



# Palestine Situation Report

July 22, 2024

## Background

Information about the ongoing war in Gaza and escalations in the West Bank is summarized in Anera's last [Palestine Situation Report \(June 2024\)](#).

## Overview

Since May 7 when Israel began a new offensive in Rafah, conditions have grown increasingly dire in central and southern Gaza, particularly in areas where over one million people have been newly displaced, with only seven hospitals partially operational. These include three hospitals in Deir al Balah and four in Khan Younis, supplemented by eight field hospitals providing 630 beds. The volume of medical supplies entering Gaza remains inadequate to meet the health needs of the population.<sup>1</sup>

A UN Environment Programme preliminary assessment revealed unprecedented environmental devastation in Gaza due to ongoing hostilities. The evaluation highlights the generation of an estimated 39 million tonnes of debris, equating to over 107 kilograms per square meter across the Gaza Strip. This debris poses significant risks to human health, including exposure to dust contaminated with asbestos and other hazardous substances, commingling with unexploded ordnance, and potential pathogens from unrecovered human remains. The shortage of cooking gas has forced families to burn wood, plastic, and waste, degrading air quality. Munitions containing heavy metals and chemicals are further contaminating soil and water sources, posing long-term health risks, particularly for children. Destruction of solar panels presents another environmental hazard, potentially leaking lead and other heavy metals into Gaza's fragile ecosystem.<sup>2</sup>

A recent analysis by the International Labour Organization and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics revealed severe economic degradation in Gaza and the West Bank. Between October 2023 and May 2024, real GDP in Gaza plummeted by 84%, shrinking

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<sup>1</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #181 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Damage to Gaza causing new risks to human health and long-term recovery - new UNEP assessment, June 2024 | UNEP](#). See also [UNRWA SITUATION REPORT #116 ON THE SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, June 2024 | UNRWA](#).

the economy to only 4% of its pre-war size. Unemployment in Gaza soared to over 79%, exacerbated by repeated displacement and infrastructure destruction. Inflation in Gaza reached over 153% year-on-year in April 2024, severely impacting purchasing power.<sup>3</sup>

OCHA reports that the healthcare sector in Gaza urgently needs 80,000 liters of fuel daily to sustain critical services, including trauma care, hemodialysis, and emergency surgeries amid ongoing hostilities and evacuation orders. Severe fuel shortages disrupt life-saving hospital operations, including adult and neonatal ICUs and dialysis units which are heavily reliant on electricity. Hospital generators, overworked and lacking spare parts, are at risk of failure, endangering critically ill patients. Heightened insecurity has led to more births at outpatient facilities as safer alternatives are sought. Meanwhile, inadequate access to clean water, hygiene kits, and sanitation facilities has contributed to a surge in respiratory infections, diarrheal illnesses, acute jaundice syndrome, and skin infections, exacerbated by poor living conditions and overcrowding.<sup>4</sup>

## Violence in Gaza and the West Bank

### Gaza

As of July 10, according to the official numbers the hostilities in Gaza killed 38,295 Palestinians and injured 88,241 others.<sup>5</sup> This does not include deaths that have gone unrecorded.

Save the Children reported that up to 21,000 children are estimated missing in Gaza due to the ongoing hostilities, many trapped under rubble, detained, buried in unmarked graves, or separated from their families. The latest displacements in Rafah have exacerbated the situation, increasing the strain on families and caregivers.

