

UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #166 ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

Friday, April 4, 2025

All information updated for 26 March- 8 April 2025 [1]

Days 536-549 since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

Over 390,000 people estimated to have been forcibly displaced between 18 March-6 April.



At least 742* people sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 2,409* injured since 7 October 2023.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



289 UNRWA team members killed



311* UNRWA installations damaged



825* 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 during the ceasefire. Food supplies are now running extremely low.

UNRWA response – Health

Update for 23 Mar-6 April 2025



Only 8 (out of 27) UNRWA health centres operational on 6 April

131,982 medical consultations were provided in 5 UNRWA health centres, 3 temporary health centres and 40 medical points inside and outside shelters.

Up to 130 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 2025, intense military activities and hostilities have continued to escalate, resulting in hundreds of civilians killed and injured, further damage and destruction to civilian infrastructure, and new waves of forced displacement.
- On 30 March, OCHA, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) conducted a mission to retrieve the bodies of several humanitarian workers, including one UNRWA colleague, buried in a mass grave in Rafah.
- On 31 March, UNICEF [stated](#) that at least 322 children have been reportedly killed and 609 injured in the Gaza Strip since the ceasefire collapsed. According to the UN, over 1,000 children have been reported killed or injured in the first week after the ceasefire collapsed.
- On 7 April, UNRWA, OCHA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP and WHO published a [statement](#) denouncing “acts of war in Gaza that show an utter disregard for human life” and calling on the international community to act “firmly, urgently and decisively to ensure the basic principles of international humanitarian law are upheld.”
- On 8 April, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres [stated](#) that “As aid has dried up, the floodgates of horror have re-opened. Gaza is a killing field – and civilians are in an endless death loop.”
- Humanitarian aid and supplies have not entered the Gaza Strip for nearly six weeks now (since 2 March 2025), when the Israeli Authorities imposed a siege. This is almost three times longer than the siege the Israeli Authorities imposed in October 2023 when the war started. As a result, critical humanitarian supplies, including food, fuel medical aid and vaccines for children, are rapidly depleting.
- On 8 April, Israeli officials from the Jerusalem Municipality, accompanied by Israeli Security Forces, [forcibly entered](#) six UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem and issued closure orders for the schools effective in 30 days.

