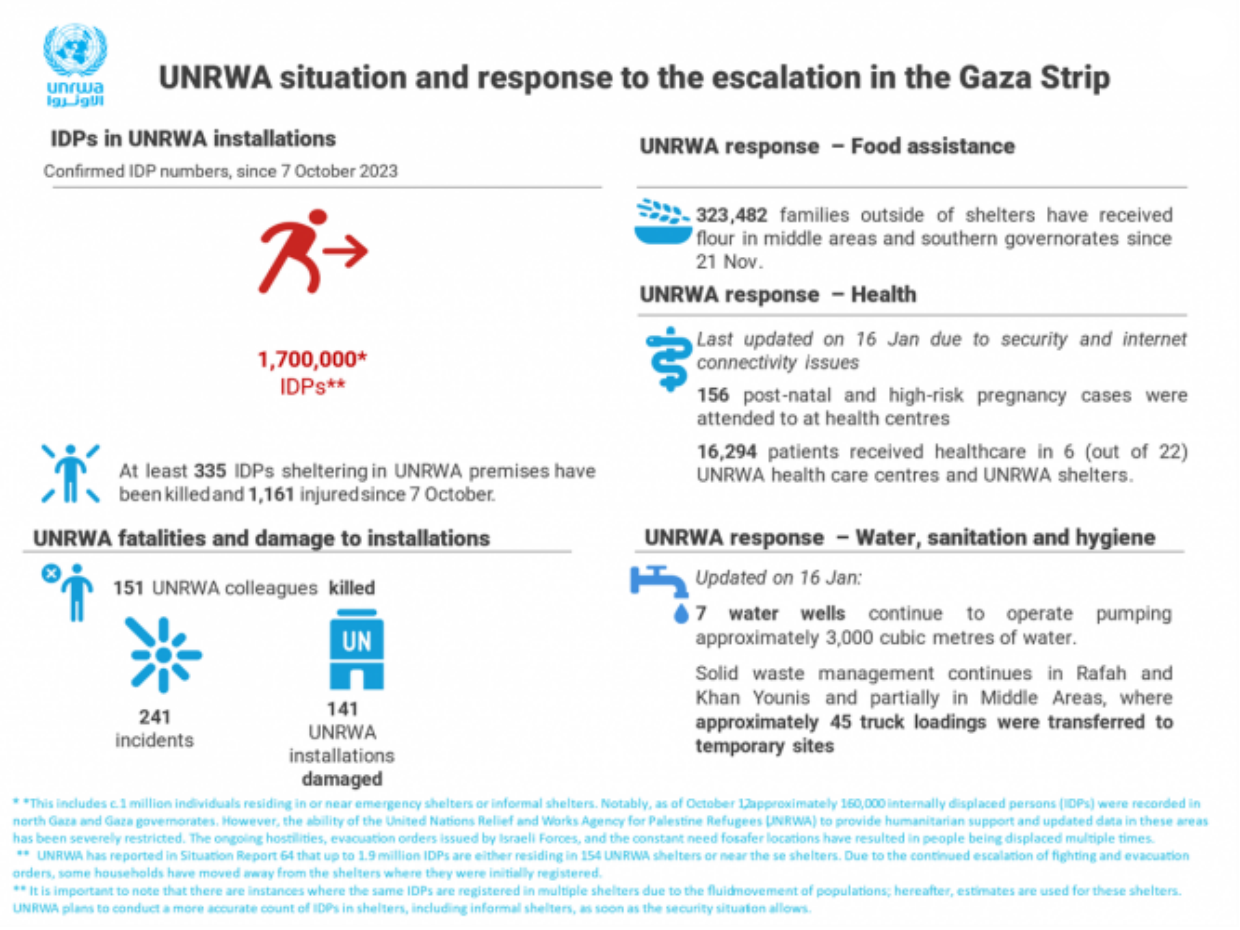
UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #67 ON THE SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

Sunday, January 21, 2024

All information from 18- 20 January 2024, is valid as of 20 January 2024 at 22:30

Days 104-106 of Hostilities



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Key Points

The Gaza Strip

- As of 20 January 2024, the total number of UNRWA colleagues killed since the beginning of hostilities is **151.**
- According to OCHA, telecommunication services in Gaza have been down for the past seven days. Significant disruption of telecommunication services prevents people in Gaza from accessing life-saving information or calling for first responders, and continues to impede humanitarian response.
- As of 20 January, 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 Areas in recent days, a significant number of displaced people have moved again further south.

*This includes 1 million individuals residing in or near emergency shelters or informal shelters. As of October 12, approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in north Gaza and Gaza governorates. 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 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 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.

united nations relief and works agency for palestine refugees in the near east

Next update for West Bank, including East Jerusalem will be on 23 January.



