



## UNRWA Situation Report #32 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Information is valid as of 15 November 2023 at 18:30 (local time)

Day 40 of Hostilities

Published 17 November 2023



Children taking shelter from heavy rain in a tent set up around a hospital in Deir Al-Balah, 14 November 2023. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

### 1. Key points

#### The Gaza Strip

- Almost 1.6 million people have been displaced across the Gaza Strip since 7 October.
- **Nearly 830,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are now sheltering in 154 UNRWA installations across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip, including in the north.**
- **Nearly 670,000 IDPs are sheltering in 97 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 the evacuation order was 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 15 November, **UNRWA received just over 23,000 litres of fuel – the equivalent of half a tanker.** Israeli Authorities have restricted the use of this fuel only to transport the small quantities of aid entering from Egypt. **The use of this fuel was not allowed for the overall humanitarian response, including for medical and water facilities or the work of UNRWA.** Read the full [statement](#).
- Much more fuel is needed. **UNRWA needs 160,000 litres of fuel every day for basic humanitarian operations.**

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, as of 10 November **over 11,078 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October; two thirds of them are reportedly children and women**. Due to the collapse in MoH services and communications in the North, casualty data has not been updated for the last five 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, 183 Palestinians, including 47 children, have been killed by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers**.

## 3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

### The Gaza Strip

- Due to strikes near an UNRWA school in Khan Younis, shrapnel fell inside the school injuring two people, including a child. 3,400 IDPs are sheltering in the school.
- At least 573 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been injured and 71 killed since 7 October. The number of killed and injured IDPs is likely to be higher as UNRWA is still trying to verify casualties from incidents impacting its installations in the North and in Gaza areas.
- The lack of reliable communication within and with the Gaza Strip has caused delays and inaccuracy in the reporting on the number of impacted installations. As of 15 November, UNRWA was able to verify that 80 incidents<sup>1</sup> have impacted 64 UNRWA installations since the beginning of the war. Of these, 15 were directly hit and 45 were impacted by collateral damage. Based on information available at the time of reporting, there have been four incursions into UNRWA installations since the beginning of the war.
- Over 50 per cent of the impacted installations are south of Wadi Gaza.
- In total, **103 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.

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

## 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 as mental health issues increase.**
- 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, 150 people sheltering in UNRWA schools share a single toilet.**

#### Health

- Due the continued communication breakdowns in some areas in the South and especially in the Middle areas, at the time of reporting data is only available for services provided on 14 November.
- On 14 November, nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were still operational in the middle and southern areas, recording **7,241 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 256 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at the health centres on 14 November. In the shelters, a total of 778 post-natal mothers have been attended to since the beginning of October.**
- On 14 November, 731 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 224 cases at seven health centres.
- **UNRWA continued to provide health care to IDPs at shelters through 124 medical teams deployed to the shelters. 281 health workers attended a total of 10,222 cases on 14 November.**
- Only through further rationing of fuel reserves and through solar energy has UNRWA been able to operate the health centres. Soon UNRWA operations will entirely depend on solar energy which is designed to cater for minimal operations. Functionality of the solar energy is not guaranteed as any malfunction and/or battery failure will bring all operations to a halt.

## Relief and Social Services/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 41,700 individuals (nearly 62 per cent of whom are females) received psychosocial support including family support and recreational activities.**
- In coordination with Humanity & Inclusion, UNRWA provided specialized support, including dignity kits and assistive devices, to 3,830 persons with disabilities, injured, children and elderly.

## Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- UNRWA was able to continue the provision of water and sanitation services on 15 November. However, if no fuel is received, these services will start shutting down on Friday 17.
- In particular, **public WASH facilities will start shutting down**, including:
  - 60 water wells in the south of Wadi Gaza. This will cut off domestic water at 44 UNRWA IDP shelters south of Wadi Gaza, which are currently hosting over 290,000 IDPs. It will also cut domestic water supply to most housing units in the South of Wadi Gaza.
  - Two main desalination plants in Rafah and Middle areas, which are the major source of potable water for the population South of Wadi Gaza, providing water to 44 UNRWA managed IDP shelters hosting over 290,000 IDPs.
- Solid waste collection from the camps and from emergency shelters and transfer to landfills also continues in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas.
- **As of 17 November, UNRWA sanitation work will start shutting down, causing environmental hazards with around 400 tons of solid waste per day accumulated in all camps and UNRWA managed and overcrowded IDP shelters.** Combined with stopping public sewage pumping stations, and the shutdown of municipality sanitation operations, this will impose serious threats to public health, with a high risk of water contamination and disease outbreaks.

## Quote from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General

" We have just witnessed, over the last few weeks, the largest displacement of Palestinians since 1948."

#HearTheirVoices

ENDs –



## UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

### IDPs in UNRWA installations



At least 573 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been injured and 71 killed since 7 October.

IDPs in shelters lack food and basic survival items. Hygiene levels are poor as mental health issues increase.

### UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations

Confirmed numbers, since 7 October



103 UNRWA colleagues killed



64 UNRWA installations damaged - over 50 per cent are south of Wadi Gaza

\* 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.

### UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



41,700 people (62 per cent women) were provided with psychosocial support and social work services since the beginning of the crisis.

3,830 persons with disabilities, injured, children and elderly were provided with specialized support, including dignity kits and assistive devices, in partnership with HI.

### UNRWA response – Health



10,222 IDPs in shelters received healthcare through 124 mobile medical points on 14 November.

7,241 patients received healthcare in nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres still operational in the Middle and South areas on 14 November.

731 children were vaccinated at seven health centres

### UNRWA response – Fuel



UNRWA needs 160,000 litres of fuel every day for basic humanitarian operations.

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