



Palestine Situation Report

August 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 \(July 2024\)](#).

Overview

Since early August, the Israeli military has issued 12 evacuation orders displacing an estimated 250,000 Palestinians, with an average of one evacuation order every two days¹, affecting displaced people in Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, and northern Gaza. Following the escalation of Israeli operations, 314 square kilometers of the Gaza Strip (86%) have been placed under forced displacement orders. The population is increasingly concentrated in the shrinking Israeli-designated zone in Mawasi, where density has surged to 30,000-34,000 people per square kilometer, compared to 1,200 people per square kilometer before October 2023. The area has decreased from 50.28 square kilometers on July 22 to 41.05 square kilometers, just 11% of the Gaza Strip.²

Of the 1.9 million displaced people, **1.7 million are concentrated in a 48 square kilometers area, at a population density of 35,416/square kilometers.** UNICEF highlighted that 524 schools (93%) in Gaza have sustained damage. The closure of the Rafah crossing, security issues around Kerem Shalom, and law and order disruptions have caused a **56% decrease in humanitarian aid cargo compared to April 2024.** Across Palestine, 3.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (including 1,554,700 children).³

WHO is now warning of a high risk of poliovirus type 2 spreading across Gaza and potentially beyond due to dire water, hygiene, and sanitation conditions and limited functionality of health facilities. Only 45% of primary healthcare centers are currently operational, impacting the ability to provide essential immunization and maternal and child health services that were critical before the war.⁴

¹ [Mass evacuations in Gaza choke survival and severely constrain aid operations. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

² [Humanitarian Situation Update #206 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

³ [Humanitarian Situation Report No. 29, August 2024 | UNICEF](#)

⁴ [Humanitarian Situation Update #196 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

Since the Rafah crossing closed in early May, humanitarian organizations have struggled to receive supplies from the Kerem Shalom crossing. This has led to a 61% reduction in the daily volume of humanitarian aid collected from Kerem Shalom, dropping from 94 trucks per day between January and April to just 37 trucks per day between May and July.⁵

Violence in Gaza and the West Bank

Gaza

As of August 19, the hostilities in Gaza have resulted in the officially-recorded deaths of 40,139 Palestinians, leaving 92,743 others injured.⁶ The Ministry of Health reported that **663 children under the age of one have died**, accounting for approximately 6% of the documented child fatalities.⁷ Of these, 115 infants were born and killed during the Israeli war on Gaza.⁸

Since October 7, 2023, over 1.8% of the Gaza Strip's population has been killed. Approximately 24% of the dead were young people, aged 18-29 (26% male, 22% female). Nearly 70% of the injured are women and children. Another estimated 10,000 people are missing and presumed dead. In the West Bank, approximately 75% of the Palestinians killed since October are under the age of 30.⁹

The UN Human Rights Office has condemned the growing frequency of Israeli strikes on schools serving as shelters for displaced Palestinians. In a recent strike on August 10, a mosque inside Al Tabaeen School was hit at least three times, resulting in the deaths of at least 93 Palestinians, including 11 children and six women, with most fatalities occurring during dawn prayer. Dozens more were seriously injured, primarily children, women, and elderly individuals. **This attack marked the 21st documented attack on schools used as shelters since July 4**, resulting in at least 274 fatalities.¹⁰ On August 8, 15 Palestinians were killed and 30 others injured in Israeli bombings of the Abdel-Fattah Hamouda and Al-Zahra schools, located east of Gaza City.¹¹

⁵ [Humanitarian Situation Update #205 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁶ [Death toll across Gaza Strip surges to 40,139, over 92,743 injured, August 2024 | Wafa News](#)

⁷ [Humanitarian Situation Update #202 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁸ [The Ministry of Health, Gaza, August 2024](#)

⁹ [On the occasion of the International Youth Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics \(PCBS\) issues a press release highlighting the situation of the youth in the Palestinian society, August 2024 | PCBS](#)

¹⁰ [OHCHR condemns Israeli Defense Force's Strike on Al Tabae'en School in Gaza City, August 2024 | UN](#)

