

UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #165 ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

Friday, March 28, 2025

[All information updated for 19-25 March 2025 \[1\]](#)

Days 529-535 since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

Over 142,000 people estimated to have been forcibly displaced between 18-23 March.



At least **742*** people sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **2,406*** injured since 7 October 2023.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



284 UNRWA team members killed



312* UNRWA installations damaged



820* incidents

*Numbers are subject to change once verifications are concluded.

UNRWA response – Food assistance



The **entire population** of the Gaza Strip has received UNRWA food assistance since the ceasefire began. Food supplies are now running extremely low.

UNRWA response – Health

Update for 17-23 Mar 2025



Only 10 (out of 27) UNRWA health centres operational on 25 Mar

56,546 medical consultations were provided in 6 UNRWA health centres, 4 temporary health centres and 53 medical points inside and outside shelters.

Up to **107** mobile medical teams covered the medical points.

UNRWA response – Psychosocial Support



Since the onset of the conflict, around **730,000** displaced people, including over **520,000 children**, have benefitted from psychosocial support sessions and activities.

154,582 displaced people received awareness raising sessions and internal community social network support.

7,753 persons with disabilities and injuries received assistive devices and rehabilitation services.

[Download UNRWA multimedia resources here](#)

Highlights

- Since the collapse of the ceasefire in Gaza on the night between 17 and 18 March, intense military activities and hostilities [have continued](#), killing and injuring hundreds of people and further damaging and destroying what remains of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals.
- Over 180 children were reported killed on 18 March, marking “one of the largest single-day child death toll in the last year” according to [UNICEF](#).
- On 19 March, two [UN guesthouses were hit](#) by an explosion in Deir al-Balah (Gaza middle areas), killing one UNOPS team member and injuring six more UN staff, some of whom sustained life-altering injuries.
- On 24 March, the [UN Secretary-General](#) “has taken the difficult decision to reduce the Organisation’s footprint in Gaza”. However, the UN is not leaving the Gaza Strip and “remains committed to continuing to provide aid that civilians depend on for their survival and protection.”
- Humanitarian aid and supplies have not entered the Gaza Strip since March 2, when the Israeli authorities imposed a siege. This siege has now lasted over three weeks, surpassing the duration of the total siege first imposed in October 2023 when the war started. As a result, critical humanitarian supplies, including food and medical aid, are rapidly depleting.
- In the West Bank, the Israeli Forces’ large-scale operation that started in Jenin camp and other areas in the north on 21 January 2025 is ongoing, making it by far the single longest Israeli Forces’ operation in the West Bank since the second intifada in the early 2000s and causing the largest population displacement since the 1967 war. UNRWA and partners continue to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and psychosocial support (PSS) to families displaced within the northern West Bank, in addition to adapted services such as mobile health clinics and online learning.

