



Highlights

- Over 1 million internally displaced persons across the Gaza Strip face an increasingly dire humanitarian situation with severely limited access to basic needs such as water and electricity and health services.
- 1,524 children have reportedly been killed in the Gaza Strip and a further 3,983 reportedly injured; there have been 48 attacks on health care.
- People in the Gaza Strip are accessing less than three litres of water per day on average, and UNICEF has provided 50,000 litres of fuel as well as water supplies to support up to 800,000 people to access minimum quantities of safe water. The UNICEF supported desalination plant is the only one still functioning in the Gaza Strip.
- UNICEF delivered a cash transfer to 1,057 vulnerable households in the Gaza Strip to support their children’s basic needs.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs


The humanitarian situation in the State of Palestine continues to be dramatic and has deteriorated significantly with a massive increase in internal displacement across the Gaza Strip. On 19 October OCHA reported an estimated one million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) including over 527,500 people in 147 UNRWA-designated emergency shelters (DES), of whom 367,500 are in central and southern Gaza alone. The last reported number of IDPs in UNRWA’s DES in Gaza City and North Gaza was nearly 160,000, as of 12 October. In addition, about 66,300 IDPs are staying in 64 non-UNRWA shelters, most of which are in Gaza City and northern Gaza.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH), as of 19 October reportedly 3,785 people had been killed in the Gaza Strip of whom reportedly 1,524 are children, with a further 12,493 people reported injured of whom at least 3,983 are reportedly children. The MoH also reports that children continue to be buried under the rubble. Between 7 to 15 October WHO reports 111 attacks on health care in the State of Palestine, 48 attacks in the Gaza Strip, and 63 attacks in the West Bank.





WASH Cluster reports 50 per cent of water supply infrastructure require repair or rehabilitation. Eleven WASH facilities have been damaged or destroyed including a water desalination plant and a wastewater treatment plant. Fuel for the Gaza Power Plant has run out affecting water supply. The UNICEF supported desalination plant is the only one still functioning in the Gaza Strip.

The situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remains tense. At least 71 Palestinians, including 21 children, were reported killed in various areas across the West Bank since 7 October 2023, and the Ministry of Health reported that 1,300 Palestinians were reported injured. Most checkpoints across the West Bank remain closed further exacerbating movement restrictions on the population. Attacks on health care in the West Bank include attacks on ambulances; obstruction to delivery of health care; physical violence towards health teams; detention of health staff and ambulances; and militarized search of health assets.

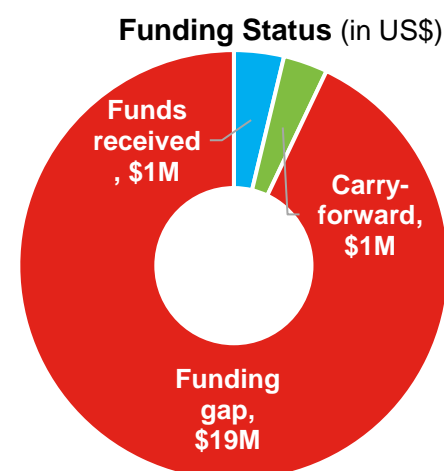
Israeli sources report that at least 1,300 Israelis have been killed, and 4,629 people injured. No disaggregated data is yet available on Israeli children killed and injured. There are at least 199 Israelis reported as abducted, including more than 20 children.

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for every child
**UNICEF in the
State of Palestine**
**Escalation
Humanitarian
Situation Report No. 2**

Situation in Numbers

-  **1.3 Million**
people in need
(OCHA Flash appeal, Oct 2023)
-  **1 Million**
Children affected in the
Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2023
population projections)
-  **1 Million**
Internally displaced people
(OCHA, 17 Oct 2023)
-  **170**
Attacks on schools
(Education Cluster, 18 Oct 2023)
- 50% of Water Supply
infrastructure** requires
repair or rehabilitation
(WASH Cluster, 17 October)

UNICEF Immediate Needs US\$ 20 million



UNICEF has an additional US\$13 million gap for the HAC 2023.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