**Approximately 17,000 children are believed to be unaccompanied or separated**, with approximately 4,000 possibly buried under rubble. The whereabouts of others are unknown. Gaza's Ministry of Health reports over 14,000 children have been killed since October 7, with many bodies unidentifiable due to severe damage, including those found in mass graves bearing signs of torture and summary execution.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [War propels unemployment to close to 80 per cent and shrinks GDP by 83.5 per cent in the Gaza Strip. June 2024 | ILO](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 24 June-7 July 2024. July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Israel's war on Gaza updates: All civilians in Gaza City ordered to leave. July 2024 | AlJazeera](#)

<sup>6</sup> [GAZA'S MISSING CHILDREN: OVER 20,000 CHILDREN ESTIMATED TO BE LOST, DISAPPEARED, DETAINED, BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE OR IN MASS GRAVES. June 2024 | Save the Children](#)

## The West Bank

Between October 7, 2023, and July 8, 2024, 553 Palestinians, including 131 children, were killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Of these deaths, 536 were caused by Israeli forces, 11 by Israeli settlers, and six by unknown perpetrators. Among the total, 86 Palestinians, including 14 children, died in airstrikes. Additionally, approximately 5,500 Palestinians were injured, including about 850 children, with over a third of the injuries caused by live ammunition. OCHA documented 1,084 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. These attacks resulted in 107 Palestinian fatalities and injuries, 859 instances of property damage, and 118 cases involving both casualties and property damage. Consequently, around 46,500 Palestinian-owned trees and saplings were destroyed by individuals known or believed to be Israeli settlers.<sup>7</sup>

## Displacement and Shelter

Ongoing hostilities have displaced 1.9 million Palestinians (90% of Gaza residents).<sup>8</sup> Over one million people have been displaced from Rafah since the start of Israeli forces' ground operations on May 7. As of May 17, an estimated 60,000 to 75,000 people remain in the Mawasi area of Rafah, with 750 people in Rafah City. Internally displaced persons at displacement sites are living in overcrowded makeshift shelters and tents that urgently need repairs and offer no protection from extreme heat.<sup>9</sup>

On July 7 and 8, the Israeli military ordered tens of thousands of residents in 19 blocs of Gaza City to evacuate immediately. The order on July 7 affected five blocs, directing residents to move to western Gaza City. The order on July 8 covered 14 blocs, including areas where people had taken refuge the previous day, instructing them to evacuate southwards to shelters in Deir Al Balah's Israeli-designated "humanitarian zone."<sup>10</sup>

On July 1, the Israeli military issued the second largest evacuation order since October 2023, affecting 71 residential blocs in eastern Khan Younis and Rafah, impacting about 250,000 people. The area includes 92 schools, four medical points, two primary health centers, 14 hot meal kitchens, a landfill, a sewage treatment facility, and a hospital. IDPs relocated to overcrowded western Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah, which lack essential services and shelter.<sup>11</sup> In northern Gaza, up to 80,000 IDPs fled Shejaiya and eastern Gaza City after evacuation orders in late June. Many were found without shelter, sleeping amid waste and rubble, or in partially destroyed buildings. These areas were

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<sup>7</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #189 | West Bank, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip \(10 July 2024\), July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #180 | Gaza Strip & West Bank, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #188 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #187 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

designated evacuation zones again on July 7 and 8, causing repeated displacement for many families.<sup>12</sup>

On July 2, a United Nations assessment found that an Israeli operation in the Nur Shams Refugee Camp in Tulkarem in the West Bank damaged at least 200 houses. Seven of these structures were severely damaged by military bulldozers or explosions, making them uninhabitable and displacing 11 families, totaling 47 people, including 19 children. The main road linking Tulkarem city with the Nablus and Jenin governorates was also extensively damaged, disrupting the water supply and temporarily cutting off electricity and internet services in the camp.<sup>13</sup>

Since October 2023, OCHA has recorded over 1,000 attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians. These incidents have displaced around 1,390 individuals, including 660 children, across 29 Bedouin and herding communities. Between October 7 and July 8, OCHA documented that 235 Palestinian households, totaling 1,392 people, including 663 children, were displaced in 29 Bedouin and herding communities due to settler violence and access restrictions. Between October 7 and July 8, Israeli authorities demolished, confiscated, or forced the demolition of 1,117 Palestinian structures in the West Bank, including 427 inhabited homes (38% of the total). This led to the displacement of 2,524 people, including 1,113 children. Nearly half of those displaced (1,261 people) lost their homes during military operations, particularly in Jenin and Tulkarem cities and surrounding refugee camps. Additionally, 1,093 people (43%) were displaced due to the lack of building permits, and punitive demolitions displaced 170 people (7%).<sup>14</sup>