¹¹ [Israel kills 40 Palestinians in Gaza airstrikes amid fears of wider war, August 2024 | AlArabiya News](#)

On August 5, Israel returned the bodies of 84 Palestinians killed during its military offensive in Gaza. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service in Khan Younis reported that it is unclear whether the bodies were dug up from cemeteries during the offensive or if they were detainees who had been killed.¹²

The West Bank

Since October 7, Israeli forces have killed 594 and injured more than 5,600 individuals in the West Bank. The number of Palestinian children killed by live ammunition fired by Israeli forces has nearly tripled, rising from 39 in the preceding ten months to 115. The number of Palestinian children injured by live ammunition has more than doubled during the same period, increasing from 615 to 1,411.¹³

Between October 7, 2023, and August 12, 2024, OCHA recorded approximately 1,250 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Of these attacks, around 120 resulted in Palestinian fatalities and injuries, about 1,000 caused damage to Palestinian property, and roughly 130 led to both casualties and property damage.¹⁴

Displacement and Shelter

Gaza

Approximately 1.9 million people (nine in ten) across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including those who have been displaced multiple times, with some individuals experiencing up to 10 displacements.¹⁵

On August 16, the Israeli military issued an evacuation order affecting six blocs in Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis, including two within the Israeli-designated zone in Mawasi. This reduced the "humanitarian area" to about 41 square kilometers, or 11% of the Gaza Strip, impacting 122 internally displaced person (IDP) sites and shelters hosting over 170,000 people. Earlier, on August 13 and 15, evacuation orders were issued for parts of eastern and central Khan Younis, affecting areas with around 5,200 people and 3.6 square kilometers, respectively.¹⁶

As of August 12, Israel's unilaterally declared "humanitarian area" in Mawasi has decreased from 58.9 square kilometers in early 2024 to approximately 46 square

¹² [Israel returns 80 Palestinian bodies to Gaza, keeps up military pressure, August 2024 | Arab News](#)

¹³ [UNRWA Situation Report #127 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, August 2024 | UNRWA](#)

¹⁴ [Humanitarian Situation Update #204 | West Bank, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

¹⁵ [UNRWA Situation Report #127 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, August 2024 | UNRWA](#)

¹⁶ [Humanitarian Situation Update #205 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

kilometers, now covering about 12.6% of the Gaza Strip. Overall, around 305 square kilometers, or nearly 84% of the Gaza Strip, have been placed under evacuation orders by the Israeli military.¹⁷

On August 10 and 11, the Israeli military issued two evacuation orders impacting around 23 IDP sites, 14 water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and four educational facilities. On August 10, the first order covered 1.35 square kilometers in east and central Khan Younis, predominantly affecting areas already under evacuation notices. On August 11, the second order covered 0.84 km² in Madinat Hamad and parts of Al Jala'a, Al Kateebah, and As Sater neighborhoods, within the "humanitarian area" and home to approximately 23,000 people, mainly IDPs. All neighborhoods except Al Jala'a had previously received evacuation orders.¹⁸

On August 7 and 8, the Israeli military issued three new evacuation orders affecting 42.6 square kilometers in northern and southern Gaza, including areas previously under evacuation notices. On August 7, residents, including IDPs in Beit Hanoun, Al Manshiya, and Ash Sheikh Zayed in North Gaza, were ordered to evacuate to shelters in Gaza City and later to Deir al Balah and Az Zawayda. On August 8, residents of central and eastern Khan Younis were ordered to move to a "humanitarian area," now spanning about 47 square kilometers, roughly 13% of the Gaza Strip. The newly designated evacuation areas include 230 IDP sites. Thousands of Palestinians have moved towards western Khan Younis and western Deir al Balah in response.¹⁹

On August 4, the Israeli military issued a new evacuation order for residents in southern Khan Younis and northern Rafah, directing them to move westward to Al Mawasi, a "safe zone" covering about 47 square kilometers, or 13% of the Gaza Strip. The order affected 24 blocs, totaling 18 square kilometers and impacting over 11,000 people. Despite frequent evacuation orders, many families remain in unsafe areas due to high insecurity, harsh conditions, and limited access to aid and services.²⁰

