



# UNRWA Updated oPt Flash Appeal November 2023



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The development of the Updated oPt Flash Appeal was facilitated by the Department of Planning, UNRWA.

## **About UNRWA**

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 with a mandate to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to registered Palestine refugees in the Agency's area of operations, namely the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. Thousands of Palestine refugees who lost both their homes and livelihood because of the 1948 conflict have remained displaced and in need of significant support for over seventy-five years. UNRWA helps them achieve their full potential in human development through quality services it provides in education, health care, relief and social services, protection, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions.

### **UNRWA Headquarters – Amman**

Amman, Jordan

Tel: +962 (6) 580 2512

[www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org)

**Cover photo:** Aerial view of the destruction in Nuseirat refugee camp, Gaza Strip. © 29 October 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

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# introduction

The magnitude of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is unprecedented. This updated UNRWA oPt Flash Appeal<sup>1</sup> seeks US\$ 481 million to cover the most critical humanitarian needs of an estimated 1.6 million people in Gaza, both refugees and non-refugees, and around 150,000 persons in the West Bank, for the period October – 31 December 2023.

On 7 October, Palestinian armed groups launched attacks on Israel in which approximately 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, including women, children and older people, and reportedly over 242 were taken hostage. The government of Israel subsequently launched a military offensive in Gaza with heavy and sustained bombardment, and a self-described siege. Regular water, fuel and electricity supplies to Gaza have been cut. Only minimal quantities of basic supplies have been permitted to enter since 21 October – food, medicines, water and relief items.

According to the Ministry of Health, over 10,000<sup>2</sup> Palestinians had been killed in the hostilities<sup>3</sup>, of whom two-thirds are women and children, consistent with their share of the overall population. Amongst the dead are, as of 7 November 2023, 92 UNRWA personnel, many of whom died along with their families; many more UNRWA personnel are missing, possibly trapped beneath the rubble of buildings. Tens of thousands of people have been injured amid widespread damage to homes and public infrastructure. Within 16 days of the

start of the conflict, at least 45 percent of Gaza's housing stock had reportedly been destroyed or damaged<sup>4</sup>. As of 5 November 2023, approximately 1.5 million people had been forcibly displaced within Gaza, or around 70 percent of the total population. An estimated 730,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are sheltering in 151 UNRWA facilities, of whom 570,000 have sought refuge in 94 installations in the Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas. Nearly 160,000 IDPs were sheltering in 57 UNRWA schools in the North and Gaza areas as of 12 October 2023, i.e. prior to an evacuation order issued by the Israeli authorities<sup>5</sup>.

The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has also deteriorated significantly since 7 October, and is extremely volatile. An increase in the number of large-scale operations by Israeli forces and armed clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians particularly in refugee camps, have resulted in record-high levels of fatalities, injuries, and high numbers of arrests. In this volatile and tense environment, widespread Israeli settler violence is also causing Palestinian casualties and placing Palestinian communities, including refugee communities, at risk of being displaced. Mobility restrictions in place throughout the West Bank since 7 October significantly constrain the movement of both Palestinian communities and humanitarian actors, preventing vulnerable Palestinians from accessing basic services, including healthcare and education.



UNRWA Deir al-Balah school currently used as an emergency shelter. © 1 Nov 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

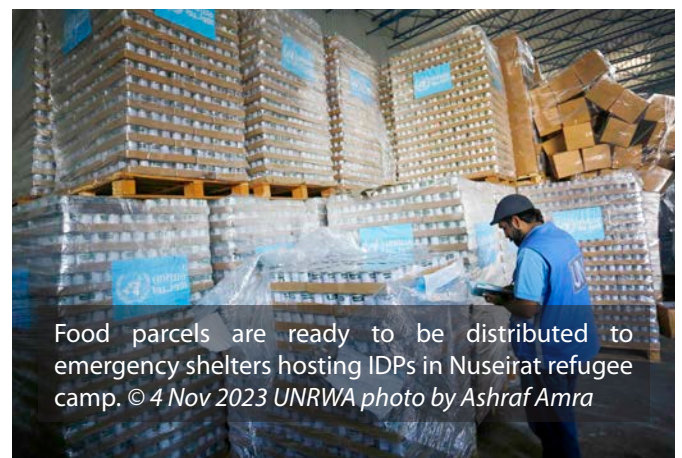
In Gaza, UNRWA is urgently seeking funding to cover the daily distribution of basic food rations (ready-to-eat meals) for 1.6 million people, including refugees and non-refugees in UNRWA shelters and other refugees in the community. Through this appeal UNRWA will also provide primary health care at Agency health centres and mobile medical points located in the shelters, which are equipped with emergency, trauma and delivery kits. Inside shelters, non-food items (NFIs), such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits, will be provided for at least 800,000 IDPs. Furthermore, psycho-social support and recreational activities will be provided to IDPs sheltering at UNRWA facilities, particularly children. If the situation allows, other education in emergencies interventions, such

as starting up temporary learning spaces, may be initiated. Displaced Palestine refugees hosted with families and friends in the community will also be supported through this Appeal, including with one-off multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).

