



UNRWA Situation Report #58 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

All information from 28-30 December 2023 is valid as of
30 December at 22:30 (local time)

Day 83-85 of Hostilities

Published 31 December 2023



Three Palestinian children gaze at the rubble of their destroyed home in Gaza, December 2023. © UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- On 29 December, the Director of UNRWA's Gaza Field Office stated that Israeli Forces had, the previous day, fired at a UN aid convoy on its way back from northern Gaza. The aid convoy was taking a route which was designated by the Israeli Army when the incident happened, the movement of the convoy was done in close coordination with the Israeli Authorities and was de-conflicted. No one was injured, however one UNRWA vehicle sustained significant damage. UNRWA reiterates that humanitarian workers are not a target and should be protected at all times and not be targeted.
- As of 30 December, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities is **142**.
- 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. Information on Internally displaced numbers for northern Gaza and Gaza City was last updated on 12 October due to access constraints and the security situation.

- As of 30 December, nearly 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are sheltering in 155 UNRWA facilities across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip, including 160,000 in the north and Gaza City and approximately 400,000 in close vicinity of these installations and receiving assistance from UNRWA. A total of 1.79 million ¹ IDPs are receiving assistance from UNRWA.

¹ This includes nearly 160,000 IDPs in north Gaza and Gaza City governorates as of 12 October. UNRWA's ability to provide humanitarian support and update data in the above areas is severely restricted. The hostilities, Israeli Forces' evacuation orders and the constant search for safer places meant that people are displaced multiple times. UNRWA shelters often provide assistance to registered Palestine Refugees and other members of the community. There are instances where total numbers could be duplicated due to overlapping registrations, this is why we use "estimates" for these figures.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- On 28 December, Israeli Security Forces (ISF) conducted several coordinated overnight operations across major West Bank cities including Ramallah, Tulkarem, Nablus and Jenin (north of the West Bank). The operation in Ramallah lasted for over four hours and resulted in clashes with one Palestinian killed and some 14 injuries.
- On the morning of 29 December, an ISF operation took place in Al Far'a Camp in northwestern West Bank. The operation, which lasted for several hours, included the use of a military bulldozer, and resulted in exchange of fire between ISF and Palestinians with two Palestinian injuries and damage to property and infrastructure. In the afternoon of 30 December, an alleged ramming incident took place at the entrance of Fawwar Camp. An ISF soldier was injured and the Palestinian driver of the vehicle killed.
- Late night, (30 December) ISF entered Tulkarem and Nur Shams camps, in what was the beginning of a large-scale overnight operation hitting basic civilian infrastructure.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, at least 21,672 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October. About 70 per cent of those killed are reported to be women and children. Another 56,165 Palestinians have been reportedly injured since.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, since 7 October, 307 Palestinians, including 79 children, have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- This year (2023) has been the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the UN began recording casualties in 2005.

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

- UNRWA is working to verify details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.

- On 28 December, one **IDP** sheltering in a school in Khan Younis was injured as a result of shrapnel falling into the schoolyard.
- On 28 of December, Israeli Army troops with tanks, bulldozers and infantry advanced towards Bureij Preparatory Girls' A School (middle areas), and destroyed the school's back perimeter wall and then moved to the school's main gate. It is being reported that the troops ordered **1,000 IDPs and seven UNRWA staff** to temporarily evacuate the shelter, with males (including UNRWA staff) forced to strip to their underwear and move into an open space with their hands up while female and children were ordered to stand in the center of the school yard. **27 IDP and three UNRWA staff** are reportedly still detained by Israeli authorities.
- **203** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since 7 October (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least **18** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. This includes **60** direct hits on UNRWA installations and **68** different UNRWA installations sustaining collateral damage.
- UNRWA estimates that in total at least **314** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least another **1,129** were injured since 7 October.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

UNRWA Shelters

- In total, **nearly 1.4 million displaced people are now sheltering in 155 UNRWA installations**, with another 400,000 registered and accessing services from UNRWA.
- The average number of IDPs in UNRWA shelters in the middle and southern areas is over **12,000. This is more than four times their capacity.**