On 17 October 2023 UNICEF issued an Immediate Needs Document¹ with a request for US\$ 20 million to cover the urgent needs for the escalation in the State of Palestine from October to December 2023. This is an initial appeal which is being revised as needs are continuing to rise. Against these immediate needs UNICEF has received US\$ 750,000 from the UNICEF Global Humanitarian Thematic resources, and has reprogrammed US\$ 664,533 from available grants with Norway, ECHO and UNICEF Regular Resources. In total 93 per cent of the appeal remains as a funding gap. UNICEF has received an emergency loan of US\$ 7.3 million from the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund that must be reimbursed.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

Most of the water systems in the Gaza Strip are heavily impacted and/or are non-operational due to lack of fuel, insecurity in locations of operation and damage to production, treatment and distribution infrastructure. According to the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), water production capacity is at five per cent of the normal daily production. It is estimated that the population in the Gaza Strip access less than three litres of water per person per day, far below the minimum emergency threshold of 15 litres per person per day. There are also huge challenges of solid waste and wastewater management inside overcrowded shelters, with limited water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. This poses a significant health risk of epidemics and diseases in a densely populated area like the Gaza Strip. The 2.2 million people living in the Gaza Strip, of whom almost half are children, urgently need lifesaving basic WASH services.

Since the escalation started, UNICEF has responded with the provision of 50,000 litres of fuel and water treatment chemicals which have benefited up to 800,000 people including 408,000 children. The UNICEF supported desalination plant is the only one still functioning in the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF also continues to lead the WASH Cluster, coordinating the work of 68 partners.

Health and Nutrition

Hospitals in the Gaza Strip are on the brink of collapse, posing a severe threat to healthcare services for the sick and wounded. Four hospitals in northern Gaza have been evacuated and rendered non-operational. The remaining hospitals are functioning at a minimal capacity, with emergency rooms operating in challenging conditions, where critical procedures like sterilization and dialysis are at risk of being suspended. In the Gaza Strip the MoH has been reallocating the limited amounts of fuel still available to hospitals from other public facilities to prevent their complete shutdown while calling on people who have fuel for domestic consumption to donate it to the hospitals. An estimated 50,000 pregnant women face dramatic challenges to obtain prenatal and maternity care due to mobility risks, halted facilities, and shortages of essential supplies.

Since 7 October, in the Gaza Strip UNICEF has released all prepositioned medical supplies including drugs (antibiotics and IV fluids) to the MoH to strengthen the healthcare system response, benefitting 1,600 people. In the West Bank, UNICEF has delivered to MoH eight medicine kits serving 80,000 for three months, in addition to 50 consumable kits serving 50,000 for three months. UNICEF actively collaborates with the Ministry of Health and the Health Cluster to secure additional resources and contributions to address the escalating needs.

Child Protection

Since 7 October 2023, UNICEF has scaled up the capacity of an existing helpline to respond to the psychosocial needs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank including East Jerusalem. In the Gaza Strip, the helpline provided psychosocial services to 319 people including 38 children. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, two child protection partners provided individual psychosocial counselling to seven cancer patient children and their caregivers from the Gaza Strip who were undergoing treatment in West Bank hospitals.

In the West Bank, four Child Protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) partners have reached 676 conflict affected children (388 girls and 288 boys) with child protection services including PSS, individual and group counselling, psychotherapy, as well as 18 arrested boys in East Jerusalem accessed legal aid services. Additionally, 440 caregivers (227 mothers) received psychosocial services. Moreover, at least 109 children and several adults benefitted from the awareness raising session on digital security, and informative posts and videos regarding legal awareness were disseminated following the declaration by Israel of a state of emergency across the courts.

