



Palestine Situation Report

September 11, 2023

Background

Information about the ongoing raids and escalating violence in Palestine is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(July 2023\)](#).

Overview

The humanitarian crisis in Palestine continues with an expansion of the blockade in Gaza and almost daily raids in the West Bank.¹ Violent escalations continue following the July [raid and airstrikes in Jenin](#). Similar to last year, 2.1 million people in Palestine need humanitarian assistance, among them one million vulnerable children.² Settler violence in the West Bank continues to rise, averaging 99 incidents of violence per month.³ Students are beginning the school year amid violent escalations and uncertainty, with 58 schools in the West Bank and Gaza under threat of demolition.⁴ Unemployment remains high, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in Palestine and compounding concerns about food security as prices increase.⁵

Escalations of Violence

Since the start of 2023, the West Bank experienced the most deaths due to violence since 2005, with more deaths so far this year than all of 2022.⁶ This year also marks the highest number of Palestinian children in the West Bank killed by Israeli forces, with at least 34 Palestinian children killed as of August 22.⁷ Raids and violence killed or injured Palestinians in the West Bank nearly every day in August. A few examples: on August 16, a raid on Aqabat Jaber refugee camp resulted in the death of two people including a 16-year-old; on August 30, a 14-year-old boy was shot and killed in East Jerusalem; and on September 8, violence and shootings injured three people at an anti-settlement march in [Qalqilya](#).⁸

¹ ['Lifeline for Gaza': Businesses raise concerns after Israel halts exports | Reuters](#)

² [World Humanitarian Day In the Occupied Palestinian Territory | UNOCHA](#)

³ [Increase in settler violence: remarks provided to the press | UNOCHA](#)

⁴ [State of Palestine Appeal | UNICEF](#)

⁵ [Labor Force Survey, Q2 | Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics \(PCBS\); WFP Palestine Monthly Market Dashboard - July 2023 | World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#)

⁶ [Protection of Civilians Report | UNOCHA](#)

⁷ [West Bank: Spike in Israeli Killings of Palestinian Children | Human Rights Watch](#)

⁸ [Protection of Civilians Report | UNOCHA; Israeli police kill Palestinian child, 14, in Jerusalem | Wafa, Three Palestinians shot, injured as Israeli forces violently quell Kafr Qaddoum demonstration | Wafa](#)

The raids are taking place as settler violence continues to displace families and affect livelihoods. As of August, 5,591 settler-related incidents across the West Bank in 2023 have reportedly caused injuries or property damage – an increase from last year. Such incidents displaced about 400 people in 2022 and 2023, as homes were demolished and loss of grazing lands for livestock forced displacement of seven herding communities.⁹ Seizure and demolition of at least 451 homes and Palestinian-owned structures in 2023 is yet another factor in displacement.¹⁰

On September 4 in Gaza, Israeli forces blocked commercial exports from Gaza following alleged attempts to smuggle explosives at Kerem Shalom, Gaza’s only point of export.¹¹ The blockade exacerbates already detrimental economic conditions in Gaza, as business owners lose their main source of demand.¹² On August 21, Palestinians demonstrated to remember the 54th anniversary of the burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli forces released tear gas canisters and shot live ammunition at protesters, injuring 19 Palestinians, including 12 children.¹³ In the seven preceding months of 2023, violent conflict in Gaza killed seven children.¹⁴ Violent environments for young children can impact their sense of stability, making it difficult to build social and emotional skills or focus on their school work.

