



## UNRWA Situation Report #135 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

All information from 6-10 September 2024, is valid as of 10 September 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 337-341 of Hostilities

Published 11 September 2024



UNRWA social workers visit communities to provide information on the benefits of the polio vaccine, Gaza southern areas, 5 September 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo

### 1. Key points

#### The Gaza Strip

- Ongoing strikes by 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.
- [UNRWA Commissioner-General](#) posted a statement on his official X account that on 10 September, the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) stopped a UN convoy on its way to northern Gaza for more than eight hours despite prior detailed coordination. The convoy had both national and international staff traveling to roll out the polio vaccination campaign for children in Gaza city and northern Gaza. The convoy was stopped at gun point just after the Wadi Gaza checkpoint with threats to detain UN staff. Heavy damage was caused by bulldozers to the UN armoured vehicles. All staff and convoy are now released and back safely in the UN base. Due to this incident, we are not able to confirm whether the polio campaign will take place on Tuesday in northern Gaza. This significant incident is the latest in a series of violations

against UN staff including shootings at convoys and arrests by the Israeli Armed Forces at checkpoints despite prior notification. UN Staff must be allowed to undertake their duties in safety and be protected at all times in accordance with international humanitarian law.

- According to [OCHA](#) humanitarian access remains severely hindered, as the denial of missions by the Israeli authorities within Gaza almost doubled in August, compared with July (105 vs. 53). In southern Gaza, despite an overall increase in planned humanitarian missions submitted to the Israeli authorities to facilitate, from 543 in July to 603 in August, the number of facilitated missions in southern Gaza dropped by 28 per cent, from 250 in July to 179 in August. In northern Gaza, the number of facilitated aid missions increased by 10 per cent, from 67 to 74. However, the number of missions denied access rose by 140 per cent, from 30 to 72. These trends have severely disrupted the delivery of life-saving assistance, including water, sanitation, and hygiene services, health care, and fuel urgently needed for the operation of health facilities.
- According to [FAO Analysis](#) satellite imagery, almost 70 per cent of cropland across the Gaza Strip has been damaged. The decline in the health and density of the crops can be observed due to the impact of activities including razing, heavy vehicle activity, bombing, shelling and other conflict related activities.
- According to [UNICEF](#), the new school year was due to start across Gaza on 9 September, but it has not resumed as the conflict continues to impact children, teachers and schools. The first graders join 625,000 children who have already been denied an entire school year, and with the conflict still ongoing, face the high risk of a second year without education. During the war, nearly 70 per cent of [UNRWA](#) schools have been hit, some several times. Some have been flattened, many have been severely damaged. They now require reconstruction or major rehabilitation to be functional again. Before the war, UNRWA provided education to 300,000 boys and girls in the Agency's schools.
- Humanitarian pauses across specific areas of the Gaza Strip have enabled the first round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign. Between 1 - 7 September, approximately 446,000 children were reached. The Polio vaccination campaign is being rolled out in phases, focusing on one zone at a time - starting in the middle area, shifting to the south, and finally to the northern governorates. As of 10 September, children have been reached in the middle, southern areas of the Gaza Strip and northern areas. UNRWA medical team relayed that they have reached more than 77,000 children in northern Gaza and Gaza City. The campaign is ongoing.
- According to the UN, at least 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 or more).
- Several challenges stand in the way of collecting much needed humanitarian supplies from the Kerem 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. According to [OCHA](#), between 1 and 31 August 2024, an average of only 69 humanitarian trucks entered the Gaza Strip per day. This is well below the pre-crisis average

of 500 trucks per working day. Similarly, according to the latest INGO humanitarian access [update](#), up to 10 INGOs continue to face delays and denials in allowing vital humanitarian supplies such as hygiene kits, dignity kits, medical supplies and devices, as well as food aid.

- The latest information on supplies entering Gaza can be accessed through the below link:

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

- As of 10 September, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October is **214**.

