



# Palestine Situation Report

June 21, 2024

## Background

Information about the ongoing war in Gaza and escalations in the West Bank is summarized in Anera's last [Palestine Situation Report \(April 2024\)](#).

## Overview

In March, the Israeli government announced its plans to expand military operations in Rafah, disregarding the UN Security Council's resolution for an immediate ceasefire. Humanitarian organizations have consistently cautioned that the planned Israeli ground incursion into Rafah poses a grave threat to the lives of more than 1.3 million civilians. There are no remaining safe havens in Gaza, and internally displaced persons encounter significant risks while attempting to relocate to other areas such as Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah. Aid workers also face challenges expanding assistance due to insufficient supplies to address current humanitarian needs.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, over 75% of the Gaza Strip, approximately 285 square kilometers, is under evacuation orders due to continued hostilities.<sup>2</sup> According to UN estimates, between May 6 and May 18, more than 900,000 people, nearly 40% of Gaza's population, were once again displaced. Many of those displaced from Rafah are currently taking refuge in open spaces like roads, agricultural land and damaged buildings that have not undergone structural assessment.<sup>3</sup>

On May 21, UNRWA halted food distribution in the city of Rafah due to supplies shortages and escalating security concerns stemming from Israel's expanding military operation. UNRWA cautioned that humanitarian operations across the territory were on the brink of collapse.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory - Public Health Situation Analysis, May 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, May 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #168, May 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>4</sup> [UN halts all food distribution in Rafah due to lack of supplies, May 2024 | LeMonde](#)

## Violence in Gaza and the West Bank

### Gaza

At least 37,431 people have been killed and 85,653 injured in Israel's war on Gaza since October 7.<sup>5</sup> The Israeli military has taken control of the Gaza side of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, advancing its offensive in the southern city. Since May 6, the Israeli military has escalated its bombardment and other operations in Rafah, concurrently issuing evacuation orders for parts of the city.<sup>6</sup>

On June 8, an Israeli military operation in Nuseirat Refugee Camp led to the deaths of 274 Palestinians and injuries to 698 others.. The Gaza Government Media Office (GMO) noted that 89 residential houses and buildings were targeted during the operation without any prior warning.<sup>7</sup>

On April 29, the GMO reported a 14-year-old boy in Khan Younis was seriously injured by a booby-trapped can found in his shelled home. The GMO warned of similar dangers due to unexploded ordnance across Gaza, estimated at 7,500 tons. The United Nations Mine Action Service estimates that over 37 million tons of debris in Gaza contain about 800,000 tons of asbestos, other contaminants, and unexploded ordnance.<sup>8</sup>

### The West Bank

More than 2.9 million Palestinians inhabit 11 governorates across the West Bank. Roughly 630,000 Israeli settlers reside among them in the West Bank and neighboring East Jerusalem. Approximately 61% of the West Bank is inaccessible to Palestinians due to checkpoints, roadblocks, and Israeli army and settler activities. These barriers have long separated towns and villages, impeding Palestinians' access to essential services such as healthcare and food markets. Residents consequently face shortages of water, fuel and other necessities, while also encountering difficulties reaching schools, workplaces and loved ones.<sup>9</sup>

Since October 7, there have been 896 Israeli settler attacks, leading to Palestinian casualties in 93 incidents, damage to Palestinian-owned property in 707 incidents, and both casualties and property damage in 96 incidents.<sup>10</sup> As of May 22, a total of 489 Palestinians, including 117 children, have been killed in the West Bank since October 7. More than 5,000 Palestinians, including 790 children, have been injured. Of those killed, 472 were attributed to Israeli forces and 10 to Israeli settlers.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>5</sup> [aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/6/20/israel-war-on-gaza-live-israeli-tanks-drones-strike-western-rafah](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/6/20/israel-war-on-gaza-live-israeli-tanks-drones-strike-western-rafah)

<sup>6</sup> [Misery deepens in Gaza's Rafah as Israeli troops press operation. May 2024 | AP News](https://www.apnews.com/story/misery-deepens-in-gaza-s-rafah-as-israeli-troops-press-operation-may-2024)

<sup>7</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #177 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | UNOCHA](https://www.unocha.org/gaza/situation-reports/humanitarian-situation-update-177-gaza-strip-june-2024)

<sup>8</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #160, May 2024 | OCHA](https://www.unocha.org/gaza/situation-reports/hostilities-in-the-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-160-may-2024)

<sup>9</sup> [Palestinians face increase in extreme violence and restrictions in the West Bank. May 2024 | MSF](https://www.msf.org/palestinians-face-increase-in-extreme-violence-and-restrictions-in-the-west-bank-may-2024)

<sup>10</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #169, May 2024 | OCHA](https://www.unocha.org/gaza/situation-reports/hostilities-in-the-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-169-may-2024)

<sup>11</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #169, May 2024 | OCHA](https://www.unocha.org/gaza/situation-reports/hostilities-in-the-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-169-may-2024)

## Displacement and Shelter

On May 18, the Israeli military announced a new evacuation directive for neighborhoods in the western region of the North Gaza governorate, covering an area of 7.7 square kilometers. Since May 6, the Israeli military has issued six such orders across 285 square kilometers, accounting for approximately 78% of the Gaza Strip.

