UNRWA Situation Report #239 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem)

All information updated for 4 – 17 November 2026[1]

Days 1,123-1,136 since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip
Published on 19 November 2026



Displaced families are living in makeshift shelters among damaged and destroyed buildings, with limited protection from worsening weather conditions. © November 2026 UNRWA Photo

Highlights

The Gaza Strip

- As reported by OCHA, recent rains affected more than 220,000 people and damaged over 40,000 shelters, 960 latrines, nine health facilities, and a number of temporary learning spaces across the Gaza Strip. While some UNRWA emergency shelters were temporarily used by some newly displaced families, safe alternative shelter remains extremely limited across Gaza, leaving many affected families with nowhere suitable to relocate. Inter-agency estimates assessed that over 5,000 people were reportedly sleeping in the open after the first rainfall.
- The scale of needs continues to exceed the response capacity. Humanitarian partners, including UNRWA, are undertaking drainage, debris clearance and identifying alternative shelter for households in flood-prone sites and unsafe buildings. The response remains constrained by severe shortages of heavy machinery, engine oil and spare parts, pumps, and other essential supplies.

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

- In partnership with other humanitarian agencies, UNRWA's teams on the ground are distributing 40,000 winter clothing kits across Gaza, while preparing the distribution of approximately 10,000 tarpaulins and 150 tents to families with the most urgent shelter needs.
- Israeli forces have continued to reinforce positions along the so-called Yellow Line of Israeli control in the Gaza Strip, with increased tank movements and shooting reported across multiple areas. The resulting insecurity has led to temporary suspensions of UNRWA humanitarian and programme activities, particularly in Khan Younis, Bureij, and Maghazi.
- Stray-bullet fire remains a growing protection concern, affecting displaced persons, humanitarian facilities, and operations well beyond areas adjacent to the Yellow Line. During October alone, UNRWA recorded one person killed and 14 injured inside its emergency shelters. The pattern continued in November, with a five-year-old child injured at an UNRWA shelter in Khan Younis during the reporting period.
- On 7 November, a new health centre was established within the Gaza Training Centre to enhance the delivery of essential healthcare services to the population of Gaza City, estimated at more than 670,000 people. Over the reporting period, UNRWA also opened a new temporary learning space at the Rawafid displacement site in northern Rafah, with more than 1,000 children attending in-person education during its first week.

1. Key points

The Gaza Strip

Fatalities and injuries

- Between 7 October 2023 and 15 November 2026, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH), as reported by the Health Cluster, 74,702 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip and another 176,105 were injured. This includes 1,650 fatalities and 6,144 injuries between the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025 and 15 November 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 16 November.

Health crisis

- Health facilities across Gaza reported a sharp rise in probable meningitis cases since August, with suspected viral cases 2.6 times and bacterial cases 4.1 times higher than the same period in 2025. In response, UNRWA's health teams are strengthening surveillance and case detection, verifying vaccination status, reinforcing referral arrangements and infection prevention measures, and coordinating closely with the Ministry of Health and health partners. No outbreak has been declared, also pending further analysis.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs

- According to the WASH Cluster's Light Touch Monitoring Survey, completed in October, 85 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.
- Access to basic hygiene supplies also remained severely constrained, with 76 per cent of households reporting insufficient access to essential hygiene items.

[2] Including 20 people killed whilst on duty.

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.

Shelter needs

- According to the Shelter Cluster's latest Fact Sheet of October 2026, an estimated 1.98 million people, representing 94 per cent of the population of the Gaza Strip, require shelter and non-food item assistance.

