



UNRWA Situation Report #22 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Information is valid as of 3-4 November 2023 at 18:00 (local time)
Day 28-29 of Hostilities

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1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- In the last 48 hours, five additional UNRWA colleagues were killed. UNRWA also received confirmation of the death of two staff members who were killed on 24 October. **In total 79 colleagues have been killed and at least 24 injured since 7 October.** Like most Gazans, our staff have also lost relatives, friends, neighbors and are themselves displaced with their families. And yet, they continue to work tirelessly to provide humanitarian assistance.
- On 4 November, one UNRWA school in Jabalia camp, north of Gaza, was directly hit by strikes, which resulted in 15 people killed and 70 injured among the internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in the school.
- On the same day, due to strikes near an UNRWA school in Nuseirat camp in the Middle area, 10 IDPs sheltering in the school were injured.
- The total number of UNRWA installations damaged since 7 October is 48.
- Nearly 1.5 million people have been displaced across the Gaza Strip since 7 October. Nearly half of them (710,000) are sheltering in 149 UNRWA installations across all five governorates of Gaza.
- Over 550,000 IDPs are sheltering in 92 facilities in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas. Nearly 160,000 IDPs were sheltering in 57 UNRWA schools in the North and Gaza areas as of 12 October 2023, before the evacuation order was issued by the Israeli Authorities. UNRWA is not able to access these shelters to assist or protect the IDPs and as such does not have information on their needs and conditions.

The Gaza Strip

- Overnight on 3 November, a large-scale operation was conducted by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) in Jenin refugee camp and Jenin city, resulting in five Palestinian deaths. Substantial damage to road, electricity and water networks were recorded in the refugee camp. For the third time, ISF were observed destroying memorial sites and cultural symbols in the camp and the surrounding city.
- On the same day, ISF operations were conducted in Kalandia refugee camp where one Palestinian was killed and two were injured with live ammunition, and in Fawwar refugee camp, in which two Palestinians were killed.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, 9,488 people have been killed since 7 October, of whom 70 per cent are women, children and older persons. Over 24,158 people have been injured. This is in addition to 2,000 people reported missing, presumably under the rubble of destroyed buildings, including 1,250 children.
- On average, a child is killed and two are injured every ten minutes during the war.
- Overall, nearly 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October (OCHA).
- The health system in Gaza is collapsing due to a lack of fuel, medicines and supplies, damage to health facilities and hospitals and to roads and infrastructure, which makes transporting the injured to the hospitals almost impossible.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, **since 7 October, 136 Palestinians, including 43 children**, have been killed by Israeli forces; and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers.

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

- In the last 48 hours, **five UNRWA colleagues were killed**. UNRWA received confirmation that two colleagues were killed on 24 October in Gaza City and in the Middle Area. In **total 79 colleagues have been killed and at least 24 injured since 7 October**. One UNRWA staff member was injured in the Middle area.
- Due to strikes that hit an UNRWA school in Jabalia camp, in the north of Gaza, on 4 November, 15 IDPs were killed and 70 were injured. According to the latest data available, 16,000 IDPs were reportedly sheltering at the school as of 12 October.
- On the same day, 11 IDPs were injured due to strikes near an UNRWA school in Nuseirat camp, in the Middle Area. The school is sheltering over 8,300 IDPs.

- After conducting further verification, UNRWA was able to establish that due to a strike near an UNRWA school in Jabalia camp, reported on 2 November, 27 people were killed and 50 injured. According to the latest information available to UNRWA, as of 12 October, 3,600 IDPs were sheltering in the school.
- 50 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 461 injured since 7 October.
- At least 48 UNRWA installations have been impacted since the beginning of the hostilities.
- On 3 and 4 November, a total of **77 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies, including medical supplies, food and drinking water, entered the Gaza Strip through Rafah**, bringing the total number of trucks to 451. Twelve of the trucks which entered on 3 and 4 November were UNRWA trucks. UNRWA teams received the convoys in Gaza and helped with storage and distribution, in cooperation with other UN agencies. This is a drop in the ocean compared to the overwhelming needs of over two million people trapped in Gaza. No fuel has come for nearly one month, with devastating impacts on hospitals, bakeries, water plants and UNRWA operations.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

UNRWA Shelters

- UNRWA shelters in Middle and South Areas are severely overcrowded. This overcrowding places huge pressure on infrastructure and the Agency's ability to meet the minimum needs of people for food, water and accommodation.
- The risk of a public health crisis continues to grow, in a setting of mass displacement, overcrowding of shelters and damage to the water and sanitation infrastructure. Decomposition of bodies under collapsed buildings amid limited rescue efforts continues to raise humanitarian and environmental concerns.
- UNRWA shelters have reported thousands of cases of acute respiratory, skin infections and diarrhea as well as cases of chicken pox.

Health

- On Friday, 3 November 2023, UNRWA continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 92 mobile medical points and attended to a total of almost 7,260 cases.
- The shelters are hosting newborns, injuries and other cases that are in need of special health-care assistance. They are deprived of adequate health care inside and outside the shelters.
- Stocks of medicines are critically decreasing with availability down to a few days. In addition, fuel is running severely low, making the delivery of primary health care at UNRWA health centres very challenging.

Relief and social services/ Psychosocial Support

- UNRWA has counsellors and social workers in the shelters to provide psychosocial first aid and other specialized protection services. Since 7 October, **UNRWA has provided 25,490 people with psychosocial support**.
- Most shelters are not equipped to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities; in cooperation with the organization "Humanity & Inclusion", UNRWA is conducting an assessment of persons with disabilities in its shelters to be able to better respond to their needs.

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- Some solid waste collection from the camps and shelters is being transferred to landfills in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas. However, the scarcity of fuel and staff is negatively impacting solid waste management activities.
- Water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah are functional with about 11,000 m³ being pumped from nine water wells.
- Water trucking operations to the shelters in Rafah and Khan Younis areas continue. The number of water trucks is insufficient to provide water to all shelters and water tanks can be refilled only once a day. Given the number of people in the shelters, there is insufficient water to cover the needs of people in the UNRWA shelters.
- UNRWA teams have been handling maintenance and rehabilitation works at dozens of shelters. Works include plumbing, electrical, metal and carpentry works to repair damage and to upgrade the capacity of shelters to accommodate more people.

Quote from UNRWA Commissioner-General Phillipe Lazzarini

“The day I spent with the UNRWA team on the ground was one of the saddest of my entire 30-year humanitarian career. [...] Everyone was asking for water and food. Instead of being at school to learn, children were asking for a sip of water and a loaf of bread. It was heartbreaking.”

ENDs –



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations

 sheltering in 
710,000+
IDPs* **149**
UNRWA
installations

 50 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 461 injured since 7 October.
 UNRWA shelters reported thousands of cases of acute respiratory, skin infections and diarrhea.


UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations

Confirmed numbers, since 7 October


 79 UNRWA colleagues killed
 48 UNRWA installations damaged

* 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.

Humanitarian access

 77 trucks (of which 12 from UNRWA) of medical supplies, food and water, entered Gaza through Rafah, on 3 - 4 Nov.


UNRWA response – Psychosocial support

 25,490 people were provided with psychosocial support and social work services.

UNRWA response – Health

 7,260 IDPs in shelters received healthcare through 92 mobile medical points on 3 Nov.

UNRWA response – WASH

 UNRWA teams have been handling maintenance and rehabilitation works at dozens of shelters.

Water trucking operations to the shelters in Rafah and Khan Younis areas continue. However, water is insufficient to cover the needs of IDPs in shelters.

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