On June 30, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and partners opened the first shelter for displaced people with disabilities in Deir Al Balah, serving about 100 families with specialized support. People with disabilities in Gaza face severe challenges from hostilities and infrastructure issues. A UNICEF assessment in March 2024 found that only 41% of water points and one-third of latrines in 39 Rafah shelters were accessible to the disabled. On June 29, the Palestinian NGOs Network noted that displacement worsens conditions for people with disabilities, especially in overcrowded shelters, with women at high risk of abuse. PNGO estimated that since October 2023, around 10,000 people, half of them children, have become disabled.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #188 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #186 | West Bank, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #189 | West Bank, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #185 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

## Health

Following the recent evacuation orders on July 7 and 8, two hospitals, Al Ahli Baptist Hospital and the Patients Friends Association Hospital, were evacuated by July 8. Hospital staff feared intensified military activities would render them inaccessible or non-functional. Critical patients were transferred to the North Gaza Governorate's Indonesian and Kamal Adwan Hospitals. The European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis was hastily evacuated on July 2 after an evacuation order for eastern Khan Younis areas. Consequently, three hospitals have become non-functional since early July, leaving only 13 out of 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip partially functional, including four in Gaza governorate, three in North Gaza, three in Khan Younis, and three in Deir Al Balah.<sup>16</sup>

On July 7, Kamal Adwan Hospital had to suspend dialysis services due to a lack of fuel, which affected 21 kidney patients and jeopardized the care of newborns and critical patients in intensive care. The Kuwaiti Specialized Field Hospital received a small fuel supply on July 5, enabling limited operations. The Nasser Medical Complex, Gaza's last tertiary hospital in the south, faces critical shortages of supplies like abdominal gauze and surgical gowns, essential for trauma cases requiring immediate attention.<sup>17</sup>

On July 5, Médecins Sans Frontières reported that the European Gaza Hospital in Palestine had closed due to Israeli evacuation orders, placing immense strain on Nasser Hospital, which is now overwhelmed with patients, exceeding bed capacity in all departments and facing critical shortages of medical supplies. MSF teams describe children lying on floors due to a lack of beds and mattresses, with makeshift arrangements for IV fluids adding to the challenging conditions. Patients were evacuated from the European Gaza Hospital, and many were forced to walk up to 10 kilometers. The hospital's capacity to sterilize equipment for field hospitals is at risk due to fuel shortages, threatening essential patient care in both Nasser Hospital and nearby facilities.<sup>18</sup>

The absence of structured support and assistive devices for persons with disabilities is severely limiting their mobility and access to essential services in Gaza; individuals with hearing impairments have reportedly been found deceased, likely because they were unable to hear warnings issued by Israeli forces.<sup>19</sup>

By June 30, Gaza hospitals were overwhelmed by over 10,000 cases of Hepatitis A and 880,000 cases of respiratory illnesses. Diarrhea, skin infections, and lice outbreaks are

<sup>16</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #188 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #188 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Supply shortages and patient influxes leave Nasser hospital at breaking point, July 2024 | MSF](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #187 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

also widespread, with diarrheal infection rates now 25 times higher than before the hostilities. There is growing concern that cholera may become widespread.<sup>20</sup>

On June 25, Médecins Sans Frontières reported the death of its sixth staff member in Gaza, while cycling to a Médecins Sans Frontières clinic in Gaza City. Based on aerial and satellite imagery, the Al Awda Health and Community Association announced on June 26 the destruction of its health center in Rafah. This marks the fifth facility destroyed since October 2023, with other hospitals and health centers also targeted. The UN Human Rights Office condemned the killing of 500 health workers amid systematic attacks on medical facilities. OHCHR cited credible information that Israeli military raids on hospitals have led to mass detentions and enforced disappearances of medical staff.<sup>21</sup>