Key points

The Gaza Strip

- On the night between 17 and 18 March, the Israeli Forces conducted airstrikes and bombardments across the Gaza Strip. Intense military activities and hostilities have continued since then, killing and injuring hundreds of people and damaging and destroying civilian infrastructure, including hospitals. Over 180 children were reported killed on 18 March, marking “one of the largest single-day child death toll in the last year” according to [UNICEF](#).
- As reported by [OCHA](#), on 20 March the Israeli Forces re-deployed along the Netzarim Corridor and announced that movement between north and south was only allowed via Al Rashid Road along the coast.
- On 19 March, two [UN guesthouses were hit](#) by an explosion in Deir al-Balah (Gaza middle areas), [which killed](#) a UNOPS staff member. [OCHA](#) reported that the strikes, “according to information currently available were caused by an Israeli tank, left six others with severe injuries, some of them life-altering”. Three of the injured UN team members worked in support of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS). A [statement](#) from the Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General highlighted that “the locations of all UN premises are known to the parties to the conflict, who are bound by international law to protect them and maintain their absolute inviolability.”
- On 24 March, the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, stated that, following the devastating strikes carried out by the Israeli Forces on Gaza, “the Secretary-General has taken the difficult decision to reduce the Organization’s footprint in Gaza, even as humanitarian needs soar and our concern over the protection of civilians intensifies.” However, the UN is not leaving the Gaza Strip and “remains committed to continuing to provide aid that civilians depend on for their survival and protection.”
- Since the collapse of the ceasefire and until 24 March, the Israeli Forces have issued [six displacement orders](#) covering about 55 square kilometres, or 15 per cent of the Gaza Strip. These, along with severe bombardments and airstrikes, caused another wave of displacement which, according to the Site Management Cluster, [is estimated](#) to have impacted over 142,000 people between 18 and 23 March.
- The evacuation orders issued by the Israeli Forces between 20 and 24 March, estimated to have impacted around 30 UNRWA installations, include the following:
 - One on 20 March impacting Al Qarara and Bani Suheila. Two UNRWA installations are located in the affected area.
 - One on 21 March impacting Jabalia. Two UNRWA installations are located in the affected area.
 - One on 23 March impacted Tal As-Sultan. Eleven UNRWA installations are located in the affected area.
 - Two evacuation orders were issued on 24 March: one impacting areas of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, where eight UNRWA installations are located, and another one impacting areas of Jabalia and Beit Lahiya, where eleven UNRWA installations are located.
- On 2 March, the Israeli authorities announced they will no longer allow humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip, including fuel. No supplies – humanitarian or commercial – have entered Gaza since. This siege has now lasted longer than the initial siege at the start of the war, which lasted from October 7 to October 21, 2023. Critical supplies, including food and medical equipment, are severely depleted and urgently needed to address the already catastrophic humanitarian crisis.
- According to [OCHA](#), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that “half of all pregnant women in the Gaza Strip face a high-risk pregnancy, malnutrition is high among pregnant and breastfeeding women, and at least one in five newborns in February were born with complications, including low birth weight.”
- Despite the siege and existing challenges, UNRWA continues delivering aid and providing services to communities overwhelmed by nearly 1.5 years of bombardment, forced displacement, and lack of critical resources. Since 19 January, UNRWA teams delivered critical food assistance to the entire population of the Gaza Strip and continued to provide essential primary health care services.
- UNRWA runs 115 shelters across the Gaza Strip, with around 90,000 displaced people residing in them.
- According to the UN, at least **1.9 million people** – or about **90 per cent** of the population – across the Gaza Strip were displaced during the war. Many have been displaced repeatedly, some 10 times or more. Since the recent evacuation orders were issued, more people have been forced to flee in search of safety.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 25 March 2025, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, as stated by [OCHA](#), at least **50,144** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza and **113,704** have been injured.
- [OCHA reports](#) that, the MoH in Gaza published the breakdown of 50,021 as of 22 March 2025. These reportedly include 15,613 children, 8,304 women, 3,839 elderly, and 22,265 men. According to the MoH, among the children killed, 825 were under 12 months of age while 274 children were born and killed during the escalation.
- The total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October 2023 is **284**.
- [OCHA](#) reported that, of the 49 aid movements coordinated with Israeli authorities across Gaza from 18 to 24 March 2025, 40 were denied, two impeded, and only seven facilitated.



A displaced family living in a tent in northern Gaza prepares food as the siege blocking the entry of food continues, The Gaza Strip, March 2025. © 2025 UNRWA Photo

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to [OCHA](#), between 7 October 2023 and 25 March 2025, 906 Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of those, 100 Palestinians, including at least 17 children, who were killed only since the year began (2025).
- The Israeli Forces large-scale operation that started in the northern West Bank on 21 January 2025 is ongoing. Reports of evictions and forced displacement of Palestinians by the Israeli Forces continued. UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [posted](#) on X (previously known as Twitter) that the ongoing operation has “caused systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure and homes, aiming to permanently change the character of Palestinian cities and refugee camps at a scale unjustifiable by any purported military or law enforcement aims.”
- On 19 of March, the Israeli Forces reportedly issued demolition orders for Jenin Camp that included 66 new houses in addition to 29 buildings already demolished earlier during operation impacting the northern West Bank.
- UNRWA and humanitarian partners continued to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and PSS to families displaced within the northern West Bank in addition to some services including health through mobile clinics and education through online learning.
- On 19 March, two consecutive Israeli Forces operations took place in Camp No.1 in Nablus city. During the night an Israeli Forces undercover unit fired live ammunition at a Palestinian vehicle, killing one Palestinian whose body was withheld. Later in the same morning, the Israeli Forces conducted a search operation in the camp. Tens of families were forcibly displaced and UNRWA services in the camp were suspended. The Israeli Forces left the camp in the late evening.
- On 20 March, the Israeli Forces demolished an agricultural structure in the village of al-Walajah near Betlehem (home to Palestine Refugees), and delivered demolition orders for five residential structures and one structure hosting animals in the village.

Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- Between 7 October 2023 and 25 March 2025, according to the MoH in Gaza as stated by [OCHA](#), at least **50,144** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the Gaza Strip while **113,704** have been reported injured.

Humanitarian access, protection of civilians

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents that reportedly impact UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available*.
- During the reporting period, several armed conflict-related incidents have reportedly impacted UNRWA installations, personnel, and displaced people sheltering there. Additionally, five evacuation orders were issued by the Israeli Forces, affecting areas housing UNRWA installations:
 - On 24 March, an Israeli Forces airstrike reportedly directly struck a tent hosting displaced persons in the yard of an UNRWA school in Nuseirat resulting in the killing of four displaced people according to reports. Three UNRWA personnel reportedly sustained moderate injuries due to shrapnel.
 - On 23 March, an UNRWA personnel was reportedly seriously injured near Rafah Logistics Base due to Israeli Forces shooting and was transferred to a hospital in Rafah.
 - On 23 March, a Job Creation Programme (JCP) worker was reportedly injured inside Rafah Logistics Base due to Israeli Forces shooting and was later evacuated to a hospital in Khan Younis.
 - On 23 March, an UNRWA distribution centre northeast of Gaza City reportedly sustained minor damage due to an Israeli Forces airstrike.
 - On 22 March, an UNRWA distribution centre in Nuseirat reportedly sustained minor damage due to nearby Israeli Forces shelling. No injuries were reported.
 - On 21 March, an Israeli Forces airstrike reportedly impacted Jabalia Camp, 20 metres from two UNRWA schools, causing minor damage to those premises.
 - On 21 March, an Israeli Forces airstrike in Al Naser Area, northwest Gaza City, reportedly impacted an UNRWA health centre in Rimal, causing minor damage.
 - On 21 March, an Israeli Forces airstrike reportedly impacted the Al Tuffah area, east of Gaza City, causing minor damage to the western side of an UNRWA distribution centre. No injuries were reported.
 - On 21 March, an Israeli Forces airstrike reportedly impacted Al Tuffah/Daraj area in proximity to an UNRWA school causing minor damage.
 - On 20 March, an UNRWA health centre in Ma'an area, east of Khan Younis, reportedly sustained minor damage due to a nearby Israeli Forces airstrike. No injuries were reported.

As of 25 March 2025, **820*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war. **312*** UNRWA installations have been impacted by armed conflict-related incidents since the beginning of the war, some on multiple occasions. UNRWA estimates that, in total, at least **742*** persons sheltering in UNRWA installations have been killed and at least **2,406*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA continues to verify and update the number of casualties caused by these incidents.

**Since the start of the war in October 2023, the latest casualty figures are continuously under review as UNRWA gains access to locations that were previously inaccessible and as further verifications occur. The summary figures will be published/updated as information becomes available, noting that these numbers are subject to change once verifications are concluded.*

The Gaza Strip

Health

- According to the Health Cluster, UNRWA remains one of the largest health actors operating in the Gaza Strip, contributing to over half of the people reached with health services since 7 October 2023. Between 7 October 2023 and 16 March 2025, UNRWA provided over 7.9 million medical consultations across the Gaza Strip.
- In addition to medical consultations, UNRWA (in partnership with and supported by other UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO) continued to vaccinate children. Over 262,000 routine vaccines have been given to children from January 2024. In addition, around 560,000 children under the age of 10 across the Gaza Strip have been vaccinated against polio in the first two rounds of the campaign.
- A third round of the polio vaccination campaign supported by UNRWA, WHO, UNICEF and other partners took place between 22 and 26 February 2025 in the Gaza Strip, reaching over 600,000 children under the age of 10 with this critical vaccine. With over 1,700 personnel organized in 555 mobile and fixed teams, UNRWA vaccinated over 213,000 children, constituting around one third of the overall polio vaccination response.
- During the ceasefire, UNRWA health teams have provided nearly 590,000 health consultations, antenatal, post-natal and family planning care for over 40,000 women, dental and oral health services in fixed and mobile clinics reaching over 24,400 patients, and physiotherapy rehabilitation services for around 10,500 patients.
- As of 25 March, only six out of 22 UNRWA health centres and four additional UNRWA-rented facilities used as temporary health centres were operational in Gaza. In addition, health services are also provided through

107 mobile medical teams working in 53 medical points inside and outside shelters in the middle area, Khan Younis, Al Mawasi and Gaza City. UNRWA health facilities provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, giving out medications, vaccination, antenatal and postnatal health care, laboratory and dental services, physiotherapy and dressings for the injured. The number of operational health facilities changes constantly based on demand, access and security.