Many of the approximately 13,000 UNRWA personnel in Gaza, the majority of whom are themselves Palestine refugees, are working around the clock to provide humanitarian services assistance. UNRWA senior management continues to reach out to relevant parties to reiterate the neutrality and inviolability of all UNRWA premises and to advocate for unhindered humanitarian access, including safe passage for staff to deliver critical assistance to those in most need.



Distribution of mattresses at UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre in Gaza. © 13 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo by Hussein Owda



Food parcels are ready to be distributed to emergency shelters hosting IDPs in Nuseirat refugee camp. © 4 Nov 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

The interventions planned for Gaza in this Appeal can only be implemented if the following planning assumptions are met (as outlined in the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) prepared by OCHA)<sup>6</sup>:

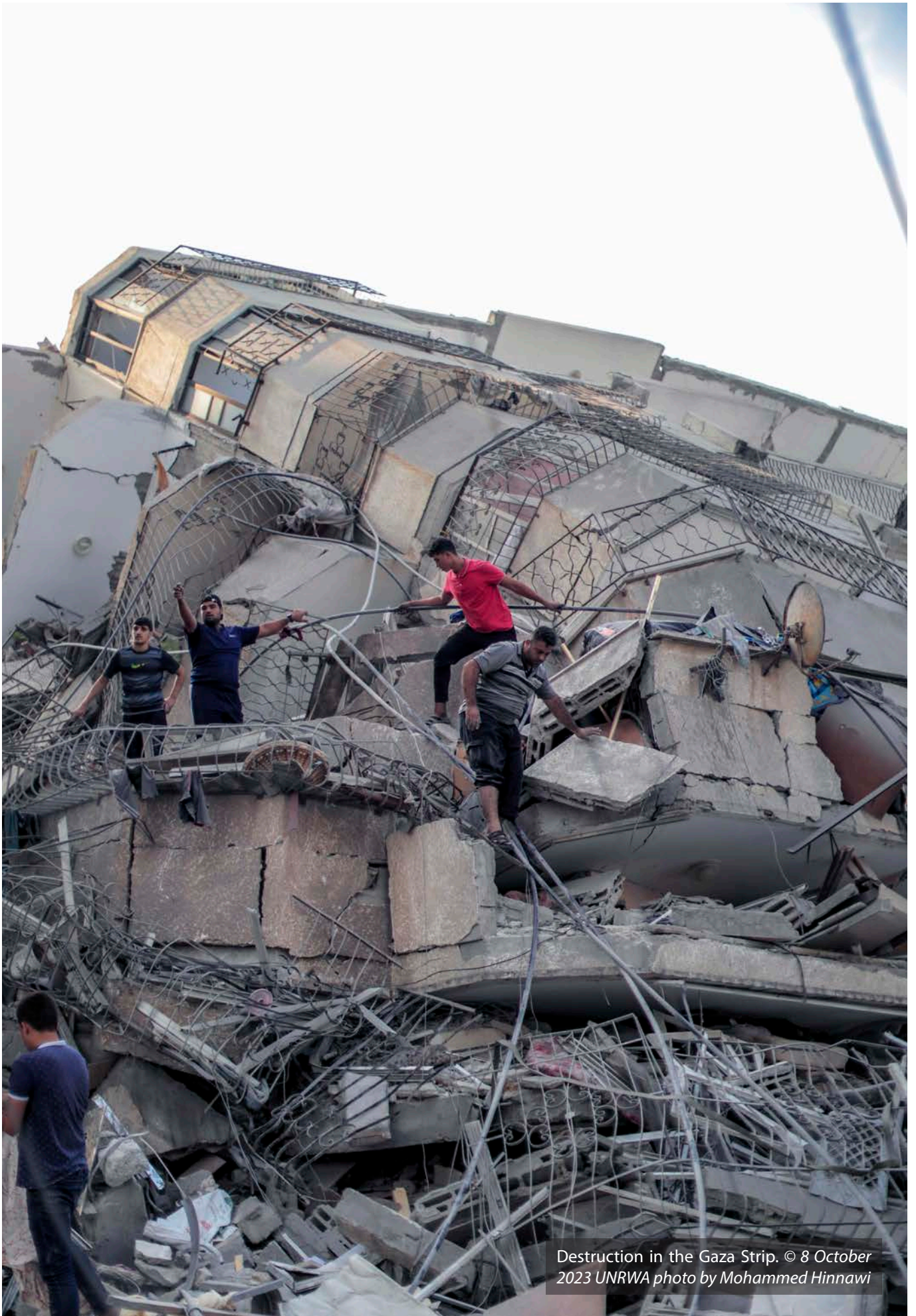
- i.** Humanitarian actors must have safe and sustained access to all people in need, across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- ii.** Sufficient quantities of fuel must be made available to allow for humanitarian actors to function.
- iii.** The flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza must increase.
- iv.** Funding must be timely and flexible to allow for humanitarian actors to adapt programming to a highly dynamic context.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, funds are needed to assist around 150,000 vulnerable Palestine refugees, including abject poor, residents of isolated communities and Palestinians from Gaza displaced to the West Bank, to meet their basic needs, through the provision of MPCA. The Agency will also extend basic healthcare services to around 80,000 Palestine refugees living in isolated and remote communities, which are impacted by heightened access restrictions. UNRWA will expand its protection response for vulnerable Palestine refugees, including women,

children and displaced communities, and pre-position items and assets as preparedness actions ahead of the potential further deterioration of the security situation.

