds of surveyed households reported difficulty in accessing markets, of whom 98 per cent cited a lack of cash and 39 per cent said they could not afford basic food items despite recent price drops.

- According to the Cash Working Group (CWG), Gaza’s financial and market conditions continued a gradual yet noticeable recovery throughout November, supported by improved banking services, expanded digital payment channels, and the entry of both humanitarian and commercial goods. The Palestine Monetary Authority reports that five banks are now operating through nine active branches, up from five branches in October. Banks have resumed opening new accounts, re-activating frozen ones, and issuing digital wallets, while financial service providers have restarted wallet creation. These developments are strengthening the digital payment ecosystem and improving household access to electronic liquidity. Average cash-out commissions have also dropped to 19 per cent, compared with 35-40 per cent in September. Between 10 October and 19 November, CWG partners delivered multi-purpose cash assistance to more than 93,000 households, which comprises about 78 per cent of the ceasefire response target of 120,000.
- Between 1 and 18 November, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners reached more than 530,000 people (106,000 households) with monthly general food assistance. In northern Gaza, between 12 and 15 November, food parcel shortages forced partners to alter rations mid-month and use contingency wheat flour and high energy biscuits, instead of providing each family with two food parcels (covering 50 per cent of daily caloric needs). Following the slight improvement in daily cargo inspection speed at Ashdod port, more food parcels have arrived, and starting from 16 November, the ration size across the Strip has been adjusted to two food parcels and one 25-kilogramme (kg) flour bag per family (covering 75 per cent of daily caloric needs), FSS reported. This is in addition to some 160,000 bread bundles and 1.4 million meals distributed per day, as of 17 November, through 18 UN-supported bakeries and 199 community kitchens run by partners. About 87 per cent of daily meals are distributed in central and southern Gaza, with the remaining 13 per cent in northern Gaza.
- Food consumption continued to show modest improvements in the first 10 days of November, according to WFP. About 10 per cent of surveyed households reported going an entire day without eating at least once during the 30 days preceding the survey, down from 20 per cent in the first two weeks of [October](#). One in four households consumed only one meal daily during the first 10 days of November. Overall, similar to October, households reported eating an average of two meals per day, up from one daily meal in July, and dietary diversity remains low, with access to vegetables, fruits and protein still out of reach for many families. Essential protein-rich items like eggs and meat remain scarce or unaffordable. This is also linked to the fact that commercial imports often consist of high-cost, low-nutritional-value goods, such as soft drinks and chocolate. To assess the current severity and scale of food insecurity and malnutrition across Gaza, a new joint Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis began on 17 November and is expected to conclude on 21 November.

Access to Health Care

- On 12 November, the World Health Organization (WHO) facilitated the medical evacuation of 19 patients, including 12 children, three women and four men, in addition to 33 companions. This brings the total number of patients evacuated since the ceasefire to 184 patients, including 117 children, 31 women and 36 men. According to [WHO](#), more than 900 patients have died while waiting for medical evacuation from Gaza, underscoring the critical gaps in access to life-saving care. More than a month into the ceasefire, WHO reports that efforts to rebuild the health system and facilitate evacuations continue. Over 8,000 patients, including more than 5,100 children, have been evacuated outside Gaza in the past two years, with 30 countries receiving patients in need of care, and 119 missions have been coordinated by WHO since May 2024. WHO called for additional support, as well as the opening of all evacuation routes, particularly to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. More than 16,500 people, nearly 4,000 of them children, remain on the medical evacuation waiting list.
- On 17 November, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in coordination with the Augusta Victoria and Al Makassed hospitals in East Jerusalem, [transferred](#) 76 patients, and their companions to the Kerem Shalom/Karam Abu Salem crossing for their return to the Gaza Strip. These patients had been in East Jerusalem since before 7 October 2023.
- On 11 November, the Health Cluster and WHO visited Al Rantisi and Al Shifa hospitals in Gaza city to assess progress in reactivating essential health services. At Al Rantisi Hospital, partners are supporting the refurbishment and resumption of Outpatient Department (OPD) services and inpatient care, with a capacity of 80 beds currently functional. According to the Health Cluster, significant repair work, equipment, and supplies are still required to achieve full operational capacity and resume suspended services. Required support includes an extra generator and solar systems, and a restored oxygen supply system to support intensive care services for children and neonates. Similarly, services at Al Shifa Hospital are being reactivated: OPD services and 300 inpatient beds are now available and five operating rooms and 32 haemodialysis units are now operational. To achieve full functionality, surgical care, advanced diagnostics services, emergency care, oncology and multidisciplinary in-patient services are among some of the critical services that must be resumed.
- The first round of the immunization campaign, scheduled from 9 to 20 November, is ongoing across 114 health facilities throughout the Gaza Strip, supported by 145 medical teams. According to the Health Cluster, a total of 7,119 children under three were reached during the first five days. Among them, 132 children (two per cent) received their first dose (zero dose), 1,799 children (25 per cent) caught up on missed doses, and 5,188 children (72 per cent) were vaccinated according to their schedule. Additionally, 355 children were referred for malnutrition treatment following identification during the campaign. Despite continuous population movements during the planning phase, partners aimed to maximize outreach and ensure no child is missed through a range of communication channels, including mosque announcements, SMS messages, motorized megaphones, as well as banners and posters displayed in key locations.

Funding

- As of 19 November, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.51 billion out of the \$4 billion (37 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of three million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. In October, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 135 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.7 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 63 are being implemented by international NGOs, 56 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 69 out of the 79 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



A toddler stands amid debris and personal belongings outside a tent in the Gaza Strip. Photo by UNICEF.

Humanitarian Situation Update #344 | Gaza Strip

27 Nov 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 3 or 4 December.

Key Highlights

- For the hundreds of thousands of children living in tents or amid the rubble of their former homes, the winter season is a threat multiplier, UNICEF warns.
- Winter weather is straining collective winterization efforts, driving additional emergency shelter needs and necessitating the evacuation of shoreline sites where on-site mitigation is not viable.
- During the first two weeks of November, reported acute watery diarrhoea cases increased by 13 per cent compared with the previous two-week period, while jaundice cases more than doubled, highlighting a continued deterioration in the state of public health.
- Since October 2023, more than 10,600 patients were medically evacuated from the Gaza Strip, WHO reports.
- A recent UNCTAD report finds that two years of military operations and restrictions have driven the Palestinian economy to a near-total collapse, plunging Gaza's entire population into multidimensional poverty.

Context Overview

- Over the past week, Israeli military strikes near or east of the so-called "Yellow Line" as well as areas of the Gaza Strip from which Israeli forces withdrew under the ceasefire agreement were reported, resulting in casualties. In areas beyond the "Yellow Line," where the Israeli military remains deployed (over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip), daily detonations of residential buildings continue to be reported and access to humanitarian assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land remains restricted or altogether barred. Access to the sea remains prohibited. The Site Management Cluster (SMC) reports that more than 17,000 displacement movements were recorded between 19 and 25 November, compared with over 34,000 movements in the preceding week. Most population movements continued from southern to northern Gaza, with some reverse movements and some movements from North Gaza toward Gaza city.
- In a press briefing on 21 November, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [reported](#) that at least 67 children have been killed in conflict-related incidents in the Gaza Strip since the ceasefire took effect, an average of nearly two children killed per day, and dozens more have been injured. For the many children with severe burns, shrapnel wounds, spinal injuries, traumatic brain injuries, or cancer (who have lost months of treatment), or those who need surgeries that cannot be performed in Gaza today, UNICEF Communication Manager and Deputy Spokesperson, Ricardo Pires, emphasized that "safe, fast and predictable medical evacuations are the difference between life and death and between recovery and life-long disability." For the hundreds of thousands of children living in tents or amid the rubble of their former homes, he warned that the winter season is a threat multiplier, noting that UNICEF is responding at scale, but a lot more can be done if the aid was entering faster. "Our colleagues in Gaza describe what they see every day from children sleeping in the open and living with amputations to children orphaned and trembling in fear while living in flooded, makeshift shelters, stripped of their dignity [...] respiratory infections are on the rise while

contaminated water fuels the spread of diarrhoea,” he stated, stressing that the stakes are incredibly high especially in relation to the entry of winter and shelter supplies.

- On 22 November, the Israeli military [reported](#) that its troops came under fire from an armed individual who crossed the “Yellow Line” in southern Gaza, in response to which it carried out multiple strikes across the Strip. On 23 November, the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza reported that 21 Palestinians were reportedly killed and 83 were injured in the preceding 24 hours. According to the [PCD](#) spokesperson, the fatalities included children, women, and older persons who were killed in multiple strikes targeting residential buildings and a vehicle over a two-hour period.
- On 25 November, according to official Israeli sources, the body of one deceased hostage was returned from Gaza to Israeli authorities, bringing the overall number of returned bodies of Israeli and other hostages since the ceasefire to 26. On 26 November, MoH in Gaza reported that the bodies of 15 Palestinians were returned to the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number of released bodies since the ceasefire to 345, of which 99 were identified.
- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 19 and 26 November, 65 Palestinians were killed, 217 were injured and 25 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 69,785 fatalities and 170,965 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 180 fatalities who were retroactively added between 14 and 21 November after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 347 Palestinians were killed, 889 were injured and 596 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 19 and 26 November, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,982 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 26 November, it is estimated that the bodies of two deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) [reports](#) that two years of military operations and extensive damage to infrastructure and productive assets have reversed decades of socioeconomic progress and development gains in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Against a backdrop of long-standing economic and institutional fragility, this has triggered an unprecedented economic collapse. In Gaza, per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2024 fell to US\$161 – among the lowest globally – unemployment rose to 80 per cent, and the entire population plunged into multidimensional poverty. Over 2023-2024, GDP shrank by 87 per cent, dropping to \$362, and 98 per cent of banks had ceased operations by April 2025. In a press release, UNCTAD [called](#) for immediate and substantial intervention by the international community to halt the economic freefall, address the humanitarian crisis, enable meaningful recovery – including access to healthcare, education, clean water and critical infrastructure – and lay the groundwork for lasting peace and development.

Humanitarian Access

- Between 14 November, when Zikim crossing was re-opened following a two-month closure, and 25 November, the UN and its partners collected over 19,800 metric tons (MT) of aid from three operational crossings, according to the [UN 2720 Mechanism](#). This is compared with about 23,500 MT collected from two operational crossings in the preceding 12 days and 18,700 MT during the corresponding period in October (14-25 October). Located in the north, the Zikim crossing is now one of three points for the entry of aid into Gaza and has been operating on an alternating offload-and-uplift schedule with Kissufim crossing.
- As of 25 November, more than 179,000 metric tons (MT) of the aid positioned across the region were approved and cleared by Israeli authorities for transfer into Gaza, of which about 71 per cent are food supplies, according to the UN 2720 Mechanism. The Mechanism further reports that out of 560 requests submitted for the entry of aid in October, 121 requests (24 per cent) were rejected as of 26 November. In comparison, 47 out of 438 requests (11 per cent) for aid entry into Gaza were rejected in September. The 121 rejected requests in October comprise more than 5,600 MT of humanitarian aid, of which 64 requests (nearly 3,000 MT of aid) were rejected on the grounds that the organizations were not “authorized” or “approved” to bring relief items into Gaza. The majority (50 requests) concern the entry of health, shelter, and water and sanitation supplies. The remaining requests were denied by the Israeli authorities either on the basis that the items did not fall within the “humanitarian” category, or because they were classified as “dual-use.” In October, such rejected requests included frozen meat, pesticides, vehicles, power equipment, construction materials, specialized machinery, and learning and recreational materials for children.
- Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for humanitarian convoy movements in Gaza, to crossings as well as in or near other areas where Israeli forces remain deployed. Between 19 and 25 November, humanitarian organizations coordinated 55 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 29 were facilitated, four were cancelled, 11 were impeded and 11 were denied.
- According to the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), based on information from the telecom operator, on 22 and 23 November, after repeated denials in previous weeks, the Internet Service Provider’s technical team was granted access to repair the severed main fibre line near the Erez crossing reported on 3 November. During the mission, the team identified three additional fibre cuts requiring repair. Two were repaired, but subsequent denials, most recently on 25 and 26 November, prevented full restoration. Coordination is ongoing to facilitate continued operator access, as the backup redundancy internet communication links remain fragile and further damage could trigger a full connectivity blackout in Gaza.
- On 24 November, the World Health Organization (WHO) [facilitated](#) the medical evacuation from Gaza of 33 patients, in addition to 109 companions. WHO expressed concerns “about the long delays patients faced moving from the Kerem Shalom crossing out of Gaza to Allenby [Bridge border] crossing, where, together with the WHO team, they waited over four hours before being allowed to

proceed, putting their fragile health at further risk.” According to WHO, since October 2023, more than 10,600 patients were evacuated along with over 12,000 companions. More than 16,500 patients, including 4,000 children, still require medical evacuation, as the advanced care they need is not available in the Strip. WHO called for additional support, as well as the opening of all evacuation routes, particularly to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and for movements of medical evacuation convoys to be expedited at crossings.

