



Palestine Situation Report

June 7, 2021

Background

The immediate background to the current period of violence is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(May 24\)](#). Ongoing updates may be found on our [Updates on the Crisis in Palestine blog](#).

Overview

As of June 7, 29 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, including four children, and an additional 6,309 people have been injured. In East Jerusalem, at least one Palestinian has been killed, and 1,011 people have been injured.¹ In Gaza, no serious incidents have been reported since the ceasefire began on May 21st. During the 11-day conflict, 256 Palestinians were killed, including 66 children. According to UNOCHA, 8,500 Palestinians in Gaza remain internally displaced and are staying either with host families or in two UNRWA schools. Nearly 2,000 Palestinians in Gaza were injured during the 11-day conflict, including 600 children, some of whom will suffer from long term disabilities that require medical rehabilitation.²

As protests and confrontations continue across the West Bank, a substantial number of injuries have been treated, and there is growing concern about the number of live ammunition injuries, as it further threatens the security of medical staff attempting to reach those in need of medical services. The medical staff of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Palestine Medical Relief Society, two of Anera's major partners, constitute some of the key medical staff responding to injuries coming from incidents on the ground. At least 41 health care workers have been injured in the West Bank, and 21 medical service vehicles have been damaged or confiscated.

New reports reveal physical attacks, harassment, and restrictions on the movement of healthcare workers, paramedics, and ambulances. Across the West Bank, PRCS treated tear gas and rubber bullet injuries on the ground and transferred more than 400 critical cases to the hospital as a result of the use of live ammunition by Israeli Security Forces.³

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza severely damaged the infrastructure necessary for clean water, electricity, healthcare, and shelter. Ninety-three airstrikes damaging water and sanitation infrastructure have been recorded, leaving 1.2 million Palestinians with limited access to services and 400,000 without consistent access to clean piped water.

¹ [UN OCHA Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 1 \(21-27 May 2021\)](#)

² [UN OCHA Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 2 \(28 May - 3 June 2021\)](#)

³ [UN Population Fund | Escalation in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Israel | Situation Report No. 1](#)

Half of the electricity lines to Gaza have been damaged, leading to electricity cuts for most Palestinians from nine to ten hours a day. Nine hospitals and 19 other health facilities suffered significant damage, and there is a severe shortage of essential drugs and medical supplies in both Gaza and the West Bank. Approximately 16,250 housing units were damaged ⁴ and 1,042 housing units and commercial buildings were completely destroyed in the airstrikes.⁵

Recent Developments

Since the signing of the ceasefire on May 21, there have been no reports of violence in Gaza. In the West Bank, however, hostilities with Israeli forces have resulted in the death of two Palestinians following the ceasefire agreement. The first was a 17-year-old who was shot and killed in response to the accusation that he had stabbed two Israelis in East Jerusalem. The second Palestinian man was killed during a raid of Al Amari Refugee Camp in Ramallah, performed by undercover Israeli officers on May 25.

In occupied East Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians have been arrested by Israeli police. A large number of these arrests have been made based on social media posts ridiculing or criticizing Israeli forces. Over 500 arrests have been reported since mid-April, and a quarter of those arrested have been minors. However, lawyers argue that the arrest numbers are much higher than reported. At least four Palestinians have faced administrative detention during this period of conflict, and they are detained indefinitely without charges or trials. The Palestinians who have been arrested report being beaten, kicked, and choked by Israeli forces.⁶ Thirteen Palestinian journalists have also been arrested while trying to cover the protests of Israel's attempts to expel Palestinians from their homes.⁷

COVID-19

In the West Bank, health infrastructure was the target of 70 attacks between April 13 and May 17.⁸ Gaza has continued to face an increase of COVID-19 cases, and PCR testing has been limited following the damage of the testing facility during an airstrike on May 17. Gaza's only vaccination center was damaged during airstrikes as well. Since then, 120,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been brought into Palestine, 45,000 of which were designated for Gaza.⁹ Only about 7% of the population of Palestine received their second vaccination dose and has been vaccinated for COVID-19, meaning that the risk of transmission for those who are in crowded areas such as those who are internally displaced in shelters remains high.¹⁰ The airstrikes in Gaza displaced approximately 107,000 people during the hostilities, or approximately 5.2 percent of the population, with over 77,000 displaced persons seeking shelter in 58 UNRWA schools across Gaza.¹¹

⁴ [UN OCHA Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 2 \(28 May - 3 June 2021\)](#)

⁵ [Israel-Gaza Conflict: US moves to rebuild relations with Palestinians | BBC News.](#)

⁶ [Fear barrier broken despite hundreds of arrests in Jerusalem | AlJazeera News Network](#)

⁷ ['Shut down news': Palestinian journalists on the front line | AlJazeera News Network](#)

⁸ [Escalation In Occupied Palestinian Territory Issue 2 | 17 May 2021 | World Health Organization](#)

⁹ [UN OCHA Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 1 \(21-27 May 2021\)](#)

¹⁰ [UN OCHA Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 2 \(28 May - 3 June 2021\)](#)

