



## UNRWA Situation Report #148 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

All information from 12-18 November 2024\*, is valid as of 18 November 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 403-409 of Hostilities

Published 20 November 2024



Displaced people queue for bread outside of a bakery in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, November 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

### 1. Highlights

- Between 6 October 2024 and 17 November 2024, Israeli military operations have impacted six UNRWA installations in Gaza City and 17 in North Gaza.
- On 16 November, a joint 109-truck UN convoy carrying food supplies to people in Gaza was subjected to organised crime activity. The vast majority of the trucks, 97 in total, were stolen and drivers were forced at gunpoint to unload the critical aid the convoy was carrying.
- As of 17 November 2024, over 100 UNRWA school buildings in the Gaza Strip are being used to shelter over 415,000 displaced people.

---

\* Some of the information is reported during the reporting period but does not necessarily correspond to the reporting period.

- As of 18 November, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October 2023 is 247.

## 2. Key points

### The Gaza Strip

- Strikes by the Israeli Forces continue, with aerial, land and maritime bombardments across the Gaza Strip, resulting in civilian casualties and the destruction of residential buildings and public infrastructure.
- In Northern Gaza, since 6 October 2024, the Israeli Forces have been carrying out a ground offensive and continue to impose a tight siege. Intense military operations are ongoing amid a near total lack of humanitarian aid entering the area in addition to severe communications and internet disruptions. As of 18 November, the UN and its partners estimated that between 100,000 and 131,000 people had been displaced since 6 October 2024 from North Gaza governorate to Gaza City. The influx has raised the population in the Gaza City governorate from around 250,000 estimated to have been present as of the end of September 2024 to approximately 375,000 people. Between 65,000 and 75,000 people are estimated to remain in North Gaza governorate, accounting for less than 20 per cent of the population there before the intensification of military operations and the siege.
- On 13 November, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini addressed the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee, highlighting that “unique among United Nations agencies, UNRWA is mandated to directly provide public-like services, including education for more than half a million children and primary healthcare. The Agency provides human development services for Palestine Refugees in the absence of a Palestinian state.”
- UNICEF reported that 64 attacks against schools have been recorded last October (2024). Between 6 October 2024 and 17 November 2024, Israeli military operations have impacted six UNRWA installations in Gaza City and 17 in North Gaza.
- On 16 November, a joint 109-truck UN convoy carrying food supplies to people in Gaza was subjected to organised crime. The vast majority of the trucks, 97 in total, were stolen and drivers were forced at gunpoint to unload the humanitarian aid on the convoy. The UN Secretary-General Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric stated that, as this incident underscores, the UN continues to face severe access challenges in bringing aid into southern and central Gaza: “whether it’s Kissufim, Kerem Shalom, and surrounding routes have proved unworkable due to continuing security issues. They are entirely insufficient to ensure the sustained flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza.”
- OCHA reported that many community kitchens have already closed, none are operational in North Gaza governorate, only 18 in the Gaza governorate, and approximately 120 remain open throughout the central and southern areas of the Gaza Strip. Of these, 100 are producing about 330,000 meals per day but face the constant threat of shutdown amid persistent and increasing shortages of supplies.

