

Palestine Situation Report

March 2026

The Latest From Anera's Staff on the Ground

Gaza Situation

Conditions in Gaza have modestly improved since the October ceasefire announcement, particularly around food access and mobility. Families can now travel between the north and south to see one another. The circumstances of daily life remain extremely difficult. Most families continue to live in tents. There is no electrical grid. Nutritious food and dietary diversity are still unaffordable for many, fuel supplies are limited, and residents continue to queue for clean water, often starting as early as 6 a.m. The United Nations Development Program and other partners are working to reopen roads and carry out basic infrastructure repairs.

In the past months, winter weather has exacerbated health and shelter issues. Recent heavy rainfall and sandstorms have created new hardships, particularly in displacement camps in low-lying areas such as Jabalia, where flooding exacerbates already difficult living conditions, exposing residents to illness and further damaging infrastructure.

The reopening of the Rafah crossing with Egypt for pedestrians is significant, although the number of people permitted to enter and leave Gaza through the crossing remains very limited and unpredictable. The Kerem Shalom / Karem Abu Salem crossing with Israel remains the only crossing for goods, allowing aid into Gaza but not yet at the scale required. Because so few trucks are allowed into Gaza and due to restrictions on the collection and distribution of goods from the crossings, medicine and other supply shortages endure and prices on many commodities remain elevated above prewar levels.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports that Israel has further expanded the buffer area of militarized land in Gaza under Israel's control. Because of this movement, ten more of UNRWA's facilities now fall in this militarized zone, including a number of emergency shelters housing displaced people.

West Bank Situation

Across the West Bank and Jerusalem, Anera's staff report a marked escalation of the war. Air raid sirens, interceptions and falling debris are happening across multiple areas, including Ramallah, where fragments have caused damage in residential neighborhoods. The frequency and intensity of these incidents have increased noticeably in recent days.

At the same time, the broader environment remains highly volatile. Rising settler violence continues to affect communities, with attacks reported in areas such as Jerusalem’s Silwan neighborhood and repeated incidents in villages like Al-Mughayyir, near Ramallah. The number of displaced people in the West Bank has quadrupled since March 2025. Movement restrictions are tightening, with checkpoints and closures continuing to limit access and disrupt daily life.

Travel and daily life across the West Bank has become increasingly strained, with movement restrictions, insecurity and economic pressure all intensifying at once. Anera’s Ramallah team reports a two hour journey to Jerusalem and a four and a half hour trip to Hebron. Movement through Qalandia – the security checkpoint on the main north-south route in the West Bank – is increasingly difficult, partly due to a new settlement planned on the site of the old Palestinian airport. Travel around the Bethlehem area has also been more restricted than usual recently.

Education and livelihoods are also affected. Schools in Jerusalem remain closed, and universities across the West Bank have shifted to online learning as students are unable to travel. Economic pressures are mounting, with many households facing income disruptions.

Humanitarian Sector Updates

Health

The availability of health services in Gaza remains far below what is needed. As of February 2026, 92 out of 200 health service facilities surveyed by the World Health Organization were partially operating – up from 86 in January – while none were fully operational. The main reasons for these gaps, across both partially functioning and non-functioning facilities, are shortages of essential equipment and supplies.

The closure of the Rafah crossing for several weeks following the start of the US–Israeli war against Iran has further limited access to care as medical evacuations halted.

Education

Researchers recently outlined the constraints that educators and children continue to face as a result of the war in Gaza and increasingly militarized operations in the West Bank. The researchers estimate that children in Gaza have potentially lost four to seven years of education when taking into account physical school closures, the impact of psychological trauma, and the impact of hunger on a child’s ability to learn.¹ Current distance learning and temporary learning spaces initiatives in Gaza between projects under UNRWA and UNICEF reach close to 435,000 children. This leaves more than 325,000 children – roughly 43% of the estimated total of 760,000 children in Gaza – still without any access to learning activities or psychosocial support.

¹ Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, Centre for Lebanese Studies in partnership with UNRWA, “[Palestinian Education Still Under Attack: Restoration, Recovery, Rights and Responsibilities in and through Education](#),” (January 2026).

Educators and children in the West Bank and East Jerusalem face their own set of challenges. In addition to the recent surge in settler violence, the shift to a partially remote model of schooling by the Palestinian Authority in response to fiscal pressures (a result of Israel's withholding of Palestinian tax revenues) has negatively impacted the quality of education. Children in the West Bank have lost an estimated 1.5 to three years of schooling due to prolonged disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Gaza. The Ministry of Education in the West Bank has [extended](#) its distance learning program, in fear of physical threat to students and staff because of war between the U.S., Iran, and Israel.

