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UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #169 ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

Thursday, May 1, 2025

All information updated for 23- 29 April 2025 [1]

Days 564-570 since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip



UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

Around 420,000 people estimated to have been forcibly displaced since 18 March.



At least **742*** people sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **2,409*** injured since 7 October 2023.

UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



Over 290 UNRWA team members killed



311* UNRWA installations damaged



832* incidents

*Numbers are subject to change once verifications are concluded.

UNRWA response – Food assistance



Due to the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities on 2 March, UNRWA flour and food parcels have run out.

UNRWA response – Health

Update for 21-27 April 2025

Only 9 (out of 27) UNRWA health centres operational on 27 April



94,828 medical consultations were provided in 6 UNRWA health centres, 3 temporary health centres and 38 medical points inside and outside shelters.

Up to 120 mobile medical teams covered the medical points.

UNRWA response – Psychosocial Support



Since the onset of the conflict, around **730,000** displaced people, including over **520,000 children**, have benefited from psychosocial support sessions and activities.

157,941 displaced people received awareness raising sessions and internal community social network support.

7,753 persons with disabilities and injuries received assistive devices and rehabilitation services.

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Highlights

- Since the collapse of the ceasefire in Gaza on the night between 17 and 18 March 2025, intense Israeli Forces activities escalated, resulting in thousands of civilians killed and injured, further

damage and destruction to civilian infrastructure, and new waves of forced displacement.

- Humanitarian aid and supplies have not entered the Gaza Strip for nearly two months (since 2 March 2025), when the Israeli authorities imposed a siege. As a result, critical humanitarian supplies, including food, fuel, medical aid and vaccines for children, are rapidly depleting; UNRWA flour and food parcels have run out and around one third of essential medical supplies are already out of stock. This is having a devastating impact on the population, particularly on vulnerable groups including children, women and the elderly.
- On 28 April, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) began advisory proceedings on the "Obligations of Israel in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organizations and third states in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory." UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [welcomed](#) the ongoing hearings and stated that "unlawful restrictions on the work of UNRWA and other organisations hamper the delivery of assistance to people in need,"
- On 29 April, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [posted](#) on X (previously known as Twitter) that, since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip, over 50 UNRWA staff – among them teachers, doctors, social workers – have been detained and abused.

Key points

The Gaza Strip

- Since the night between 17 and 18 March, and for over a month, the Israeli Forces have escalated bombardments from air, land and sea across the Gaza Strip and expanded ground operations, resulting in thousands of casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and large-scale displacement. According to [OCHA](#), fighting between the Israeli Forces and Palestinian armed groups has been reported, particularly in North Gaza, eastern Gaza City and Rafah.
- On 25 April, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published a [statement](#) on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, highlighting that, between 8 March and 22 April, the UN Human Rights office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory recorded 229 attacks on residential buildings and 91 attacks on tents of forcibly displaced people in Gaza, most resulting in fatalities, including many children and women. The text also states that "Extremely high civilian casualties over 18 months do not appear to have prompted any changes in Israeli targeting practices and policies, a pattern indicating at the very least a complete disregard for the lives of civilians in Gaza. Matched with Israel's policy of deliberately blocking life-saving assistance from entering the Gaza Strip, these policies appear to be aimed at punishing the civilian population of Gaza and inflicting on them conditions of life increasingly incompatible with their continued existence as a group in Gaza."
- According to a [report](#) from the Global Protection Cluster published on 25 April and covering the period between December 2024 and March 2025, access to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response services in Gaza is critically limited. The analysis highlights that "displaced women report deep fears for their personal safety and that of their families, with many citing the lack of privacy, secure latrines, and safe bathing spaces as significant protection and health concerns." An [analysis](#) from the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group highlighted that the current crisis "is deepening existing gender inequalities and disproportionately affecting those with intersecting vulnerabilities – such as women heads of households, adolescent girls, older women, caregivers, and those with disabilities or chronic health conditions."
- On 28 April, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) began advisory proceedings on the "Obligations of Israel in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organizations and third states in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory." UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [welcomed](#) the ongoing hearings and stated that "unlawful restrictions on the work of UNRWA and other organisations hamper the delivery of assistance to people in need," adding that "All parties to the conflict, including the State of Israel, must comply with all their obligations under international law at all times."
- In his remarks to the Security Council on 29 April, the [UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#) spoke about the "unrelenting conflict and devastation in Gaza", highlighting the "utterly inhumane conditions of life imposed on its people who are repeatedly coming under attack, confined to smaller and smaller spaces, and deprived of lifesaving relief." He also reiterated that "In line with international law, the Security Council has rejected any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce its territory." The Secretary-General added that "This is not a time for ritualistically expressing support, ticking a box, and moving on. We are past the stage of ticking boxes – the clock is ticking."



