UNRWA Situation Report #238 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem)

All information updated for 21 October – 3 November 2026[1]

Days 1109-1122 since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip.
Published on 4 November 2026



Displaced families are living in makeshift shelters among damaged and destroyed buildings, with limited protection from worsening weather conditions. © UNRWA Photo.

Highlights

The Gaza Strip

- Over the reporting period, UNRWA recorded several significant armed incidents affecting its personnel and displaced people inside UNRWA schools-turned-shelters. At least six displaced people, including an UNRWA student and an UNRWA staff member, were injured, and at least one displaced person was killed inside the yard of a school-turned-shelter. An UNRWA Job Creation Programme worker was also reportedly killed due to an airstrike by Israeli forces in an open area.
- Security threats continued to affect UNRWA operations. Over the reporting period, Israeli forces issued shelter-in-place instructions affecting five UNRWA installations in Nuseirat, followed by a reported strike in their vicinity. Separately, militia activity in eastern Maghazi and southern Rafah led to the temporary suspension of activities at Maghazi Health Centre and UNRWA temporary learning spaces in the area.
- UNRWA's stock of lubricant oil has been completely depleted for several weeks, leading to progressive deterioration of equipment and prolonged suspension of operations. Generators at

[1] Some information reported may relate to periods outside the reporting timeframe.

several UNRWA facilities have been out of service for more than two months, and staff transportation is also constrained by the lack of lubricant oil.

- Despite such challenges, UNRWA continues efforts to restore and expand essential services. Additional classrooms at the Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired in Gaza City are being established to increase education capacity. Rehabilitation work is also ongoing to establish a health facility at the Gaza Training Centre to enhance and consolidate health service delivery in Northern Gaza.
- UNRWA's latest site sweep assessed winterisation needs across 113 displacement sites and identified 18 Designated Emergency Shelters as unsafe, including four at very high risk of collapse, six at high risk, and eight at medium risk. UNRWA joined inter-agency efforts to identify alternative shelter options and is working with humanitarian partners to secure tents for the voluntary relocation of affected families. Priority is being given to 270 households currently living in sections of four premises assessed as being at very high risk of collapse.
- Since 25 October, a protest by former UNRWA staff at the Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC), a key UNRWA logistics and operational hub, has disrupted UN humanitarian operations. Access to vehicles, warehouses, and other facilities has been restricted, affecting the movement and distribution of humanitarian supplies, staff transport, and other activities.

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

Fatalities and Injuries

- Between 7 October 2023 and 30 October 2026, according to the Ministry of Health, as reported by the Health Cluster, 74,594 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip and another 175,834 were injured. This includes 1,580 fatalities and 5,873 injuries between the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025 and 30 October 2026.
- UNRWA has recorded 395 colleagues killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war (311 UNRWA personnel and 84 persons who were supporting UNRWA[2]), as of 4 November.

Health crisis

- Acute respiratory infections increased ahead of the winter season, with a further increase expected in the coming weeks.

Wash, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs

- According to the WASH Cluster's Light Touch Monitoring Survey, completed in September, 84 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip are experiencing frequent, unpredictable disruptions in access to safe, clean, and reliable water for daily drinking, cooking, and hygiene. Water insecurity thus remains a significant concern, despite signs of improvement - 91 per cent of the population reported water insecurity in the previous round.
- Access to basic hygiene supplies also remained severely constrained, with 89 per cent of households reporting insufficient access to essential hygiene items.

Displacement, site management

- UNRWA continues to monitor the movement of displaced persons and displacement sites. A total of 113 UNRWA collective emergency shelters host approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons.

[2] Including 20 people supporting UNRWA killed while on duty.

Shelter needs

- According to the Shelter Cluster's classification, based on surveys conducted between 14 and 28 June, an estimated 1.98 million people, representing 94 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip, require shelter and non-food item assistance (NFI). The assessment also suggests that 58 per cent of the population is facing critical or catastrophic shelter needs, meaning severe deficiencies in shelter conditions or lack of access to essential services and NFIs that expose them to serious health, safety, and dignity risks.

