



Gaza Situation Report

April 25, 2024

Background

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

Overview

On April 7, the war on Gaza entered its seventh month, with no indication of the hostilities ending soon. The air, ground, and land offensive launched by the Israeli military since October 7 has claimed thousands of lives, caused mass displacement among Palestinians, destroyed private and public infrastructures, starved the population, and decimated the health, education, water, sanitation, and agricultural systems. The economic and human losses are staggering and will require decades and billions of dollars to restore Gaza to its prewar conditions.

On April 17, OCHA published a Flash Appeal urging for \$2.822 billion to support UN Agencies, INGOs, and NGO partners in addressing the most urgent needs of over 3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, over 9 months from April through December 2024. This amount represents a fraction of the \$4 billion estimated by the UN and partners necessary to fulfill the basic needs of 3.3 million people.¹

On March 6, Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, highlighted the dire situation in Gaza after six months of war, with death, devastation, and the looming threat of famine plaguing the region. He stressed the urgent need to end the war, emphasizing the vulnerability of civilians and aid operations amidst ongoing violence. Griffiths called for global action and accountability to address the humanitarian crisis and ensure justice for those affected.² At the end of his mission as Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim, Jamie McGoldrick warned that approximately 800,000 Palestinians could face displacement should the Israeli military proceed with a ground incursion into the now densely populated Rafah.³

¹ [Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory 2024, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

² [Six months on, the war in Gaza is a betrayal of humanity, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

³ [Jamie McGoldrick on the humanitarian situation in OPT, April 2024 | UN](#)

Violence in Gaza

Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip continued over the past month. As of April 24, the hostilities in Gaza have killed over 34,262 Palestinians, and injured 77,229 others⁴, many of whom suffered severe trauma and life-threatening injuries. An estimated 8,100 Palestinians remain under the rubble.⁵

Since April 10, airstrikes, shelling, and intense fighting have been concentrated in and around Nuseirat Refugee Camp in Deir al Balah. Reports indicate the Israeli military has targeted buildings, particularly in the new camp of Nuseirat and northern Nuseirat, leading to several detonations. Additionally, armed confrontations between the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups persisted, notably in Deir Al Balah and eastern Rafah.⁶

On April 11, the Israeli military launched a surprise military operation in the central Gaza Strip, involving airstrikes. Naval forces also carried out multiple attacks along the coastal area to support ground forces.⁷

On April 7, the Israeli army announced withdrawing its troops from Khan Younis, a city in southern Gaza, cutting back on the troops' presence to its lowest in the area since October 7. The Israeli military declared the troops were only regrouping as they gear up for a ground operation in Rafah, stating the war in Gaza would not come to an end anytime soon.⁸ The Israeli military operations have left substantial destruction in the region, including damage to houses, school buildings, hospitals, health structures, and critical facilities, where the local population have been left with no access to essential services.⁹

Displacement and Shelter

Over 1.5 million people are currently crowded into Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city bordering Egypt, with many forced to seek refuge in makeshift camps or on the streets, leaving them vulnerable to Israeli airstrikes. Israel has stated its intention to invade Rafah by land as well.¹⁰ On April 11th, intensive airstrikes, shelling, and fighting around Nuseirat Refugee Camp forced residents from the new camp and nearby areas to

⁴ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #157, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁵ [Daily report on the effects of the Israeli aggression in Palestine, April 2024 | MoPH](#)

⁶ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #153, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁷ ['Surprise Operation' – Israeli Army Launches Attack on Central Gaza, April 2024 | The Palestine Chronicle](#)

⁸ [Israel is pulling some troops from southern Gaza. Now the plan is to clear Hamas from Rafah, April 2024 | AP News](#)

⁹ [Daily report on the effects of the Israeli aggression in Palestine, April 2024 | MoPH](#)

¹⁰ [Israel's war on Gaza – six relentless months of death and destruction, April 2024 | Al Jazeera](#)

evacuate to safer zones within Nuseirat. The following day, residents of northern Nuseirat received evacuation calls from the Israeli military.¹¹

A recent preliminary analysis by the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) revealed a concerning escalation in the number of damaged and destroyed buildings within a one-kilometer stretch of land along the border of the Gaza Strip. Satellite imagery from February 29, 2024, indicates that 90% of the 4,042 buildings within this zone have been affected, with 3,033 buildings destroyed and 593 sustaining severe or moderate damage. This constitutes a significant increase from the 15% damage level reported on October 15, 2023.¹²