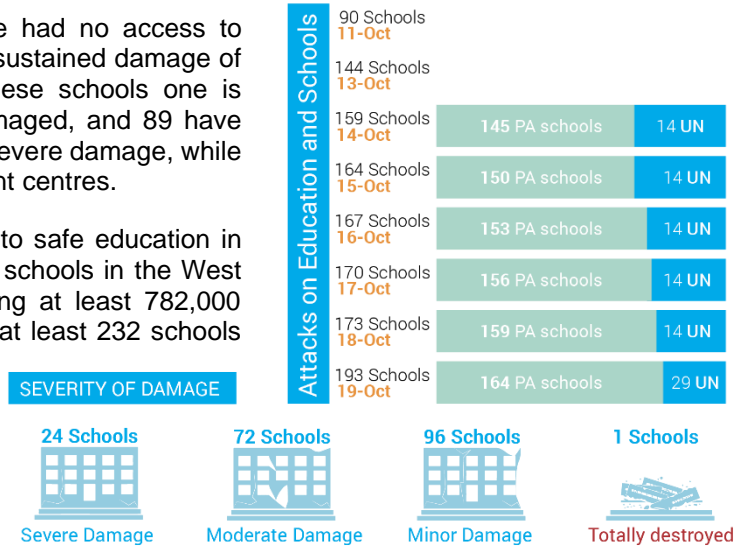
UNICEF also continues to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility as part of the Protection Cluster, coordinating the work of 83 partners.

¹ [State of Palestine Immediate Needs Document, October-December 2023 | UNICEF](#)

Education

More than 600,000 students in the Gaza Strip have had no access to education for at least 12 days, and 173 schools have sustained damage of which at least 3 are being used as shelters. Of these schools one is destroyed, 18 severely damaged, 65 moderately damaged, and 89 have minor damage. Further university buildings sustained severe damage, while there are no reports yet on early childhood development centres.

The escalation has also imposed access restrictions to safe education in areas of the West Bank including East Jerusalem. All schools in the West Bank were closed between 7 and 9 October affecting at least 782,000 students. As of 17 October, of the 1,918 PA schools at least 232 schools hosting at least 50,000 students were not reopened due to the movement restrictions, settler violence and fear of harassment on the way to school. The majority of these schools are in Area C and East Jerusalem and in remote areas where children face challenges accessing distance learning. In addition, the education cluster is verifying a large number of education related incidents that took place in West Bank including East Jerusalem in the last two weeks including weapons fire; detention of students or school staff; and delays and harassment on the way to school.



Source: Education Cluster

UNICEF also continues to co-lead the Education Cluster with Save the Children, coordinating the work of 89 partners.

Social Protection

UNICEF made a humanitarian cash transfer of NIS 754 (equivalent to US\$ 187) to 1,057 households which are among the most vulnerable in the Gaza Strip. As of 19 October, 481 households had redeemed their cash which was delivered through mobile vouchers to their phones. Redemption rates have been slow but steady reflecting the households' challenges in accessing electricity and mobile phone connections, as well as safety concerns. To mitigate these challenges UNICEF has provided households with an extended time to redeem their cash and has reshared codes via SMS for all households which did not yet redeem. The transfer value was calculated based upon the calculation from the Cash Working Group of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) which is defined based upon a household's minimum monthly consumption including on water, food and hygiene products.

Social and Behaviour Change

The population in the Gaza Strip is facing unprecedented challenges to access media and communication channels, with major reductions to electricity supply, mobile and internet networks, while TV and radio infrastructure are significantly damaged. Access to vulnerable populations through digital or broadcast media has not been possible, impeding the possibility to deliver key life-saving messaging, including messages on prevention of water-borne diseases, protection from unexploded devices, promotion of key health and nutrition practices, and MHPSS. Despite these challenges, UNICEF has continued to send SMSs with messages on MHPSS to households benefitting from cash transfers. As hostilities are ongoing, on the ground engagement with communities is not yet possible.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)/ Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The humanitarian cash transfer made use of the existing community feedback channels, namely the Interagency Hotline, the PSEA network hotline and the UNICEF specific email address, in order to ensure that beneficiaries have direct contact with UNICEF for any complaint or feedback. UNICEF has received different 143 items of feedback on requests for information and cash redemption issues.

