



UNRWA Situation Report #34 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Information is valid as of 19 November 2023 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 43 of Hostilities

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Palestinians fleeing Gaza City and other parts of northern Gaza, 18 November 2023. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- Almost 1.7 million people have been displaced across the Gaza Strip since 7 October.
- As of 19 November, nearly 930,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are now sheltering in 156 UNRWA installations across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip, including in the north.
- Nearly 770,000 IDPs are sheltering in 99 facilities in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas. Nearly 160,000 IDPs were sheltering in 57 UNRWA schools in the northern and Gaza areas as of 12 October 2023, before evacuation orders were issued by Israeli Authorities. UNRWA is not able to access these shelters to assist or protect IDPs and does not have information on their needs and conditions.
- On 18 November, Israeli Authorities authorized the entry of 120,000 litres of fuel that will be used over two days and will only cover half of the daily critical needs. UNRWA has been informed that 120,000 litres of fuel will be delivered every two days.
- Without the amount of fuel needed to implement all the necessary humanitarian operations,
 - UNRWA is forced to handle a reduced number of aid trucks carrying humanitarian aid crossing daily into Rafah;
 - people will only have two thirds of their daily needs of clean drinking water;

- large parts of Gaza will continue to be flooded with sewage, further increasing risks of disease;
 - 70 per cent of solid waste will not be removed, posing a major health hazard.
- According to the logistics cluster, on 18 November, 30 aid trucks entered Gaza, followed by another 69 trucks the following day. As of 19 November, a total of 1,268 aid trucks had entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing. Of these, 200 were UNRWA trucks, carrying food, water, medical supplies and other essential non-food items.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- On 19 November, several overnight Israeli Security Forces (ISF) operations were reported across refugee camps in the West Bank.
- The ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Jenin refugee camp. An exchange of fire took place between Palestinians and ISF. One Palestinian with special needs was killed at the entrance of the camp and around five Palestinians were injured. Damage to infrastructure by ISF bulldozers was once again reported. The operations in Jenin City and refugee camp lasted for over 12 hours, impacting UNRWA operations and service delivery in the camp. Four UNRWA schools remained closed and provided remote learning, impacting over 1,600 students.
- On the same night, ISF conducted an operation in Balata refugee camp, Nablus, for the second night in a row. An exchange of fire took place between Palestinians and ISF. Six Palestinians, including one minor were reportedly injured with live ammunition. Several camp residents were detained. Damage to public infrastructure and private property was also reported. The operation lasted until the morning, impacting UNRWA operations and service delivery in the camp, including disrupting the school day for over 2,500 students at four UNRWA schools in the camp.
- On the same day, the ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in and around Qalandia refugee camp, located close to Qalandia checkpoint. An exchange of fire took place between Palestinians and ISF. Two Palestinians were reported injured and one was detained.
- Another ISF operation was carried out in Dheisheh refugee camp, Bethlehem. An exchange of fire took place between Palestinians and ISF, resulting in the killing of one Palestinian.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), as of 18 November around 13,000 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October; almost 75 per cent of them are reportedly children, women and elderly persons. Due to the collapse in Ministry of Health (MoH) services and communications in the North, MoH casualty data has not been updated for the last eight days.
- Overall, around 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to Israeli Authorities, the vast majority on 7 October (OCHA).

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, since 7 October, **200 Palestinians, including 52 children, have been killed by ISF and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers.**

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

- At least 778 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been injured and at least 176 killed since 7 October. The number of killed and injured IDPs is an estimate and it is likely to be higher as UNRWA is still trying to verify casualties from incidents impacting its installations in the North Gaza and Gaza governorates.
- As of 19 November, UNRWA was able to verify that 85 incidents¹ have impacted 67 UNRWA installations since the beginning of the war. Of these, 17 installations were directly hit and 45 were impacted by collateral damage. Based on information available at the time of reporting, there have been five incursions into UNRWA installations since the beginning of the war.
- Over 50 per cent of the impacted installations are south of Wadi Gaza.
- As of 19 November, 104 UNRWA colleagues have been killed since the beginning of the hostilities. This is the highest number of United Nations aid workers killed in a conflict in the history of the United Nations. At least half have been killed south of Wadi Gaza.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

UNRWA Shelters

- The number of displaced people continues to increase. UNRWA shelters in the Middle and Southern areas are severely overcrowded and are unable to accommodate new arrivals.
- The installations accommodate far more people than their intended capacity. They are not designed to host such a large number of people and do not have adequate facilities to provide safe and dignified living conditions. The over-crowding is leading to significant spread of diseases, including acute respiratory illness and diarrhea, raises environmental and health issues, and limits the Agency's ability to provide services.
- People inside shelters do not have enough food and basic survival items. Hygiene levels are poor and mental health issues are prevalent.
- On average, there is one shower unit for every 700 people in UNRWA shelters.
- The number of toilets differs from one shelter to another. In general, there are 30 to 50 toilets in a school (including those for persons with disabilities). On average, 160 people sheltering in UNRWA schools share a single toilet.
- In the Rafah Logistics base where more than 8,000 people have sought shelter, 400 people are sharing one toilet.
- Due to the poor sanitary conditions, in the last two weeks there has been a 35 per cent increase in skin diseases and a 40 per cent increase in cases of diarrhea.