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 over 4,500 of the Agency's Palestinian personnel providing education, health, and other services to Palestine Refugees.
- All UNRWA international staff are prevented from entering the Occupied Palestinian Territory – the Gaza Strip and the occupied 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 between Israeli officials and UNRWA. **Israeli authorities have not granted the Agency's international staff visas or permits to enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the Gaza Strip, 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, 1,146 Palestinians – at least 251 of them children – were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Ninety-nine of them have been killed since the beginning of 2026.
- Palestinian households continued to be displaced as a result of Israeli Civil Administration demolition operations. On 5 November, 12 Palestinian families were displaced when five houses were demolished in Biddu, in Jerusalem governorate, purportedly for lack of Israeli-issued building permits.
- A Palestinian woman was shot and killed and another ten reportedly injured when Israeli settlers opened fire on them in Ein ad-Duyuk at-Tahta village, west of Jericho, on the evening of 16 November. This followed an alleged ramming attack by Palestinians injuring Israeli settlers. Israeli settlers have recently established a new outpost on the outskirts of Jericho. Settler violence in the West Bank has increased year-on-year, with the annual olive harvest noted for being particularly violent.

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

Displacement, UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



395 workers killed
[**311** UNRWA personnel and **84** people supporting UNRWA's work]



312* UNRWA installations impacted and/or damaged



1,059* incidents reported

**Numbers are subject to change once verifications are concluded.*

Humanitarian access and armed conflict-related incidents [4]

From 3 to 16 November, multiple significant armed incidents impacted UNRWA facilities, personnel, and persons supporting UNRWA's activities:

- On 4 November, an UNRWA vehicle inside an UNRWA office compound in Gaza City was reportedly struck by a stray bullet from an unknown source. No casualties among UNRWA staff and minor damage to the vehicle were reported.
- On 5 November, an UNRWA school in Maghazi area was directly struck when a quadcopter reportedly dropped an explosive device in the courtyard of the school. No casualties among staff members were reported. Two displaced persons were reportedly injured in the incident.
- On 10 November, an UNRWA school was reportedly indirectly impacted by gunfire from Israeli forces in the Khan Younis area. One displaced child was reportedly injured in the incident. No damage to the installation and no casualties among staff members were reported.
- On 10 November, an UNRWA health centre in Maghazi was reportedly indirectly impacted by a demolition operation conducted by Israeli forces in the area. No casualties among staff members and minor damage to the installation were reported.
- On 11 November, three UNRWA and the same health centre in Maghazi were reportedly indirectly impacted by a demolition operation conducted by Israeli forces in the area. One displaced person was reportedly injured. No casualties among UNRWA staff members and minor damage to the installations were also 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.

Suspension of operations for security reasons:

- On 3 November, health activities were temporarily suspended at an UNRWA health centre in the Rafah area as a precautionary security measure due to ground operations by Israeli forces in the vicinity.
- On 10 November, education activities at an UNRWA Temporary Learning Space in southern Khan Younis were temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure due to ground operations by Israeli forces in the immediate vicinity.
- On 12 November, health activities at the UNRWA Health Centre in Bureij were temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure due to the activities of a militia allegedly backed by Israeli forces in the eastern Bureij area.

Since the beginning of the war and up to 16 November, **1,059*** 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.
- Ongoing industrial action, with staff activities limited to essential service delivery, is temporarily affecting UNRWA's ability to provide complete and up-to-date data on health service delivery.
- 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 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.
- 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.

[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.

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 17 November 2026, UNRWA's social work teams provided services to 286,283 displaced persons, including psychological first aid, PSS, family and individual activities, and case management. During the same reporting period, services were provided to 6,774 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and 11,990 children, including 4,475 unaccompanied children. The teams supported 40,270 persons with disabilities through PSS. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability inclusion, as well as managing social and psychological stressors, were conducted for 170,686 displaced persons.
- UNRWA health teams, including psychiatrists, psychosocial counsellors and supervisors, continued to provide MHPSS services in Gaza City, the Middle Area, and Khan Younis area, 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.
- Rainfall caused widespread flooding of UNRWA TLS over 7-8 November, with all educational tents reportedly flooded in Gaza City and western Khan Younis. Student attendance dropped sharply, particularly in Gaza City and North Area, to below 20 per cent, and at times below 10 per cent, of usual levels.
- Between 1 and 15 November, 103,262 children (49,880 boys and 53,382 girls, including 7,310 children with disabilities) took part in learning activities conducted across 86 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.**