Food Security and Livelihoods

In Gaza, food security has been severely destabilized by a surge in market volatility following the closure of commercial crossings announced on February 28th. While the Kerem Shalom crossing was later reopened for humanitarian and commercial trucks, the weekly average of trucks crossing into Gaza dropped from 4,200 to 400, resulting in elevated prices and resource scarcity. This supply disruption caused tomato prices to skyrocket to 35 shekels (\$12) per kilogram — the conflict's record high — while other staples like potatoes and onions reached 20 shekels (\$6) per kilogram.²

The situation is further compounded by a critical energy shortage; between late February and early March, the total halt of cooking gas entries forced 48% of the population to burn waste for cooking, as black-market gas prices surged.

In the West Bank, Palestinian livelihoods are being eroded by movement restrictions and escalating settler violence. Since February 28, the closure of most road gates has obstructed access to workplaces, schools, and essential services, effectively isolating entire communities. The Jordan Valley has emerged as a focal point of displacement, accounting for over 90% of Palestinians displaced by settler attacks and access restrictions in early 2026.³

Water and Sanitation

In Gaza, damage to critical infrastructure has sharply reduced water availability; during a recent pipeline outage, per capita access in [Gaza City fell below](#) the emergency threshold of six liters per person per day. Although partial repairs have restored some flow, the main supply lines are operating at a fraction of pre-war capacity and remain unreliable, with up to 70% of water lost through damaged distribution networks. Groundwater extraction has increased but is largely unsuitable for drinking due to high salinity, forcing dependence on trucked water and small-scale desalination systems. Even with humanitarian efforts delivering approximately 19,000 cubic meters of water daily, shortages persist, particularly in densely populated displacement areas.

² World Food Programme, "[Market Monitor - Palestine, WFP Palestine Food Security Analysis](#)," March 2026; Ma'an, "[تراجع المساعدات إلى غزة 80% منذ بدء الحرب على إيران](#)," March 19, 2026.

³ The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, "[Humanitarian Situation Report | 27 March 2026](#)."

Sanitation and hygiene conditions in Gaza continue to pose public health risks. Overcrowding and inconsistent access to clean water and hygiene materials have facilitated the spread of water-related diseases like scabies and impetigo. A [recent study found](#) that only 44% of children had consistent access to clean water, while access to soap and regular bathing remained extremely limited.

In the West Bank, settler attacks and military activity have damaged water networks and sanitation infrastructure, leaving communities reliant on stored or trucked water. For example, repeated settler attacks on the Ein Samiya water system — serving roughly 100,000 people — have caused intermittent water disruptions. At the same time, Israeli restrictions obstruct the installation of new water infrastructure.

Shelter

The shelter situation in Gaza remains extremely fragile, with widespread destruction and limited materials forcing displaced populations into tents that offer little protection. The [Shelter Cluster](#), a humanitarian coordination body, [reported](#) that the stock of shelter and other non-food items was approaching depletion following border closures. Furthermore, the Shelter Cluster reported that only 28% of families that required basic supplies and shelter assistance received it in January 2026. The impact of inadequacies in shelter have been exacerbated by recent climate events, particularly heavy rains and flooding, which have inundated displacement sites located in low-lying areas. Around 912 sites housing roughly 900,000 people are at risk of flooding, with entire camps periodically submerged.

One resident [described](#) the devastation during flooding in late February: “We are miserable... the water has flooded our tents, our children cannot sleep. Our situation in Gaza is not life.” These floods, alongside a separate sandstorm and strong winds that tore down tents and injured residents, underscore the inability of current shelter solutions to withstand even moderate weather events.

Anera’s Response

Food Security and Livelihoods

In Gaza, Anera continues to distribute thousands of hot meals six days a week through our two kitchens in Khan Younis and the central area. Our cooked menu includes rice, pasta, lentils, mujadara, bulgur, and vegetable soup. Anera also continues to distribute fresh produce — over 5,000 parcels in March reaching over 27,000 people — to displaced people in camps across Khan Younis, the central area, and Gaza City.

Through WomenCan, Anera has employed 55 women in Khan Younis and the Middle Area to prepare pastry meals (nearly 33,000 through March 24, 2026). We have distributed these meals to children in temporary learning spaces and as family meals to displacement camps.