Growing Winterization Needs

- According to the Shelter Cluster, collective efforts to prepare for the winter season are under strain due to new winter storms, driving a cycle of renewed emergency needs. The UN and its partners continue to address widespread shelter needs arising from the 17 November rainstorm. Between 17 and 26 November, Shelter Cluster partners distributed UN-coordinated shelter assistance across the Gaza Strip, including more than 5,500 tents, over 71,000 tarpaulins, and more than 133,000 bedding items to more than 20,000 households. In addition, clothing vouchers were distributed to about 2,800 households. The Shelter Cluster estimates that 1.48 million people are in need of emergency shelter assistance across the Strip. Partners who can bring shelter materials into Gaza warn that existing efforts cannot meet the scale of need.
- Most people in Gaza continue to reside in a range of inadequate shelter types that fail to meet basic emergency standards, including tents, makeshift tents, and partially or heavily damaged buildings. According to the SMC, although the need for tents remains critical, structural conditions in some sites are such that the provision of tents alone does not provide an adequate or sustainable shelter solution. Where feasible, SMC partners are undertaking winter preparedness measures in displacement sites to reduce flooding risks, such as drainage improvements and sandbag reinforcements. However, according to SMC, most available flood-mitigation efforts remain largely ineffective due to severe shortages in the needed materials and tools over the past two years. In addition, many sites are situated in low-lying, debris-laden areas without drainage or protective perimeters, leaving them highly exposed and limiting the effectiveness of any on-site mitigation. Particularly, for the shoreline displacement sites estimated to be hosting 4,300 people and facing heightened flooding risks, discussions are underway with municipal authorities and affected communities on possible evacuation, as no viable on-site mitigation measures exist.
- On 23 November, the PCD reported that its teams had been mobilized, despite extremely limited resources, to respond to the anticipated impacts of the harsh weather, particularly for the thousands of displaced families living in tents and temporary shelters. However, PCD warned that the lack of fuel for its operations, compounded by extensive damage to infrastructure and public services, is threatening to deepen the suffering of displaced communities, especially in sites at high risk of flooding from rainwater or seawater surges. Gaza Municipality also reported that it is [facing](#) the winter season with extremely limited resources, including a severe shortage of heavy machinery required to address rainwater accumulation and sewage overflows. This is compounded by the unavailability of pipes, cement, and essential materials needed to repair damaged manholes and stormwater drainage networks amid extensive infrastructural damage that has increased the risk of flooding. The destruction of wastewater treatment facilities and rainwater pumping stations has slowed the discharge process and led to rainwater pools and flooding in several neighbourhoods and displacement shelters, especially those located in low-elevation zones.
- According to the Protection Cluster, winter challenges are aggravating deplorable water and sanitation conditions as well as privacy and safety risks faced by women and girls in displacement sites. In recent remarks, Sofia Calltorp, the [UN Women](#) Chief of Humanitarian Action highlighted the particularly harsh impact of the winter season on women and girls in the Gaza Strip. Calltorp reported that entire neighbourhoods lie in ruins and that women are facing hunger, fear, repeated displacement and winter conditions in makeshift shelters that offer little protection. Describing severe destruction and the struggles facing women, especially more than 57,000 who now head their households amid high prices and a lack of income, Calltorp said: "We arrived in Gaza just after a weekend of severe rain and cold. Women showed me how water soaked through their makeshift tents, leaving their children shivering through the night. This is what it means to be a woman in Gaza today: to know that winter is coming, and to know you cannot protect your children from it."
- Winter conditions are additionally exposing temporary learning spaces (TLSs) to deterioration, heightening the risk of further disruptions to learning and constraining already limited options for school-aged children, according to the Education Cluster. Between 14 and 17 November, flash floods caused damage to at least 38 TLSs in Gaza city, Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, affecting 103 tents and 10 latrines and preventing in-person learning for an estimated 9,528 students and 235 teachers, the Education Cluster reported. Out of the total affected TLSs, 14 TLS serving 2,500 students have resumed operations.* Over the past week, two TLSs have been newly established, bringing the overall number of TLSs as of 26 November to 305, serving over 155,800 children, or only a quarter of some 637,000 school-aged children. The Cluster emphasizes that the extent of damage has increased the need for more durable shelter materials and reinforcement of existing structures to maintain safe access to education.

Public Health Conditions and Risks

- The first round of the catch-up immunization campaign, conducted from 9 to 20 November, [reached](#) more than 13,700 children across the Gaza Strip. According to UN agencies, less than two per cent of participating children had never received any vaccines, while a quarter had missed scheduled doses, reflecting immunity gaps following two years of hostilities. Sustaining this momentum, 1.6 million syringes procured for subsequent vaccination rounds successfully entered the Strip this week, and UNICEF and WHO already have the nutrition supplies and medicines required to treat all malnourished children into early 2026. During the first vaccination round, about 500 children were identified to be acutely malnourished and referred to treatment, out of more than 6,800 screened children. To expand vaccine coverage, UN agencies [call](#) for the entry of additional cold chain equipment.
- According to the Health Cluster, Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) remain the most frequently reported conditions, accounting for 68 per cent of all reported cases in 2025. Moreover, overcrowding due to displacement across the Gaza Strip, a collapse of

water and sanitation systems and the resulting spread of infectious diseases have triggered an uptick of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) cases, according to the [Rehabilitation Task Force](#). GBS cases, a rare autoimmune condition affecting the nerves, have now reached 141, including nine cases reported during November. Three suspected leptospirosis cases are under investigation, of whom two are currently in intensive care. Leptospirosis is a blood infection caused by bacteria and is often called “rat fever.” No new polio cases have been reported; the Health Cluster reports that analysis of September and October environmental samples was negative for Polio, marking seven consecutive months with no detected cases in Gaza.

- Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS, Hepatitis A) are on the rise, reflecting ongoing public health risks of overcrowded shelters and poor access to clean water and limited hygiene supplies, the Health Cluster reports. In the first two weeks of November, over 25,500 AWD cases were recorded by health partners, compared with about 22,600 cases in the previous two weeks, constituting a 13-per-cent increase and accounting for 8.4 per cent of all reportable disease consultations. AJS cases more than doubled, increasing to 307 from 132 in the preceding two weeks. According to the latest WASH Cluster [assessment](#) between 17 August and 5 September, 63 per cent of households across the Strip did not have soap at their shelters.
- At least three Hepatitis A cases in community kitchens in southern Gaza were recently identified, according to the Health Cluster. Following this development, the Food Security Sector (FSS) highlighted the urgency of strengthening safe food handling and infection prevention and control measures across all cooking facilities. FSS is working with the WASH and Health clusters to develop a harmonized minimum infection prevention and control package, including hygiene items, cleaning supplies and water-testing consumables, to support cooked-meal partners in quantifying needs and advocating for the humanitarian entry of essential infection prevention and control supplies, many of which remain restricted for humanitarian partners, such as chlorine-based surface disinfectants.
- On 23 November, the MoH in Gaza [announced](#) that the Public Health Laboratory has been reactivated following its destruction during the escalation, enabling the resumption of many essential tests. According to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, testing has restarted for medicines, drinking water, wastewater, and a range of food items, including infant formula and nutritional supplements. Microbiological and chemical analyses have also been restored, with plans to further expand testing capacity once destroyed critical equipment is replaced.

Funding

- As of 27 November, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.6 billion out of the \$4 billion (40 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of 3 million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. In October, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 135 ongoing projects, totalling \$77.7 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (87 per cent) and the West Bank (13 per cent). Of these projects, 63 are being implemented by international NGOs, 56 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 69 out of the 79 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



An aid worker with patients requiring medical evacuation for advanced treatment not available in Gaza. Photo by the World Health Organization

Humanitarian Situation Update #345 | Gaza Strip

04 Dec 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 10 or 11 December.

Key Highlights

- Forty-two health facilities, including four hospitals, have opened or resumed operations since the ceasefire in Gaza, while 61 per cent of all health service points remain non-functional, the Health Cluster reports.
- Amid limited rehabilitation services and shortages of assistive devices, persons with disabilities face heightened protection risks during winter, particularly in overcrowded sites and unsuitable shelters, according to the Protection Cluster.
- UNICEF reports that two-thirds of children under five consumed two or fewer food groups in October, while winter conditions, overcrowding and rising disease risks are worsening vulnerabilities among children.
- Most of the debris in Gaza could be cleared within seven years, UNDP estimates, provided there is stable access, uninterrupted operations, and sufficient funding.

Context Overview

- Over the past week, airstrikes, shelling and gunfire continued to be reported across the Gaza Strip, with the majority of incidents occurring in the vicinity of the so-called “Yellow Line,” resulting in casualties. In areas where the Israeli military remains deployed, comprising over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip, daily detonations of residential buildings continue to be reported and access to humanitarian assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land remains restricted or altogether barred. Access to the sea remains prohibited.
- Over the past week, shifts in the yellow cement blocks marking the so-called “Yellow Line” have prompted new waves of displacement, particularly from At Tuffah and Ash Shuja'iyyeh neighbourhoods in eastern Gaza city to Ad Daraj, An Naser and other parts of central Gaza city. According to the Protection Cluster, coupled with winter weather, these compounding factors have disrupted service delivery, decreased community participation in planned protection activities, and heightened protection risks and psychological distress, particularly among vulnerable groups including children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and female-headed households. Between 26 November and 2 December, the Site Management Cluster (SMC) reported that more than 20,500 displacement movements were recorded across the Strip, including more than 5,000 movements from eastern to central Gaza city. This is compared with over 17,000 movements in the preceding week. While in the first month following the ceasefire, displacement movements were mainly associated with returns to places of origin, displacement over the past month have been primarily related to heavy rainfall and flooding. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 10 October, over 774,000 displacement movements have been recorded, of which about 639,000 were from southern to northern Gaza.
- On 29 November, the United Nations Secretary-General [marked](#) the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People by highlighting the horrific suffering in Gaza after two years of hostilities and the glimmer of hope that the recent ceasefire offers. The UN Chief emphasized that “all parties must work in good faith towards solutions that restore and uphold international law [...]

Lifesaving humanitarian aid must be allowed to enter Gaza at scale, and the international community must continue to stand firmly with UNRWA – an irreplaceable lifeline for millions of Palestinians, including Palestine refugees.”

- On 1 December, the World Health Organization (WHO) facilitated the medical evacuation of 18 patients from Gaza, in addition to 54 companions. According to [WHO](#), since October 2023, 10,620 patients have been evacuated along with 12,074 companions. This includes 235 patients and 708 companions who have been evacuated since the ceasefire. More than 16,500 patients, including 4,000 children, still require medical evacuation, as the advanced care they need is not available in the Strip. WHO continues to call for additional support and the opening of all evacuation routes, particularly to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 26 November and 3 December, 11 Palestinians were killed, 16 were injured and 20 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 70,117 fatalities and 170,999 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 299 fatalities who were retroactively added between 21 and 28 November after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 360 Palestinians were killed, 922 were injured and 617 bodies were retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 26 November and 3 December, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,984 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 3 December, it is estimated that the bodies of two deceased hostages remain in the Gaza Strip.
- Coordination with Israeli authorities continues to be required for humanitarian convoy movements by the UN and its partners in Gaza, to crossings as well as in or near other areas where Israeli forces remain deployed. Between 26 November and 2 December, humanitarian organizations coordinated 54 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 38 were facilitated, seven were cancelled, five were impeded and four were denied. At present, three crossings remain open. Kerem Shalom is used for both cargo and staff movements, including medical evacuations, while Zikim and Kissufim are used exclusively for cargo. Zikim and Kissufim operate on an alternating schedule: when one is open for cargo offloading, the other is open for cargo uplifting. Kerem Shalom is currently the only crossing where both processes can occur on the same day. The Philadelphi Corridor remains the sole route available for movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, as the southern section of Salah Al Din Road remains inaccessible.
- The rubble generated by the destruction in Gaza is accumulated in large debris fields, blocking roads and key access routes and limiting the movement of people, goods and emergency services. The [Debris Management Working Group](#) reports that Gaza faces an immense recovery challenge, with over 80 per cent of buildings damaged or destroyed. Debris also poses significant health and environmental hazards, often contaminated with explosives, asbestos, industrial by-products, and medical waste. According to [UNDP](#), clearing debris is hindered by several factors, including contamination with explosives and hazardous materials, restricted access to priority sites, inconsistent fuel supplies, and the need for permits from Israeli authorities to bring in specialized equipment. UNDP emphasizes that if these challenges are removed, through stable operating conditions, unimpeded access and adequate funding, most of the rubble could be cleared within seven years.

Access to Emergency Food Assistance and Nutrition Services

- Towards the end of November, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners further expanded food assistance across the Gaza Strip, delivering more than 1.5 million hot meals per day through 213 community kitchens, including over 340,000 meals in North Gaza and Gaza city and 1.2 million in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. As part of the November assistance cycle, nearly 1.4 million people (273,000 households) were assisted with general food distributions through 59 sites, and since 16 November the ration size has been increased to two food parcels and one 25-kilogram flour bag per family. Bread production has also improved, since the 1 December, with 19 UN-supported bakeries producing 180,000 two-kilogram bundles daily, complemented by about 370,000 loaves from one FSS partner.
- While market activity is slowly resuming, dietary diversity remains poor, with essential protein sources still largely unavailable or unaffordable. Limited cooking gas continues to constrain the operations of some community kitchens and bakeries. According to the [Global Price Watch – October 2025](#), released on 30 November by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), food prices fell sharply in October but remained well above the levels prior to October 2023. In early November, with the ceasefire entering its fifth week, families [struggled](#) financially due to a lack of cash, and many could not afford basic food items despite the drop in prices.
- On 28 November, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [stated](#): “With more than two-thirds of young children continuing to consume two or fewer food groups [in October], combined with limited access to health services, inadequate water and sanitation, and sub-optimal feeding practices, the entire under-five population of 320,000 children is at risk of acute malnutrition.” Despite increased access to services, major gaps persist, with winter conditions, overcrowding and elevated disease risks further heightening the vulnerability of children. Partners report that winterization supplies are being depleted faster than they can be replenished, underscoring the need for sustained, unhindered humanitarian access.
- While caseloads remain among the highest recorded and nearly five times higher than during the February 2025 ceasefire, acute malnutrition admissions have declined since August, reflecting progress in treating and preventing acute malnutrition among children in Gaza, according to [UNICEF](#). In October, Nutrition Cluster partners screened more than 102,000 children aged 6-59 months, reflecting improved access in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, but there were still limited services in Gaza city at that time, with only 6,000 children screened in the city. Of those screened, nearly [9,300](#) children under five years were identified with acute

malnutrition, including more than 7,300 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and about 1,900 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) who were admitted for treatment. Since the ceasefire, the number of acute malnutrition treatment points in Gaza city has increased from seven to 26, allowing improved access to life-saving services for children suffering from acute malnutrition, according to [UNICEF](#).

