



All information from 3-4 March 2024,  
is valid as of 4 March 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 149-150 of Hostilities

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Displaced girl among makeshift tents, Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, March 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Mohamed Hinnawi

## 1. Key points

### The Gaza Strip

- Intense Israeli bombardment from air, land and sea continued to be reported across much of the Gaza Strip, resulting in further civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Israeli airstrikes continue in heavily populated Rafah in southern Gaza, where on 2 March there were reports of airstrikes near an MSF supported primary maternal field hospital.
- WHO and UNICEF raised concerns that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were particularly extreme, with now at least 15 children reported to have died from malnutrition and dehydration in Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza, with a further six acutely malnourished children at risk of death. UNICEF spokesperson stated that malnutrition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been limited, were three times higher than those in the south.
- The first three days of March saw a marginal increase in the number of trucks entering with an average of 127 trucks per day entering Gaza, well below the operational capacity of both

border crossings. February saw a very low number of trucks entering Gaza with an average of nearly 99 trucks entering per day. The number of trucks entering Gaza remains well below the target of 500 per day, with challenges bringing supplies in through both Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) and Rafah. UNRWA trucks have struggled to enter the Gaza Strip due to the war and the inconsistent opening of both crossings. Security to manage the crossing has been severely impacted due to the killing of several Palestinian policemen in Israeli airstrikes near the crossings in early February.

- As of 4 March, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities is now **162, an increase of two.**
- As of 4 March, up to 1.7 million\* people (over 75 per cent of the population) \*\* have been displaced across the Gaza Strip, some multiple times.\*\*\* Families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. Following intense Israeli bombardments and fighting in Khan Younis and the Middle Area in recent weeks, a significant number of displaced people have moved further south.

\*This includes one million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. As of 12 October, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in UNRWA shelters in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. UNRWA currently estimates that the population of North Gaza and Gaza governorates to be up to 300,000 people. The ability of UNRWA to provide humanitarian support and updated data in these areas has been severely restricted. The ongoing hostilities, evacuation orders issued by Israeli Security Forces (ISF), and the constant need for safer locations have resulted in people being displaced multiple times.

\*\*UNRWA reported in Situation Report 64 that up to 1.9 million IDPs were either residing in 154 UNRWA shelters or near these shelters. Due to the continued escalation of fighting and evacuation orders, some households have moved away from the shelters where they were initially registered.

\*\*\* There are instances where the same IDPs are registered in multiple shelters due to the fluid movement of populations; hereafter, estimates are used for these shelters. UNRWA plans to conduct a more accurate count of IDPs in shelters, including informal shelters, as soon as the security situation allows.

### The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- Between 29 February and 4 March, 138 ISF search and arrest operations were recorded across the West Bank, with at least 90 Palestinians detained during this period. There were eight Palestinian fatalities reported, of whom three were children.
- On the night of 3 March, a large ISF operation took place in Nur Shams Camp, northern West Bank. Significant damage to infrastructure including roads was reported. UNRWA schools inside the refugee camp were forced to close for a day. In the early morning of 4 March, an ISF operation in Al Am'ari Camp in the central West Bank resulted in the killing of one Palestine refugee during the exchange of fire.
- On 1 March, settlers reportedly established a new outpost on Palestinian-owned land south of Al Lubban a-Sharqiya village (northern West Bank), enforced by access restrictions on Palestinians by ISF. This followed the confiscation of land in the area by ISF on 29 February. West of Bethlehem, bulldozing of Palestinian land was reported on 4 March near Husan village, purportedly to facilitate the expansion of the West Bank Barrier.

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza as of 4 March, at least 30,534 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October. About 70 per cent of those killed are reported to be women and children. Another 71,920 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

### The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023– 4 March 2024, 412 Palestinians, including 106 children, have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

## 3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

### The Gaza Strip

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents reportedly affecting the Agency's premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
- Different incidents have been reported impacting UNRWA installations and IDPs sheltering there. While verification of details and casualty figures remain ongoing, initial reports indicate:
  - On 15 January 2024, a health centre in Khan Younis was directly hit by several tank shells. Additionally, IDF reportedly demolished parts of the outer courtyard of the health centre and made excavations inside the health centre's yard. No injuries were reported, but the building structure sustained damages.
- **337\*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least 51 incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. **155** different UNRWA installations have been impacted.
- UNRWA estimates that in total at least **404\*** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least a further **1,385\*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA is still verifying the number of casualties caused by incidents that impacted its installations, and notes that these figures do not include some reported casualties where the number of injuries could not be determined.

\* Numbers are subject to change once further verifications have been conducted.