UNRWA Situation Report #169 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem



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- On 29 April, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [posted](#) on X (previously known as Twitter) that, since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip, over 50 UNRWA staff – among them teachers, doctors, social workers – have been detained and abused. The Commissioner-General stated that these staff members have reported being beaten up and used as human shields, subjected to sleep deprivation, humiliation, threats of harm to them and their families and attacks by dogs, and many to forced confessions. “Justice for those serving on the humanitarian frontlines is not an option, it is an obligation,” he added.
- On 2 March, the Israeli authorities announced a siege, no longer allowing humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip, including fuel. No supplies – humanitarian or commercial – have entered since. This siege is already four times longer than the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities at the onset of the war in October 2023. UNRWA flour and food parcels have run out and around one third of essential medical supplies are already out of stock.
- With basic resources nearly depleted due to the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities nearly two months ago, nutrition conditions in the Gaza Strip continue deteriorating. UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [defined](#) the situation “A manmade and politically motivated starvation.” OCHA [reports](#) that, based on information collected by the Nutrition Cluster, 92 per cent of children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women are not meeting their nutrient requirements. Around 290,000 children under five and 150,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women require feeding and micronutrient supplements.
- UNRWA medical services are critically under-resourced, around one third (31 per cent) of essential supplies are already out of stock and another third (33 per cent) are projected to run out in under two months.
- Since the ceasefire collapsed, nearly 100,000 families (or an estimated over half a million people) across the Gaza Strip have been reached by UNRWA teams with non-food items including mattresses, tarpaulin sheets, tents, clothes and hygiene supplies.
- OCHA [reported](#) that the fuel crisis is ongoing in the Gaza Strip – with fuel being scarce and often inaccessible. This is forcing humanitarian actors to ration fuel allocation, therefore disrupting the provision of essential services across all sectors.
- Children are being particularly affected by the constantly deteriorating humanitarian crisis. According to the Child Protection (CP) Area of Responsibility (AoR), as [reported by OCHA](#), 20 child friendly spaces in the “no-go” zones and areas slated for displacement have been forced to suspend activities between 18 March and 30 April. Services in several Temporary Learning Spaces have been suspended after the ceasefire collapsed, leaving many children without access to learning activities and psychosocial support services. Overall, substantial and cumulative learning losses in Gaza have created gaps in foundational literacy and numeracy, according to a [report](#) by the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the Occupied Palestinian Territory Education Cluster. In addition, based on monitoring activities [conducted](#) by UNRWA protection teams between 4 and 17 April, children are experiencing deteriorating mental health, increased child labor, and increased exposure to violence and neglect in displacement shelters.
- On 27 March, the remaining UNRWA international staff left the Gaza Strip. All UNRWA international staff are now banned from entering the Gaza Strip. This follows the passage of two laws by Israel’s parliament, the Knesset, on 28 October 2024^[2], which aim to prohibit UNRWA’s operations in the occupied Palestinian territory and bar any contact between UNRWA and Israeli officials. Meanwhile, around 12,000 local, Palestinian UNRWA personnel in Gaza continue to provide services and assistance to an entire population in need, while spearheading the collective humanitarian response. In the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem, over 4,000 UNRWA staff continue to provide services to their communities including education to nearly 50,000 boys and girls who go to UNRWA schools.
- With [at least 22 displacement orders](#) issued by the Israeli military since 18 March, about 144.3 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip are now under active displacement orders (the total area of the Gaza Strip is approximately 365 square kilometres). According to [OCHA](#), over two thirds (or 70 per cent) of the Gaza Strip are within ‘no-go’ areas, under active displacement orders, or both. OCHA [reports](#) that, by governorate, 100 per cent of Rafah is a no-go zone or a displacement area, followed by 84 per cent of North Gaza, 78 per cent of Gaza, 51 per cent of Khan Younis and 41 per cent of Deir al Balah. The UN [estimates](#) that around 420,000 people have been displaced yet again since the breakdown of the ceasefire.
- Two displacement orders affecting areas with 12 UNRWA installations were issued by the Israeli Forces between 22 and 28 April:
 - On 24 April, the Israeli Forces issued a displacement order impacting Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza. Eleven UNRWA installations are located within the affected area.
 - On 25 April, the Israeli Forces issued a displacement order impacting Shuja’iyya and Az Zaitoun areas in Gaza City. One UNRWA installation is located within the affected area.
- A total of **124 UNRWA installations** are located within no-go areas, under active displacement orders, or both.
- Despite the siege and existing challenges, UNRWA continues providing services to communities overwhelmed by over 1.5 years of bombardment, forced displacement, and lack of critical resources. However, the resumed bombardment and the lack of access for