- Food security conditions are alarmingly deteriorating also in the central and southern governorates of the Gaza Strip. As of mid-November, only some 270,000 people - 16 per cent of the estimated 1.7 million people in Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah - had received their reduced monthly food rations. Dire shortages of wheat flour have forced the closure of four bakeries in Deir al-Balah in the space of one week, with only three bakeries in the governorate and one in Khan Younis remaining operational as of 18 November. Many community-led baking initiatives have also been forced to suspend their activities since early October. The four still functional bakeries are operating at full capacity, but risk shutting down if no additional flour is received soon.
- According to the WASH Cluster, since the intensification of the Israeli Forces operations in North Gaza on 6 October 2024, all requests submitted by aid partners for the delivery of supplies and fuel to operate WASH facilities have been denied, heightening the risks of dehydration and disease outbreaks while about half of Gaza City wells have not operated.
- According to OCHA, as of 19 November, around 79 per cent of the Gaza Strip is under active Israeli-issued evacuation orders.
- According to the UN, at least 1.9 million people – or about 90 per cent of the population – across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced. Many have been displaced repeatedly, some 10 times or more.
- As of 17 November 2024, over 100 UNRWA school buildings in the Gaza Strip are being used to shelter over 415,000 displaced people\*.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 19 November 2024, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza as reported by OCHA, at least 43,972 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza and 104,008 have been reported injured.
- OCHA reports that, on 20 October, the MoH published the breakdown of 40,717 out of 42,010 fatalities as of 7 October 2024. These reportedly include 13,319 children, 7,216 women, 3,447 elderly, and 16,735 men. Among the child fatalities, 786 children are under one year of age, representing about six per cent of killed children whose full identification details have been documented, MoH further reported. Additionally, as of 7 October 2024, MoH noted that 35,055 children had lost one or both parents over the past year.
- As of 18 November, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October 2023 is 247.
- Several challenges continue to 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.
- According to OCHA, between 1 and 16 November, 1,140 humanitarian trucks were permitted to enter the Gaza Strip. This represents a daily average of only 71 humanitarian trucks, well below the pre-crisis average of 500 trucks per working day. OCHA reported that, of the 319 humanitarian movements coordinated with Israeli Authorities across Gaza from 1 to 18

November 2024, 105 were denied access, 51 impeded, 31 cancelled due to logistical and security challenges and only 132 facilitated.

- This includes 120 coordinated aid movements intended to provide humanitarian assistance in governorates north of Wadi Gaza, of which 65 needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled Al Rashid or Salah Ad Din checkpoints. Out of the 65 movements to northern Gaza requiring the use of checkpoints, 22 were denied, 21 were impeded, six had to be cancelled, and 16 were facilitated.
- Between 1 and 18 November, 85 per cent of 41 coordination requests for humanitarian missions in North Gaza governorate were either denied (17) or impeded (18), while seven per cent (3) were facilitated. Thirty-one of these 41 requests were made for the besieged areas of Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahya, with all but four attempts being denied during this period. These four attempts were severely impeded and could only accomplish limited objectives.
- Coordinated aid missions to areas in the southern, western, and central Rafah governorate, which has been under an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges, with 26 of the 63 coordinated missions (41 per cent) either denied or impeded between 1 and 18 November.
- The latest information on supplies entering Gaza can be accessed through the link below:

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

*\*Figures keep changing owing to the unpredictable population movement and the security environment.*

## The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

*The West Bank, including East Jerusalem – updated on a weekly basis*

- According to [OCHA](#), between 7 October 2023 and 31 October 2024, 736 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, of those, 430 Palestinians were killed since the beginning of 2024.
- Between 11 and 17 November, three Palestinians were reported killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. A Palestinian was shot and killed on 12 November at Deir Sharaf checkpoint near Nablus, after allegedly attempting to stab Israeli Forces personnel. Two were killed on 13 November during an exchange of fire involving anti-tank missiles between Israeli Forces and Palestinians in Tulkarm, in the northern West Bank, which injured two further Palestinians.
- On 13 November, the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem accompanied by Israeli Forces demolished a community centre serving Palestinians in Silwan, in occupied East Jerusalem. The demolition followed accelerated demolition orders affecting Silwan since mid-2024.
- As the annual olive harvesting season draws to a close, attacks on and harassment of Palestinians participating in the olive harvest continued. Palestinians harvesting olives in Kafr Qaddum, Tell, and Madama were physically assaulted by Israeli Forces and forced to leave

their land. In Jalud, Shufa and Khirbet Salama, armed Israeli settlers prevented Palestinians from picking olives.

