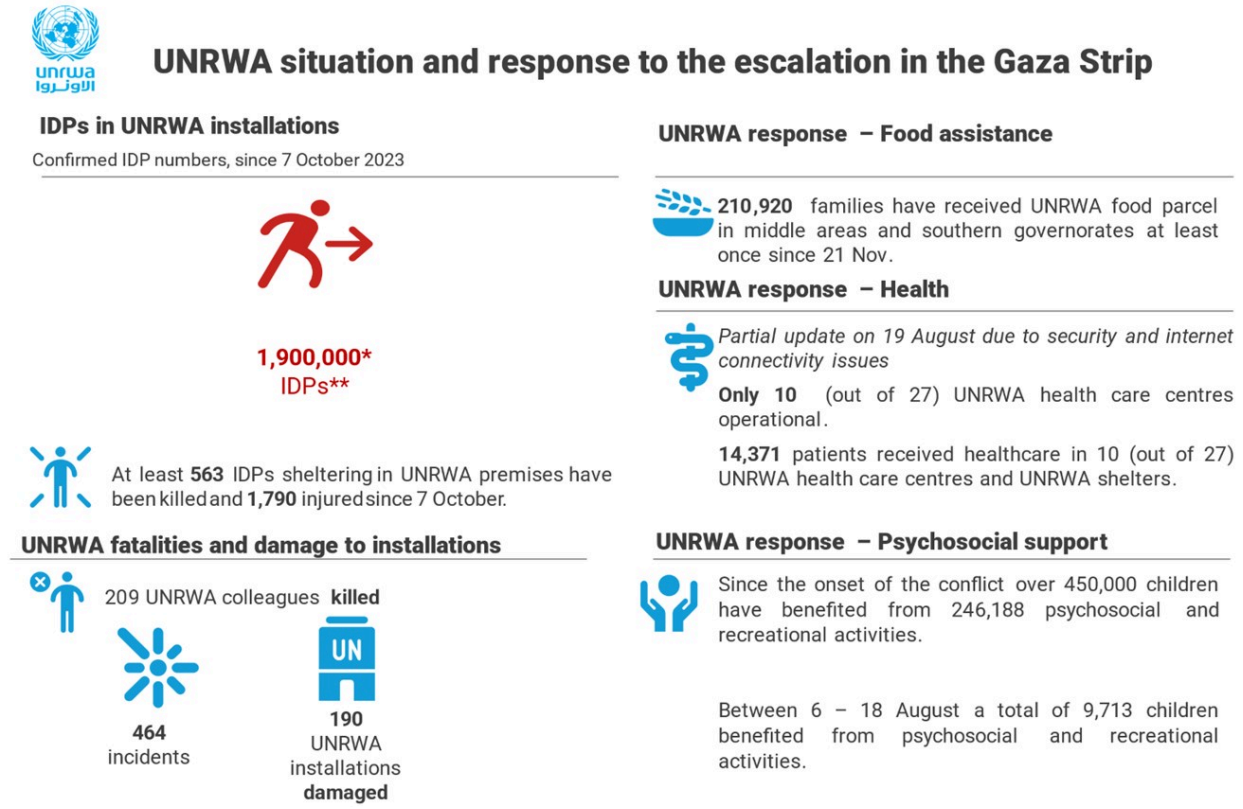
UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #130 ON THE SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

Friday, August 23, 2024

All information from 20-21 August 2024, valid as of 21 August 2024 at 22:30

Days 320-321 of Hostilities



Download UNRWA multimedia resources here (https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k86ongs2zlsilfe/AAASDoPRSJyXDc0YPJoyZHqTa dl=0)