- Needs among pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) remain substantial. In October, partners screened nearly 45,000 PBW for acute malnutrition, of whom over 8,000 were enrolled in programmes for the management of acute malnutrition, according to the [Nutrition Cluster](#). During the same period, UNICEF [reported](#) that it distributed fortified high-energy biscuits to more than 13,000 PBW, multiple micronutrient supplements to more than 5,900 PBW, iron and folic acid to more than 6,700 PWB, and vitamin A supplements to over 15,000 children aged 6-59 months. These services help curb a nutritional decline among mothers and young children who continue to face displacement, food shortages and limited access to care.

Access to Health Care

- Health facilities and services have expanded to improve health-care delivery across the Gaza Strip, where 61 per cent of health service points remain non-functional, placing significant strain on the health system. According to the Health Cluster, since the ceasefire and as of 3 December, 42 health service points have become operational, all partially, including four hospitals, one field hospital, 16 primary health-care centres (PHC), and 21 medical points. These include both newly established and reopened facilities. Among the new facilities is a 150-bed, field hospital which opened on 19 November in Gaza city and is operated by International Medical Corps, providing outpatient services including prenatal care, non-communicable disease care, mental health support and physiotherapy. The inpatient capacity plan is to set up 200 surgical and non-surgical beds. The Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Al Shifa Hospital, with a capacity of seven beds, was also inaugurated following the completion of renovation works, according to the [MoH](#).
- According to Medical Aid for Palestinians ([MAP](#)), functional hospitals remain overwhelmed with critically injured and malnourished patients, as the entry of medical supplies has not increased in any meaningful way. For example, testimonies collected by MAP indicate that Nasser, Al Shifa and Patient's Friends Benevolent Society (PFBS) hospitals are facing severe shortages of essential drugs and supplies, including IV fluids, anaesthesia medications, and gauze, which are fundamental to keeping emergency and surgical services operational. According to [MAP](#), one of the most critical shortages is a lifesaving medication for more than 1,100 patients who rely on kidney dialysis to survive amid severe shortages of dialysis beds. Orthopaedic teams at Nasser and Al Shifa report being forced to re-use items such as external fixators for amputees, which can significantly increase the risk of infection and hinder recovery from limb loss. Diagnostic capacity has similarly been compromised, with only one functioning CT machine at Al-Ahli Hospital in northern Gaza, forcing clinicians to ration imaging to the most critical cases and disrupting MAP's own diagnostic referral pathways.
- The MoH in the Gaza Strip warned this week that severe challenges are threatening the continuity of specialized eye-care services, as extensive damage to diagnostic and surgical equipment has greatly limited surgical capacity and increased waiting times, while critically low stocks of essential ophthalmic medications have gravely affected thousands of patients. MoH highlighted that 4,000 glaucoma patients are now at high risk of permanent vision loss due to the lack of necessary treatment and limited surgical options. MoH urgently called for the immediate entry of specialized medication and diagnostic equipment to prevent further deterioration of eye-care services.
- According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services remains limited as health facilities in Gaza continue to be overstretched and under-resourced. Recovery is impossible without predictable access to medicines, consumables, fuel, and medical equipment, UNFPA emphasizes. Only 14 hospitals and 64 PHCs and medical points currently provide SRH and emergency obstetric care services, all partially. In parallel, the lack of adequate shelter, heating, and sanitation is creating severe health risks, particularly for pregnant women and newborns. UNFPA estimates that 40,000 displaced pregnant women are enduring overcrowded, unsanitary conditions that heighten their vulnerability and further restrict access to timely, life-saving care.
- UNFPA and partners are scaling up SRH services across Gaza to help meet these urgent needs. In November, eight medical points and PHCs providing SRH services reopened, with renovation work underway to re-open seven additional PHCs and the maternity department at Al Khair Hospital. To expand service delivery capacity, during November, UNFPA distributed [17 high-performance tents](#) to health partners, equipped more than 90 midwives with midwifery kits, and provided postpartum kits to more than 4,200 new mothers. During the same period, UNFPA delivered reproductive health kits to health facilities for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, management of postpartum haemorrhage, and emergency deliveries, among others. This has enabled 8,000 SRH services, including 500 safe deliveries, alongside the distribution of more than 450,000 units of essential maternal health medicines, consumables, and contraceptives.

Persons with Disabilities

- The number of persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip has grown significantly due to conflict-related injuries. In 2022, prior to the escalation of hostilities, MoH registered over [55,000](#) persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip. In September 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) [estimated](#) that nearly 42,000 additional people in the Gaza Strip have sustained potentially life-changing injuries that require ongoing rehabilitation and care, or about 25 per cent of the reported injuries between October 2023 and September 2025. According to WHO, a quarter of them are children. On 3 December, MoH in Gaza [reported](#) that there are at least 6,000 amputation cases in Gaza since October 2023. According to the [Protection Cluster](#), while persons with disabilities in

Gaza already faced major barriers accessing basic services before October 2023, the destruction of the health system, the loss of health workers, and the widespread damage to infrastructure have sharply increased these barriers and reduced access to essential care.

- In a positive development, on 2 December, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [announced](#) the opening of its Rehabilitation Hospital in Khan Younis, with an initial capacity of 100 beds, to meet the growing need of injured persons and other patients for specialized rehabilitation services. Hamad Hospital also recently reported that it has [provided](#) more than 100 people with prosthetic limbs since March 2025. Since the ceasefire and as of 3 December, Protection and Disability partners, through the Protection Cluster and the Disability Working Group, reached 140 people with prosthetics and orthotics for disability rehabilitation, 167 people with assistive devices and physiotherapy, 500 people with adult hygiene kits, and 45 people with specialized rehabilitation referrals. At least 38,000 people, including persons with disabilities, were reached with mental health and psychosocial support services and over 6,200 additional people, including persons with disabilities, were reached with intersectoral referrals for multi-purpose cash assistance, shelter tents and blankets, winterization assistance, and food security support. The response remains far from sufficient in meeting the scale of needs, the Protection Cluster notes, amid significant gaps in rehabilitation services and the entry of prosthetics and other specialized materials.
- With most people currently living in sub-standard, overcrowded shelters, most shelters and latrines are inaccessible to persons with disabilities, according to the [Protection Cluster](#). This severely limits access for people with mobility challenges, increasing dependence on caregivers, reducing wellbeing, and exposing them to potential risks of abuse. According to the Protection Cluster and the Disability Working Group, the situation is further compounded by extensive damage to roads and explosive hazards, which severely hinder movement and accessibility, further depriving persons with mobility impairments of adequate access to essential services.
- To effectively deliver medical, psychosocial, case management, and community-based services to persons with disabilities, the Protection Cluster underscores the criticality of embedding disability inclusion and universal (accessible) design in multisector programming efforts, including future reconstruction planning. The Cluster further highlights that the entry of appropriate materials to establish safe spaces must be fully facilitated, noting that partners have faced challenges in bringing in needed items, such as assistive devices, including materials required to repair existing devices. The lack of access to essential assistive devices significantly reduces the coping capacity of people with functional impairments, leading to heightened physical vulnerability and risks of health complications, loss of independence, psychological distress, social isolation, and diminished dignity, further marginalizing already at-risk people, the Protection Cluster warns.

Funding

- As of 4 December, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.6 billion out of the \$4 billion (40 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of 3 million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. In November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 128 ongoing projects, totalling \$73.5 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). Of these projects, 61 are being implemented by international NGOs, 51 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 58 out of the 77 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, , please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



UNRWA teams repairing water infrastructure in Gaza. Photo: © November 2025 UNRWA

Humanitarian Situation Update #347 | Gaza Strip

11 Dec 2025

The Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank are both issued every Wednesday/Thursday. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be published on 17 or 18 December.

Key Highlights

- Access to water has improved in Gaza owing to repairs to critical infrastructure and a near-doubling of water trucking by the UN and its partners.
- In anticipation of heavy rainfall and a deterioration in weather conditions, partners continue to identify displacement sites at high risk of flooding and prioritize winterization activities.
- Every week, about 15 women in Gaza give birth outside hospitals, without skilled attendants, according to the UN Population Fund.
- More aid must enter the Gaza Strip, especially aid that strengthens the health of pregnant and breastfeeding women, UNICEF Communication Manager stated, highlighting the harmful domino effect of maternal malnutrition on newborns.
- The Shelter Cluster estimates that fewer than 50,000 tents for about 270,000 people have entered Gaza.
- The UN and its humanitarian partners launched a US\$4.06 billion Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, allocating 92 per cent of the required funds for the humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip.

Context Overview

- Over the past week, airstrikes, shelling and gunfire continued to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in casualties, including in areas where the Israeli military remains deployed – covering over 50 per cent of the Strip – as well as near and west of the so-called “Yellow Line,” which remains largely unmarked on the ground. Detonations of residential buildings and bulldozing activities continued to be reported, including near the so-called “Yellow Line.” Access to humanitarian assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land in areas where the Israeli military remains deployed, as well as access to the sea, remain severely restricted or prohibited.
- Between 3 and 9 December, the Site Management Cluster (SMC) reported that more than 16,400 displacement movements were recorded across the Strip, compared with over 20,500 the preceding week. The majority (about 16,000) were from southern to northern Gaza, while the remainder were either reverse movements to the south or from eastern to central Gaza city. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 10 October, over 793,700 displacement movements have been recorded, of which about 658,700 were from southern to northern Gaza. In December, over 90 per cent of displacement movements to the north have consisted of families traveling in light trucks, SMC reports, noting that this trend is driven by overcrowded living conditions in Khan Younis displacement sites and lack of access to adequate shelter materials.
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 3 and 10 December, 19 Palestinians were killed, 70 were injured and 10 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 70,369 fatalities and 171,069 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 223 fatalities who

were retroactively added between 28 November and 5 December after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 379 Palestinians have been killed, 992 injured and 627 bodies retrieved from under the rubble.

- On 7 and 8 December, the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) reported completing the transfer of 146 bodies to the Forensic Medicine Department and other authorities for burial in official cemeteries. These include 48 bodies exhumed from temporary graves at Al Ahli Arab Baptist Hospital (including 25 unidentified), and 98 from Al Shifa Hospital (including 55 unidentified). PCD noted that dozens of bodies remain in temporary graves at Al Shifa, which it plans to retrieve in the coming days. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross ([ICRC](#)), many families still lack information on missing relatives. The organization is supporting health and forensic authorities in the dignified management, documentation, and identification of the deceased, so families can obtain answers and closure. Under international humanitarian law, the dead must be handled respectfully and their dignity protected, ICRC emphasized.
- According to the Israeli military, between 3 and 10 December, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,989 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. On 3 December, according to official Israeli sources, the body of one Thai hostage was returned from Gaza to Israel, bringing to 27 the overall number of returned hostage bodies since the ceasefire. As of noon on 10 December, the remains of one hostage is still in the Gaza Strip.
- On 8 December 2025, the UN and its humanitarian partners launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for \$4.06 billion to address the humanitarian needs of 2.97 million out of 3.62 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2026. Nearly 92 per cent of those required funds are for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over eight per cent for the West Bank. Bureaucratic impediments, access restrictions, and anti-UN rhetoric collectively constrain humanitarian space and the ability to operate at scale. The Appeal stipulates that genuine efforts to enable humanitarian assistance to and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) requires full compliance by all parties with international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, and critical changes to the operating environment.
- According to the Protection Cluster, the protection environment across Gaza remains extremely severe due to ongoing displacement, insecurity, and worsening winter conditions. Overcrowded shelters and frequent population movements limit access to services and heighten risks of family separation and exploitation. Flooding, heavy rainfall, and dropping temperatures further degrade unsafe living conditions, particularly for women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Protection partners report rising demand for psychosocial support and an urgent need for winterization supplies, dignity kits, accessibility improvements, and tents for overcrowded or female-headed households to mitigate risks related to weather and gender-based violence. At the same time, operational constraints – including restricted movement, damaged infrastructure and supply shortages – continue to impede service delivery. Despite challenges, partners are working to sustain coverage through mobile teams, community-based mechanisms, and targeted support to the most vulnerable groups, though growing needs continue to exceed available resources.
- The Protection Cluster [reported](#) that in November, 100 mobile protection teams, including emergency protection responders and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, conducted 46 joint safeguarding monitoring visits across Gaza, reaching 1,276 people with key protection messages, including on PSEA. The monitoring aimed to strengthen safe and dignified distribution practices, reinforce accountability to affected people, and address protection and PSEA risks at distribution points. Successful measures observed included respectful staff conduct, clear communication with beneficiaries, orderly crowd flow, accessibility measures for the elderly and people with mobility impairment, and supportive interactions between staff and affected people. Several gaps persisted, with only 17 per cent of sites having gender-segregated queues and more than half of distribution teams being entirely male.

