

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ("UNRWA" or "the Agency") often receives questions about our operations in Gaza and other fields from individuals, their legal representatives and authorities outside UNRWA areas of operation.

UNRWA provides humanitarian assistance and mandated services, primarily in the form of education, health and mental health care, relief and social services, microcredit and emergency assistance to some 5.7 million registered Palestine refugees located within its five fields of operation (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza) pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA has no mandate to operate outside its fields of operation or to seek durable solutions for refugees.

UNRWA regularly issues publicly available information relating to its services and, where available, the humanitarian and protection situation in UNRWA fields. The resources listed here contain recent information in relation to the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and UNRWA's operations, including financial situation. For most recent information we recommend consulting UNRWA's official [website](#), as well as UNRWA's new [website](#) devoted to the situation in Gaza.

Resources on the situation in the Gaza Strip:

- UNRWA-published resources on the Gaza Strip can be found in the Agency's [newsroom](#), [resources](#) and sections of the website dedicated to addressing the enduring [crisis](#) (as at May 2021). Below are some recently published resources that contain information on the situation in Gaza:
 - 'UNRWA urgently calls on Israel to enable access to Gaza', 18 May 2021: [here](#).
 - 'UNRWA decries deaths in beach refugee camp Gaza', 15 May 2021: [here](#).
 - 'UNRWA installations in Gaza hit during hostilities', 13 May 2021: [here](#).
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) publishes bi-weekly and monthly reports on protection of civilians and COVID-19 Emergency Situation respectively: [here](#).
- The United Nations Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory has published reports on the living conditions faced by residents of Gaza. The link to the 2017 report, *Gaza Ten Years Later*, is available [here](#). Moreover, link to the 2012 report, *Gaza in 2020. A liveable place?*, is available [here](#).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) publishes regular reports on the COVID-19 situation in Gaza: [here](#). The Occupied Palestinian Territory COVID-19 Response Plan (2020) includes information on the impact of COVID-19 in Gaza: [here](#).
- UNHCR has also published reports on Gaza notably the UNHCR, Country of Origin Information on the Situation in the Gaza Strip, including Restrictions on Exit and Return (2018) [here](#) and UNHCR Position on Deportations to Gaza (2015): [here](#)

Resources containing general information about UNRWA's operations and financial situation:

- UNRWA Frequently Asked Questions contain general information on the Agency's mandate, neutrality, eligibility and registration of Palestine refugees, available [here](#). The Frequently Asked Questions make clear that UNRWA does not manage the refugee camps and is not responsible for protecting the physical safety or security of Palestine refugees or maintaining law and order in UNRWA's fields of operations. The responsibility for ensuring the physical security of Palestine refugees residing in UNRWA's areas of operations falls within the sovereignty and responsibility of the respective host government.
- UNRWA's website also contains information on current funding appeals, voluntary donations and activities during reporting periods based on funding received through voluntary contributions, notably:
 - UNRWA, Flash Appeal: initial 30-day response. Hostilities in Gaza and mounting tension in the West Bank, May 2021: [here](#)
 - 'United States announces restoration of U.S. \$150 million to support Palestine refugees', 7 April 2021, available [here](#).
 - UNRWA, Emergency Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory 2021: [here](#)

- 'UNRWA appeals for US\$1.5 billion to support Palestine refugees in 2021', 11 February 2021, available [here](#).
- UNRWA appeals and response to COVID-19: [here](#)
- Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, 1 January - 31 December 2019 (A/75/13), available [here](#).
- Statement of the Commissioner-General to the Advisory Commission on UNRWA Virtual meeting, 23 November 2020, available [here](#).
- 'UNRWA Issues Emergency Call for Humanitarian Assistance Amid End-of-Year Shortfall; Salaries of 28,000 Staff at risk, Hopes to Avoid Suspension of Essential Services,' 9 November 2020, available [here](#).
- Commissioner-General letter to staff on the urgency of UNRWA's financial situation, 9 November 2020, available [here](#).
- UNRWA, Programme Budget 2020-2021: [here](#)
- Annual Operational Report 2020: [here](#)

Background Information

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall. UNRWA encourages all Member States to work collectively to exert all possible efforts to fully fund the Agency's programme budget. UNRWA emergency programmes and key projects, also operating with large shortfalls, are funded through separate funding portals.