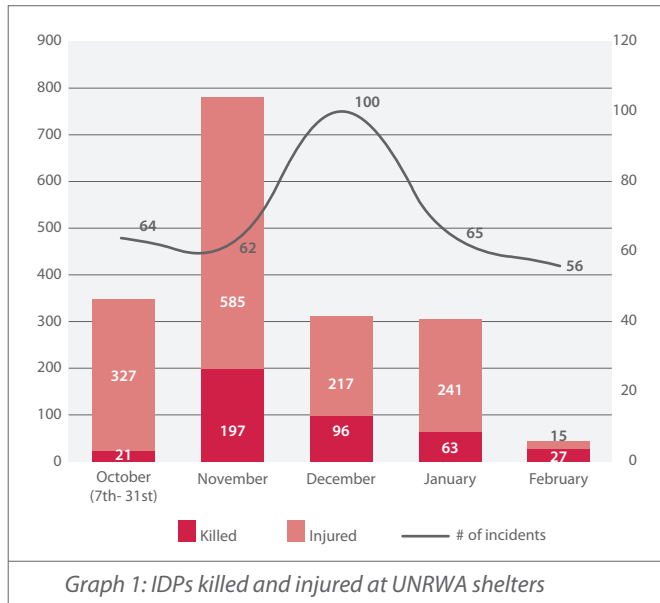


Since the start of the war on 7 October 2023, people forced to flee their homes across the Gaza Strip have sought safety and protection under the United Nations (UN) flag, primarily in UNRWA premises.¹ These buildings, the coordinates of which are shared with parties to the conflict on a regular basis,² and are clearly marked as UN premises, have been impacted by armed conflict incidents resulting in extensive damage, disruption to services and civilian fatalities at an unprecedented scale.



Between 7 October 2023 and 15 March 2024, UNRWA documented 349 incidents impacting its premises and internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in and around them. This resulted in the killing of at least 408 IDPs (including at least 15 children and seven UNRWA staff) and injury to at least 1,406 IDPs (including at least 111 children and 43 UNRWA staff). This includes 51 incidents of interference by parties to the conflict.³

