

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

|                                 |                                                                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>               | <b>835</b>                                                                |
| Land:                           | Gaza-Vestbredden                                                          |
| Kilde:                          | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) |
| Titel:                          | Humanitarian Situation Update 174 og 205-217 – Gaza Strip                 |
| Udgivet:                        | 3. juni – 16. august 2024                                                 |
| Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet: | 25. september 2024                                                        |
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Youssef (13) carrying bread for his family in Al Mawasi. Photo by UNICEF

# Humanitarian Situation Update #174 | Gaza Strip

03 Jun 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The “Humanitarian Situation Update” is a rebranding of the “Flash Update”. The next Humanitarian Situation Update will be published on 5 June, and the next Humanitarian Response Update will be published on 12 June.*

## Key Highlights

- Treatment of more than 3,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition is at risk of interruption if nutrition supplies are not distributed, UNICEF warns.
- No bakeries are currently functional in Rafah and public health concerns are beyond crisis levels in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, according to the World Food Programme.
- The Emergency Committee for North Gaza municipalities declared Jabalya town, Jabalya Refugee Camp, Beit Lahya and Beit Hanoun as “disaster zones.”
- Humanitarian space continues to further shrink, report UNRWA and the Protection Cluster.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land, and sea continues to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground incursions and heavy fighting also continue to be reported, particularly in Rafah. Intensified hostilities following the issuance of evacuation orders and the Israeli military operation in Rafah have so far forced the displacement of about one million people, amid a decline in the entry of humanitarian aid.
- Between the afternoons of 31 May and 3 June, according to MoH in Gaza, 195 Palestinians were killed and 720 were injured, including 40 killed and 150 injured in the past 24 hours. Between 7 October 2023 and 3 June 2024, at least 36,479 Palestinians were killed and 82,777 were injured in Gaza, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are among the deadly incidents reported between 30 May and 3 June:
  - On 30 May, at about 13:25, at least three Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when an UNRWA school was hit in Jabaliya Refugee Camp, in North Gaza.
  - On 31 May, at about 1:05, eight Palestinians, including two children and three women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Bloc 9 in Al Bureij Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 31 May, at about 6:25, three Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured when a civilian car was hit in Al Helou Street in An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 31 May, at about 20:00, three Palestinians including two women, one of whom was identified as a journalist, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Jalaa Street in the central part of Gaza city.

- On 1 June, at about 15:00, two Palestinians were reportedly killed and four others injured when Ali Bin Abi Talib School sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Az Zaitoun neighbourhood of Gaza city was hit.
- On 2 June, at about 1:30, three Palestinians, including a man, a woman, and an infant, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Ad Daraj neighbourhood of Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 31 May and 3 June, no Israeli soldiers were reported killed in Gaza. As of 3 June, 293 soldiers have been killed and 1,878 soldiers have been injured in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation, according to the Israeli military. In addition, according to the Israeli media citing official Israeli sources, over 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 33 children, have been killed in Israel, the vast majority on 7 October. As of 3 June, it is estimated that 125 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including fatalities whose bodies are withheld. On 3 June, the Israeli military stated that it has found, in Israel, the body of an Israeli killed in the attacks of 7 October 2023. According to media reports, he was thus far believed to be held hostage in Gaza.
- On 1 June, the Israeli military ordered residents of two blocs in Beit Hanoun, in North Gaza governorate, to evacuate to the area west of Gaza city. With an area of two square kilometres, the two blocs were home to 7,284 Palestinians before 7 October and encompass two UNRWA schools, one UNRWA distribution centre, and one health facility. To date, 285 square kilometres, or about 78 per cent of the Gaza Strip, have been placed under evacuation orders by the Israeli military; this encompasses all areas north of Wadi Gaza, whose residents were instructed to evacuate in late October, as well as specific areas south of Wadi Gaza designated for evacuation by the Israeli military since 1 December.
- On 2 June, the head of the Emergency Committee for North Gaza municipalities [declared](#) Jabalya town, Jabalya Refugee Camp, Beit Lahya and Beit Hanoun as “disaster zones,” following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area on 31 May. They appealed to the international community and UN aid agencies to provide immediate relief and shelter assistance as well as support the municipalities in repairing damaged water wells and other critical infrastructure. According to the same source, the most recent three-week ground operation in northern Gaza resulted in the destruction of 50,000 housing units, UNRWA shelters, and more than 15 water wells and other public infrastructure. The central market in Jabalya Refugee Camp, the fifth floor of Al Awda Hospital, and the main electricity generator at Kamal Adwan Hospital were also destroyed, reported the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) in a statement on 31 May. PCD teams have recovered tens of bodies, mostly women and children, from Jabalya Refugee Camp, including 30 people from the same family of whom 22 were women and children, and rescue operations are still ongoing. Highlighting the challenges facing PCD teams due to the lack of equipment, the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, Dr. Husam Abu Safiyeh, [noted](#) in a media interview that over 120 bodies had been recovered by medical teams from under rubble, and that work was underway to repair damages and restore services at the hospital despite limited capacities.
- The intensification of hostilities and evacuation orders in Rafah have forced Protection Cluster partners, like other humanitarian actors, to evacuate their premises, with many providers, themselves displaced, unable to re-establish services due to the lack of tents, exorbitant rent costs, fuel shortage and rising transportation costs. This has resulted in a limited number of frontline staff in Al Mawasi area in Khan Younis, reports the Protection Cluster, and negatively affected the availability and accessibility of protection services, including for the provision of psycho-social support, awareness raising activities, and the re-establishment of referrals for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases. It has also heightened the cost of accessing services, disproportionately affecting women and girls. The SOS Children’s village, the only currently functional shelter for children without parental care, had to relocate the children and their caregivers from Rafah to central Gaza but has a limited number of tents and no capacity to receive more children. According to [UNRWA](#), the “humanitarian space continues to further shrink,” with all 36 UNRWA shelters in Rafah now empty and the agency having had to stop health and other critical services in the governorate.
- WFP is currently able to reach only 27,000 people with hot meals in Rafah, nowhere near what is required, [noted](#) the World Food Program (WFP) Country Director in Palestine, Matthew Hollingworth, in a press briefing on 31 May following a ten-day mission to Gaza. Six bakeries remain functional in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, while those in Rafah have ceased operations due to the lack of fuel, he added. Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, where almost a million people have fled, are highly congested; people face dire shortages of food, clean water, medical supplies and healthcare services and “public health concerns are beyond crisis levels,” WFP stressed. WFP and its partners are currently providing 400,000 hot meals per day in the area but lack supplies to scale up the delivery of ready-to-eat rations while commercial supplies are generally unaffordable. Hollingworth observed that many families were resorting to leaving their identification cards as collateral to pay for food supplies from the market, “putting their own safety and future in jeopardy because they need those identification cards to register for aid in the future.” In northern Gaza, about 12,000 tons of aid, primarily food, that has arrived via the northern crossings since 1 May has provided some relief, but lack of access to clean water, nutritious foods, health care and sanitation continue to devastate the area.
- In Deir al Balah, Al Aqsa Hospital [announced](#) on 30 May that one child had died in the facility due to malnutrition and lack of medical treatment, and another 13-year-old child also [reportedly](#) died of malnutrition on 1 June. “If nutrition supplies, especially ready-to-use therapeutic food, used to address malnutrition among children, cannot be distributed, the treatment of more than 3,000 children with acute malnutrition will be interrupted,” [stated](#) the UNICEF Chief of Communications in Palestine, Jonathan Crickx, underscoring that the “ongoing situation in Rafah is a disaster for children.”
- “With hostilities escalating due to the ongoing military operation, the lack of health care will lead to increased unnecessary deaths and suffering,” [stressed](#) the World Health Organization (WHO) on 1 June. The Health Cluster reports that, as of 3 June, there are 15 partially functional hospitals and five field hospitals, including two that are partially functional and three that are fully functional. In North Gaza, WHO informs, Kamal Adwan Hospital had resumed partial functionality and access to Al Awda Hospital has now been restored. In late May, Al Awda became inaccessible due to the intensification of hostilities while 14 health workers, 11 patients and two mothers accompanying their children remained inside the facility. The Indonesian Hospital in the same governorate is still out of service and the hospital has recently been impacted by shelling, according to MoH in Gaza. In Rafah, all three hospitals remain

non-functional, WHO reports, and out of six field hospitals, only two are functional; the International Medical Corps (IMC) field hospital remains fully operational while the UAE Field Hospital is only partially functional, continuing to provide services to 37 patients inside the facility but is inaccessible to new patients.

- Access constraints continue to undermine the safe delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza, exacerbating the needs of hundreds of thousands of people. With hostilities escalating in both northern and southern Gaza, particularly in Rafah, security and humanitarian access conditions have further deteriorated in May. Despite the presence of a system to notify and coordinate humanitarian movements, impediments, delays, and denials of missions continue to frequently restrict the movement of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of assistance. Between 1 and 31 May, out of the 78 coordinated humanitarian assistance missions to northern Gaza, 35 (45 per cent) were facilitated by Israeli authorities, 5 (6 per cent) were denied access, 27 (35 per cent) were impeded, and 11 (14 per cent) were cancelled due to operational or security reasons. In addition, out of 270 coordinated humanitarian assistance missions to areas in southern Gaza, 138 (51 per cent) were facilitated by Israeli authorities, 33 (12 per cent) were denied, 52 (19 per cent) were impeded, and 47 (17 per cent) were cancelled. Many missions classified as “impeded” have experienced extended delays imposed by Israeli authorities at holding points, with some lasting up to nine hours at sensitive locations, significantly increasing the security risks for humanitarian personnel.

## Funding

- As of 3 June, Member States have disbursed about US\$1 billion out of \$3.4 billion (30 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#).
- The [oPt HF](#) has 118 ongoing projects, for a total of \$72.5 million, addressing urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (85 per cent) and West Bank (15 per cent). The HF has allocated an additional \$22 million to bolster prioritized HF-funded projects in Gaza. Recently, 14 projects for a total of \$5 million have been approved under the Third Reserve Allocation titled "Critical Humanitarian Aid for Gaza Amidst Escalating Conflict and Displacement (Phase 3)." Following a steep rise in displacement from Rafah to Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and to capitalize on the operational presence of national partners, these projects will be implemented by national NGOs (12 projects) or through a partnership between international and national NGOs (2 projects). Since 7 October, the oPt HF has mobilized over \$100 million from Member States and private donors, designated for programmes throughout Gaza. A summary of the oPt HF activities and challenges in April 2024 is available through this [link](#) and the 2023 Annual Report of the oPt HF can be accessed [here](#). Private donations are collected directly through the [Humanitarian Fund](#).

For the most recent Gaza Humanitarian Response Update for the period between 20 and 26 May, please visit: [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 20–26 May 2024](#). As of 3 June, the Gaza Humanitarian Response Update will be issued every two weeks. The next update will be issued on 12 June, covering the two-week period between 27 May and 9 June.



