



UNRWA Situation Report #50 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Information is valid as of 11 December 2023 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 66 of Hostilities

Published 12 December 2023



People taking shelter in an UNRWA school in Nuseirat, Gaza, on 12 December 2023. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Fadi Thabet

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- On 11 December, several Security Council representatives travelled to the Egyptian side of the Rafah Crossing, the only open entry point into the Gaza Strip since 7 October. UNRWA Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, briefed the delegation about the situation in the Gaza Strip and the humanitarian response. He then crossed the border (without the delegation) into Gaza.
- As of 11 December, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities is 134.
- Since 7 October, **up to 1.9 million people** (or over 85 per cent of the population) have been displaced across the Gaza Strip, some multiple times. Families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety.
- As of 11 December, **nearly 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)** were sheltering in **155 UNRWA facilities** across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip, including in the North and

Gaza City. UNRWA shelter information is updated daily to the extent possible; the information for north Gaza and Gaza City was last updated 12 October due to access constraints and security situation.

- **More than 1.1 million IDPs are sheltering in 98 UNRWA facilities in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas.**

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, between 7 October and the afternoon of 11 December, 18,205 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, about 70 per cent of whom are reported to be women and children, and over 49,645 have reportedly been injured.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, 265 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) in the West Bank, including 69 children. In addition, eight Palestinians, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers.

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

- UNRWA is verifying reports of incidents affecting UNRWA facilities on 11 December.
- On 10 December the following incidents have been **reported impacting UNRWA installations and the IDPs sheltering there**. UNRWA is verifying reports. Initial reports indicate that in an incident at one school in Beit Lahiya at least one IDP was killed and at least 20 more were injured, **while the rest of the 6,000 IDPs sheltering there were reportedly forced to evacuate**. Men were forced to strip down to their underwear and they were detained. **Israeli Forces reportedly set the school on fire**;
- At a training centre in Khan Younis an IDP was injured by a bullet; and two health centres in Jabalia were impacted – in one, IDPs suffered from smoke inhalation; and at the other, hosting around 7,000 people, two people were reportedly shot outside the facilities when they attempted to leave the shelter, which was directly struck multiple times.
- **154 incidents impacting UNRWA premises** and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the hostilities (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least 12 incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. 43 different UNRWA installations were directly hit and 60 different installations sustained collateral damage.
- UNRWA estimates that in total **at least 287 internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed** and **at least 997 injured since the start of the hostilities**. UNRWA is verifying the number of casualties caused by incidents that impacted its installations, and notes that these figures do not include some reported casualties where the number of injuries could not be determined.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

UNRWA Shelters

- In total, nearly 1.3 million displaced people are now sheltering in 155 UNRWA installations.
- The average number of IDPs in UNRWA shelters located in middle and southern areas is 11,480, more than four times their capacity.

Health

- Eight (out of 22) UNRWA health centres are still operational in the Middle and Southern areas, recording **9,487 patients visits on 10 December**, including Palestine Refugees and non-refugees.
- Midwives are providing care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women at the eight operational health centres. There are an estimated 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with more than 180 giving birth every day. **A total of 121 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at health centres.**
- **UNRWA continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 97 medical teams. 446 health workers attended to a total of 14,008 patients.** Each team is composed of 1-2 doctors and a nurse.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

- **On December 11**, a total of **697 individual PSS** consultations were conducted in Rafah and Khan Younis. UNRWA teams provided psychosocial first aid and other specialized protection services to IDPs. **Since 7 October, 99,223 IDPs people have been reached.**
- Psychosocial support (PSS) efforts continued to be delivered in UNRWA shelters by a team of **284 school counselors reaching 40,124 IDPs in shelters.**

Food security

- UNRWA continued to **distribute flour** outside of shelters in southern governorates. **A total of 74,947 families have been reached so far.**

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- **On 11 December, UNRWA continued to operate nine water wells pumping about 10,000 cubic meters to provide potable and domestic water.** Potable water trucking operations to the shelters in Rafah and Khan Younis areas continue.
- Shelters in Rafah and the Middle areas continued to receive potable water through tankers from the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility.

- Overcrowding continues to put stress on IDP shelter sanitation services. Solid waste management services continue in Rafah, Khan Younis and Middle Area camps with approximately 60 loadings transferred to temporary dumping sites.

Quote from Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza

“We are essentially starved of the resources that we need to provide for people.”

ENDs –



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations

Confirmed numbers, since 7 October



sheltering in



1,285,000
IDPs*

155
UNRWA
installations



Overcrowding means **486 people per toilet** in UNRWA Shelters in Rafah.



At least **287 IDPs** sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and total **1257 casualties** since 7 October.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



134 UNRWA colleagues killed



154
incidents



103
UNRWA
installations
damaged

UNRWA response – Food assistance



74,947 families outside of shelters have received flour in southern governorates since 21 Nov.

UNRWA response – WASH



284 health workers attended **40,124** IDPs in shelters between 30 Nov - 11 Dec.

121 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at health centres.

9,487 medical consultations were provided in UNRWA health centres per day.

14,008 patients received healthcare in eight (out of 22) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



99,200 people were provided with psychosocial support and social work services since 7 Oct.

2,675 sessions on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education were organized by UNRWA school counselors in cooperation with UNMAS.

428,000 children were reached with recreational activities by UNRWA school counsellors in collaboration with other organizations.

* 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Laurane March

Global Media Requests

Mobile: +962-7-9130-0567 (WhatsApp preferred)

On Twitter: @UNRWA

Email: l.march@unrwa.org

Estefania Diaz

[English / French / Spanish language]

European Media Requests

Mobile: +32-473-82-2006

On Twitter: @UNRWA

Email: e.diaz@unrwa.org

Lily Esposito

[English / French language]

European Media Requests

Mobile: +972-54-240-2680 (what's app)

On Twitter: @UNRWA

Email: l.esposito@unrwa.org

Asako Nitta

[Japanese language]

Japanese Media Requests

Mobile: +972-54-240-2727 (what's app)

On Twitter: @UNRWA

Email: a.nitta@unrwa.org