A recent Gaza Strip Interim Damage Assessment, conducted by the World Bank, estimated the cost of damage to critical infrastructure at approximately \$18.5 billion. This figure amounts to 97% of the combined GDP of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. The housing sector and population centers have borne the brunt of the destruction, with over four-fifths of damages concentrated in residential buildings (72% of the total) and the commerce, industry, and services sector (9% of the total). The remaining 19% of damages have affected other critical infrastructure and services such as education; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); health; energy; information and communication technology (ICT); municipal services; and transport. Nearly 80% of the total damage is concentrated in the governorates of Gaza, North Gaza, and Khan Younis.¹³

From October 7 to April 2, Israeli military operations resulted in the destruction or damage of over 50% of buildings in Gaza, with the northern regions particularly affected, according to a satellite data analysis by Jamon Van Den Hoek from Oregon State University and Corey Scher from City University of New York Graduate Center.¹⁴

Health and Education

On April 13th, WHO and partners reached Al Ahli Hospital in northern Gaza, delivering 20,000 liters of fuel and evacuating three critical patients to field hospitals in Rafah. The hospital, originally an 80-bed facility, now accommodates over 120 patients with makeshift beds. WHO warned of minimal services and urged immediate evacuation for critically ill patients, emphasizing the urgent need for additional beds, medicines, supplies, and an international medical team for surgeries.¹⁵

¹¹ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #153, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

¹² [UNOSAT Gaza Strip Comprehensive Damage Assessment 1km Stretch of Land from the Armistice Demarcation Line, April 2024 | UNOSAT](#)

¹³ [Gaza Strip Interim Damage Assessment Summary Note, March 2024 | World Bank](#)

¹⁴ [Gaza buildings and land decimated in 6 months of war, April 2024 | AXIOS](#)

¹⁵ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #153, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

On April 1, following a two-week operation, Israel withdrew its forces from Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital, leaving scenes of devastation in its wake.¹⁶ During a two-week-long siege in and around Al-Shifa Hospital, the largest in Gaza, the facility sustained heavy damage and was left burned and non-functional. The Israeli army's aggressions resulted in the deaths of at least 400 people at the compound, with hundreds more arrested.¹⁷ Similarly, Palestinian civil defense teams unearthed a mass grave tucked away in the Nasser Medical Complex. Al Jazeera reported that the grave contains the remains of 180 individuals.¹⁸

On April 5, a WHO-led mission visited Al-Shifa Hospital in north Gaza to assess the extensive destruction and identify needs for future restoration efforts. Once the region's largest and most vital referral hospital, Al-Shifa now lies in ruins, empty of patients and without functioning equipment. The majority of its buildings are severely damaged or destroyed, rendering the facility non-operational. The emergency department, surgical, and maternity wards have sustained significant damage, while critical equipment such as CT scanners and ventilators are unusable. The destruction of the hospital's oxygen plant leaves Kamal Adwan Hospital as the sole source of medical oxygen in the area. The assessment also revealed distressing scenes of makeshift graves and exposed bodies outside the hospital departments/buildings. The hospital director reported heart-wrenching conditions endured by patients during the siege, with at least 20 deaths attributed to the lack of access to care and dire living conditions. Restoring functionality to Al-Shifa Hospital will require extensive efforts, including clearance of unexploded ordnance and comprehensive engineering assessments.¹⁹

On the occasion of World Health Day, observed on April 7th, The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics stated the Israeli aggression, ongoing siege, and acute shortages of medical supplies, food, water, and fuel, compounded by relentless attacks on medical personnel, have pushed Gaza's healthcare system to the brink, with over 600 documented attacks on healthcare facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Out of Gaza's 36 operational hospitals, only 10 are partially functioning, while 76% of primary healthcare centers have shut down.²⁰

Today, hospitals in Gaza are operating at an overwhelming 35% of their capacity, severely compromising the quality and safety of care. By March 27th, the hostilities killed 489 medical staff and specialists and injured 600 others. Additionally, more than 310 medical personnel have been detained and over 126 ambulances destroyed. The

¹⁶ ['No life here': Israel's army withdraws from Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital, April 2024 | Al Jazeera](#)

¹⁷ [Israel's war on Gaza – six relentless months of death and destruction, April 2024 | Al Jazeera](#)

¹⁸ [Nearly 200 bodies found in mass grave at hospital in Gaza's Khan Younis, April 2024 | Al Jazeera](#)

¹⁹ [Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports, April 2024 | WHO](#)

²⁰ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 173, March 2024 | OCHA](#)

aggression has left approximately 350,000 patients without essential healthcare access and forced the closure of specialized hospitals for cancer and psychiatric patients.²¹