humanitarian supplies are further deteriorating an already dire situation, impacting the humanitarian actors' ability to respond to the food, water, sanitation, shelter, and other needs of the population.

- UNRWA runs 115 shelters across the Gaza Strip, with over 90,000 displaced people residing in them.
- According to the UN, at least **1.9 million people** – or about **90 per cent** of the population – across the Gaza Strip have been displaced during the war. Many have been displaced repeatedly, some 10 times or more. Since the recent displacement orders were issued, more people have been forced to flee in search of safety.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 22 April 2025, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, as stated by [OCHA](#), at least **52,400** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in Gaza and **118,014** have been injured.
- [OCHA reports](#) that the MoH in Gaza published the breakdown of 50,021 Palestinians killed as of 22 March 2025. These reportedly include 15,613 children, 8,304 women, 3,839 elderly, and 22,265 men. According to the MoH, among the children killed, 825 were under 12 months of age while 274 children were born and killed during the escalation.
- Over **290** UNRWA team members have been killed since 7 October 2023.
- [OCHA](#) reported that, of the 44 planned aid movements coordinated with Israeli authorities across Gaza from 23 to 29 April 2025, 22 were denied, four impeded, one cancelled, and 17 facilitated. Overall, of the 192 planned aid movements coordinated with Israeli authorities across the Gaza Strip between 1 and 29 April, 99 were denied, eight impeded, eight cancelled, and 77 facilitated.



As temperatures rise, waste continues accumulating posing increasing environmental and health challenges to forcibly displaced people, Gaza City, the Gaza Strip, April 2025. © 2025 UNRWA Photo

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to [OCHA](#), between 7 October 2023 and 26 April 2025, 924 Palestinians – including at least 196 children – were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of those, 118 Palestinians, including at least 17 children, were killed only since the beginning of 2025.
- The Israeli Forces operation in the northern West Bank started on 21 January 2025 continues. On 23 April, the Israeli Forces installed metal gates at the entrances of Jenin Camp to control access. Some residents in Al Zahra area of Jenin, near Jenin Governmental Hospital and in the vicinity of Jenin Camp, were forcibly displaced by Israeli Forces on 26 April. UNRWA continues to deliver essential services including education and healthcare to forcibly displaced Palestinians in the northern West Bank.
- On 23 April a child was reportedly killed by live fire from Israeli Forces during a search operation in Al Yamun, west of Jenin, in the northern West Bank. Another child was shot and

killed by Israeli Forces on 25 April, while a search operation was underway in Salem, east of Nablus, during which clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli Forces.

- Heightened Israeli settler violence was recorded across the West Bank. On 21 April, a Palestinian died due to tear gas inhalation following clashes between Israeli Forces, Israeli settlers, and Palestinians after Israeli settlers installed a tent and set fire to agricultural land and property in Sinjil, north-east of Ramallah. On 23 April, a group of Israeli settlers opened fire at local Palestinians in Bardala, north-east of Nablus, attempting to steal sheep and setting fire to property. Five Palestinians were injured with live ammunition, with the Israeli Forces then reportedly blocking ambulances from accessing the village. On the same day, armed Israeli settlers purportedly opened fire in clashes with Palestinians after they attacked Sinjil, north-east of Ramallah, and set fire to agricultural facilities and vehicles, injuring eight Palestinians.

Overall situation

The Gaza Strip

- Between 7 October 2023 and 30 April 2025, according to the MoH in Gaza as stated by [OCHA](#), at least **52,400** Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the Gaza Strip while **118,014** have been reported injured.

Humanitarian access, protection of civilians

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents that reportedly impact UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available*.
- During the reporting period, an armed conflict-related incident has reportedly impacted UNRWA installations, personnel, and displaced people sheltering there:
 - On 23 April, an UNRWA school in Bureij, Gaza middle areas, was reportedly directly struck by an Israeli Forces airstrike. The munition did not explode, and no damage or injuries were reported.