Key points

The Gaza Strip

- Since the night between 17 and 18 March, and for more than three weeks, the Israeli Forces have escalated bombardment from the air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip and expanded ground operations, resulting in hundreds of casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and large-scale displacement. According to [OCHA](#), on 3 and 6 April, rockets were fired from Gaza towards Israel, most were reportedly intercepted. [Media](#) reported that rocket fire directed to Ashkelon on 6 April reportedly resulted in the injury of at least 12 Israelis.
- On 30 March, OCHA, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) conducted a mission to retrieve the bodies of several humanitarian workers, including one UNRWA colleague, buried in a mass grave in Rafah. [OCHA](#) reported that “They were buried under the sand, alongside their wrecked emergency vehicles – five clearly marked ambulances, a fire truck and a UN car. The mass grave was marked with the emergency light of one of the crushed ambulances.” UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [stated](#) on X (previously known as Twitter) that “Whether on the front line, or in their homes with their families, civilians must be protected at all time. Targeting or endangering emergency responders, journalists or humanitarian workers is a flagrant and severe disregard of international law,” adding that “in Gaza, these killings have become routine.”
- Based on an [assessment](#) published by the Education Cluster on 1 April and relying on satellite imagery collected on 25 January 2025, 403 schools (or around 71.5 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip) have been directly hit. According to the assessment, nearly 88.5 per cent of school buildings in the Gaza Strip (499 out of 564) have been directly hit or damaged and are estimated to require either full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work. Nearly a third of these schools (or 162 in total) are UNRWA schools.
- On 2 April, the Israeli Forces hit two rooms on the first floor of an UNRWA destroyed Health Centre in Jabalia. The site was used as an UNRWA-managed shelter for 160 displaced families (or around 735 people) when it was hit. The UNRWA personnel managing the shelter did not receive any warning signals prior to the strike. Fifteen displaced people, including nine children, were reported killed in the strike. UNRWA Commissioner-General [posted](#) on X (previously known as Twitter) that “The total disregard of UN staff, premises or operations is a profound defiance of international law” and called once again for “independent investigations to find out the circumstances of each of these attacks and the serious violations.”
- On 4 April, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [warned](#) about “the breakdown of public order in Gaza, with recent allegations of killings and unnecessary or disproportionate use of force in crowd control by local police.” According to OHCHR, the attacks conducted on the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Forces have “served to dismantle and destroy Gaza’s governance and law enforcement structures” and contributed to a deterioration of public order that “threatens the safety of Palestinians and their access to basic services and life-saving humanitarian aid.”
- On 7 April, UNRWA, OCHA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP and WHO published a [statement](#) denouncing “acts of war in Gaza that show an utter disregard for human life” and calling on the international community to act “firmly, urgently and decisively to ensure the basic principles of international humanitarian law are upheld.” In the statement, senior UN officials denounced the conditions people in the Gaza Strip are forced to endure, explaining that “More than 2.1 million people are trapped, bombed and starved again, while, at crossing points, food, medicine, fuel and shelter supplies are piling up, and vital equipment is stuck” and adding that over 1,000 children have been reported killed or injured in the first week after the ceasefire collapsed.
- On the same day, WHO [reported](#) that the already fragile health system in the Gaza Strip “is overwhelmed by the influx of casualties, including among children. Essential medicines, trauma and medical supplies are rapidly running out, threatening to reverse hard-won progress rehabilitating hospitals and keeping them operational.” According to WHO, one third of the 55,000 women estimated to be pregnant in Gaza are facing high-risk pregnancies, with around 130 babies born each day (27 per cent of them by caesarean). WHO added that “Approximately 20 per cent of newborns are pre-term, underweight, or born with complications, needing advanced care that is rapidly diminishing.”
- On 8 April, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres [stated](#) that “As aid has dried up, the floodgates of horror have re-opened. Gaza is a killing field – and civilians are in an endless death loop.” In his remarks to the press, the Secretary-General highlighted that the ceasefire worked in achieving several results, including the release of hostages, the distribution of lifesaving aid, and proving that the humanitarian community can deliver. Moreover, he reiterated that “As the occupying power, Israel has unequivocal obligations under international law – including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.”
- On 27 March, the remaining UNRWA international staff left the Gaza Strip. All UNRWA international staff are now banned from entering the Gaza Strip. This follows the passage of two bills by the Israeli Knesset on 28 October 2024^[2], which aim to prohibit UNRWA's operations in the occupied Palestinian territory and bar contact between UNRWA and Israeli officials. Meanwhile, around 12,000 local, Palestinian UNRWA personnel

in Gaza continue to provide services and assistance to an entire population in need, while spearheading the collective humanitarian response.