Through this Appeal, UNRWA is also seeking funds for emergency preparedness measures in Lebanon, in anticipation of a potential mass displacement of Palestine refugees, particularly in the areas of Saida and Tyre, in the southern part of the country. Finally, funds are also sought for key coordination, support and technical positions at UNRWA HQ, in areas such as humanitarian affairs, protection, information management and emergency logistics, which are critical to support the Agency's response in Gaza and the West Bank.

The humanitarian needs in this document are also reflected in the OCHA Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the oPt and will be updated as the situation evolves<sup>7</sup>. This Flash Appeal replaces the Gaza component of the UNRWA 2023 Emergency Appeal (EA) and complements the West Bank and HQ components of the 2023 EA<sup>8</sup>. The response in this Appeal can only be implemented if UNRWA also receives the necessary funding for its regular programme budget, which is the foundation for all Agency services in Gaza and all other fields of operation.



Destruction in the Gaza Strip. © 8 October 2023 UNRWA photo by Mohammed Hinnawi

# funding requirements (US\$)

Interventions	Gaza	West Bank	HQ and regional	Total
Food assistance	177,600,000	-	-	177,600,000
Shelter and non-food items	119,824,500	199,800	-	120,024,300
Emergency health	16,921,950	530,988	-	17,452,938
Multi-purpose cash assistance	27,750,000	24,700,655	-	52,450,655
Water, sanitation and hygiene	38,769,505	-	-	38,769,505
Protection	4,647,659	1,570,650	-	6,218,309
Education in emergencies and mental health and psychosocial support	18,315,000	277,500	-	18,592,500
Emergency preparedness	-	-	618,168	729,168
Coordination and management	48,197,764	277,500	1,111,000	49,475,264
<b>Total</b>	<b>452,026,378</b>	<b>27,557,093</b>	<b>1,729,168</b>	<b>481,312,639</b>



A young boy gets bread from a bakery supplied with flour from UNRWA, Nuseirat refugee camp, Gaza Strip.  
© 4 Nov 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

