



Palestine Situation Report

July 1, 2021

Background

The immediate background to the current period of violence is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(June 7\)](#). Ongoing updates may be found on our [Updates on the Crisis in Palestine blog](#).

Overview

Following the creation of a new Israeli government, far-right Israeli groups held a march in occupied East Jerusalem on June 15. Israeli forces arrested at least 17 Palestinians for protesting the march and wounded 33 others.¹

On June 15 and 16, Israel once again launched air raids on [Gaza](#) in response to incendiary balloons that Gaza sent out of the territory. This was the first clash between Israel and Palestinians since the ceasefire took effect on May 21.² Israel launched a second round of air raids on June 17, which allegedly hit sites controlled by armed groups. No reported casualties resulted from either raid. However, the second allegedly targeted a civil administration building and an agricultural field.³

In Gaza, residents still suffer from the damage caused during the 11 days of airstrikes in May. Although crews repaired and reconnected most electricity feeder lines and networks, Gazans continue to experience daily electricity cuts at an average of 11 hours due to the lack of fuel for the Gaza power plant. Palestinians removed roughly 110,000 tons of rubble as of June 15, according to an estimation from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. However, approximately 70% of the rubble caused by the bombings remains. Around 8,400 persons remain internally displaced, 213 of whom continue to shelter in two UNRWA schools. In addition, 200,000 Gazans still lack access to basic necessities such as safe piped water.⁴

Since June 11, four Palestinians in the [West Bank](#) have died from their injuries resulting from clashes with Israeli forces since June 11. Those killed include a 15- and a 17-year-old boy and two women. Israeli settlers continue to attack Palestinians and their

¹ [Israeli far-right groups march through occupied East Jerusalem | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

² [Israel launches air raids on Gaza, first since truce with Hamas | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

³ [Israeli air raids target Gaza for second time since ceasefire | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁴ [Response to the escalation in the oPt | Situation Report No. 5 \(18-24 June 2021\) | UN OCHA](#)

property, vandalizing 450 trees in the southern West Bank and cutting down 45 olive trees in Burin on June 15.⁵

COVID-19

As of June 25, officials recorded 2,728 confirmed, active COVID-19 cases in Palestine. 2,679 of the cases are in Gaza,⁶ accounting for 90 percent of the COVID-19 cases in Palestine. COVID-19 cases and fatalities continue to decline in the West Bank. Through its vaccine campaign, the Palestinian Authority vaccinated approximately 326,000 Palestinians. The Israeli authorities oversaw the vaccination of an additional 110,000 Palestinian workers who enter into Israel for employment.⁷ In contrast, only 52,291 Gazans received vaccines.⁸

Current Needs

Palestinians are in need of increased psychosocial support – such as recreational activities and mental health services – primary healthcare services, as well as trauma and emergency services.

Some families are still displaced from their homes in Gaza. They await repairs to their damaged and destroyed homes. This is particularly the case among vulnerable groups such as women-headed households, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. Many Palestinians in Gaza also require aid in the form of cash assistance, food, and non-food items, such as personal and household hygiene supplies.

Schools and education facilities require urgent emergency repairs and rehabilitation to enable children to return to school in August. Additionally, the 59 UNRWA schools that served as temporary shelters for IDPs require rehabilitation before they can reopen. In the meantime during the school break, Gaza children are in need of informal education services to mitigate learning losses from school closures.

Palestinians have increased water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs due to the damage that water infrastructure sustained in the recent hostilities. Repairs and operational and maintenance materials are badly needed in order to restore the already limited water supply of 200,000 Gazans.⁹ In addition, IDPs and host families currently lack access to many basic hygiene items crucial to limiting the spread of COVID-19 and preserving the dignity of displaced persons. To increase food security, repairs are essential to critical infrastructure for food production, such as wells, greenhouses, livestock farms, and irrigation systems. Immediate food assistance for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Gaza can also increase food security when implemented concurrently with long-term, sustainable solutions.¹⁰

Anera's Response

⁵ [Response to the escalation in the oPt Situation Report No. 4 \(June 11-17, 2021\) | UN OCHA](#)

