



UNRWA Situation Report #71 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

All information from 28-29 January 2024, is valid as of 29 January 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 114-115 of Hostilities

Published 30 January 2024



Displaced families living in an UNRWA school turned shelter in Deir al-Balah, Middle Areas, The Gaza Strip, January 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Mohamed Hinnawi

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- Intense fighting in/around Khan Younis (southwest of Gaza) over the last eight days is causing loss of life and damage to civilian infrastructure, including UNRWA's largest shelter in the southern area, the Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC).
- As of 29 January 2024, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities has increased by one and is now **152**.
- As of 29 January, up to 1.7 million* people (over 75 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. Following intense Israeli bombardments and fighting in Khan Younis and the Middle Areas in recent days, a significant number of displaced people have moved further south.

- According to OCHA, on 29 January, the Israeli military ordered several neighborhoods in Gaza City to evacuate towards the south. This area consisted of approximately 59 shelters with an estimated 88,000 IDPs who are being forcibly displaced again.
- On 29 January, there was a resumption of aid trucks accessing Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing following days of disruption due to Israeli protesters.

*This includes one million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. As of October 12, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in north Gaza and Gaza governorates. The ability of UNRWA to provide humanitarian support and updated data in these areas has been severely restricted. The ongoing hostilities, evacuation orders issued by Israeli Forces, and the constant need for safer locations have resulted in people being displaced multiple times.

**UNRWA has reported in Situation Report 64 that up to 1.9 million IDPs are either residing in 154 UNRWA shelters or near these shelters. Due to the continued escalation of fighting and evacuation orders, some households have moved away from the shelters where they were initially registered.

*** There are instances where the same IDPs are registered in multiple shelters due to the fluid movement of populations; hereafter, estimates are used for these shelters. UNRWA plans to conduct a more accurate count of IDPs in shelters, including informal shelters, as soon as the security situation allows.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Several Israel Security Forces (ISF) search and arrest operations leading to confrontations with Palestinians occurred between 25–29 January.

On 25 January, the following ISF search and arrest operations occurred:

- Overnight between January 24 and 25, ISF conducted search and arrests operations in Jenin city, Jenin refugee camp and Qabatiya, northern West Bank. Exchange of fire was reported in different locations as well as damages to infrastructure. ISF reportedly bulldozed several roads in Jenin refugee camp and one Palestinian was detained in Jenin city.
- Early in the morning, four Palestinians were detained during a search and arrest operation in Hebron, southern West Bank.
- ISF reportedly surrounded a Palestinian house and fired live ammunition during clashes with Palestinians in Bil al Basha, northern West Bank. Two Palestinians, including a child, were injured. A Palestinian, who was released during the hostage exchange in November 2023, was reportedly detained again.
- ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Fahma, northern West Bank. ISF opened fire and reportedly injured four Palestinians, including a paramedic from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Damage and destruction of vehicles and private belongings was also reported.
- Clashes took place between Palestinians and ISF in Silwan, central West Bank. ISF troops subsequently detained a Palestinian child.

- ISF reportedly sprayed skunk water towards Palestinians and their houses in Shu'fat Camp, In East Jerusalem. Clashes between Palestinians and ISF took place near the checkpoint at the entrance to the camp and ISF closed the checkpoint outside the camp.
- ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Hussan, southern West Bank. ISF closed the eastern entrance of the village and reportedly entered several shops and physically assaulted Palestinians. It was also reported that ISF used the roof of a Palestinian house in Al-Shurafa area as an observation point.

On 26 January, the following occurred:

- ISF delivered 11 demolition orders for Palestinian residential and agricultural structures in Abu Nawar Bedouin community near Anata, central West Bank.
- Two international activists were reportedly injured by armed settlers in Umm Nir area in Masafer Yatta, southern West Bank on January 26.
- A Palestinian was killed by ISF during a search and arrest operation in Deir Abu Da'if, northern West Bank.

On 27 January, the following ISF search and arrest operations occurred:

- ISF reportedly shot and injured a Palestinian from Birzeit town near the Atara checkpoint, central West Bank. The Palestinian was transferred to a hospital for treatment.
- At night, five Palestinians were detained during an ISF search and arrest operation in Beita, northern West Bank.
- Overnight, two Palestinians were injured with live ammunition shrapnel and two others detained during an ISF search and arrest operation in Qabatiya, northern West Bank.
- ISF conducted search and arrests operations on Beit Reema, central West Bank between 27–28 January. Two Palestinians were injured with live ammunition during the exchange of fire in clashes.

On 28 January, the following ISF search and arrest operations occurred:

- Early in the morning, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Jenin city and Jenin refugee camp, northern West Bank. A Palestinian refugee was detained in Al Hadaf neighbourhood. An exchange of fire was reported in several locations in the city and in the camp. Overnight between January 28 and 29, one Palestinian was injured with live ammunition in the exchange of fire during clashes and four others were detained, including one Palestinian emergency medical technician. ISF reportedly bulldozed the roads in Jenin refugee camp.
- ISF delivered confiscation orders for over 154 dunums of agricultural land belonging to Palestinians in Deir Istiya and Harris villages, northern West Bank. The confiscation orders are reportedly planned to continue the expansion of an Israeli settlement.
- Overnight between 28-29 January, ISF arrested the Fatah Secretary and his three sons in Ash Shuyukh, southern West Bank. ISF also reportedly confiscated two Palestinian vehicles.
- ISF detained a Palestinian girl in Jerusalem's Old City.

