



All information from 8-15 August 2024, is valid as of 16 August 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 308-315 of Hostilities

Published 16 August 2024



Children take part in artistic and sports activities organized by UNRWA teams as part of 'Back to Learning' in a school-turned-shelter in Nuseirat (middle area), Gaza Strip. © 2024 UNRWA Photo

## 1. Key points

### The Gaza Strip

- Ongoing strikes by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) continue, with aerial, land and maritime bombardments across the Gaza Strip, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and the destruction of residential structures and public infrastructure.
- During the reporting period, additional evacuation orders were issued on 15 August warning people living in parts of southeast Khan Younis to immediately move to the so-called "humanitarian safe zone" in Al Mawasi. According to OCHA, approximately 305 square kilometres, or nearly 84 per cent of the Gaza Strip, has been placed under evacuation orders by the Israeli military.
- According to a [FEWS NET](#) Gaza food supply assessment, as of the end of July, an estimated 79,082 to 86,925 metric tons of food were brought into Gaza, a significant increase from the

47,443 to 61,530 metric tons estimated in June. This increase was largely attributed to a surge in commercial cargo, amid a decrease in humanitarian aid. The higher volume of commercial food shipments does not necessarily translate into the enhanced availability of, or access to, food in Gaza, especially considering the low purchasing power of many households. The report also highlighted that humanitarian food supplies entering Gaza through the Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom/ south of Gaza) in July were at their lowest level since October 2023, representing only a quarter of the average volume that entered between November and May.

- According to the UN, up to 1.9 million people (or nine in ten people) across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including people who have been repeatedly displaced (some up to 10 times).
- Access constraints within Gaza continue due to: (i) increased hostilities; (ii) the separation of the north and south; and (iii) frequent evacuation orders (from the Israeli authorities). These continue to severely impede the delivery of life-saving humanitarian supplies and access to critical services. According to OCHA, from 1 to 11 August, the Israeli authorities facilitated only 40 per cent of humanitarian assistance missions to the north and 51 per cent to the south. The remaining missions were either denied access, impeded or cancelled due to logistical, operational or security reasons. The cumulative impacts of access constraints undermine efforts to address urgent humanitarian needs, perpetuating a continued cycle of deprivation and distress among affected people across Gaza.
- According to [WHO and the Health Cluster](#), the health system remains barely functional. The latest evacuation orders continue to disrupt the functionality of health facilities, with only 12 of the 16 partially functional hospitals accessible due to insecurity or physical barriers, including from damaged roads. UNRWA remains a major actor in the health sector, providing health services across 10 primary health centres and up to 100 mobile medical points across the Gaza Strip.
- As of 15 August, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October is **207**.
- Several challenges stand in the way of collecting much needed humanitarian supplies from the Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing point in southern Gaza. These include deteriorating law and order, war and insecurity, damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages and access restrictions.
- The latest information on supplies entering Gaza can be accessed through the below link:

[Gaza Supplies and Dispatch Tracking | UNRWA](#)

## The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

*The West Bank, including East Jerusalem update is now once a week.*

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 and 5 August 2024, at least 594 Palestinians have been killed. Separately, UNICEF<sup>1</sup> reported that 143 children have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 7 October – an average of one child every two days.

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<sup>1</sup> [Child casualties in the West Bank skyrocket in the past nine months – UNICEF](#)

- Between 5 and 11 August, 182 Israeli Security Forces (ISF) search and arrest operations were recorded across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with at least 149 Palestinians, including Palestine Refugees, being detained and extensive infrastructure damage in Balata and Jenin refugee camps. During this same period, 17 Palestinians were killed, including seven killed by ISF airstrikes. On 6 August, five were killed in drone strikes directed at two Palestinian vehicles during an ISF search operation in Jenin Camp and Jenin city in the northern West Bank, with a further two later dying of their injuries.
- On 5 August, an exchange of fire took place between the ISF and Palestinian armed groups during a search operation in 'Aqbaba, in the northern West Bank, with four Palestinians killed and seven injured by live ammunition.
- On 6 August, two Palestinians were shot and killed by the ISF after alleged attacks against Israelis: one after stabbing an ISF personnel at the "Tunnels" Checkpoint, south of Jerusalem; and one who opened fire at the Israeli settlement of Beka'ot, in the northern West Bank.

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, as of 15 August, at least 40,005 Palestinians have been reportedly killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October. Another 92,294 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

## 3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
- During the reporting period, three incidents, impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there, have been reported. While the verification of details and casualty figures are ongoing, initial reports indicate impact to UNRWA facilities:
  - On 11 August, the UNRWA guest house and office in Zuwayda (middle areas), hosting UN personnel, was impacted during an ISF operation in the vicinity of Al-Hasanat Mosque, west of Al-Nuseirat Camp.
  - On 14 August, a twelve-year-old child (IDP) sheltering at an UNRWA school in Nuseirat died after being seriously injured in her chest on 10 August due to military activity nearby the school.
  - On 10 August, the guards' room ceiling of another UNRWA school in Nusierat was completely destroyed, reportedly due to military activity hitting Al-Sharif tower in Al-Mufti land, south of Al-Nuseirat camp. No injuries among IDPs or UNRWA staff were reported.

