



UNRWA Situation Report #61 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Information from 4-6 January 2024, valid of 6 January 22:30 (local time)

Day 90-92 of Hostilities

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Palestinian children, whose families lost their homes, take shelter at an UNRWA school in Deir el Balah (middle area), the Gaza Strip. © 2023 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- As of 6 January 2024, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities is **146**.
- Since 7 October 2023, **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 the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Gaza and Gaza City was last updated on 12 October due to access constraints and the security situation.
- As of 2 January, nearly 1.4 million 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 500,000 are in close vicinity of these installations and receiving assistance from UNRWA. A total of 1.88 million¹ 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.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza on 6 January, at least 22,835 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 58,416 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023–5 January 2024, 315 Palestinians, including 81 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

- UNRWA is working to verify details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
 - On January 4, an **UNRWA store in the Middle Area** was reportedly directly struck by ISF tanks shells, causing a fire in the building. Three UNRWA guards were present at the time of the strike
 - ISF forcefully evacuated 15 IDPs and five UNRWA staff sheltering in an UNRWA office in the Middle Area. Five UNRWA staff were detained, subsequently three were released and two remain detained.
 - In Khan Younis, on UNRWA premises one IDP child was injured as a result of shrapnel.
- **220** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and people inside them have been reported since 7 October (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least **23** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. This includes **63** direct hits on UNRWA installations and **69** different UNRWA installations sustaining collateral damage.

- In total, at least **319** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least another **1,135²** were injured since 7 October.

² Numbers are subject to change once further verifications have been conducted.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

UNRWA Shelters

- As of 2 January, in total, **nearly 1.4 million displaced people are now sheltering in 155 UNRWA installations**, with another half a million (or 500,000) 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 4 January 2024, only five (out of 22) UNRWA health centres are still operational in the middle and southern areas with **7,639 patient visits recorded.**
- Midwives are providing care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women at health centres. On 4 January **a total of 130 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at health centres.**
- **On 4 January, UNRWA continued to provide health care at UNRWA health centres and shelters with 570 staff maintaining health services.**
- **Between 4 to 5 January, UNRWA attended to 25,717 patients in UNRWA shelters and health centres.**

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services were resumed in the Middle Area and Khan Younis with a team of two psychiatrists and 18 counsellors and supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. On 4 January, the team responded to 911 cases through individual consultations, awareness sessions, and support for gender-based violence 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 6 January, around 83,567 IDPs were reached.**
- Between 3 - 4 January 2024, **school counsellors addressed 1,064 individual and family consultations in Rafah and Khan Younis, alongside 1,061 group sessions.** These efforts

² numbers are subject to change once further verifications have been conducted

reached 20,957 IDPs, contributing to an accumulative total of 61,785 PSS sessions provided since 7 October.

- During the same period, school counsellors provided psychological support to nearly 404 UNRWA staff, through in-person and remote consultations. **The total number of UNRWA staff provided with psychological support since the beginning of the hostilities is 6,203.**

Food security

- UNRWA continued to **distribute flour** outside of shelters in the southern governorates. **A total of 219,460 families have been reached so far.**

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

- Between 4–6 January 2024, water wells in Jabalia (north), Khan Younis and Rafah (south) were operational. Approximately 21,000 cubic metres have been pumped. Khan Younis and Rafah water wells have operated in two shifts (12 hours) to provide potable/domestic water supply services.
- During the same period, the solid waste management services continued in Rafah, Khan Younis and middle area camps. About 120 loadings have been transferred to temporary dumping sites.

Quote from a young girl displaced in Rafah (south area) and sheltering in an UNRWA school:

"I look at the school yard and remember those moments I used to have with my friends during playtime... I never dreamt of sleeping in a school, or this beautiful place being turned into a shelter."

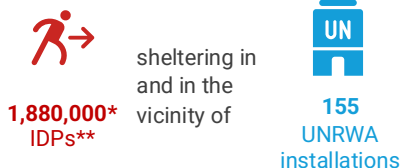
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UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

IDPs in UNRWA installations

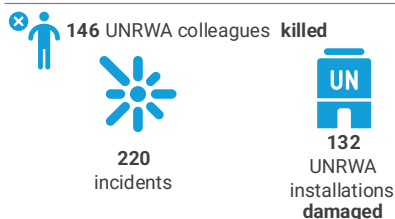
Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October 2023 – 2 January 2024



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

At least **319** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,135** 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

219,460 families outside of shelters have received flour in middle areas and southern governorates since 21 Nov.

UNRWA response – Health

On 4 Jan:
130 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at health centres
25,717 patients received healthcare in 5 (out of 22) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

UNRWA response – Water, sanitation and hygiene

Between 4 – 5 Jan:
8 water wells continue to operate pumping approximately 21,000 cubic metres of water.

Solid waste management continues in Rafah and Khan Younis, where **approximately 120 truck loadings** were transferred to temporary sites

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