



UNRWA Situation Report #149 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

All information from 19-25 November 2024*, is valid as of 18 November 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 410-416 of Hostilities

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A woman and children sit outside a makeshift tent by the shore in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, as heavy rain and rising sea levels flood tents in the Gaza Strip, November 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

1. Highlights

- Heavy rains hit the Gaza Strip on 25 November, further worsening living conditions for displaced people amid limited humanitarian response capacities.
- UNFPA reports that there are around 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with 4,000 deliveries expected in the next month alone. Approximately 15,000 of them are likely to be on the verge of famine.
- WHO reports that, between 1 and 11 November 2024, out of eight WHO missions to health facilities across the Gaza Strip, all three planned for North Gaza were impeded or denied.

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

- On 25 November 2024, the Israeli authorities issued an evacuation order for the areas of Beit Lahiya and Jabalia. Forty-three UNRWA installations are located within the area affected by the Israeli Forces evacuation zone.
- According to a report by the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, families in the Gaza Strip are having to resort to harmful and unsustainable coping mechanisms including reducing food intake, consuming contaminated water, selling personal items, and managing menstruation needs in a way that puts women's health at risk.
- According to OCHA, as of 22 November 2024 has become the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel, with 281 personnel killed globally. Most of them were UNRWA staff killed in the Gaza Strip (249 to date since the start of the war).

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. Some parts of the North Gaza governorate have been under a tightened siege for 50 days. Access remains extremely challenging, and partners' ongoing attempts to deliver aid into these besieged areas continues to be largely prevented.
- 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.
- [Heavy rains](#) hit the Gaza Strip on 25 November, further worsening living conditions for displaced people amid limited humanitarian response capacities. The heavy rains are estimated to affect over 1.6 million people living in makeshift shelters across the Gaza Strip, with thousands of displaced families living in tents along the coast in southwest Gaza being particularly affected by flooding and rising seawater. According to preliminary assessments, about 7,000 families residing along the shoreline were affected by recent rains, with thousands of tents flooded, belongings destroyed and shelters damaged. Harsh winter temperatures compounded by heavy rains and rising sea tides are further exacerbating sewage accumulation, the spread of disease, and risk of collapse of damaged buildings where many families have sought refuge.
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) [reported](#) that, with up to [130,000 people](#) forcibly displaced from North Gaza to Gaza City since 6 October 2024, [up to 70 per cent](#) of

people sheltering in some displacement sites are children and women. UNFPA highlighted that many women and girls are seeking shelter in abandoned homes and destroyed clinics, or sleeping out in the open, exposing them to gender-based violence, abuse, disease and infections. Amid all this, according to UNFPA, there are around 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with 4,000 deliveries expected in the next month alone. In the Gaza Strip, over 550,000 women are reported to be facing acute hunger and more than 15,000 pregnant women are estimated to be on the verge of famine.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) [warned](#) that denial and impeding of humanitarian missions to North Gaza continue to affect the health response. Between 1 and 11 November 2024, out of eight WHO missions to health facilities across the Gaza Strip, all three planned for North Gaza were impeded or denied. On 17 November, after four unsuccessful attempts, a [WHO-led mission](#) managed to reach the Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza and delivered 10,000 litres of fuel and medical supplies sufficient for 1,500 trauma patients, in addition to some food and water supplies.
- Between 6-12 November 2024, [WHO](#) documented five attacks on healthcare, including three in North Gaza, one in Deir al-Balah and one in Rafah.
- Between October 2023 and 13 November 2024, out of 15,600 cases requested for medical evacuation, 5,238 (34 per cent) have been evacuated, with only 336 patients evacuated since the closure of Rafah crossing in May 2024.
- On 22 November, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) [reported](#) that skin and respiratory infections, acute diarrheal illnesses and other viral diseases continue to rise across Gaza, with over 300 children treated daily at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis. According to [OCHA](#), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also reported that, in the six months between 9 May and 9 November, 31 per cent of all patients seen in the outpatient department of the Red Cross Field Hospital in southern Gaza were children under the age of 14, with respiratory infections, injuries and burns constituting the bulk of all cases treated.
- According to a [report](#) published by the Danish Refugee Council on 25 November, 95 per cent of people involved in the study reported knowing someone killed or injured by active warfare, 90 per cent of them reported destruction or damage to their home, and 70 per cent returned to areas affected by active fighting. Over half of the people interviewed reported encountering explosive ordnance (EO) at least once, with some up to 10 times, and 58 per cent of them reported looking under rubble for essential items, despite knowing the risk of encountering EO. Moreover, 23 per cent knew someone injured or killed by EO, with only 19 per cent of victims receiving emergency aid, only 6 per cent had access to physical therapy, and just one per cent had access to mental health services.
- On 25 November, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published a [report](#) on the impact of aid shortage on the protection situation in the Gaza Strip.
- According to [OCHA](#), the near halt to commercial trucks entering the Gaza Strip has not only driven commodity prices up and threatened market stability, but also worsened the

nutritional status of vulnerable children and women, who for months have faced severely limited access to adequate food, water and hygiene products.