- As of 31 July 2024, **464\*** 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 **74\*** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. **190\*** Agency installations have been impacted by munitions or subjected to armed actor interference through these incidents. UNRWA estimates that, in total, at least **563\* IDPs** sheltering in UNRWA installations have been killed and at least **1,790\*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA is verifying the number of casualties caused by incidents that impacted its installations.

*\*Since the start of the war, latest figures are continuously under review as UNRWA gains access to locations that were previously inaccessible and as further verification occur. Total summary figures will be published once further verification has been conducted, noting that these numbers are subject to change once verifications have been conducted.*

## UNRWA Response

### The Gaza Strip

#### Health

- As of 13 August, 85 medical points and nine (out of 26<sup>2</sup>) UNRWA health centres were operational. These health centres provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, medications, vaccinations, antenatal and postnatal health care and dressings for the injured. Since the last update, one UNRWA health centre has been closed due to heavy bombardment near the health centre and increased insecurity and fighting in the area.
- On 13 August, almost 1,100 UNRWA health staff continued to work in operational health centres and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 15,209 medical consultations on that day.
- On 13 August, UNRWA provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in the Middle and Khan Younis areas with teams of psychiatrists and supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. UNRWA teams responded to 547 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and in support for cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- On 13 August, medical teams provided medical care for 477 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk.
- 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. Between 7 October 2023 and 11 August 2024, UNRWA provided over 5.1 million medical consultations in health centres and medical points across the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Agency (in partnership with and support from other UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO) continues to provide vaccines, with over 130,000 children vaccinated since the start of this year.

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<sup>2</sup> Pre-conflict UNRWA had 22 health centres, following the conflict an additional five temporary health centres have been established.

## Psychosocial support (PSS)

- With the support of over 500 counsellors, UNRWA continues to provide lifesaving psychosocial support (PSS) services in Gaza, including psychosocial first aid, individual and group counselling, fatigue management sessions, recreational activities, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and protection cash assistance, reaching children, youth and adults.
- Since the onset of the conflict, around 700,000 IDPs, including over 450,000 children, have benefited from a total of 244,795 PSS sessions/activities. From 22 July – 5 August, counsellors provided 906 individual consultations and 295 group awareness sessions for caregivers. Additionally, 619 recreational activities were conducted for 22,392 children and EORE was extended to 1,576 adults (109 sessions) and 3,400 children (219 sessions).
- Since the onset of the conflict, UNRWA's social work team has provided services to 145,318 IDPs, including psychological first aid, PSS, family and individual interventions, and case management. These efforts aim to address family issues and strengthen relationships. Furthermore, protection services were provided to 1,233 GBV survivors and 1,196 children, including 497 unaccompanied minors, covering reunification, safe sheltering, medication, dignity kits and non-food items through referrals. The team also supported 17,264 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,445 of these people received assistive devices and rehabilitation services. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability and special needs, and managing social and psychological stressors were conducted for 104,791 IDPs.

## Food security

- To date, a total of 380,225 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with flour, of these, 367,768 families have received two rounds of flour and a further 300,978 families have received three rounds.
- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels in the southern governorates. These include<sup>3</sup> flour, rice, chickpeas, lentils, cheese, hummus and fish, and are designed to cover approximately 90 per cent of daily calorific needs. To date, nearly 1.15 million people have been reached, of whom, nearly 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, reaching around 1.4 million people.

**Quote from Lailias (11), displaced from Jabalia and taking refuge in an UNRWA shelter in Maghazi (middle area), Gaza Strip:**

**"The activities really make us happy. We are so grateful to return to learning and to have fun and play. We pray that this nightmare will end soon. We are so exhausted and have no energy left. We are just children."**

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<sup>3</sup> Note the composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.



## UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

### IDPs in UNRWA installations

Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October 2023



**1,900,000\***  
IDPs\*\*



At least **563** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,790** injured since 7 October.

### UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



207 UNRWA colleagues **killed**



**464**  
incidents



**190**  
UNRWA  
installations  
**damaged**

### UNRWA response – Food assistance



**210,920** families have received UNRWA food parcel in middle areas and southern governorates at least once since 21 Nov.

### UNRWA response – Health



*Partial update on 13 August due to security and internet connectivity issues*

**Only 9** (out of 26) UNRWA health care centres operational.

**15,209** patients received healthcare in 10 (out of 26) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

### UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



Since the onset of the conflict over 450,000 children have benefited from 244,795 psychosocial and recreational activities.

Between 22 July – 5 August a total of 22,392 children benefited from psychosocial and recreational activities.