

Children attend classes as learning resumes for the new academic year in Gaza. Photo by UNICEF

Humanitarian Situation Report | 2 October 2026

05 Oct 2026

Table of contents

Highlights

- In Gaza, daily hot meal production and monthly household-level parcel distributions will shrink significantly from October onwards due to funding shortfalls, the Food Security Sector warns.
- Over 13 per cent of Gaza's population lives in flood-prone displacement sites or unsafe buildings; about 279,000 people are sheltering in 400 flood-prone displacement sites and over 2,300 in unsafe buildings requiring demolition.
- Funding shortfalls and restrictions on the entry of engine oil, spare parts and equipment continue to pose challenges, reducing desalination in southern Gaza and forcing reliance on donkey carts and UN trucks for solid waste collection.
- In the West Bank, demolitions displaced 55 Palestinians, including 32 children, in Jinba on 23 September. In September, homes and other structures in three other Masafer Yatta communities were almost entirely demolished.
- More than 100 Israeli settlers damaged properties in Jalud (Nablus), thwarting an attempt by Israeli forces to bring a Palestinian family back home under a court order; the family remained displaced.
- Settler violence and access restrictions disrupted education in Hebron and Tubas, leading seven children to relocate and two to drop out in Qawawis, while seven children in Khirbet ar Ras al Ahmar remained without access to in-person education.

Overview

Briefing the Security Council on 28 September, the Acting Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Deputy Special Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov described the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Alakbarov said that the Israeli authorities continued to withhold from the Palestinian authorities some US$6 billion in clearance revenues. "The Palestinian Authority is unable to deliver basic services, sustain social protection, or pay full salaries to civil servants and security personnel," he said.

In the Gaza Strip, he noted daily airstrikes in densely populated areas. Despite increased supplies of food and sanitary items in recent months, he warned that "the health situation remains critical," adding that "infectious diseases remain widespread amid overcrowded displacement sites and inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene conditions, while shortages of medical supplies, fuel and the overall humanitarian response are compounded by funding shortfalls." Dr. Alakbarov said that "restrictions on the entry of critical humanitarian items continue to impede the scale-up of the humanitarian response," including preparations for the rainy season.

Regarding the West Bank, he spoke about people being exposed to unprecedented levels of settler violence and to continued demolitions and home evictions. He highlighted concerns that Palestinians in some areas are being encircled, resulting in restrictions on their access to farmland and open space. In particular, he highlighted the recent full depopulation of three Palestinian communities following sustained settler violence and the case of three families in Qusra who “have been effectively confined to their homes without adequate supplies and systematically harassed and intimidated since 9 August amid continued presence of Israeli settlers and Israeli forces.” He acknowledged measures by Israeli officials to prosecute several perpetrators but said the vast majority had not been held accountable.

Gaza Strip

The reporting period for this section is 21 to 27 September unless otherwise specified.

As the cold and rainy season approaches, humanitarian partners are intensifying efforts to mitigate flood and other weather-related hazards across Gaza, including for people in displacement sites, damaged shelters and unsafe buildings. Among other activities, they are unblocking drainage, reinforcing shelter, and fixing critical water and sanitation infrastructure. They also continue to assess sites, map risks, and identify places to which people could voluntarily relocate. However, these efforts continue to be constrained by insecurity, funding shortfalls, and restrictions on accessing land as well as on importing critical materials, equipment and supplies.

Funding shortages are increasingly affecting the entire humanitarian effort. For example, food security partners warn that, starting in October, underfunding will significantly reduce daily cooked meal production and monthly household food parcel distribution.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, which operates under the de facto authorities, 29 Palestinians were reported killed, including those who died of wounds and had their bodies retrieved from under the rubble, and 147 people were injured between 23 and 30 September. These figures bring the overall reported casualty toll since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025 to 1,431 fatalities and 5,026 injuries, according to MoH. Another 81 fatalities were retroactively added to the total number after their identification details were approved by MoH.



A Palestinian boy receiving rehabilitation services in northern Gaza through support from the World Health Organization and the OCHA-managed Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund. Photo by WHO

Preparing for the Rainy Season

Ahead of the winter, the Site Management Cluster (SMC) has assessed over 400 displacement sites across the Gaza Strip and identified 217 as being at medium to high risk of flooding; together, these sites host approximately 235,000 people. Additionally, preliminary estimates by the Shelter Cluster indicate that more than 4,000 unsafe buildings across Gaza require full or partial demolition, yet over 2,300 of these structures remain inhabited, sheltering nearly 44,000 people. Combined, these account for over 13 per cent of Gaza’s population.

