State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Saturday, 13th of January 2024

The Ninety-ninth Day of the Israeli aggression against Palestine

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

catastrophic situation in numbers; the deadliest year for Palestinians

From October 7 until January 13th, 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Friday evening, 12h of January 2023.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine as a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to genocide on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. Tangible advocacy and pressure for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[123]

Current Situation in numbers: (Gaza)

- There is no safe place in Gaza strip extensive Israeli occupation bombardment persisted throughout the Gaza Strip from air, land, and sea.
- At least 23,843 Palestinian are martyrs killed by the Israeli Occupation in Gaza since October 7th, 2023. About 70 per cent of those are women (more than 7100) and children (more than 10,300). As of then, more than 60 thousand Palestinians have been injured a large proportion of them are children.

[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against

[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/

[3] https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231229-pre-01-00-en.pdf?fbclid=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6IvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM_D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

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- It is estimated that more than 8,000 are missing under rubble. Obtaining accurate figures about missing persons due to continues attacks and inadequate rescue missions.
- The amount of aid reaching Gaza continues to be significantly insufficient. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, stated that "the humanitarian community has been left with the impossible mission of supporting more than 2 million people, even as its own staff are being killed and displaced, as communication blackouts continue, as roads are damaged and convoys are shot at, and as commercial supplies vital to survival are almost non-existent... medical facilities are under relentless attacks while they are overwhelmed with trauma cases, critically short of all supplies and inundated by desperate people seeking safety."
- Between January 1 and 11, only 21% (5 out of 24) planned aid deliveries to northern Wadi Gaza were successful due to delays at Israeli checkpoints or impassable routes.
- Humanitarian partners faced cancellations and delays in aid missions by the Israeli forces, limiting their response to urgent needs in northern Gaza. Recurring access denials by Israeli authorities hampered meaningful and consistent humanitarian efforts at scale.
- Notably, planned missions from January 7 to 11, delivering medical supplies and fuel to Gaza City, were denied by Israeli occupation forces, marking the fifth denial since December 26. Hospitals in northern Gaza lack crucial medical resources.
- Israel denial of fuel delivery to water and sanitation facilities for the sixth time exacerbates the risk of sewage overflows, heightening the spread of communicable diseases.
- The WHO Director-General highlighted the Israeli barriers to humanitarian aid delivery, emphasizing that access issues, not capability, hinder assistance to Gaza.
- In January, Israeli occupation access denials increased significantly compared to December 2023, where over 70% of planned UN missions to the north were successfully undertaken, addressing the region's highest and most severe needs.
- The escalating rate of Israeli occupation access denials in January threatens lives and increases suffering for hundreds of thousands in northern Gaza, where urgent assistance is crucial.
- Since 11 October, the Gaza Strip has been under an electricity blackout, after the Israeli occupation cut off the electricity supply, and fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant were depleted. The communications and fuel shutdown continues to significantly hinder the aid community's efforts to assess the full extent of needs in Gaza and to adequately respond to the deepening humanitarian crisis.

- **Forced Displacement:** .
  - Obtaining an accurate figure of the total number of Forcibly Displaced Persons remains challenging and the Israeli occupation continues to forcibly displace civilians every day. It is estimated that 85% of the population in Gaza (around 1.93 million civilians) are forcibly displaced. including many who have been displaced multiple times, as families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. Nearly 1.4 million FDPs were registered in 155 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south. Obtaining accurate data regarding the forcibly displaced persons is challenging outside of these shelters, given difficulties in tracking FDPs staying with host families or in the streets.

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- On 11 January, the Israeli forces issued new evacuation orders to residents of the Al Mawasi area and several blocks near Salah Ad Deen Road in southern Gaza, covering an estimated 4.6 square kilometers. This latest round of orders is anticipated to impact more than 18,000 individuals and nine shelters, accommodating an unknown number of forcibly displaced people (FDPs).
- Rafah governorate has become the primary place for displaced individuals, accommodating over one million people in an exceedingly high-density environment. This surge in population is a consequence of heightened Israeli aggression in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, compounded by evacuation orders issued by the Israeli occupation.
- As of 30 December, it is estimated that about 65,000 housing units across Gaza Strip have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable and over 290,000 housing units have been damaged.

