



ISSUE # 2 - 22 October 2023

# CRISIS IN PALESTINE

## UNFPA Palestine Situation Report



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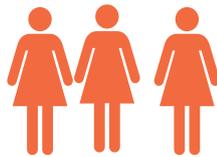
### FAST FACTS



**4,219**

**Have lost their lives**

60% being children and women  
\*OCHA Flash Update #14  
20 Oct 2023



**1.34M**

**Women of reproductive age (15-49 yrs)**

\*MISP calculation



**14,587**

**Have been injured**

\*OCHA Flash Update #14  
20 Oct 2023



**123,000**

**Currently Pregnant women in West Bank and Gaza**

\*MISP calculation



**1.4M**

**Internally displaced**

\* 544,000 people staying in UNRWA-designated emergency shelters  
\*OCHA Flash Update #14



**13,649**

**Expected deliveries in the next month in West Bank and Gaza**

\*MISP calculation

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains extremely dire with potential consequences that will impact the region and exacerbate an already-fragile situation.

On 21 October, a convoy of 20 aid trucks entered Gaza through the Rafah crossing, the first aid supplies reaching Gaza from the outside since the hostilities began on October 7. The United Nations calls for 100 trucks of aid supplies daily to meet the humanitarian needs of Gaza's 2.2 million residents including one million newly displaced inside Gaza. However, fuel has not been allowed to enter Gaza yet. With Gaza under a complete siege and no water and electricity, fuel becomes life-saving as it is needed for generators to desalinate water and power hospitals. The Ministry of Health has warned that the delay in delivering fuel to hospitals puts the lives of thousands of patients and wounded at risk.

Among the 2,2 million affected population in Gaza, 1 in 4 are women and girls of reproductive age, around 572,000, and they need urgent access to reproductive health supplies and services.

**“ Each step felt like a race against death.** A 30-year-old pregnant Palestinian woman who had to evacuate her home four times, with only a small bag of clothes. She fears for her unborn child's safety and finds it impossible to rest in the overcrowded school shelter she found refuge in.

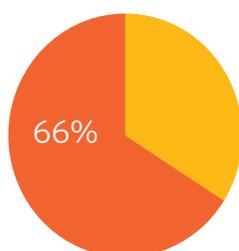
Since the beginning of the crisis, UNFPA has sounded the alarm on the situation of women and girls who are facing extreme health and protection challenges. Among the 50,000 currently pregnant women in Gaza, around 5,500 are due to deliver within the next 30 days and over 840 may experience a child-birth related complication. Yet, access to emergency obstetric care is severely compromised with life-threatening consequences.

UNFPA is also alarmed about the increasing risks of gender-based violence and psychological stress and trauma.

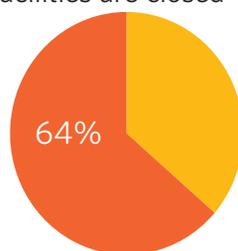
**“ I couldn't help but think about how my baby was feeling with every explosion. But every kick from my unborn child was giving me hope and strength.** These are the words of a Palestinian pregnant woman from the north of Gaza who is now displaced in a school shelter with her family after their home was destroyed. Sleeping on a cold floor, with barely any food or basic hygiene items, she is worrying about her baby, but also clings on to hope each time she feels her baby kick.

The health system in Gaza is at the brink of collapse and, as of 20 October, WHO has documented 77 attacks against health care in Gaza affecting 29 health care facilities and 23 ambulances. Currently, 33 of 50 (66%) of the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care facilities are closed; 14 of 22 (64%) of UNRWA's Primary Health Care Centers are closed; and 4, of 35 (11%) of hospitals are not functioning. There are critical shortages of drugs, medical supplies and blood products.

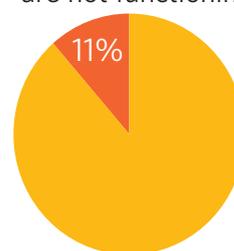
33/50 MoH PHC facilities are closed



14/22 UNRWA PHC facilities are closed



4/35 Hospitals are not functioning



“ A Midwife at Al-Shifa maternity- supported by UNFPA sheds light on the dire situation. **Since the start of this escalation, we've been separated from our own families, working non-stop with limited resources and supplies. But we also cannot ignore the dire situation faced by pregnant women themselves. Many of them are now internally displaced in schools, lacking basic essentials like clothing and hygiene items, privacy or access to bathrooms. Access to primary healthcare services has become a distant dream.** ”