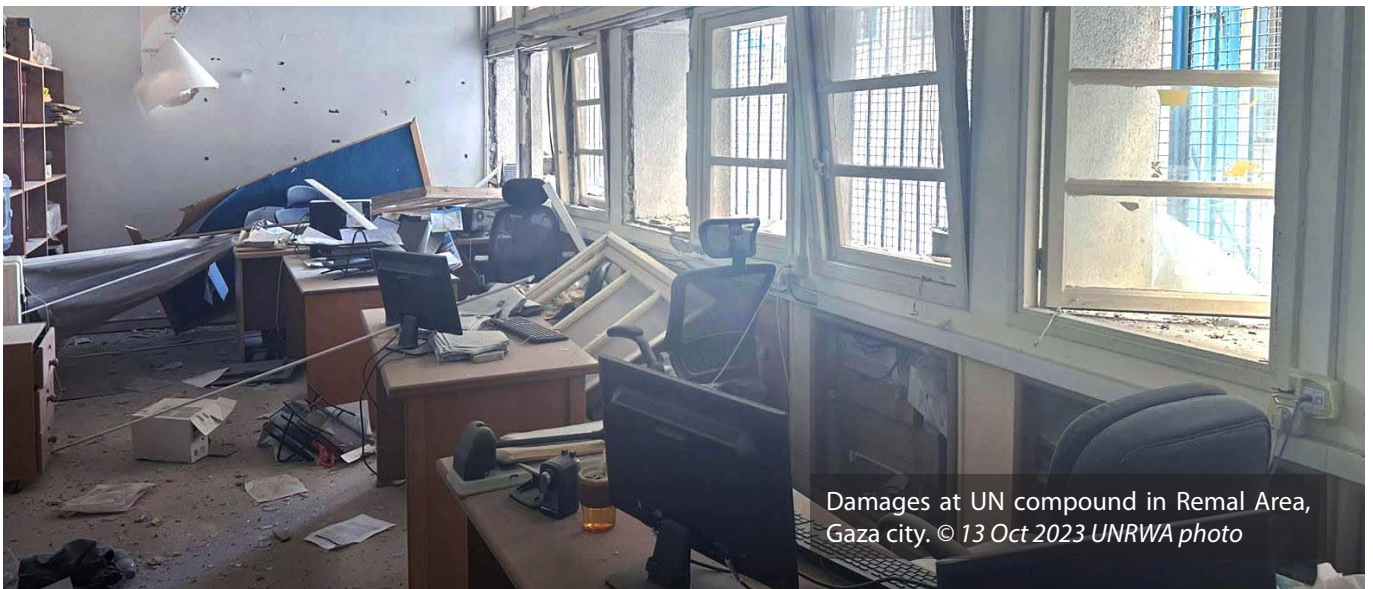
# situation overview

## Gaza

The intensification of violence that started on 7 October 2023 has had devastating impacts on all aspects of life in the occupied Palestinian territory. On 7 October, Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip launched thousands of rockets towards Israel and breached the border fence in a number of locations. They killed approximately 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals and captured civilians and members of Israeli Forces. In addition, according to Israeli authorities, an estimated 242 Israelis and foreign nationals were abducted and are being held hostage in Gaza. In response, Israel declared “a state of war alert” and, on 8 October, began heavy bombardments and air strikes on the Gaza Strip. Overnight on 12 October, Israel ordered Palestinians in north Gaza and

Gaza City to evacuate south of Wadi Gaza. A ground operation began on 27 October, with Israeli forces encircling the north, including Gaza City.

The ongoing attacks on Gaza are exacting a terrible human toll. As of 7 November 2023, 10,328 Palestinians, including 4,237 children, had been killed, and at least 25,956 people have been injured<sup>9</sup>. As of 8 November 92 UNRWA personnel are believed to have been killed. At least 50 UNRWA facilities, around one sixth of all UNRWA facilities in Gaza, have been damaged, with some directly hit. The severity of this unfolding humanitarian catastrophe is unprecedented for a population of mostly refugees that has endured four conflicts prior to this since 2008 and has been subject to a land, sea and air blockade for the past 16 years.





On 7 October, Israeli authorities cut electricity supplies to Gaza and on 8 October cut off the three water supply lines through the three connection points, affecting over 610,000 people, and compounding already severe shortages<sup>10</sup>. On 9 October, the government of Israel declared a "complete siege" on Gaza. On 11 October, Gaza's only power station ran out of fuel and ceased operating, leaving hospitals reliant on back-up generators. Few areas now have any electricity supplies and communications are extremely challenging; internet access has been completely cut on three separate days. Hospitals are running out of essential medical supplies.

Large areas of Gaza, including residential buildings, have been extensively damaged by Israeli forces' air, naval and land missile strikes and shelling. As soon as the strikes began, people started seeking shelter at UNRWA facilities across Gaza. At least 66 people are reported to have been killed while sheltering in UNRWA premises and over four hundred injured. Strikes on refugee camps, including Jabalia, Beach Camp, Nuseirat and Maghazi, have done untold damage to homes, public infrastructure and UNRWA installations.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing, at least 45 per cent of Gaza's housing units have been destroyed or damaged (as of 23 October)<sup>11</sup>.

All UNRWA schools and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres have been closed, impacting 300,228 school children and youth.

According to the UN Secretary-General, "This most recent violence does not come in a vacuum. The reality is that it grows out of a long-standing conflict, with a 56-year-long occupation and no political end in sight." The Secretary-General warned, "The humanitarian situation in Gaza was extremely dire before these hostilities; now it will only deteriorate exponentially"<sup>12</sup>. He has urged all sides to allow the United Nations access to deliver urgent humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians trapped and helpless in the Gaza Strip and has appealed to the international community to mobilize immediate humanitarian support for this effort<sup>13</sup>. Other senior United Nations officials have also called on all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL)<sup>14</sup>.



Heavily damaged buildings after strikes in Nuseirat refugee camp, Gaza Strip. © 29 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

## West Bank

The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has rapidly deteriorated since 7 October. Movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli government are severely limiting access to basic services for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, including Palestine refugees. They are also hampering UNRWA's ability to deliver services and monitor protection incidents.

As of 7 November, 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank, including 44 children; eight, including one child, have been killed by Israeli settlers. Nearly 55 per cent of these fatalities occurred during confrontations that followed Israeli forces' search-and-arrest operations and 30 per cent during demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza<sup>15</sup>.

Across the West Bank there has been an increase in large-scale Israeli military incursions and a high number of search and arrest operations resulting in confrontations with armed Palestinians. From 7 October to 3 November, UNRWA recorded 178 Israeli military operations in refugee camps, including in Nur Shams, Jenin, Am'ari, Jalazone, Kalandia, Dheisheh and Fawwar - an average of 6.1 operations per day<sup>16</sup> - resulting in extensive damage to camp infrastructure and private property. A substantial portion of the refugee population, particularly children, are experiencing psychological distress with many families considering leaving the camps due to insecurity and fear. The situation in the West Bank is having a negative impact on UNRWA's education programme, with several days of closures and limited services for 47,275 children and youth.

Settlers have used multiple tactics of intimidation and direct violence against marginalized Bedouin and herder communities, denying them access to essential services, particularly in areas east of Ramallah and in the South Hebron hills. UNRWA has recorded 198 settler attacks, a daily average of seven incidents compared with three a day from January to end September 2023. Since 7 October, at least 111 Palestinian households, comprising 905 people, including 356 children, have been displaced; in a single incident in the Wadi al-Siq Bedouin community east of Ramallah at least 148 refugees were displaced.