Humanitarian Aid

In late March, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza by opening more land crossings for essential supplies, following a case brought by South Africa alleging genocide. Israel, denying the accusations, pledged to facilitate aid but opposed further court orders. The court's binding directive requires Israel to ensure the unimpeded provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance without delay.²²

According to OCHA, intense hostilities in Gaza are severely limiting humanitarian access and endangering aid workers, with over 190 killed between October 7, 2023, and March 31, 2024, including seven in March alone and a record high number of UN personnel casualties in a conflict. Israeli military operations have targeted medical and humanitarian facilities, despite coordination efforts. The breakdown of law and order within Gaza due to prolonged conflict has heightened security risks, leading to further disruptions in aid distributions. Efforts to introduce alternative aid routes are ongoing, but land crossings remain essential for large-scale humanitarian operations.²³

On April 1, Israeli airstrikes killed seven World Central Kitchen team members in Gaza. Those killed were traveling in a designated safe area, escorted by two armored vehicles marked with the organization's logo. Despite prior coordination with the Israeli government for safe passage, the convoy came under attack as it departed from the Deir Al Balah warehouse. This warehouse had just received and unloaded over 100 tons of humanitarian food aid, which had been delivered to Gaza via maritime transport.²⁴ World Central Kitchen CEO Erin Gore stated "This is not only an attack against WCK, this is an attack on humanitarian organizations showing up in the most dire of situations where food is being used as a weapon of war. This is unforgivable."²⁵

The attack triggered global condemnation. Jamie McGoldrick noted that as of March 20, the number of humanitarian workers who have lost their lives in Palestine since October 2023 was nearly three times the death toll of any single conflict in a year, as Gaza has become exceedingly dangerous since October 2023, with no safe havens remaining.²⁶

²¹ ["The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics" PCBS" Issues a Press Release on World Health Day, April 2024 | PCBS](#)

²² [UN top court orders Israel to open more land crossings for aid into Gaza, March 2024 | AP News](#)

²³ [Humanitarian Access Snapshot - Gaza Strip | 1-31 March 2024, March 2024 | OCHA](#)

²⁴ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #149, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

²⁵ <https://wck.org/news/gaza-team-update>

²⁶ [Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

One of Anera's own longtime staff members, Mousa Shawwa, was killed in an airstrike less than a month prior, on March 8. His 6-year-old son, Karim, also later died of injuries sustained in the attack.

In the days following the global outcry against the killing of the World Central Kitchen workers, U.S. and Israeli rhetoric shifted markedly and Israel pledged to take steps to increase the flow of aid into Gaza.

Food Security and Livelihoods

At least 31 deaths, including 28 children, have been attributed to malnutrition and dehydration in Gaza.²⁷ The closure of crossing points and restrictions on aid trucks entering Gaza, particularly in the North and Gaza governorates, have severely limited access to essential resources. On April 14th, WFP and the UN Office for Project Services delivered a limited supply of fuel, sufficient for only four days, to enable a bakery in Gaza City to restart its operations.²⁸

A recent OCHA report highlighted that in March, Israeli restrictions hindered humanitarian operations in Gaza. Limited border crossings and designated routes caused delays and restricted access to medical facilities. Despite efforts, alternative routes were not feasible, exacerbating logistical challenges. Delays persisted due to movement restrictions and shortages of trucks and drivers, impacting food distributions. Israeli authorities also prohibited a key food delivery partner in northern Gaza, affecting over 300,000 people. Only 26% of requested humanitarian food missions were facilitated, with the majority denied or postponed due to restrictions and security concerns.²⁹

The latest IPC Analysis evaluated Gaza's entire population (2.23M) and forecasted that from mid-February to mid-July, 1,107,000 individuals will be in the catastrophe stage, representing the highest level of food insecurity. Additionally, 854,000 people are categorized in the emergency stage, while 265,000 people are in the crisis stage.³⁰ With this, the implication remains that Israel is deliberately starving the entire Palestinian nation while food trucks are lining up, unable to access Gaza.

A satellite analysis conducted by He Yin of Kent State University revealed that Israeli operations destroyed approximately 50% of tree crops and 42% of greenhouses in Gaza. Many olive groves in northern Gaza suffered destruction or went unharvested during Israel's invasion in October and November, resulting in significant losses for farmers.