On 29 January, the following ISF search and arrest operations occurred:

- Early in the morning, a Palestinian was killed in an exchange of fire between Palestinians and ISF in a search and arrest operation in Al Yamun, northern West Bank.

- ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Dura, southern West Bank. Two Palestinians were killed and three others were injured with live ammunition during the exchange of fire with ISF. Four Palestinians were detained.
- ISF conducted search and arrest operations in Tulkarm city, Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps, northern West Bank. Clashes and exchanges of fire were reported in different areas. ISF reportedly bulldozed several roads in the camps damaging infrastructure. ISF imposed a curfew in Nur Shams refugee camp.
- ISF declared the areas of Al-Ras and Al-Nuwaitif Spring in Qarawat Bani Hassan village, northern West Bank as a closed military zone, preventing access of Palestinians. The areas are composed of 3,000 dunums of Palestinian land planted with olive trees.
- ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Silwad, central West Bank. ISF reportedly opened fire during clashes killing one Palestinian.
- A Palestinian child was killed and another Palestinian child was injured with live ammunition when ISF opened fire and clashed with Palestinians in Khirbet ad Dair, southern West Bank.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza as of 29 January, at least 26,637 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 65,387 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 – 26 January 2024, 367 Palestinians, including 94 children, have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
 - Last year (2023), was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since the UN began recording casualties in 2005.

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

Please see incidents for the period 28-29 January 2024.

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
- Different incidents have been reported impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there. While verification of details and casualty figures remain ongoing, initial reports indicate:
 - On 28 January, **two IDPs** were killed and **30** were injured including six critical cases, as result of ongoing shooting with heavy machine guns and a tank shell that fell in a school in Khan Younis. IDP tents in the school grounds caught fire and the school building was damaged.

- On 29 January, two **IDPs** were injured inside a school in Khan Younis, due to heavy shooting. The two injured persons were transferred to Nasser Hospital
 - On 29 January, **10 IDPs** were killed and **several injured** as a result of Israeli Security Forces missile fire inside a classroom in a school in Gaza City. ISF troops forced IDPs to evacuate, and damages to the installation were also reported.
- **270** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least **26** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. **146** different UNRWA installations have been impacted.
 - UNRWA estimates that in total at least **372*** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least a further **1,335*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA is still verifying the number of casualties caused by incidents that impacted its installations, and notes that these figures do not include some reported incidents where the number of casualties could not be determined.

* numbers are subject to change once further verifications have been conducted.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are unable to provide any additional updates since sitrep 67.

UNRWA Shelters

- As of 29 January, in total, nearly **1.7 million displaced people are now sheltering across emergency shelters (UNRWA and public shelters), informal sites or in close vicinity to UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.**

Due to the security situation and ISF evacuation orders, between 150-155 UNRWA installations continue to shelter IDPs. Shelters are very congested.

Health

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are unable to provide additional updates since Sitrep 68.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are unable to provide any additional updates since Sitrep 67.

Food security

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are unable to provide updates.

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are unable to provide any additional updates since Sitrep 67.

Quote from Rihab, UNRWA Staff in Deir al-Balah and a mother of four:

"It's hard to adapt or live in these conditions. We never imagined that the suffering would last this long. At first, we thought it would end soon and we would return to our homes. But after more than 100 days of war, we feel like we're just waiting for death. We don't have a choice except to hold on to hope and arm ourselves with a little optimistic optimism to help us wake up in the morning, get dressed, and go to work."

ENDs -



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations

Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October 2023



1,700,000*
IDPs**



At least **372** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,335** injured since 7 October.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



152 UNRWA colleagues **killed**



270
incidents



146
UNRWA
installations
damaged

UNRWA response – Food assistance



323,482 families outside of shelters have received flour in middle areas and southern governorates since 21 Nov.

UNRWA response – Health



Partial update on 22 Jan due to security and internet connectivity issues

Further reduction in health services with now only 4 (out of 22) UNRWA health care centres operational.

UNRWA response – Water, sanitation and hygiene



Updated on 16 Jan:

7 water wells continue to operate pumping approximately 3,000 cubic metres of water.

Solid waste management continues in Rafah and Khan Younis and partially in Middle Areas, where **approximately 45 truck loadings were transferred to temporary sites**

* This includes c.1 million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. Notably, as of October 12, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in north Gaza and Gaza governorates. However, the ability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to provide humanitarian support and updated data in these areas has been severely restricted. The ongoing hostilities, evacuation orders issued by Israeli Forces, and the constant need for safer locations have resulted in people being displaced multiple times.

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