



UNRWA Situation Report #5 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem)

11 October 2023 16:00



© 2023 UNRWA Photo by Mohammad Hinnawi

Area general updates

- Nearly 218,600 internally displaced people (IDPs) are sheltering in 92 UNRWA schools in all areas in the Gaza Strip. The number of IDPs in UNRWA emergency shelters continues to increase on a daily basis as airstrikes and shelling by Israeli Forces continue across the Gaza Strip.
- In addition, many other people are displaced in government schools and other buildings. In total, at least 340,000 Palestinians have been displaced across the Gaza Strip.
- Over 5,300 UNRWA staff are responding to the emergency under extremely challenging circumstances. Many roads have been destroyed or have become inaccessible due to debris and ongoing airstrikes are limiting movements.
- Shelters are overcrowded and have limited availability of food, non-food items and potable water. A water crisis is looming in UNRWA emergency shelters and across the Gaza Strip due to damaged infrastructure, lack of electricity needed to operate pumps and desalination plants, and limited supply of water in the local market. Water supplies cannot be replenished due to the total blockade on the Gaza Strip by the Israelis authorities. Fuel cannot be brought in and Israeli water suppliers can no longer deliver water in Gaza. An Emergency Water Task Force was established to explore solutions for potable water supplies in shelters and beyond in coordination with UNICEF and OCHA.
- There is no humanitarian access for food or other essential supplies.

- In coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), bread was distributed to the displaced people in the shelters. UNRWA is distributing other food to displaced families.
- Today, one UNRWA health centre in Gaza area was affected by airstrikes, bringing the total number of installations affected by the conflict to 21 since 7 October.
- It is still possible to communicate with UNRWA offices through internet and satellite phones.

Protection of Civilians

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, 1,100 people have been killed, including 171 women and 326 children, and 5,339 injured, including 744 women and 1,217 children, since 7 October.
- According to Israeli sources, 1,200 people have been killed in Israel.
- Three UNRWA personnel were among the fatalities in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of UNRWA staff and other personnel killed to 12 since 7 October.
- Five internally displaced people sheltering at two UNRWA schools were injured as a result of airstrikes nearby. A total of 33 IDPs sheltering at UNRWA schools have been injured.

Education

- All UNRWA schools across the Gaza Strip, including the Rehabilitation Centre for Visually Impaired and the two vocational centres in Gaza and Khan Younis, remain closed.

Provision of health services

- Only eight (out of 22) UNRWA health centres across the Gaza Strip were able to provide primary health-care services from 9:00 to 13:00 to critical outpatient cases and patients in need of treatment for non-communicable diseases.
- 1,466 patients, both refugees and non-refugees, received medical services at UNRWA health centres.
- Provision of telemedicine services through the toll-free line was suspended due to cuts in the electricity and telephone networks across the Gaza Strip.
- 67 UNRWA health staff (eight per cent of total health staff) are present at UNRWA health centres.
- UNRWA pharmacy stocks are not affected by shortages for now. However, one UNRWA health centre in Jabalia (north of the Gaza Strip) is likely to run out of medicine in the next 14 days.
- Diesel reserves to run the health centres are critically decreasing. The current stock of diesel at Shaboura Health Centre in Rafah is for one day, while in Khan Younis health centre the stock is for two days. If stocks of diesel are not replenished by tomorrow (12 October), there is a high risk that these two health centres will have to close.
- The community continues to appeal to UNRWA to open the closed health centres due to high need of health services especially as the government hospitals are overwhelmed while needs continue to grow.

- UNRWA Health Programme will cover cost of all referred C-Section and normal deliveries as well as urgent surgeries.

Sanitation

- Some solid waste collection and transfer to landfills activities have resumed for a safe environment in the camps and to reduce health-related risks. Transfer of solid waste from emergency shelters to landfills continues.
- Water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah are functional with about 10,000 cubic metres pumped from nine water wells.
- Provision of potable water through tankers continues to several designated emergency shelters in the Khan Younis area.

Relief and Social Services

- Nearly half a million people (112,000 families) have not been able to receive their quarterly food rations since UNRWA food distribution centers closed on 7 October.

General UNRWA operations

- With an increased number of schools sheltering IDPs, mobile toilets and showers are being deployed where these are not available.
- UNRWA distributed mattresses, mats, blankets and jerrycans in the designated emergency shelters. People with specific needs are prioritized as the quantity is insufficient to cover all needs.
- Maintenance work continues to be carried out in UNRWA emergency shelters.
- Staff movement remains restricted except for staff providing services.
- The UNRWA stocks of diesel will last for 13 days from today. Unless supplies start coming in as soon as possible, UNRWA operations will be heavily impacted.

UNRWA Installations

- An UNRWA health centre in Gaza City as well as three trucks parked outside the centre were affected by collateral damage due to an airstrike targeting a building nearby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Tamara Alrifai, UNRWA Spokesperson/
Director of External Relations & Communications
Mobile: +962 (0)79 090 0140 **Email:**
t.alrifai@unrwa.org

Juliette Touma, UNRWA Director of Communications
Mobile: +962-79-867-4628 (on whatsapp) +972
54240-2753, +970-56-294-0311
On Twitter: @JulietteTouma
Email: j.touma@unrwa.org