



UNRWA Situation Report #69 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

All information from 23-24 January 2024, is valid as of 24 January 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 109-110 of Hostilities

Published 25 January 2024



People in inhumane living conditions in Khan Younis Training Centre, southern Gaza Strip, January 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Hussein Owda

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- Intense fighting in/around Khan Younis (Southwest of Gaza) over the last three days is causing loss of lives and damage to civilian infrastructure, including UNRWA's largest shelter in the southern area, the Khan Younis Training Centre.
- On 24 January, the UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre was hit by direct fire. It struck a building housing 800 displaced people. At least 13 people were killed and 56 injured, 21 of them critically, in what should have been a place of safety. 43,000 internally displaced people are registered in and within close vicinity of the training centre, which is being used as an UNRWA shelter. Yesterday's strike was the third direct hit on this compound. UNRWA shares the location of all its facilities including shelters directly with Israeli authorities. UNRWA received assurances that people inside them would be safe.
- As of 22 January 2024, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities has increased by one and is now **152**.

- According to OCHA, telecommunication services in Gaza have been gradually restored in most of the Strip, while the internet remains severely disrupted in all areas. This prevents people in Gaza from accessing life-saving information and continues to impede humanitarian response. Due to the security situation and poor internet connectivity, we are unable to update the number of people reached since Sitrep 67.
- As of 22 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 again further south.

*This includes 1 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

West Bank updates cover 23 – 24 January 2024.

Between 23–24 January the following Israeli Security Forces (ISF) search and arrest operations occurred:

- Overnight on 22 – 23 January, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Beit Furik, northern West Bank. ISF reportedly opened fire during the clashes injuring one Palestinian.
- On 23 January near Enab checkpoint, southeast of Tulkarm, northern West Bank, ISF shot dead a Palestinian from Far'un village. Following the incident, ISF closed the checkpoint.
- On 23 January at night, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Ya'bad, northern West Bank. ISF reportedly opened fire during the clashes injuring one Palestinian with live ammunition.
- On 23 January at night, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Nablus, northern West Bank. ISF reportedly opened fire during the clashes injuring two Palestinians, including a minor, with live ammunition. Palestinian Red Crescent Society ambulances were reportedly prevented from reaching the injured by ISF.

- On 23 January at night, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Sabastiya, northern West Bank. ISF reportedly opened fire during the clashes and destroyed several Palestinian vehicles.
- On the morning of 23 January, a Palestinian woman allegedly attempted to stab ISF soldiers. ISF shot her near the Psagot settlement, injuring her. She was then detained.
- On 24 January, ISF reportedly shot at a Palestinian in Al Jalama, northern West Bank, resulting in shrapnel injuries.
- On 24 January, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Beita, northern central West Bank, injuring one Palestinian.
- On 24 January, ISF conducted a search and arrest operation in Adh Dhahiriya, southern central West Bank. ISF reportedly used live ammunition and tear gas canisters during clashes, injuring a Palestinian with live ammunition. ISF reportedly confiscated five Palestinian vehicles.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza as of 24 January, at least 25,700 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 63,740 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 – 22 January 2024, 360 Palestinians, including 92 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 23-24 January 2024 below:

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
- On 23 January, two IDPs were killed by gunshot and eight IDPs were injured inside the Khan Younis Training Centre, of whom six were injured by gunshots and two by shrapnel resulting from strikes on a nearby location.
- On 24 January, a school in Khan Younis was directly struck by artillery shelling and gunfire, resulting in eight IDPs being injured. Thousands of IDPs were sheltering at the school at the time of the incident.
- On 24 January, stray bullets and pieces of shrapnel fell inside the Khan Younis Training Centre. As a result, one IDP was killed and three were injured.

- Later on the same day, the carpentry workshop at the Khan Younis Training Centre was hit from the northern side by three tank shells and gunshots. As a result, a fire broke out inside the carpentry workshop. 13 IDPs were killed and at least 56 were injured. Civil Defense arrived at the site and put the fire out. Nearly 43,000 IDPs were sheltering in and around the Training Centre at the time of the incident.
- **253*** 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 25 incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. 70 different UNRWA installations were directly hit, and 71 different installations sustained collateral damage.
- UNRWA estimates that in total at least **357*** internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least a further **1,255*** 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 casualties where the number of injuries 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.

- As of 24 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 only able to provide partial health updates.

On 22 January, only four (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were operational. This follows the closure of two health centres in Khan Younis following ISF military operations.

UNRWA received vaccines from UNICEF for its health centres. **Eleven** different types of vaccines were received (refrigerated and freezer storage). This allowed for vaccinations to restart. Since 3 January up to 24 January, over **13,700** children were vaccinated against diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella, and others.

Hepatitis A infection is spreading across informal camps due to overcrowding and lack of clean water and proper sanitation. UNRWA continues to monitor the situation, with suspected cases almost 16 times higher in January so far compared to the whole of November 2023. The massive

increase reflects Gaza's worsening living conditions, particularly shortage of safe water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene.

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 Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza:

"The situation in Khan Younis underscores a consistent failure to uphold the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law: distinction, proportionality and precautions in carrying out attacks. This is unacceptable and abhorrent and must stop. Every measure must be taken to protect civilians."

Read the official statements:

- [Senior Un Official In Gaza: Civilians Trapped Amid Intensified Attacks In Khan Younis](#)
- [Khan Younis: One Of The Largest Unrwa Shelters Hit During Military Operations](#)

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 **335** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,161** injured since 7 October.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



152 UNRWA colleagues killed



241
incidents



141
UNRWA
installations
damaged

* 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.

** 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.

** It is important to note that 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.

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



Last updated on 16 Jan due to security and internet connectivity issues

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

16,294 patients received healthcare in 6 (out of 22) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

UNRWA response – Water, sanitation and hygiene



Updated on 16 Jan:

7 water wells continue to operate pumping approximately 3,000 cubic meters 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**

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