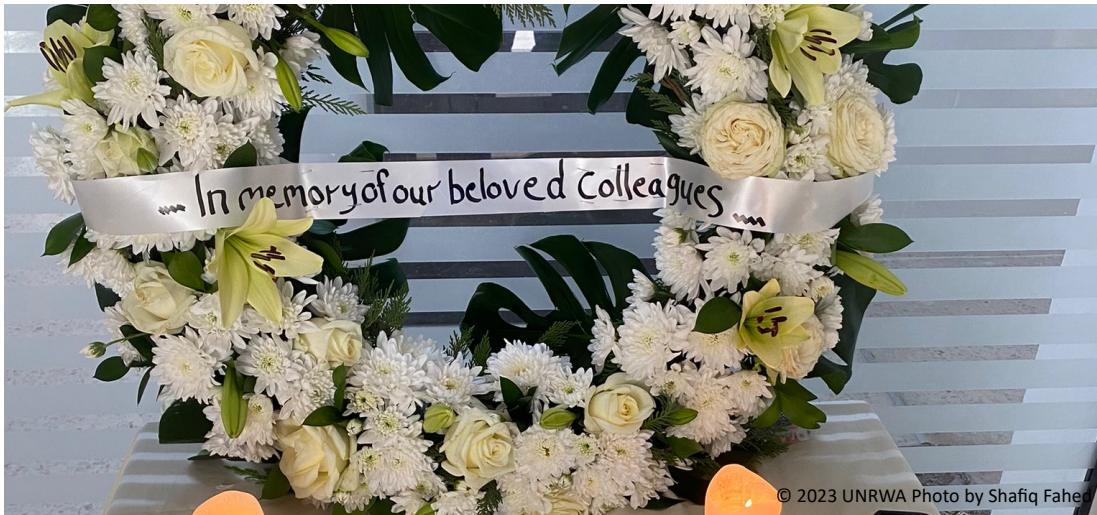




UNRWA Situation Report #17 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem)

Information covers the period 27-29 October 2023
and is valid as of 29 October at 18:00 (local time)
Day 23 of hostilities



1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

- In the last 72 hours, **another 10 UNRWA staff have been killed, bringing the total to 63 UNRWA colleagues killed** since 7 October.
- Nearly **672,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs)** are sheltering in **149 UNRWA installations** across the Gaza Strip, facing increasingly desperate conditions. The ability to provide lifesaving assistance has been further hindered by the **36-hour disruption in communications that affected the whole Gaza Strip**, including humanitarian organizations, between 27 and the early hours of 29 October.
- With very limited assistance available, and shelters overwhelmed, mounting tensions are reported among the displaced communities. Several break-ins into UNRWA warehouses and distribution centres were reported, with food and non-food items taken.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- Israeli Security Forces (ISF) operations, involving Palestinian fatalities, have been reported in Jenin and Qalqilya refugee camps on 27 October.
- According to OCHA, **115 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank** since 7 October, **including 33 children**.

- Several incidents of settler violence were also reported between 26 and 28 October, targeting Palestinians harvesting olives. One Palestinian fatality was reported in a village near Nablus during an attack of armed settlers on 28 October.

2. Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, **8,005 people have been killed since 7 October, including 3,324 children, 2,062 women and 460 elderly persons, and 20,242 injured.** This is in addition to **1,650 reported missing**, presumably under the rubble of destroyed buildings, including 940 children.
- Overall, nearly 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israeli authorities, the vast majority on 7 October (OCHA).
- Of the total displaced in UNRWA shelters, over 511,000 persons are sheltering in 92 shelters in Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas, an increase of around 13,000 IDPs since the last update. More IDPs keep approaching UNRWA premises to seek a safe haven. The shelters, however, have no further capacity nor space to host new IDPs, forcing many people to sleep on the streets.
- The total number of IDPs across the Gaza Strip is estimated at around 1.4 million. On top of the IDPs hosted in UNRWA shelters, according to the Ministry of Social Development in Gaza, approximately 121,000 IDPs are in public institutions, primarily hospitals. Among them, up to 60,000 people are currently seeking shelter at the al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. Some 79,000 IDPs are in government schools and about 550,000 are taking shelter in host communities.
- Assistance currently available is not enough to cover the most basic needs of IDPs and host communities alike.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- On 27 October, three Palestinians were killed, and 12 were injured during an ISF operation in Jenin refugee camp and surrounding areas that included exchange of live fire with Palestinian armed actors. Roads and civilian infrastructure, as well as public and private property, were damaged during the operation.
- One Palestinian was killed during an ISF search and arrest operation in Qalqilya that included an exchange of fire with Palestinian armed actors.
- One Palestinian died from injuries sustained after being run over by Palestinian Security Forces on 17 October while dispersing crowds during demonstrations in Ramallah.

3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

The Gaza Strip

- Since 7 October, 63 UNRWA staff colleagues have been killed and at least 22 injured.
- Several incidents of collateral damage to UNRWA premises were reported in the past 72 hours, resulting in a total of one person killed and 28 injured among IDPs.