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- Between 7 October 2023 and 19 November 2024, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza as reported by [OCHA](#), at least **43,972** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza and **104,008** 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, numerous incidents have been reported impacting UNRWA installations, including cases where internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there and/or UNRWA staff have been affected. The verification of details and casualty figures are ongoing:
  - On 17 November 2024, an UNRWA staff member was reportedly injured due to an Israeli Forces quadcopter shooting in the vicinity of an UNRWA distribution centre in Nuseirat. He was injured in his hand and transferred to the hospital. Two bullets reportedly penetrated a metal roof of the UNRWA distribution centre, causing minor damage.
  - On 16 November 2024, the Israeli Forces reportedly directly struck an UNRWA school north of Beach Camp, west of Gaza City. At least 15 people were reportedly killed, and more than 25 injured. Further verification of the casualties is ongoing.
  - On 14 November 2024, the Israeli Forces reportedly directly struck an UNRWA school in Gaza City and the medical point caught fire as a result of the strike in the southern building of the school. While further verification of the casualties is ongoing, two children were reportedly killed and at least 10 people were injured.
  - On 12 November 2024, the Israeli Forces reportedly besieged an UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun (North Gaza) with tanks and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and forcefully evacuated IDPs sheltering inside the school, ordering them to move south. IDPs were forced to undergo head scanning at an Israeli Forces checkpoint, where several men were detained. .
  - On 11 November 2024, an Israeli Forces artillery shelling struck the UNRWA Maintenance Office in Nuseirat, leading all UNRWA personnel, supported by the Security and Risk Management team, to evacuate the three UNRWA installations located in close proximity. No injuries or damages were reported to these three installations.
  - [Late report] On 21 October 2024, Israeli Forces drones reportedly opened fire and surrounded an UNRWA school in Beit Lahiya (North Gaza), ordering the IDPs sheltering inside to evacuate and threatening that they would be killed if they did not evacuate.



**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 in October 2023, the latest casualty figures are continuously under review as UNRWA gets 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.*

## UNRWA Response

### 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 10 November 2024, UNRWA provided over 6.4 million medical consultations across the Gaza Strip.
- In addition to medical consultations, UNRWA (in partnership with and support from other UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO) continues to provide vaccines to children. Over 193,000 children received routine immunisation vaccines between the start of 2024 until 22 September 2024. In addition, around 560,000 children across the Gaza Strip have been vaccinated against polio during the first round of the vaccination campaign in September. During the second round of the polio vaccination campaign, which took place between October and November reaching 94 per cent of the intended population, UNRWA, WHO, UNICEF and partners vaccinated a total of 556,774 children under 10 across the Gaza Strip, and provided 448,425 children between 2 and 10 with Vitamin A.
- As of 17 November, seven out of 27<sup>2</sup> UNRWA health centres were operational in Gaza. Health services were also provided by 87 mobile medical teams working in 52 medical points inside and outside IDP shelters in the middle area, Khan Younis, Mawasi and Gaza. UNRWA health facilities provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease (NCD) care, medications, vaccination, antenatal and postnatal health care, laboratory services, dental services, physiotherapy and dressings for the injured. The number of operational health facilities changes constantly based on demand, access and security.

---

<sup>2</sup> Pre-conflict, UNRWA had 22 health centres. Following the onset of the conflict, an additional five temporary health centres were established for a total of 27.

- As of 17 November, 1,144 UNRWA health staff continued to work in health centres, temporary clinics and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 17,814 medical consultations on that day.
- UNRWA continued to provide 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 UNRWA health centres and shelters. On 17 November, UNRWA teams responded to 527 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- On 17 November, UNRWA medical teams provided care for 618 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk.
- On 17 November, UNRWA teams provided dental and oral health services in dental stations and mobile dental clinics, reaching 805 patients, including referred cases from remote dental consultations.
- On 17 November, 292 patients received physiotherapy rehabilitation services in health centres and medical points.
- Stocks of medicines in UNRWA health facilities are low and at least 59 items will run out by the end of November. UNRWA laboratory services are now limited to three tests out of nearly 35 that were provided before 7 October 2023 due to limited availability of stocks of most laboratory supplies. Laboratory equipment requires maintenance or replacement.

### Psychosocial support (PSS)

- UNRWA remains the largest provider of emergency learning and psychosocial support (PSS) across the Gaza Strip. Around 660,000 children continue to be out of school since the beginning of the war. On 1 August 2024, UNRWA began 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-turned-shelters<sup>3</sup> by expanding ongoing PSS activities, focusing on arts, music and sports and raising awareness on the risks of explosive ordnance, with the support of nearly 750<sup>4</sup> school counsellors and hundreds of teachers. UNRWA continues to provide lifesaving PSS services in Gaza, including psychological first aid (PFA), 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 and up to 18 November, around 720,000 IDPs, including over 510,000 children, have benefited from 268,650 PSS sessions/activities. Between 11 and 18 November, a total of 17,379 IDPs have accessed these services.
- More than 16,000 children, over half of them girls, have benefited from UNRWA "Back to Learning" programme so far. Between 11 and 18 November, 15,955 children (7,118 boys, 8,837 girls, including 427 children with disabilities) participated in a variety of "Back to Learning" activities, including basic literacy and numeracy sessions, PSS sessions, and

---

<sup>3</sup> Initially reaching 45 UNRWA schools/shelters, "Back to Learning" will gradually expand to 94 schools in future phases.

