



All information from 7-9 March 2024,  
is valid as of 9 March 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 153-155 of Hostilities

Published 11 March 2024



Children play with Ramadan lights and lanterns in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, March 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

## 1. Key points

### The Gaza Strip

- Intense Israeli Security Forces (ISF) bombardment from the air, land and sea continued to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Israeli forces airstrikes continue in heavily populated Rafah in southern Gaza.
- According to UNICEF latest sitep hospitals continue to experience severe disruptions in providing health care in the Gaza Strip. UNICEF report that up to 155 health facilities have been damaged, and 32 hospitals and 53 health centres are non-functional due to hostilities or shortages of essential medicines. UNRWA continues to operate 7 out of its original 23 health centres.
- According to UNICEF, child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza are particularly extreme, with now at least 18 children reported to have died from malnutrition and dehydration in northern Gaza. UNFPA has cautioned that “malnutrition rates amount pregnant and breastfeeding women have spiked, posing significant health risks”.

- The first nine days of March saw an average of 168 aid trucks per day crossing into the Gaza Strip. This remains well below the operational capacity of both border crossings and the target of 500 per day, with challenges at both Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) and Rafah. Security to manage the crossing has been severely impacted due to the killing of several Palestinian policemen in Israeli airstrikes near the crossings in early February.
- As of 9 March, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities is now **162**.
- As of 9 March, up to 1.7 million\* people (over 75 per cent of the population) \*\* have been displaced across the Gaza Strip, some multiple times.\*\*\* Families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. Following intense Israeli bombardments and fighting in Khan Younis and the Middle Area in recent weeks, a significant number of displaced people have moved further south.

\*This includes one million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. As of 12 October, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in UNRWA shelters in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. UNRWA currently estimates that the population of North Gaza and Gaza governorates to be up to 300,000 people. The ability of UNRWA to provide humanitarian support and updated data in these areas has been severely restricted. The ongoing hostilities, evacuation orders issued by Israeli Security Forces (ISF), and the constant need for safer locations have resulted in people being displaced multiple times.

\*\*UNRWA reported in Situation Report 64 that up to 1.9 million IDPs were either residing in 154 UNRWA shelters or near these shelters. Due to the continued escalation of fighting and evacuation orders, some households have moved away from the shelters where they were initially registered.

\*\*\* There are instances where the same IDPs are registered in multiple shelters due to the fluid movement of populations; hereafter, estimates are used for these shelters. UNRWA plans to conduct a more accurate count of IDPs in shelters, including informal shelters, as soon as the security situation allows.

## The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- [The next update for West Bank, including East Jerusalem will be published on 12 March 2023.](#)

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza as of 8 March, at least 30,878 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October. About 70 per cent of those killed are reported to be women and children. Another 72,402 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

## The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023– 8 March 2024, 417 Palestinians, including at least 106 children, have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 102 Palestinians have been killed, compared with 71 in the same period in 2023, the majority by ISF.

### 3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

#### The Gaza Strip

The following reported incidents occurred earlier but information only became available during the reporting period.

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
- Different incidents have been reported impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there. While verification of details and casualty figures remain ongoing, initial reports indicate:
  - On 15 February 2024, ISF reportedly fired several tank shells towards a school in Khan Younis causing damage to several classrooms and destroying parts of the perimeter wall. The ISF also excavated the schoolyard. No injuries were reported.
  - On 15 February 2024, ISF reportedly destroyed the perimeter wall of a school in Khan Younis causing damage to another wall in the school. No injuries were reported.
  - On 15 February 2024, ISF reportedly entered a school in Khan Younis and destroyed the main gate and school walls. It was also reported that the school's western and northern buildings have sustained structural damage and that several classrooms were damaged by fire. No injuries were reported.
- **342\*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least **51** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. **157** different UNRWA installations have been impacted.
- UNRWA estimates that in total at least **404\*** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least another **1,385\*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA is still verifying the number of casualties caused by incidents that impacted its installations, and notes that these figures do not include some reported casualties where the number of injuries could not be determined.