Poliovirus has been detected in Gaza's sewage, posing a severe health risk to displaced Palestinians living in tent camps with poor sanitation. The virus could contaminate scarce drinking water supplies and pose challenges due to the difficulty of isolating polio cases in crowded camps and the lack of recent vaccinations. At the same time, authorities in Deir Al Balah have predicted wastewater flooding and increased disease spread due to halted sewage treatment.<sup>22</sup>

Between 7 October and 28 May, WHO documented 480 attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel in the West Bank, with the majority (59%) occurring in the cities of Tulkarem, Jenin, and Nablus.<sup>23</sup> WHO documented that 44% of the 28,292 permit applications to access health facilities in East Jerusalem and Israel between October 2023 and May 2024 have been denied or remain pending. This marks a 56% decrease in applications and a 22% decrease in approvals compared to the same period in October 2022–May 2023.<sup>24</sup>

## Education

The Palestinian Ministry of Education reported that approximately 39,000 high-school students in Gaza could not take their General Secondary Examinations (Tawjihi) scheduled for 22 June. Since October 2023, over 625,000 students have been out of school in Gaza due to hostilities, with more than 7,000 students and 378 educational staff reported killed as of 11 June.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #185 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #184 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>22</sup> [‘Ticking time bomb’: Poliovirus found in Gaza sewage, July 2024 | AlJazeera](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Impact of health attacks in the West Bank, May 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/WB\\_Health\\_access\\_Oct-May.pdf?ua=1f&ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/WB_Health_access_Oct-May.pdf?ua=1f&ua=1)

<sup>25</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #181 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

A recent Education Cluster assessment using satellite imagery from May 3 and 7 shows increased damage to schools in Gaza. Now, 76% of schools require full reconstruction or significant rehabilitation, an increase from 73%. There's been a rise in direct targeting of schools, with 23 previously damaged facilities hit again in April. Of all school buildings, 54% have been directly hit, 22% damaged, and 15% possibly damaged. Over 96% of directly hit schools are located in areas with evacuation orders. North Gaza and Gaza governorates are hardest hit, with about 90% and 89% of their school buildings affected.<sup>26</sup>

## Humanitarian Aid

Ongoing hostilities and access constraints severely hinder the delivery of life-saving aid across Gaza. Between July 1 and 4, coordination with Israeli authorities for humanitarian missions in northern Gaza saw one mission facilitated (8%), nine impeded (69%), one denied access (8%), and two canceled (15%). In southern Gaza, out of 55 planned missions, 43 were facilitated (78%), six impeded (11%), one denied access (2%), and five canceled (9%). Delays, inconsistent procedures, and closures at checkpoints exacerbate these challenges, impacting the safety and efficiency of aid convoys and personnel movements.<sup>27</sup>

## Food Security and Nutrition

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification partnership issued its 3rd assessment on June 25, where 96% of the Gaza Strip population, totaling 2.15 million, face high levels of acute food insecurity through September 2024. The entire territory is classified as an Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with over 495,000 people (22% of the population) experiencing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) and an additional 745,000 people (33%) classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).<sup>28</sup> More than half of households regularly do not have any food, and over 20% go without eating for days at a time. More than half of households have resorted to selling their clothes for money to acquire food, while one-third have been driven to collect and sell trash.<sup>29</sup>

Only seven out of 18 bakeries supported by humanitarian partners are still operational in Gaza. The Food Security Sector reports that shortages have forced partners to reduce food rations in central and southern Gaza and have hindered the operation of bakeries and community kitchens. Without cooking gas and stable food supplies, community

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<sup>26</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #179 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #187 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 1 May - 15 June and Projection for 16 June - 30 September 2024, June 2024 | IPC](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #184 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

kitchens are struggling, resulting in fewer cooked meals being prepared—down from over 700,000 daily in early June to about 600,000 by the end of the month.<sup>30</sup>