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People sheltering in the UNRWA Bureij Joint Preparatory School, Middle Areas (the Gaza Strip), January 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra

Overall Situation

The Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza as of 19 January, at least 24,762 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 62,108 Palestinians have been reportedly injured.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

- According to OCHA, between 7 October 2023 – 17 January 2024, 355 Palestinians, including 95 children, were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Last year (2023), was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem since the UN began recording casualties in 2005.

Humanitarian Access, Protection of Civilians

The Gaza Strip

Please see below the inputs for the period 18 - 20 January 2024.

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

1. On 18 January 2024, a distribution centre in the Middle Area was directly hit, causing damages. There were no reports of injuries.
2. On 20 January 2024, a school in Khan Younis (south) was directly struck, resulting in the death of a 10-year-old child. Two IDPs were injured and transferred to the hospital. Additionally, the buildings of the school were reportedly hit by several stray bullets. Thousands of IDPs were sheltering at the school at the time of the incident.
3. On 20 January 2024, two stray bullets hit the western building of a health centre in Khan Younis, which also hosts UNRWA Area Operations Room from where emergency operations are coordinated. No injuries were reported.

- **241** 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 24 incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. 70 different UNRWA installations were directly hit, and 71 different installations sustained collateral damage.
- UNRWA estimates that in total at least **335** internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been killed and at least another **1,161*** 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.

UNRWA Response

UNRWA Shelters

- As of 19 January, in total, nearly **1.7 million displaced people are now sheltering across emergency shelters (UNRWA and public shelters), informal sites or in close vicinity to UNRWA shelters and distribution sites and within host communities.**

  Due to the security situation and ISF evacuation orders between 150-155 UNRWA installations continue to shelter IDPs. Shelters are very congested.

Health

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are only able to provide updates until 16 January.

- On 16 January 2024, only six (out of 22) UNRWA health centres were operational in the middle and southern areas with **9,336 patient visits recorded.**
- Midwives are providing care for post-natal and high-risk pregnant women at health centres. On 16 January, a total of 156 post-natal and high-risk pregnancy cases were attended to at the health centres.
- On 16 January, UNRWA continued to provide health care at UNRWA health centres and shelters with 531 staff maintaining health services.
- On 16 January, UNRWA attended to 16,294 patients in UNRWA shelters and health centres.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services continued in the Middle Area and Khan Younis (south) with a team of two psychiatrists and 20 counsellors and supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres. On 16 January, the team responded to 812 cases through individual consultations, awareness sessions and support for gender-based violence cases.
- UNRWA received vaccines from UNICEF for its health centres. Eight different types of vaccines were received (refrigerated and freezer storage). This allowed for vaccinations to restart. On 16 January, a total of 759 children were vaccinated against diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella, and others.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

- On January 20, UNRWA teams continue to provide psychosocial first aid and other specialized protection services to IDPs.
- **283 school counsellors and assistant counsellors conducted 1,332 individual and family consultations in Rafah and Khan Younis (south), alongside 1,350 group sessions**. 30,970 IDPs were

reached, with the cumulative total of 76,869 PSS sessions between 7 October and 16 January.

During the same period, school counsellors provided psychological support to nearly 478 UNRWA staff, through in-person and remote consultations. **The total number of UNRWA staff who have received psychological support since the beginning of the hostilities is 9,067.**

Food Security

- UNRWA continued to **distribute flour** outside of shelters in the southern governorates. **A total of 323,482 families have been reached so far.**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Due to the security situation in combination with internet connectivity we are unable to update our results for WASH.

- On 16 January, water wells in Jabalia (north), Khan Younis and Rafah (south) were operational. Nearly 3,000 cubic metres have been pumped. Khan Younis and Rafah water wells have operated in two shifts (12 hours) to provide potable/domestic water supply services.

1. Provision of potable water through tankers at Rafah and Middle Area ensured availability of water in shelters, with some interruption in the Middle Area due to evacuation orders. Khan Younis shelters are provided with water through UNRWA water wells
2. Solid waste management services continued in Rafah, Khan Younis and Middle Area camps (partially). The service is suspended in Bureij camp due to military operations. About 45 loadings were transferred to temporary dumping sites.

> **Quote from Naser, UNRWA staff working at the Rafah Crossing:**

"Despite the challenges we face, our commitment remains strong. Together, we strive to support to those in need during times of crisis."

#HearTheirVoices

ENDs -

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People sheltering in the UNRWA Bureij Joint Preparatory School, Middle Areas (the Gaza Strip), January 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo by Ashraf Amra



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