¹¹ [UN OCHA | Occupied Palestinian Territory \(oPt\): Flash Update #12](#)

According to the World Health Organization, this crowding together in shelters will likely lead to an increase in coronavirus cases.¹²

Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic left half of the Palestinians living in Gaza below the poverty line, and it is estimated that the poverty rate will increase as a result of the damage from the recent conflict. In order to address the economic needs of Gaza, the World Bank, UN, and EU are partnering to put together a Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. On May 28, the World Bank announced a Developmental Policy Grant (DPG) of 30 million USD for Palestine, which will support economic recovery as well as strengthen the digital foundations of the economy and increase transparency in government and the public sector.¹³

Agriculture

In the West Bank and Gaza, agriculture is one of the largest employment sectors.¹⁴ The recent airstrikes in Gaza have significantly damaged agricultural infrastructure, affecting the livelihood of at least 24,000 families. Damaged infrastructure and agricultural assets include greenhouses, farms and other agricultural land, wells, fish farms, animal herds, equipment, and food processing plants.¹⁵ According to the Ministry of Agriculture, greenhouse, poultry farms, and agricultural land damage totals \$27 million, and the overall damage caused to the agricultural sector is worth \$500 million.¹⁶

Anera's Response

Food Assistance

Anera, in partnership with World Central Kitchen (WCK), is working with our local partner, Cooperative Society for Saving and Lending (CSSL) women's cooperative in Beit Hanoun, to prepare and distribute hot meals to those affected by the airstrikes in Gaza. On the first day of meal preparation and distribution, Sunday, May 23, the women at CSSL prepared a meal of chicken and rice, fresh salad, bread and a banana for 300 residents in North Gaza. Anera and WCK are also working with local restaurants, like Laterna in Gaza City, to distribute meals.

CSSL procures produce from 25 farmers who are also beneficiaries of and partners in Anera's humanitarian aid work. The Anera/WCK initiative will support and sustain up to 100 workers at the women's cooperatives, farms, and restaurants to deliver tens of thousands of meals over the next days and weeks, as needed.

Procuring and Sending Medical Aid to Gaza

During emergencies in Gaza, Anera responds quickly, arranging overseas air shipments. Often the crisis requires more immediate action than an air shipment can provide, especially in Gaza where healthcare facilities are stretched so thin. In response to the

¹² [U.N. agency says 52,000 displaced in Gaza. Amnesty wants war crimes investigation | Reuters](#)

¹³ [New \\$30 million Grant to Support Palestinian Reforms | The World Bank](#)

¹⁴ [Review of Labor and Employment Trends in the West Bank and Gaza Strip | UNCTAD](#)

¹⁵ [Gaza Crisis | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

¹⁶ [Factbox: Palestinians. Israelis count cost of 11-day fight | Reuters](#)

current crisis, Anera is locally procuring and distributing emergency medications and medical supplies with the support of Islamic Relief USA, Penny Appeal, and UMCOR. One of our major recipients is Al Shifa, Gaza's main surgical hospital. We are providing Al Shifa and other health facilities with vital items like antibiotics and surgical supplies.

Anera also supports the Central Blood Bank Society (CBBS), a local, non-profit organization located in Gaza. As the only health non-profit working in the blood banking field in Gaza, CBBS provides all hospitals in the area with their required blood units, following Palestinian Ministry of Health guidelines and maintaining the highest standards of quality in its services provided to patients in hospitals in Gaza. However, CBBS is facing a financial crisis as well as a shortage of supplies, made worse by the recent bombings. **Anera is procuring 126 kits for the bank, which will allow them to conduct 12,600 blood tests (each kit has materials for 100 blood tests), covering their needs for six months.**

Anera's medical donations team is also diligently working to arrange shipments of chronic medicines, PPE for COVID-19, and emergency medical supplies for distribution to health facilities in Gaza just as soon as we can get them in. **Anera currently has 11 shipments of medical donations in progress.** The shipments include acute and emergency medicines, such as antibiotics and surgical supplies, as well as medicines to manage chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure, upon which thousands of Gaza residents rely to stay well. There are also a variety of PPE, including gowns, KN95 masks, face shields and gloves.

Medical Shipments to the West Bank

The Ministry of Health (MoH) called upon national and international organizations to immediately address the looming public health crisis. By providing critical medicines and medical supplies to primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and public health services, these organizations can prevent and treat infectious diseases and allow patients to manage their chronic health conditions.

Continuing its support of PHCCs and hospitals in the West Bank, Anera's medical donations team distributed two shipments of medical donations, valued at \$5,089,000 from AmeriCares, that benefitted seven hospitals and seven healthcare centers in the West Bank. The two shipments included critical medicines, hygiene supplies, and medical supplies. Anera also distributed two shipments of donated medicines from Direct Relief, valued at \$986,000. These donations serve large segments of the Palestinian population by providing critical care and access to medicines and medical supplies that would otherwise be inaccessible due to the recent 11-day bombardment of Gaza, the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and economic hardship.