- On 21 November, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory Muhannad Hadi [stated](#) that the delivery of critical aid across Gaza is grinding to a halt. According to [OCHA](#), between 10 and 22 November, WASH Cluster partners received only 12 per cent of the daily minimum requirement of 70,000 litres of fuel to meet critical WASH and public health needs, including water production and distribution, sewage management, repair works and solid waste management.
- 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*.
- On 25 November 2024, the Israeli authorities issued an evacuation order for the areas of Beit Lahiya and Jabalia. Forty-three UNRWA installations are located within the area affected by the Israeli Forces evacuation zone. Overall, since the start of the Israeli Forces ongoing operation in the North of the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities have issued evacuation orders impacting 54 UNRWA installations critical to providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people in the North. Some of these facilities serve as emergency shelters.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 26 November 2024, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza as reported by [OCHA](#), at least **44,249** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza and **104,746** 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 25 November, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October 2023 is **249**.
- According to [OCHA](#), as of 22 November, 2024 has become the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel with 281 personnel killed globally. The war in Gaza is driving up the numbers. Many humanitarian personnel were killed in the line of duty while providing humanitarian assistance. Most of them were UNRWA staff members.
- 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 23 November, 1,489 humanitarian trucks were permitted to enter the Gaza Strip. This represents a daily average of only 65 humanitarian trucks, well below the pre-crisis average of 500 trucks per working day. [OCHA](#) reported that, of the 456 humanitarian movements coordinated with Israeli authorities across Gaza from 1 to 25 November 2024, 158 were denied access, 73 impeded, 41 cancelled due to logistical and security challenges and only 184 facilitated.
- Out of the 99 aid movements needed to pass through the Israeli military-controlled Al Rashid or Salah Ad Din checkpoints to reach areas north of Wadi Gaza between 1 and 25 November, 40 were denied, 25 were impeded, nine had to be cancelled, and 25 were facilitated.
- Between 1 and 25 November, the UN [attempted](#) to reach besieged areas in North Gaza 41 times, 37 of which were outright denied. Four were initially approved, but then severely impeded on the ground such that the assistance could not be delivered to people trapped in the besieged area. Since the tightened siege started in early October, none of UN's attempts to support besieged people in that area has been fully facilitated.
- [OCHA](#) reported that coordinated aid missions to areas in Rafah governorate, which has been under an ongoing Israeli military operation since early May, have faced similar challenges, with 24 out of 28 coordinated requests submitted to Israeli authorities denied, one impeded, one cancelled, and only two facilitated. This excludes 63 coordinated movements to Kerem Shalom crossing, of which 11 were impeded, 10 cancelled, and 42 facilitated.
- On 18 November, the [Logistics Cluster](#) conducted a general assessment of the Karem Abu Salem/Kerem Shalom platform. Preliminary findings indicate that the platform holds approximately 12,000 pallets, including about 1,000 pallets of damaged and/or expired goods. Clearing the platform would require an estimated 550 trucks. As of 21 November, 933 UN and International NGO trucks (60 per cent of which loaded with food supplies) were on standby in Al Arish, ready to be dispatched into Gaza.
- 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.

- According to [UNICEF](#), around 170 Palestinian children have been killed by the Israeli Forces and settlers in the West Bank since the war started. This corresponds to a child killed almost every other day.
- Between 18 and 24 November, 11 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of these, seven were killed during a two-day Israeli Forces operation in Jenin governorate starting overnight on 18-19 November, which extended to Jenin camp, Ash Shuhada, and Kafr Dan. Drone-deployed missiles were purportedly used by Israeli Forces during the course of the operation, which resulted in extensive infrastructure damage to Jenin camp and the temporary suspension of UNRWA services.
- A Palestinian child was killed on 18 November during a search operation by Israeli Forces in Nablus, and another Palestinian was killed on 21 November in [Camp No. 1](#) during a search operation. Two Palestinians, including one child, were killed in a search operation in Ya'bad, west of Jenin, late on 24 November.
- An estimated 15 Palestinians were reported injured in Tulkarm camp late on 24 November, when rocket fire from Lebanon was intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome, with debris landing inside the camp.
- The Israeli National Security Minister visited Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque on 22 November as part of an Israeli settlers' gathering associated with the Jewish commemoration of Shabbat Chayei Sarah. Across 22-23 November Israeli settlers in Hebron Old City reportedly harassed Palestinian residents.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- Between 7 October 2023 and 26 November 2024, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza as reported by [OCHA](#), at least **44,249** Palestinians have been reportedly killed in the Gaza Strip while **104,746** 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, one new incident has been reported impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there, including UNRWA personnel:
 - [Late report] On 19 October 2024, Israeli Forces reportedly entered three UNRWA schools in Jabalia, and forcefully evacuated the IDPs sheltering inside.