Key Points

The Gaza Strip

- First case of polio in Gaza in 25 years has been confirmed by WHO (https://x.com/WHO/status/1826724744365072). The first case confirmed is a 10-month old child who has developed paralysis in the lower leg. Two rounds of polio vaccination are planned in the coming weeks, (https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1826899701003604318) UNRWA medical teams will support delivery of vaccines in UNRWA clinics and mobile health teams, working in partnership with WHO and UNICEF. UNRWA remains a major actor in the health sector, providing health services across 10 primary health centres and up to 100 mobile medical points across the Gaza Strip.
- Ongoing strikes by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) continue, with aerial, land and maritime bombardments across the Gaza Strip, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and the destruction of residential structures and public infrastructure.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator (https://www.ochaopt.org/content/mass-evacuations-gaza-choke-survival-and-severely-constrain-aid-operations) (HC) for the occupied Palestinian territory issued a statement highlighting that in August, so far, Israeli Security Forces (ISF) have issued 12 evacuation orders – on average, once every two days – forcing as many as 250,000 people to move yet again.
- During the reporting period, the ISF issued several evacuation orders. On 21 August evacuation orders were sent to residents of Al-Mahta neighborhoods, south of Deir El Balah in the Middle Areas. Three UNRWA installations are within the evacuation zone. The following day, on 22 August, the ISF issued another evacuation order for residents of Bani Suheila, Sheikh Nasser, Barbah, Al Sater, Markaz Al Madina, Al Makhata and Al Katiba, in the Khan Younis area. The number of UNRWA installations within the evacuation zone is being verified.
- According to a FEWS NET (https://fews.net/middle-east-and-asia/gaza/targeted-analysis/july-2024) latest Gaza Strip Targeted Analysis Update, food assistance declined further as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza persisted. The update highlighted that by the end of July, an estimated 1.7 million people – or around 80 per cent of Gaza's total population – were sheltering in Al-Mawasi, reinforcing its status as one of **the most densely populated displacement sites in the world**. Amid the large-scale displacement that occurred in June and July, t**he amount of humanitarian food supply that entered Gaza through the southern border crossings in July dropped to the lowest level recorded since October 2023**, amounting to only one quarter of the quantity that entered on average each month between November and May.
- The Nutrition Cluster (https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMmIyMDllZjMtZTJkOS00YTBlLThkZjItYTZmMGMxNzViMDMwIiwid(an increase in levels of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five (6-59 months) in northern Gaza in July. The Nutrition Cluster assessed that the increase in acute malnutrition is linked to food consumption and disease factors, exacerbated by the lack of physical access to, and inconsistent operation of, nutrition and health services, as well as limited stocks of essential supplies, especially in Gaza City.

- UNRWA remains one of the largest nutrition actors providing nearly 15 percent of all nutrition services in Gaza with its large specialised outpatient therapeutic programming, supplementary feeding, infant and young child feeding programmes.
- New UNICEF (https://www.rescue.org/press-release/gaza-irc-warns-alarming-gap-care-unaccompanied-and-separated-children-gaza) research highlights that the risk of family separation has increased dramatically in the past months, exacerbated by multiple rounds of displacements, arrests, Israeli evacuation orders and fatalities, with children found living alone in hospitals as one example. About 17,000 children in Gaza are estimated to be unaccompanied or separated from their parents according to UNICEF, but actual numbers may be higher.
- According to the UN, up to 1.9 million people (or nine in ten people) across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including people who have been repeatedly displaced (some up to 10 times).
- As of 21 August, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October is **209**.
- Several challenges stand in the way of collecting much needed humanitarian supplies from the Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing point in southern Gaza. These include deteriorating law and order, the war and insecurity, damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages and access restrictions. According to OCHA, between 1 and 12 August 2024, an average of only 76 humanitarian trucks entered the Gaza Strip every day. This is well below the pre-crisis average of 500 trucks per working day.
- The latest information on supplies entering Gaza can be accessed through the below link:

Gaza Supplies and Dispatch Tracking | UNRWA (/what-we-do/gaza-supplies-and-dispatch-tracking)

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem update is now once a week.

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 and 12 August 2024, at least 594 Palestinians have been killed. Separately, UNICEF[1] reported that 143 children have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 7 October.

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[1] Child casualties in the West Bank skyrocket in the past nine months – UNICEF (https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/child-casualties-west-bank-skyrocket-past-nine-months-unicef)



(/sites/default/files/main130.jpg)

Family forced to move following evacuation orders by the Israeli Authorities, Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, August 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

Overall Situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health (https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-206-gaza-strip) in Gaza, as of 19 August, at least 40,319 Palestinians have been reportedly killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 October. Another 92,743 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

Humanitarian Access, Protection of Civilians

The Gaza Strip

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents reportedly affecting UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.

- During the reporting period, three incidents, impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there, have been reported. While the verification of details and casualty figures are ongoing, initial reports indicate impact to UNRWA facilities:
  - On 19 August, a section of an UNRWA school in Deir El Balah (Middle Areas) was reportedly hit by an ISF drone strike. No injuries were reported.
  - On 21 August, a section of another UNRWA school in Deir El Balah was reportedly hit by an ISF strike. Major damage to the southeastern building of the school was reported. No injuries were reported.
  - On 21 August, ISF fired one missile hitting the eastern building of an UNRWA school in Gaza City. Four Palestinians were killed, and 18 others were injured.
- **464*** 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 **74*** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. **190*** Agency installations have been impacted by munitions or subjected to armed actor interference through these incidents. UNRWA estimates that, in total, at least **563* IDPs** sheltering in UNRWA installations have been killed and at least **1,790*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA is verifying the number of casualties caused by incidents that impacted its installations.