Health

- On 30 December seven (out of 22) UNRWA health centres are still operational in the middle and southern areas, recording **11,228 patient visits.**
- Midwives are providing care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women at the seven operational health centres. On 30 December, **a total of 238 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at health centres.**
- **On 28 and 29 December, UNRWA continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 89 medical teams.** Each team is composed of between one to two doctors and a nurse.
- **On 30 December, UNRWA attended to 20,310 patients in UNRWA shelters and UNRWA health centres.**
- Between 28-30 December, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services continued to be delivered in the middle and Khan Younis areas with a team of two psychiatrists and 17 counsellors and supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. The team responded to 2,138 cases through individual consultations, awareness sessions, and support for GBV cases.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

- UNRWA teams, including 284 social workers in the shelters, continue to provide psychosocial first aid and other specialized protection services to IDPs. **As of 30 December, around 77,206 IDPs were reached by this service.**
- Between 28 and 29 December, **school counsellors addressed 1,133 individual and family consultations in Rafah and Khan Younis, alongside 1,046 group sessions.** These efforts reached 14,798 IDPs, contributing to an accumulative total of 51,204 PSS sessions provided since 7 October.
- During the same period, school counselors provided psychological support to 303 UNRWA staff through both in-person and remote consultations. **The total number of UNRWA staff provided with psychological support since the beginning of the hostilities is 5,000.**

Food security

- UNRWA continued to **distribute flour** outside of shelters in the southern governorates. **A total of 176,321 families have been reached so far.**

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- Between 28 - 30 December, all water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah were operational. Approximately 11,000 cubic metres have been pumped from seven water wells following the repair of one water well. Khan Younis and Rafah water wells have operated in two shifts (12 hours) to provide potable/domestic water supply service.
- During the same period, the solid waste management service has been continued at Rafah, Khan Younis and middle area camps. About 110 loadings have been transferred to temporary dumping sites.
- UNRWA has installed mobile toilet and shower units to serve IDPs in spontaneous camps in Khan Younis and middle Area.

Quote from Fatima Abu Rashid, a mother of seven, currently displaced in an UNRWA school in Deir al Balah refugee camp (middle areas):

"It was a tough night. The echoes of explosions mixed with the sound of thunder. My children were shivering. One of the families brought us some winter clothes, but they were not enough for all of us."

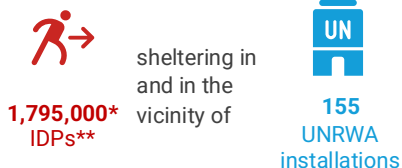
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UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations

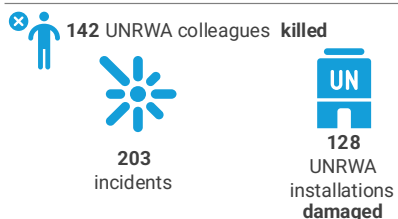
Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October – 25 December



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

At least **314** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,129** injured since 7 October.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



* This includes nearly 160,000 IDPs in north Gaza and Gaza City governorates as of 12 October. UNRWA's ability to provide humanitarian support and update data in the above areas is severely restricted.

** The war, Israeli Forces' evacuation orders and the constant search for safer places meant that people are displaced multiple times. UNRWA shelters often provide assistance to registered Palestine Refugees and other members of the community. There are instances where total numbers could be duplicated due to overlapping registrations, this is why we use "estimates" for these figures.

UNRWA response – Food assistance

176,321 families outside of shelters have received flour in middle areas and southern governorates since 21 Nov.

UNRWA response – Health

Between 28 - 30 Dec
238 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at health centres
20,310 patients received healthcare in seven (out of 22) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

UNRWA response – Water, sanitation and hygiene

Between 28 - 30 Dec:
7 water wells continue to operate pumping approximately 11,000 cubic metres of water.
Solid waste management continues in Rafah and Khan Younis, where **approximately 110 truck loadings** were transferred to temporary sites

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