Update on the Situation in Jenin

Since the July 3 raid and airstrikes on the Jenin refugee camp displaced some 3,500+ people, the United Nations shelter cluster reports that rental subsidies benefiting displaced families provided immediate relief. Of those displaced, 70 households will need an additional six months’ subsidy until reconstruction of their homes is completed. However, damage repairs still have an estimated assistance gap of over \$1 billion.¹⁵

Education and Schools

From January to June, students and teachers lost an estimated 19,838 minutes of classroom time during 423 education-related incidents. This is a 200+% increase from the same half-year period measured by the Global Education Cluster in 2022.¹⁶ Of these

⁹ [Increase in settler violence: remarks provided to the press | UNOCHA](#)

¹⁰ [Palestine Demolitions - Daily Flash 1 Sept 2023 | ECHO](#)

¹¹ [Israeli ban on Gaza exports deals blow to long-suffering economy | Reuters](#); [Israel halts exports from Gaza at key crossing, says explosives found | Al Jazeera](#)

¹² [‘Lifeline for Gaza’: Businesses raise concerns after Israel halts exports | Reuters](#)

¹³ [Protection of Civilians Report | UNOCHA](#); [Israeli forces attack Palestinians marching along Gaza borders in support of al-Aqsa, injuries reported | Wafa](#)

¹⁴ [State of Palestine Appeal | UNICEF](#)

¹⁵ [Humanitarian Shelter Impact of the Israeli Forces Operation in Jenin | Global Shelter Cluster](#)

¹⁶ [Education Related Incidents in oPt | Global Education Cluster](#)

incidents, 44% involved delays at military checkpoints. Another 30% resulted from weapons firing or air strikes in Gaza.¹⁷

This month, some 300,000 children in Gaza are returning to school amid violent conditions and uncertainty over whether their schools will remain open.¹⁸ Fifty-eight schools are under threat of demolition in the West Bank and Gaza.¹⁹ Three more West Bank schools have been demolished already in the past 12 months, most recently Ein Samiya elementary school on August 17. Ein Samiya faced this tragedy amid settler violence and loss of grazing land.²⁰ Gaza schools, 288 of which are run by UNRWA, are dangerously short of funding as they enter the new school year. Staff salaries and other services require an additional \$2 million to remain functional until the end of 2023.²¹ As a result, students are embarking on a new school year uncertain if they will be able to finish it.

Food Insecurity and Livelihoods

Food insecurity remains high in Palestine, with 1.84 million people – around 63% of the population – grappling with food shortages.²² The Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics reports 3.6% year-on-year inflation as of July, a 0.5% increase from June alone. Notable price increases include essential foods such as potatoes, eggs, vegetables, and rice.²³ This means nutritious meals are more expensive for families, especially with growing children, who are already experiencing other stressors like violence, displacement, and lack of access to education.

Affording food as prices rise is compounded by high unemployment rates in Palestine. A quarter of eligible workers (aged 15 and above) are unemployed in Palestine, with 13% unemployment in the West Bank and 46% in Gaza reported from March-June 2023. Rates are highest among young graduates and women, with 47% of young graduates aged 19-29 and 40% of women unemployed.²⁴

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Around 36% of Palestinians in the West Bank have access to running water, consuming an average of 26 liters per day. The minimum requirement according to the World Health Organization is 50-100 liters per day.²⁵ While Israeli settlements are connected

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ [UN schools in Gaza begin school year uncertain if they will stay open | Reuters](#)

¹⁹ [State of Palestine Appeal | UNICEF](#)

²⁰ [Elementary School of Ein Samiya demolished | UNOCHA](#)

²¹ [UN schools in Gaza begin school year uncertain if they will stay open | Reuters](#)

²² [WFP Palestine Monthly Market Dashboard - July 2023 | WFP](#)

²³ [The Consumer Price Index During July, 07/2023 | PCBS](#)

²⁴ [Labour Force Survey Q2 2023 | PCBS](#)

²⁵ [Parched: Israel's policy of water deprivation in the West Bank | B'Tselem](#); [Palestinians still struggle to get enough water | Al Jazeera](#)

to a grid with a continuous water supply, Palestinians in the same areas only have sporadic access.²⁶ Recent and ongoing damage to water tanks and networks during raids and violent escalations exacerbate this problem.²⁷ In Gaza, only 3.2% of households can drink water out of their home taps.²⁸ As a result, villages struggle to maintain livestock, water crops, and access clean drinking water. Limited water access has worsened in the past few months as the hottest temperatures on Earth were recorded.²⁹ Hebron residents reported taps running dry for up to a full month during this summer.³⁰