**Since the start of the war, latest figures are continuously under review as UNRWA gains access to locations that were previously inaccessible and as further verification occur. Total summary figures will be published once further verification has been conducted, noting that these numbers are subject to change once verifications have been conducted.*

UNRWA Response

The Gaza Strip

Health

- As of 19 August, 79 medical points and 10 (out of 27[2]) UNRWA health centres were operational. These health centres provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, medications, vaccinations, antenatal and postnatal health care and dressings for the injured. The number of health facilities fluctuates constantly based on demand, access and security.
- On 19 August, almost 1,100 UNRWA health staff continued to work in operational health centres and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 14,371 medical consultations on that day.
- On 19 August, UNRWA provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in the Middle and Khan Younis areas with teams of psychiatrists and supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. UNRWA teams responded to 635 cases in health

centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions. Additionally, UNRWA medical teams provided medical care for 359 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk.

According to the Health Cluster, UNRWA remains one of the largest health actors operating in the Gaza Strip, contributing to over half of the people reached with health services since 7 October. Between 7 October 2023 and 11 August 2024, UNRWA provided over 5.1 million medical consultations in health centres and medical points across the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Agency (in partnership with and support from other UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO) continues to provide vaccines, with over 130,000 children vaccinated against different childhood diseases since the start of 2024 up until mid-July 2024.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

- With the support of over 500 counsellors, UNRWA continues to provide lifesaving psychosocial support (PSS) services in Gaza, including psychosocial first aid, individual and group counselling, fatigue management sessions, recreational activities, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and protection cash assistance, reaching children, youth and adults.
- Since the onset of the conflict, around 700,000 IDPs, including over 450,000 children, have benefited from a total of 246,188 PSS sessions/activities. Between 6 and 18 August, a total of 14,816 IDPs, including 9,713 children, have benefited from these services. UNRWA counsellors provided 404 individual consultations and 168 group awareness sessions for caregivers. Additionally, 453 recreational activities for children were conducted and 368 explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) sessions to adults and children.
- Since the onset of the conflict, UNRWA's social work team has provided services to 146,751 IDPs, including psychological first aid, PSS, family and individual interventions, as well as case management. These efforts aim to address family issues and strengthen relationships. Furthermore, protection services were provided to 1,244 GBV survivors and 1,592 children, including 842 unaccompanied children, covering reunification, safe sheltering, medication, dignity kits and non-food items through referrals. The team also supported 17,387 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,445 of these individuals received assistive devices and rehabilitation services. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability and special needs, and managing social and psychological stressors were conducted for 106,812 IDPs.

Food Security

- To date, a total of 380,225 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with two rounds of flour and 353,354 of those families have received three rounds.

- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels in the southern governorates. These include flour, rice, lentils, cheese, canned meat and fish, and are designed to cover approximately 90 per cent of daily caloric needs. To date, nearly 1.15 million people have been reached, of whom, nearly 215,000 people have received two rounds of food parcels since the war started.
- In addition to the distribution of UNRWA food parcels, the Agency distributes food parcels on behalf of other UN organisations, reaching around 1.4 million people.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Since October 2023, UNRWA has provided emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip. Main activities have included the operation and continued maintenance of water wells, desalination systems and direct provision of water through water trucking and distribution of bottled water. In addition to direct provision and improved access to water, UNRWA continues to distribute hygiene kits and maintaining hygiene at UNRWA managed shelters and sites through cleaning supplies, community based solid waste management, and vector/pest control

UNRWA continues to be one of the largest WASH actors inside the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the war, UNRWA has maintained and rehabilitated eight wells, reaching over 600,000 IDPs with access to water. Between June and August, UNRWA reached 50,000 IDPs with hygiene kits.

Between 1-15 August, three water wells in Jabalia and Khan Younis were rehabilitated and made operational, and water was distributed across 101 emergency shelters, reaching nearly half a million people, only within UNRWA designated shelters. In addition to water provision, UNRWA distributed chlorine tablets to over 110 shelters to prevent water contamination and improve water quality. Another 43,000 IDPs were reached with hygiene kits, including soap, in addition to 1,320 jerry cans and 432 plastic buckets. Over 200,000 IDPs benefited from cleaning campaigns in different areas of operations. Much more hygiene supplies are needed.

Throughout the Gaza Strip, hundreds of thousands of tons of solid waste are piling up in streets, between tents in displaced tented areas, and next to the rubble in back alleys. The collapse of solid waste management since the war began is worsening the public health crisis. Between 1 and 22 August, a total of 7,000 tons of solid waste was collected by UNRWA and transferred to temporary dumping sites.

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[2] Pre-conflict UNRWA had 22 health centres, following the conflict an additional five temporary health centres have been established.

[3] Note the composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.

Tweet from Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner General:

“Is there any humanity left? (https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1826295762768294337) […] Gaza is no place for children anymore. They are the first casualty of this merciless war. We cannot let the unbearable become a new norm. Enough. A ceasefire is beyond overdue.”

ENDS-

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Family forced to move following evacuation orders by the Israeli Authorities, Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, August 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

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