With over one million individuals displaced from Rafah by June 10,<sup>12</sup> people have been forced to move to areas where basic necessities such as water and food are scarce. There is an urgent need for increased access for trucks carrying shelter items, as there are no remaining stocks of shelter materials within Gaza. Additionally, fuel stocks for distributing shelter and non-food items are very low. Households lack access to transportation for carrying shelter items, and there is a shortage of safe locations identified for shelters.<sup>13</sup> Between May 12 and 22, nearly 150,000 people registered for UNRWA services in Khan Younis, leading to a 36% increase in people at the UNRWA facilities.

Since October 7, home demolitions carried out or ordered by Israeli authorities have displaced 1,964 Palestinians in the West Bank. Of these, 750 people (38%) were displaced because their homes lacked building permits, which are nearly impossible to obtain. Additionally, 8% were displaced due to Israeli demolitions for punitive reasons, while 54% were displaced during Israeli army operations, primarily in refugee camps near Tulkarem and Jenin.<sup>14</sup> As of June 5, UNRWA reported that attacks on schools have affected its ability to shelter displaced families.

## Health

Fourteen of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functioning, facing critical shortages with several no longer offering inpatient services.<sup>15</sup> The sudden cessation of all medical evacuations outside Gaza after the closure of the Rafah crossing on May 7, has exacerbated the shortage of hospital beds. As of June 10, OCHA reported that Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al Balah was functioning at nearly five times its intended capacity, relying solely on a single electricity generator for power.<sup>16</sup>

Critical health facilities – four hospitals, four primary healthcare centers, 21 medical points in Rafah, and two hospitals, five primary health care centers, and 16 medical

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<sup>12</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #177 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 13-19 May 2024, May 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #169, May 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #173 | Gaza Strip | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #177 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

points in northern Gaza – have become inaccessible due to their presence within or near areas affected by evacuation orders.<sup>17</sup>

Gaza hospitals are overwhelmed with patients and operating at reduced capacity, facing critical shortages of fuel, medicines, supplies, and medical staff. Between October 7, 2023, and April 23, 2024, Gaza witnessed 443 attacks on healthcare facilities, resulting in 723 fatalities and 924 injuries. In the West Bank, there were 447 healthcare-related attacks, leading to 12 deaths and 95 injuries.

Fuel shortages are creating drastic restrictions on healthcare operations in Gaza. Fuel is critical for powering generators and endangered patients in intensive care units, including newborns, trauma patients, and pregnant women requiring C-sections. By May 11, only 120,000 liters of diesel had entered Gaza since May 6, far below the required amount for UN and NGO operations.<sup>18</sup>

## Education

Over 87% of school buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed, affecting 625,000 students for seven months. Every university in Gaza has been destroyed.<sup>19</sup> More than 72% of schools in the Gaza Strip require either full reconstruction or significant rehabilitation to become functional again.<sup>20</sup>

## Humanitarian Aid

Since May 7, the already inadequate flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza has decreased by 67%. Between May 1 and 28, of 72 humanitarian missions to northern Gaza, Israel allowed 43%, initially approved but later impeded 35%, and denied access to 7%. Humanitarian organizations canceled 15%.

In February and March 2024, Israel denied 41% of all food missions, despite reports of imminent famine.<sup>21</sup> In northern Gaza, humanitarian organizations managed to distribute food to only 16% of the population. In Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis, 45% of the population received food assistance. In contrast, in Rafah, where the population exceeds one million, only 30% received food assistance.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #168. May 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>18</sup> [UNRWA Situation Report #107 on the Situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem. May 2024 | UNRWA](#)

<sup>19</sup> [UNICEF in the State of Palestine Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No.23. April 2024 | UNICEF](#)

<sup>20</sup> [UNICEF in the State of Palestine Escalation Humanitarian Situation Report No.24. April/May 2024 | UNICEF](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Unrwa Situation Report #100 On The Situation In The Gaza Strip And The West Bank, including East Jerusalem. April 2024 | UNRWA](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Humanitarian Needs and Response Update | 2–8 April 2024. April 2024 | OCHA](#)

## UNRWA Update

On January 18, Israel presented allegations to UNRWA that twelve of its employees in Gaza participated in the October 7, 2023 attack, also claiming nearly 10% of the agency's staff have ties to armed groups. An independent panel's report on UNRWA found no evidence supporting Israel's claims that UNRWA employees are involved in terrorist activities. UNRWA, vital for delivering humanitarian aid to millions of Palestinian refugees, faces severe financial challenges due to funding suspensions, notably from the US.<sup>23</sup>

## Food Security and Nutrition

Palestinians now compose about 80% of those facing famine globally. A recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification assessment reveals that **half of Gaza's population, totaling 1.1 million people, is experiencing catastrophic food insecurity, the highest share ever recorded worldwide.** Among the 677,000 individuals on the brink of famine are an estimated 15,000 pregnant women. Acute malnutrition rates among children under two have doubled since January, with one in three suffering from malnutrition. Kamal Adwan Hospital, for example, receives about 15 malnourished children daily and struggles to maintain services. Today, 90% of the population endures entire days without food, while 40.5% of food missions were denied access in February and March 2024.<sup>24</sup>

World Food Program (WFP) partners have lost access to 101 distribution and malnutrition prevention points in Rafah, and nine UNRWA nutrition sites have been similarly affected or closed.<sup>25</sup> As of May 16, 1,574 trucks out of approximately 2,050 were stuck on the Egyptian side of Rafah Crossing carrying critical food items. Limited supplies have entered Gaza since May 6th, with only six trucks carrying food aid entering Gaza on May 11 and 27 trucks carrying flour on May 15.