Humanitarian Access

- While there have been improvements in the volume of supplies brought into Gaza, the ability of aid actors to operate at scale remains constrained due to insecurity, customs clearance challenges, the limited number of partners authorized by Israeli authorities to bring cargo into Gaza, delays and denials of cargo at operational crossings, and limited routes available for transporting humanitarian supplies within Gaza. In the two months following the 10 October ceasefire, according to the [UN 2720 Mechanism](#), the UN and its partners collected about 100,000 metric tons (MT) from Gaza's crossings, reflecting a 67 per cent increase in the volume of collected supplies compared with the preceding two months when about 59,800 MT of aid were collected by the UN and its partners. Of the total, 81 per cent was food aid, almost nine per cent were shelter supplies, and about nine per cent comprised health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies. The opening of Zikim crossing on 14 November, which has been operating on an alternating offload-and-uptift schedule with Kissufim crossing, has not yet resulted in a substantive increase in the overall volume of aid entering the Strip through the UN and its partners. Between 14 November and 5 December, the UN and its partners collected over 39,400 MT of aid from the three operational crossings, according to the UN 2720 Mechanism, which is comparable to the 38,200 MT collected in the preceding three weeks when only two crossings (Kerem Shalom and Kissufim) were functioning.
- Humanitarian convoys by the UN and its partners inside Gaza continue to require coordination with Israeli authorities to and from crossings and in or near other areas where Israeli forces remain deployed. Between 3 and 9 December, humanitarian organizations coordinated 53 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 35 were facilitated, three were cancelled, nine were impeded, and six were denied. Despite improved approval rates for humanitarian missions inside Gaza since the ceasefire, access denials persist for critical infrastructure missions, particularly those involving water and sewage systems and some health facilities. Over the past week, three such missions were denied: one to assess a wastewater treatment facility in northern Gaza,

another to visit a wastewater treatment plant in Khan Younis, and a third mission to assess conditions at Al Awda and Indonesian hospitals in northern Gaza. The southern section of Salah ad Din Road remains [inaccessible](#); however, on 8 December, an assessment and clearance mission was successfully facilitated to ensure accessibility for humanitarian cargo transport, in anticipation of a possible reopening.

- Livestock remain a vital source of food security, income, and transportation for many families in the Gaza Strip. According to the Food Security Sector (FSS), for the first time since August 2024 and after more than 15 months, some 3,500 veterinary kits entered Gaza on 5 December via UN coordination. During the first day of the kits' distribution on 9 December, over 130 herders received essential supplies to support the health of their animals, which will contribute to improved public health and safeguarding their livelihoods. Since 10 October, FSS partners have also supplied more than 1,700 animal herders across the Gaza Strip with fodder to sustain surviving livestock and enable the resumption of local production of milk and dairy products. Humanitarian partners continue to face constraints and challenges imposed by Israeli authorities in bringing into Gaza many agricultural inputs, such as seeds, organic fertilizers and irrigation systems, limiting the ability of partners to rehabilitate local food systems and enhance dietary diversity.
- On 8 December, the World Health Organization (WHO) [facilitated](#) the medical evacuation of 25 patients from Gaza, in addition to 92 companions. According to WHO, 260 patients and 800 companions have been evacuated since the ceasefire. More than 18,500 patients, including 4,000 children, require medical evacuation, as the advanced care they need is not available in Gaza. WHO stated that the increase, from 16,00 to 18,500 patients awaiting to leave, is partly because people, previously unable to reach health facilities due to the insecurity, are now able to reach hospitals for medical assessment and consideration for evacuation for health care outside Gaza. WHO continues to call for additional support and the opening of all evacuation routes, particularly to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Shelter and Winterization

- In anticipation of heavy rainfall and a deterioration in weather conditions this week, SMC partners continue to prioritize winterization activities, such as improving drainage, clearing pathways and providing empty flour and rice bags (repurposed as sandbags) to protect sites with existing site management structures from flooding. Most of the high-risk displacement sites lack any site management support or viable on-site flood mitigation measures, making evacuation the last-resort option once rain sets. More than 180,000 people in over 200 flood-prone displacement sites have been prioritized for evacuation, out of nearly 850,000 people at 761 sites considered at highest risk of facing floods, according to a recent flood risk analysis by the SMC.
- Families prioritized for relocation are living in low-lying or debris-filled areas along the coastline without drainage or protective barriers. Along the Khan Younis shoreline, more than 4,000 people live in high-risk coastal zones. Of these, around 1,000 people, those directly in wave-impact lines, are being prioritized for evacuation. The remaining 3,000 people will receive reinforced in-situ shelter assistance and other essential items, while also being advised to evacuate to safer areas. On 10 December, SMC partners supported the evacuation of 200 of the prioritized households to Hamad city, and planning is underway to evacuate 300 additional households. Furthermore, the SMC Cluster is working with the Khan Younis Municipality to operationalize two safer evacuation sites and preparation works are underway. Similar evacuation initiatives are ongoing in Deir Al Balah and Gaza city, where authorities, communities, the UN and partners are coordinating to identify suitable land and to ensure that affected families receive timely information to make informed decisions.
- In parallel, Shelter Cluster partners continue to distribute emergency shelter assistance, including tents, tarpaulins, bedding items, winter clothing and vouchers. Taking into account both UN-coordinated aid and bilateral donations, the cluster estimates that less than 50,000 tents (for about 270,000 people) have entered Gaza, of which nearly 40,000 tents (for 220,000 people) have already been distributed. As of 10 December, 1.28 million people remain in need of urgent shelter assistance, while aid partners continue to face major limitations in bringing into Gaza their supply pipeline. At the current pace, the Shelter Cluster warns that existing efforts cannot meet the scale of need. On 10 December, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [highlighted](#): "International aid organisations remain blocked from bringing in relief and nearly 4,000 pallets of shelter materials have been rejected. Gaza urgently needs heavy machinery, tools and shelter items to prevent catastrophic flooding."
- Recent rains have aggravated overcrowding concerns and poor living conditions facing more than 74,000 people sheltering in [over 100](#) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools-turned-shelters, including 85 displacement sites managed by UNRWA. Most of these sites are in Khan Younis and the remainder in Deir al Balah. UNRWA teams continue to remove water from flooded yards, clear blocked manholes and drainage collectors, repair damaged tents inside school compounds, and distribute tarpaulins and other materials to help families reinforce their shelter spaces against ongoing winter weather. Between 14 November and 8 December, UNRWA reached more than 82,000 households with winterization items, such as tarpaulins, blankets and winter clothes for children. Ongoing distribution of locally produced shelter materials, including wooden panels and metallic sheets manufactured in collaboration with private workshops, is helping UNRWA meet urgent shelter and education needs despite aid entry restrictions. As of 10 December, UNRWA has shelter supplies for up to 1.3 million people pre-positioned outside Gaza, but Israeli authorities continue to ban the Agency from directly bringing humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- According to the [Shelter Cluster](#), the first winter rains have made it clear that tents alone are not a viable shelter solution for people in Gaza. Since mid-November, heavy rains have destroyed thousands of tents. As emergency structures, tents offer limited protection from heavy rain, flooding, or cold, and rapidly deteriorate under prolonged use. The Shelter Cluster stresses the urgent need to complement emergency shelter assistance with a rapid shift towards transitional shelter solutions. These include repairs to damaged housing, upgraded emergency shelter kits, and the provision of stand-alone transitional units. All transitional shelter solutions require the large-scale entry of materials like timber, steel, tools, and tarpaulins, which are currently entering in insufficient quantities or are blocked from entry by Israeli authorities. The Shelter Cluster calls for unimpeded humanitarian access

and the immediate entry of shelter materials at scale as the only viable pathway to respond to emergency shelter needs, enable transitional solutions, and ultimately support a shift toward more durable shelter options for displaced people in Gaza.

Maternal Malnutrition and Health care

- Highlighting the scale of malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women during the war, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Communication Manager [warned](#) that the "devastating domino effect" of malnutrition will likely result in babies being born with low birth weight for months to come. Recalling a pattern observed as the war progressed, UNICEF noted that "malnourished mothers, giving birth to underweight or premature babies, who die in Gaza's neonatal intensive care units or survive, only to face malnutrition themselves or potential lifelong medical complications." In October 2025, 8,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women were admitted for treatment for acute malnutrition. "Low birth weight is generally caused by poor maternal nutrition, increased maternal stress, and limited antenatal care. In Gaza, we witness all three, and the response is not moving fast enough nor at the scale required," UNICEF stated, warning that low birth weight infants are about 20 times more likely to die than infants of normal weight. Citing MoH data, UNICEF said that in 2022, only five per cent of newborns, or an average of 250 babies per month, had low birth weight (less than 2.5 kilograms). By contrast, in the first half of 2025, 10 per cent of newborns, or an average of 300 babies per month, were born underweight. According to UNICEF, data shows that "the number of babies who died on their first day of life increased 75 per cent – from an average of 27 babies per month in 2022 to 47 babies per month between July and September 2025."
- UNICEF is replacing destroyed incubators, ventilators and other lifesaving equipment and providing supplements to pregnant and breastfeeding women, among other services. To improve the response, UNICEF Communication Manager [noted](#) that "more aid must enter the Gaza Strip, especially aid that strengthens the health of pregnant and breastfeeding women and equips hospitals with everything they need to save lives. This must be supplemented by commercial goods that restock local markets with enough nutritious foods, so the prices continue to fall. And the fear must end. This ceasefire should offer families safety, not more loss. More than 70 children have been killed in the eight weeks since the ceasefire began. The ongoing attacks and the killing of children must stop immediately."
- Women in Gaza are still giving birth amid ruins. Every week, about 15 women deliver outside hospitals, without skilled attendants or safety and one in three pregnancies is high-risk, according to the UN Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)). Only 15 per cent of health facilities offer emergency obstetric care, and neonatal units are operating at up to 170 per cent of their capacity, often requiring newborns to share incubators, UNFPA [stated](#). UNFPA added that about half of maternal and child health medicines are at zero-stock levels, family planning services are scarce, and screening and treatment for breast and cervical cancer have ceased. Since the ceasefire, amid significant challenges, UNFPA and its partners have provided delivery beds and cardiotocography devices, but some life-saving equipment, including five containerized maternity units needed to expand sexual and reproductive health services, remain outside Gaza and denied entry.

Access to Water and Sanitation Services

- Since the beginning of the ceasefire, the volume of water trucked by WASH Cluster partners has nearly doubled compared with the preceding two months, with a daily average of about 26,000 cubic metres (m³) of drinking water and more than 9,300 m³ of domestic water distributed, according to the WASH Cluster. Water trucking operations remain one of the most adaptable humanitarian programmes, as they allow for swift adjustments to provide services in new locations as people move and needs are identified, the WASH Cluster noted.
- The Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) and WASH partners, including [UNRWA](#), have repaired and carried out upgrades to critical infrastructure, thereby improving people's access to piped water and reducing reliance on trucking. According to the WASH Cluster, the increased volume of produced domestic and potable water is now serving more than 1.78 million people across Gaza. Among other accomplishments, CMWU, in cooperation with local municipalities and partners, have [completed](#) repairs of the Abu Sharkh well in Jabalya, restoring production to 145 m³ per hour for approximately 25,000 residents. Similarly, the Safa wells, serving key neighbourhoods including Az Zaytoun, Ad Daraj, At Tuffah, and parts of Ash Shuja'iyyeh, have been [rehabilitated](#) to restore an estimated 500 m³ per hour, benefiting 250,000–300,000 residents. In addition, CMWU technical teams have [upgraded](#) a key desalination unit at the South Gaza seawater plant, increasing production to 18,000 m³ per day, serving over 800,000 residents across southern and central Gaza.
- Notwithstanding these improvements, the WASH Cluster reported that many locations remain uncovered or severely underserved, particularly in North Gaza (including Beit Lahiya), parts of Deir al Balah, and Al Mawasi. To meet existing gaps, the cluster is re-directing water trucking operations to these locations, rehabilitating local wells and installing community-level water tanks to improve collection.
- According to the WASH Cluster, as of 3 December 2025, the wastewater level at Sheikh Radwan lagoon dropped from high to medium risk, with the increased availability of fuel and following the completion of emergency pump repairs and the outlet pipe to the sea by UNICEF and its partners. The lagoon has become heavily polluted with sewage and stagnant water over the past two years due to widespread destruction of wastewater infrastructure in Gaza city. While the lagoon levels are continuously monitored and pumping rates are regularly adjusted to inflow rates, the WASH Cluster cautions that in the event the lagoon overflows, this would pose significant public health risks, including the spread of water-borne diseases.
- Solid waste management remains a challenge, with the two official landfills still inaccessible, the entry of spare parts for waste collection points limited, and access to essential machinery (such as waste collection trucks) severely constrained. According to the UN Development Programme ([UNDP](#)), between October 2023 and November 2025, approximately 900,000 tons of waste have been generated and dumped in temporary dumping sites, but the rate of collection remains limited. Since the ceasefire, 2,500 m³

of solid waste has been collected per day, compared with a daily average of 1,300 m³ collected in September 2025, while an estimated 3,300-3,850 m³ of solid waste is generated every day across Gaza. Temporary dumping sites have been largely saturated, with many located in densely populated areas that face serious environmental and public health risks. Of critical concern is the impact of rainfall and flooding, which may spread accumulated waste into surrounding communities, contaminate water sources, or block drainage systems, thereby heightening the risk of waterborne diseases. Without sustained waste collection and safe disposal, public health risks are expected to escalate throughout the winter season, UNDP warns.