In northern Gaza, humanitarian aid includes wheat flour and canned food from the Erez West Crossing, but commercial trucks last entered months ago. This has caused severe shortages of meat, poultry, and affordable vegetables. By May 2024, 57% of Gaza's cropland and a third of its greenhouses were damaged. Military operations in Rafah and displacement from eastern Khan Younis have worsened greenhouse damage and left farms unattended. Restarting agricultural activities, even at a small scale, is crucial for improving food diversity, but consistent access to seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs across all crossings is essential for recovery.<sup>31</sup>

The food supply chain in Gaza has suffered severe disruptions, with FAO reporting that approximately 41% of the Gaza Strip's total area is cropland, covering about 150 square kilometers. Recent assessments by FAO and UNOSAT reveal significant declines in crop health and density across Gaza due to hostility-related activities such as razing, heavy vehicle movement, bombing, and shelling. As of May 2024, an estimated 57% of Gaza's cropland has been damaged, up from over 40% in mid-February 2024. Khan Younis governorate saw the largest area of damaged cropland, while Rafah's damaged area more than doubled from February to May, increasing from 4.52 to 9.22 square kilometers. FAO also reported that about a third of Gaza's greenhouse area was damaged by late April. Gaza and North Gaza governorates experienced the most significant damage, with over 80% of greenhouse areas destroyed. Additionally, FAO noted damage to hundreds of agricultural structures as of late May, including 537 home barns, 484 broiler farms, 397 sheep farms, 256 agricultural warehouses, and approximately 46% of Gaza's agrarian wells (1,049 out of 2,261).<sup>32</sup>

UN Women highlighted that food insecurity in Gaza disproportionately affects women, with at least 557,000 facing severe food shortages and navigating heightened gender-based vulnerabilities. Women, particularly mothers and adult caregivers, bear a substantial care burden, often prioritizing their children's needs over their own, which leads to skipped meals and weight loss. Despite being a primary source for over 80% of women, reliance on food assistance is marred by perceptions of unfair distribution and inadequate coverage of household needs. Pregnant and lactating women encounter severe health risks due to malnutrition and limited access to essential supplements, while unsafe cooking methods further endanger their health.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #188 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #188 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #180 | Gaza Strip & West Bank, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>33</sup> [At least 557,000 women in Gaza are facing severe food insecurity, June 2024 | UN Women](#)



OCHA stated that less than 20,000 children and women received Lipid-Based Nutrient Supplements in June, down from 70,000 in May and nearly 140,000 in April. Concerns over the distribution of breast milk substitutes have also emerged due to their potential negative impact on infant health during emergencies.<sup>34</sup>

The Nutrition Vulnerability Analysis conducted by UNICEF in May across Gaza indicates a worsening dietary diversity among children aged 6 to 23 months and pregnant or breastfeeding women compared to April. In southern Gaza, 99% of children in this age group ate from four or fewer food groups in May, up from 96% in April. Similar trends were observed in northern Gaza, though data was limited. Overall, 93% of children and 96% of pregnant and breastfeeding women consumed two or fewer food groups within a day, reflecting severe dietary limitations. Nearly 85% of parents reported their children going without food for entire days due to financial constraints, while almost all households had to skip meals or reduce food intake to ensure their children were fed. The closure of nutrition delivery points and delays in establishing new services due to access challenges and security conditions have further hindered efforts to provide essential nutrition support, posing significant risks to maternal and child health and development.<sup>35</sup>

## Water & Sanitation (WASH)

Fuel shortages are severely impacting Gaza's water and sanitation infrastructure. Between June 22 and 28, only 51,490 liters of fuel were received to operate critical water and wastewater facilities, meeting just 10% of daily WASH requirements. Consequently, at least 50% of operational water wells temporarily stopped pumping, halving water production, and 106 water trucks ceased operations. Two desalination plants in central and southern Gaza also shut down due to lack of fuel. Damage to the Al Muntar water pipeline in Gaza City reduced the total water supply from 112,000 to 66,200 cubic meters daily. The Emergency Committee of Khan Younis Municipality warned on July 4 that fuel shortages halted wastewater systems, worsening sewage overflow and increasing health and environmental risks.<sup>36</sup>

