



Palestine Situation Report

February 16, 2024

Background

Information about the ongoing war in Gaza and escalations in the West Bank is summarized in Anera's last [Palestine Situation Report \(January 2024\)](#).

Overview

The war in Gaza has continued with Israeli bombardments by land, sea, and air since October 7. Ground fighting between the Israeli army and Palestinian armed forces also continues.¹ One hundred thousand Palestinians in Gaza are either killed, wounded, or missing, and attacks have caused unprecedented devastation and destruction to residential buildings, public infrastructure, and the healthcare system.² The hostilities have now reached Rafah City, where over a million internally displaced persons (IDPs) fled for safety.

Around 75% of the population in Gaza is displaced on foot and faces shortages of medical care, vaccines to prevent infectious diseases, chronic illness medications, and other essential healthcare items. Acute food security is overwhelmingly high, and more than half a million face starvation.³

The heightened aggression has killed 154 UN staff, at least 339 health workers, 46 civil defense staff, and 122 journalists.⁴ This makes humanitarian assistance delivery, emergency services access, and reporting from the ground more challenging, as the already vulnerable Gaza population faces unprecedented conflict, food insecurity, displacement, and epidemics.

On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice ordered provisional measures in South Africa's case against Israel, which claims that Israel is violating the Genocide Convention. The court's binding orders require Israel to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, enable the provision of essential services and humanitarian aid,

¹ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #108, February 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

² [A hundred days of horror, destruction and displacement not enough for Netanyahu. January 2024 | Wafa](#)

³ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 132 | UNOCHA; 16 Leading Humanitarian and Human Rights Organizations Call to Stop Arms Transfers to Israel. January 2024 | Oxfam](#)

⁴ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact. January 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

and prevent and punish instigation to commit genocide.⁵ Despite the ruling, the Israeli army continues its military operations in Gaza uninterrupted.

Violence in Gaza and the West Bank

Israeli authorities have ordered the Israel Defence Forces to destroy four claimed Hamas battalions in Rafah and evacuate the city. Rafah is a southern border city that Israel had previously unilaterally declared a safe zone. It is currently sheltering over 1.4 million IDPs from across Gaza who have fled the violence. The new Rafah offensive leaves no place for the IDPs to shelter as they are prohibited from returning to northern Gaza. On February 12, the IDF's strikes killed at least 67 Palestinians, including women and children.⁶

As of February 4, the Israeli army has killed at least 28,300 Palestinian civilians in Gaza, around 70% of whom are women and children (over 7,750 and 12,250 respectively), and injured 68,600 Palestinians, a considerable number of whom are children. The relentless Israeli military operations buried approximately 8,000 Palestinians under rubble, who remain missing.⁷ Rescue teams are unable to reach those trapped under the rubble due to incessant bombing, limited fuel and telecommunications, and lack of access as a result of ground troop attacks on civilians and ambulance teams. Almost the entire population of Gaza — 2.1 million Palestinians — are in need of humanitarian assistance.⁸

As of January 21, the Israeli forces kill 250 Palestinians in Gaza every day, which is the highest daily death rate of any twenty-first-century armed conflict.⁹ As of February 12, hostilities in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, killed 393 Palestinians and injured 4,450 others, including at least 637 children. Settler violence and access restrictions displaced at least 198 Palestinian households, including 1,208 people (586 of whom are children). Similarly, 19 houses have been demolished, displacing 95 Palestinians (42 of whom are children), and military operations displaced additional 537 Palestinians, including 238 children.¹⁰

Women and Children in Gaza

From October through January, the war on Gaza forcibly displaced 951,490 women and girls. It widowed over 3,000 women and made them the new heads of households. It

⁵ [Gaza: World Court Orders Israel to Prevent Genocide, January 2024 | HRW](#)

⁶ [Why Israel's imminent Rafah offensive has prompted international condemnation, February 2024 | Sky News](#), [Israeli forces rescue 2 hostages in dramatic Gaza raid that killed at least 67 Palestinians, February 2024 | AP News](#)

⁷ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, February 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

⁸ [Gender Alert: The Gendered Impact of the Crisis in Gaza, January 2024 | UN Women](#)