More Palestinian families fleeing west towards Deir al Balah following another Israeli evacuation order on 16 August. Photo: OCHA

# Humanitarian Situation Update #205 | Gaza Strip

16 Aug 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 19 August.*

## Key Highlights

- At least 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in 10 months, including at least 10,627 children of whom 663 were under one year of age, the Gaza Ministry of Health reports.
- Over 170,000 people are estimated to be sheltering at 122 IDP sites, makeshift shelters and collective centres affected by the 16 August evacuation order issued by the Israeli military, according to the Site Management Working Group.
- Stock reserves necessary for disinfecting drinking and domestic water are only sufficient for one month, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster warns.
- The entry of commercial food cargo into Gaza increased in July compared with June, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network reports.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land, and sea continues to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground incursions and heavy fighting also continue to be reported. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups toward Israel was also reported.
- On 12 August, Secretary-General António Guterres [condemned](#) the “continued loss of life in Gaza.” He reiterated the “urgent appeal for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages...the need to ensure the protection of civilians and for unimpeded and safe humanitarian access into and across Gaza.” The UN Chief further emphasized that “international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack, must be upheld at all times.” On 15 August, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, similarly mourned the loss of life in Gaza and [stated](#): “Most of the dead are women and children. This unimaginable situation is overwhelmingly due to recurring failures by the Israeli Defense Forces to comply with the rules of war...The scale of the Israeli military’s destruction of homes, hospitals, schools and places of worship is deeply shocking.” He further noted: “Our Office has documented serious violations of IHL by both the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups, including the armed wing of Hamas.”
- Between the afternoons of 12 and 15 August, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 108 Palestinians were killed and 249 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 15 August 2024, at least 40,005 Palestinians were killed and 92,401 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. Casualty figures covering until the afternoon of 16 August are not available as of the time of reporting.
- As of 13 August, [115 infants](#) eight months old and younger were reportedly killed since 7 October 2023, according to the MoH in Gaza. These include 48 (42 per cent) who were less than one month old at the time of their death. The MoH announcement followed the reported tragic killing of two newborn twins in an Israeli airstrike on 13 August that targeted an apartment in southeastern Deir al Balah. Commenting on the incident, UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell, [denounced](#) the “indescribable suffering” children are enduring in Gaza. According to the Gaza MoH, as of 1 August, 10,627 children were among the 32,280 fatalities for whom MoH has documented full identification details, including 663 children under one year of age.

- The following are among other deadly incidents reported between 12 and 14 August:
  - On 12 August, at about 15:40, six Palestinians, including three females, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near Al Tahlia area, in eastern Khan Younis.
  - On 12 August, at about 20:40, 10 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Abasan Al Kabira, in eastern Khan Younis.
  - On 13 August, at about 6:00, seven Palestinians, including one child, were reportedly killed and others injured when three houses were hit near Ash Shuhada roundabout in Al Bureij Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 13 August, at about 22:45, eight Palestinians including five females, one baby and two children were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in southern An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 14 August, at about 14:10, five Palestinians including three children were reportedly killed and others injured when a street vendor stall selling water and groceries was hit in Al Sha'er neighbourhood in Batn As Sameen area, in western Khan Younis.
  - On 14 August, at about 15:40, 13 Palestinians were reportedly killed and 31 others injured in several airstrikes that reportedly struck a house and affected two other houses in its vicinity in the area between Ash Sheikh Nasser and Maan, in eastern Khan Younis city. Some people reportedly remained under rubble.
  - On 14 August, at about 17:30, 12 Palestinians, including a child, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Az Zaytoun neighbourhood, in eastern Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 12 and 16 August, no Israeli soldiers were reported killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 16 August 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,530 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath and including 330 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,208 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 16 August, it is estimated that 115 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead.
- The Israeli military issued an order on 16 August that affects six blocs in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, including two within the Israeli-designated zone in Al Mawasi in western Khan Younis. This is one of the largest evacuation orders affecting the zone to date and it shrinks the size of the so-called "humanitarian area" to about 41 square kilometres, or 11 per cent of the total area of the Gaza Strip. Initial mapping indicates that this order affects 122 IDP sites, makeshift shelters, and collective centres (UNRWA and non-UNRWA) that are collectively hosting over 170,000 people, according to the Site Management Working Group (SMWG). Earlier on 13 and 15 August, the Israeli military issued two other evacuation orders, primarily targeting areas had already been under evacuation orders in eastern and central Khan Younis. The first order affected 1.82 square kilometres in Bani Suheila and Al Mahattah, with an estimated population of about 5,200 people and the second order affected 3.6 square kilometres in Al Qarara and As Sater neighbourhoods in central Khan Younis.
- So far in August, eight evacuation orders were issued by the Israeli military, affecting tens of thousands of people in Khan Younis and, to a lesser extent, in northern Gaza. Combined, the ongoing shortage of shelter supplies, including tents and NFIs, hygiene supplies such as jerrycans and shampoo, and limited access to basic services at arrival sites are exacerbating conditions facing displaced families, rendering them increasingly vulnerable as they struggle to meet their most basic needs. On 16 August, UNRWA [stated](#) that with the issuance of new evacuation orders, fear has once again spread among families who have nowhere to go and "people remain trapped in an endless nightmare of death and destruction on a staggering scale."
- There is an urgent need for increased hot meal capacity in Gaza due to recurrent waves of displacement, the World Food Programme (WFP) [reported](#) on 12 August. Many community kitchens in central and southern Gaza struggle due to unstable supplies of humanitarian cargo and the lack of food and fuel. The situation has worsened since 22 July following the issuance of multiple evacuation orders in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, which forced the relocation of four kitchens and the closure of 19 food delivery points. Moreover, in Deir al Balah, about 1,400 metric tons of food stocks in one of the warehouses became inaccessible and only one WFP warehouse with about 3,000 metric tons of commodities is currently accessible but is insufficient to meet the August cycle requirements. In July, 70 community kitchens in Gaza supported by WFP provided around 11.5 million hot meals to more than 200,000 people, the majority in central Gaza.
- For the first time in ten months, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was able to [deliver](#) more than 2,400 veterinary kits across the Gaza Strip. This follows the successful delivery of 500 tons of fodder. The kits aim to safeguard and improve livestock health, thereby sustaining livelihoods and preventing the spread of disease from animals to humans. The delivery includes iodine wound spray, salt blocks, multivitamins and disinfectants. FAO estimates that about 70 per cent of meat and dairy-producing livestock in Gaza have been slaughtered, consumed or lost due to the ongoing hostilities, contributing to severe food insecurity in Gaza.
- The entry of commercial food cargo into Gaza increased in July compared with June, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) [reported](#), citing data from Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). This has resulted in an overall increase in the volume of food that entered Gaza, mostly through Kerem Shalom Crossing, from an estimated 47,443-61,530 metric tons in June to 79,082-86,925 metric tons in July. Of the total food cargo entering through Kerem Shalom Crossing in July, only eight per cent was humanitarian aid and the rest were commercial trucks, FEWS NET added. Furthermore, the results of two market surveys commissioned by FEWS NET in July showed a high reliance on both humanitarian aid and market

purchases, a slight improvement in food availability and diversity in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis coupled with a deterioration in other governorates, and persistent challenges to market functionality including high food prices, lack of liquidity and the emergence of “thieves markets.”

- Following the closure of Rafah crossing in early May, humanitarian organizations have faced a range of obstacles that impeded their ability to regularly pick up supplies entering through Kerem Shalom Crossing, including insecurity, continued hostilities, impassable roads and lawlessness. Consequently, there was a 61 per cent reduction in the total volume of humanitarian aid that was picked up by humanitarian organizations from Kerem Shalom Crossing between May and July compared with the period between January and April (94 vs. 37 trucks per day).
- The launching of two rounds of a polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip at the end of August and in September is critical to prevent the spread of variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in the Gaza Strip and reduce the risk of its re-emergence, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF [highlighted](#) on 16 August. Each round of the campaign requires at least 96-per-cent coverage, where MoH in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA and partners will provide two drops of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to more than 640,000 children under ten years of age. The UN agencies stressed that the success of the vaccination campaign depends on the implementation by parties to the conflict of humanitarian pauses for seven days to “allow children and families to safely reach health facilities and community outreach workers to get to children who cannot access health facilities for polio vaccination.” Other factors essential for the campaign’s success include the availability of “cash, fuel and functional telecommunication networks to reach communities with information about the campaign.” “Without the humanitarian pauses, the delivery of the campaign will not be possible,” WHO and UNICEF warned.
- The collapse of Gaza’s solid waste management system, exacerbated by ongoing hostilities, access restrictions and a critical shortage of essential resources, has created additional, urgent humanitarian needs. The two major landfills are inaccessible and non-operational, leading to the uncontrolled accumulation of waste at over 140 temporary dumping sites throughout the Gaza strip. This solid waste situation has drastically heightened public health risks, as decaying waste fosters the spread of diseases, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) warned, based on findings of an assessment carried out in June. According to the [UNDP assessment](#), the waste management infrastructure is currently in a critical state as most vehicles and equipment have been destroyed. Only one out of five medical waste collection vehicles is operational, only one out of 12 medical waste disinfection autoclaves that had been supplied by UNDP to hospitals is functioning, and neither of the two medical disinfection microwaves is in service. Moreover, only 20 per cent of the 251 waste collection vehicles and 18 per cent of the 7,300 waste containers are currently available for use. The assessment highlights the necessity of restoring access to major landfills, ensuring a steady fuel supply, and securing funding for new waste management equipment. UNDP is supporting two projects that collect about 680 tons of waste daily from Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir al Balah, accounting for 60 per cent of southern Gaza’s 1,100 tons of daily waste generation, and a total of around 90,000 tons of waste was collected between January and 15 July 2024. In northern Gaza, the [Municipality of Gaza](#) reported that there are about 150,000 tons of accumulated waste in Gaza city, warning that this significant buildup of waste is significantly heightening the risk of disease spread.
- According to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), the main WASH service provider in Gaza, is currently managing water chlorination across the Gaza Strip using its contingency reserves of sodium hydrochloride. In the absence of additional supplies, existing reserves are expected to last for only one month, raising significant concerns for the ability to disinfect water. The situation is further complicated by the need for increased chlorine dosing, with the current concentration requirement now double the previous level (12 per cent compared with six per cent) due to degradation from prolonged storage and rising temperatures. Efforts to import sodium hydrochloride into Gaza have continued to face considerable obstacles, and no shipments have so far arrived in Gaza due to ongoing access impediments. According to [UNICEF](#), disinfectant chemicals are considered “dual use” and are only allowed into Gaza selectively. In response, the WASH Cluster in Gaza is developing a comprehensive chlorination plan to facilitate the importation of chlorine, ensure the availability of necessary supplies, coordinate distribution, and support the CMWU in effectively disinfecting drinking and domestic water before distribution. The lack of chlorine poses a serious threat to public health, as inadequate water disinfection increases the risk of waterborne diseases spreading among the population. On the other hand, in a positive development, UNRWA [announced](#) on 15 August that a crucial water well in Khan Younis, destroyed during military operations, has been rebuilt and is now the largest source of clean drinking water for 100,000 displaced people, serving as a vital lifeline for families in the area.
- Between 1 and 15 August, out of 109 planned humanitarian assistance missions to northern Gaza that were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, only 46 were facilitated, 37 were denied access, 19 were impeded, and seven were cancelled due to logistical, operational, or security reasons. In addition, out of the 177 humanitarian assistance missions to areas in southern Gaza that were coordinated with the Israeli authorities, only 96 were facilitated, 46 were denied, 19 were impeded, and 16 were cancelled.
- The overall number of denied aid missions so far in August is the same as the number of denied missions in the whole month of July (83) and the rate of denial has increased from 15 to 29 per cent of missions for which coordination was requested. Moreover, in southern Gaza, although the number of requested missions in the first half of August fell by around 10 per cent compared with the corresponding period in July (177 vs. 196), the number of impeded missions increased from 15 to 19 and the number of denied missions surged from 12 to 46. Also comparing the first halves of July and August, there was a two-fold increase in the number of requested missions to northern Gaza (from 53 to 109) but a five-fold increase in the number of denied missions (from 7 to 37). Accordingly, these figures reveal a concerning rise in barriers to aid, particularly in northern Gaza, impacting hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people and indicating a more restrictive environment for humanitarian operations.

## Funding

- As of 14 August, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.6 billion out of \$3.42 billion (47 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and

December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)

- During July 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed a total of 98 ongoing projects, totalling \$81.4 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on Education, Food Security, Health, Protection, Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFI), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Coordination and Support Services, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance and Nutrition. Of these projects, 55 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 31 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 67 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Since 7 October, the oPt HF has mobilized over \$112 million from Member States and private donors to support urgent humanitarian and life-saving programmes across the OPT. Of total funding, 89 per cent has been allocated to projects in Gaza. A summary of the oPt HF activities and challenges in July 2024 is available through this [link](#) and the 2023 Annual Report of the oPt HF can be accessed [here](#). Private donations are collected directly through the [oPt HF](#). For an overall picture of the OCHA-managed pooled funds response since October 2023, please see [\(link\)](#).