Support from Egypt

On 12 October, Egypt declared that it was directing aid flights for the Gaza Strip to the Al Arish airport in Northern Sinai, about 45 km from the Gaza border. UNICEF has four staff on surge mission to Egypt for the planned humanitarian support through the Rafah crossing. Amongst supplies UNICEF has procured and delivered to Egypt are 70 health consumable kits to benefit 70,000 people for 3 months; 4 medicine kits to benefit 40,000 people for 3 months; lifesaving bottled water, emergency household water storage containers and hygiene kits to benefit more than 270,000 people; and 200,000 litres of fuel, tarpaulin sheets, and tents. However, as the situation deteriorates, additional supplies will be needed to sustain the provision of basic services to the affected population.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team and closely coordinates with other organizations and local partners. UNICEF also leads the coordination of the WASH Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children. Within the Protection Cluster, UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. UNICEF is part of the Inter-Cluster Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition Working Group within the Health Cluster. UNICEF also supports the Inter-Agency Network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Human Interest Stories, External Media and Advocacy

Statements:

- **17.10.2023:** [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director on the deaths and injuries of children at Al Ahli Hospital](#)
- **10.10.2023:** [Briefing Palais des Nations: Gaza's Children Pay the Heaviest Price, with Hundreds Dead](#)
- **10.10.2023:** [Briefing Palais des Nations: Pain and suffering engulfs children State of Palestine and Israel](#)
- **09.10.2023:** [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director on deteriorating situation for children in Israel and the State of Palestine](#)
- **07.10.2023:** [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director on violence in Israel and the State of Palestine](#)

Social media:

- [Voices of children in the Gaza Strip: dire conditions in schools.](#)
- [Voices of children in the Gaza Strip: Humanitarian and protection needs.](#)
- [Testimony from the #GazaStrip about the situation on the ground.](#)
- [Situation of the neonatal unit in Al-Shifa Hospital in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [Water is running out in the Gaza Strip.](#)
- [Cash Transfer support for families to meet their basic humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip.](#)

UNICEF spokespersons have delivered more than 120 interviews with different media outlets, including CNN, BBC, Sky News, and Al Jazeera. Various assets can also be accessed [on the UNICEF WeShare page](#).

Next SitRep: 27 October 2023

UNICEF State of Palestine Immediate Need Document, Oct-Dec 2023: [here](#)

UNICEF State of Palestine Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/>

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Annex

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements Immediate Needs Document (US\$)	Funds available			
		Humanitarian resources received after 7th of October 2023 (US\$)	Other resources used for the escalation (US\$)	US\$	%
Health & Nutrition	5,380,000	0	200,000	5,180,000	96%
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	5,520,000	377,500	289,690	4,852,810	88%
Education	2,393,000	0	52,000	2,341,000	98%
Child Protection, GBVIE & PESA	2,400,000	0	0	2,400,000	100%
Cross-Sectoral (SBC, RCCE and AAP)	150,000	0	0	150,000	100%
Cluster coordination	882,000	212,500	0	669,500	76%
Social Protection & Cash Transfers	3,275,000	160,000	122,843	2,992,157	91%
Total	\$20,000,000	\$750,000	\$664,533	\$18,585,467	93%

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 18/10/2023 for a period of 3 months

* UNICEF has an additional US\$13 million gap for the HAC 2023.