Movement and access restrictions across the West Bank are negatively impacting an already struggling economy. Around 200,000 Palestinians with valid work permits, including UN and NGOs staff, have been prevented from entering Israel and East Jerusalem since the start of the crisis, depriving the West Bank economy of an estimated NIS 1.5 to 2 billion every month<sup>17</sup> (equivalent to between US\$387 million and US\$516 million). Clearance revenues from Israel to the Palestinian Authority (PA) are expected to drop significantly in October and November 2023, impacting the PA's ability to pay salaries, and the private sector in the West Bank is estimated to be working at 50 per cent capacity<sup>18</sup>. Under these deteriorating socio-economic conditions, and with limited access to livelihoods, the most vulnerable Palestinians will be unable to meet their basic needs.

# humanitarian needs

Since 7 October, an estimated 1.5 million Palestinians have been displaced in Gaza, or almost 70 per cent of the population. The scale of displacement has overwhelmed existing resources, depriving families of the basic necessities, including food, clean water and electricity. The destruction of homes and basic infrastructure has severely disrupted the food supply chains in Gaza and families face acute food and water shortages.

As of 7 November, an estimated 730,000 Palestinians were sheltering in 151 UNRWA facilities across the Gaza Strip. Numbers continue to increase, despite schools and other buildings serving as collective shelters now at breaking point.

The scale of displacement has exceeded the maximum capacity of UNRWA to provide shelter to displaced vulnerable individuals and families. Those who have found shelter in emergency facilities urgently need food, clean water, bedding, basic healthcare and essential sanitation facilities. They face acute levels of vulnerability and heightened exposure to other protection risks, including psychosocial stress and trauma and the risk of family separation. Women and girls, persons with disabilities, older persons and children are particularly adversely impacted by the situation and by disruptions to UNRWA services and other forms of humanitarian assistance. Children and youth are being traumatized by this conflict – schooling



Women and children are standing in line in front of a bakery supplied with flour from UNRWA, Nuseirat Camp, Gaza Strip. © 4 Nov 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

for 300,228 UNRWA students has come to a standstill. UNRWA schools and other premises, many of which are now shelters, remain one of the very few options for civilians who have fled their destroyed or damaged homes to seek refuge. Safety in these locations cannot be guaranteed. As of 7 November, 66 IDPs had been killed whilst sheltering in UNRWA buildings and a further 461 had been injured<sup>19</sup>.

Other displaced families are staying with relatives or friends who themselves can barely cope, but the prevailing insecurity and restricted access to impacted areas hinder their ability to reach health centres and other UNRWA facilities to access essential services. Most affected families were already destitute before the latest hostilities, underscoring the heightened severity of their situation.

Due to the ongoing conflict, health challenges are exacerbated, including for the treatment of the wounded and other conflict-related injuries. Access to primary healthcare remains limited, with only nine out of 22 UNRWA health centres operational across the Gaza Strip, offering primary health care services to patients with urgent referred appointments.

UNRWA will need to significantly scale-up its support to adequately address the increasing impact of the crisis. Inside emergency shelters, people face mounting health and hygiene concerns aggravated by overcrowded conditions. As the number of IDPs continues to grow and resources remain limited, additional support is imperative to help them meet their basic needs.

In light of the deteriorating security situation on the ground, humanitarian and protection needs are also increasing for Palestine refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Movement restrictions are limiting access to livelihoods and basic services, and increasing the vulnerability of isolated and remote communities. An increasing number of Palestine refugee families are subjected to settler violence and are at risk of displacement. Over 6,000 Palestinians from Gaza, including some 5,500 workers who were expelled from Israel to the West Bank after 7 October, and hospital patients from Gaza who were in the West Bank for medical reasons, are currently in the West Bank, and have multiple and urgent needs as they struggle with the loss of their livelihoods and concern for their families in Gaza.

The convergence of higher conflict-related injuries, greater occurrences and threats of settler violence and harassment, and increased limitations on movement for specific communities has amplified the demand for health services. Simultaneously, this has hampered the ability of refugees in numerous communities to access these services effectively.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation across the oPt. Immediate and sustained support is essential to help alleviate the suffering and ensure that those affected receive the necessary assistance to withstand and recover from this crisis.



Women and children are sheltering in Deir al-Balah school, Gaza Strip. © 1 Nov 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

# interventions

## Gaza

### Food Assistance

UNRWA plans to provide ready-to-eat food for 90 days for up to 1,600,000 people in the Gaza Strip. This includes assistance for up to 800,000 IDPs, both refugees and non-refugees, in UNRWA premises which are being used as shelters<sup>20</sup>, both refugees and non-refugees. The overwhelming majority of the population lacks the capacity to cook, due to conditions in overcrowded shelters and the lack of cooking gas, water shortages and other issues. Consequently, UNRWA plans to provide ready-to-eat food, including canned and high energy food, in coordination with WFP, to meet the basic nutritional needs of the community. If the situation allows, UNRWA is ready to adjust its approach to provide basic food commodities, in coordination with WFP.