Access to Education

- Extensive damage to school infrastructure has forced a reliance on temporary learning spaces (TLS), with efforts ongoing to expand learning services. According to the Education Cluster, the number of TLS grew from 303 in October to 392 in November. Overall, with support from 5,180 teachers, TLS are currently serving about 220,950 students, or about 34 per cent of school-aged children in Gaza, the majority of whom are in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah governorates. One of the key challenges facing partners in further expanding TLS is the large concentration of displaced people in certain areas, such as Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis and northern Remal neighbourhood in Gaza city, with needs far exceeding existing TLS capacity. Moreover, many school buildings continue to serve as shelters for internally displaced people (IDPs), and widespread debris and the potential presence of unexploded ordnance in school yards prevent or significantly delay the use of those compounds for establishing TLS.
- To expand enrolment capacity, education partners continue to support the rehabilitation of classrooms and have prioritized the rehabilitation of 97 out of over 2,000 classrooms estimated to require rehabilitation. Since the ceasefire, 65 classrooms have been fully rehabilitated, including 44 in November. Additionally, partners continue to submit requests to Israeli authorities to bring into Gaza basic learning materials, including pencils, books and other essential items, amid ongoing restrictions on the entry of educational materials and basic learning equipment. In parallel, partners continue to support local initiatives to manufacture chairs and desks using available resources. Wooden pallets are being repurposed to create seating surfaces, while metal pallets – brought in through Member State contributions – are cut and welded in workshops to form desk frames. These efforts have already produced simple but functional desks, providing immediate support to learning spaces. Between early September and 2 December, 460 high performance tents have entered Gaza through UN coordination, some of which have already been installed as classrooms, TLS, or child-friendly spaces.
- Winter weather and flooding could compromise* TLS expansion efforts, particularly given that widespread destruction of drainage systems, infiltration basins, and stormwater facilities has significantly reduced the Gaza Strip's capacity to manage seasonal floods, the Education Cluster cautions. Based on recent geospatial analysis conducted by the Cluster, 13 TLS serving over 7,800 students are situated within flood-prone areas and 24 TLS serving more than 16,000 students are located between 11 and 100 metres of a flood-prone area, placing them at high risk of temporary closure.

Funding

- As of 10 December, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.6 billion out of the \$4 billion (40 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of 3 million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. In November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 128 ongoing projects, totalling \$73.5 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). Of these projects, 61 are being implemented by international NGOs, 51 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 58 out of the 77 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



Palestinian families receive winterization assistance in Deir al Balah. Photo by: OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #349 | Gaza Strip

18 Dec 2025

Between 17 December 2025 and 20 January 2026, there will be one Humanitarian Situation Update issued every week. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the West Bank will be issued on 23 December and the next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be issued on 30 December.

Key Highlights

- Severe storm conditions have resulted in reported deaths, flooding incidents that affected nearly 55,000 households, and the evacuation of 370 families from shoreline sites.
- Despite improved food access and restored operations, ongoing access and procedural constraints led to reduced food rations in early December to maximize coverage, the World Food Programme reports.
- Access constraints facing Emergency Medical Teams have eased, with denial rates decreasing to about 20 per cent, compared with 30 - 35 per cent before the ceasefire, according to the Health Cluster. There are 343 EMT staff in Gaza, including 73 international staff and 270 national staff.
- In a statement by the Humanitarian Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, UN agencies and NGOs call for the immediate lifting of impediments to humanitarian access and NGO operations.

Context Overview

- The Israeli military remains deployed in over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip, beyond the so-called "Yellow Line," which remains largely unmarked on the ground and where access to humanitarian facilities and assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land remain severely restricted or prohibited. For example, in North Gaza, out of six once functional hospitals, four are inaccessible: the Indonesian, Al Awda and Beit Hanoun hospitals are beyond the so-called "Yellow Line" and Kamal Adwan Hospital is immediately adjacent to it, according to the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)). Across the Gaza Strip, Health Cluster data indicates that 35 health facilities are located east of the so-called "Yellow Line," including eight hospitals and 26 primary health care centres (PHCs) that are non-functional while the Emirati field hospital in Rafah is functional but inaccessible. Detonations of residential buildings and bulldozing activities continue to be reported, including east of and near the so-called "Yellow Line." Access to the sea remains prohibited and the detention of Palestinian fishers at sea continues to be reported, including the reported detention of four fishers by Israeli forces off the coast of Khan Yunis on 14 December. Across the Gaza Strip, airstrikes, shelling and gunfire continue to be reported, resulting in casualties.
- Storm Byron, which struck Gaza on 11 December, resulted in widespread flooding, rain-related damage, and severe hardship for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians across the Gaza Strip. As tents were flooded, thousands of families have lost their temporary shelters or experienced loss of clothing, bedding and other essential belongings. Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) reported that their teams were able to evacuate some families from dilapidated buildings at risk of collapse and continued to respond to distress calls, mainly in relation to collapsed buildings, water leakages, flooded tents and the displacement of families. On 17 December, PCD highlighted that they had received over 5,000 distress calls, 17 already damaged residential buildings have collapsed, and over 90 sustained precarious damage. On the same day, The Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza reported that a total

of 12 people died following the collapse of walls and damaged houses and one child died due to hypothermia (a two-week-old child who died on 15 December).

- The Site Management Cluster (SMC) has activated daily monitoring of flood-related incidents across managed displacement sites to facilitate rapid, joint response to flooding alerts. As of 16 December, SMC partners had received alerts of flooding incidents affecting 132 sites, impacting nearly 55,000 households across all five governorates, with Gaza city recording the highest number of reported incidents, followed by Khan Younis and Deir al Balah. SMC warns that the overall impact is likely significantly higher, particularly in high-risk, unmanaged sites, with hundreds of thousands of people living in low-lying, coastal or debris-filled areas exposed to flooding. According to SMC, since 10 December, at least 370 families were evacuated from shoreline sites to East Hamad city in Khan Younis (see more information below).
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 10 and 17 December, 14 Palestinians were killed, 84 were injured and seven bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 70,668 fatalities and 171,152 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 277 fatalities who were retroactively added between 5 and 12 December after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 394 Palestinians have been killed, 1,075 injured, and 634 bodies retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 10 and 17 December, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,992 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 17 December, the remains of one hostage is in the Gaza Strip.
- No medical evacuations were reported between 9 and 17 December. In a press briefing, Dr. Rik Peeperkorn, WHO Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), [stated](#) that, according to Gaza MoH records, 1,092 patients had died while awaiting medical evacuation between July 2024 and 28 November 2025, noting that this figure was likely underreported and not fully representative, as it was based solely on reported deaths. More than 18,500 patients, including 4,096 children, in Gaza still require medical evacuation, while only 260 patients along with 800 companions have been evacuated since the ceasefire. WHO called on more countries to welcome patients from Gaza, and for medical evacuation to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to be restored.
- In November, over 57,500 cases were logged through World Food Programme (WFP) feedback channels in Gaza, including hotlines, help desks and chatbots. This is compared with over 44,400 cases logged in October through the same channels. According to WFP, the increase is likely linked to the scale-up of operations following the ceasefire, including the expansion or resumption of activities, in addition to the restoration of connectivity services by the telecom operator. Cases were predominantly received from Khan Younis (22,901), followed by Gaza city (17,029) and Deir al Balah (15,792); 79 per cent of all cases were reported by male callers. More than 80 per cent of the cases were related to food and cash assistance by WFP, including distribution schedules, eligibility criteria and assistance duration. Shelter-related cases, as received via WFP feedback channels, increased sharply from 1,240 in October to 3,630 cases in November. Most of these cases involved requests for tents and basic repair materials.
- Between 10 October and 16 December, the Cash Working Group (CWG) partners distributed Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to over 138,700 households, compared with 40,440 in September prior to the ceasefire. Each household received 1,250 NIS (approximately US\$378) in digital payments, in line with the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) transfer value. Cumulatively, more than 305,000 households in the Gaza Strip have received at least one MPCA transfer in 2025. According to the CWG, cash-out commissions continued to decline, decreasing from 14 - 16 per cent in late November to a stable 12 per cent between 4 and 7 December, marking the lowest level recorded in 2025.

Humanitarian Access

- Between 10 October and 16 December, according to the UN2720 Mechanism, more than 119,000 metric tons (MT) of UN-coordinated aid were offloaded at Gaza's crossings, of which over 111,000 MT were collected during the same period. Of the total dispatched, 55 per cent was via the Israel route (including through Ashdod and Ben Gurion), 30 per cent via the Egypt route, eight per cent via the West Bank route, and two per cent via the Cyprus Maritime Corridor. Humanitarian cargo coming from Jordan constituted about five percent of the total aid dispatched via the "back-to-back" modality while "government-to-government" modality remains suspended. As of 16 December, more than 172,000 MT of pre-cleared aid positioned across the region by 56 humanitarian partners are in the pipeline for transfer into Gaza, of which about 72 per cent are food supplies, according to the UN2720 Mechanism.
- Between 10 October and 16 December, some 9,000 MT of aid supplies were rejected by Israeli authorities for entry into Gaza, mainly requests submitted by local and international NGOs on the grounds that the organizations were not authorized to bring relief items into Gaza, items considered by Israeli authorities to fall outside the "humanitarian" category, or items classified as "dual-use." In November, such rejected requests included frozen meat, tropical fruit, biscuits, vehicles, power equipment, specialized machinery, multipurpose tents, and learning and recreational materials for children.
- Humanitarian convoys by the UN and its partners inside Gaza continue to require coordination with Israeli authorities to and from crossings and in or near other areas where Israeli forces remain deployed. Between 10 and 16 December, humanitarian organizations coordinated 47 missions with the Israeli authorities, of which 30 were facilitated, 10 were impeded, and four were denied, while three missions were cancelled. During the same period, heavy rain reduced the accessibility for convoy movements

along Al Rasheed Road, the Philadelphi Corridor to Kerem Shalom Crossing, and Al Rasheed Road to Zikim Crossing. The southern section of Salah ad Din Road remains closed, further constraining movement options. Overall, between 10 October and 16 December, 57 per cent of the 556 requested missions were facilitated, nine per cent were denied, 22 per cent were impeded and 12 per cent were cancelled. Missions requiring prior coordination with the Israeli authorities included cargo uplifts and monitoring; road repair works; search-and-rescue missions; assessment and clearance missions; staff rotations; medical evacuations and patient transfers; vehicle retrievals; and winterization distribution or assessments, among others.

- According to [WFP](#), while access to food has significantly improved, with WFP food operations and distribution networks restored across Gaza, “persistent access restrictions, inconsistent procedures, and sudden changes across all corridors continue to put at risk all the progress made.” This has led to reduced food rations in early December to maximize coverage, WFP reported. For the December general food assistance cycle, as of 15 December, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners have assisted about 550,000 people but had to reduce the family ration of two food parcels and one 25-kilogramme (kg) flour bag (which covered 75 per cent of the minimum caloric needs) to one food parcel, one bag of flour and 1.5 kg of high-energy biscuits per family (which cover 50 per cent of the minimum caloric needs). Calling for unfettered access to tackle winter hunger in Gaza, WFP’s Deputy Country Director in Palestine [noted](#): “We still have all the issues that we’ve been talking about for months and months – the logistical challenges, the fact we’re very limited in terms of the number of roads we can use, that we still have a very high level of insecurity, that bureaucratic processes are still impeding humanitarian delivery.” She highlighted that there are items that aid actors cannot bring into Gaza because they are considered “dual-use” items, such as tents with aluminium frames, mobile storage units, and spare parts for trucks.
- A [joint](#) international and Palestinian NGOs report on humanitarian access constraints across the OPT found that humanitarian access remains severely obstructed, preventing predictable and scalable aid delivery across the Gaza Strip. The report highlights that 73 per cent of the 37 NGOs working in Gaza and surveyed reported having vital cargo blocked from entering Gaza due to restrictions by Israeli authorities, with repeated rejections affecting both life-saving supplies (food, shelter, health) and essential operational equipment, such as generators, solar panels, batteries, and water filtration units. In addition, 25 out of 37 NGOs reported security risks arising from airstrikes or shelling near their operations, limiting their ability to operate safely. In parallel, 24 out of 37 NGOs reported disruptions caused by the presence of unexploded ordnance, further restricting movement and access to affected communities.
- On 17 December, UN agencies and more than 200 international and local NGOs under the Humanitarian Country Team urged the international community to take immediate and concrete actions to press the Israeli authorities to lift all impediments to humanitarian access and NGO operations across the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip. They warned that restrictive policies, including a new international NGO (INGO) registration system with vague and politicized criteria, are undermining relief efforts and risk the collapse of the humanitarian response. The statement emphasizes that many essential supplies, such as food, medicine, hygiene items and shelter materials, remain stuck outside Gaza, that dozens of INGOs face deregistration and forced closure by year’s end, and that the loss of NGO capacity would severely disrupt lifesaving services, including health care, nutrition treatment, water and sanitation, and emergency shelter, at a time when needs are acute and alternatives cannot fill the gap.

Shelter and Winterization

- Winter conditions have exacerbated safety risks linked to war-damaged structures and makeshift tents, leaving thousands of displaced families highly exposed to cold weather and heavy rainfall. According to the Shelter Cluster, since 10 December, 17 buildings are estimated to have collapsed and more than 42,000 tents or makeshift shelters are estimated to have sustained full or partial damage, particularly in 320 displacement sites and 43 areas, affecting at least 235,000 people. Rainstorms have additionally resulted in temporary disruptions to some humanitarian operations, such as the temporary closure of 16 community kitchens for one day and damage sustained by 35 safe spaces and service points for children. According to child protection partners, caregivers continue to report difficulties keeping children warm at night, rising stress levels and reduced participation in activities, while frequent movement in search of safer shelter is contributing to caregiver fatigue and increasing requests for additional winter items, counselling and access to safe spaces.
- Despite challenges, partners continue to bolster emergency interventions where possible, including through the distribution of a range of shelter items (e.g. tents, blankets and winter clothing) to families and hospitals, reinforcing fragile shelters with sandbags, supporting local authorities in the evacuation of families from high-risk areas, conducting repairs of water and sewage systems, and expanding efforts to pump accumulated water and wastewater. In parallel, all partners continue to prioritize assistance to the most affected families. For instance, based on Shelter Cluster referrals, FSS partners have distributed hot meals and/or high-energy biscuits to more than 5,000 families affected by flooding, including families relocated from the shorelines to Hamad city, in northwestern Khan Younis.
- According to the International Committee of the Red Cross ([ICRC](#)), long-term shelter solutions are urgently needed to address deplorable conditions. As weather forecasts indicate further heavy rainfall and colder northerly winds early next week, humanitarian needs are anticipated to grow. Yet, available resources continue to fall short of addressing existing emergency needs. For example, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Cluster notes that partners face critical shortages of jetting and vacuum trucks, sewage pipes, manholes and cement which are needed to further scale up support to flood-prone areas and repair wastewater systems. The Shelter Cluster reports that, as of 17 December, only about 1,100 tents of those that have entered Gaza through UN coordination are available in stock, while about 1.3 million people remain in need of urgent shelter assistance.