Flood risk is highest in low-lying terrain, near shorelines and lagoons, and where drainage systems are blocked. Assessment findings are informing the installation of sandbags, drainage clearance, shelter elevation, ground levelling, debris removal and the deployment of water pumps, among other measures.

Partners are also carrying out cleaning and rehabilitation works, including the reshaping of drainage channels, in Wadi Salqa area of Deir al Balah and another wadi in An Nasser area of Gaza city, both of which are prone to flooding. They are repairing sewage pump stations and stormwater networks in Gaza city to increase capacity and to better separate sewage from surface water systems.

In parallel, through coordinated inter-cluster efforts led by SMC, partners are assessing potential sites for safe voluntary relocation. However, before relocation can take place at scale, several critical requirements must be addressed, including explosive ordnance assessment and clearance, ground levelling of sandy terrain, installation of drainage systems, provision of water and lighting,

improvement of access roads, and resolution of land ownership and tenure issues. Beyond ongoing restrictions on the entry of critical supplies and equipment, restrictions on access to 65 per cent of Gaza's land are still a key obstacle, as the remaining 35 per cent is already overcrowded.

Health Cluster partners have finished preparing guidance materials on respiratory triage and screening, printing 500 posters for placement at health facility entrances. Partners have also established multidisciplinary teams to strengthen hygiene and infection-control measures in 10 priority health facilities and distributed related supplies, including disinfectants, hand-hygiene products, sterilization materials and personal protective equipment. As of 26 September, communicable diseases accounted for 19 per cent of the over 280,000 health consultations conducted by partners over the week, with acute respiratory infections remaining the leading reported condition (54 per cent of all disease cases), followed by skin infections, including ectoparasitic infestations, impetigo and chickenpox (26 per cent) and acute watery diarrhoea (20 per cent).

Shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies remain a significant operational concern, particularly for trauma and wound care, infection prevention and control and treatment of non-communicable diseases, alongside antibiotics for adult patients. Several health facilities lack functioning chlorination systems, with access constraints and shortages of chlorine, essential WASH supplies and spare parts delaying repairs and prolonging service disruptions. Generator shutdowns associated with severe lubricant oil shortages also continue to affect health-care service delivery.

Water, Sanitation and Operational Constraints

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services continue to face significant operational constraints across Gaza due to funding shortfalls and restrictions on the entry of critical supplies, including engine oil, spare parts and electro-mechanical equipment.

These shortages have left vehicles and machinery used for solid waste collection and transfer largely grounded, forcing services to rely on donkey carts and UN trucks. The Israeli authorities are still banning the access to Gaza's sanitary landfills near the "Green Line" despite intensive negotiations.

At the same time, water production from the two seawater desalination plants in southern Gaza has fallen to its lowest output levels due to the lack of spare parts and equipment, raising concerns over drinking water supplies for approximately 500,000 people in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. Water trucking remains a critical lifeline, with 68 agencies continuing to deliver an average of 24,995 cubic metres of drinking water per day through 3,199 collection points. The WASH Cluster estimates that 74 per cent of the population currently relies on trucked drinking water.

During the reporting period, partners distributed 218 household-level latrines and handwashing stations, 64 assisted access add-ons for latrines and 200 slabs for self-built family latrines, six bladder tanks, alongside 12,175 water containers with a 10-litre capacity each, 568 household-level hygiene kits, and a range of household cleaning supplies, including 11,800 garbage bags, 318 garbage bins, 878 brooms, 424 dustpans and 256 rakes, 6,480 sponges, 4,756 dusters, 1,296 litres of bleach, 3,000 litres of dishwashing soap, 3,200 gloves and 1,400 facemasks to support displaced communities across Gaza.

Incoming Supplies

Based on data collected through the Logistics Cluster, the UN and partners' aid offloading rate at Kerem Shalom Crossing increased from 52 to 88 per cent in the reporting period, following the sharp decline throughout September, after this indicator had reached 86 per cent at the end of August. The Egyptian corridor continued to record the highest levels of truck returns and rejections, although its offloading rate improved significantly from 21 to 74 per cent. Offloading rates through the Jordan corridor remained at 100 per cent, while the Ashdod corridor improved to 94 per cent following the partial resolution of scanner-related issues.