Displaced Palestinians shelter in Al Mawasi area, Gaza Strip, amid ongoing hostilities. Photo: Themba Linden/OCHA

# Humanitarian Situation Update #206 | Gaza Strip

19 Aug 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 21 August.*

## Key Highlights

- A 10-month-old baby is the first confirmed case of active poliomyelitis, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.
- Some 13,500 internally displaced people across 18 sites have been affected by the latest Israeli military evacuation order issued on 17 August. Around 213,000 Palestinians have been affected by nine evacuation orders since the beginning of August. In total, 314 square kilometres (86 per cent) of the Gaza Strip have come under evacuation orders since 7 October.
- Fuel shortages force hospitals to postpone critical surgeries and threaten to halt ambulances, particularly in northern Gaza.
- On 19 August, World Humanitarian Day was observed, an occasion to reflect on the 289 aid workers killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land, and sea continues to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground incursions, particularly in eastern area of Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and heavy fighting also continue to be reported. Rocket fire by Palestinian armed groups toward Israel was also reported.
- Between the afternoons of 15 and 19 August, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 134 Palestinians were killed and 342 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 19 August 2024, at least 40,139\* Palestinians were killed and 92,743 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 15 and 18 August:
  - On 15 August, at about 19:10, seven Palestinians, including at least one woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when an apartment was hit in Al Mtein residential building, near At Tawba Mosque in Jabalya Refugee Camp, in North Gaza.
  - On 16 August, at about 2:00, at least five Palestinians were reportedly killed and eight others injured when a residential building was hit in Ad Daraj area, in Gaza city.
  - On 16 August, at about 12:20, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when people were attempting to obtain aid and were hit in eastern Rafah.
  - On 16 August, at about 12:25, seven Palestinians, including one woman and three girls, were reportedly killed and others injured when an internally displaced people's (IDP) tent was hit in Al Mawasi, west of Khan Younis.
  - On 17 August, at about 00:50, at least 15 Palestinians, including five women, and nine children, were reportedly killed and others injured when IDPs were hit at Az Zawayda entrance on Salah Ad Deen Road, in Deir al Balah.

- On 18 August, at about 7:05, seven Palestinians, including a mother and her six children, were reportedly killed when an apartment was hit on Al Mazraa Street in Deir al Balah.
- On 17 August, at about 10:15, seven Palestinians, including three women, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in west of An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
- Between the afternoons of 16 and 19 August, two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 19 August 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,532 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath and including 332 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,219 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 19 August, it is estimated that 115 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose remains are in Gaza.
- 19 August marks [World Humanitarian Day](#) which recognises aid workers worldwide and mobilizes people from around the world to advocate for the broader humanitarian cause. Year 2023 was the deadliest year on record globally for humanitarians, and 2024 could be even worse, with 172 aid workers killed as of August. More than half of the 2023 deaths worldwide were recorded in Gaza between October and December – the first three months of the hostilities. The majority of these deaths occurred during airstrikes. In just 11 months, 289 aid workers in Gaza – the majority of them staff members of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) – have been killed, some while on duty.
- On 16 August, the Palestinian Minister of Health, Majed Abu Ramadan, [announced](#) the first confirmed active case of poliomyelitis in the Gaza Strip. The case concerns a 10-month-old baby from Deir al Balah, who was unable to be vaccinated due to the ongoing hostilities. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed that “hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza [are] at risk” and that the UN stands ready to launch “a vital polio vaccine campaign” for more than 640,000 children under the age of 10. The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the release of 1.6 million doses of vaccine, UNICEF is coordinating their delivery along with cold storage units, and UNRWA’s medical teams will administer the vaccines once they arrive in Gaza. Secretary-General Guterres underscored that for the campaign to be successful, transport of vaccines and required equipment would need to be facilitated as well as the entry of polio experts into Gaza, adequate fuel, increased flow of cash, reliable communications, and ensuring the safety of both health workers and people reaching health facilities. While the “ultimate vaccine for polio is peace and an immediate humanitarian ceasefire,” at the very minimum, a “polio pause is a must.” UNICEF’s Executive Director, Catherine Russel [warned](#) in a separate statement that “we cannot allow polio to spread in Gaza and threaten not just Gazans, but all children in the region” and that the re-emergence of the virus in the Strip after a quarter century is “another sobering reminder of how chaotic, desperate and dangerous the situation has become”.
- Severe shortages of fuel and medical supplies continue to disrupt the functionality of remaining hospitals and primary healthcare centres, particularly in northern Gaza. On 19 August, the Director of the Al Awda Hospital, Dr. Mohamed Saleh, announced that all surgery operations had been postponed at the facility as he appealed for the urgent delivery of fuel to avert the further loss of lives. Conditions are equally critical at the Kamal Adwan Hospital, where fuel and medical supply shortages are [reportedly](#) threatening to cease operations. WHO and its partners are working to get fuel to these facilities. On 18 August, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) also [warned](#) that its ambulances, emergency medical clinics and relief services are at risk of being halted in northern Gaza due to the lack of fuel, with its teams already operating at minimum capacity and only two out of eight ambulances presently functioning.
- On 17 August, the Israeli military issued an evacuation order affecting multiple neighbourhoods in Deir al Balah, including the entire Al Maghazi Refugee Camp. Before 7 October, approximately 33,000 people lived in the affected areas. Initial mapping indicates that the order affected seven neighbourhoods that where some 13,500 people resided across 18 IDP sites. These included seven makeshift sites, three UNRWA collective centres, one non-UNRWA collective centre, and seven scattered sites. Additionally, the evacuation order affected 14 WASH facilities, five schools, and 10 health facilities, including two primary health care centres (PHCs) and five operational medical points. The ongoing hostilities, constant evacuation orders and severe shortages of essential supplies are significantly worsening the challenges faced by displaced families and making it increasingly difficult for them to access basic services at their arrival sites.
- Since the beginning of August, the Israeli military has issued nine evacuation orders that are affecting an estimated 213,000 people across Khan Younis, Deir al Balah, and to a lesser extent, northern Gaza. Since the escalation of hostilities, 314 square kilometres of the Gaza strip (86 per cent) have been placed under evacuation orders. The population is increasingly concentrated within the Israeli-designated zone in Al Mawasi, which continues to shrink and the density in this area has surged to an estimated 30,000 to 34,000 people per square kilometre compared to an estimated 1,200 people per square kilometre before October 2023. The area has decreased from 50.28 square kilometre on 22 July to 41.05 kilometre or just 11 per cent of the Gaza Strip. This reduction in space, combined with overcrowding, heightened insecurity, inadequate and overstretched infrastructure, ongoing hostilities, and limited services is exacerbating the dire humanitarian situation for the hundreds of thousands of people forced to live inside it.
- Lack of fuel, denial of access and destroyed rescue equipment by Israeli forces, are a major challenge for the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD) to coordinate a response to the needs of people in Gaza. On 18 August, the PCD reported that it had received 87,000 appeals of which 72,000 were responded to despite these challenges, however they were unable to respond to the remaining 15,000. Additionally, since the escalation of hostilities 82 PCD staff were killed and more than 270 were injured, including members on duty. PCD facilities have been directly hit and 38 vehicles were destroyed, severely impacting their ability to save lives. There are also an estimated 10,000 people presumed dead and missing under the rubble that PCD have not been able to reach, as their rescue equipment and vehicles have been hit by Israeli forces. Reportedly, there are 1,760 fatalities that cannot

be traced due to the use of weapons that render it impossible to find a body. Lastly, PCD states that 2,210 buried bodies from various graves across the Gaza that have been reportedly taken to an unknown location by Israeli forces.

- [According](#) to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), 24 per cent of Palestinian fatalities in Gaza were young adults (aged 18-29), with 26 per cent being males and 22 per cent females. This toll significantly impacts the future of Palestinian youth in Gaza, who constitute about 21 per cent of the overall population in Gaza. On 12 August, the UN [highlighted](#) the unprecedented hardship that Palestinian youth are facing, especially in Gaza. This is compounded by the death toll among students and academic staff and the destruction and closure of all higher education institutions in Gaza, depriving about 88 thousand students of their higher education. The International Labour Organization (ILO) [warns](#) that unemployment rates constitute the biggest challenge for the youth in Gaza, where young people constituted 95 per cent of the overall unemployment rate (75 per cent) in the fourth quarter of 2023. According to ILO, such rates are expected to continue to increase, limiting the future of Palestinian youth.

## Funding

- As of 16 August, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.6 billion out of \$3.42 billion (47 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During July 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed a total of 98 ongoing projects, totalling \$81.4 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on Education, Food Security, Health, Protection, Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFI), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Coordination and Support Services, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance and Nutrition. Of these projects, 55 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 31 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 67 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Since 7 October, the oPt HF has mobilized over \$112 million from Member States and private donors to support urgent humanitarian and life-saving programmes across the OPT. Of total funding, 89 per cent has been allocated to projects in Gaza. A summary of the oPt HF activities and challenges in July 2024 is available through this [link](#) and the 2023 Annual Report of the oPt HF can be accessed [here](#). Private donations are collected directly through the [oPt HF](#). For an overall picture of the OCHA-managed pooled funds response since October 2023, please see ([link](#)).



Displaced people in the Gaza Strip. Photo by UNRWA

# Humanitarian Situation Update #208 | Gaza Strip

23 Aug 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 26 August.*

## Key Highlights

- Three orders issued by the Israeli authorities in just two days affect 146 displacement sites, with those affected by such orders so far in August reaching as many as 250,000.
- The amount of humanitarian food assistance that entered southern Gaza in July was one of the lowest since October 2023, when a full siege was imposed.
- In July, the number of children diagnosed with acute malnutrition in northern Gaza was four times higher than in May, whereas in the south it more than doubled. Only one per cent of children in northern Gaza and six per cent in the south were able to receive the recommended dietary diversity.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli forces bombardment from the air, land, and sea continues to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground incursions, particularly in eastern area of Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and heavy fighting also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 19 and 22 August, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 126 Palestinians were killed and 401 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 22 August 2024, at least 40,265 Palestinians were killed and 93,144 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza. Casualty figures covering until the afternoon of 23 August are not available as of the time of reporting.
- The following are among other deadly incidents reported between 19 and 22 August:
  - On 19 August, at about 18:00, nine Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in Ash Shati' Refugee Camp, western Gaza city.
  - On 20 August, at about 0:35, five Palestinians, including at least three women and a child, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Al Bureij Refugee camp in Deir al Balah.
  - On 20 August, at about 11:30, 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed, and others injured, when the Mostafa Hafez governmental school, sheltering internally displaced people (IDPs), was hit in Al Rimal neighbourhood, western Gaza city.
  - On 20 August, at about 17:15, at least nine Palestinians, including children and women, were reportedly killed and at least 14 others were injured in the central market of Al Baraka area, eastern Deir al Balah.
  - On 21 August, in two separate incidents, five Palestinian fishers were reportedly shot and killed and another one injured when they were on the coast of Deir al Balah and in Ash Shakoush neighbourhood of northwestern Rafah.
  - On 21 August, at about 16:10, seven Palestinians, including five women and two children, were reportedly killed when an IDP tent was hit in Az Zanna area, east of Khan Younis.