349 incidents recorded by UNRWA

261 impacting UNRWA schools

7 impacting UNRWA vocational training centres

30 impacting UNRWA health centres

7 impacting UNRWA warehouses

6 impacting aid distribution centres

Due to multiple strikes on the same locations, the 349 incidents have

120 different UNRWA schools

2 different vocational training centres

15 different health centres

5 different warehouses⁴

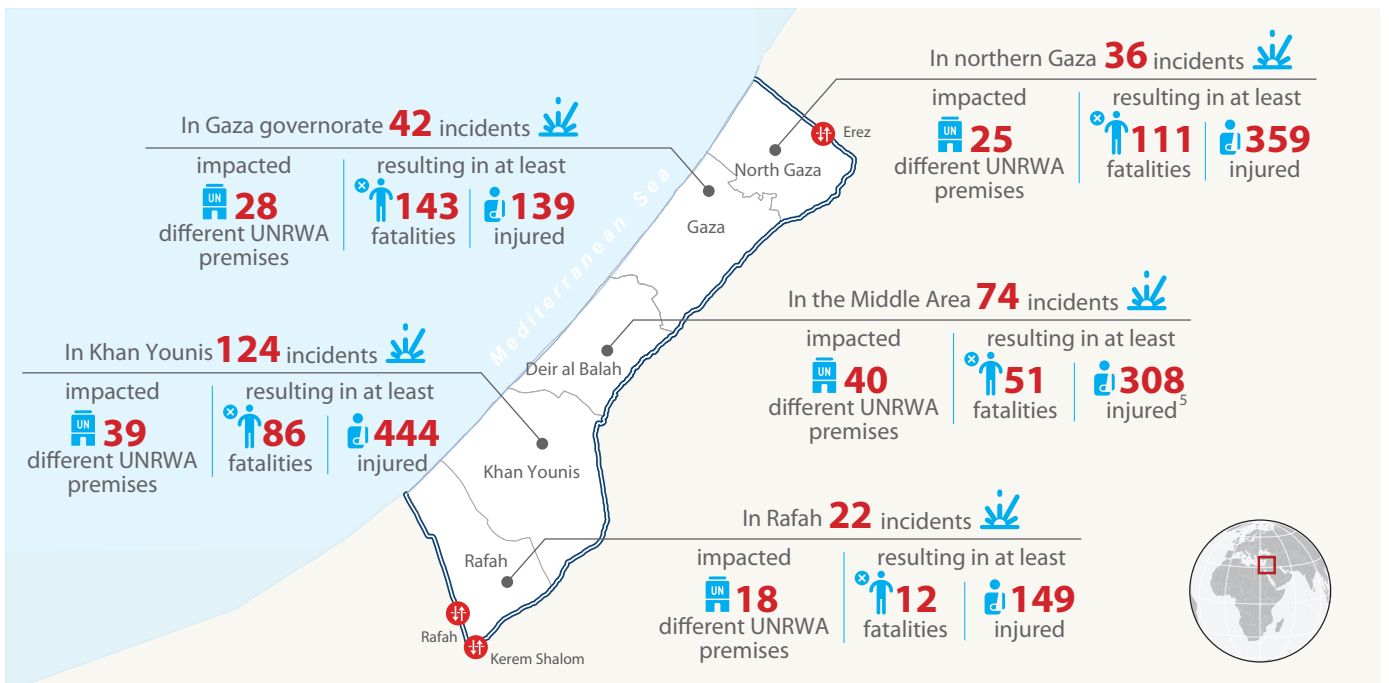
6 different distribution centres

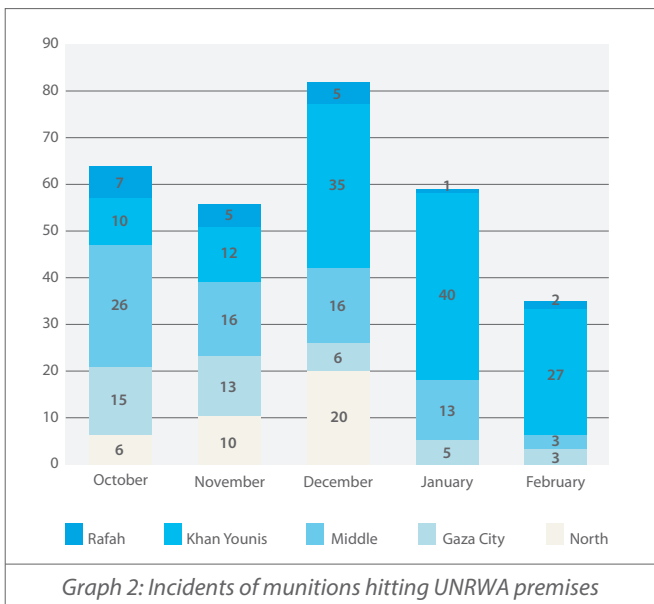
At Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) which was sheltering

34,407 people up until heavy fighting started in the area at the end of January

UNRWA documented **23** separate incidents

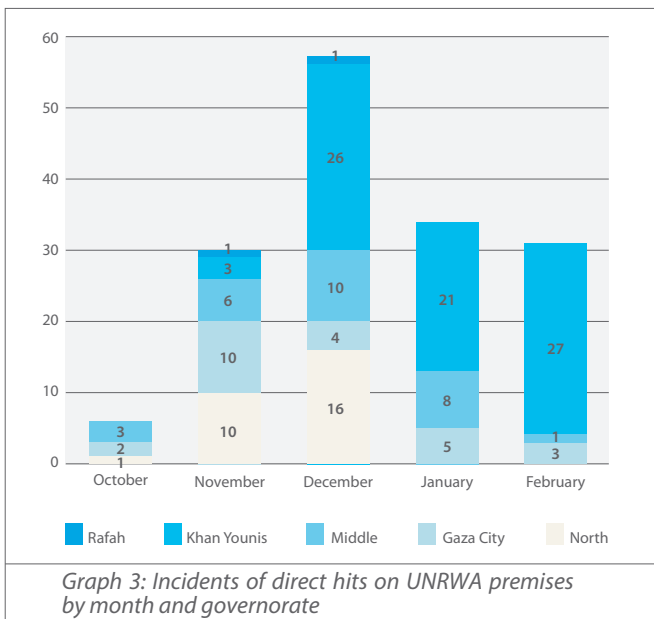
Of the 349 total incidents documented between 7 October 2023 and 15 March 2024, 298 involved munitions apparently fired by parties to the conflict impacting UNRWA premises, including explosive weapons from land, air and sea, and small arms fire.





