

Palestine Situation Report

August 8, 2022



Photo by Mohamad Zaanoun

Background

Information about the period of COVID-19, food security, and sporadic violence leading up to the recent escalation is summarized in Anera's last [situation report \(June 2022\)](#).

Overview

On Friday, August 5, Israel launched air strikes against Gaza,¹ marking the beginning of the worst violence in Gaza since the May 2021 bombardment, which killed more than 260 and injured more than 2,000 Palestinians during an 11-day period.² The current attacks targeted the Palestine Tower and the Shejaiya neighborhood in Gaza City as well

¹ [Israel hits Gaza with air attacks as tensions escalate | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

² [Israel's assault on Gaza: What we know so far | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

as Khan Younis and Rafah. The attack followed several days of tension between the Islamic Jihad (IJ) and Israel as a result of Israel's arrest of IJ leader Bassam al-Saadi in Jenin. A few days before the airstrikes, Israel closed its crossings into Gaza, including the Karem Abu Salem commercial crossing, which blocked fuel for Gaza's only power plant from entering Gaza. The initial attack on the Palestine Tower apartment building killed 10 people – one of whom was an IJ leader and the youngest of whom was a five-year-old girl – and injured at least 55 more. Friday night, Israeli fighter jets continued to fly above Gaza City and carried out air raids in eastern Gaza. A spokesperson of the Israeli military told reporters that it hadn't finished yet, and Israel announced the activation of 25,000 reserve troops.³ IJ responded to the attack by firing more than 100 rockets at Israel.⁴ To date, in Gaza, 1,675 housing units are partially destroyed, 68 housing units severely damaged, and another 18 housing units totally destroyed. Eighty-four families, or 451 individuals, are now internally displaced.

The Israeli prime minister stated that the “preemptive” attacks were an act of self-defense necessary to deter a planned attack from IJ, and it initially warned that the attacks could last a full week.⁵ The United Nations special rapporteur for Palestine said that the airstrikes were “not only illegal but irresponsible.”⁶

On Saturday, August 6, Israel carried out attacks against Rafah, killing seven people, including one IJ leader. Civil defense and rescue crews continued to work into the early hours of Sunday, retrieving bodies from the rubble in the refugee camp. The camp's narrow alleyways increased the difficulty of the rescue process, and residents allowed the rescue crew to bulldoze their houses in order to better reach their neighbors.⁷

On August 6, the UN humanitarian coordinator to the occupied Palestinian territories, Lynn Hastings, released a statement on the escalation. The statement highlighted the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Hastings called on both sides to allow the UN and its humanitarian partners to bring in necessary supplies including food, fuel, and medicine. Finally, Hastings stated, “I reiterate the United Nations special coordinator's appeal on all sides for an immediate de-escalation and halt to the violence, to avoid destructive ramifications, particularly for civilians.”⁸

³ [Israel hits Gaza with air attacks as tensions escalate | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁴ [Updates: Israel pounds into Gaza | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁵ [Israel's assault on Gaza: What we know so far | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁶ [UN special rapporteur says Israeli strikes on Gaza are 'illegal' | Al Jazeera](#)

⁷ [‘Blood, body parts, screams’: Gaza reels after Israeli strikes | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁸ [Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator in the occupied Palestinian territory | UN OCHA](#)

IJ once again responded to Saturday's attack by firing rockets at Israel on Sunday, August 7.⁹ Israeli airstrikes on Gaza continued into Sunday, destroying apartment buildings and killing at least 31, including six children, by Sunday.¹⁰ The Israeli military states that the targets it hit included weapons manufacturing facilities, rocket launching sites, and a tunnel being built for use by militants to attack Israel. Since Friday, Israeli military officials claim IJ fired more than seven hundred rockets,¹¹ which either fell short or were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome defense system.¹² There are also conflicting reports of responsibility over some deaths, as Israel claims that the seven people killed in Jabalia died as a result of an IJ rocket that lost power.¹³

At 20:30 GMT on Sunday, a ceasefire arranged by Egyptian authorities between Israel and IJ went into effect. By this time, 44 Palestinians, including 15 children, had been killed, and more than 300 Palestinians had sustained injuries.¹⁴ As of August 8, the number of injuries sustained during the escalation has reached 360. The ceasefire agreement allegedly includes the release of IJ prisoners.¹⁵

Needs

The attack on Gaza left dozens of Palestinian families without electricity.¹⁶ Prior to the attack, Israel's closure of the border crossing blocked the transport of fuel and reduced Gaza's daily electricity supply to about four hours.¹⁷ One of the most pressing priorities identified by the UN is restoring Gaza's supply of fuel. As of noon on Sunday, Gaza's only power plant had been shut down for 24 hours, and Gaza households received a daily average of three to four hours of electricity.¹⁸ Electricity shortages exacerbate challenges related to clean water, hygiene, and healthcare.¹⁹ Two water treatment plants and nine pumping stations shut down, leaving 130,000 cubic meters of contaminated water to flow into the Mediterranean.²⁰ UN OCHA also expects that the reduction of power will disrupt the delivery of water, sanitation, and hygiene services. It is likely that the supply of water in wells and desalination plants will decrease significantly.²¹

⁹ [More than 40 people killed in Gaza in weekend of violence | CNN](#)