On 23 September, the WASH Cluster brought caustic soda and antiscalant into Gaza. These chemicals, which are expected to last for one month, are critical for the operation and maintenance of desalination facilities, helping to prevent damage to reverse osmosis treatment membranes and ensuring the continued production of safe drinking water.

On the commercial front, data from the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, shared with the Cash Working Group, indicate that the private sector collected 788 commercial truckloads into the Gaza Strip between 21 and 27 September. This represents a 10 per cent reduction compared with the average of 871 truckloads collected over the previous four weeks. According to Cash Working Group market monitoring data, inflation remained high at an average of 204 per cent above pre-October 2023 levels in September. While the prices of most basic commodities, including sugar, rice and frozen chicken, remained relatively stable compared with the previous week, the cost of some fruits increased, with oranges and tomatoes for instance rising by 21 and five per cent respectively, while eggs, flour and cucumbers all saw notable price decreases.

Since the closure of the Zikim Crossing in northern Gaza on 24 May, Kerem Shalom has remained the only operational crossing point for cargo. This continues to expose market functionality to heightened vulnerability, as any disruption to cargo flows would likely have cascading effects on the availability of essential commodities across the Gaza Strip.

The UN is only able to confirm the entry of supplies tracked by UN 2720. For breakdowns of those, see the online UN 2720 Mechanism Dashboard.

For a detailed account of the latest humanitarian operations in Gaza, see Annex 1 below.

West Bank

The reporting period for this section is 22 to 28 September unless otherwise specified.

Humanitarian needs across the West Bank continued to be driven by settler violence, demolitions and movement restrictions, generating displacement and disrupting access to essential services and livelihoods. Israeli authorities demolished or sealed over 70 Palestinian-owned structures, displacing 93 people, including 55 children, while over 50 settler attacks resulted in casualties and/or damage to homes, agricultural assets, and essential infrastructure.

On 29 September, the ICRC called for urgent protection of civilians in the West Bank, highlighting the impact of escalating violence and movement restrictions on access to health care, education, homes and livelihoods. The ICRC noted that ambulances can face lengthy delays at checkpoints and roadblocks and recalled the responsibility of authorities to protect civilians from violence, including settler violence, and Israel's obligations as the occupying power towards protected persons.

Humanitarian partners continued to respond to growing shelter, WASH and protection needs. Shelter Cluster partners reached about 170 households comprising some 720 people, primarily through shelter repairs, while psychosocial support was provided to 60 children across five Bedouin communities. During September, WASH partners responded to at least 24 incidents affecting water and sanitation infrastructure in the context of settler violence and demolitions. Partners continue to report that movement restrictions impede service delivery, including child protection and education-related interventions.

On 23 September, Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man in Ramallah governorate after he carried out a vehicle-ramming attack at a checkpoint near Beit 'Ur al Fauqa, seriously injuring an Israeli soldier. Following the incident, Israeli forces tightened movement restrictions across Ramallah governorate, closing key checkpoints, road gates and entrances to Palestinian communities, severely restricting the movement of thousands of Palestinians and impeding humanitarian access.

A total of 45 Palestinians, including three children and four women, were injured during the reporting period: 22 by Israeli forces during operations across the West Bank; and, 23 in the context of settler attacks.



A Palestinian sitting amid destruction following the demolition of 20 structures in Az Za'ayyem Bedouins community, Jerusalem. Photo by OCHA

Israeli authorities demolished or sealed 73 Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem: 60 for lacking Israeli-issued building permits, 12 pursuant to a military order, and one on punitive grounds. These incidents displaced 93 Palestinians, including 55 children, and otherwise affected 170 people.

In Jinba, one of the 13 Palestinian communities located within "Firing Zone 918" in Masafer Yatta, a 23 September demolition displaced eight families comprising 55 people, including 32 children, who remained in the community sheltering in caves. Following a multi-sectoral assessment, humanitarian partners provided emergency shelter, WASH and essential household assistance, as well as health, psychosocial and protection support.