- According to [OCHA](#), two thirds (or 66 per cent) of the Gaza Strip are within ‘no-go’ areas, under active displacement orders, or both. The UN [estimates](#) that over 390,000 people have been displaced yet again since the breakdown of the ceasefire. That amounts to nearly one in five people in Gaza.
- Several displacement orders affecting areas with 66 UNRWA installations were issued by the Israeli Forces between 26 March and 7 April:
 - Two on 26 March impacting the Tal El Hawa area, south of Gaza City. Four UNRWA installations are located in the affected area.
 - One on 29 March impacting the Khan Younis areas of Abasan, Bani Suheila, Al Qarara, and Khirbat Ikhza'a. No UNRWA installations were directly impacted, but two UNRWA installations are located within close proximity to the affected area.
 - One on 31 March impacting the Rafah area. Twenty-nine UNRWA installations are located in the affected area.
 - One on 1 April impacting the Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia areas. Ten UNRWA installations are located in the affected areas.
 - One on 2 April impacting Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia. Nineteen UNRWA installations are located in the affected areas.
 - Two on 3 April: one impacting the Shuja'iyya area, east of Gaza City, where one UNRWA installation is located; and one impacting Zaytoun and Sabra areas, south of Gaza City, where two UNRWA installations are located.
 - One on 6 April impacting Az Zawayda, northeast of Deir al-Balah. One UNRWA installation is located in the affected area.
- On 2 March, the Israeli authorities announced a siege on Gaza where 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 is now nearly three times 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.
- OCHA [reported](#) that more than 1 million people were left without food parcels in March, while during the ceasefire UNRWA and partners had reached more than 2 million people (or approximately the entire population of the Gaza Strip) with food assistance.
- Access to water is also rapidly shrinking, with [UNICEF](#) estimating that around 1 million people, including 400,000 children, went from having access to 16 litres of drinking water per person, per day to just six. According to UNICEF, “If fuel runs out in the coming weeks, this could drop below 4 litres, forcing families to use unsafe water, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks, particularly among children.”
- Despite the siege and existing challenges, UNRWA continues providing services to communities overwhelmed by over 1.5 years of bombardment, forced displacement, and lack of critical resources. However, the resumed bombardment and the lack of access for humanitarian supplies are further deteriorating an already dire situation, impacting the humanitarian actors’ ability to respond to food, water, sanitation, shelter, and other needs of the population.
- 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 displacement orders were issued, more people have been forced to flee in search of safety.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 8 April 2025, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, as stated by [OCHA](#), at least **50,810** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza and **115,688** 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 **289**.
- OCHA reported on [4 April](#) and [8 April](#) that, of the 108 aid movements coordinated with Israeli authorities across Gaza from 25 March to 7 April 2025, 68 were denied, five impeded, three cancelled, and only 32 facilitated.



People including children in northern Gaza look for water amid appalling scarcity of their basic needs following the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities over a month ago, The Gaza Strip, April 2025. © 2025 UNRWA Photo

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to [OCHA](#), between 7 October 2023 and 6 April 2025, 913 Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of those, 107 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. Forced displacement by the Israeli Forces in and around the Jenin Camp continued. To date, at least 62 Palestinians including nine children have been killed in the operation.
- UNRWA and humanitarian partners continued to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and psychosocial support services (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 24 March, the Israeli Forces fired tear gas canisters at Palestinians during a search operation in Shu'fat Camp, East Jerusalem. Some 14 Palestinians, including a child, were detained. On the same day, the Israeli Forces conducted a search operation in Balata Camp, Nablus. UNRWA staff and refugees, including school students inside the camp, took shelter where they were during the operation which ended three hours later.
- On 24 March, Israeli settlers fired live ammunition in the village of Susiya, Hebron (south). Four Palestinians were injured and four were detained by the Israeli Forces. On 1 April, armed Israeli settlers opened fire at Palestinians in the village of Duma (northern West Bank) and set fire to two animal structures and five vehicles.
- On 25 March, an exchange of fire between the Israeli Forces and armed Palestinians took place in Qalqilya where the Israeli Forces surrounded and shot munition at a building, killing one Palestinian and withholding his body. Some families were reportedly displaced from the neighborhood.
- On 25 March, the Israeli Forces shot and killed a Palestinian allegedly for attempting to ram into Israeli Forces near the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adumim in East Jerusalem.
- On 29 March, the Israeli Forces surrounded a house in Tammoun, Tubas, and fired munitions, including live ammunition. One Palestinian was killed and his body withheld with the Israeli authorities. An exchange of fire erupted between armed Palestinians and Israeli Forces.
- On 31 March, another arson attack took place at the UNRWA West Bank Field Office Compound in occupied East Jerusalem, with unidentified perpetrators setting fire to grass around the compound's perimeter fence. The fire brigade arrived at the scene and the fire was contained.
- On 2 April, the Israeli Forces fired tear gas and live ammunition in clashes with Palestinians in the village of Silat al Harithiya, Jenin. One Palestinian child was killed and three other Palestinians injured. On 4 April the Israeli Forces shot and killed a Palestinian in Jenin city.
- On 2 April, an Israeli Forces operation took place in Dheisheh Camp, Bethlehem, starting when UNRWA installations and services were already running. The operation lasted for several hours and disrupted the work of the UNRWA Health Centre and other services in the camp. One Palestinian was injured with live ammunition and four Palestinians were detained.
- On 3 April, a 17-year-old child was shot and killed in Hussan, Bethlehem. Another child, (an American Palestinian national) aged 14 years, was killed on 6 April when the Israeli Forces opened fire at Palestinians near the entrance of Turmus'ayya town, Ramallah. The two Palestinian children were hit with live ammunition by the Israeli Forces allegedly for throwing stones at vehicles.
- On 8 April, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [stated](#): "Israeli officials from the Jerusalem Municipality, accompanied by Israeli Security Forces, forcibly entered six UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem. They gave closure orders for the schools effective in 30 days." The Commissioner-General reiterated that UNRWA schools are protected by the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, adding that the unauthorised entries and the issuance of closure orders "are a violation of these protections and represent a revocation of Israel's obligations under international law."

Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- Between 7 October 2023 and 8 April 2025, according to the MoH in Gaza as stated by [OCHA](#), at least **50,810** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the Gaza Strip while **115,688** 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.:
 - On 2 April, an UNRWA health centre in Jabalia was reportedly directly struck by an Israeli Forces airstrike. No injuries were reported among UNRWA personnel.
 - On 31 March, an UNRWA school in the Bureij camp was reportedly struck by an Israeli Forces quadcopter. No damage was reported.
 - On 27 March, an Israeli Forces airstrike reportedly impacted an UNRWA guesthouse in West Nuseirat causing minor damage.
 - On 27 March, an Israeli Forces tank shell reportedly impacted an UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun causing minor damage.

As of 25 March 2025, **825*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war. **311*** 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 **2,409*** 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. A fourth round of the polio vaccination campaign was scheduled to start on 13 April but had to be postponed until further notice due to the continuous bombardment and displacement orders from the Israeli Authorities.
- During the ceasefire (19 January-17 March 2025), UNRWA health teams 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 6 April, only five out of 22 UNRWA health centres and three additional UNRWA-rented facilities used as temporary health centres were operational in Gaza. In addition, health services are also provided through 130 mobile medical teams working in 40 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 24 March and 6 April, an average of around 1,000 UNRWA health staff worked in health centres, temporary clinics and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 131,982 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 24 March and 6 April, UNRWA teams responded to 3,570 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- Between 24 March and 6 April, UNRWA medical teams provided care for 8,103 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk, dental and oral health services in fixed and mobile clinics reaching 4,382 patients and physiotherapy rehabilitation services for 1,818 patients in health centres and medical points.
- Medical services are critically under-resourced, with nearly two thirds (63 per cent) of essential supplies projected to run out in under two months.

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 have taken place in 449 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) in 58 UNRWA schools-turned-shelters, with the support of around 1,000 teachers and up to 600[3] school counsellors. Following the collapse of the ceasefire (on 18 March), the number of active TLS decreased to 78, only in Khan Younis and Middle areas, a reduction of 371 compared to before. Between 24 and 30 March 2025, 3,323 children (1,169 boys, 2,154 girls, including 168 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 291,506 PSS sessions and activities. Between 24 and 30 March, a total of 9,055 displaced people accessed these services.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 6 April 2025, UNRWA's social work team has provided services to 211,626 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 3,713 children, including 1,773 unaccompanied children. The team also supported 23,407 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^[4] 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.
- On a daily basis, UNRWA teams provide 2500 cubic metres of water and collect 230 tons of solid waste. In Gaza overall, UNRWA contributes to 29 per cent of the water sector, 75 per cent of the sanitation sector, 57 per cent of the hygiene sector, and 39 per cent of the solid waste management sector.
- Between 31 March and 2 April, UNRWA teams provided around 5,000 cubic metres of domestic and potable water to displaced people across the Gaza Strip.
- UNRWA continues to provide solid waste collection and transfer services wherever possible. Between 31 March and 2 April, around 150 tons of solid waste have been collected by UNRWA sanitation teams and transferred to designated temporary dumping sites.
- During the same reporting period, the team conducted over 20 cleaning campaigns in Khan Younis alone, serving over 12,000 displaced people.

[Tweet from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General \(on the joint UN statement with fellow UN Principals\).](#)

“In Gaza, acts of war show an utter disregard for human life, at the world’s watch. People are trapped, bombed, displaced and starved all over again. Among those killed: children, humanitarian and medical workers, first responders and journalists. No one is safe, no one is spared.