- **Health Care Access:**
  - Electricity outage in Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital's Pediatric ICU in central Der al-Balah is endangering the lives of dozens of infants, as Israeli occupation forces denied fuel for medical facilities, resulting in a recurring and potentially deadly situation, echoing a similar incident from last month.
  - Only 15 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional, with nine in the south and six in the north having received support to partially resume basic operations.
  - Hospitals in the north are currently providing maternity, trauma, and emergency care services, but they encounter several challenges, including a shortage of medical staff such as specialized surgeons, neurosurgeons, and intensive care personnel.
  - A lack of essential medical supplies is another pressing issue faced by northern hospitals, along with an urgent need for fuel, food, and drinking water.
  - In the southern region, the nine partially functional hospitals are operating at three times their capacity, exacerbating critical shortages of basic supplies and fuel.
  - Occupancy rates in inpatient departments have soared to 206 percent, while intensive care units are experiencing an alarming 250 percent occupancy rate.
  - Only 150 out of 325 known shelters currently have medical points.
  - Only 972 patients were referred to receive medical care aboard, including 571 injured and 401 patients including cancer patients. There is critical importance of prioritizing the evacuation of over 5,300 individuals facing severe and complex medical conditions in Gaza to receive the necessary and appropriate care abroad.

- **Acute shortage of supplies at health facilities:**
  - There is an acute shortage of medicines and medical supplies: anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products.
  - Medical equipment Increasingly not functional at hospitals (e.g. monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT, lab analyzers, anesthesia machines), which are dependent on electricity.

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- There is an acute shortage of fuel, water, food, and electricity in hospitals and medical facilities.

- **Public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza:**
  - Imminent risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to unsanitary conditions, overcrowding and the extreme load on the health system rendering it dysfunctional.
  - There is a high and alarming surge of outbreak cases recorded since mid-October: 179,003 cases of acute respiratory infections, 136,418 Cases of diarrhea (Cases of diarrhea in children under five years of age rose from 48,000 to 71,000 in just one week starting 17 December. This is equivalent to 3,200 new cases of diarrhea per day), 55,472 Cases of scabies and lice, 38,010 Cases of skin rashes 5,330 Cases of chickenpox 4,683 Cases of jaundice.
  - Gaza faces a critical stock-out of vaccinations, contributing to over 360,000 cases of infectious diseases in UNRWA shelters.
  - Decomposing remains pose a risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.
  - Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) are confronting the dual challenges of displacement and harsh winter conditions, including the risk of flooding. The combination of being forcibly displaced and exposed to cold weather poses significant hardships for this vulnerable population.
  - Vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals recovering from injuries or surgeries, and those with weakened immune systems, face challenging shelter conditions.

- **Health Needs and Risks of non-Communicable Diseases Long term conditions:**
  - 1,100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis
  - More than 485,000 People with mental health disorders prior to the recent aggression. There is an increased risk of multiple psychological effects stemming from the intense bombardment, displacement and food insecurity coupled with severe physical injuries such as the loss of body parts. These challenges are further compounded by the devastating impact of seeing the bodies of the casualties around them and losing family members, homes, and dignity.
  - 225,000 People with high blood pressure,45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease 71,000 Patients living with diabetes.
  - More than 2,000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children.
  - People in Gaza are facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs including acute shortage of needed medications.
  - There is a substantial shortage of essential medication and healthcare services, is addition to the challenging access conditions.

