State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Wednesday, 17th of January 2024

103 days 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 7th until January 17th, 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Tuesday evening, 16th of January 2024.

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.[1][2][3]

Current Situation in numbers: (Gaza)

- At least 24,285 Palestinian civilians are martyrs killed by the Israeli Occupation in Gaza since October 7th, 2023. About 70 per cent of those are women (more than 7000) and children (more than 10,000). As of then, 61,154 Palestinians have been injured a large proportion of them are children.
- 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 aid reaching Gaza strip remains inadequate and insufficient in addressing the essential needs of the population. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator stated that the humanitarian community faces challenges in supporting over 2 million people, including staff deaths and displacement, communication blackouts, road damage, convoy attacks, and medical facility attacks. Israeli restrictions hindered large-scale humanitarian efforts.

[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=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6lvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM_D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

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- After the Israeli occupation cut off the electricity supply and depleted fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant, the Gaza Strip has been without power since October 11. The communications and fuel shutdown hinders the aid community's efforts to assess Gaza's needs and respond to the growing 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.
  - 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 hostilities 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:**
  - 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.

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- **Acute shortage of supplies at health facilities:**
  - Medicine and medical supplies such as anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products are in short supply. Hospitals are experiencing a decline in the functionality of electrically dependent medical equipment such as monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT machines, lab analyzers, and anesthesia machines.

- **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 15, WHO reported the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis treated 700 patients, double its normal capacity. The hospital faces challenges with high volumes of trauma and burn cases, insufficient staff in the ICU and burns unit, and hindered access due to intensified Israeli occupation bombardment hostilities. About 7,000 people are sheltering on the hospital grounds. Recent strikes on the morning of 17th of January have left a number of causalities and further jeopardizing lives and hospital functionality.
  - In total 294 attacks on health facilities and personnel. This is the highest recorded total of attacks on healthcare facilities and their personnel.
  - 600 health personnel martyred and 764 injured by the Israeli occupation in attacks.
  - 65 Health workers detained/arrested.

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- **94 Health facilities affected including 26 Hospitals damaged, in addition to 76 Ambulances affected Including 38 That sustained damaged.**

"Currently every single person in Gaza is hungry, a quarter of the population are starving and struggling to find food and drinkable water, and famine is imminent. Pregnant women are not receiving adequate nutrition and healthcare, putting their lives at risk. In addition, all children under five – 335,000 – are at high risk of severe malnutrition as the risk of famine conditions continues to increase, a whole generation is now in danger of suffering from stunting." UN Special Rapporteurs, 16 January 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.
- on 6 and 7 January, Israeli forces killed 11 Palestinians, including four brothers, and a family of three (Man, wife and 3-year-old child were shot inside their car at a checkpoint).
- Since 7 October, 326 Palestinians, including 84 children, have been martyred by the Israeli Occupation forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This toll represents nearly 60 per cent of all Palestinians killed in the West Bank this year. With a total of 522 Palestinians martyred in the West Bank, 2023 is one of the deadliest years for Palestinians in the West Bank.
- Since 7 October, Israeli occupation forces have injured 4.212 Palestinian civilians, including at least 637 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.
- 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.

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- 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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