²⁷ [Gaza: Israel's Imposed Starvation Deadly for Children, April 2024 | HRW](#)

²⁸ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #153, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

²⁹ [Humanitarian Access Snapshot - Gaza Strip, April 2024 | OCHA](#)

³⁰ [IPC Global Initiative - Special Brief, March 2024 | IPC](#)

The destruction of greenhouses not only affects their physical structures but also disrupts the entire value chain, leading to rapid inflation in the prices of vegetables. Despite some greenhouses remaining intact, farmers are unable to access them and tend to their plants.³¹

A recent UNOSAT analysis revealed a significant rise in the percentage of damaged crop fields, arable land, and fallow land within the assessed zone, rising from 5.36% in October 2023 to 33.13% in February 2024. According to UNOSAT, this deterioration in crop health and density is attributed to various conflict-related activities such as razing, heavy vehicle movement, bombing, shelling, and other related destruction.³²

Women and Children in Gaza

Since October 7, the hostilities have killed over 9,000 women and more than 13,900 children, accounting for 72% of the casualties.³³ In April, the Palestine Red Crescent Society reported that approximately 1,000 children in Gaza had lost one or both of their legs.³⁴ Save the Children reports that over 12,009 children sustained injuries in Gaza, while 625,000 children are deprived of education due to the collapse of the schooling system.³⁵

According to UN Women, Gaza's water supply remains severely depleted at just 7% of its pre-October 2023 levels, impacting over 1.1 million women and girls who lack sufficient safe water for their drinking and domestic needs. Among them, approximately 337,057 young children are particularly vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Over 540,000 women and girls of reproductive age require access to hygiene support, while more than 690,000 face challenges in managing menstrual hygiene due to limited privacy. During hepatitis A outbreaks, 107,000 elderly individuals face heightened risks, with women and girls often acting as primary caregivers, facing increased exposure to infectious diseases. Additionally, access to WASH facilities is notably difficult for persons with disabilities, especially women with motor or multiple disabilities, who require specialized tools and facilities for effective use.³⁶

Approximately one in three children under the age of two in northern Gaza are currently experiencing acute malnutrition. The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children

³¹ [Gaza buildings and land decimated in 6 months of war, April 2024 | AXIOS](#)

³² [UNOSAT Gaza Strip Comprehensive Damage Assessment 1km Stretch of Land from the Armistice Demarcation Line, April 2024 | UNOSAT](#)

³³ [Daily report on the effects of the Israeli aggression in Palestine, April 2024 | MoPH](#)

³⁴ [Israel's war on Gaza – six relentless months of death and destruction, April 2024 | Al Jazeera](#)

³⁵ [UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #99 ON THE SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, April 2024 | UNRWA](#)

³⁶ [Scarcity and Fear: A Gender Analysis of the Impact of the War in Gaza on Vital Services Essential to Women's and Girls' Health, Safety, and Dignity - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\), April 2024 | UN Women](#)

under two years old has skyrocketed to 31%, nearly double the reported rate of 15.6% in January. At least 23 children in this region have recently died from malnutrition and dehydration. Additionally, 4.5% of children in shelters and health centers in the north suffer from severe wasting, the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 years old in the north has surged to as high as 25%.³⁷

Anera's Response

On April 2, Anera took the unprecedented measure of pausing its humanitarian operations in Gaza due to safety concerns, following the tragic deaths of seven World Central Kitchen staff and one of Anera's staff members, Mousa Shawwa. On April 11, the organization resumed its vital humanitarian operations in Gaza. During this brief pause, Anera's leadership advocated persistently with US and Israeli authorities for the safety of aid workers, leading to specific assurances from Israeli authorities. The international community's renouncement of the deliberate targeting of humanitarian aid workers and the Israeli authorities' assurance to increase aid flow into Gaza also informed Anera's decision to resume its critical work in Gaza.

As of April 17, Anera facilitated the entry of 477 trucks containing shipments of food, water, cooking equipment, and medicine to Gaza. The organization has distributed 22,820,878 meals in Gaza, including food parcels, vegetable baskets, hot meals, and flatbreads, along with 199,644 bottles of water, all of which were distributed to displaced people in and near shelters. Anera additionally distributed 804 tents to shelter displaced families.

To date, the organization has conducted 56 health days near various shelters, where free healthcare consultations and treatments are offered to displaced families. Anera has also distributed 4,000,000 medicines and healthcare supplies to individuals and families affected and displaced by the ongoing war. To address the mounting mental health crisis faced by the entirety of Gaza's children, Anera has implemented 178 psychosocial sessions, including guided self-expression activities and play for children.

³⁷ [Acute malnutrition has doubled in one month in the north of Gaza strip. March 2024 | UNICEF](#)