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- **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health:**
  - 52,000 Pregnant women, around 183 Births per day, 5,500 Babies have been born in the last month.
  - 61% incubators are in the north requiring electricity, 130 Premature infants depend on incubators.
  - Pregnant women and displaced children in shelters face challenges such as thirst, malnutrition, insufficient healthcare, dehydration, respiratory and skin ailments, severe cold, and lack of vaccinations. In survey conducted on December 26th, 2023, UNICEF highlights significant concern regarding malnutrition, especially for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, along with over 135,000 children under the age of two.
- **Food insecurity:**
  - The Israeli occupation's restriction and rejection of humanitarian aid missions are pushing Palestinian civilians in Gaza towards starvation. The entire population in the Gaza Strip (2.2 million people) is at an imminent risk of famine as reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in December
    - 212.08 million at phase 3 (high level of acute food insecurity)
    - 930,000 people at phase 4 (emergency level)
    - 378,000 people at phase 5 (catastrophic level)
  - On 5 January, UNICEF announced that a survey conducted on 26 December found that about 90 per cent of children under two years of age are consuming two or fewer food groups. Most children are reportedly only getting grains (including bread) or milk, meeting the definition of severe food poverty.
  - The Famine Review Committee (FRC) was activated based on the evidence indicating a severity surpassing Phase 5 (Catastrophic threshold) of acute food insecurity in the Gaza Strip. The FRC calls for a ceasefire as a crucial initial step to address the urgent needs and eliminate the deterioration in health, nutrition, food security, and mortality conditions.
  - UNICEF stated that around 90% of children under two years of age are facing severe food poverty.

- **Recorded attacks on Health Facilities and personnel:**
  - On January 10, an ambulance on Salah al Din Street at the entrance of Deir al Balah was struck, resulting in the tragic death of four members of the Palestine Red Crescent Society's ambulance crew and two injured individuals, as reported by PRCS.
  - In Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis, three hospitals, namely Al Aqsa, Nasser, and Gaza European, face the imminent threat of closure. The risk is attributed to the Israeli occupation evacuation orders and the ongoing Israeli aggression conducted in close proximity to these medical facilities.
  - On 9 January, reports indicated shelling in the vicinity of Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah, prompting the evacuation of most medical staff and many patients on 7 January.
  - As a result, the hospital is left with only one emergency doctor and two surgeons who remain to address the medical needs of hundreds of patients requiring treatment.

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- On January 8th, The Israeli occupation bombed the European Hospital in Khan Younis. No definitive information on casualties has been reported. This incident comes in the wake of multiple direct hits on Deir al Balah's Al Aqsa Hospital on January 7th, compelling medical personnel and patients to evacuate.
- In total 294 attacks on health facilities and personnel. This is the highest recorded total of attacks on healthcare facilities and their personnel.
- 337 health personnel martyred and about 770 injured by the Israeli occupation in attacks.
- 65 Health workers detained/arrested.
- 94 Health facilities affected including 26 Hospitals damaged, in addition to 121 Ambulances damaged.

"Our efforts to send humanitarian convoys to the North have been met with delays, denials, and the imposition of impossible conditions. The lack of respect for the humanitarian notification system puts every movement of aid workers in danger, as do the wholly insufficient quantities of armored vehicles and the limited communications equipment that we have been allowed to bring in... Providing humanitarian assistance across Gaza is almost impossible." the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Griffith's, January 12, 2024

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa stated that "this year has been the deadliest year on record for children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with conflict-related violence reaching unprecedented levels."
- Israeli occupation attacks on health facilities and personnel are rising in West Banks. JANUARY 9TH, the Israeli occupation forces attacked vandalized Al-Rashayda Clinic doors, furniture, patient records, and medicines. This clinic serves more than 3,000 individuals in a remote area in southern Bethlehem governorate.
- Since 7 October, 347 Palestinians, have been martyred by the Israeli Occupation forces in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, 2023 is one of the deadliest years for Palestinians in the West Bank.
- Since 7 October, Israeli occupation forces have injured more than 4 thousand Palestinian civilians, including at least 593 children.
- Since 7 October, at least 198 Palestinian households comprising 1,208 people, including 586 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from at least 15 herding/Bedouin communities. More than half of the displacements occurred on 12, 15, and 28 October, affecting seven communities.

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- A total of 19 homes have been demolished on punitive grounds since 7 October, resulting in the displacement of 95 Palestinians, including 42 children. Between January and September 2023, 16 homes were punitively demolished, resulting in the displacement of 78 Palestinians. Punitive demolitions are a form of collective punishment and as such are illegal under international law.
- Another 537 Palestinians, including 238 children, have been displaced since 7 October following the destruction of 82 residential structures during other operations carried out by Israeli forces across the West Bank.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Aiding in evacuating the wounded in need for treatment abroad.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.

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