Access to Healthcare

- [WHO](#) is working to help keep newborns, children, and mothers warm and safe in hospitals and is supplying breastfeeding support items and materials for skin-to-skin care to protect pre-term and low-birth-weight infants during the harsh winter months. The

Agency further reports that needs are growing. Within the context of dire shelter conditions, poor access to water and sanitation services and winter weather, children under five, the elderly and people with chronic illnesses are particularly at risk of contracting acute respiratory infections, hepatitis and diarrheal diseases.

- According to the Health Cluster, between 30 November and 6 December, health partners carried out over 186,600 consultations, of which 20 per cent were related to communicable diseases. Acute respiratory infections (ARI) accounted for 56 per cent (over 21,700 consultations) of the total consultations while acute water diarrhea accounted for 31 per cent (over 10,600) of the total consultations. During the same period, skin diseases have increased to over 6,800 cases from over [5,700](#) cases the previous week. These included Chickenpox, ectoparasitic infestations common in overcrowded settings with limited access to water and hygiene services, and Impetigo, which is a bacterial infection common among children and often linked to poor hygiene and skin injuries.
- Severe weather has additionally disrupted health service delivery, with several facilities affected by heavy rainfall and flooding, according to the Health Cluster. At Nasser Medical Complex, for instance, flooding in the Internal Medicine Emergency Department required the temporary relocation of patients and services to the hospital's main building, placing additional pressure on other departments that are already overstretched.
- According to the Health Cluster, access constraints facing Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have eased, with denial rates decreasing to approximately 20 per cent compared with 30 - 35 per cent before the ceasefire. Since October 2023, EMTs, both national and international, have played a critical role in sustaining the health response in Gaza, deploying specialized doctors and clinical staff to fill staffing gaps caused by massive losses and displacement. They have delivered millions of medical consultations, tens of thousands of emergency surgeries, and trauma and non-communicable disease care. As of 17 October, there are approximately 343 EMT staff in Gaza, including 73 international staff and 270 national staff.
- Since 10 October, Health Cluster partners have supported the re-opening or establishment of 55 health service points across the Gaza Strip, including 37 in Gaza city and North Gaza governorate. Some tertiary-level services have resumed on a limited basis, including at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. Also in Gaza city, the International Medical Corps field hospital has recently installed 200 beds to function at full operational capacity, providing surgical, medical, pediatric, neonatal and maternal health services, with the ability to support up to 45 deliveries per day. Moreover, the Palestine Red Crescent Society ([PRCS](#)) repaired and resumed patient care at Al Quds Hospital, with four PRCS hospitals providing emergency and support services to a monthly average of about 106,000 patients, as of October 2025. This is in addition to tens of thousands of people assisted by PRCS through first aid delivery, clinics and medical points, and the distribution of essential relief items, including food, water, hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses.
- Overall health system functionality remains severely constrained, however. Only [half](#) of hospitals and less than half of primary health care centres are currently partially functional and face shortages of essential medical equipment and supplies. According to [WHO](#), although approval rates for supplies improved, the process of getting medicines and medical equipment into Gaza remained unnecessarily slow and complex. WHO also faced challenges in bringing into Gaza laboratory reagents and critical lab machine components, as many items were classified as “dual use” and denied entry. For a population of over two million people, there are still no functioning magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines in Gaza, WHO noted, emphasizing that medical supplies must be given a blanket approval to enter Gaza and be expedited so urgent needs could be addressed.

Funding

- As of 18 December, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.6 billion out of the \$4 billion (40 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of 3 million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. In November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 128 ongoing projects, totalling \$73.5 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). Of these projects, 61 are being implemented by international NGOs, 51 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 58 out of the 77 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



A Palestinian boy walks past tents during a break in the rain in Jabalya, North Gaza. Photo by OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #351 | Gaza Strip

30 Dec 2025

Between 17 December 2025 and 20 January 2026, one Humanitarian Situation Update is being issued every week. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the West Bank will be issued on 6 January and the next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be issued on 14 or 15 January.

Key Highlights

- Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza are struggling in makeshift tents damaged by rain, wind and seawater waves or damaged buildings at risk of collapse.
- So far in December, humanitarian partners have provided emergency shelter assistance to over 80,000 households.
- The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis finds that famine conditions have been alleviated but acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain at critically high levels.
- UN agencies continue to emphasize the importance of predictable and unimpeded access, increased supplies and sustained funding for a transition from emergency to early recovery efforts in Gaza.
- Solid waste management efforts are constrained, with waste generation exceeding collection capacity in several areas due to the lack of access to landfills, damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages, and restrictions on the entry of essential equipment and spare parts, according to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster.

Context Overview

- Humanitarian convoys by the UN and its partners inside Gaza require coordination with Israeli authorities to and from crossings and in or near other areas where Israeli forces remain deployed. Between 17 and 29 December, 86 humanitarian missions were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, of which 46 were successfully facilitated, 22 were impeded, and five were denied. Thirteen missions were cancelled by the requesting organizations due to operational, logistical or security reasons.
- Airstrikes, shelling and gunfire continue to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in casualties. In one incident, on 19 December, Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) reported that at least five people were killed when a school sheltering internally displaced persons (IDP) was hit in At Tuffah, in eastern Gaza city, west of the "Yellow Line." The Israeli military remains deployed in over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip, beyond the "Yellow Line" which remains largely unmarked on the ground and where access to humanitarian facilities and assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land are either restricted or prohibited. Detonations of residential buildings and bulldozing activities continue to be reported, including near or to the east of the "Yellow Line." Access to the sea remains prohibited. Between 25 and 26 December, about 150 families living in eastern At Tuffah neighbourhood in Gaza city were displaced to nearby areas following the intensification of military activities and reported reception of verbal evacuation notices. Some families remained in the area due to the lack of alternative shelter options.
- Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians continue to struggle in flooded makeshift tents or damaged buildings at risk of collapse (see more below), while winter storms are heightening the risk of cold-related illnesses and preventable deaths, particularly among children under five. On 28 December, the PCD reported that its teams recovered the bodies of a 30-year-old woman who

died due a wall collapse and a seven-year-old child who drowned in a well during the storm. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, so far in December, 17 people died due to the collapse of damaged buildings and three children died of hypothermia, including a two-month-old baby who died on 29 December. Earlier, a 29-day-old infant died on 18 December shortly after admission into Nasser Medical Complex, according to Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)). MSF teams report consistently high rates of respiratory infections, warning that these will only increase throughout the winter.

- According to the MoH in Gaza, between 17 and 29 December, 17 Palestinians were killed, 70 were injured and 47 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 71,266 fatalities and 171,222 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 292 fatalities who were retroactively added between 19 and 26 December after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 414 Palestinians have been killed, 1,145 injured, and 680 bodies retrieved from under the rubble.
- According to the Israeli military, between 17 and 29 December, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,995 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 30 December, the remains of one hostage are in the Gaza Strip.
- Explosive ordnance continues to pose a serious threat across the Gaza Strip. On 18 December, PCD reported that a child was killed by explosive ordnance (EO) in his family home in An Nuseirat Camp, in Deir al Balah. Highlighting the immense scale of EO contamination in the Gaza Strip, UNMAS chief Julius Van Der Walt [noted](#) that people are getting injured “simply by collecting basic necessities on a day-to-day basis.” The Protection Cluster’s [monitoring system](#) highlights that children remain particularly exposed to serious safety hazards, including explosive remnants of war, while searching for firewood and plastic in and around displacement sites. To mitigate risks and facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for humanitarian aid delivery, since 10 October, mine action partners have [responded](#) to requests for explosive hazard assessments (mainly in response to rubble removal efforts), supported inter-agency missions, and delivered risk education sessions to people and frontline humanitarian workers across the Gaza Strip.
- Following the release of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis on 19 December (see below), the UN Secretary-General [stated](#) that while famine conditions in Gaza have been pushed back and access to food has improved for many people, these gains remain “fragile – perilously so.” Emphasizing that humanitarian needs are growing faster than aid delivery, he called for a durable ceasefire and urged the need for “more crossings, the lifting of restrictions on critical items, the removal of red tape, safe routes inside Gaza, sustained funding, and unimpeded access – including for NGOs.” He also reiterated that international humanitarian and human rights law must be upheld across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and reaffirmed his support for UNRWA as an indispensable actor in the response.
- On 30 December, the Israeli authorities announced that they plan to suspend the operation of some international NGOs. In a statement, the Humanitarian Country Team in the OPT, representing UN agencies and over 200 local and international humanitarian partners, [urged](#) Israeli authorities to reconsider the announcement, stressing that international NGOs (INGOs) are essential for life-saving aid delivery.

Winter Storms

- The recent rainstorm since 26 December has triggered flash flooding, particularly affecting people living in low-lying areas, coastal zones, and those sheltering in substandard structures and tents. Seawater has once again inundated tents housing displaced families, including in the Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis, rendering many shelters uninhabitable. Many families, already vulnerable from displacement, have been forced to move to higher ground as their belongings were soaked. Heavy winds have further exacerbated conditions, destroying or severely damaging numerous tents and makeshift shelters. According to the PCD in Gaza, since early December, 18 residential buildings have completely collapsed, resulting in significant human and material losses, while over 110 additional buildings have sustained dangerous partial damage, posing an immediate threat to thousands of residents in and around them.
- According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, heavy rains have stretched the capacities of damaged and unmaintained infrastructure, posing serious risks to communities living near stormwater lagoons and sewage networks. Recent rains raised water levels in Wadi Gaza and Sheikh Radwan lagoon, demonstrating the critical need to ensure dewatering pumps can continue to function across the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) is implementing urgent and critical interventions to mitigate flooding risks and protect public health, but [noted](#) that restrictions on the entry of necessary equipment have forced a reliance on emergency measures. The WASH Cluster has [cautioned](#) that a range of preparedness measures for flood mitigation requires the urgent entry of specialized equipment, such as pumps, pipes and other electromechanical components, which continue to be denied entry, and a consistent supply of fuel.
- Between 21 and 27 December, Protection partners have provided approximately 10,000 people with integrated, life-saving interventions, including mental health and psychosocial support services, legal services on civic documentation, comprehensive protection support for released detainees, prosthetics and orthotics support to persons with disabilities, and cash assistance. These services include the winterization response, whereby Protection partners have provided clothing parcels, vouchers, and blankets to 6,000 people.
- Overall, since early December, Shelter Cluster partners have reached over 80,000 households (approximately 448,400 people), providing 37,740 tents, 127,860 tarpaulins and 94,980 bedding items, including to respond to weather conditions. These figures include approximately 7,000 tents distributed through UN coordination and other tents provided as bilateral donations and

distributed with the support of Shelter Cluster partners. In addition, almost 20,650 households were provided with winter clothing through in-kind as well as cash and voucher assistance. While the shelter gap was expected to further decrease due to sustained response efforts, the additional 65,000 households affected by recent rainstorms have increased overall needs; the Shelter Cluster estimates that over a million people remain in need of urgent shelter assistance.

Famine Conditions Alleviated, but Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Levels Remain Critical

- On 19 December, a new [IPC](#) analysis for the Gaza Strip found that acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain at critically high levels. The analysis noted improvement in recent months following reduced hostilities, early steps toward a peace plan, and increased entry of humanitarian and commercial food supplies. The IPC estimates that approximately 1.6 million people will continue to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) through April 2026, including about 571,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and approximately 1,900 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). This reflects a reduction from nearly a third of the population projected to face catastrophic conditions in [August 2025](#). The [analysis](#) additionally projects that through October 2026, at least 101,000 children between six and 59 months will suffer from acute malnutrition, including more than 31,000 severe cases, placing children at heightened risk of mortality. While this represents a decrease from the 132,000 cases, including 41,000 severe cases, estimated in August, nutrition needs remain extensive. In addition, nearly 37,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are expected to require urgent nutrition support by October 2026.
- The IPC analysis further highlights that prolonged displacement, inadequate food availability, poor dietary diversity, disrupted markets and constraints on humanitarian access continue to drive severe food consumption gaps across the Gaza Strip. It indicates that no children aged 6-23 months meet minimum dietary diversity standards, while [71.5](#) per cent continue to experience severe food poverty – consuming two or fewer out of eight food groups per day – down from 92.4 per cent in September, underlining the ongoing risk of long-term nutritional and developmental harm without sustained intervention. The IPC underscores the need for continued, large-scale food assistance alongside an expanded and integrated nutrition response, including treatment for acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation and support for infant and young child feeding. It additionally stresses that sustained, expanded, and consistent humanitarian access, predictable commercial supply and the removal of operational impediments are critical to preventing further deterioration and reversing current food insecurity and malnutrition trends across Gaza.
- On 19 December, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) [underscored](#) that while the latest IPC analysis confirms that famine conditions have been pushed back in Gaza following the ceasefire and improved access, the gains remain extremely fragile: "Humanitarian needs remain staggering, with current assistance addressing only the most basic survival requirements." UNICEF Director of Emergency Operations, Lucia Elmi, cautioned that "food is now in markets, but many families simply cannot afford to buy it. Health facilities are barely functioning, clean water and sanitation services are scarce, and winter is bringing increasing suffering to displaced people huddling in makeshift shelters. These fragile gains could vanish overnight if fighting resumes." Calling for decisive action, the agencies stressed that "[o]nly access, supplies and funding at scale can prevent famine from returning and help Gaza move from survival to recovery."