⁶ [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the occupied Palestinian territory | WHO](#)

⁷ [Response to the escalation in the oPt Situation Report No. 4 \(June 11-17, 2021\) | UN OCHA](#)

⁸ [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Situation Report 77 \(17 June 2021\) | WHO](#)

⁹ [Response to the escalation in the oPt Situation Report No. 5 \(18-24 June 2021\) | UN OCHA](#)

¹⁰ [Response to the escalation in the oPt Situation Report No. 4 \(June 11-17, 2021\) | UN OCHA](#)

Food Assistance

Anera is working with [World Central Kitchen](#) and the Cooperative Society for Saving and Lending (CSSL) to provide meals to IDPs and those affected by the recent hostilities in Gaza. Hot meal preparation and distribution began on May 23, two days after the ceasefire, and will conclude at the end of June. On the first day, the women at CSSL prepared hot meals for 300 residents of Beit Hanoun in North Gaza. **The program produced and distributed approximately [108,400 hot meals to date](#).**

Medical Aid

High numbers of injuries, damage to WASH infrastructure and health clinics, and import restrictions due to border closures during the May 2021 conflict weakened an already fragile healthcare system and caused shortages of [critical medicines and medical supplies](#). Mere hours after the ceasefire took effect on May 21, Anera sent into Gaza [three shipments of medical aid](#). Since then, we delivered another four shipments and have 12 more slated for delivery in the next three months. The shipments of donated medicines and healthcare supplies include items like over-the-counter medications, insulin, IV solutions, PPE, antibiotics, hand sanitizer, hygiene supplies, and inhalers.

Injuries caused by the May 2021 crisis increased the need for blood donations. However, the Central Blood Bank Society (CBBS), the only blood bank in Gaza, reported having zero stock of blood testing kits, meaning they could not ensure that the blood they gave patients was free of HIV and Hepatitis B and C. With support from several institutional donors, such as Americares and Penny Appeal, Anera has provided CBBS with enough [blood testing kits](#), blood donation bags, and other vital supplies to keep them operational for a year. While we are meeting their immediate shortages, Anera is also installing solar panels to provide CBBS with a permanent source of reliable, renewable energy. This will allow the blood bank to reinvest the \$3,000 they pay each month to run generators back into essential supplies and upgrade their facilities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Infrastructure

Over two million people face immense challenges and limited accessibility to [WASH](#) services at the community and household level in Gaza. Hospitals and health clinics also face significant, chronic challenges to accessing clean water, which is crucial for treating patients and keeping equipment in good condition.

One of the ways Anera is combating Gaza's water crisis is through the installation of [reverse osmosis](#) desalination units at healthcare facilities and other community meeting points.¹¹ Anera recently installed six reverse osmosis systems in three different Gaza governorates. With funding from IRUSA and Humanity First UK, we will put in three additional systems at health centers over the next few months.

Under our WASH IV program, funded by IRUSA, Anera is installing water and sewage networks, repairing wells, putting in stormwater drainage systems, and helping to refill Gaza's aquifer through stormwater catchment improvements. We are also conducting

¹¹ Reverse osmosis is a water treatment process that removes contaminants from water by using pressure to force water molecules through a semipermeable membrane. During this process, the contaminants are filtered out and flushed away, leaving clean drinking water.

health awareness sessions on preventing water-borne illnesses. **Our work completed through this WASH program will directly touch the lives of more than 22,000 people in Gaza.**

Anera is currently distributing hygiene kits and education materials to families in Gaza. The goal of this project is to help to minimize the risk of spreading disease, particularly COVID-19, as people continue to move around or seek shelter in densely populated areas. **To support a critical need for hygiene supplies, Anera partnered with UMCOR to distribute 128 hygiene kits to displaced families.** Hygiene kits include kitchen utensils, chlorine disinfectant tablets for water, and soaps. **Local procurement of kit items also stimulates the local economy.**

The Latest From Anera's Response in Palestine

Twitter: [Shipment of medical aid from Direct Relief](#)

Instagram: [Thank you Anera community for supporting our emergency response](#)

YouTube: [Delivering Emergency Medical Aid and Supplies to Gaza](#)

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