Operational implications and humanitarian response

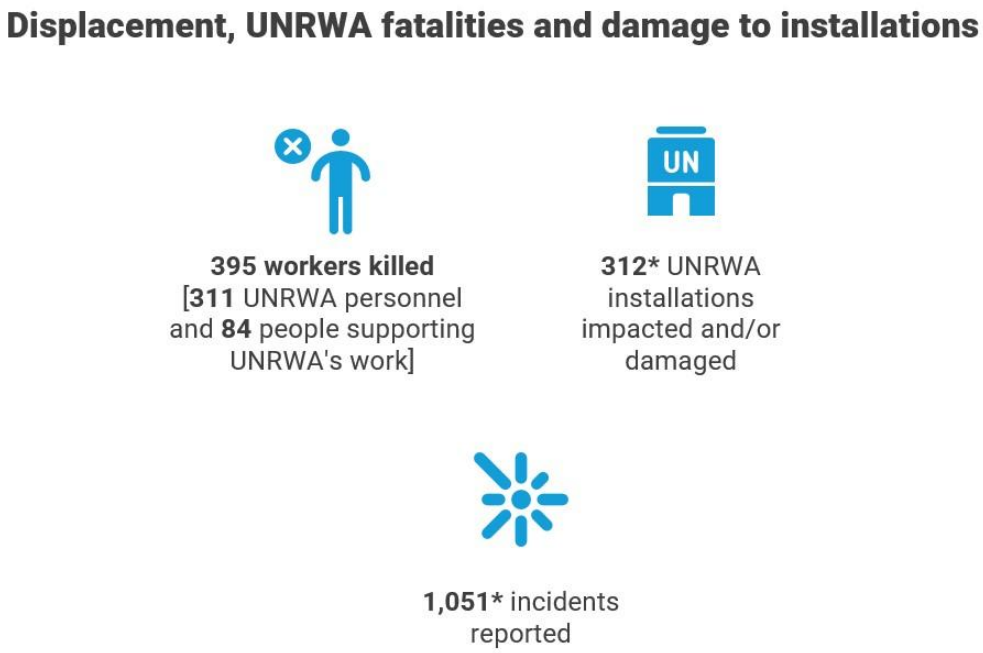
- Around 10,500 Palestinian UNRWA personnel continue to provide services and assistance to people in the Gaza Strip. In the occupied West Bank, UNRWA also plays a central role with around 4,500 of the Agency's Palestinian personnel providing education, healthcare, and other services to Palestine Refugees.
- All UNRWA international staff are prevented from entering the Occupied Palestinian Territory - the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This follows the implementation of laws passed by the Israeli parliament on 28 October 2024[3] that purport to prohibit UNRWA's operations in areas that Israel considers its sovereign territory, including occupied East Jerusalem, and seek to bar any contact by Israeli officials with UNRWA. **The Israeli authorities have not granted the Agency's international staff visas or permits to enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza, since the end of January 2025.**
- Since March 2025, the Israeli authorities have been blocking UNRWA from directly bringing humanitarian personnel and aid into the Gaza Strip. Despite the huge needs on the ground, UNRWA was therefore unable to distribute the aid it had pre-positioned outside Gaza, which included enough food parcels, flour, and shelter supplies for hundreds of thousands of people.

The occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 and 23 October 2026, 1,145 Palestinians – at least 250 of them children – were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Ninety-eight of them have been killed since the beginning of 2026.
- Following a fatal shooting attack on Israeli soldiers on 23 October, Israeli forces imposed severe security conditions on the city of Hebron in the southern West Bank. More than 2,000 Palestinians were reportedly forcibly displaced from their homes as part of the large-scale operation, which also included extensive demolitions of houses and private property. The Director of UNRWA Affairs in the West Bank released a statement expressing grave concern at the situation. On the evening of 1 November, Israeli forces concluded the operation.
- The annual olive harvest in the occupied West Bank continued despite persistent settler violence and harassment targeting participating Palestinians, as well as movement obstacles imposed by Israeli forces preventing Palestinians from accessing their agricultural land. October marked the worst month to date in 2026 for settler violence and harassment, in a year which has already surpassed preceding years for Palestinian casualties associated with settler violence.
- Heightened security restrictions were in place in the occupied West Bank in the lead-up to the Israeli parliamentary elections on 27 October, with checkpoint closures and movement restrictions tightened.