And through WeCan, Anera is providing grants to support small family businesses in food processing, tailoring and other initiatives.

During Ramadan, Anera hired a head chef and seven support cooks to make nearly 1,300 packages of pastries and cookies. Anera also distributed suhoor packages to over 2,600 families (about 13,000 people), containing a mix of staples, protein-rich foods, and dates for Ramadan.

To help families celebrate the Eid al-Fitr, Anera provided clothing vouchers to 200 families, redeemed at partner vendors, allowing 1,000 children and parents to select their preferred clothing in time for the holiday. Anera also distributed 4,404 'joy kits' containing sweets to children to mark the end of Ramadan.

In the West Bank, over the month of Ramadan Anera prepared and distributed over 31,000 meals through four women-operated community kitchens. Anera also provided 1,130 food and clothing vouchers to vulnerable families, including medical patients from Gaza stranded in the West Bank since 2023. Anera hired women to bake eid cookies groups which we distributed to 7,090 families during the last week of Ramadan. And we held an iftar in Ramallah for 80 people from Gaza still stranded in the West Bank.

Agriculture and Livelihoods

Anera's rooftop gardens project to foster sustainable agricultural practices in the northern West Bank is nearing completion. Some of the 100 families enlisted to participate are already growing crops, while the remaining farmers will receive their seedlings in April. The project installed rooftop gardens for each household and provided in-depth training and technical support, improving food security and livelihoods of the vulnerable participating families.

In Gaza, Anera has restored partially damaged greenhouses and provided essential agricultural inputs to 50 farmers in the central and Khan Younis governorates. In January, we provided the farmers with a comprehensive capacity-building program, as well as supplies like plastic for greenhouse roofing, fertilizers and pesticides.

Shelter

In Gaza, Anera is supporting five shelters across Gaza City and Khan Younis, reaching a total of 8,543 families, through our Integrated Community Shelter Project. Through the initiative we've distributed family tents, vegetable parcels, hot meals, delivered tankered water, provided medical days, established educational classrooms with remedial classes in core subjects.

Education

Over the past ten years, Anera has built 20 brand new kindergartens in Gaza and the West Bank). This year, we are continuing this effort with the construction of three new public kindergartens. In July 2025, we commenced the construction of a new four-classroom kindergarten in Jalazone Refugee Camp, Ramallah. Major construction work on this new

kindergarten is now complete. This new center will provide pre-primary care and education for 100 children per year.

In Gaza, Anera is currently operating 11 temporary learning spaces in Gaza. We are also implementing recreational activities and psychological support sessions for children and youth across 38 shelters.

Health

Anera continues to support local partners in the West Bank to continue to provide life-saving services in hard-to-reach areas in the north and south during a time of increasing draconian restrictions imposed by the Israeli military and settler violence. Anera is planning with partners to begin providing mobile health services in the north and south. Our partnership with TechMakers continues to provide affordable and tailored assistive tools including customized wheelchairs to people with disabilities. Anera is working to scale up our support for disability services in the north this year.

From January 2026 to March 2026, Anera's health services in Gaza supported patients across multiple locations. Our three primary healthcare centers — in Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah City and Nusserat — have served some 48,000 patients since the start of the year, providing specialized care in wound management and noncommunicable diseases. And our three mother and child clinics in Tal Al Hawa, Zawayda, and Khan Younis served 59,000 patients.

Water and Sanitation

During March 2026, Anera's solid waste management project in Gaza collected and transferred 470 cubic meters of solid waste from seven displacement camps, improving conditions within the camps. To support public health in the camps, we continued our ongoing disinfection operations, spraying a sterilization solution to treat high-risk areas. The disinfection operations employed 56 workers, providing valuable income to residents.

Economic Empowerment

Through our WeCan project in the West Bank we plan to support 85 women and men this year to establish or strengthen small businesses through grant support, coaching, training, and networking. To date, 70 participants have completed training, and we are now procuring equipment and supplies to support their businesses. Anera is providing ongoing mentorship to strengthen their business management skills.

And Anera Ventures has continued advancing its Success Award Loan Program in partnership with Vitas, approving an additional cohort of micro-businesses across the northern West Bank. The program prioritizes sustaining livelihoods in conflict-affected areas. To date, the program has deployed \$66,700 to 14 small businesses operating in agriculture, retail, food production, and services. Each loan is projected to generate meaningful income growth and support an average of six family members per business.