



UNRWA Situation Report #31 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Information is valid as of 14 November 2023 at 18:30 (local time)

Day 39 of Hostilities

Published 15 November 2023



A family gathers in a plastic tent amid a rainstorm in Gaza. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- **In the last 24 hours, one UNRWA colleague was killed due to a strike in the Gaza City area.** In total, 103 UNRWA colleagues have been killed since the beginning of hostilities on 7 October. This is the highest number of United Nations aid workers killed in a conflict in the history of the United Nations.
- Two UNRWA schools in the Middle area were directly hit by strikes, resulting in damage to buildings and injuries among the internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering in one of the schools.
- One UNRWA school in Rafah sustained collateral damage and three IDPs in the school were injured after a strike hit a building nearby.
- Two internally displaced persons were injured due to shrapnel that fell inside an UNRWA school after a building near the school was hit in the Middle area.
- Almost 1.6 million people have been displaced across the Gaza Strip since 7 October.

- **Nearly 813,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are now sheltering in 154 UNRWA installations across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip, including in the north.**
- **About 653,000 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.
- Obtaining updated figures and information is becoming increasingly challenging, especially in the Middle area, due to serious communication breakdowns. In some areas, the telecommunications companies have stopped operating. **It is expected that communications will start to fail as of Thursday 16 November, when telecommunications companies run out of fuel to operate their data centres and major connection sites.**
- On 14 November, UNRWA was not able to receive aid coming through the Rafah crossing due to lack of fuel. As of 14 November, UNRWA has distributed over 870,000 litres of water, 820,000 units of high-energy biscuits, 329,000 tons of canned meats and fish, 300,000 blankets, 218,000 diapers, and crucial medical supplies such as medical supplies and equipment.



Palestinians taking shelter in a UNRWA school in Rafah struggle with downpour, strong winds and flooding, 14 November 2023. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

["The situation for many people has become more desperate."](#) – Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- The Israeli Security Forces (ISFs) conducted a large scale ISF operation in Tulkarem refugee camp, in northern West Bank, with a large number of troops and vehicles deployed. An

exchange of fire took place between Palestinians and ISF. The operation resulted in the killing of seven Palestinians from the camp and injuring of twelve.

- ISF bulldozers bulldozed the roads in the camp, as well as in Tulkarem city. As a result, extensive damages were reported to public and private infrastructure in the camp, such as private buildings and roads, including the main road in Tulkarem.
- Ambulances reportedly faced difficulties entering Tulkarem refugee camp.
- Armed clashes were also reported in the nearby Nur Shams refugee camp.
- In the evening of 13 November, ISF conducted an operation in Shu'fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem, where ISF blew open the gate of the UNRWA Health Centre and briefly entered the courtyard.
- In the morning of 14 November, another ISF operation took place in Shu'fat refugee camp, and three UNRWA schools were evacuated before the end of the school day, this impacted more than 600 boys and girls.
- Overnight search and arrest operations were also reported in Qalandia, Jalazone and Aida refugee camps.



Tulkarem refugee camp after the ISF operations that took place in the camp on 14 November 2023. © 2023 UNRWA Photo

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 four 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, 182 Palestinians, including 46 children, have been killed by IISF and eight, including one child, by Israeli settlers.**

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

- In the last 24 hours, one UNRWA colleague was killed due to a strike in Gaza City. In total, **103 UNRWA colleagues have been killed since the beginning of the hostilities.**
- Two UNRWA schools in Nuseirat camp in the Middle area were directly hit by strikes. In one school, a classroom was hit and as a result, five IDPs were injured, three of whom are in critical condition. The school is sheltering 11,300 IDPs. In the other school, a strike hit the building's roof causing damage to the solar system and creating a hole in the roof. Over 6,600 IDPs are sheltering in the school, but no injuries were reported.
- One UNRWA school in Rafah sustained collateral damages and three IDPs sheltering in the school were injured after a strike hit a building nearby. Over 8,500 IDPs are sheltering in the school.
- At least 571 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 of incidents impacting its installations in the North and in Gaza areas.
- 79 incidents¹ impacting 67 UNRWA installations have been recorded by UNRWA since the beginning of the war.
- **UNRWA received confirmation that 206 trucks crossed to the Gaza side of Rafah crossing but could not pick up the supplies on these trucks as UNRWA did not have fuel.**