### Shelter and NFIs Assistance

Due to widespread bombardment and destruction of homes, an estimated 1.5 million Palestinians have been displaced in Gaza. Around half have sought

refuge in UNRWA installations, with others sheltering with host families or in hospitals, government schools and public facilities. A significant number of IDPs are sleeping on the streets near UNRWA premises. UNRWA plans to distribute essential non-food items (NFIs) including mattresses, mats, blankets and kitchen kits, to up to 800,000 displaced individuals staying in UNRWA shelters. The Agency will also distribute emergency shelter materials and kits to increase covered space available to displaced refugees including tents. Winterization and sealing kits will be provided in anticipation of heavy winter rains and flooding. Due to overcrowded living conditions in the UNRWA emergency shelters, many people are sleeping outdoors in makeshift structures or on the streets which will soon be exposed to adverse weather conditions. UNRWA plans to distribute a limited number of tents where these will improve shelter conditions of displaced families and provide protection from the elements. Maintenance and repairs to UNRWA collective shelters will also be prioritized to allow families to live in as dignified a manner as possible.



UNRWA staff prepare food parcels to be distributed in emergency shelters in Nuseirat camp, in the central Gaza Strip. © 4 Nov 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra



View on UNRWA Khan Younis Training Centre in Gaza.  
© 19 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo by Hussein Owda

### Emergency Health

To continue delivering essential primary health care, UNRWA will procure needed medications and medical supplies for operational UNRWA health centres (currently nine out of 22) and for medical teams deployed at UNRWA shelters. Each medical team comprises a doctor, nurse and psychosocial counsellor. Through this Appeal, UNRWA will install a solar-powered cold-chain network for medicines that require refrigeration, and strengthen its laboratory and physical rehabilitation services, to meet growing demands. UNRWA further aims to alleviate pressure in the overstretched public health services, and provide hospitalization support including for deliveries, through referrals to a network of contracted private and NGO hospitals when it is possible to do so safely.

### Multi-purpose Cash Assistance

To ensure that families are able to meet their most immediate and essential basic needs, a one-time payment of emergency multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) will be provided to approximately 125,000 beneficiaries if basic goods are available in the local market. MPCA offers people affected by the conflict a maximum degree of flexibility and dignity to choose how to cover their basic needs. In line with the Gaza Cash Working Group (CWG) recommendation, the planned transfer value will be equivalent to NIS 754 (US\$ 194) per household. The application of MPCA also requires functional financial service providers and stable prices of basic commodities in the market.



UNRWA Japanese health centre in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip. © 22 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo by Hussein Owda



A newborn baby being held by a UNRWA staff member in the Gaza Strip. © 31 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo



UNRWA water distribution in Al-Anwa school, Deir Al Balah, Gaza Strip. © 29 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo by Ashraf Amra

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

Lack of access to adequate supplies of clean water, due to damage to water networks, as well as a lack of fuel and electricity needed to run desalination plants, is creating a public health crisis in Gaza. In crowded emergency shelters as well as in communities hosting IDPs, people are struggling to secure adequate quantities of safe drinking water and other domestic water for washing and hygiene needs. Since 7 October, UNRWA has supported the operation of desalination plants and water trucks to sustain life-saving access to water. Such interventions will continue for as long as they are needed under the current appeal. UNRWA will also provide family hygiene kits to IDPs in shelters and ensure the supply of adequate cleaning materials. Funds will also support continued solid waste management efforts as long as security conditions allow for the safe collection of waste and transfer to landfill sites.

**Protection**

Under this Appeal, UNRWA will scale-up protection monitoring and reporting as well as mapping of services and referrals within UNRWA and other facilities hosting IDPs to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those most in need. Existing community-led initiatives will be used to provide information to affected populations on available services and where and how to access them through

hotlines. Establishing safe spaces for women and girls in shelters and other community spaces is a priority, as are measures to improve access to specialized, tailored services for persons with disabilities and the distribution of assistive devices. UNRWA will also distribute baby hygiene kits, and baby and adult diapers. The Agency will support awareness raising on accountability to affected population and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse within the community and will produce associate messages and materials for women and girls who might be facing violence and discrimination. In keeping with international law standards and obligations, UNRWA will monitor protection of civilians and civilian objects and infrastructure and provide specialized protection services and explosive ordinance risk education and mine victim assistance in collective shelters.

The conflict and mass displacement have resulted in a growing number of unaccompanied children whose extended families have been killed or seriously injured. In addition, there are specific needs for people living with disabilities as they struggle in temporary shelters. The Agency is also looking at specific support for cases of gender based violence. UNRWA is providing 165 additional social workers to keep up with this demand. In addition, via its cash programming (see above), UNRWA will also look to purchase assistive devices for people living with disabilities.