¹⁰ [Israel's assault on Gaza: What we know so far | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹¹ [More than 40 people killed in Gaza in weekend of violence | CNN](#)

¹² [Cease-Fire Holds After Israel's Weekend Gaza Bombardment | Foreign Policy](#)

¹³ [More than 40 people killed in Gaza in weekend of violence | CNN](#)

¹⁴ [Israel-Palestine updates: Ceasefire in Gaza comes into force | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹⁵ [Cease-Fire Holds After Israel's Weekend Gaza Bombardment | Foreign Policy](#)

¹⁶ [Updates: Israel pounds into Gaza | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹⁷ [Israel's assault on Gaza: What we know so far | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹⁸ [More than 40 people killed in Gaza in weekend of violence | CNN](#)

¹⁹ [Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel. Flash Update #1. 6 August 2022 | UN OCHA](#)

²⁰ [More than 40 people killed in Gaza in weekend of violence | CNN](#)

²¹ [Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel. Flash Update #1. 6 August 2022 | UN OCHA](#)

The shortage of fuel due to border closures raises alarms regarding the ability of ambulances and hospital generators to continue functioning. Due to supply restrictions, some medical and diagnostic devices are not functional.²² The ministry of health's hospitals are operating at less than half of their capacity, and it announced a suspension of all outpatient clinics and scheduled surgeries to focus on victims of the attack. In addition, Gaza faces a shortage of essential medicines, with a 40 percent shortage of medications. There is also a 32 percent shortage of medical supplies and a 60 percent shortage in laboratory consumables. These shortages prevent Gazans from receiving proper treatment for emergency injuries, illnesses, and chronic conditions.²³

Anera will respond to these critical needs in the following areas:

- **Psychosocial support summer camps for children** – The three-day conflict killed 15 children, and it comes just over a year after the May 2021 conflict that killed or wounded an additional 67 children.²⁴ In order to address the continued trauma faced by school-aged children due to the threat of injury and the loss of their peers, Anera plans to work with children to provide psychosocial care leading into the 2022 school year. Activities will include stress relief activities as well as targeted [psychosocial](#) sessions with children led by trained professionals.

>>> **\$15,000** for two summer camps

- **Food vouchers** – Many in Gaza faced the challenge of food scarcity before the conflict, due to both availability of quality food and income constraints. Food vouchers provide flexibility for families to purchase the foods best suited to their needs, while stimulating the local economy. Food vouchers are especially critical following an escalation of violence, as displacement increases [food insecurity](#) by disrupting access to food. Anera will provide food vouchers for families most directly affected by the recent crisis.

>>> **\$100 per family/week for four weeks**

- **Clothing vouchers** – An additional 451 Gazans are displaced as a result of the crisis, many of whom had to leave with very few of their belongings. Clothing vouchers are key in providing displaced families with the necessary clothing as they rebuild their lives.

>>> **\$50-70 per family, depending on size of family**

- **Hygiene kits** – With COVID-19 cases on the rise, hygiene kits will be of great help to internally displaced families. Hygiene products have sharply increased in

²² [Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel. Flash Update #1. 6 August 2022 | UN OCHA](#)

²³ [Ibid.](#)

²⁴ [They were only children | The New York Times](#)

price, and many people cannot afford them. Anera will provide hygiene kits for families affected by the recent crisis.

>>> **\$70-100 per family**

- **Rehabilitation of damaged and destroyed homes** – In the medium-term, Anera will conduct a needs assessment of damaged and destroyed homes to support families who cannot afford to repair their homes. Anera will coordinate with the UN Shelter group to identify the homes in most urgent need of repair.

>>> **\$5000-7000 per home**

Anera's Ability To Respond in [Gaza](#)

Anera mobilizes quickly to respond to crises. providing immediate and long-term relief. In the short-term, Anera meets food security needs of those affected through the provision of hot meals, food parcels, and/or food vouchers, depending on the greatest needs on the ground. Anera also provides hygiene kits and medical aid, such as medicines and medical supplies, as well as relief items like clothing and blankets as needed. In the longer term, Anera rehabilitates damaged shelters and infrastructure, including homes, [schools](#), water and sanitation networks, and healthcare centers.

In the days after the May 2021 bombardment, Anera made and distributed hot meals for 4,000 displaced Gaza families. Mere hours after the ceasefire took effect on May 21, Anera sent into Gaza three shipments of medical aid. And within a month, we delivered another four shipments containing donated medicines and healthcare supplies, which included over-the-counter medications, insulin, IV solutions, PPE, antibiotics, hand sanitizer, hygiene supplies, and inhalers. Anera also provided [Gaza's central blood bank](#) with enough blood testing kits, blood donation bags, and other vital supplies to keep them operational for a year. And we installed solar panels to provide a permanent source of reliable, renewable energy to the blood bank, so their supplies would be safe during power outages.

Our development work in Gaza builds up infrastructure, livelihoods and educational opportunities. We install solar panels and reverse osmosis water purification systems on schools, healthcare facilities and other community centers so that electricity and water can be accessed even when the power plant is not running. We connect homes to [water and sewage](#) networks and support [women entrepreneurs](#) in building up small businesses. Our work also extends to early childhood development and helping the youngest members of Palestine get a good start in life. And our projects with farming families create capacity for them to grow their own food and earn a living income.