⁹ [Daily death rate in Gaza higher than any other major 21st Century conflict, January 11, 2024 | Oxfam](#)

¹⁰ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, February 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

turned more than 10,000 children into orphans. The hostilities in Gaza kill two mothers every hour. With over 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, 5,522 women will give birth in the coming month.¹¹ Around 20,000 pregnant women have given birth in inhumane conditions, with an average of 183 births every day.¹² The aggression has killed 12,882 women and children so far.¹³

Women survivors of gender-based violence have no safe spaces to resort to, and women's organizations received only 0.09% of funding through the United Nations flash appeal.¹⁴ Healthcare workers also report a significant increase in miscarriages and preterm births.¹⁵ As of February 2, UNICEF estimates that 1% of the displaced population in the Gaza Strip (17,000) are unaccompanied or separated children.¹⁶ More than 1,000 Palestinian children have lost one or more of their limbs. Israeli authorities have unlawfully detained an unknown number of children.¹⁷

Displacement and Shelter

Some 155 UNRWA facilities across Gaza support 1.4 million internally displaced persons, with 94 UNRWA shelters supporting one million IDPs in the south. The aggression in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah made Rafah governorate a hub for IDPs, hosting more than one million in an exceptionally high-density environment. By the end of December 2023, the Israeli aggression destroyed 65,000 housing units and damaged 290,000 housing units.¹⁸

The hostilities killed at least 319 IDPs and injured 1,135 IDPs residing in UNRWA shelters. One toilet serves an average of 700 people in shelters across Gaza, and more than 15 people live in one tent.¹⁹ Only 150 out of 325 known shelters have medical points operating at minimal capacity.²⁰

Health and Education

On February 7, the World Health Organization declared that 36% of Gaza's hospitals were working partially, and none of Gaza's hospitals were fully functioning. Only four of

¹¹ [Facts and figures: Women and girls during the war in Gaza, January 2024 | UN Women](#)

¹² [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

¹³ [Women and children in Gaza bearing the brunt of ongoing war, January 2024 | World Council of Churches](#)

¹⁴ [Gender Alert: The Gendered Impact of the Crisis in Gaza, January 2024 | UN Women](#)

¹⁵ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

¹⁶ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, February 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

¹⁷ [16 Leading Humanitarian and Human Rights Organizations Call to Stop Arms Transfers to Israel, January 2024 | Oxfam](#)

¹⁸ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

¹⁹ [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, January 2024 | GHC & WHO](#)

²⁰ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, February 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

UNRWA's health centers are functioning.²¹ As of February 1, the Israeli forces conducted 676 attacks against health facilities, causing 622 deaths and 837 injuries.²²

On January 29, the authorities in Gaza stated that the occupancy rates of 19 inpatient departments and intensive care units increased to 206% and 250%, respectively. Heavy fighting in the south interrupted the hospitals' ability to provide essential medical care. In the north, limited medical supplies needed for food, water, and electricity and a shortage of medical staff hindered the hospitals' ability to offer medical services to patients. There is an acute shortage of medical personnel, medicine, and supplies and an inability to access blood banks.²³

The displacement, severely limited water supply, and overcrowding has caused an alarming outbreak of contagious disease, including 223,010 acute respiratory infection cases, 55,472 scabies and lice cases, 38,000 skin rash cases, 7,500 jaundice cases, and 5,330 chickenpox cases.²⁴

Throughout Gaza, 625,000 (100%) of students have no access to education, and 90% of school buildings have been significantly damaged.²⁵

In the West Bank, the Israeli army subjected Jenin governorate hospitals to an unprecedented attack, obstructing the arrival of patients and wounded, attacking ambulances, and impeding their movement.²⁶ Israeli forces bombarded and destroyed dozens of health centers, targeting and displacing patients.²⁷

Humanitarian Aid, Fuel, and Communication

The complete lack of power and fuel has continued in Gaza since October 11. Ongoing communication blackouts hinder Palestinians from accessing life-saving information, impede their ability to reach first responders, obstruct humanitarian response, and interfere with reporting and documentation.²⁸

On January 27, nine countries temporarily suspended their UNRWA funding. The critical humanitarian organization offers relief to over 2 million people in Gaza and shelter for over 1 million. The decision came following Israeli accusations claiming that a small group of UN staff members participated in the October 7 attack on Israel.