On June 19, 2024, following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area on May 30, an inter-agency team conducted an assessment in Jabalia Refugee Camp in North Gaza. The evaluation focused on three displacement sites hosting over 17,600 people, including a non-functional hospital and a UNRWA school serving as an emergency shelter. The findings revealed severe challenges: critical shortages of safe drinking water

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<sup>34</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #179 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #184 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #187 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

due to damage to the camp's water supply, minimal functionality of water wells, and dire sanitation conditions marked by overflowing sewage and accumulating solid waste near living areas. The situation has exacerbated health risks, with increasing cases of Hepatitis A, skin diseases (particularly affecting children), and respiratory illnesses.<sup>37</sup>

The fuel shortage in Gaza continues to severely impact water and sewage services, posing significant health risks. Reduced fuel availability has led to a 38% decrease in public water distribution since early July, while two desalination plants have had to close intermittently due to insufficient fuel. Chlorine reserves, essential for water treatment, are degrading rapidly and need urgent replenishment to maintain water quality. The loss of the Mekerot line has further hampered groundwater production in Gaza City, exacerbating challenges caused by fuel shortages and high salinity levels.<sup>38</sup>

Gaza's critical infrastructure, including water, sanitation, and hygiene systems, has collapsed. All five wastewater treatment plants are non-operational, leading to widespread sewage contamination of coastal waters, soil, and freshwater with pathogens and hazardous chemicals. Solid waste management facilities are severely damaged, exacerbating health risks due to the accumulation of rubbish around shelters and camps.<sup>39</sup>

Recent military operations have destroyed or damaged approximately 67% of WASH facilities, including 194 water production wells, 40 high-volume water reservoirs, 55 sewage pumping stations, 76 municipal desalination plants, four wastewater treatment plants, and nine warehouses. Water production now meets only 28% of pre-conflict levels, with a 50% loss in distribution capacity due to extensive network damage.<sup>40</sup>

## Economic Situation in the West Bank

Restrictions on movement, communication disruptions, and barriers to goods access have severely hindered economic activity in the West Bank. Preliminary estimates suggest that private sector establishments in the West Bank have incurred losses totaling USD \$4,039,742.1 across industries: USD \$1,382,623.2 in industry, USD \$50,267.3 in construction, and USD \$2,606,851.6 in services and other branches. During the four months from October 2023 to January 2024, the Palestinian economy in the West Bank incurred losses totaling USD \$2.3 billion due to an unprecedented

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<sup>37</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #187 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>38</sup> [War propels unemployment to close to 80 per cent and shrinks GDP by 83.5 per cent in the Gaza Strip, June 2024 | ILO](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Damage to Gaza causing new risks to human health and long-term recovery - new UNEP assessment, June 2024 | UNEP](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #179 | Gaza Strip, June 2024 | OCHA](#)

decline in production among private sector establishments. This decline affected 29% of all establishments, leading to layoffs and reduced working hours for employees.<sup>41</sup>

A recent analysis by the International Labour Organization and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that in the West Bank, real GDP decreased by nearly 23%, with unemployment rising to approximately 32%. A significant portion of private sector establishments in both regions either halted operations or reduced production, resulting in an estimated total loss of USD \$2.3 billion in production value. According to the ILO/Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture employers' survey, 98.8% of enterprises in the West Bank were adversely affected by the Gaza war, impacting operations, production capacity, sales, and profits. Among surveyed businesses, 65.3% reported reducing their workforce through permanent and temporary layoffs, and 73.3% decreased working hours to manage costs.<sup>42</sup>