Access to Markets and Emergency Food Assistance

- According to the latest WFP [Market Monitor](#) covering the first half of December, food commodity prices remained largely stable across the Gaza Strip nearly two months into the ceasefire and markets have shown early signs of recovery, supported by the gradual resumption of commercial imports and a reduction in prices. WFP reported that, while most prices remained higher than September 2023 levels and beyond the reach of most people, significant reductions in the prices of nearly all key commodities were recorded compared with the pre-ceasefire period (early October 2025). For instance, egg prices dropped sharply across all governorates, falling to 40 NIS (\$11) for a two-kg box, frozen chicken was available at 30-35 NIS (\$8-9.5) per kg, and frozen beef at 60-65 NIS (\$16-18) per kg. In the second week of December, some staple foods have also been sold at prices below September 2023 levels, such as wheat flour, brown lentils and sunflower oil. A 25-kilogramme (kg) bag of wheat flour, for instance, was sold at NIS 30-40 (\$8-11), compared with about NIS 48 (\$13) in September 2023.
- WFP [noted](#) that high coordination fees imposed on commercial goods entering Gaza, often amounting to several thousand US dollars per truck, combined with damaged infrastructure and ongoing supply chain disruptions, remain key drivers of elevated prices for essential commodities, including meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables and dairy products. As a result, market access remains severely constrained. Three quarters of surveyed households reported continued difficulties accessing markets in the first half of December. Among them, 98 per cent cited lack of cash as the primary barrier, while 32 per cent reported being unable to afford basic food items despite recent price drops. Cash liquidity shortages continue to affect market functionality, with 85 per cent of surveyed retailers reporting insufficient cash, limiting their ability to restock goods or pay suppliers.
- Food consumption continued to show modest improvement in December, WFP highlighted, with surveyed households reporting an average of two meals per day, compared with one meal per day in July. However, one in four surveyed households continued to consume only one meal per day. Dietary diversity remains critically low, with households largely dependent on cereals and pulses. Compared with September 2023 patterns, vegetables were consumed on average only two days per week (down from six), fruits half a day per week (down from three), and meat or other protein sources only 0.7 day per week (down from three), reflecting continued constraints in access to nutritious foods.
- Despite a decrease in the percentage of people who rely on waste burning to cook, down from [55 per cent](#) in November, [WFP](#) reports that in the absence of predictable and sufficient gas supplies, people continue to resort to unsafe cooking and heating

options. Forty-three per cent of households continue to rely on waste burning, 54.5 per cent on wood, 1.5 per cent on gas, while one per cent have no cooking source at all. The Protection Cluster notes that reported incidents of fire hazards, linked to unsafe cooking and heating practices, have in some cases resulted in severe damage to shelters. In one incident on 19 December, a gas stove malfunctioned resulting in a fire that destroyed the tent of a widowed woman and her four children. Protection teams have since initiated fire safety awareness sessions in displacement sites.

Challenges Facing Solid Waste Management

- Solid waste management across the Gaza Strip remains a serious challenge. According to the WASH Cluster, since October 2023, an estimated \$66 million in damages have been recorded to solid and medical waste management systems, the WASH Cluster reported; this includes the destruction or damage of more than 200 waste collection trucks, 18 pieces of landfill equipment, five medical waste vehicles, two medical waste microwaves, 90 facilities and approximately 6,000 waste containers. The two main landfills, Sofa and Johr ad Dik, are located near the border and have remained inaccessible for over 24 months, forcing municipalities and partners to rely on temporary dumping sites. As a result, the waste collection system has fundamentally shifted: primary collection is now largely carried out using donkey carts and tractors, while secondary collection depends on a limited number of tipper and compactor trucks. Waste generation has increased from less than 0.4 kg per capita per day during the most critical phases of hostilities to an estimated 0.5-0.7 kg per capita per day currently, reflecting changing consumption patterns and population movements. This increase, combined with damaged infrastructure, continues to outpace collection capacity in several areas due to lack of access to landfills, insufficient fuel allocations, and restrictions on the entry of spare parts, waste collection machinery and other equipment.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports that since October 2023 it has supported the collection of more than 480,000 tons of solid waste - over 50 per cent of estimated total waste generated – currently serving about 1.4 million people with daily collection. However, collection capacity remains uneven. In southern Gaza, where there are eight out of the 10 dumping sites across the Strip, daily collection is broadly aligned with daily waste generation. By contrast, in northern Gaza, collection rates cover only about 60 per cent of generated waste as of the end of 2025, and the only available temporary dumping sites (Feras Market in Gaza city, and Al Khuzndar in Jabalya) are heavily congested and operating beyond capacity. This has resulted in continued accumulation of solid waste in densely populated areas, posing public health and environmental risks. To help mitigate some of these risks, a new temporary dumping site in the Netzarim corridor has been agreed with municipal authorities and is expected to absorb accumulated waste from Feras Market and other informal dumping locations in the north starting in early 2026, as well as accommodate ongoing daily waste generation.
- With the onset of winter, accumulated waste in flood-prone and densely populated areas poses heightened environmental and public health risks. Rainfall and flooding increase the likelihood of waste dispersal, blocked drainage systems and contamination of water sources, potentially exacerbating health risks and the spread of [diseases](#). Within this context, priority needs include tyres, batteries, spare parts, medical waste treatment equipment, pesticides and additional collection vehicles. While some supplies have entered Gaza, including eight tipper trucks, 55 containers, 92 tyres, and personal protective equipment for workers, and other materials are expected to enter soon including [11 tipper trucks](#), four compactors and two medical waste collection vehicles, significant gaps remain between current capacity and operational requirements, UNDP notes. Without sustained scale-up of waste collection, access to disposal sites and rehabilitation of waste management infrastructure, public health risks could intensify in the coming months.

Funding

- As of 30 December, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.6 billion out of the \$4 billion (40 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of 3 million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. Nearly 88 per cent of the requested funds is for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over 12 per cent for the West Bank. On 8 December 2025, the UN and its humanitarian partners launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for \$4.06 billion to address the humanitarian needs of 2.97 million out of 3.62 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2026. Nearly 92 per cent of those required funds are for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over eight per cent for the West Bank. In November, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 128 ongoing projects, totalling \$73.5 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). Of these projects, 61 are being implemented by international NGOs, 51 by national NGOs and 16 by UN agencies. Notably, 58 out of the 77 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).



UN team, led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, speaks with one of the families in Khan Younis as part of ongoing assessments to guide lifesaving assistance. Photo: OCHA

Humanitarian Situation Update #353 | Gaza Strip

14 Jan 2026

Between 17 December 2025 and 20 January 2026, one Humanitarian Situation Update is issued every week. The next Humanitarian Situation Update on the West Bank will be issued on 21 January and the next Humanitarian Situation Update on the Gaza Strip will be issued on 28 January. We invite you to take a moment to provide feedback on OCHA's regular publications covering the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank. You can access the survey at <https://surveys-kobo.unocha.org/single/fdgdslSC>. The survey is anonymous.

Key Highlights

- Heavy rains and flooding have rendered thousands of tents uninhabitable and placed nearly 800,000 people, almost 40 percent of the population, in flood-prone sites at heightened risk.
- UNICEF reports that over 100 children have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire, highlighting that children remain at grave risk.
- Humanitarian aid entry has nearly tripled since the ceasefire, but damaged roads, limited storage capacity and restricted materials continue to impede effective delivery, response quality and durability, and longer-term response.
- Improved food deliveries have enabled monthly food rations with full coverage of minimum caloric needs for the first time since October 2023 and a 70-per-cent increase in meal and bread production over the past three months.
- Nearly 500,000 children received child protection services between October and December 2025, while winterization coverage for adolescents remains extremely limited, at four per cent, including among adolescents with disabilities.

Context Overview

- Airstrikes, shelling and gunfire continue to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in casualties. The Israeli military remains deployed in over 50 per cent of the Gaza Strip, beyond the "Yellow Line," where access to humanitarian facilities and assets, public infrastructure and agricultural land are either restricted or prohibited. Detonations of residential buildings and bulldozing activities continue to be reported, including near or east of the "Yellow Line." Access for Palestinians to the sea remains prohibited and reports of Palestinian fishers being killed or detained at sea continue, including the reported killing of two fishers on 4 January and the reported detention of five fishers by Israeli forces on 6 January.
- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, between 29 December 2025 and 14 January 2026, 36 Palestinians were killed, 100 were injured and 26 bodies were recovered from under the rubble. This brings the casualty toll among Palestinians since 7 October 2023, as reported by the MoH, to 71,439 fatalities and 171,324 injuries. According to the MoH, the total number includes 110 fatalities who were retroactively added between 26 December 2025 and 2 January 2026 after their identification details were approved by a ministerial committee. MoH reported that since the ceasefire, 449 Palestinians have been killed, 1,246 injured, and 710 bodies retrieved from under the rubble.
- On 8 January, the Israeli military [announced](#) that a failed projectile was launched from Gaza towards Israel and [reported](#) to have struck Palestinian armed groups and infrastructure in response. The spokesperson of the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) [stated](#)

that multiple strikes were reported in the southern and northern Gaza Strip, where tents and homes sheltering displaced people were hit, adding that seven civilians, including five children, the youngest of whom was five years old, were killed. In total, according to the MoH in Gaza, 14 people were reportedly killed and 17 others injured between 8 and 9 January.

- On 13 January, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) [reported](#) that more than 100 children have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire in early October, roughly equivalent to one child killed every day during this period. These figures include at least 60 boys and 40 girls for which sufficient details were available, and the actual number of child fatalities is expected to be higher. Hundreds of children have been wounded. UNICEF Spokesperson, James Elder, emphasizes: "This is the time to turn reduced violence into real safety: open access for aid, massively increase medical evacuation, and make this the moment when the killing of children in Gaza truly ends."
- According to the Israeli military, between 29 December 2025 and 14 January 2026, as of noon, no Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza. The casualty toll among Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the Israeli ground operation in October 2023 stands at 471 fatalities and 2,995 injuries. According to Israeli forces and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,671 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed, the majority on 7 October 2023 and its immediate aftermath. As of noon on 14 January, the remains of one hostage are in the Gaza Strip.
- On 11 January 2026, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society [announced](#) the death of a detainee from Gaza while in Israeli custody. According to the Society, the 67-year-old prisoner was detained in November 2024, and his death was reported to have occurred in September 2025. As of January 2026, according to [data](#) provided by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) to Hamoked, an Israeli human rights NGO, there are 9,243 Palestinians in Israeli custody, including 1,293 sentenced prisoners, 3,328 remand detainees, 3,385 administrative detainees held without trial, and 1,237 people held as "unlawful combatants." These figures do not include Palestinians who have been detained from Gaza since 7 October 2023 and are still held by the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 13 January 2026, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) verified that at least 87 Palestinians (86 men and one boy), including 55 from the Gaza Strip, died in Israeli custody, with [documented](#) concerns about torture, ill-treatment, denial of medical care and restricted access for families and independent monitors. On 11 January, Israeli authorities reportedly [released](#) 12 Palestinian detainees, including one woman, who were transferred to Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah for medical examinations.
- Between 1 and 31 December 2025, the Protection Cluster, in coordination with the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network, deployed 100 mobile protection teams to carry out 68 safeguarding-focused field visits, reaching approximately 5,300 people across 21 aid distribution sites in the Gaza Strip. Since the ceasefire, these visits have reached nearly 7,000 people and [aimed](#) to monitor risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, assess adherence to safe and dignified distribution standards, disseminate PSEA and protection messaging (including information on complaints and feedback mechanisms), reinforce accountability to affected populations, and mitigate protection risks during aid distributions. Through ongoing training and technical support, the Protection Cluster coordinates over 500 emergency protection responders who support safeguarding, protection monitoring, and service delivery in Gaza, helping ensure protection services and the safe and dignified delivery of assistance for people in need.
- In the first 10 days of January, 10 classrooms were renovated to serve as temporary learning spaces (TLS) in Gaza governorate. In total, over the past three months, renovation of 76 classrooms and installation of over 100 high-performance tents have enabled further expansion of TLS for children across the Gaza Strip, the Education Cluster reports. As of 13 January, more than 6,300 teachers are deployed across 449 TLS, serving over 270,900 children. To maximize coverage, and in line with minimum standards agreed with the Ministry of Education (MoE), each TLS operates two daily shifts (morning and evening) and two three-day rotations per week. However, the restoration of learning continues to face critical challenges that limit overall coverage; only about 42 per cent of Gaza's school-aged population is enrolled in TLS for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- On 2 January, the UN Secretary-General [expressed](#) deep concern over the Israeli authorities' announcement to suspend the operations of several international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and called for the measure to be reversed, stressing the essential role of INGOs in delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance. Separately, 53 INGOs [warned](#) that recent registration measures, including notifications to 37 INGOs that their registrations would expire at the end of 2025, could force organizations to cease operations within 60 days, potentially causing significant disruptions to humanitarian assistance at a time of extreme needs, despite the ceasefire. INGOs deliver more than half of food assistance in Gaza, support about 60 per cent of field hospitals, implement three quarters of shelter and non-food item activities, and provide all treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition. The suspension of their operations would substantially reduce the reach and continuity of life-saving services and undermine coordinated humanitarian response efforts and local partnerships.

