

# UNRWA EDUCATION RESPONSE IN GAZA

Briefing Note  
June 2024



UNRWA Education activities in Gaza, February 2024 © UNRWA / Mohammed Hinnawi

The Right to Education for **over 625,000 children in Gaza**, including **300,000 UNRWA students**, has been **completely disrupted since 7 October 2023**.

There is no safe space in Gaza for children to learn and play.

## BACKGROUND

Prior to the war in Gaza, UNRWA operated **288 schools and two Vocational Training Centres (VTCs)**, with **over 10,000 education staff, including more than 300 school counsellors**.

Since the war began, up to 1.7 million people (over 75 per cent of the population) have been displaced across the Gaza Strip. To date, children reportedly make around one-third of those killed during the war and thousands more have been reportedly injured. As of 8 June, 322 incidents have impacted 132 UNRWA schools.

**Children's psychosocial well-being is hugely impacted.**

No child in Gaza has known life outside of violence given the 17-year long land, air, and sea blockade and repeated rounds of conflict.

Since 7 October, **the level of stress among children in Gaza has exponentially increased, seriously impacting their psychological well-being.**

**Children are not safe nor are they protected.** UNICEF estimates that all of Gaza's 1.2 million children need mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

**Education services are closed**

**In 2023-4, Gazan children completed only six weeks of the 38-week long school year.**

For Gaza's students, this year marks the third consecutive year of severely disrupted or completely interrupted education. **The learning loss is unprecedented.**

A stable routine, including regular school attendance, is vital for children to maintain normalcy, predictability, and cope with distress amid ongoing conflict.



For more information, please contact [media@unrwa.org](mailto:media@unrwa.org) or go to <https://www.unrwa.org>

## UNRWA EDUCATION RESPONSE

UNRWA is committed to providing education and protection for Palestine Refugee children, youth, and all other internally displaced children in UNRWA shelters.

UNRWA's Education in Emergencies Plan, developed in coordination with the Education Cluster and other partners, starts with the systematic provision of MHPSS, transitions to non-formal education, and ends with formal education. The Plan therefore supports the right to education and protection for children, youth, and education personnel.

## ONGOING AND PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

In 2024, UNRWA and partners aim to help 625,000 children and youth in the Gaza Strip return to learning and be better protected from the risks they face due to violence, recruitment by armed groups, and early marriage .

### Provision of Recreational and Self-Learning materials

Distribution of **Group Recreational Kits** and **Self-Learning materials** to children aged six-15, based on core subjects and key competences.

### Scaling-up of MHPSS and Socio-Emotional Learning

Implementation of **systematic MHPSS activities** including **specialized services for children and caregivers.**

As of June 2024, 650,000 internally displaced people [IDPs] including over **400,000 children and adolescents**, have received **life-saving psychosocial support (PSS) services**, as well as **protection case assistance. The support was made possible with the direct assistance of more than 300 UNRWA counsellors across the Gaza Strip.**



### Establishment of Safe Temporary Learning Spaces (TLSs)

Establishment of TLS to provide in-person **structured non-formal education services**: printed self-learning material, education supplies, teaching and learning in person, radio and digital options.

### Strengthening coordination and advocacy

**Coordination** of the provision of education and protection services across the Gaza Strip as the **lead UN Agency**, and **advocacy for the right to education.**

### UNRWA advocacy asks:

- For an immediate ceasefire to protect children and bring them back to learning, as per the basic human right to life and to education.
- External partners to support its Education in Emergencies Plan. by providing financial resources, expertise, and political will to enable its rollout as soon as the conditions allow.
- Education partners within the humanitarian system and beyond to jointly advocate for the protection and resumption of education for children and youth in the Gaza Strip.