- On 22 August, at 3:45, six Palestinians, including a journalist, his wife and their three children, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in Al Battanyah area of Al Maghazi Refugee Camp in Deir al Balah.
- On 22 August, at about 0:15, 11 Palestinians including one baby and other children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Beit Lahiya, North Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 19 and 23 August, three Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 23 August 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,532 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath and including 332 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,232 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 23 August, it is estimated that 109 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose remains are withheld in Gaza.
- On 21 and 22 August, the Israeli military issued three evacuation orders impacting 15 neighborhoods in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, bringing the total number of evacuation orders issued in August to 13. Initial mapping shows that over 28,500 people were residing in the areas designated for evacuation on these dates, many of them in 146 IDP sites, including 11 formal collective centers and 135 informal sites. As of 21 August, the evacuation orders issued this month have affected approximately 250,000 people across Gaza. The new orders also forced the displacement of humanitarian staff from several UN agencies, NGOs, and service providers, along with their families, disrupting their ability to provide essential support and services to those in need. The Education Cluster reported that 31 temporary learning spaces in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis have been forced to close due to the orders issued between June and August, resulting in the loss of educational opportunities for 3,979 students. On 22 August, Muhannad Hadi, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, issued a statement saying, "Civilians are exhausted and terrified, fleeing from one devastated place to another, with no end in sight. This cannot continue. He further emphasized that, "If evacuation orders are meant to protect civilians, the reality is that they are achieving the exact opposite."
- The amount of humanitarian food assistance that entered southern Gaza in July was one the lowest recorded since October 2023. The Food Security Sector (FSS) has warned that ongoing intense fighting, damaged roads, a breakdown of law and order, and access challenges along the main humanitarian route between the Kerem Shalom Crossing and Khan Younis and Deir al Balah have led to critical food shortages. As a result, more than one million people in southern and central Gaza may not receive food rations for August. Repeated evacuation orders and population displacement, coupled with dire shortages of cooking gas, have significantly disrupted the operation of kitchens and bakeries. At least 50 kitchens have been forced to either suspend cooked meal provision or relocate due to repeated evacuation orders and since early July only 13 out of 19 bakeries supported by humanitarian partners are presently operational in the Strip – one in Khan Younis (which reopened on 21 August after having been closed since January), six in Deir al Balah, four in Gaza city and two in Jabalya. In northern Gaza, food insecurity and malnutrition are even more alarming as no commercial supplies are known to have reached the area for more than three consecutive months, according to the Food Security Sector. This has resulted in a lack of protein sources on the local market, with only a few types of locally grown vegetables available at exorbitant prices.
- Children are paying the heaviest price, with the combination of a poor diet, decimation of basic healthcare services and abysmal water, sanitation and hygiene conditions continuing to increase their malnourishment and vulnerability to diseases, highlights the Nutrition Cluster. An assessment conducted by UNICEF in July revealed that only one per cent of children in northern Gaza, and six per cent in the south, received the recommended dietary diversity, with meat, fruits and vegetables, dairy products and eggs being among the almost inaccessible foods.
- The number of children diagnosed with acute malnutrition through mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screenings increased by over 300 per cent in the north in July, compared with May, and by 156 per cent in the south. In total of 14,750 children aged 6-59 months diagnosed with acute malnutrition out of 239,580 children who have been screened since January 2024. According to the Nutrition Cluster, between nine and ten per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) screened in June and July were found to be acutely malnourished; hampering their ability to breastfeed, amid rising numbers of preterm and low birth weight infants. The Nutrition and Food Security clusters warn that if physical road access, health service provision, water, sanitation, hygiene and shelter conditions are further compromised, there is a high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition worsening beyond the already alarming rates currently observed across the Strip.
- According to the WASH Cluster, about half of the core Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities have been impeded by import and access restrictions on humanitarian aid. This includes long-standing restrictions on the entry of chlorine needed for disinfecting drinking water and the delayed extension of a dedicated power line to supply electricity to the Southern Gaza seawater desalination plant. Storage and transport challenges, particularly related to fuel, are hindering the distribution of supplies, leading to critical delays that directly affect the health and sanitation of vulnerable populations. Furthermore, a survey conducted by the Cluster reveals that the Gaza market is severely depleted, lacking essential WASH items, suffering from hyperinflation, and burdened by cash liquidity issues. As a result, WASH actors to rely on substandard materials, compromising the quality and effectiveness of their interventions.
- In July, [humanitarian access](#) in Gaza was severely disrupted due to intense military activities, the closure of crossings, and volatile security conditions. These challenges were compounded by unexploded ordnance, robbery, damaged and congested roads, inconsistent movement notification and coordination procedures, and complex inconsistent checkpoint operations. Although the number of humanitarian missions coordinated by Israeli authorities increased from 414 in June to 543 in July, the percentage of movements denied by Israeli authorities doubled from seven per cent to 15 per cent; significantly impacting humanitarian access and the timely execution of life-saving interventions across Gaza.

- The proportion of facilitated movements decreased from 64 per cent in June to 58 per cent in July, with access impediments affecting 12 per cent of movements in the south and over 27 per cent in the north (which include missions that were successfully completed). Humanitarian movements between northern and southern Gaza must pass through a holding point while waiting for Israeli forces' approval to grant access with only one of the two checkpoints operational at a time. Aid convoys often face long delays at these holding points, exposing staff to risks such as active fighting and robbery. In July, two UN humanitarian convoys were struck by live ammunition at the holding points, causing damage to their vehicles.
- Between 1 and 22 August, 147 planned humanitarian assistance missions coordinated with the Israeli authorities to northern Gaza. Of these, 64 (43 per cent) were facilitated, while 28 (19 per cent) were impeded, 46 (31 per cent) were denied access, and 9 (6 per cent) were cancelled due to logistical, operational, or security reasons. In southern Gaza, out of 278 coordinated humanitarian assistance movements, 134 (48 per cent) were facilitated by the Israeli authorities, 37 (13 per cent) were impeded, 79 (28 per cent) were denied, and 28 (10 per cent) were cancelled.

## Funding

- As of 23 August, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.62 billion out of \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During July 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed 98 ongoing projects, totalling \$81.4 million. These projects were aimed at addressing urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on sectors such as education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these, 55 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 31 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 67 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Since 7 October, the oPt HF has mobilized over \$112 million from Member States and private donors to support urgent humanitarian and life-saving programmes across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Of the total funding, 89 per cent has been allocated to projects in Gaza. A summary of the oPt HF activities and challenges in July 2024 are available through this [link](#) and the 2023 Annual Report of the oPt HF can be accessed [here](#). Private donations are collected directly through the [oPt HF](#). For an overall picture of the OCHA-managed pooled funds response since October 2023, please see [link](#).



Displaced people in the Gaza Strip. Photo by WHO

# Humanitarian Situation Update #209 | Gaza Strip

26 Aug 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 28 August.*

## Key Highlights

- Between 19 and 24 August, five new evacuation orders have been issued by the Israeli military – the largest number of orders in a single week since the start of the crisis. A total of 16 orders have been issued in August so far.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, only about 11 per cent of the Gaza strip has not been placed under evacuation orders.
- At least 50,000 children born in the past ten months of hostilities are highly unlikely to have received any immunizations, including polio vaccine, due to the collapsed health system, worn aid organizations and medical professionals.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air, land, and sea continues to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground incursions, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern area of Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and east and south Rafah, with heavy fighting also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 23 and 26 August, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 170 Palestinians were killed and 390 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 26 August 2024, at least 40,435 Palestinians were killed and 93,534 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 22 and 25 August:
  - On 22 August, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in the vicinity of Bani Suheila square, east of Khan Younis.
  - On 23 August, five Palestinians were reportedly killed when a vehicle was hit southeast of Khan Younis.
  - On 23 August, four Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in northwestern An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Deir al Balah.
  - On 24 August, four Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Maan area, east of Khan Younis.
  - On 24 August, 11 Palestinians, including women and children, were reportedly killed and 30 others injured when a house was hit in Al Amal neighborhood, west of Khan Younis.
  - On 24 August, at about 12:10, eight Palestinian men were reportedly killed when a vehicle (tuk-tuk) was hit in northwestern Rafah.
  - On 25 August, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit south of Deir al Balah.

- Between the afternoons of 23 and 26 August, six Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 26 August 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,538 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 338 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,254 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 26 August, it is estimated that 109 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose remains are withheld in Gaza.
- New Israeli-issued evacuation orders are announced almost daily, further worsening the humanitarian crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Between 23 and 25 August, the Israeli military issued three new evacuation orders affecting over 19 neighborhoods in Northern Gaza and in Deir al Balah. Initial mapping indicates that over 8,000 people were staying in the areas designated for evacuation, many in 13 internally displaced person (IDP) sites. The Israeli military issued a total of 16 evacuation orders in August, impacting approximately 12 per cent of Gaza's population (258,000 people). The new orders in Deir al Balah have displaced humanitarian staff from various UN agencies, NGOs, and service providers, along with their families, severely hindering their ability to deliver essential support and services. Specifically, the order issued on 25 August impacted 15 UN and NGO premises, as well as four UN warehouses.
- As of 25 August, up to 88.5 per cent of the Gaza Strip has been placed under evacuation orders since 7 October 2023. The population is increasingly forced to concentrate within the Israeli-designated zone in Al Mawasi, which spans to only about 41 square kilometre or roughly 11 per cent of Gaza's total area. The area is lacking critical infrastructure and basic services, while aid provision is limited due to access and security issues. The severe overcrowding, with a density of 30,000 to 34,000 individuals per square kilometer has exacerbated the dire shortage of essential resources such as water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, health services, protection and shelter.
- Evacuation orders and hostilities in close proximity to hospitals and medical points [continue](#) to place these vital facilities at risk of becoming non-functional due to insecurity and lack of safe access for patients, ambulances, and health partners to resupply them. On 26 August, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) that many people had chosen to flee from the Al Aqsa Hospital, prompted by the close proximity to the latest area designated for evacuation in Deir al Balah and an explosion that occurred 250 metres from the hospital. Citing the Ministry of Health, MSF added that, from around 650 patients, only 100 now remain in the hospital.
- Delivering fuel and medical supplies to health facilities is extremely challenging in the context of repeated evacuation orders. On 21 August, both the Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals in northern Gaza renewed appeals for the urgent provision of diesel to keep electricity generators functional. Meanwhile, attacks on healthcare also continue to be reported. On 24 August, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) [informed](#) that the second floor of the PRCS Al Amal Hospital's Rehabilitation Department in Khan Younis had been struck by Israeli drones but no staff or patients were injured. As of 20 August, WHO had [recorded](#) 505 health attacks in the Strip, which had resulted in 752 people killed, 982 injured, and 32 hospitals and 63 ambulances damaged.
- Humanitarian interventions are increasingly difficult to implement under recent evacuation orders. According to the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, recent evacuation orders in Deir al Balah have compromised 15 out of 18 water wells; reducing the total water production capacity in the area by 80 per cent (from 13,000 cubic metres a day to 2,500). An urgent mitigation measure is currently underway to address the situation by redirecting water from the Southern Gaza Desalination Plant to Deir al Balah. This adjustment will provide Deir al Balah with 1,500 cubic metres of water per day. In parallel, [UNFPA](#) reports that the disruption has led to the closure of four UNFPA-supported maternal health service delivery points in the middle area and Khan Younis governorates, which previously served thousands of women. Additionally, multiple safe spaces set up by humanitarians for women and girls have been forced to shut down, cutting off critical support for those at risk of gender-based violence.
- On 23 August, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, [expressed](#) grave concern about the first confirmed case of polio in Gaza in 25 years, adding that the 10-month-old unvaccinated child who had contracted the virus had developed paralysis in the lower left leg. On 25 August, UNICEF [announced](#) that 1.2 million doses of Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2) were being brought to Gaza to immunize over 640,000 children jointly with WHO and UNRWA. Meanwhile, as part of ongoing preparations to implement the two-round vaccination campaign set to begin in September, WHO has [conducted](#) a training of trainers for 35 vaccinators, with further cascading training ongoing for 280 team supervisors from the Ministry of Health in Gaza, UNRWA and other health partners. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) [underscored](#) that "vaccinations are only one part of the response" and concurrent efforts to scale up access to safe, clean and treated water are necessary to prevent further disease outbreaks, including cholera, urging the lifting of all restrictions on the entry of chlorination supplies and fuel to run water systems, solar panels and electricity generators. In a joint [appeal](#) for an urgent ceasefire, 20 aid agencies and 20 medical professionals explained that at least 50,000 children born in the past ten months of conflict are "highly unlikely to have received any immunizations due to the collapsed health system", while regular vaccination schedules for older children are likely to have been disrupted by displacement and violence. "Now polio is confirmed, the response needs to be measured in hours, not weeks," indicated the Save the Children's Regional Director for the Middle East, Jeremy Stoner.
- Despite all constraints and challenges faced, health partners are doing their utmost to support the health system. In a positive development, on 25 August, the Ministry of Health [announced](#) the resumption of partial health services at the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis, 50 days after the facility had become out of service following the evacuation orders of 1 July. Humanitarian actors have [provided](#) hospitals in northern and southern Gaza with anaesthesia, analgesic drugs and other medical supplies to cover the needs of about 44,500 patients. A total of 200 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds have also been delivered to Gaza in an effort to support the expansion of bed capacity in at least five facilities. Moreover, more than \$400,000 worth of infection prevention and control supplies have been [delivered](#) to five hospitals, with plans to reach two others.