- Due to a strike near an UNRWA school in Khan Younis, sheltering over 4,800 IDPs, two women (one of them pregnant) and one boy were injured and transferred to a hospital. The school sustained moderate collateral damage.
- Shrapnel fell inside another school in Khan Younis due to a strike nearby. The school is sheltering over 4,000 IDPs. No injuries among the IDPs were reported.
- A school in the Middle Area was impacted by collateral damage caused by a strike on a nearby building. One IDP was killed and 25 were injured. The school is sheltering nearly 14,400 IDPs.
- Since 7 October, 19 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and 310 have been injured.
- In total, 44 UNRWA installations have been damaged since 7 October.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- The Israeli authorities continue to impose severe movement and access restrictions across the West Bank, cutting off entire Palestinian towns and communities from the main roads. Since 7 October, four refugee communities have been under full lockdown and curfew, with limited to no access to basic services. These includes: (i) Wadi Alhussen, in Hebron H2, affecting 40 refugee households; (ii) Jabir neighbourhood also in Hebron H2; (iii) Wadi Foquin, affecting 30 refugee households; (iv) Al-Walajah, affecting 25 refugee households.
- During an ISF operation in Jalazone refugee camp and surrounding areas, several Palestinians from the refugee camp were detained, including a child. A tear gas canister fired by the ISF landed inside the grounds of an UNRWA office.
- Reportedly, 12 persons from the Bedouin community of Zanuta in Hebron governorate, including five children under 10, were displaced due to the coercive environment that they face, including exposure to settler violence. This is in addition to more than 450 people displaced in Area C of the West Bank since 7 October.

4. UNRWA response

The Gaza Strip

UNRWA Shelters

- Overcrowding continues to create severe health and protection concerns for IDPs, and is also taking a heavy toll on their mental health. **The average number of IDPs per shelter has almost reached four times their intended capacity.** The Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) is currently hosting 22,100 IDPs, while two schools in Maghazi camp, Middle area, are sheltering nearly 29,800 people. Some 12,800 additional IDPs are currently hosted in the Rafah Logistic Base.

Health

- Nine UNRWA health centres (out of 22) are still operational in the Middle and South areas, recording 4,400 patients' visits on Saturday 28 October, including refugees and non-refugees.

- Health-care services were maintained in the UNRWA shelters, with the support of 96 mobile medical units and medical teams, serving 18,200 cases at shelters for the period 27-28 October.
- In the past 72 hours, UNRWA received a one-month supply of insulin through the World Health Organization (WHO). The stocks of several other medicines are critically decreasing with remaining availability only for a few more days.
- The very low availability of fuel is putting at risk the continued provision of health services.

Food Security

- UNRWA continued to cooperate with local bakeries and supply them with flour. This is allowing dozens of bakeries to offer bread to families at half the cost. However, the limited availability of fuel is hindering the capacity of bakeries to produce enough bread to meet the needs.
- Whenever possible, UNRWA distributes hot meals to IDPs in shelters thanks to donations received from host communities. While limited, this assistance plays an important support role, given the limited access to the local market and the inability of many IDPs to prepare hot meals at their shelters.

Psychosocial Support

- UNRWA has counsellors and social workers in the shelters. They provide psychological first aid and other specialized protection services. Since the beginning of the hostilities, UNRWA social workers have provided 12,520 people with psychosocial support and social work services. These include cases that are referred for medication and other specialized mental health and psychosocial support.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Education

- UNRWA continues to provide education services, while operating with a limited number of education staff due to movement restrictions and road closures imposed by the Israeli authorities. Out of six schools in East Jerusalem previously operating on remote learning, four have re-opened for in person attendance over the past two days. Two schools remain closed and continue to provide remote learning.
- The UNRWA Boys' School in Hebron H2 remains closed due to access and movement restrictions and significant risks due to settler violence.

ENDs –


IDPs in UNRWA installations



The average number of IDPs per shelter has almost reached **four times** their intended capacity.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations

Confirmed numbers, since 7 October




63 UNRWA staff and personnel killed



44 UNRWA installations have been damaged


* IDPs in the North and Gaza areas as of 12 October. UNRWA's ability to provide humanitarian support in the North and Gaza city has since been compromised and access to information including updates on IDPs numbers has since been hindered.

Humanitarian response



UNRWA operations have been hindered by a 36-hour disruption in communications in the whole Gaza Strip, between 27 and the early hours of 29 October.


UNRWA response – Health



9 (out of 22) UNRWA health centres still operating in Middle Area, Khan Yunis and Rafah;
4,400 patients received basic medical services on 28 Oct.


UNRWA set up 96 mobile medical units and medical teams attending 18,200 cases at shelters on 27-28 Oct

UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



12,520 individuals have been provided with psychosocial support and social work intervention services by UNRWA social workers since 7 Oct.

UNRWA response – Humanitarian Access



The limited available assistance is not enough to cover the most basic needs of IDPs and host communities.

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