The mass displacement from the north to the south of Gaza continues following evacuation orders by Israel issued to the population in the northern part of Gaza since Friday, 13 October. The fleeing population is putting additional pressure on already crowded emergency shelters in the south, with scarce basic provisions and limited privacy.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces have continued. This has been the deadliest week for West Bank Palestinians since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005. Since 7 October, WHO has documented 77 attacks on health care. Additionally, movement restrictions and checkpoints are severely impeding access to and provision of health care. In the current context, UNFPA has been unable to deliver urgently needed drugs and medical supplies to facilities. At least one birth at a checkpoint has been reported, and partners expressed concerns that the transfer of some vulnerable women to shelters has not been possible.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Forced population movement from north Gaza, continuing attacks on health care services, and shortages of medical supplies, fuel, and water further exacerbate pressure on health facilities on the brink of collapse and no longer able to adequately provide emergency obstetric care. The disruption of life-saving reproductive health medical supplies has worsened the stock-out of essential life-saving medicines.
- The siege on Gaza and restrictions on humanitarian assistance from outside have depleted local markets, limiting the availability of water, food, medicine, and hygiene supplies. Women and girls have limited access to menstrual hygiene supplies. The scarcity of clean drinking water for pregnant and lactating women, who require increased water intake, is feared to negatively affect pregnancy outcomes and a woman's ability to breastfeed.
- The overcrowded conditions at Gaza shelters with shortages of mattresses and non-food items, poor sanitation conditions, and limited privacy raise protection and gender-based violence concerns for women and adolescent girls.
- Insecurity, movement restrictions, and attacks on health care limit access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRH) services in the West Bank and distribution of SRH medicines and supplies.
- Need for mental health and psychosocial support for affected populations including young people. Among the total population of Gaza, almost half (476,579) are adolescents aged 10-19 whose educations have been suddenly disrupted.
- Almost a quarter of a million (238,289) are adolescents aged 10-19, with half of them being adolescent girls who face limited access to health services and hygiene supplies, heightened protection risks, and whose needs in responses are often overlooked.



# UNFPA'S RESPONSE:

## Life-saving Reproductive Health and Support to Women & Girls

- UNFPA is dispatching lifesaving reproductive health medicines and supplies to Egypt for stockpiling and onward transportation into Gaza. A total of 3,000 dignity kits for women and girls have been handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society in Ismailia for distribution in Gaza, and additional kits are being prepared.
- UNFPA delivered supplies of magnesium sulfate, an essential drug used to treat preeclampsia in pregnant women, to the MOH in Gaza. UNFPA will continue to stockpile and deliver essential medicines, medical supplies and inter-agency reproductive health kits composed of life-saving medical devices and medicines for Gaza and the West Bank.
- UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health SRH Emergency Teams, West Bank, in mapping and readiness measures to sustain access to services so that pregnant women can continue to reach facilities safely.
- MOH coordinated an RH Working Group meeting on 16 October co-chaired by UNFPA to discuss urgent needs and to support enhanced coordination among partners

## Cash and Voucher assistance

- UNFPA has provided 340 women, including pregnant women and those at risk of GBV, in Gaza with cash transfers to support their urgent basic needs. An additional 150 women will be supported over the next few days.

## Hygiene and Dignity Kits

- Through partner organization Sharek, UNFPA supported the distribution of hygiene supplies (including menstrual hygiene management supplies) and clothing to displaced across 63 UNRWA shelters in south Khan Younis (21), Rafah (20) and in central Gaza (22). The distribution of additional kits continues.
- UNFPA provided dignity kits, clothing and additional hygiene materials to 17 women from Gaza who are currently displaced in the West Bank and unable to return to Gaza.
- The women have also been referred to psychosocial support and other services available at the UNFPA Safe Space in Hebron.

## Response to Gender-Based Violence

- On Thursday 19 October, the UNFPA convened the GBV Sub-Cluster - the collection of all humanitarian actors working on GBV in Palestine - to discuss the urgent situation, service availability, referral pathways, and coordination of dignity kit coordination for Gaza. [The Palestine GBV AoR issued an Info Note](#) on 20 October 2023.

## Response to Adolescents and Youth

- The UNFPA-supported Shubak il Shabab helpline has disseminated messages in 15 governorates in Gaza and the West Bank. Ten counselors and doctors are available to receive calls to and provide counseling, and referrals if needed and as possible, for youth and other individuals requiring assistance. Both male and female callers from the West Bank and Gaza have called in, the majority inquiring about health-related issues and women's health needs, including pregnancy monitoring and postpartum care.
- Members of UNFPA's Youth Advisory Panel and Y-Peers in the West Bank expressed their solidarity with their peers in Gaza by transferring mobile top-ups to 150 of their peers to allow them to be connected and hence be able to access and share information.
- On the 19th over 25 organization members of the Adolescent Health Coalition, of which UNFPA is the main supporter, convened to agree on priority interventions for a tailored emergency response.

# FUNDING NEEDS

The OPT Flash Appeal was launched on October 12, 2023, and seeks to secure US\$294 million to address the most pressing requirements of 1.26 million individuals in Gaza and the occupied West Bank over a three-month period. Within the framework of this inter-agency flash appeal, UNFPA's initial financial requirements amount to US\$6.9 million\* as follows:



Sexual and Reproductive Health  
**US\$3.6 million**



Gender-Based Violence  
**US\$3.3 million**

\*These figures encompass expenses related to security, supplies (including transportation and warehousing), and human resources.