## 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 2 September 2024, 652 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Separately, UNICEF confirmed that over 150 children have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during the period, 7 October 2023 to 22 July 2024.
- The large-scale ISF operation which started on 27 August in the northern West Bank, concluded early on 6 September, after nearly ten days of sustained military activity. The operation led to significant damage to civilian infrastructure, including the destruction of roads, water, electricity, and sewerage networks, and the demolition of homes. At least 39 Palestinians were recorded killed, including eight children, during the operation. Five of these fatalities occurred as the result of an ISF drone strike in Tubas on 5 September. UNRWA operations across the northern West Bank were severely affected by the operation, including the complete cessation of services in some areas.
- A female foreign activist (US national) was shot and killed during a protest which escalated into clashes with the ISF in Beita, near Nablus, on 6 September. A Palestinian was also injured by live ammunition. On 8 September, a Jordanian truck driver shot and killed three Israeli security personnel at the Allenby Bridge (al-Karama/King Hussein crossing) between Jordan and the West Bank. The Jordanian citizen was shot and killed, the border crossing was closed in both directions until further notice.
- Israeli settlers' violence and harassment were reported across the West Bank, including armed attacks on Palestinian communities in Masafer Yatta in the southern West Bank, Arab Al-Mleihah and Ras 'Ein al 'Auja in the central West Bank, and Mount Sbeih in the northern West Bank.

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- According to the [Ministry of Health](#) in Gaza, and as reported by OCHA, between 7 October 2023 and 9 September 2024, at least 40,972 Palestinians were reported killed and 94,761 injured.

### 3. 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, three incidents impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there was reported. The verification of details and any casualty figures are ongoing.
  - On 6 September 2024, an IDP was injured because of shrapnel that fell in a UNRWA school in Nuseirat reportedly due to an ISF tank shelling in the western area in New Nuseirat Camp.
  - On 10 September 2024, shrapnel hit a UNRWA school in Al-Bureij camp reportedly as a result of a nearby airstrike in the camp.
  - [Late report] On 2 September 2024, public media footage was circulated displaying a controlled explosion conducted at a UNRWA school in Rafah that was reportedly conducted by the ISF. While it has not yet been possible to verify full information relating to the impacted installation, the footage displays significant and/or total destruction of the school.
- **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 these incidents.

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

## UNRWA Response

### The Gaza Strip

#### Health

- UNRWA, as part of the national polio campaign, has provided health training to 440 nurses and 440 registrars. In addition, disseminating health messages about the vaccines has started at health facilities and medical points.

- As of 7 September, 78 medical points and 10 (out of 27<sup>1</sup>) UNRWA health centres were operational. The health facilities provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, medications, vaccinations, antenatal and postnatal health care and dressings for the injured. The number of operational health facilities fluctuates constantly based on demand, access and security.
- On 7 September, 1,108 UNRWA health staff continued to work in health centres and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 14,847 medical consultations on that day.
- On 7 September, 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 371 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- On 7 September, medical teams provided medical care for 455 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 since 7 October 2023. Between 7 October 2023 and 1 September 2024, UNRWA provided over 5.4 million medical consultations 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 against different childhood diseases since the start of 2024 through mid-July.

### 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.
- More than 600,000 children have been out of school since the beginning of the war. On 1 August 2024, UNRWA began to roll out its first phase response of 'back to learning' with a focus on mental health activities. This is taking place in up to 45 UNRWA schools now turned shelters<sup>2</sup> by expanding ongoing psychosocial support activities, focusing on arts, music and sports and raising awareness on the risks of explosive ordnance. UNRWA remains the largest provider of Education in Emergencies across the Gaza Strip. Prior to its first phase response across 45 UNRWA schools, a specialized training was held from 29 to 31 July to help teachers in Gaza cope with stress and enhance their capacity to provide activities to children. The training involved 998 teachers from all areas and equipped them with self-care skills, psychosocial support techniques and knowledge on preventing harm caused by the remnants of war. The training was conducted by counsellors and assistant counsellors and supervised by mental health specialists.