Displaced children seeking shelter in Deir al-Balah School, Gaza Strip. © 31 Oct 2023 UNRWA photo

### Education in Emergencies and Mental Health and Psycho-social Support

Since the beginning of the hostilities, access to basic education for 300,228 UNRWA students in Gaza has been interrupted as all available UNRWA schools and TVET centres are being used as emergency shelters. UNRWA staff including school counsellors, have been providing MHPSS and recreational interventions to IDPs, particularly children, sheltering at UNRWA facilities. Before the hostilities children in Gaza were already suffering the toll of 16 years of blockade and repeated cycles of violence. Many are witnessing traumatic events on a daily basis and have lost loved ones and homes.

UNRWA will use its inclusive approach to psychosocial support to student well-being, providing consultations and guidance through individual counselling, group sessions and recreational activities. Structured activities for children (e.g. recreational, art therapy, and counselling) will be organized to provide psycho-social support for students and education staff. UNRWA will seek to use existing MHPSS and education staff as much as possible to deliver these activities with surge staff supporting logistics, procurement and organization of activities. If the situation allows, other education in emergencies interventions may be initiated. In

this regard, UNRWA has developed a phased plan to support student and staff wellbeing and their gradual re-integration into learning as soon as conditions allow.

UNRWA will work across the programme areas of Social Services, Health and Education to significantly expand its work in the area of MHPSS. The Agency recognizes that MHPSS will be a critical response requirement within Gaza for many years to come and will over the period of the flash appeal build effective coordination across the Agency and with other members of the MHPSS Technical Working Group<sup>21</sup>, which is part of the humanitarian cluster system.

### Coordination and Management

UNRWA needs funds to facilitate the effective and continuous delivery of humanitarian assistance in the current conditions in Gaza, including for: (1) logistics and distribution (renting of additional storage space, operations in Egypt and at Rafah, labourers and communication fees); (2) staff safety and security needs, including fuel and maintenance costs for armoured vehicles, communications and personal protective equipment (PPE); (3) staff responding to emergencies at central and area level; (4) staffing at collective shelters; (5) surge and back-office support; and; (6) fuel and generators to maintain operation of UNRWA installations and services during power cuts.



## West Bank

### Shelter and NFIs Assistance

Under this appeal, UNRWA will provide material assistance, in the form of mattresses, hygiene kits, blankets and kitchen kits to up to 200 displaced families (approximately 900 individuals) living in Area C. The Agency is also seeking funds to preposition supplies for another 200 families at risk of displacement, as a preparedness measure.

### Multi-purpose cash assistance

UNRWA plans to provide up to two rounds of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance MPCA to some of the most vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank, to cover their basic needs amid the current crisis and extensive mobility constraints that limit access to livelihoods and economic opportunities. Four groups are targeted, as follows:

- i. 6,000 Palestinians from Gaza who were present in the West Bank on 7 October and are unable to return home will receive 700 NIS (US\$ 180) per round on an individual basis.
- ii. 981 Palestine refugee families (approximately 6,000 persons) in isolated and cut off communities.
- iii. 3,300 abject poor families (approximately 21,000 persons) who had already been identified as being in need before the current crisis and were included in the UNRWA 2023 EA.
- iv. 18,000 families (approximately 100,000 persons) who have lost their livelihoods and access to employment due to the escalation of violence and related mobility restrictions, with a focus on those living in camps.

Programme participants in categories ii – iv will receive 1,640 NIS (US\$ 422) per round. All amounts are aligned with standards set by the cash working group in the West Bank.

### Emergency health

UNRWA plans to deploy seven mobile health teams, including medical personnel and support staff, to provide primary healthcare to remote communities affected by mobility and access constraints during the current escalation<sup>22</sup>. Health teams will also make referrals for GBV survivors and conduct community engagement. This will also support the continuation of UNRWA's primary health care in the West Bank as regular attendance by staff at health centres is negatively affected by increasing mobility restrictions in the West Bank.

Through this Flash Appeal UNRWA also plans to purchase a small, refrigerated truck to timely deliver urgent and critical resources to affected locations, including medicines, vaccines and medical equipment.

### Protection

Existing movement and access restrictions and increased violence and volatility have created a vacuum in many areas of the West Bank, particularly in remote and isolated communities. The population has traditionally relied on the physical presence of international actors and humanitarians, including for monitoring incidents of settler violence, and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) violations. UNRWA plans to enhance protection by presence, and to support movements of national staff across the West Bank and in high-risk areas, including, for example, in trucks with medical or food supplies, and waste compactors from refugee camps to landfills. UNRWA will also continue to support existing community-based organisations in high-risk areas, particularly refugee camps, that are already working with affected populations through safe spaces and community-led initiatives.

UNRWA's vital protection work on monitoring and documentation of IHL/IHRL violations and advocacy will remain the foundations of these interventions.

### Education in emergencies and Mental Health and Psycho-social Support

Due to movement and access restrictions, some educational staff across the West Bank are unable to reach their own duty station and provide in person learning to students. UNRWA needs to hire an additional 70 teachers to cover the existing gaps until the end of the year.