Direct impact on UNRWA premises

In 160 incidents, affecting 95 different premises, UNRWA premises have been directly impacted by munitions fired by parties to the conflict. This includes 122 incidents directly impacting 73 different UNRWA schools, 12 incidents directly impacting the KYTC, 14 incidents directly impacting 10 different UNRWA health centres, and two incidents directly impacting two UNRWA distribution centres.⁶



UNRWA efforts to protect premises & humanitarian space

UNRWA has been providing the coordinates of all its premises to the parties to the conflict through the UN humanitarian notification system, a longstanding 'deconfliction' mechanism. Shortly after 7 October, UNRWA strengthened its engagement with relevant Israeli authorities, and with the de facto authorities (DFA) in Gaza in accordance with the UN's interaction standards used globally in conflicts around the world. UNRWA consistently protests incidents impacting its premises with the DFA and Israeli authorities, often in real-time, re-confirming the protected nature of the premises and the presence of civilians sheltering inside, including UNRWA staff.

While facts surrounding many incidents remain under verification, the information so far available to UNRWA indicates that damage and/or harm caused in the vast majority of incidents appears to have resulted in whole or in part from attacks and actions undertaken by Israeli Forces (both munitions impacts and interference with UN premises), and a much smaller number of incidents from attacks and actions undertaken by Palestinian armed groups. UNRWA has consistently requested investigations, and to be provided with the outcomes of those investigations, including communicating this at ministerial level,⁷ requesting any information that may assist with updating or correcting the information for each incident. To date, UNRWA has been provided with only a limited level of information in response to certain cases, particularly in cases under investigation by the Israeli authorities.

Evacuation orders and strikes on UNRWA premises

From the start of the ground incursion by Israeli forces, people received orders to evacuate areas of Gaza. In addition to orders to evacuate individual buildings, evacuation orders have been issued for entire areas of the Gaza Strip, initially instructing people to leave their homes and move south of Wadi Gaza. In some instances, shelters hosting IDPs in areas people were instructed to evacuate to were subsequently impacted by munitions; this occurred despite repeated assurances provided to the UN that IDPs could shelter in place in premises south of Wadi Gaza. For example, on 6 January 2024, Israeli Forces distributed flyers to several neighbourhoods in Khan Younis advising to move to "known shelters".⁸ Two days later, two IDPs (15- and 30-year-old females) sheltering in a Deir El-Balah UNRWA shelter were injured from an Israeli Forces quadcopter opening fire directly on the shelter.