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<sup>1</sup>Pre-conflict, UNRWA had 22 health centres. Following the onset of the conflict, an additional five temporary health centres were established.

<sup>2</sup>Initially reaching 45 schools/shelters, 'back to learning' will gradually expand to 94 schools in future phases.

- Since the onset of the conflict, around 700,000 IDPs, including over 450,000 children, have benefited from a total of 246,188 PSS sessions/activities. Between 6 and 18 August, a total of 14,816 IDPs, including 9,713 children benefited from these services. During the same period UNRWA counsellors provided 404 individual consultations and 168 group awareness sessions for caregivers. Additionally, UNRWA extended 453 recreational activities for children and 368 explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) sessions for adults and children.
- Since the onset of the war, UNRWA's social work team has provided services to 168,979<sup>3</sup> IDPs, including psychological first aid, PSS, family and individual interventions, as well as case management. These efforts aim to address family issues and strengthen relationships. Furthermore, protection services were provided to 1,379 GBV survivors and 2,101 children, including 1,130 unaccompanied children, covering reunification, safe sheltering, medication, dignity kits and non-food items through referrals. The team also supported 18,570 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,445 of these individuals 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 110,423 IDPs.

### Food security

- To date, a total of 380,236 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with two rounds of flour; 353,354 of those families have received three rounds.
- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels in the southern governorates. These include<sup>4</sup> flour, rice, chickpeas, lentils, cheese, hummus and fish, and are designed to cover approximately 90 per cent of daily calorific needs per quarter. 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 organizations, reaching around 1.4 million people.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Since October 2023, UNRWA has provided emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip. Main activities include the operation and continued maintenance of water wells, desalination systems and the direct provision of water through water trucking and the distribution of bottled water. In addition, UNRWA continues to distribute hygiene kits and maintain hygiene in UNRWA shelters and sites through the provision of cleaning supplies, community based solid waste management, and pest control.
- UNRWA continues to be one of the largest WASH actors in the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the war, the Agency has maintained and rehabilitated eight wells, reaching over 600,000 IDPs with access to water. Between June and August, UNRWA reached 50,000 IDPs with hygiene kits.
- Between 15 August – 9 September UNRWA distributed over 80 cubic meters of water across 105 emergency shelters, reaching an estimated of 480,000 people. During the first week of September, UNRWA distributed chlorine tables to over 16 emergency shelters to prevent

<sup>3</sup> Results from 7 October 2023 – 9 September 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Note the composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.

water contamination and improve water quality. Furthermore, cleaning campaigns and hygiene promotion awareness sessions were held inside to coincide with Polio vaccine campaigns, it is estimated that over 200,000 IDPs benefited from cleaning campaigns. Outside of emergency shelters, UNRWA continues to provide services, including water well services to over 700,000 people scattered in informal settlements in Mawasi Khan Younis.

- Throughout the Gaza Strip, hundreds of thousands of tons of solid waste are piling up in streets, between tents in displaced civilians’ camps, and next to the rubble in back alleys. The collapse of solid waste management since October 7, 2023, is worsening the public health crisis, between 23 August and 5 of September, a total of 2000 tons of solid waste was collected by UNRWA and transferred to temporary dumping sites, in middle and south areas.

### Tweet from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner General:

**“Eleven months... Enough! No one can take this any longer. Humanity must prevail. Ceasefire now.”**

ENDs –



## 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



214 UNRWA colleagues **killed**



**464**  
incidents



**190**  
UNRWA  
installations  
damaged

### UNRWA response – Food assistance



**c.215,000** families have received an UNRWA food parcel in middle areas and southern governorates at least once since 21 Nov.

### UNRWA response – Health



*Partial update on 7 September due to security and internet connectivity issues*

**Only 10** (out of 27) UNRWA health care centres operational.

**14,847** patients received healthcare in 10 (out of 27) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

### UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



Since the onset of the conflict over 450,000 children have benefited from 246,188 psychosocial and recreational activities.

Between 6 – 18 August a total of 9,713 children benefited from psychosocial and recreational activities.