Sanitation and hygiene are also key issues for children starting their school year. According to a March 2023 survey in six West Bank governorates, 33% of students report that they do not use the school toilets. Of girls 13 and older, 67% feel uncomfortable using school toilets while they are menstruating or do not attend school at all during this time.³¹

Anera's Response

Escalations of Violence/Jenin Response

With support from MAUSA, Anera is implementing an emergency medical response project. The project is supporting 8,000 Jenin Government Hospital emergency room patients over the course of two months through donations of medicines and medical supplies. The project will also coordinate with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, facilitating distribution of hygiene supplies, women's dignity kits, and mental health packs for children. At our Hebron distribution center, Anera staff also received a [shipment of medical supplies](#) from Americares, which they are sending to Jenin. Anera is also working to rebuild Jenin's main water line after water networks were extensively damaged in early July. [Long-term efforts](#) continue in Jenin to rebuild other water networks and repair homes and neighborhoods.

Education and Schools

Anera has a history of holistic [early childhood development](#) (ECD) strategies that develop critical thinking, respect, and creativity in Palestine's youngest children. ECD programs include teacher trainings that help teachers develop new skills, positive parenting sessions to help parents strengthen their childrens' learning environment at home, and health and nutrition education. Partnering with other nonprofits, Anera developed a national preschool curriculum in 2017. Anera has also built or renovated

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ [Protection of Civilians Report | UNOCHA](#)

²⁸ [2023 Humanitarian Action for Children State of Palestine | UNICEF](#)

²⁹ [NASA Clocks July 2023 as Hottest Month on Record Ever Since 1880 | NASA](#)

³⁰ [As Israeli settlements thrive, Palestinian taps run dry. The water crisis reflects a broader battle | AP News](#)

³¹ [WASH in Schools: Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Survey | World Vision](#)

over 10% of the preschools in Palestine. Currently, Anera is building two new West Bank kindergartens in Duma and Beit Liqia and a third in Rafah, Gaza.

Food Insecurity and Livelihoods

Anera partnered with local community-based organizations (CBOs) to increase food security during Eid al-Adha. Anera and 25 CBOs strategized Qurbani distributions throughout Gaza, safely procuring, slaughtering, and packaging meat that served more than 85,000 individuals in all five governorates. This project also affected livelihoods, spurring economic growth by creating work for local livestock vendors, farmers, and drivers. With support from MAUSA, additional Qurbani distributions increased food security for 936 families with a particular focus on women-headed households and other vulnerable families.

Farms to Classrooms

Our Farms to Fosool (Classrooms) program links our early childhood programming with livelihood improvements and food security. The program buys local produce from farming families who have participated in Anera's agricultural programs. It employs women cooks to make breakfasts. And, every school day, those breakfasts go to preschoolers, so they are assured of one healthy meal a day. This year we are working with 10 preschools. In addition to the breakfasts, we are upgrading facilities, providing psychosocial support, and monitoring children's health.

WASH

Anera's current WASH programming includes a long-term project in Gaza, combating the effects of the blockade such as damage to wastewater infrastructure and lack of access to clean drinking water. Through this WASH project, Anera works with local partners to increase access to clean water and sanitation services by rehabilitating water networks and sewage systems.

The project will serve 85,000+ people across Gaza with rehabilitation on both the community and the household level. In communities, Anera is rehabilitating existing reservoirs and installing water networks, connecting them to homes as needed. We are also constructing sewage drainage systems, especially in densely populated areas such as the Al-Amal area of Khan Younis. In Al-Amal, an estimated 7,500 individuals will benefit from increased access to sanitation services after our work is complete. At the household level, Anera is working with local CBOs to connect 50 homes across Gaza to water and wastewaters systems, including the installation of solar heaters and water tanks so that vulnerable families have access to hot water. To increase awareness of water-borne health concerns, Anera hosts sessions on personal and household hygiene.