- Many shop owners who operated formal shops are now selling their commodities within informal markets on the streets, according to a survey by WFP. Between 1 June and 10 August, WFP collected responses from a diverse array of formal retail establishments and street-level vendors and found that respondents listed damaged shops (86 per cent), safety and security (31 per cent) and inability to replenish stocks (25 per cent) as the main reasons for the transition of formal shops to informal street vendors. In addition to losing commercial infrastructure, the shortage of basic commodities and high prices are impacting the markets across the Gaza Strip especially in the northern governorates, which include commodities like cooking gas which has increased by over 500 per cent, and diesel prices have increased by over 1,000 per cent, compared to pre-October 2023 prices. The limited availability of detergents and the high prices of basic hygiene products and chlorine are particularly concerning given the widespread prevalence of skin conditions among the population.

## Funding

- As of 23 August, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.62 billion out of \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
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# Humanitarian Situation Update #211 | Gaza Strip

30 Aug 2024



A vehicle of the World Food Programme shot at while approaching an Israeli checkpoint after escorting aid trucks in Gaza.  
Photo by WFP

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

## Key Highlights

- Attacks hitting humanitarian personnel and missions are further limiting the delivery of life-saving aid.
- In August, the number of humanitarian missions and movements within Gaza that have been denied access by Israeli authorities has almost doubled.
- For the first time since the beginning of hostilities, the Israeli military announced that residents, displaced people and humanitarian organizations could return to certain evacuated areas.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground incursions, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported. Rocket fire was reportedly fired from within Gaza.
- Between the afternoons of 26 and 29 August, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 167 Palestinians were killed and 321 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 29 August 2024, at least 40,602 Palestinians were killed and 93,855 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 25 and 29 August:
  - On 25 August, five Palestinians, including three children and one woman, were reportedly killed and 15 others injured when a house was hit near Patient's Friends Society Medical Centre, west of Gaza city.
  - On 26 August, five Palestinians including a girl and a woman, were reportedly killed and others injured when an apartment, hosting internally displaced people (IDPs), was hit in Al Yarmouk Street, central Gaza city.
  - On 26 August, five Palestinians, including four children, were reportedly killed when an apartment was hit in At Tuffah neighbourhood, east Gaza city.
  - On 26 August, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed on the beach of Gaza city.
  - On 26 August, seven Palestinians, including a woman, two boys and a girl, were reportedly killed and others injured when an apartment was hit in central Al Maghazi, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 26 August, five Palestinians, including a journalist, were reportedly killed and others injured when a car was hit in in Al Mawasi, Khan Younis.
  - On 27 August, six Palestinians, including two girls and a boy, were reportedly killed and seven others, including children, were injured in Batan as Sameen area in western Khan Younis.
  - On 28 August, nine Palestinians, including two children and a person with disability, were reportedly killed and others injured when they were hit at the entrance of Al Manfalouti governmental school, designated as an IDP shelter, on Salah ad Deen Road in eastern Deir al Balah.
  - On 29 August, eight Palestinians, including two children and three women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit near Al Amal Hotel, west Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 26 and 30 August, at least one Israeli soldier was reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 30 August 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,539 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 339 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,263 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation. As of 30 August, it is estimated that 107 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose remains are withheld in Gaza. On 27 August, one Israeli hostage and the body of an Israeli soldier presumed to have been killed on 7 October were returned to Israel.
- Following the partial resumption of operations at the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis on 25 August, 17 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are now functional – all of them partially; three in North Gaza, seven in Gaza, four in Khan Younis and three in Deir al Balah. While the Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah remains open, almost all patients and the hundreds of IDPs seeking sanctuary there fled, after an evacuation order was issued on 25 August, to areas nearby and hostilities intensified. In response, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the MoH expedited the previously planned opening of a field hospital elsewhere in Deir al Balah. MSF states that it was "left with no choice" but to prematurely open the facility, delayed thus far due to difficulties bringing supplies into Gaza, and that the facility is only partially functional and now operating under pressure amid dire shortages of supplies and resources. Nine out of 14 field hospitals are operational in Gaza, five of them only partially, while only 44 per cent of primary health-care centres (58 out of 132) and medical points (126 out of 285) continue to provide minimal services. On 27 August, the NGO Emergency [announced](#) that "after several months of waiting to obtain humanitarian permits," it had managed to enter Gaza and was endeavoring to open a clinic that would provide basic medical and surgical care, outpatient reproductive health services and post-operative follow-up care, among other services.
- For the first time since the beginning of hostilities, the Israeli military announced on 29 and 30 August that residents and IDPs could return to certain in southern of Deir al Balah and west of Khan Younis, which had previously been subject to evacuation orders. These areas had seen many residents displaced following evacuation orders issued on 16, 21 and 25 August. UN and humanitarian partners are preparing to return and continue their missions, as these areas included service facilities, water wells and more. Since October, more than 86 per cent of the Gaza Strip's space remains affected by evacuation orders, including over 40 orders issued since 1 January 2024.\* Hundreds of thousands of displaced families continue to be forced to move into an area of around 47 square kilometres (approximately 13 per cent of Gaza's total land area, as of 30 August), designated by the Israeli military in Al Mawasi, which has become overcrowded and lacks essential infrastructure and services.

- Briefing the UN Security Council on 29 August, the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Joyce Msuya, [stated](#): “The situation in Gaza is beyond desperate... Civilians are hungry. They are thirsty. They are sick. They are homeless. They have been pushed beyond the limits of endurance – beyond what any human being should bear,” Msuya highlighted the struggle that people are facing to find shelter and other essentials while being forced into a small area of the Strip. Severe overcrowding, coupled with the lack of clean water, sanitation facilities and basic hygiene items like soap, are taking a heavy toll on children, with skin infections continuing to [increase](#) among them. As of 30 June, WHO had already [recorded](#) 103,385 cases of scabies and lice, 65,368 cases of skin rashes and 11,214 cases of chickenpox in the Strip. With MSF support, the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC) has been [providing](#) emergency latrines, solar water pumps and basic health care to some of the displaced people arriving in the Al Mawasi area of Khan Younis. “Every day, we see between 300 to 400 people at the medical clinic, of which 200 cases are related to skin conditions,” [explained](#) PARC pediatrician Dr. Youssef Salaf Al-Farra, underscoring that children are the most affected by highly contagious skin conditions. MSF claims that, for three months, it has been trying to import 4,000 hygiene kits, comprising items such as soap, toothbrushes, shampoo and laundry power, to improve living conditions in Khan Younis, but the importation has not been allowed by Israeli authorities.
- The number of unaccompanied and separated children in Gaza has likely increased to 3-5 per cent of the overall displaced population according to a recent [assessment](#) by International Rescue Committee (IRC). Doctors reported to the IRC that children without surviving family members are being found in hospitals, essentially living there alone due to the lack of alternative care arrangements. IRC indicated that, since October, 41 per cent of families in Gaza were caring for children who were not their own, and a UN survey in April 2024 estimates that this rate is more than eight times higher than in other emergency situations, where the figures range between three and five per cent. Despite the care provided by community members, the grave conditions and the lack of resources are heightening fears of child neglect, particularly amid recent displacements, as families may be forced to prioritize their own children over others, due to limited space and resources. IRC concluded that “children who are abandoned or separated from their families, as well as orphans, face particularly high risks of child labour, exploitation, neglect and mental health issues. Their access to critical resources for survival is also severely reduced.” To tackle family separation, [UNICEF](#) is distributing 450,000 identity bracelets to children, including the child’s name, date of birth, and the phone number of a family member.
- Attacks on humanitarian personnel and missions are increasing the risk of limiting access and delivering life-saving aid. The World Food Programme (WFP) announced that, while operations across Gaza continue, it has had to temporarily suspended staff movements following an attack on one of its convoys on 28 August. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security Gilles Michaud [highlighted](#) that humanitarians, including UN personnel, are operating under extreme risk, with the ongoing crisis being the deadliest on record for the UN. This attack underscores the rapidly shrinking humanitarian space in Gaza, said WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain, [stating](#) that “this is totally unacceptable and the latest in a series of unnecessary security incidents that have endangered the lives of WFP’s team in Gaza... The current deconfliction system is failing and this cannot go on any longer...”
- In August, the number of humanitarian missions and movements within Gaza that have been denied access by Israeli authorities has doubled in the north (68 vs. 30) and almost doubled in the south (99 vs 53), compared with July. Between 1 and 29 August, out of the 199 planned humanitarian missions coordinated with the Israeli authorities for northern Gaza, 74 (37 per cent) were facilitated, 68 (34 per cent) were denied access, 42 (21 per cent) were impeded (including missions that succeeded), and 15 (8 per cent) were cancelled due to logistical, operational, or security issues. In southern Gaza, out of 372 coordinated humanitarian movements, 173 (46 per cent) were facilitated, 99 (27 per cent) were denied access, 52 (14 per cent) were impeded, and 48 (13 per cent) were cancelled.
- The forced evacuation of WFP’s main operating hub in Deir al Balah, has drastically reduced its capacity to provide critical food assistance as the Programme also lost access to its last operational warehouse in the governorate and had to evacuate five community kitchens, which were crucial for feeding displaced families. Recent mass evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military have significantly intensified these threats, causing severe disruptions in the delivery of life-saving aid and drastically reducing the availability of safe spaces for aid workers. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security Gilles Michaud [noted](#) that over 200 UN personnel were forced to evacuate from Deir al Balah, a key humanitarian hub, further straining the already overstretched operations. The dire security situation has caused significant setbacks, particularly in health and food security with the planned polio vaccination campaign, which requires a large number of staff to enter Gaza, continues to face severe delays due to the heightened security risks as highlighted by Michaud. Staff may be able to return and continue their work in areas previously evacuated but announced safe to return by Israeli authorities. Michaud and McCain have both called on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.
- Food delivery is severely hampered by ongoing fighting and damaged roads, and limited crossing points. The WFP [reports](#) that Palestinians are confined to small areas with inadequate sanitation and health care, frequently displaced by evacuation orders that disrupt vital aid services, including WFP-supported food distributions and community kitchens. In the past two months, WFP has managed to bring in only half of the 24,000 metric tonnes of food aid required to hit its targets. Due to dwindling supplies and decreased aid inflows, it has been forced to reduce the contents of food parcels distributed. WFP also emphasizes the urgent need for road repairs, warning that war-damaged roads, already difficult to navigate, are expected to become impassable with forthcoming rain and flooding. In a positive development, WFP reports that the community kitchens it supports in northern Gaza have begun providing hot meals with fresh vegetables, marking the first delivery of such produce which aims at supplementing emergency food rations and preventing malnutrition.