To enhance the well-being and mental health of students, particularly in the face of escalating violence and frequent Israeli military operations, UNRWA will hire an additional 26 school counselors, to ensure that each school has the necessary support until the end of the year.

### Coordination and Management

UNRWA is seeking funds to ensure the timely and uninterrupted delivery of basic services and humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in the West Bank. The Agency will deploy existing staff to affected locations and provide support for transportation. This will ensure that staff move in UN vehicles with personal protective equipment, for their safety and security.

## Emergency Preparedness

As a result of the hostilities in Gaza, the security situation across the region has become more volatile. A series of confrontations have unfolded on the Lebanese-Israeli border, with Hezbollah and associated groups launching rocket attacks at Israeli border towns and military posts, and Israel responding with shelling and border areas. While the exchanges have to date remained within parameters considered tolerable by both sides, their intensity and frequency is on the rise and the risk of a significant escalation of hostilities is increasing. Hostilities have already resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of people within the South and elsewhere in the country.

Under this Appeal, UNRWA will cover preparedness measures for a possible humanitarian response in Lebanon in the event of mass displacement of Palestine refugees. UNRWA provides services in 12 camps in Lebanon, five of which are located in the South and Saida and could be impacted in an escalated confrontation. In the event of an escalation of hostilities, the potential humanitarian consequences

include mass displacement from refugee camps, damage to camps and infrastructure, casualties, overwhelming demands on infrastructure in areas with displaced refugees, and limited access to vital public services. UNRWA has identified three locations to serve as emergency operational hubs that will be activated in the emergency scenario, including where regular places of work become unsafe or inaccessible. Furthermore, 12 installations have been identified and will be equipped as designated emergency shelters to receive over 6,000 displaced persons. Preparedness actions include ensuring IT connectivity, warehouse security, fuel and emergency stock, as well as facility preparations to host displaced populations.

## Coordination and Management

As an integral component of the regional response, UNRWA will bolster its operational capabilities at HQ level (Amman and Jerusalem) and in Egypt by deploying supplementary surge personnel and enhancing back-office support. This includes additional expertise in areas such as logistics, information management, coordination, reporting and in key programmatic interventions, as well as necessary travel, communications and administrative



A section of the 712km Barrier, which runs mainly inside the West Bank. © 2022 UNRWA. Photo by Lucrezia Vittori

# endnotes

- 1 This updated Appeal supersedes an earlier Flash Appeal that was issued on 10 October 2023 to cover the initial emergency response to the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip.
- 2 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-32>
- 3 As of 7 November
- 4 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-32>
- 5 Since 12 October, UNRWA has not been able to access these shelters to assist or protect the IDPs and as such does not have information on their needs and conditions.
- 6 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/flash-appeal-occupied-palestinian-territory-2023>
- 7 For needs in Gaza, West Bank and HQ only. Preparedness requirements in Lebanon are not part of the OCHA appeal
- 8 This includes for critical cash assistance and education in emergencies initiatives.
- 9 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel – Reported Impact. 5 November 2023. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-30>
- 10 Some water connection points have reportedly since been re-opened but available information indicates that delivery pipes have been damaged in the hostilities.
- 11 OCHA oPt. Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel – Reported Impact. 5 November 2023. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-30>
- 12 UN Secretary-General Remarks to the Press on the Middle East. New York, 9 October 2023. <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm21984.doc.htm>
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lynn Hastings, on the hostilities between Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip and Israel, 10 October 2023. <https://palestine.un.org/en/248888-statement-humanitarian-coordinator-occupied-palestinian-territory-lynn-hastings-hostilities>.
- 15 [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #31 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)
- 16 UNRWA Protection Database, October 2023.
- 17 OCHA inter-agency oPt Flash Appeal. [Flash Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory 2023 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)
- 18 OCHA oPt, Flash Update #30, 5 November 2023. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-30>
- 19 Figure as of 4 November 2023. [UNRWA Situation Report #22 on the situation on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem | UNRWA](#)
- 20 As of 5 November, 717,000 IDPs were sheltering in UNRWA installations and the number continues to rise.
- 21 The MHPSS Technical Working Group is a multisectoral platform at country level that brings together actors to coordinate more effective delivery of integrated MHPSS.
- 22 This includes four teams that were originally included in the 2023 EA but remain unfunded and three new teams, to cover gaps where existing partners are unable to operate.



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الأونروا

دائرة التخطيط  
الأونروا - عمان  
العنوان البريدي: ص.ب: ١٤٠١٥٧، عمان ١١٨١٤  
الأردن  
هـ: ٥٨٠٢٥١٢ (٦ ٩٦٢ +)

department of planning  
unrwa headquarters - amman  
po box 140157, amman 11814  
jordan

t: (+962 6) 580 2512

[www.unrwa.org](http://www.unrwa.org)

وكالة الأمم المتحدة لإغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الأدنى | united nations relief and works agency for palestinian refugees in the near east