*\*Numbers are subject to change once further verifications have been conducted.*

## 4. UNRWA response

### The Gaza Strip

Due to the security situation and limited internet connectivity, we have been unable to provide any additional updates since Sitrep 75.

#### UNRWA Shelters

- As of 9 March, nearly **1.7 million displaced people are now sheltering across emergency shelters (UNRWA and public shelters), informal sites or in the vicinity of UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.**

#### Health

- As of 4 March, seven (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were operational. Of these, one is in the north, two are in Middle Area, one is in Khan Younis and three are in Rafah. These health centres provide primary health care services, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, medication, vaccination, antenatal and postnatal health care and dressing for injured patients.
- A total of 785 health care staff continue to work in operational health centres and on 4 March they provided 13,419 medical consultations.
- Another 9,955 medical consultations were conducted by 312 staff at shelters, including at the newly established medical points in al-Mawasi area to serve an influx of displaced persons from Khan Younis. The total registered population in al-Mawasi is currently 377,854.
- Between 7 October and 4 March, UNRWA has provided over 2.8 million medical consultations across its health centres and shelters.
- As of 4 March, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services continued in the Middle and Khan Younis areas with teams of health professionals consisting of psychiatrists and three supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. The teams responded to 1,488 cases in health centres and in medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and support for cases of gender-based violence. Medical care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women was provided at health centres, supporting 488 women.

#### Psychosocial support (PSS)

- UNRWA continues to provide [PSS psychosocial support](#) services including psychosocial first aid services, PSS consultations and intervention sessions, sessions on handling psychological fatigue, and group and recreational activities. Since the war, over 148,000 IDPs have been supported.

#### Food security

- As of 3 March, UNRWA continued to distribute flour outside of shelters in the southern governorates. To date, a total of 373,193 families have been assisted, of which 130,486 have received two rounds of flour.

## Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

Due to the security situation, in combination with challenges to internet connectivity, we have been unable to provide any additional updates since Sitrep 67.

### Quote from Shadia, displaced with her family in Rafah:

“We left everything behind [...]. Our home, our belongings, our sense of security. Now we’re living in these temporary shelters, struggling to find enough to eat and facing the harsh reality of our displacement.”

## ENDs –



## UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

### IDPs in UNRWA installations

Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October 2023



**1,700,000\***  
IDPs\*\*



At least **404** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,385** injured since 7 October.

### UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



**162** UNRWA colleagues **killed**



**342**  
incidents



**157**  
UNRWA  
installations  
**damaged**

### UNRWA response – Food assistance



**373,193** families outside of shelters have received flour in middle areas and southern governorates at least once since 21 Nov.

### UNRWA response – Health



*Partial update on 4 March due to security and internet connectivity issues*

**Only 7** (out of 23) UNRWA health care centres operational.

**23,374** patients received healthcare in 7 (out of 23) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

### UNRWA response – Water, sanitation and hygiene



*Updated on 16 Jan:*

**7 water wells** continue to operate pumping approximately 3,000 cubic metres of water.

Solid waste management continues in Rafah and Khan Younis and partially in Middle Areas, where **approximately 45 truck loadings were transferred to temporary sites**

\* \*\*This includes c.1 million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. Notably, as of October 12, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in UNRWA shelters in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. UNRWA currently estimates that the population of North Gaza and Gaza governorates to be up to 300,000 people. However, the ability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to provide humanitarian support and updated data in these areas has been severely restricted. The ongoing hostilities, evacuation orders issued by Israeli Forces, and the constant need for safer locations have resulted in people being displaced multiple times.

\*\* UNRWA has reported in Situation Report 64 that up to 1.9 million IDPs are either residing in 154 UNRWA shelters or near the se shelters. Due to the continued escalation of fighting and evacuation orders, some households have moved away from the shelters where they were initially registered.

\*\* It is important to note that there are instances where the same IDPs are registered in multiple shelters due to the fluid movement of populations; hereafter, estimates are used for these shelters. UNRWA plans to conduct a more accurate count of IDPs in shelters, including informal shelters, as soon as the security situation allows.