As of 28 April 2025, **832*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war. **311*** UNRWA installations have been impacted by armed conflict-related incidents since the beginning of the war, some on multiple occasions. UNRWA estimates that, in total, at least **742*** persons sheltering in UNRWA installations have been killed and at least **2,409*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA continues to verify and update the number of casualties caused by these incidents.

**Since the start of the war in October 2023, the latest casualty figures are continuously under review as UNRWA gains access to locations that were previously inaccessible and as further verifications occur. The summary figures will be published/updated as information becomes available, noting that these numbers are subject to change once verifications are concluded.*

The Gaza Strip

Health

- According to the Health Cluster, UNRWA remains one of the largest health actors operating in the Gaza Strip, contributing to over half of the people reached with health services since 7 October 2023. Between 7 October 2023 and 20 April 2025, UNRWA provided over 8.2 million medical consultations across the Gaza Strip.
- In addition to medical consultations, UNRWA (in partnership with and supported by other UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO) continued to vaccinate children. Over 272,000 routine vaccines have been given to children from January 2024. In addition, around 560,000 children under the age of 10 across the Gaza Strip were vaccinated against polio in the first two rounds of the campaign.
- A third round of the polio vaccination campaign supported by UNRWA, WHO, UNICEF and other partners took place between 22 and 26 February 2025 in the Gaza Strip, reaching over 600,000 children under the age of 10 with this critical vaccine. With over 1,700 personnel organized in 555 mobile and fixed teams, UNRWA vaccinated over 213,000 children, constituting around one third of the overall polio vaccination response. A fourth round of the polio vaccination campaign

was scheduled to start on 13 April but had to be postponed until further notice due to the continuous bombardment and displacement orders from the Israeli authorities, as well as the lack of sufficient vaccine due to the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities.

- During the ceasefire (19 January-17 March 2025), UNRWA health teams provided nearly 590,000 health consultations, antenatal, post-natal and family planning care for over 40,000 women, dental and oral health services in fixed and mobile clinics reaching over 24,400 patients, and physiotherapy rehabilitation services for around 10,500 patients.
- UNRWA continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in Gaza City, the middle and Khan Younis areas, with teams of psychiatrists, psychosocial counsellors and supervisors to assist special cases referred from UNRWA health centres and shelters. Between 21 and 27 April, UNRWA teams responded to 2,581 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Between 21 and 27 April, UNRWA medical teams provided care for 6,638 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk, dental and oral health services in fixed and mobile clinics reaching 3,570 patients and physiotherapy rehabilitation services for 2,388 patients in health centres and medical points. Medical services are critically under-resourced, with around one third (31 per cent) of essential supplies already out of stock, and another third (33 per cent) projected to run out in under two months.
- Between 21 and 27 April, an average of around 1,280 UNRWA health personnel worked in UNRWA health centres, temporary clinics and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 94,828 health consultations during the reporting period.
- As of 27 April, only six out of 22 UNRWA health centres and three additional UNRWA-rented facilities used as temporary health centres were operational in Gaza. In addition, health services are provided through 120 mobile medical teams working in 38 medical points inside and outside shelters in the middle area, Khan Younis, Al Mawasi, Gaza City and north Gaza. UNRWA health facilities provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, giving out medications, vaccination, antenatal and postnatal health care, laboratory and dental services, physiotherapy and dressings for the injured. The number of operational health facilities changes constantly based on demand, access and security.
- After the ceasefire collapsed and until 27 April, UNRWA health teams provided over 450,000 health consultations, antenatal, post-natal and family planning care for over 29,000 women, dental and oral health services in fixed and mobile clinics reaching nearly 16,000 patients, and physiotherapy rehabilitation services for over 8,500 patients.