Humanitarian Access

- On 11 January, for the first time since 7 October, a patient from Gaza in need of life-saving treatment was reportedly permitted to [travel](#) to the West Bank for urgent care, following a Jerusalem District Court ruling. On 5 January 2026, 18 patients and 36 accompanying persons were [evacuated](#) to Jordan for trauma care and treatment for cancer, gastrointestinal, renal, immunological, and other serious conditions. In 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) facilitated the [medical evacuation](#) of 2,718 patients from the Gaza Strip for treatment abroad, out of more than 10,700 evacuated since October 2023 for specialized care in over 30 countries. Half of the evacuated patients were children (1,368), 30 per cent were men (805), and 20 per cent were women (545). The largest category of evacuated patients were trauma cases (29 per cent), followed by cancer patients (24 per cent). Sixty-one per cent of patients (1,673) were evacuated during the ceasefire period between 19 January and 17 March 2025 via Rafah Crossing, which has remained otherwise closed, and the rest were evacuated via Kerem Shalom Crossing. More than 18,500 patients in Gaza, including about 4,000 children, continue to urgently require medical evacuation, and WHO continues to [call](#) on additional countries to receive patients from Gaza and for evacuations to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to be restored. In November 2025, five human rights organizations [petitioned](#) Israel's High Court of Justice to immediately resume

medical evacuations from Gaza to hospitals in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, citing the near-collapse of Gaza's health system and the risk of preventable deaths.

- According to the [UN 2720 Mechanism](#), three months into the ceasefire, more than 164,000 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian aid were collected by the UN and its partners from Gaza's crossings, including nearly 19,000 MT in the first 10 days of January. This is a monthly average of about 54,000 MT, nearly three times the monthly average collected between 19 May 2025, when limited aid entry resumed after a 78-day blockade on the entry of supplies into Gaza, and the 10 October ceasefire. During the ceasefire period, reported incidents of looting declined significantly, with the last incident reported on 6 November 2025. While three crossings are operational, 74 per cent of aid (121,100 MT) was collected from Kerem Shalom Crossing. Zikim Crossing, which has allowed for direct aid entry into northern Gaza since 12 November 2025, is open three days per week. Aid continues to arrive via Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Cyprus, with the Israel route (including Ashdod port and Ben Gurion airport) accounting for 55 per cent of [offloaded](#) aid over the past three months.
- Marking continued efforts to improve food security in Gaza, Food Security Sector (FSS) partners report that, in January 2026* and for the first time since October 2023, stocks are sufficient to provide monthly food rations covering 100 per cent of minimum caloric needs of a household. As of 11 January, more than 86,000 households have received two food parcels and two 25-kilogramme bags of flour, supported by continuous food truck deliveries, particularly food parcels. Despite progress, operational challenges remain, notably fuel shortages affecting all partners. As of 10 January 2026, partners report the daily provision of about 1.6 million meals through 190 kitchens, alongside the production of about 170,000 two-kilogramme bread bundles. One third of bread bundles are distributed free in more than 400 shelters and two thirds are sold at a subsidized price of 3 NIS (US\$0.32) through a retailer network, which has expanded to 146 shops in January 2026 from 118 in December 2025. This represents a nearly 70 per cent increase in cooked meal and bread production over the past three months, up from 954,000 meals through 177 kitchens and over 100,000 bread bundles [produced](#) daily as of 11 October 2025.
- While humanitarian truck deliveries have improved and food prices remained broadly stable, data from the Gaza Chamber of Commerce and Industry cited by the World Food Programme (WFP) in the December [Market Monitor](#) indicate that commercial truck entries declined by 25 per cent between 1 and 28 December compared with November. According to WFP, sustained commercial imports are critical to increase the diversity of food and other essential items on local markets, complementing humanitarian assistance, supporting supply continuity, and helping to reduce prices.
- Humanitarian movements inside Gaza continue to require coordination with Israeli authorities to and from crossings and in or near other areas where Israeli forces remain deployed. Between 30 December 2025 and 12 January 2026, 78 humanitarian missions were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, of which 43 were successfully facilitated, 19 were impeded, 12 were denied and four were cancelled by the requesting organizations due to operational, logistical or security reasons. In December, 56 per cent of coordinated movements (121 out of 217) were related to the collection of cargo from operational crossings (Kerem Shalom, Zikim and Kissufim), in addition to 10 road repair, assessment and debris-clearing missions to facilitate humanitarian and commercial truck movements.
- According to the Logistics Cluster, aid collection operations and onward delivery of aid continue to face multiple constraints, including limited access routes, road congestion and deterioration of road conditions due to adverse weather. These challenges hinder efficient movement planning, cause significant operational delays, and increase operational costs. WFP reports that road [access](#) remains extremely fragile; the southern section of Salah ad Din Road remains inaccessible and the coastal road is currently the only viable route for both humanitarian and commercial truck movements into Gaza and has sustained heavy damage during hostilities. Recent heavy rains have further degraded the road, increasing the risk of disruptions amid high daily truck volumes. WFP teams are undertaking emergency road repairs using basic equipment to prevent the route from becoming impassable, as any prolonged closure would severely disrupt humanitarian assistance and commercial supply flows.
- As of December 2025, the [Logistics Cluster](#) consolidated information from 20 humanitarian organizations on their warehouse capacity across Gaza. A total storage capacity of 183,594 square metres (m²) was reported, of which 101,494 m² (55 per cent) across 77 warehouses is operational, while 82,100 m² (45 per cent) across 10 warehouses remains non-operational due to access constraints and infrastructure damage. While the December mapping shows incremental improvements compared with [October](#), largely due to improved access and repair works, overall capacity remains insufficient and unevenly distributed across locations. Rafah governorate continues to have no operational humanitarian warehouses, while North Gaza faces critically limited functional storage capacity. Overall, limited capacity, geographic imbalances, and access restrictions continue to constrain the scale-up and pre-positioning of humanitarian assistance.

Winter Storms

- Rain and stormy weather conditions persisted into the new year, worsening emergency shelter needs amid an already fragile shelter situation and limited access to heating. Nearly the entire population remains displaced, many multiple times, and more than one million people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter assistance. According to the [Shelter](#) and Site Management clusters, storm impacts include tents being blown away, fabric tearing, structural failures under wind and water loads, and widespread flooding of displacement sites due to poor drainage and low-lying terrain, rendering thousands of tents uninhabitable. Since early December, humanitarian partners have reached about 128,000 households with tents and other shelter and non-food items brought into Gaza through UN Coordination or bilateral channels and have supported the relocation of 821 families, mainly from the shoreline and damaged buildings, in Khan Younis.
- In response to forecast heavy rainfall, humanitarian partners have issued flood alerts for high-risk areas, particularly low-lying and coastal displacement sites. Based on pre-winter flood-risk mapping, the Site Management Cluster (SMC) estimates that nearly 795,000 people (almost 40 per cent of the population) are sheltering across 761 displacement sites located in flood-prone areas,

with coastal communities among the hardest hit as families pitch makeshift shelters on low, sandy land vulnerable to flooding from both rainfall and the sea. The cluster further notes that, prior to winter, some 4,400 families (24,500 people) were estimated to be living in high-risk coastal areas; while efforts were made to relocate the most vulnerable (see above), limited availability of safe land has meant that many families remain in exposed locations, including sites located directly on the beach.

- The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) [reports](#) that winter conditions are intensifying hardship, with families sheltering in flooded tents, newborns facing heightened risk of hypothermia, and pregnant women lacking safe spaces to rest or give birth, and has called for an urgent scale-up of assistance to protect health and support women and girls. According to the MoH in Gaza, between 1 December 2025 and 14 January 2026, seven children died of hypothermia, including four since the beginning of 2026. As rainwater has mixed with sewage, on 8 January 2026, Save the Children [highlighted](#) the especially severe impact flooding has had on children, leaving them exposed to water-borne diseases, such as hepatitis, diarrhoea and gastroenteritis. According to the [Health Cluster](#), between 14 and 27 December, health partners carried out over 365,000 consultations, of which more than 21 per cent were related to communicable diseases. Of those, acute respiratory infections (ARI) accounted for over 56 per cent (some 43,600 consultations), while acute watery diarrhoea accounted for over 23 per cent (about 18,000), including 10 per cent among children under five.
- With no viable alternatives, people in Gaza remain in structurally compromised buildings, where recurrent rainstorms and winds significantly increase the risk of collapse. According to the MoH in Gaza, 25 people, including children, died since mid-December due to the collapse of previously damaged buildings due to weather conditions. PCD reported that on 5 January, a four-storey building collapsed in Al Maghazi Camp, in Deir al Balah, killing two Palestinians, including a man and his eight-year-old son and injuring five other Palestinians. According to the Shelter Cluster, as of 13 January, 67 inhabited buildings have been identified as being at risk of collapse in Gaza city. While no preventive evacuations have yet taken place due to severe space and land availability constraints, the Shelter Cluster has allocated tents for the affected families, and coordination with the local municipality on potential evacuations is ongoing.
- Additional storms are expected, but humanitarian partners remain limited to short-term, emergency fixes and are unable to implement sustainable flood-mitigation or recovery measures and families have limited supplies to winterize or rebuild shelters. This is due to the restricted entry of shelter and site-improvement materials, including drainage equipment (e.g. pumps, drainage pipes), heaters and solar equipment, and reconstruction items (e.g. cement, timber), many of which are classified as “dual-use” items, the Shelter and Site Management clusters report. Without these, displacement sites flood repeatedly, and shelters must be replaced. Over the past two years, SMC partners have been unable to bring in sufficient quantities or types of materials to carry out even basic site preparation, relying instead on improvised solutions, such as flour sacks repurposed as sandbags. Challenges are compounded by shortages of fuel, heaters and solar lights and by extremely limited safe, dry land for new displacement sites, as displaced populations are now effectively confined to less than half of the Gaza Strip. The Shelter Cluster [emphasizes](#) that tents cannot continue to serve as the primary shelter modality, and there is an urgent need to accelerate the transition to more durable and context-appropriate shelter solutions, alongside essential site-level interventions such as drainage, communal heating spaces, and solar lighting to improve safety and mobility at night.

Child Protection: Adolescents Face Heightened Risks

- Over one million children under 18 years of age in Gaza are estimated to require child protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), including more than 58,000 children who have lost one or both parents, according to [UNICEF](#). Amid widespread destruction and significantly weakened protective environments and coping capacities, economic hardship has worsened, forcing one in four families to resort to hazardous and exploitative child labour, including children as young as six. In this context, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) led by UNICEF cautions that adolescents aged 11–17 years, including adolescents with disabilities, face heightened and distinct risks amid limited structured activities and age-appropriate support. Underscoring these protection, accessibility and inclusion risks, a [situational analysis](#) commissioned by the Global Disability Fund on persons with disabilities in the OPT highlights that over 25 per cent of those injured in Gaza are expected to have long-term disabilities, and that more than 5,000 children have already been identified as requiring life-long rehabilitation.
- Between 1 October and 31 December 2025, Child Protection partners reached nearly half-a-million children with a range of child protection services, including winterization support, distributing over 311,000 winter clothing sets, 112,000 pairs of shoes, 747,000 blankets, as well as thousands of mattresses, mats, plastic tarpaulins and family tents. At approximately 180 child-friendly spaces (CFS) and safe spaces, including 150 high-performance tents installed during the same period, partners delivered a range of services, including psychological first aid, counselling, group and individual sessions and recreational activities. However, funding constraints and insufficient supplies have limited the ability of partners to adequately expand services to address the needs of all children, including adolescents. These challenges were compounded by severe winter weather that caused damage to 40 CFS, interrupting MHPSS and protection services. As of 31 December 2025, according to the Child Protection AoR, humanitarian partners received only about 24 per cent of the funding (US\$29.6 million out of US\$121.2 million) requested under the [2025 Flash Appeal](#) to address child protection needs in the Gaza Strip.
- Child Protection partners estimate, based on available information, that only about four per cent of adolescents between 11 and 17 years of age in Gaza were reached through household-level winter distributions, leaving the vast majority of this age group unserved – this is approximately 15,000 out of an estimated 400,000 adolescents, all of whom are assessed to require winter support. Coverage gaps affect both girls and boys, with additional barriers affecting adolescents with disabilities, such as mobility constraints, lack of adapted items, and limited inclusive programming. Analysis further [indicates](#) that the widespread loss of assistive devices has significantly restricted access to services and humanitarian assistance for persons with disabilities, including adolescents. During the first two months of the ceasefire, humanitarian partners [distributed](#) assistive devices to 467 children.

- To mitigate winter-related and protection risks affecting adolescents, Child Protection partners aim to scale up targeted, age-appropriate interventions, including: adolescent-focused MHPSS addressing stress, anger, trauma and risk-taking behaviours; life-skills, peer support, and peer-to-peer learning activities to strengthen positive coping and social cohesion; vocational orientation and skills-building initiatives, where feasible; expanded outreach and mobile programming for adolescents who do not regularly access CFS; and strengthened community-based awareness and protective presence, including engagement around risky behaviours such as unsafe street activities. However, partners warn that without additional and dedicated funding, these adolescent-specific interventions will remain limited in scale, leaving a significant proportion of adolescents without adequate protection, psychosocial support, and winter assistance during the current season and beyond.

Funding

- As of 14 January, Member States disbursed approximately \$1.7 billion out of the \$4 billion (41 per cent) requested to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of 3 million out of 3.3 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the 2025 Flash Appeal for the OPT. On 8 December 2025, the UN and its humanitarian partners launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for \$4.06 billion to address the humanitarian needs of 2.97 million out of 3.62 million people identified as requiring assistance in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2026. Nearly 92 per cent of those required funds are for the humanitarian response in Gaza, with just over eight per cent for the West Bank. In December, the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed 111 ongoing projects, totalling \$61.1 million, to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). Of these projects, 54 are being implemented by international NGOs, 44 by national NGOs and 13 by UN agencies. Notably, 48 out of the 67 projects implemented by international NGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. For more information, please see OCHA's Financial Tracking Service [webpage](#) and the oPt HF [webpage](#).