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

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- On 14 November, all UNRWA operations in both Tulkarem and Nur Shams refugee camps were suspended. This included at six schools, i.e. four in Tulkarem and two in Nur Shams, impacting respectively over 1,300 and over 1,500 students respectively, and two health centres.
- Further to the ISF operation in Jenin refugee camp on 9 November, due to the destruction of the roads around the UNRWA school compounds, four UNRWA schools continued with remote learning. Since the beginning of October, the UNRWA Boys' School in Hebron H2 has been closed and continues to operate through remote learning.

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 13 November.
- On 13 November, nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were still operational in the middle and southern areas, recording **7,972 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 292 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases have been attended to at the health centres and a total of 770 post-natal mothers have been attended to in the shelters since the beginning of October.**
- On 13 November, 994 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 242 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 10,435 cases on 13 November.**
- **As of 14 November, fuel reserves at health centres were depleted.** 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 cause the complete stop of all operations.

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 39,600 individuals (over 62 per cent of whom are females) received psychosocial support including family support and recreational activities.**

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- UNRWA was able to continue the provision of water and sanitation services on 14 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 domestic water off at 44 UNRWA IDP shelters in the 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 outbreak.

Funding

- UNRWA has updated its appeal for the emergency response in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Agency requires US\$ 481 million until the end of the year. So far, confirmed funding – comprising received funds and confirmed pledges – stands at approximately US\$ 155 million, representing about 32 per cent of total requirements. Out of the confirmed funding, UNRWA has already received US\$ 63.2 million.

Quote from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General

"It is very simple. Without fuel, the humanitarian operation in Gaza is coming to an end. Many more people will suffer and will likely die."

#HearTheirVoices

ENDs –



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations



sheltering in



813,000
IDPs*

154
UNRWA
installations



150 people sheltering in UNRWA schools share a single toilet.

On average, there is one shower unit for every 700 people in UNRWA shelters.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations

Confirmed numbers, since 7 October



103 UNRWA colleagues killed



67 UNRWA installations damaged

UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



39,600 people (62 per cent women) were provided with psychosocial support and social work services since the beginning of the crisis.

UNRWA response – Food security



Since the beginning of the crisis, UNRWA distributed:

- over 870,000 liters of water
- 820,000 units of high-energy biscuits
- 329,000 tons of canned meat and fish
- over 1.2 million kilograms of flour

UNRWA response – Health



10,435 IDPs in shelters received healthcare through 124 mobile medical points on 13 Nov.

7,972 patients received healthcare in nine (out of 22) UNRWA health centres still operational in the Middle and South areas on 13 November.

292 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases attended to at the health centres and 770 post-natal mothers attended to in the shelters since the war has started.

* 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Laurane March

Global Media Requests

Mobile: + +962-7-9130-0567 (WhatsApp preferred)

On Twitter: @UNRWA

Email: l.march@unrwa.org

Estefania Diaz

[English / French / Spanish language]

European Media Requests

Mobile: +32-473-82-2006

On Twitter: [@UNRWA](https://twitter.com/UNRWA)

Email: e.diaz@unrwa.org

Lily Esposito

[English / French language]

European Media Requests

Mobile: +972-54-240-2680 (what's app)

On Twitter: [@UNRWA](https://twitter.com/UNRWA)

Email: l.esposito@unrwa.org

Asako Nitta

[Japanese language]

Japanese Media Requests

Mobile: +972-54-240-2727 (what's app)

On Twitter: [@UNRWA](https://twitter.com/UNRWA)

Email: a.nitta@unrwa.org