Psychosocial Support and Learning

- UNRWA remains the largest provider of emergency learning and psychosocial support (PSS) across the Gaza Strip. Around 660,000 children are out of school due to the war. Since the launch of the "Back to Learning" (BTL) programme in August 2024, BTL activities have taken place in up to 449 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) in 58 UNRWA schools-turned-shelters, reaching around 56,000 children across the Gaza Strip. Following the collapse of the ceasefire (on 18 March), the number of active TLS has shown week-to-week fluctuations, with an overall declining trend, and currently stands at 182. As a result, the number of children has significantly decreased. Between 21 and 27 April 2025, 24,516 children (9,556 boys, 14,960 girls, including 999 children with disabilities) participated in basic literacy and numeracy activities, PSS sessions and recreational activities including arts, music and sports.
- On 1 January 2025, UNRWA launched a new distance learning programme, combining online with onsite learning. To date, 277,716 children (146,794 boys, 130,922 girls) have enrolled in the programme and received basic learning activities delivered by thousands of teachers covering Arabic, English, mathematics, and science.
- UNRWA continues to provide lifesaving PSS services in Gaza. Since the onset of the war and up to 27 April 2025, around 730,000 displaced people, including over 520,000 children, have benefited from 295,808 PSS sessions and activities. Between 21 and 27 April, a total of 7,051 displaced people accessed these services.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 28 April 2025, UNRWA's social work team provided services to 215,462 displaced people, including psychological first aid, PSS services, family and individual activities, as well as case management. During the same reporting period, protection services were provided to 1,898 survivors of GBV and 3,649 children, including 1,740* unaccompanied children. The team also supported 24,081 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,753 of these individuals received assistive devices and rehabilitation services. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability and special needs, as well as managing social and psychological stressors, were conducted for 157,941 displaced people.

**Due to further verification, figures have decreased compared to those reported in the previous situation report (#166).*

Food Security

- Since 7 October 2023 and until the start of the ceasefire (19 January 2025), over 388,000 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with two rounds of flour; at least 374,000 of those families have received three rounds.
- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels wherever possible. These include^[3] rice, lentils, beans, oil, salt, sugar, milk powder, hummus, halawa, yeast, and canned fish, and are designed to meet the needs of a family of five for two weeks. Up until the start of the ceasefire, at least 1.7 million people were reached, of whom at least 215,000 people received two rounds of food parcels since the war started.
- In addition to the distribution of UNRWA food parcels, the Agency distributes food parcels on behalf of other UN organisations, having reached over 1.4 million people before the start of the ceasefire.
- During the ceasefire, UNRWA teams are estimated to have reached over 2 million people with critical food assistance. However, due to the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities since 2 March, UNRWA is now completely out of flour and food parcels and therefore forced to halt food distributions.
- Between 1 March and 19 April 2025, UNRWA distributed nearly 270,000 bags of flour, reaching an estimated 88,000 families – or over 700,000 people. Since the ceasefire collapsed and until 8 April, only around 15,500 families (or an estimated 77,500 people) have received UNRWA food parcels.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Since October 2023, UNRWA has carried out emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip. The main activities include operating and maintaining water wells and desalination systems and supplying water with water trucks and bottled water. In addition, UNRWA continues to distribute hygiene kits and maintain hygiene in UNRWA shelters and sites through cleaning supplies, community-based solid waste management and pest control.
- In 2025 so far, on a daily basis, UNRWA teams have provided an average of 2,600 cubic metres of water and collected around 220 tons of solid waste. In Gaza overall, UNRWA contributes to 29 per cent of the water sector, 75 per cent of the sanitation sector, 57 per cent of the hygiene sector, and 39 per cent of the solid waste management sector.
- UNRWA water provision and solid waste collection translates into assistance for up to around 475,000 people monthly.
- Between 17 and 29 April, UNRWA teams provided around 55,000 cubic metres of domestic and potable water to displaced people across the Gaza Strip, including around 30,000 in North Gaza alone.
- UNRWA continues to provide solid waste collection and transfer services wherever possible. Between 17 and 29 April, around 2,000 tons of solid waste have been collected by UNRWA sanitation teams and transferred to designated temporary dumping sites. Moreover, UNRWA teams cleaned 250 manholes, serving around 40,000 displaced people in different locations across the Gaza Strip.
- During the same reporting period, the team conducted over 350 cleaning campaigns in different locations and over 70 pest and rodent control campaigns in southern Gaza. Due to the ongoing siege, the stock of pesticides in southern Gaza is expected to run out soon, while it has already run out in the middle areas and North Gaza.

Quote from Juliette Touma, UNRWA Director of Communications, during a Briefing to the Press, Geneva, 29 April 2025:

“The siege on Gaza is a silent killer of the most vulnerable.”

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[1] Some of the information is reported during the reporting period but does not necessarily correspond to the reporting period.

[2] The legislation came into effect on 29 January 2025.

[3] The composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.



As temperatures rise, waste continues accumulating posing increasing environmental and health challenges to forcibly displaced people, Gaza City, the Gaza Strip, April 2025. © 2025 UNRWA Photo

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