



Palestine Situation Report

February 1, 2023

Background

Information on COVID-19, food security, and sporadic violence is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(August 2022\)](#).

Overview

The humanitarian crisis in Palestine continues to escalate in the new year. Around 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance, among them 1.1 million children in Gaza and the West Bank.¹ There is a high rate of unemployment as the economic situation affects many households and increases their dependency on humanitarian aid. Conditions on the ground are worsening, with increased violence, military operations, arrests, demolitions, and evictions in the West Bank, including in [East Jerusalem](#).² The situation is exacerbated by other issues such as the internal Palestinian political divide, the ongoing fiscal crisis, the effects of COVID-19, and the knock-on effects of the Ukraine war.

Violence

Last year, Israeli forces killed more Palestinians in the West Bank – at least 220 people – than in any year since the second intifada.³ In 2022, 11 homes and three structures were demolished on punitive grounds, compared to three in 2021. Israeli forces also blocked main entrances to some villages, cutting off access to livelihoods and services.⁴ From January to August 2022, 37 Palestinian children were killed and at least 686 children reported injured, and 404 children were arrested in East Jerusalem.⁵

This year, violent developments have occurred almost every day. A few examples: on January 16th, a child was shot and killed during an Israeli search and arrest operation in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp in [Bethlehem](#); and on January 15th, a Palestinian man was shot and killed at a pop-up checkpoint at the entrance of Silwad in [Jerusalem](#). Between December 8th and January 13th, Israeli forces killed 14 Palestinians and injured 117.⁶

¹ [State of Palestine | UNICEF](#)

² Ibid.

³ [The deadliest year for West Bank Palestinians since the Second Intifada in numbers | Middle East Eye](#)

⁴ [Protection of Civilians Report | 20 December 2022 – 9 January 2023 | OCHA](#)

⁵ [State of Palestine | UNICEF](#)

⁶ [With 2022 Deadliest Year in Israel-Palestine Conflict, Reversing Violent Trends Must Be International Priority, Middle East Coordinator Tells Security Council | UN](#)

In the first month of 2023, 35 Palestinians were killed, including multiple women and children.⁷

On January 27th, Israeli forces bombed [Gaza](#), hours after killing nine Palestinians in a refugee camp raid, including an older woman. A tenth Palestinian shot in the raid would later succumb to his wounds on Sunday.⁸ The raid occurred on January 26th in the West Bank city of [Jenin](#), and another Palestinian was killed near Jerusalem the same day.⁹ This was one of the deadliest raids in the occupied West Bank in years.¹⁰ The Palestinian Red Crescent stated that Israeli forces initially prevented medics from entering the refugee camp, making it difficult for those who were injured to be treated. The Israeli forces also fired tear gas canisters towards the Jenin Government Hospital, causing inhalation injuries among children inside.¹¹

According to hospital officials, Israeli forces refused to allow medical personnel near the injured and shot at ambulance drivers.¹²

Also on January 27th, a Palestinian gunman shot and killed seven Israelis in a settler occupied neighborhood of East Jerusalem. In the days after, Israel's security cabinet approved measures to make it easier for Israelis to carry guns.

Poverty

As of January 2023, poverty rates in Gaza reached 82%.¹³ Refugees make up the majority of the population in Gaza.¹⁴ Some 80% of the population is dependent on humanitarian aid, and three out of four Gazans rely on emergency food assistance.¹⁵ The per capita GDP of Gaza is now three to four times lower than in neighboring countries. Many Palestinians are struggling with the effects of poverty and are exhibiting signs of trauma and other impacts on mental health. The psychological impact is especially harmful to children.¹⁶ There is a 12% increase in the number of vulnerable children compared to 2021, and this trend is expected to continue into 2023.¹⁷ The economic situation is making it difficult for families to attain necessities and meet basic standards of living, including food and education. Six percent of school-age children in Gaza

⁷ [Here are the names and faces of 35 Palestinians killed in January | Middle East Eye](#)

⁸ [Palestinian youth dies of injuries sustained by Israeli gunfire | Wafa](#)

⁹ [Lethal Israeli raid marks deadliest day in over a year | CNN](#)

¹⁰ [Hours After Killing Palestinians in Refugee Camp Raid, Israeli Forces Bomb Gaza | Truth Out](#)

¹¹ [Lethal Israeli raid marks deadliest day in over a year | CNN](#)

¹² [Israel army kills 10 Palestinians, including elderly woman | Al Jazeera](#)

¹³ [OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY EMERGENCY APPEAL 2023 | UNRWA](#)

¹⁴ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁵ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁶ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁷ [State of Palestine | UNICEF](#)

dropped out during the 2021-2022 school year due to children’s need to work, schools not being inclusive, or inability to pay expenses. Some 96% of school-aged children, 608,500 kids in total, will need supplementary educational support in 2023.¹⁸

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Only 4% of tap water in Gaza is safe for drinking, and about 24% of people report an inability to afford drinking water.¹⁹ Many families are forced to source water from private vendors, though often this water is neither safe nor affordable. Around 1.4 million people require humanitarian assistance for water and sanitation services.²⁰ In November and December 2022, severe flooding exacerbated these conditions as homes and farmland were submerged and destroyed.²¹ This also contributed to the contamination of scarce water sources, leading to increased rates of waterborne diseases. Health conditions are likely to worsen with the heavy rainfall, cold weather, and lack of water and heating in homes.²²

Despite these needs, access to proper healthcare is difficult. In Gaza, the lack of availability of treatment and medicine affects 1.6 million people, including 809,000 children.²³ Healthcare and medical procedures are restricted due to the blockade, Israeli bureaucracy, conflict, and socioeconomic decline. The flooding, daily violence and conflict have destroyed and damaged important medical facilities and equipment. Doctors cannot keep up with new developments and training outside of Gaza, and the public health system lacks the resources and infrastructure to help the millions of people in need of medical assistance.²⁴

International Community Response

There is little response from the international community regarding the escalating conflict and the worsening humanitarian crisis. The US State Department stated that they are “deeply concerned,” and urged both sides to de-escalate the conflict.²⁵ Others, such as the United Nations, Egypt, and Qatar, have also limited themselves to urging the actors in the conflict to deescalate. While there is continued rhetorical support for ending the violence, there is little indication of the kind of substantial changes to either

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ [Palestine Flooding in the Gaza Strip | acaps](#)

²⁰ [State of Palestine | UNICEF](#)

²¹ [Palestine Flooding in the Gaza Strip | acaps](#)

²² Ibid.

²³ [State of Palestine | UNICEF](#)

²⁴ [Palestine Flooding in the Gaza Strip | acaps](#)

²⁵ [Seven Killed in Synagogue Attack as West Bank Violence Spirals | US News](#)

the internal dynamics of the conflict or in the approach of key international actors that would promise real change in the near future.²⁶

Anera's Response

Anera is monitoring the recent escalations in the West Bank and Jerusalem closely and is prepared to provide emergency relief should the situation necessitate it. Anera has decades of experience in delivering aid in response to fast-moving developments in the region. Among the emergency response measures, this could entail **providing medicines and medical supplies for emergency medical services** through Anera's long-standing medical donations program.

In addition to the provision of medicines and supplies, Anera **is prepared to provide food and hygiene vouchers to communities affected by the violence and disruptions**, to enable families to maintain their dignity and meet their food security and nutrition needs despite movement restrictions and other access challenges.

²⁶ Ibid.