** 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 17 November 2024, UNRWA provided over 6.5 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 the ages of two and 10 with Vitamin A supplements.
- As of 23 November, seven out of 27² UNRWA health centres were operational in Gaza. Health services were also provided by 90 mobile medical teams working in 54 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.
- As of 23 November, 1,200 UNRWA health staff continued to work in health centres, temporary clinics and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 16,544 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 23 November, UNRWA teams responded to 663 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- On 23 November, UNRWA medical teams provided care for 534 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk.

² 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.

- On 23 November, UNRWA teams provided dental and oral health services in dental stations and mobile dental clinics, reaching 777 patients, including referred cases from remote dental consultations.
- On 23 November, 269 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 available before 7 October 2023. This is due to limited availability of stocks of most laboratory supplies. Laboratory equipment requires maintenance or replacement.

Psychosocial support and Learning

- UNRWA remains the largest provider of emergency learning and psychosocial support (PSS) across the Gaza Strip. Around 660,000 children are out of school due to 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-shelters³ 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 750⁴ 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 25 November, around 730,000 IDPs, including over 520,000 children, have benefited from 271,650 PSS sessions/activities. Between 19 and 25 November, a total of 16,334 IDPs have accessed these services.
- More than 18,000 children, over half of them girls, have benefited from UNRWA “Back to Learning” programme so far. Between 19 and 25 November, 17,156 children (7,754 boys, 9,402 girls, including 427 children with disabilities) participated in a variety of “Back to Learning” activities, including basic literacy and numeracy sessions, PSS sessions, and 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 944 UNRWA teachers, with support from counsellors, aiming to address the psychosocial needs of children and adolescents.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 25 November 2024, UNRWA’s social work team has provided services to 201,102 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 1,589 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and 3,754 children, including 2,528 unaccompanied children, covering reunification, safe sheltering, medication, dignity kits and non-food items (NFIs) through referrals. The team also supported 20,713 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,752 of these individuals received

³ Initially reaching 45 UNRWA schools/shelters, “Back to Learning” will gradually expand to 94 schools in future phases.

⁴ 176 school counsellors and 566 assistant counsellors.

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 127,594 IDPs.

- Between 10 and 23 November 2024, UNRWA's protection teams conducted seven observation missions in shelters and IDP sites across Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, including Al Mawasi, undertook seven focus group discussions, and seven key informant interviews. They also continued to monitor aid distribution and follow up on vulnerable cases. The teams monitored learning activities in UNRWA shelters and delivered BBC Lifeline podcast activities to 1,233 children. They also followed up on urgent WASH interventions in UNRWA shelters and conducted awareness raising sessions on explosive ordnance, gender-based violence (GBV) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

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 include⁵ 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 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.

⁵ The composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.

- 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.

Quote from Louise Wateridge, UNRWA Senior Emergency Officer in the Gaza Strip:

“The suffering is unbearable. It doesn’t stop, it doesn’t cease, all day and all night. Children are shaking, their teeth are chattering, there are drones all around us all the time. It is relentless.”

ENDs –



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

1,900,000
IDPs 



Around **415,000 IDPs** sheltering in **over 100 UNRWA school buildings** across the Gaza Strip

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



249 UNRWA colleagues killed



190 UNRWA installations damaged

UNRWA response – Food assistance



388,000 families have received flour at least twice since 21 Nov 2023. Over **1.16 million people** have received UNRWA food parcels.

UNRWA response – Health

Update for 23 Nov 2024:



Only 7 (out of 27) UNRWA health centres operational
16,544 medical consultations were provided in **3 UNRWA health centres, 4 temporary health centres and 54 medical points** inside and outside IDP shelters.
90 mobile medical teams covered the medical points.

UNRWA response – Psychosocial Support



Since the onset of the conflict, **201,102 IDPs** have received social work services, including psychological first aid and psychosocial support.
127,594 IDPs received awareness raising sessions and internal community social network support.
7,752 persons with disabilities and injuries received assistive devices and rehabilitation services.