²¹ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, February 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

²² [SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE \(SSA\), February 2024 | WHO](#)

²³ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

²⁴ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

²⁵ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact, January 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

²⁶ [Jenin Governorate discusses the health needs of the governorate, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

²⁷ [After 100 days of war: The occupation is still continuing its war, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

²⁸ [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, January 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

UNRWA instantly dismissed the identified staff members and is investigating the allegations independently.²⁹

The bombardment in Gaza has killed 152 UNRWA staff and damaged 145 UNRWA facilities. The suspension of funding will further deprive the vulnerable population of medical assistance, food, water, education, and protection.³⁰

Food, Water, & Sanitation

IPC Global Initiative anticipated that between December 8 and February 7, Gaza's entire population (nearly 2.3 million people) would suffer a crisis level of food insecurity. This is a historic level of acute food insecurity. At least one in four households (over half a million people) experience an extreme lack of food, starvation, and exhaustion of coping capacities.³¹ A recent study by the Nutrition Cluster on 3,500 children between 6-59 months in six displacement sites and health facilities showed a remarkable surge in acute malnutrition. Global acute malnutrition reached 9.6%, a twelve-fold increase compared to 0.8% pre-conflict. In northern Gaza, acute malnutrition was estimated at 16.2%, surpassing the critical threshold of 15%. On January 5, UNICEF released a survey result indicating that 90% of children under two years old consume two or fewer food groups.³²

In Gaza, people have access to two or three liters of water per day, less than the 7 liters emergency minimum recommended by the World Health Organization. Local water production from wells was at 10% of its capacity before the hostilities.³³ Two of three pipelines delivering water to Gaza from Israel are out of service. Northern governorates in Gaza have no access to clean water. Fuel shortages affected 60 water wells and two sewage systems.³⁴

Anera's Response

As of February 11, Anera has provided 15,665,511 meals to IDPs in Gaza, including food parcels, vegetable baskets, hot meals, and flatbread. Anera manages four Tekias (community kitchens) in Rafah and the Middle Area. The Tekias have been providing hot meals and freshly baked flatbread for IDPs. Anera also distributes fresh produce for IDPs in Khan Younis, Rafah, and the middle area. These efforts aim to address food insecurity in the Gaza Strip amidst the ongoing siege and famine.

²⁹ [UNRWA'S Lifesaving Aid May End Due to Funding Suspension. January 2024 | UNRWA](#)

³⁰ [UNRWA Funding Cuts Threaten Palestinian Lives in Gaza and Region. January 2024 | Save the Children](#)

³¹ [IPC Global Initiative - Special Brief - Gaza Strip, December 2023 | IPC](#)

³² [Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine, February 2024 | Ministry of Health](#)

³³ [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, January 2024 | GHC & WHO](#)

³⁴ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact, January 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

To protect IDPs from the cold winter weather, we provided 15,641 blankets for families in shelters and tents. We also provided 30,518 hygiene kits to families, which included kits specially designed for women in shelters and tents. We also distributed warm winter clothes supplied by UNICEF to families in Rafah and 3,344 tarps for protection against sun and rain. These tarps benefited informal shelters in Khan Younis and Rafah.

To address the IDPs' need for healthcare services. Anera has organized 20 free healthcare days near shelters. Anera hired doctors and medical staff to provide treatments, medical advice, and healthcare supplies. Anera also continues to distribute needed medicines and medical supplies to partner hospitals and clinics. So far, Anera has distributed 2,852,664 treatments of medicines and healthcare supplies.

In order to support IDPs and other affected individuals to cope with the ongoing trauma they are experiencing, Anera has hosted 115 psychological support sessions. The sessions targeted children at school shelters in Rafah and included guided self-expression activities and play for children, such as interactive games, physical sports and exercises, storytelling, and parachute games. Anera also provided consultations for parents.

In total, Anera has delivered 255 truckloads of supplies, including food, water, cooking equipment, and medicines to Gaza.