The current hostilities in the West Bank have led to the abrupt loss of approximately 160,000 jobs in the Israeli economy and settlements due to revoked permits and movement restrictions across governorates. A survey of 463 waged employees revealed that before the conflict, 22.2% worked in Israel and settlements, dropping to 2.3% by January 2024. About 33.5% of workers experienced job loss, while 58.5% retained pre-war positions with the same employer. Part-time employment increased significantly, with 41.0% of men and 40.3% of women working part-time. Reduced work hours affected over half of workers, and 39.6% reported wage cuts due to reduced hours. Only 31.4% of those who lost their jobs had received their end-of-service entitlements, while 87.2% reported declining household income since October 2023. Coping strategies included cutting back on essentials like food and healthcare, utilizing personal savings (71.1%), delaying loan payments (48.5%), and engaging in subsistence farming (9.7%).<sup>43</sup>

On June 27, Israeli authorities advanced the legalization of five West Bank settlement outposts, which are deemed illegal under Israeli law and international humanitarian law. Since early 2024, OCHA has documented 27 attacks against Palestinians by settlers from these outposts: two from Evyatar, nine from Sde Efraim, and 16 from Givat Assaf. Landowners from Dura town, adjacent to Adorayim, have been barred from accessing their hundreds of dunams of land since October 7. In two incidents since then, Israeli forces attacked, beat, threatened, and expelled them. The Adorayim zoning map

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<sup>41</sup> [Press Release on the Losses of Private Sector in Palestine due to the Israeli occupation Aggression on Gaza Strip, March 2024 | PCBS](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Impact of the war in Gaza on the labour market and livelihoods in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Bulletin No. 4, June 2024 | ILO](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Impact of the war in Gaza on the labour market and livelihoods in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Bulletin No. 4, June 2024 | ILO](#)

includes an additional 120 dunams of Dura land that has been inaccessible since October 7.<sup>44</sup>

In a recent survey encompassing 700 companies across diverse sectors in the West Bank, nearly all enterprises, at 99%, reported significant adverse impacts from the recent hostilities. This included reduced sales, disrupted supply chains, and increased operational costs such as transportation. To cope with these challenges, the majority of businesses, 65%, reduced their workforce, while 33% maintained pre-war employment levels. Temporary dismissals affected 53% of companies, with 40% resorting to permanent layoffs but ensuring due entitlements. Additionally, 73% of businesses adjusted by cutting work hours or days, with tourism most heavily affected, and on average, monthly working days decreased from 25 to 17. Many enterprises also ceased overtime pay (81%) and paid annual leave (37%) to manage costs. Furthermore, 76% halted ongoing development projects, and a noteworthy 15% explored new business sectors.<sup>45</sup>

## Anera's Response

Since October 7th, Anera has provided crucial humanitarian aid to Gaza. As of July 15th, the organization has delivered 768 truckloads of supplies, ensuring a continuous supply of essential items. This effort includes distributing approximately 33.7 million meals, comprising food parcels, fresh produce, hot meals, and flatbreads, addressing urgent nutritional needs among the displaced population.

Beyond food aid, Anera has distributed 6.9 million medical treatments, significantly supporting medical needs amidst widespread displacement and a strained healthcare system. The organization has also provided 23,056 blankets, 3,058 tents, and 5,380 mattresses, offering essential shelter to displaced families.

Recognizing the critical importance of hygiene and sanitation during emergencies, Anera has distributed 36,849 hygiene kits and 387,009 water bottles, contributing to maintaining health and sanitation standards. Additionally, the organization has distributed 58,264 packs of menstrual pads, addressing the specific needs of women and girls in emergencies.

Anera has facilitated access to healthcare through 171 free health clinic days near shelters, ensuring displaced families can receive medical assistance when needed. The

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<sup>44</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #186 | West Bank, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Impact of the war in Gaza on the labour market and livelihoods in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Bulletin No. 4, June 2024 | ILO](#)

organization has also conducted 445 psychosocial support sessions, incorporating guided self-expression activities for children to address their emotional well-being during these challenging times.