<sup>4</sup> 176 school counsellors and 566 assistant counsellors.

recreational activities such as arts, music and sports. The activities were conducted daily across 80 temporary learning spaces in 40 shelters, for an average of seven hours per day. This is thanks to 820 UNRWA teachers, with support from counsellors, aiming to address the psychosocial needs of children and adolescents.

- Between 7 October 2023 and 18 November 2024, UNRWA's social work team has provided services to 191,963 IDPs, including psychological first aid, psychosocial support services, family and individual activities, as well as case management. During the same reporting period, protection services were provided to 1,565 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and 3,731\* children, including 2,528\* unaccompanied children, covering reunification, safe sheltering, medication, dignity kits and non-food items (NFIs) through referrals. The team also supported 20,566 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,752 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 127,517 IDPs.

*\*Due to further verification, figures have slightly decreased compared to those reported in the previous situation report (#147).*

### **Food security**

- From 7 October 2023 to 18 November 2024, a total of 388,054 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with two rounds of flour; 374,909 of those families have received three rounds.
- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels wherever possible. These include<sup>5</sup> flour, rice, chickpeas, lentils, cheese, hummus and canned fish, and are designed to cover approximately 90 per cent of daily calorific needs per quarter. To date, over 1.16 million people have been reached, of whom 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.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- Since October 2023, UNRWA has carried out emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip. Main activities include the operation and continued maintenance of water wells, desalination systems and water through water trucking and bottled water. In addition, UNRWA continues to distribute hygiene kits and maintain hygiene in UNRWA shelters and sites through providing 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. In the first two weeks of November, around 35,000 cubic meters of water were distributed across the Gaza Strip. However, UNRWA water wells in Jabalia are still

---

<sup>5</sup> The composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.



not operational due to damage caused by the intense military operations in the area and the Israeli-imposed siege.

- Winterization efforts are ongoing in Khan Younis, The Middle Area, and Gaza City, with over 350 manholes cleaned, and 60 cleaning campaigns completed. Pest and rodent control measures are being implemented.
- UNRWA continues to provide a solid waste collection and transfer service in the Khan Younis, the Middle Areas and Gaza City areas. Since the beginning of November 2024, 3,299 tons of solid waste have been collected. However, no solid waste activities could take place in the northern areas due to ongoing military operations.









**Press remarks by Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General:**

**“There is no Plan B within the United Nations family, because there is no other agency geared to provide the same activities and, in reality, UNRWA is the response of the international community to the plight of the Palestinian refugees through the mandate provided by the General Assembly resolution. So, if there is no United Nations or international community response, the responsibility will come back to the occupying power, being Israel, and that’s where we have to ask, ‘Where does a Plan B sit today?’”**

**ENDs –**



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

<p><b>1,900,000</b> IDPs</p> 	<p><b>UNRWA response – Food assistance</b></p>  <p>388,000 families have received flour at least twice since 21 Nov 2023. Over 1.16 million people have received UNRWA food parcels.</p>
<p> At least 563 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 1,790 injured since 7 October 2023.</p>	<p><b>UNRWA response – Health</b></p> <p><i>Update for 17 Nov 2024:</i></p>  <p>Only 7 (out of 27) UNRWA health centres operational 17,814 medical consultations were provided in 3 UNRWA health centres, 4 temporary health centres and 52 medical points inside and outside IDP shelters. 87 mobile medical teams covered the medical points.</p>
<p><b>UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations</b></p>  247 UNRWA colleagues killed  190 UNRWA installations damaged  464 incidents	<p><b>UNRWA response – Psychosocial Support</b></p>  <p>Since the onset of the conflict, 191,963 IDPs have received social work services, including psychological first aid and psychosocial support. 127,517 IDPs received awareness raising sessions and internal community social network support. 7,752 persons with disabilities and injuries received assistive devices and rehabilitation services.</p>