[3] The legislation came into effect on 29 January 2025 and was followed by additional measures passed on 29 December 2025.

2. Gaza humanitarian overview and response



Humanitarian access and armed conflict-related incidents[4]

- From 20 October to 2 November, multiple significant armed incidents impacted UNRWA facilities, personnel, and persons supporting UNRWA's activities:
    - On 21 October, at 21:52, an UNRWA office compound in western Gaza City was indirectly impacted by a drone strike conducted by Israeli forces in the vicinity. Debris fell into the UNRWA compound. No damage to the compound or casualties among UNRWA staff were reported.
    - On 22 October, at 4:30, an UNRWA school in Khan Younis was reportedly struck by a flare fired by Israeli forces. Four displaced people were reportedly injured. No damage to the school or casualties among UNRWA staff were reported.
    - On 22 October, at 19:20, an UNRWA school in Nuseirat was reportedly indirectly impacted by an airstrike by Israeli forces at a nearby location. Minor damage to the installation was reported, and no casualties among staff members were reported.
    - On 24 October, at 16:50, an UNRWA school in Khan Younis was indirectly impacted by a stray bullet. The origin and source of the bullet are unknown. In the incident, one displaced person was reportedly killed inside the school yard.
    - On 25 October, at 7:45, a stray bullet from an unknown source reportedly landed near the vehicle exit gate of an UNRWA office compound in west Gaza City. No damage to the compound or casualties among UNRWA staff were reported.

[4] UNRWA is verifying details of incidents that reportedly impacted the Agency's premises, assets, and/or personnel. Additional information will be provided once it becomes available.

- On 28 October, at 12:40, an UNRWA staff member was reportedly injured due to an air-strike by Israeli forces on Al-Tina Street in Khan Younis.
- On 29 October, at 11:30, an UNRWA Job Creation Programme worker was reportedly killed in an airstrike by Israeli forces on Salah Al-Din Street, near Al-Maghazi.
- On 1 November, at 11:35, an UNRWA Temporary Learning Space in Khan Younis was indirectly impacted by an airstrike by Israeli forces west of Mostaqbal, in the "Beer 19" displacement site. The strike caused moderate damage to the tent and reportedly injured one student. No casualties among UNRWA staff were reported.

Summary of displacement orders

- On 22 October 2026, at 18:08, it was reported to UNRWA that Israeli forces issued shelter-in-place instructions for five UNRWA installations in Nuseirat. At 19:20, Israeli forces reportedly struck a location in the vicinity of these UNRWA installations.

- Since the beginning of the war and up to 2 November, **1,051*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported. **312*** (or nearly all) UNRWA installations have been impacted by armed conflict-related incidents, some of them multiple times. UNRWA continues to verify and update the number of casualties caused by these incidents.

**Since the war began 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.*

UNRWA response

Health and nutrition

- UNRWA has provided nearly 20 million health visits, including approximately 14 million medical consultations, since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip in October 2023.
- From 1 to 15 October, UNRWA screened 5,484 children aged between six and 59 months at its health centres and medical points, identifying 93 malnourished children.
- By 18 October, seven health centres and five additional UNRWA-rented facilities, used as temporary health centres, were operational in the Gaza Strip. In addition, by that date, UNRWA was providing primary health services through 65 mobile medical teams working in 24 medical points inside and outside collective emergency shelters in the Middle Area, Khan Younis, Al Mawasi,
- and Gaza City[5].
- From 5 to 18 October, an average of 1,250 UNRWA health personnel per day worked in the Agency's health facilities across the Gaza Strip, providing 146,727 medical consultations in total.
- Between 5 and 18 October, UNRWA health teams provided 15,543 consultations for post-natal and pregnant women at high risk, 7,258 dental and oral health consultations in fixed and mobile clinics, and 4,974 physiotherapy rehabilitation services sessions in health centres and medical points. A total of 18,537 laboratory tests were conducted in UNRWA health centres and medical points.
- From 5 to 18 October, 6,241 vaccination sessions were provided at health centres and medical points.