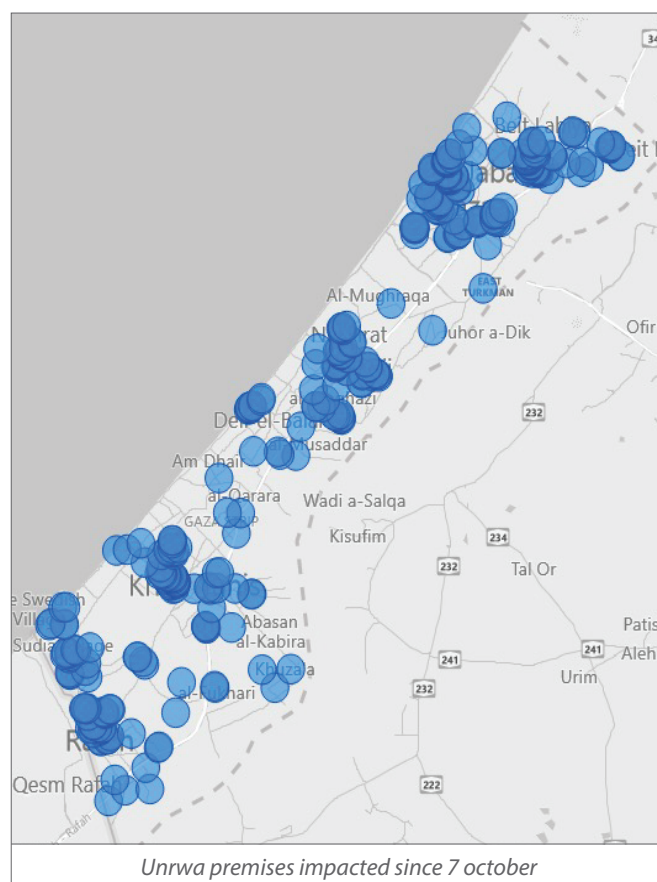
Interference with UNRWA premises

Between 7 October 2023 and 15 March 2024, UNRWA documented at least 51 occasions, impacting 44 different premises, where parties to the conflict interfered with UNRWA premises, including use for military purposes. Of these, 42 incidents took place at schools, three at health centres, two at the UNRWA HQ, one at the Gaza Field Office, one at a vocational training centre, one at a rehabilitation centre for the visually impaired, and one at a relief and social services office. Interference at UNRWA premises included unauthorised entry, forced evacuation of persons sheltering there, and use as firing positions, to store weapons, as barracks, and for resupply missions. The 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides that the "premises of the United Nations shall be inviolable"; also, that the "property and assets of the United Nations, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference,

whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action".⁹ The privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including the inviolability of UN premises, must be respected at all times, including during times of conflict. UN agencies such as UNRWA must ensure UN premises are used for official purposes and in accordance with humanitarian principles as well as the values and principles of the UN. UNRWA discharges its responsibilities through a range of measures, including taking the necessary steps to safeguard the neutrality of its premises, including necessary remedial action once a breach is confirmed.

Since the start of the hostilities on 7 October 2023, Israel has raised several allegations that the neutrality of UNRWA premises has been compromised by the presence of weapons or the existence of tunnels underneath certain installations. UNRWA has requested further information and evidence about such allegations but has not received a substantive response. UNRWA has previously investigated and protested any such substantiated allegations and has taken remedial action when appropriate. UNRWA premises appear to have been intentionally damaged and destroyed by Israeli forces, including deliberately setting fire to the premises, and apparent controlled demolition with explosives, including several in connection with such allegations. For example, between 20 November and 29 December 2023, part or all of seven UNRWA schools - five in the North, one in Khan Younis, and one in the Middle Area appear to have been intentionally destroyed.

UNRWA has also documented family separation and detention of persons who were sheltering at UNRWA premises, including UNRWA personnel, following the unauthorised entry of Israeli Forces into these premises. Many reported ill-treatment.



1- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), has premises across the Gaza strip including schools, health centres, vocational training centres, distribution centres, warehouses, offices, and others.

2- Prior to 7 October 2023, UNRWA had been providing regular updates through a longstanding UN notification system on the coordinates of all of its premises to representatives from the parties to the conflict. Shortly after 7 October, in accordance with the UN's interaction standards used globally in conflicts around the world, UNRWA additionally strengthened its own regular contact with the de facto authorities in Gaza (DFA), the Israeli Office for Coordination of Government Affairs in the Territories (COGAT) and the Israeli Civil Liaison Administration (CLA), to better protect its staff, premises, and persons sheltering under the UN flag. This included regular sharing of coordinates of UNRWA premises, as well as regular protesting of incidents impacting those premises and the people sheltering there.

3- The number of casualties documented in this report remain subject to continuous change as incidents are late reported and further information is received on the number of persons killed and injured, including changes in the condition of those injured. Information is current as of the time of publication, based on initial information received by UNRWA, and remain subject to further verification and revision.

4- The "warehouse" incidents includes premises classified as both warehouses and non-food item (NFI) stores; the remaining incidents impacted UNRWA international staff residences, social work offices, and field office and headquarters premises.

5- Due to access restrictions to the North and Gaza City, the figures presented are expected to be severely under-reported.

6- One incident of direct impact was recorded at the Gaza Training Centre in Gaza City as well. The remaining eight incidents of direct impacts struck three other types of UNRWA premises, including international staff residences. UNRWA notes only whether the munition struck the UNRWA premises (directly) or whether it struck something else nearby and the debris and/or shrapnel falling into the UNRWA premises resulted in damage and/or casualties (indirectly).

7- On 18 February 2024, the UNRWA Commissioner-General sent a letter to the Israeli Minister of Defence, with copy to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and COGAT, attaching details of the incidents impacting UNRWA premises through 31 January 2024, all of which had been shared with COGAT during and/or after each incident occurred. Further interventions at this level are expected on an ongoing basis as long as UNRWA premises and those sheltering in them continue to be affected by armed conflict incidents.

8- The flyer stated: "the area you are in is a fighting area. For your own safety, head immediately to the known shelters in Deir El-Balah."

9- Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 13 February 1946, Article II, Section 3.