## Funding

- As of 29 August, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.63 billion out of \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million

reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)

- During July 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed a total of 98 ongoing projects, totalling \$81.4 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 55 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 31 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 67 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Since 7 October, the oPt HF has mobilized over \$112 million from Member States and private donors to support urgent humanitarian and life-saving programmes across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Of the total funding, 89 per cent has been allocated to projects in Gaza. A summary of the oPt HF activities and challenges in July 2024 is available through this [link](#) and the 2023 Annual Report of the oPt HF can be accessed [here](#). Private donations are collected directly through the [oPt HF](#). For an overall picture of the OCHA-managed pooled funds response since October 2023, please see [link](#).

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



A Palestinian girl receiving the first dose of polio vaccination in central Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

# Humanitarian Situation Update #212 | Gaza Strip

02 Sep 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 4 September.*

## Key Highlights

- Local humanitarian pauses enabled the launch of the emergency polio vaccination campaign, with nearly 87,000 children vaccinated in central Gaza during the first day.
- With water borne disease on the rise, and despite challenges, water services have been partially restored in several areas, and essential supplies for water disinfection have been delivered.
- Since January 2024, 16 incidents involving UN vehicles being directly hit have been recorded in Gaza.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported.
- Between the afternoons of 29 August and 2 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 184 Palestinians were killed and 369 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 2 September 2024, at least 40,786 Palestinians were killed and 94,224 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 29 and 1 September:
  - On 29 August, nine Palestinians, including three children (of whom two were newborn), and two women (of whom one was pregnant), were reportedly killed when the upper floor of a residential tower was hit in western An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 29 August, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and at least 13 others injured in Deir al Balah.
  - On 29 August, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when internally displaced people's (IDP) tents were hit in Wadi Saber area, east Khan Younis.
  - On 31 August, seven Palestinians from the same family were reportedly killed when a house was hit in As Sabra neighbourhood in Gaza city.
  - On 31 August, five Palestinians, including three females and a doctor, were reportedly killed when a house was hit in southern Khan Younis.
  - On 31 August, five Palestinians, including four females, were reportedly killed and 15 others injured when a house was hit in southern Khan Younis.

- On 1 September, 11 Palestinians were reportedly killed and tens others injured when Safad school hosting IDPs was hit in Az Zaitoun neighbourhood, east of Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 30 August and 2 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 2 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,539 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 339 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,266 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- On 1 September, Israeli forces recovered the bodies of six Israeli hostages from a tunnel within the Gaza Strip. According to the [Israeli military](#), an initial assessment indicates they were killed a short while before being discovered. As of 2 September, it is estimated that 101 Israelis and foreign nationals remain captive in Gaza, including hostages who have been declared dead and whose remains are withheld in Gaza.
- Area-specific humanitarian pauses have enabled the first round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign on 1 September in central Gaza. Nearly 87,000 children were reached on the first day, according to World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Dr. Richard Peeperkorn, [stated](#) that the joint effort among the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA and partners would be undertaken in phases, focusing on one zone at a time - starting in central Gaza, before shifting to the south, and finally to the northern governorates. Some 2,180 health workers and community outreach workers have been trained to provide vaccinations and inform communities about the campaign which is being rolled out through 392 fixed points and almost 300 mobile teams. Dr. Peeperkorn welcomed the area-specific humanitarian pauses during the campaign and appealed to all parties to “pause the fighting to allow children and their families to safely access health facilities and [enable] community outreach workers to get to children who cannot access health facilities for polio vaccinations.” The campaign will last three consecutive days in each zone and will be extended by a fourth day if needed. Round two of the campaign will aim to administer the second dose of the vaccine in four weeks’ time. The overall objective is to reach more than 640,000 children under the age of 10 across the Gaza Strip in each of the two rounds. This is a “massive, massive effort, we’ve had thousands upon thousands of people working around the clock over the past several weeks to get ready for the launch of the campaign today”, [stressed](#) the UNRWA Director of Planning, Sam Rose, on 1 September, adding that UNRWA alone had over 200 teams administering the vaccines in UNRWA clinics and health points; going tent-to-tent to reach the most vulnerable children.
- On 1 September, the Ministry of Health in Gaza [announced](#) the completion of the new Emergency Department at the Al Shifa Hospital in northern Gaza. With a capacity of 70 [beds](#), the new department includes a triage section with three resuscitation rooms, two operating theatres, a sterilization room, as well as a laboratory, a blood bank and a radiology section with basic X-ray and ultrasound capabilities. The Al Shifa Medical Complex was the largest hospital in Gaza and was destroyed during a two-week long Israeli military siege that began on 18 March. The Health Cluster also reports that a haemodialysis unit comprising 18 dialysis machines has been established at the Az Zawaida Field Hospital in Deir al Balah, after the facility had been hastily opened in late August by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), jointly with the MoH, to provide urgent care to patients who had to evacuate Al Aqsa Hospital. Despite these achievements, Health Cluster partners continue to face challenges delivering fuel and essential supplies to health facilities in the north. WHO [reports](#) that in recent weeks, only two out of six planned missions to hospitals in the north were approved. Fuel shortages may force Al Awda Hospital to suspend maternity services and daily surgeries, including C-sections. The Al Helou International Hospital is also facing considerable operational limitations.
- Insecurity and access restrictions continue to jeopardize humanitarian efforts. On 30 August, Anera [reported](#) that an Israeli airstrike killed four Palestinians at the front of its aid convoy carrying food and fuel to the Emirati Red Crescent Hospital. This follows an incident in which a World Food Programme (WFP) convoy was directly fired upon on 28 August resulting in the temporary suspension of staff movements. Since 1 January 2024, UN partners in Gaza have recorded 16 incidents in which UN vehicles have been hit.
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services and responses are severely hampered by the ongoing destruction of water and sanitation facilities, restricted access, and limitations on the entry of essential resources and items. The approaching rainy season will exacerbate these challenges. [The Council for Northern Gaza Municipalities](#) and the Municipality of Gaza City have reported the destruction of 97 water wells, 13 major sewage pumps, 57 generators used for wells, 204 waste collection vehicles and 255,000 metres of water and sewage lines since October 2023. The Council has warned that as winter sets in, extensive damage to rainwater and sewage networks is likely to result in severe flooding, particularly in Jabalyia Camp and Beit Lahia where humanitarian needs are already acute. The WASH Cluster has highlighted the near impossible conditions partners are operating under, including access challenges that disrupt the transfer of essential items.
- The Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) informed UN partners that a dedicated direct electricity line to power the southern Gaza seawater desalination plant was successfully established during August. However, electricity provision through that line – which is meant to come from an Israeli provider has not yet started, impeding the plant’s provision of clean water to hundreds of thousands of people in southern Gaza. In a positive development, [CMWU](#), in collaboration with UNICEF and local municipalities, has repaired and maintained the main water transmission line running from Israel to Khan Younis, which was damaged during recent military operations. This has restored water access to several areas, including Al Mawasi, where hundreds of thousands of IDPs are living under challenging conditions. [Additionally](#), 12,000 litres of sodium hypochlorite solution (chlorine bleach), essential for water disinfection, were supplied by UNICEF to the municipalities of Gaza city and Jabalya for the first time in three months. Furthermore, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), CMWU installed 41 integrated water chlorination and injection units across Gaza. These efforts aim to address some of the immediate public health risks.

## Funding

- As of 30 August, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$1.60 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During July 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed a total of 98 ongoing projects, totalling \$81.4 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 55 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 31 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 67 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Since 7 October, the oPt HF has mobilized over \$112 million from Member States and private donors to support urgent humanitarian and life-saving programmes across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Of the total funding, 89 per cent has been allocated to projects in Gaza. A summary of the oPt HF activities and challenges in July 2024 is available through this [link](#) and the 2023 Annual Report of the oPt HF can be accessed [here](#). Private donations are collected directly through the [oPt HF](#). For an overall picture of the OCHA-managed pooled funds response since October 2023, please see [link](#).



Vaccinating children in Gaza for polio. Photo by UNICEF

# Humanitarian Situation Update #214 | Gaza Strip

06 Sep 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 9 September.*

## Key Highlights

- After the successful completion of the polio vaccination campaign in central Gaza, the second phase of the campaign commenced in the south, where vaccination teams aim to reach 340,000 children in four days.
- Medical evacuations of critically ill and injured patients out of Gaza remain generally suspended since the closure of the Rafah crossing on 7 May, with an estimated 12,000 patients waiting to leave the Strip to receive urgently needed medical care.
- Daily meals provided to families in need dropped by 35 per cent across the Gaza Strip, from July to August, due to Israeli-issued evacuation orders in August.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and east as well as south Rafah are also reported.\*
- Between the afternoons of 2 and 5 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 110 Palestinians were killed and 230 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 5 September 2024, at least 40,878 Palestinians were killed and 94,454 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 1 and 5 September:
  - On 1 September, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured in an airstrike in Beit Lahiya, in north Gaza.
  - On 2 September, eight Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a group of Palestinians was hit in front of Al Fakhoura School's main gate in Jabalya Camp, in north Gaza.
  - On 3 September, nine Palestinians, including at least one woman and five children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in central Gaza city.
  - On 3 September, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed and others injured when a children's nursery was hit in western Jabalya, north Gaza.
  - On 4 September, six Palestinians were reportedly killed and eight others injured near At Taalim Roundabout in Beit Lahiya, in north Gaza.
  - On 4 September, six Palestinian men were reportedly killed and others injured in Ash Sheikh Zaid buildings, north Gaza city.

