

Gaza Situation Report

January 25, 2022



Photos by Mohamed Zaanoun

For the past two weeks, Gaza has faced frequent heavy rainfall that has caused significant flooding throughout its governorates. The severe flooding has left thousands of Gazans in dire need, damaged hundreds of homes, created sinkholes, and stopped water pumps from working, leading to the flooding of roads. As a result of these conditions, many families have no shelter, and thousands more are at further risk due to the flooding of roads.¹

As of January 16, rainfall quantities in Gaza reached over 100 millimeters (4 inches) in Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, Al Shatea, Al Mograqa, and Al Nusairat. Because of insufficient stormwater infrastructure, flooding begins if Gaza receives more than 20 millimeters (.8 inches) of rain. Last week, flooding began after only three hours of rain. Because of the

¹ [Flooding in Gaza leaves thousands in dire need of support | IRUSA](#)

heavy rain, many of Gaza's stormwater systems and facilities reached their operational capacity.

In the Gaza governorate, Al Sheik Radwan stormwater pond, which collects 40% of the stormwater in Gaza City, is nearing its capacity. In North Gaza, the pond and pump station of Abu Rashed stormwater pond in Jabalia Camp reached capacity, leaving

50,000 people at risk of flooding in their neighborhood. Al Saftawi stormwater pond exceeded its capacity, leaving 20,000 people at risk of flooding in their neighborhood and cut off from access to Gaza City. In addition, Beit Lahia stormwater pond reached capacity, and Al Manshieh stormwater pump station stopped working, each leaving 30,000 people vulnerable to flooding. In



Beit Hanoun, the main pipeline was damaged during the May 2021 war, leaving stormwater to flow into the streets and threaten 20,000 people. In Middle Gaza, the stormwater pumping stations reached capacity, and the local municipalities released flood alarms.

The severe flooding in Gaza has left Gazans without access to transportation, leaving school children to wade through the streets flooded with polluted water to get home from school. ² The few Gazans with personal watercraft have used it to navigate the streets of Gaza³, providing a much safer alternative to walking or attempting to drive.

In response to the flooding, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility is beginning to pump the rainwater to the sea in preparation for more heavy rain. The utility expects Gaza to receive large quantities of rainwater in the next two days, and it is in need of urgent assistance, including fuel and generators to operate pumps and other facilities.

Gaza has faced fluctuations in rainfall since 2008, leading to extreme flooding. In the past three years, the flooding in Gaza affected more than 8,500 households. Out of the affected households, 1,300 suffered from severe damage to their structures and

² [Impoverished Lebanese, Syrians struggle to survive cold | AP News](#)

³ [Severe flooding in Gaza | Middle East Eye](#)

belongings, both public and private.⁴ Over 280,000 Gazans reside in 360 areas vulnerable to flooding, according to Gaza's flood-risk mitigation plan. The northern governorates of Gaza face the greatest impacts of flooding. Unless significant infrastructure upgrades are undertaken, it is likely that flooding will increase in the coming years due to climate change, impacting a greater number of Gazans.⁵

⁴ [Access to flooding mitigation and prevention measures | WASH Cluster](#)

⁵ [Access to flooding mitigation and prevention measures | WASH Cluster](#)