## 4. UNRWA response

### The Gaza Strip

Due to the security situation and limited internet connectivity, we have been unable to provide any additional updates since Sitrep 75.

## UNRWA Shelters

- As of 4 March, nearly **1.7 million displaced people are now sheltering across emergency shelters (UNRWA and public shelters), informal sites or in the vicinity of UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.**

## Health

- As of 2 March, seven (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were operational. Of these, one is in the north, two are in Middle Area, one is in Khan Younis and three are in Rafah. Health centres provide primary health care services, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, medication, vaccination, antenatal health care, postnatal health care and dressing for injured patients.
- A total of 693 health care staff continue to work in seven operational health centres and on 2 March they provided 15,607 medical consultations.
- Another 9,262 medical consultations were conducted by 313 staff at shelters, including at the newly established medical points in al-Mawasi area to serve an influx of displaced persons from Khan Younis. The total registered population in al-Mawasi is currently 377,854.
- Between 7 October and 3 March, UNRWA has provided over 2.7 million medical consultations across UNRWA health centres and UNRWA shelters.
- As of 2 March, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services continued in the Middle and Khan Younis areas with teams of health professionals consisting of psychiatrists and three supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. The teams responded to 1,471 cases in health centres and 52 in medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and support for cases of gender-based violence. Medical care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women was provided at health centres, supporting 386 women.

## Psychosocial support (PSS)

- UNRWA continues to provide psychosocial support services including psychosocial first aid services, PSS consultations and intervention sessions, sessions on handling psychological fatigue, and group and recreational activities. Since the war, over 148,000 IDPs have been supported.

## Food security

- As of 2 March, UNRWA continued to distribute flour outside of shelters in the southern governorates. To date, a total of 372,064 families have been assisted, of which 104,631 have received two rounds of flour.

## Water and Sanitation Services (WASH)

Due to the security situation, in combination with challenges to internet connectivity, we have been unable to provide any additional updates since Sitrep 67.

**Quote from the statement of the UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini to the UN General Assembly, 4 March 2024:**

“The death toll in Gaza is staggering. More than 30,000 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in just 150 days. Five per cent of the population is dead, injured or missing. [...] Hunger is everywhere. A man-made famine is looming. [...] Babies – just a few months old – are dying of malnutrition and dehydration. I shudder to think of what will still be revealed about the horrors that have taken place in this narrow strip of land. What is the fate of an estimated 300,000 Gazans isolated in the north, cut off from humanitarian supplies? How many people remain buried under the rubble across the Gaza Strip? What will become of the estimated 17,000 children who are orphaned, abandoned in an increasingly lawless and dangerous place?”

Read the full [Statement of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA to the General Assembly](#)

**ENDs –**



**UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip**

**IDPs in UNRWA installations**

Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October 2023



**1,700,000\***  
IDPs\*\*



At least **404** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,385** injured since 7 October.

**UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations**



**162** UNRWA colleagues **killed**



**337**  
incidents



**155**  
UNRWA  
installations  
**damaged**

**UNRWA response – Food assistance**



**372,064** families outside of shelters have received flour in middle areas and southern governorates at least once since 21 Nov.

**UNRWA response – Health**



*Partial update on 26 Feb due to security and internet connectivity issues*

**Only 7** (out of 23) UNRWA health care centres operational.

**24,869** patients received healthcare in 7 (out of 23) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

**UNRWA response – Water, sanitation and hygiene**



*Updated on 16 Jan:*

**7** **water wells** continue to operate pumping approximately 3,000 cubic metres of water.

Solid waste management continues in Rafah and Khan Younis and partially in Middle Areas, where **approximately 45 truck loadings were transferred to temporary sites**

\* \*\*This includes c.1 million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. Notably, as of October 12, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in UNRWA shelters in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. UNRWA currently estimates that the population of North Gaza and Gaza governorates to be up to 300,000 people. However, the ability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to provide humanitarian support and updated data in these areas has been severely restricted. The ongoing hostilities, evacuation orders issued by Israeli Forces, and the constant need for safer locations have resulted in people being displaced multiple times.

\*\* UNRWA has reported in Situation Report 64 that up to 1.9 million IDPs are either residing in 154 UNRWA shelters or near the se shelters. Due to the continued escalation of fighting and evacuation orders, some households have moved away from the shelters where they were initially registered.

\*\* It is important to note that there are instances where the same IDPs are registered in multiple shelters due to the fluid movement of populations; hereafter, estimates are used for these shelters. UNRWA plans to conduct a more accurate count of IDPs in shelters, including informal shelters, as soon as the security situation allows.