[5] The number of operational health facilities changes constantly based on demand, access and security. In particular, the number of medical points and teams in Gaza City continued to change due to heightened security risks and recurrent forced displacement orders.

- UNRWA's telemedicine initiative began in March 2024 and has gradually expanded to include other services such as teledentistry, telephysiotherapy, and telepsychosocial counselling. Currently, following the establishment of the Centralised Telemedicine Centre, the team provides teleconsultations for curative outpatient care, non-communicable diseases, as well as maternal and cardiological consultations.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- UNRWA remains one of the largest providers of emergency learning and psychosocial support (PSS) services across the Gaza Strip.
- Between 7 October 2023 and 2 November 2026, UNRWA's social work teams provided services to 285,920 displaced persons, including psychological first aid, PSS, family and individual activities, and case management. During the same reporting period, services were provided to 6,880 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and 12,052 children, including 4,450 unaccompanied children. The teams supported 40,209 persons with disabilities through PSS. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability inclusion, as well as managing social and psychological stressors, were conducted for 170,481 displaced persons.
- UNRWA health teams, including psychiatrists, psychosocial counsellors, and supervisors, continued to provide MHPSS services in Gaza City, the Middle, and Khan Younis areas, assisting special cases referred from UNRWA health centres and collective emergency shelters. From 5 to 18 October, UNRWA teams conducted 6,317 visits in health centres and at health points providing individual consultations, awareness sessions, and support for protection cases.

Learning

- UNRWA provides learning services in the Gaza Strip in Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and through its distance learning initiative, with the support of over 7,000 teachers and education personnel.
- Between 16 and 31 October, 117,620 children (57,826 boys and 59,794 girls, including 8,279 children with disabilities) took part in learning activities conducted across 85 UNRWA TLS.
- Complementing in-person learning, UNRWA also continues to leverage digital tools to support basic literacy and numeracy activities for approximately 277,000 children, using self-learning material developed by UNRWA and hosted on its digital learning platform.

Food security

- From 7 October 2023 until the start of the previous ceasefire on 19 January 2025, UNRWA reached over 388,000 families, or nearly 1.9 million people, with two rounds of flour deliveries; at least 374,000 of those families received three rounds. During that ceasefire, which lasted until March 2025, UNRWA reached over two million people with critical food assistance.
- **UNRWA ran out of food at the end of April 2025. The Agency has been blocked by the Israeli authorities from directly bringing in any humanitarian assistance including food since 2 March 2025.**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Since October 2023, UNRWA has carried out emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip, at UNRWA collective emergency shelters and informal displacement areas. Activities include operating and maintaining water wells and desalination systems and supplying water by truck. In addition, UNRWA continues to maintain hygiene in its shelters and sites by distributing cleaning supplies, running community-based solid waste management, water tank disinfection campaigns, and pest control.
- In 2025, UNRWA distributed 970 million litres of drinking and domestic use water and collected and disposed of 70,000 tonnes of solid waste. UNRWA estimates that around 1.7 million people

have so far benefitted from the Agency's water provision and solid waste collection services in 2026.

- Between 16 and 30 October, UNRWA distributed around 90 million litres of domestic and drinking water in various areas and from different sources, reaching over 800,000 displaced people daily.
- Between 16 and 30 October, UNRWA teams collected around 5,000 tonnes of garbage from the Agency's emergency shelters and surrounding areas and conducted 2,800 cleaning campaigns, reaching over 1.4 million displaced persons. Other winter preparedness activities during the reporting period included cleaning and clearing 1,257 manholes, as well as 678 water desludging activities and dewatering and cleaning of stormwater drainages. In total, 2,109 hygiene promotion sessions were also conducted during the same period.

Quote **from Roland Friedrich, Director of UNRWA Affairs in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem – expressing grave concern over the situation in Hebron:**

"All those forcibly displaced must be allowed to return, with their dignity and rights under international law respected. Access to essential services must be protected."

ENDs-