- Between 17 and 23 March, an average of 911 UNRWA health staff worked in health centres, temporary clinics and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 56,546 health consultations during the reporting period.
- UNRWA continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in the middle and Khan Younis areas, with teams of psychiatrists, psychosocial counsellors and supervisors to assist special cases referred from UNRWA health centres and shelters. Between 17 and 23 March, UNRWA teams responded to 3,345 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- Between 17 and 23 March, UNRWA medical teams provided care for 3,538 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk, dental and oral health services in fixed and mobile clinics reaching 1,830 patients and physiotherapy rehabilitation services for 1,005 patients in health centres and medical points.

Psychosocial Support and Learning

- UNRWA remains the largest provider of emergency learning and PSS across the Gaza Strip. Around 660,000 children are out of school due to the war. “Back to Learning” activities are taking place in 439 Temporary Learning Spaces in 51 UNRWA schools-turned-shelters, with the support of around 1,000 teachers and up to 600[2] school counsellors. Between 17 and 23 March 2025, 28,273 children (12,493 boys, 15,780 girls, including 272 children with disabilities) participated in basic literacy and numeracy activities, PSS sessions and recreational activities including arts, music and sports. Since the resumption of the bombardment, UNRWA has been forced to reduce these learning activities.
- On 1 January 2025, UNRWA launched a new distance learning programme, combining online with onsite learning. To date, 277,716 children (149,794 boys, 130,922 girls) have enrolled in the programme and received basic learning activities delivered by thousands of teachers covering Arabic, English, mathematics, and science.
- UNRWA continues to provide lifesaving PSS services in Gaza. Since the onset of the war and up to 16 March 2025, around 730,000 displaced people, including over 520,000 children, have benefited from 289,834 PSS sessions and activities. Between 17 and 23 March, a total of 10,209 displaced people accessed these services.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 23 March 2025, UNRWA’s social work team has provided services to 210,223 displaced people, including psychological first aid, PSS services, family and individual activities, as well as case management. During the same reporting period, protection services were provided to 1,898 survivors of GBV and 3,694 children, including 1,773 unaccompanied children. The team also supported 22,943 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,753 of these individuals received assistive devices and rehabilitation services. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability and special needs, as well as managing social and psychological stressors, were conducted for 154,582 displaced people.

Food Security

- Since 7 October 2023 and until the start of the ceasefire (19 January 2025), over 388,000 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with two rounds of flour; at least 374,000 of those families have received three rounds.
- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels wherever possible. These include[3] rice, lentils, beans, oil, salt, sugar, milk powder, hummus, halawa, yeast, and canned fish, and are designed to meet the needs of a family of five for two weeks. Up until the start of the ceasefire, at least 1.7 million people have been reached, of whom at least 215,000 people have received two rounds of food parcels since the war started.
- In addition to the distribution of UNRWA food parcels, the Agency distributes food parcels on behalf of other UN organisations, having reached over 1.4 million people before the start of the ceasefire.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Since October 2023, UNRWA has carried out emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip. The main activities include operating and maintaining water wells and desalination systems and supplying water with water trucks and bottled water. In addition, UNRWA continues to distribute hygiene kits and maintain hygiene in UNRWA shelters and sites through cleaning supplies, community-based solid waste management and pest control.
- In the second half of March, UNRWA teams provided around 30,000 cubic metres of water to displaced people across the Gaza Strip.
- UNRWA continues to provide solid waste collection and transfer services wherever possible. Between 12 and 25 March, around 1,200 tons of solid waste have been collected by UNRWA sanitation teams despite the shrinking quantities of fuel and movement restrictions.

- During the same reporting period, UNRWA WASH team cleaned over 170 manholes in emergency shelters and other UNRWA facilities, serving over 30,000 displaced people. Moreover, the team conducted over 40 cleaning campaigns in 40 emergency shelters serving around 25,000 displaced people.
 - During the reporting period, UNRWA WASH operations were forced to halt in some emergency shelters due to the evacuation orders issued by the Israeli authorities.
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Statement from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General (available from his X account and other UNRWA global platforms):

“The people of Gaza depend on imports via Israel for their survival. Every day that passes without the entry of aid means more children go to bed hungry, diseases spread and deprivation deepens. Every day without food inches Gaza closer to an acute hunger crisis.”