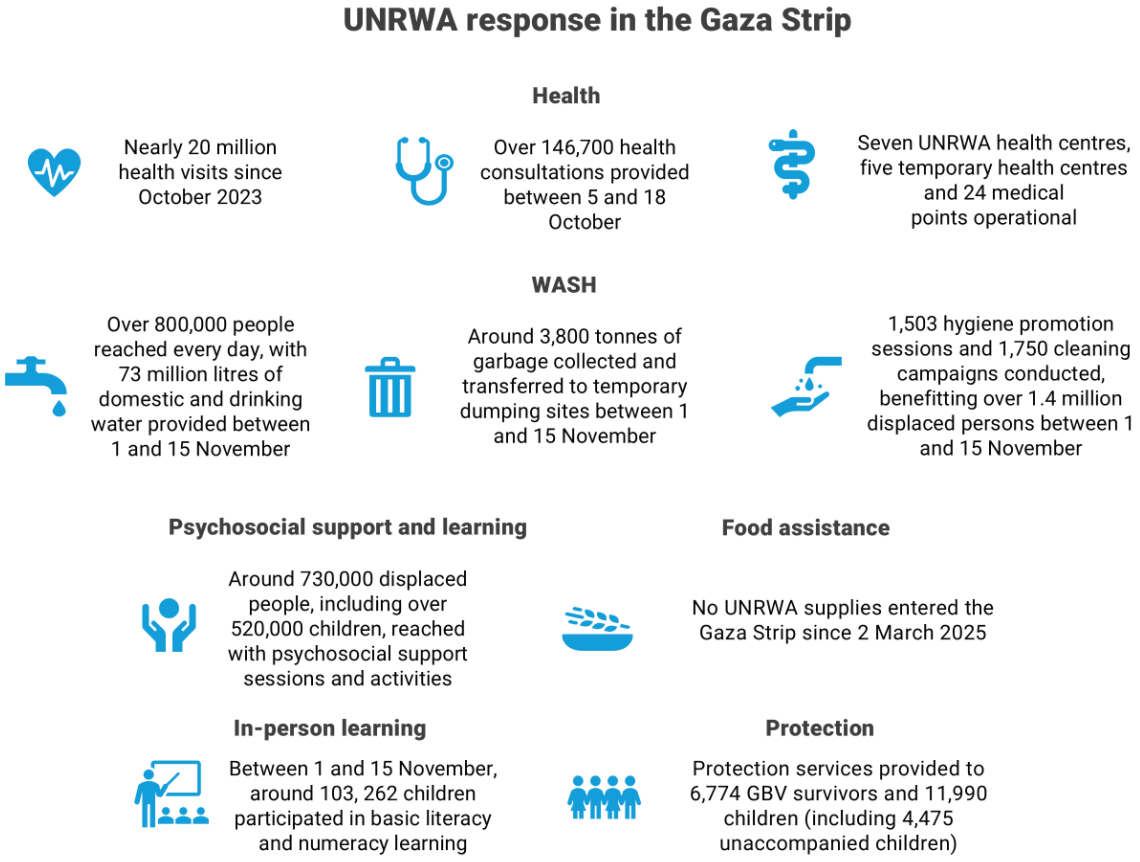
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- 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 1 and 15 November, UNRWA distributed around 73 million litres of domestic and drinking water in various areas and from different sources, reaching over 800,000 displaced people daily.
- Between 1 and 15 November, UNRWA teams collected around 3,800 tonnes of garbage from the Agency's emergency shelters and surrounding areas and conducted 1,750 cleaning campaigns, reaching over 1.4 million displaced persons. Other winter preparedness activities during the reporting period included cleaning and clearing 1,000 manholes, as well as 168 water desludging activities and dewatering and cleaning of stormwater drainages. In total, 1,503 hygiene promotion sessions were also conducted during the same period.

Quote from Sean Jones, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza:

"Palestine Refugee families in Gaza should not have to fear for their children's lives every time it rains. They need safe shelter that can withstand the weather and supplies to keep them warm and dry."



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