Gaza's 346,000 children under the age of five face the highest risk of malnutrition.<sup>26</sup> In northern Gaza, approximately 50,400 children under the age of five are experiencing acute malnutrition, and 31% of children under two suffer from severe wasting.<sup>27</sup>

Furthermore, the hostilities in Gaza have affected the West Bank, leading to city closures, increased checkpoint presence, revoked work permits for working in Israel, and restricted access to agricultural lands. These compounded challenges have adversely

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<sup>23</sup> [Independent review panel releases final report on UNRWA](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory - Public Health Situation Analysis, May 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #168, May 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>26</sup> ["It's Not Fair To Die Of Hunger" - The Lives Of Malnourished Children In Gaza Endangered By Obliteration And Obstruction Of Medical Care, April 2024 | Save the Children](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Humanitarian Needs and Response Update | 9-15 April 2024 | OCHA.](#)

impacted livelihoods and the food security of thousands of households throughout the West Bank.<sup>28</sup>

## Water & Sanitation (WASH)

Fuel shortages are severely disrupting access to water and the operation of essential sanitation facilities in the Gaza Strip. According to the WASH Cluster, between 26 May and 2 June, only 20% of the weekly required fuel for vital water and wastewater facilities was received.<sup>29</sup>

Due to the ongoing war, 81% of households lack access to safe and clean water. In northern Gaza, 75% of solid waste is dumped in the street without controls or sanitation services, flooding streets with sewage and creating conditions for deadly waterborne diseases. OCHA reported that more than 330,000 tons of solid waste had piled up in or around populated areas of the Gaza Strip by June 10.<sup>30</sup> In Rafah, there is only one toilet per 850 people, compared to the global standard of one toilet per 20 people in emergencies. Disease rates are expected to rise without electricity or fuel to restore water and sanitation facilities.

Gaza's 690,000 menstruating women and girls suffer from a critical shortage of sanitary products and access to water and wash facilities. Many resort to using rags as pads are unavailable, and clean water for hygiene is scarce. Nearly three-quarters lack privacy for washing, with a similar number having no access to clean water.<sup>31</sup>

## Women and Children in Gaza

Critical sexual and reproductive health services are almost non-existent due to the mass damage to the hospitals in Gaza. Limited communication and logistical challenges hamper the provision of gender-based violence response services and cash assistance.<sup>32</sup> Since October 7, there has been a reported threefold increase in miscarriage rates among women in Gaza.

UN Women estimates that at least 3,000 women have become widows and heads of households, urgently needing protection and food assistance. Widows face structural gender discrimination. Women also disproportionately remain as caregivers for elderly relatives or family members with disabilities who cannot relocate. Over 13,000 children

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<sup>28</sup> [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory - Public Health Situation Analysis, May 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #177 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #177 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory - Public Health Situation Analysis, May 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Gaza Crisis: Gender Based Violence Concerns and Priorities, October 2023 | GBV Sub-Cluster Palestine](#)

have been killed in Gaza since October 7, and at least 17,000 children are orphaned or separated from their families.<sup>33</sup>

## Anera's Response

Since October 7, Anera has been providing emergency humanitarian aid to Gaza. As of June 21, the organization has sent 698 truckloads of supplies into Gaza, ensuring a steady flow of essential items. Among these supplies, Anera has distributed nearly 29 million meals, including food parcels, fresh produce, hot meals, and flatbreads, addressing the urgent nutritional needs of the displaced population.

In addition to food aid, Anera has also provided healthcare assistance, distributing 5,616,606 medical treatments, which are helping address mounting medical needs and access to essential healthcare services amidst rampant displacement and a deteriorating healthcare system. Anera has also distributed 23,056 blankets, 3,058 tents, and 5,380 mattresses, offering shelter to those families displaced by the hostilities.

Hygiene and sanitation are crucial in emergencies, and Anera has responded by distributing 36,359 hygiene kits and 382,709 bottles of water, contributing to maintaining health and sanitation standards. The organization has also distributed 38,332 packs of menstrual pads, recognizing the specific needs of women and girls in emergencies.

Anera has facilitated access to healthcare services by organizing 130 free health clinic days and treatments near shelters, ensuring displaced families have the ability to access medical assistance when needed. Anera has also conducted 325 psychosocial support sessions with guided self-expression activities for children, recognizing the importance of addressing the emotional well-being of the youngest individuals within affected families.

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<sup>33</sup> [Hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory - Public Health Situation Analysis. May 2024 | WHO](#)