GAZA STRIP: CRITICAL WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE



the WASH Cluster is led by UNICEF

Source: WASH Cluster State of Palestine 17 October 2023

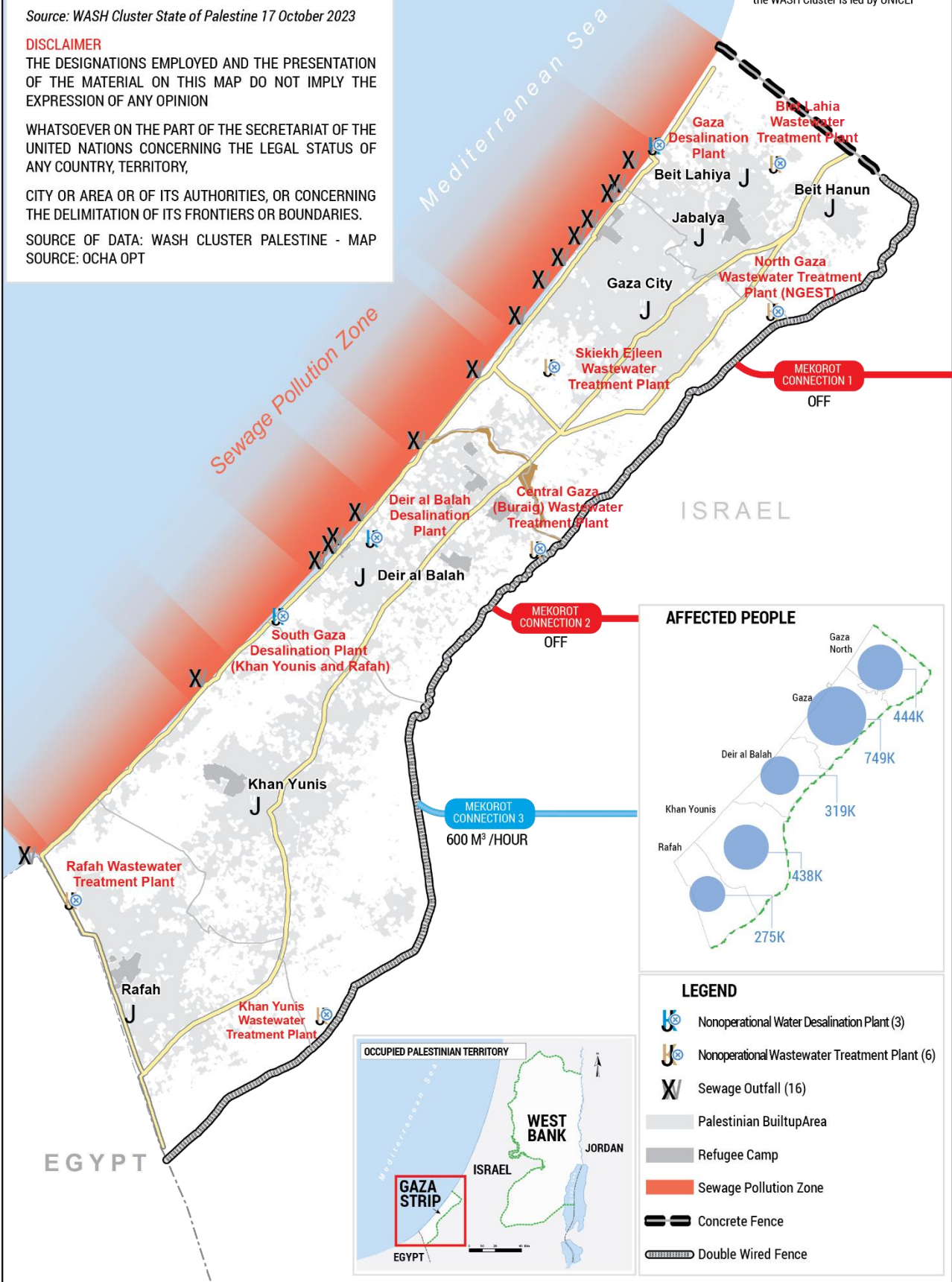
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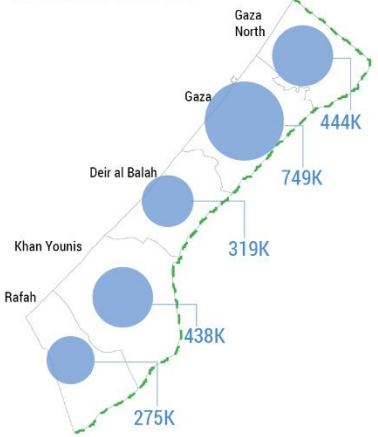
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CITY OR AREA OR OF ITS AUTHORITIES, OR CONCERNING THE DELIMITATION OF ITS FRONTIERS OR BOUNDARIES.

SOURCE OF DATA: WASH CLUSTER PALESTINE - MAP SOURCE: OCHA OPT



AFFECTED PEOPLE



LEGEND

- Nonoperational Water Desalination Plant (3)
- Nonoperational Wastewater Treatment Plant (6)
- Sewage Outfall (16)
- Palestinian Builtup Area
- Refugee Camp
- Sewage Pollution Zone
- Concrete Fence
- Double Wired Fence