- On 4 September, five Palestinians, including two children, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Ash Sheikh Redwan neighborhood in Gaza city.
- On 5 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed, and 15 others were injured, including children, when internally displaced people's (IDP) tents were hit near the external clinics of Al Aqsa Hospital, in eastern Deir al Balah. The strike resulted in the destruction and burning of many tents located in the area.
- Between the afternoons of 2 and 6 September, no Israeli soldiers were reported killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 6 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,540 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 340 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,270 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- On 5 September, the second phase of the polio vaccination campaign commenced in southern Gaza, where some 517 teams, including 384 mobile teams, have been deployed, aiming to reach 340,000 children in four days. The campaign moved to the south after the successful completion of the first phase in central Gaza on 3 September, where over 187,000 children under the age of 10 were vaccinated in a three-day effort. This exceeded the estimated target of 157,000 children. Vaccines were provided at 143 fixed sites, including hospitals and primary healthcare centres, IDP camps, key transit routes and public gathering spaces such as temporary learning sites, food, and water distribution points. Mobile teams also [conducted](#) tent-to-tent visits and [conducted](#) special missions to access families who, due to insecurity, would have otherwise been unable to immunize their children. To ensure that no child is missed, four large health facilities in central Gaza are continuing to offer vaccines for a few more days. The World Health Organization's (WHO) representative for the occupied Palestinian territory, Dr Richard Peeperkorn, continued [appealing](#) to all parties to the conflict to uphold a commitment for area-specific humanitarian pauses that are critical for the success of the campaign. The current phase in southern Gaza should conclude on 8 September, with the third and last phase set to take place in northern Gaza from 9 to 11 September, targeting around 150,000 children. UNICEF [reports](#) that all 1.6 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2) are necessary to immunize all children under the age of 10, with the second shipment having arrived on 3 September.
- Medical evacuations of critically ill and injured patients outside Gaza remain generally suspended since the closure of the Rafah crossing on 7 May, with few exceptions allowed in recent months. WHO reports that on 15 August, 11 children suffering from cancer, alongside 17 accompaniers, were evacuated to Jordan through the Kerem Shalom Crossing. Five other children with cancer and two who had suffered amputations, alongside their 10 accompaniers, were evacuated from the Strip on 26 August. Overall, only 124 patients and 137 accompaniers have been evacuated from Gaza on four separate occasions since 7 May, while an estimated 12,000 patients have been unable to leave and receive urgently needed medical care abroad since then, stresses WHO. The Health Cluster has [warned](#) that, without a systematic mechanism for the medical evacuation of severely sick and injured patients outside Gaza, the waiting list "keeps growing while the clinical conditions of many of them continue to deteriorate."
- The ongoing escalation of hostilities is resulting in widespread contamination by Explosive Ordnance (EO). While the exact number of EO-related casualties is unknown, there have been cases of people who died due to the explosion of EO, according to humanitarian partners. On 3 September, a Palestinian girl was reportedly critically injured by the explosion of an EO in southwestern Khan Younis and succumbed to her wounds on 4 September. Children face a heightened risk of being exposed to EO, as they usually play outside, tend to search for scraps amongst rubbish and rubble, and lack an awareness on the dangers of EO. Despite ongoing efforts by humanitarian partners to conduct in-person and digital Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) campaigns, educational material as well as minimum standard Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) equipment are refused entry into Gaza by Israeli authorities, therefore limiting the capacity of the mine action response. Furthermore, according to the Protection Cluster's monitoring system, mine action remains one of the most critical needs for emergency life-saving activities. In a survey conducted by the cluster covering July and August, 89 per cent of respondents had not received EORE awareness material in their community and 72 per cent did not know where to report the discovery of EO or an incident where someone is affected by one. Despite continuous efforts by the cluster to raise awareness, the lack of material and multiple Israeli-issued evacuation orders have forced them to temporarily [suspend their in-person EORE sessions](#) following the evacuation orders in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. The restrictions on humanitarian partners to assist with mine-action related programmes will increase the risk to people's lives.
- The food security situation in the Gaza Strip is deteriorating due to the critical shortages of aid commodities as well as ongoing hostilities, insecurity, damaged roads, access limitation and breakdown of law and order. Despite the ongoing efforts of [humanitarian partners](#), more than one million people did not receive any food rations in southern and central Gaza during August; families will only be able to receive one food parcel during the September distribution cycle.\* As a result, each family will receive a monthly ration of two food parcels, excluding wheat flour which is prioritized for supporting bakeries. According to the [Food Security Cluster](#), as of 2 September, 14 bakeries supported by humanitarian partners were operational in the Gaza Strip including four in Gaza city, two in Jabalya, seven in Deir al Balah and one bakery in Khan Younis which reopened recently after almost eight months of closure due to the hostilities. The multiple Israeli-issued evacuation orders have forced around 70 kitchens to either suspend cooked meal provision or relocate. As a result, around 450,000 cooked meals prepared in 130 kitchens were provided daily to families across the Gaza Strip by the end of August, which is a 35 per cent decrease compared with up to 700,000 meals provided at more than 200 kitchens in early July.
- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster is concerned with the staggering increase in the cost of basic hygiene items. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), in July, the price of soap has increased 1,177 per cent and shampoo has increased 490 per cent across the Strip, compared to July 2023. The WASH Cluster warned that the lack of affordable hygiene items, combined with limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities, poses a growing risk of severe

health impacts. This is especially true for families who have been displaced, as they face extreme difficulties maintaining basic hygiene in overcrowded shelters and displacement sites, while critical facilities—such as health centres, community kitchens, child-protection spaces, nutrition centres, and schools—lack the necessary tools to ensure safe and sanitary conditions. These conditions are all likely to deteriorate further during the winter.

- WASH partners are attempting to restore wells that were damaged due to fighting in Deir al Balah. On 26 August, Israeli-issued evacuation orders in Deir al Balah had caused the loss of access to 15 out of the 18 groundwater wells\*, resulting in a 75 per cent reduction in groundwater production (12,000 to 3,000 cubic metres a day) for the remainder of the month. Once WASH partners were able to return to parts of the evacuated area, they identified eight wells that were significantly damaged, four of which cannot be repaired at present. Plans are underway to utilize materials recovered from these four wells to repair the remaining four. The long-term impact on Deir al Balah's water production capacity is still being evaluated. Despite the evacuation orders and widespread destruction of WASH assets, the cluster reported that from 19 August to 1 September, an average of 114,901 cubic metres of water were produced daily for safe drinking and domestic use across the Gaza Strip. This volume represents about 30 per cent of the potential production capacity of 378,500 cubic metres per day, leaving hundreds of thousands of people with insufficient water resources. In an additional challenge, the cluster notes that water is also lost due to infrastructure leaks, damage, and spillage during transport and at collection points. In a positive development, the volume of water transported through trucking operations between 19 August and 1 September doubled to 13,881 cubic metres a day. Despite the substantial increase in trucking efforts, the efficiency of water distribution remains severely hampered by fuel shortages and persistent traffic congestion in the Al Mawasi area, where thousands of IDPs reside.

## Funding

- As of 5 September, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$1.60 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (48 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed a total of 93 ongoing projects, totalling US\$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

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



A Palestinian girl wiping the floor of a heavily damaged house in Abasan Al Kabira, area of Khan Younis. Photo by OCHA/Themba Linden, 7 September 2024

# Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip

09 Sep 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 11 September.*

## Key Highlights

- The second phase of the Gaza's polio vaccination campaign concluded on 8 September, reaching 256,572 children in Khan Younis and Rafah over four days. Preparations are now ongoing for the third phase, which is scheduled to take place in northern Gaza from 10 to 13 September.
- A new Israeli evacuation order in northern Gaza, the first in over two weeks, includes areas where local pauses had been agreed for polio vaccination.
- The number of humanitarian missions and movements within Gaza denied access by the Israeli authorities has nearly doubled in August compared with July (105 vs. 53).
- Half of all essential medicine is not available in Gaza, with life-saving medication, like insulin, running out.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel.
- Between the afternoons of 5 and 8 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 94 Palestinians were killed and 307 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 8 September 2024, at least 40,972 Palestinians were killed and 94,761 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 6 and 8 September:
  - On 6 September, six Palestinians, including four women, were reportedly killed and five others injured when a residential building was hit near Bader Mosque in Az Zaytoun area, in Gaza city.
  - On 6 September, seven Palestinians were reportedly killed when a house was hit in An Nuseirat Refugee Camp in northern Deir al Balah.
  - On 6 September, five Palestinians were killed, including two women and two unidentified corpses recovered in pieces, and at least 10 others were injured when an apartment was hit in Al Yarmouk street, in central Khan Younis.
  - On 7 September, five Palestinians, including two children and two women, were reportedly killed, and others injured, when a house was hit in Al Bureij Refugee Camp in northern Deir al Balah.

- On 7 September, at least eight Palestinians, including a boy, were reportedly killed and others injured in western An Nuseirat Refugee Camp, in northern Deir al Balah.
- On 7 September, six Palestinians, including two children and three women, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit near the entrance of Al Bureij refugee Camp, in northern Deir al Balah.
- On 8 September, five Palestinians including the Deputy Director for the Civil Defence (PCD) were reportedly killed and others injured when their house was hit in Jabalya. According to the PCD, the number of PCD staff killed so far has risen to 83.
- Between the afternoons of 6 and 9 September, no Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 9 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,540 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 340 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,271 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- The second phase of the polio vaccination campaign concluded on 8 September in southern Gaza, with a total of 256,572 children [reached](#) in Khan Younis and Rafah over four days. Meanwhile, following the completion of the first phase in central Gaza on 3 September, four large health facilities continued to administer vaccines to cover any additional needs, with a total of 195,555 children immunized in Deir al Balah to-date. Overall, the first round of the campaign is almost 70 per cent complete, with 446,163 children (229,324 males and 216,839 females) already vaccinated out of the 640,000 targeted throughout the Strip. Preparations are now ongoing for the third phase, which is scheduled to take place in northern Gaza from 10 to 13 September. This will conclude the first vaccination round, with the second set to commence in four weeks' time. The use of text messages (SMS) has been key in informing the population about the campaign, with the two national mobile network operators (MNOs) - Ooredoo and Jawwal - having worked closely with humanitarian partners to support the polio response. On 31 August, the first SMS addressing all people in Gaza was successfully delivered to some 1.2 million users across the two mobile networks. The message by the Ministry of Health announced the onset of the campaign in three phases across the Strip and the corresponding dates in each location. Three other targeted text messages were subsequently sent to people in central Gaza on 2 September and in southern Gaza on 4 and 6 September, providing further details about the vaccination roll-out in each area. Social media groups also served as an important source of information regarding the campaign.
- Aid operations in Gaza continue to be disrupted by network outages, with local MNOs and internet service providers (ISPs) facing significant challenges due to increased movement restrictions, damaged infrastructure, and lack of fuel and spare parts. On 8 September, internet service was cut off for about five hours in the central and southern Gaza Strip, according to a statement from the Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel). The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is also struggling to deliver services due to severe limitations pertaining to the import of equipment. Since 7 October 2023, the import of only 20 satellite phones, 30 digital VHF radios, four VHF repeaters, and four solar power solutions has been approved by Israeli authorities. Damaged or destroyed equipment, along with lengthy import processes, further hampers ETC's operations. Limited communication services do not only hamper the ability of humanitarian partners to deliver services, but also poses a significant risk for people in Gaza to access services, be aware of Israeli-issued evacuation orders and more.
- Humanitarian access remains severely hindered, as the denial of missions by the Israeli authorities within Gaza almost doubled in August, compared with July (105 vs. 53). Other factors affecting access include ongoing hostilities, a lack of internal security (including looting) and attacks on aid convoys, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXOs), the destruction of key connecting roads, and conditions at Israeli checkpoints. In southern Gaza, despite an overall increase in planned humanitarian movements submitted for the Israeli authorities to facilitate, from 543 in July to 603 in August, the number of facilitated missions in southern Gaza dropped by 28 per cent, from 250 in July to 179 in August. In northern Gaza, the number of facilitated aid missions increased by 10 per cent, from 67 to 74. However, the number of missions denied access rose by 140 per cent, from 30 to 72. These trends have severely disrupted the delivery of life-saving assistance, including water, sanitation, and hygiene services, health care, and fuel urgently needed for the operation of critical health facilities.
- For the second consecutive school year, over [600,000](#) students in Gaza are being deprived of accessing formal education, as 9 September would have marked the beginning of the new study year. [According](#) to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, over 10,000 school students have been killed, and 90 per cent of school buildings have been damaged since October 2023. Furthermore, according to an [assessment](#) conducted by the Education Cluster, UNICEF and Save the Children, 53 per cent of schools sheltering IDPs have been directly hit. Recent examples include incidents on 6 and 7 September, when 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed when a tent housing internally displaced persons in Halima Al Sadia School in Jabalya Camp and a prayer hall inside Amr Ibn Al Aas school in Gaza city, were hit. [According](#) to UNRWA, no official schooling is available in any of their 200 schools, but recreational activities and psychosocial support are provided in some of them.
- On 9 September, the Israeli military issued a new evacuation order, the first since 25 August, affecting four neighbourhoods in northwest Beit Lahia and Jabalya in northern Gaza. According to the Israeli military, the order was issued because Palestinian armed groups launched rocket fire from these areas into Israel. These localities had already been subjected to previous evacuation orders and residents have been instructed to move southwards. Initial mapping indicates that, before 7 October, over 28,000 people were residing in these areas, with most reportedly forced out by previous evacuation orders and ongoing hostilities. Additionally, parts of these areas have been designated to be included in the ongoing polio vaccination campaign. The continuing issuance of these orders is deepening the humanitarian crisis for hundreds of thousands of people, especially those who have been displaced multiple times. As of 9 September, and since October 2023, more than 55 evacuation orders remain in effect, covering up to 86 per cent of Gaza. As of 9 September, only 11 per cent of the Gaza Strip has not been placed under evacuation orders.