Over the past 15 years, Israeli authorities have demolished about 400 structures across these communities in Masafer Yatta, displacing 969 Palestinians, some more than once. Nearly half of these structures were demolished since January 2025, including 151 during six mass demolition incidents: three in Khallet Athaba, and one each in Khallet at Tabban, Khirbet al Fakheit and Jinba. In the five weeks between 18 August and 23 September alone, demolitions displaced 122 Palestinians, including 62 children, across four communities in "Firing Zone 918." On 18 August, Israeli authorities rejected a planning scheme submitted by Jinba residents while Jinba School remains under threat of demolition, potentially further disrupting children's access to education.

A total of 53 settler attacks resulted in Palestinian casualties, property damage or both. Incidents included attacks on Palestinians and their homes in Nablus and Ramallah governorates, including arson and property damage, as well as attacks affecting agricultural land, trees and irrigation infrastructure across several governorates.

Impact of Access Restrictions and Settler Violence on Agricultural Livelihoods

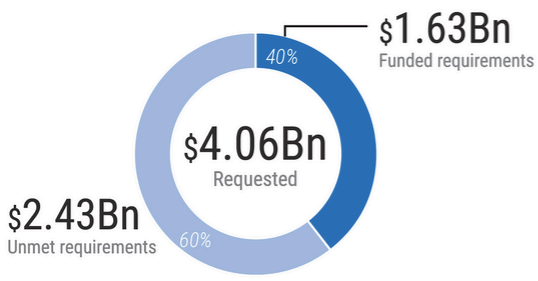
Restrictions on access to agricultural land, recurrent settler attacks and the expansion of Israeli settlements and outposts continue to undermine Palestinian agricultural livelihoods across the West Bank. Ahead of the 2026 olive harvest, the Food Security Sector (FSS) identified restricted access to agricultural land, settler attacks against farmers, crop theft, destruction of trees and agricultural infrastructure, and rising agricultural input costs among the main challenges facing farming households. These pressures come amid

broader economic deterioration: according to WFP, 76 per cent of West Bank households reported declining incomes in the first quarter of 2026 and more than 60 per cent struggled to cover their monthly expenses, with livelihood losses linked in part to movement and permit restrictions and increased settler violence.

According to FSS data for the second quarter of 2026, partners implemented about 3,700 emergency agricultural interventions for affected households, including around 1,700 emergency fodder distributions, support for cultivation on cropland in 1,600 cases, rehabilitation of 270 animal shelters, support for 60 home gardens and 20 greenhouses, 20 livestock and poultry distributions, and one animal health activity, including veterinary kits. In parallel, FSS partners provided around 400,000 food assistance responses through food parcels and cash-based assistance for food, including vouchers. Partners also supported food-system recovery through rehabilitation of irrigation networks, wells and springs; restoration of agricultural land and other productive assets; provision of fodder-production inputs; cash-based support; and assistance to agricultural cooperatives.

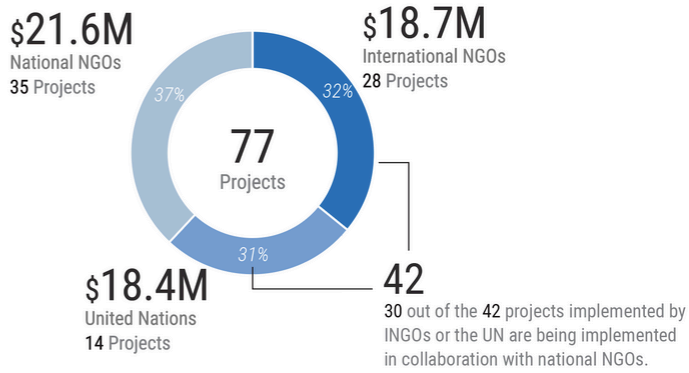
Funding

2026 FLASH APPEAL FUNDING STATUS



*92% of requested funds are for the humanitarian response in Gaza and 8% for the West Bank.

OPT HUMANITARIAN FUND PROJECTS



*91% of funds address needs in the Gaza Strip and 9% in the West Bank.

Sources: Financial Tracking System and oPt HFas of 30 September 2026.

Annexes

Annex 1: Humanitarian Operations in the Gaza Strip by Cluster

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Annex 2: Demolitions and Displacement

Read more +

Annex 3: Casualties and Operations by Israeli Forces

Read more +

Annex 4: Settler Violence

Read more +

Annex 5: Case study: Loss of Agricultural Access in Beit Ula

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*** Double asterisks indicate that a figure, sentence, or section has been rectified, added, or retracted after the initial publication of this update.*