¹ Number of incidents impacting UNRWA installations, which includes counting multiple incidents involving the same installation as individual events.

- As part of its humanitarian operations, UNRWA distributes food and non-food items to IDPs at the shelters. These include flour, canned food, cheese, dates, and tarpaulin, nylon sheets, mats, mattresses and other humanitarian supplies.

Health

- On 18 and 19 November, nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were still operational in the middle and southern areas, recording 19,162 patient visits, including Palestine Refugees and non-refugees.
- Most of these health centres are unable to use online registration systems for patients due to network breakdown. Patient information is therefore mostly registered on paper, making data collection and reporting more challenging.
- Midwives are providing care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women at the nine operational health centres. There are an estimated 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with more than 180 giving birth every day. A total of 597 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at the health centres on 18 and 19 November.
- On 18 and 19 November, 1,773 children were vaccinated at seven health centres according to the national vaccination programme.
- On the same day, emergency dental services (bleeding- swellings- trauma and extraction) were provided to 618 cases at seven health centres.
- UNRWA continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 124 medical teams. 351 health workers attended a total of 16,862 cases on 18 and 19 November (no data was available for the middle area on 18 November).
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) initiatives resumed in the Middle and Khan Younis areas with a team of psychiatrists and counsellors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters.
- Only through further rationing of fuel reserves and through solar energy has UNRWA been able to operate the health centres.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

- UNRWA has counsellors and social workers in the shelters to provide psychosocial first aid and other specialized protection services. Since 7 October, over 55,590 individuals (over 61 per cent of whom are females) received psychosocial support including family support and recreational activities.

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- UNRWA continues to operate water wells for the provision of potable and domestic water supply. Potable water trucking operations to the shelters in Rafah and Khan Younis areas also continue. Due to the reduced availability of fuel, the production of water wells decreased from an average of 10,000 cubic metres to 7,000.
- The distribution of potable water stopped in Rafah due to a lack of fuel for the water tankers but continued in Khan Younis and Middle areas thanks to the desalination plant which remained operational. Distribution of domestic water to the shelters continued at a minimum level.
- A number of public water wells in the south of Wadi Gaza stopped working. However, UNRWA is unable to confirm precise figures due to the communication breakdowns.

- Solid waste collection from the camps and from emergency shelters and transfer to landfills continues in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas.
- UNRWA teams continued to handle maintenance works at tens of shelters including electrical works to fix breakdowns, repair solar systems, plumbing works to repair water networks and desalination plants, security repairs, etc.

Quote from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General

"The large number of UNRWA facilities hit and the number of civilians killed cannot just be 'collateral damage'. [...] This vicious war is reaching a point of no return when all rules are disrespected, in overt disregard for civilian lives. I call and appeal once again for humanity to prevail and for a humanitarian ceasefire right now."

[Read the full statement.](#)

#HearTheirVoices

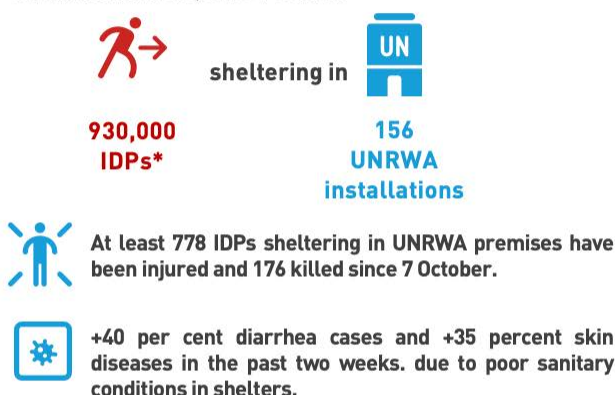
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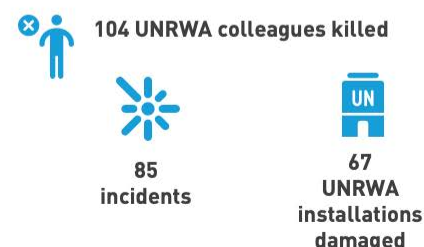
UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations

Confirmed numbers, since 7 October



UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



55,590 people (61 per cent women) were provided with psychosocial support and social work services since the beginning of the crisis.

UNRWA response – Health



19,162 IDPs in shelters received healthcare through 124 mobile medical points on 18-19 November.

16,862 patients received healthcare in nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres still operational in the Middle and South areas on 18-19 November.

597 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at the health centres on 18-19 November.

1,773 children were vaccinated at seven health centres on 18-19 November.

UNRWA response – Shelter and NFIs



Food and NFIs are distributed to IDPs in shelters. These include flour, canned food, cheese, dates, and tarpaulin, nylon sheets, mats, mattresses, and other humanitarian supplies.

* IDPs in the North and Gaza areas as of 12 October. UNRWA's ability to provide humanitarian support in the North and Gaza City has since been compromised and access to information including updates on IDPs numbers has since been hindered.

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