- The health-care system remains in dire condition. The Health Cluster reports that about 50 per cent of essential medicines are not available, and primary health-care centres are facing critically low levels of insulin. Routine vaccines such as Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) to protect infants from tuberculosis, and DTP to immunize them against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, are also nearly exhausted; further risking newborns. On 1 September, after facing many challenges, the World Health Organization (WHO) was able to reach the Kamal Adwan and Indonesian hospitals in northern Gaza to provide medications and supplies as well as 20 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds to expand inpatient capacity at the Indonesian Hospital. Items delivered included oncology medication for 200 patients, immunosuppressants covering the needs of 500 patients for three months and psychotropics to support 400 patients with mental health disorders. The mission also facilitated the deployment of a new Emergency Medical Team (EMT) to the Indonesian Hospital and the rotation to different medical facilities of an EMT pediatric surgeon, who had performed over 300 specialized surgeries, including tumor resections, from the Kamal Adwan Hospital to southern Gaza. Additionally, the WHO team transported one critical patient with below-knee and above-elbow amputations and his companions from the Kamal Adwan Hospital to the International Medical Corps (IMC) Field Hospital in Deir al Balah, pending further referral abroad. Despite all efforts made by humanitarian partners, health facilities in northern Gaza continue to face severe fuel shortages. On 9 September, the Director of the Indonesian Hospital [warned](#) that, due to the acute scarcity of diesel fuel, the facility was forced to suspend several services to prolong operating hours. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) similarly informed that its teams in the Gaza and North Gaza governorates are operating at minimum capacity due to critical fuel shortages which have been ongoing for nearly three weeks.

## Funding

- As of 9 September, Member States have disbursed approximately US\$1.61 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (47 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
- During August 2024, the occupied Palestinian territory Humanitarian Fund (oPt HF) managed a total of 93 ongoing projects, totalling US\$79.7 million. These projects aimed to address urgent needs in the Gaza Strip (89 per cent) and the West Bank (11 per cent). The projects were strategically focused on education, food security, health, protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene, coordination and support services, multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition. Of these projects, 52 projects are being implemented by international non-governmental organizations, 29 by national NGOs and 12 by UN agencies. Notably, 32 out of the 64 projects implemented by INGOs or the UN are being implemented in collaboration with national NGOs. Monthly updates, annual reports, and a list of all funded projects per year, are available on the oPt Humanitarian Fund [webpage](#), under the financing section.

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Heavily damaged school in Gaza. Photo by UNRWA

# Humanitarian Situation Update #217 | Gaza Strip

13 Sep 2024

*The Humanitarian Situation Update is issued by OCHA Occupied Palestinian Territory three times per week. The Gaza Strip is covered on Mondays and Fridays, and the West Bank is covered on Wednesdays. The next update will be issued on 16 September.*

## Key Highlights

- Violence and obstruction continue to undermine humanitarian efforts. Israeli forces held a UN convoy at gunpoint, preventing it from fulfilling its humanitarian mission. In a separate incident, a school, and its surroundings in Nuseirat in the middle areas was hit leading to at least 18 deaths, including aid workers.
- Over 560,000 children aged below ten years of age were vaccinated against polio during the first round of an emergency vaccination campaign in Gaza.
- On 12 September, the World Health Organization successfully evacuated the largest number of patients from Gaza since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023. About 12,000 patients continue to wait, unable to exit.
- About 68 per cent of Gaza's cropland and road network have been severely degraded by hostilities, with significant damage increases reported since July.

## Humanitarian Developments

- Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues to be reported across the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure. Ground operations, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza city, eastern Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, and east as well as south Rafah, with heavy fighting, also continue to be reported, alongside Palestinian rocket fire at Israel.
- Between the afternoons of 8 and 12 September, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, 146 Palestinians were killed and 364 were injured. Between 7 October 2023 and 12 September 2024, at least 41,118 Palestinians were killed and 95,125 were injured, according to MoH in Gaza.
- The following are some of the deadly incidents reported between 8 and 11 September:
  - On 8 September, five Palestinians were reportedly killed and at least seven others injured when a house was hit in northern An Nuseirat, in Deir al Balah.
  - On 9 September, six Palestinians, including a baby girl, were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Jabalya city, in north Gaza.
  - On 9 September, five Palestinians including three women were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit near the Jordanian Hospital in Tal Al Hawa, Gaza city.
  - On 10 September, nine Palestinians, including six children and women were reportedly killed when a residential building was hit in Jabalya city, in northern Gaza.

- On 11 September, 13 Palestinians, including nine women and girls, were reportedly killed and others injured when a house was hit in Khuza'a area, in eastern Khan Younis.
- On 11 September, five Palestinians including two children were reportedly killed and others injured when a residential building was hit in Ash Shamaa area, in Gaza city.
- Between the afternoons of 9 and 13 September, two Israeli soldiers were reportedly killed in a helicopter accident in Gaza, according to the Israeli military. Between 7 October 2023 and 13 September 2024, according to the Israeli military and official Israeli sources cited in the media, more than 1,542 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, the majority on 7 October and its immediate aftermath. The figure includes 342 soldiers killed in Gaza or along the border in Israel since the beginning of the ground operation. In addition, 2,280 Israeli soldiers were reported injured since the beginning of the ground operation.
- On 10 September, Israeli airstrikes hit a makeshift site that was hosting thousands of internally displaced people. The site was in the area where the Israeli military had instructed civilians to take shelter for their safety, in Al Mawasi part of Khan Younis. People staying there had evacuated from the eastern parts of Khan Younis and Rafah. [According](#) to the UN Human Rights Office, the attack that involved weapons with wide area effects killed at least 19 civilians and 60 others were wounded. According to a Shelter Cluster assessment conducted on 11 September, 68 families comprising 413 people lost their shelters in the attack, requiring new tents and other items. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, [condemned](#) the air strikes stressing that "the use of heavy weapons in densely populated areas is unconscionable." The UN Human Rights Office [deplored](#) the strikes and further indicated that safety of civilians as well as food, shelter and life necessities were not ensured in the unilaterally designated zone, where people have been forced to move to over the past 11 months.
- On 30 August, the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) cropland damage [assessment](#), based on satellite imagery collected in August 2024, revealed that 68 per cent of permanent crop fields in the Gaza Strip (102 out of 150 square kilometres) exhibited a significant decline in health and density compared with the average over the previous seven years. This marks a 4-percentage point increase in damaged cropland since July 2024, driven by razing, heavy vehicle activity, bombing, shelling, and other conflict-related dynamics. In Gaza Governorate, 75 per cent of cropland was observed to be damaged in August, up from 73 per cent in July, while Deir al Balah saw a five-percentage point increase in the same period. Simultaneously, a satellite-based [assessment](#) of the road network, conducted by UNOSAT on 18 August 2024, revealed that about 68 per cent of Gaza's road network has been damaged, with 1,190 kilometre of roads destroyed, 415 kilometre severely affected, and 1,440 kilometre moderately affected.
- Violence and obstruction continue to impede humanitarian aid workers' ability to support those in need. "What's happening in Gaza is totally unacceptable," stated the Secretary-General of the UN, [António Guterres](#) after the killing at least 18 Palestinians, including six UNRWA staff members on 11 September in an Israeli airstrike on a UN school, which was sheltering about 12,000 people in An Nuseirat Refugee Camp in Deir Al Balah. According to [UNRWA](#), this incident represents the highest death toll among its personnel in a single event since the escalation of hostilities, with the manager of the UNRWA shelter and other team members among those killed. According to UNRWA, the school has been hit five times since October 2023.
- On 9 September, Israeli forces stopped, threatened and attacked a UN aid convoy of 12 staff members at Al Rasheed checkpoint en route to northern Gaza to support the third phase of the polio vaccination campaign. The movement had been fully coordinated with the Israeli authorities. The situation escalated quickly, with soldiers pointing their weapons directly towards the convoy personnel. Live shots were fired, and tanks and bulldozers engaged with, and damaged UN vehicles, endangering the lives of UN staff inside the vehicles. The convoy remained held at gunpoint while senior level UN officials engaged with the Israeli authorities to de-escalate the situation. Two staff were questioned, one by one, and then released. After seven and a half hours at the checkpoint, the convoy returned to base without being able to fulfil its humanitarian mission to support the polio campaign. The Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, [Muhannad Hadi](#), stated, "the United Nations and humanitarian organizations face continuous obstruction and insecurity in their efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the devastated population in Gaza." This incident follows at least 16 instances of UN convoys being hit since the beginning of the year.
- The third and last phase of the polio vaccination campaign took place in northern Gaza between 10 and 12 September. More than 231 teams were deployed in the North Gaza and Gaza governorates, with a total of 112,311 children immunized in the three-day effort. The first round of the campaign has thus officially concluded across Gaza, with round two, aimed at administering the second dose of the vaccine, set to commence in four weeks' time. Meanwhile, following the successful conclusion of the four-day vaccination efforts in south Gaza on 8 September, five health facilities are [continuing](#) to offer polio vaccines to ensure that no child is missed. As of 13 [September](#), over 560,000 children aged below ten years of age were vaccinated against polio during the first round of an emergency vaccination campaign in Gaza.
- In another significant development, on 12 September, the World Health Organization (WHO), jointly with partners and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, managed to [evacuate](#) 97 critically injured and sick patients, along with 155 caretakers, from Gaza to the UAE. This was the largest single medical evacuation since October 2023. The patients comprised 45 children and 52 adults with injuries, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other conditions. Despite severe operational challenges and insecurity, WHO and its partners were able to transfer all patients from their initial locations across the Strip to the European Gaza Hospital (EGH) in Khan Younis, where a facility was set up to gather the patients before departure. Overall, only 221 patients and their 292 caretakers have been evacuated from Gaza on five separate occasions since the closure of the Rafah crossing on 7 May. All other evacuations remain halted and an estimated 12,000 patients are still unable to exit the Strip.
- UNFPA has warned about an alarming increase in high-risk pregnancies, birth and postpartum complications in the Gaza Strip. Beyond a marked rise in pre-term births and sexually transmitted, urinary and reproductive tract infections, other severe complications like eclampsia, sepsis and postpartum hemorrhage are being increasingly reported by health workers and Sexual

and Reproductive Health (SRH) service providers. The number of neonatal complications and admissions to Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) has also increased. Nearly one in 10 pregnant and breastfeeding women screened by the Nutrition Cluster in June and July were found to be acutely malnourished – a condition contributing to severe anemia, infections and delayed recovery after delivery. The lack of adequate water and sanitation services further exacerbates the risk of maternal and newborn infections. Currently, 11 hospitals and field hospitals across the Strip offer comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) - four in northern Gaza, two in Deir al Balah, four in Khan Younis, and one in Rafah - and seven facilities have NICUs. The Health Cluster, and the SRH Technical Working Group are endeavoring to expand EmONC services and NICUs in partially functioning hospitals and UNFPA has also established six maternal health units in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, which are mobile and can be relocated as the situation evolves. Moreover, to alleviate the pressure on overstretched hospitals, ten primary health-care centres have been equipped to provide specialized gynecological services, and to address human resource shortages, qualified SRH personnel, including midwives, are being recruited, trained and deployed across the Strip. Yet, despite all efforts made, ongoing insecurity, exacerbated by repeated evacuation orders, and chronic shortages of essential medical supplies, equipment, generators and fuel continue to undermine access to and the functionality of SRH facilities.

## Funding

- As of 13 September, Member States have disbursed about US\$1.61 billion out of the \$3.42 billion (47 per cent) requested to meet the most critical needs of 2.3 million\* people in Gaza and 800,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between January and December 2024. For funding analysis, please see the Flash Appeal Financial Tracking [dashboard](#). (\*2.3 million reflects the projected population of the Gaza Strip upon issuance of the Flash Appeal in April 2024. As of July 2024, the UN estimates that about 2.1 million people remain in the Gaza Strip, and this updated number is now used for programmatic purposes.)
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