On August 3 and 4, three schools housing thousands of IDPs in Gaza City were hit, resulting in multiple fatalities and damage. On August 3, Hamama Public School in Sheikh Radwan was struck, killing 17 Palestinians, including children and women, and injuring tens more. The next day, Nasser and Hasan Salama schools in Nasser's neighborhood were hit, killing at least 30 Palestinians. Additionally, 16 people were

¹⁷ [Humanitarian Situation Update #203 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

¹⁸ [Humanitarian Situation Update #203 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

¹⁹ [Humanitarian Situation Update #202 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

²⁰ [Humanitarian Situation Update #200 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

reported missing under the rubble of Nasser School. Israeli forces have targeted 172 shelters, including 152 public and UNRWA schools, killing over 1,040 people.²¹

On July 27, the Israeli military reportedly struck Khadija Girls' School in Deir Al Balah, which was sheltering over 4,000 IDPs and housed a field medical unit from Al Aqsa Hospital. The attack killed 30 Palestinians and injured over 100 others; the Ministry of Health reported that among the deceased were at least 15 children and eight women. The new directives issued by Israeli authorities on July 27 and 28 impacted parts of Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir al Balah governorates, where an estimated 56,000 people had been sheltering. Over these two days, an estimated 200,000+ people were displaced, including 9,000 who arrived in Mawasi on July 27.²²

UNOSAT's July assessment revealed that out of 156,409 damaged structures in the Gaza Strip, 46,223 are destroyed, 18,478 are severely damaged, 55,954 are moderately damaged, and 35,754 are possibly damaged. This represents approximately **63% of all structures**, totaling 215,137 damaged housing units. The highest increases in damage occurred between May 3, 2024, and July 6, 2024, with 2,300 new structures affected in North Gaza and 15,030 in Rafah, where Rafah City municipality experienced 10,100 newly damaged structures.²³

OCHA indicates that shelter response efforts in Gaza are severely hampered by a lack of materials and non-food items due to access restrictions, logistical challenges, lawlessness, and the risk of looting. Israeli restrictions on transporting shelter materials between northern and southern Gaza prevent partners from meeting emerging needs. Recurrent displacement and limited access to many areas further hinder assessments and a comprehensive understanding of shelter needs.²⁴

The West Bank

Between October 7, 2023, and August 12, 2024, Israeli authorities demolished or forced the demolition of 1,380 Palestinian structures in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, displacing over 3,100 people, including 1,375 children. This marks more than a twofold increase compared to the previous period. The demolitions included over 500 inhabited structures, 300 agricultural buildings, and 100 WASH structures. Additionally, more than 181,000 Palestinians have been impacted by 25 incidents of public infrastructure destruction during Israeli operations in Tulkarm and Jenin.²⁵

²¹ [Humanitarian Situation Update #200 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

²² [Humanitarian Situation Update #197 | Gaza Strip, July 2024 | OCHA](#)

²³ [Gaza Strip, Imagery Analysis: 06 July 2024 / Published: 31 July 2024 / V1 | UNOSAT](#)

²⁴ [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 22 July-4 August 2024, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

²⁵ [Humanitarian Situation Update #204 | West Bank, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

According to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Al-Bustan, with around 1,550 residents and 150 housing units near the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, faces increased Israeli pressure to boost Jewish presence and displace Palestinians. All structures in Al-Bustan are unprotected and at risk of demolition. The NRC is currently representing 85 demolition cases in the community.²⁶

Health

The health system in Gaza remains barely functional, with 90 hospitals and primary healthcare centers non-operational.²⁷ According to OCHA, 56% of hospitals (20 out of 36) and 58% of primary healthcare centers (73 out of 126) are non-functional. As of August 1, **more than 885 health workers in Gaza have been killed**, and at least 310 have been arrested. This death toll represents about 3.5% of the health workforce in the Strip before the Gaza war.²⁸

The healthcare system is under severe strain due to **over 1,000 documented attacks on healthcare facilities**. In the Gaza Strip, the health crisis is further complicated by a high prevalence of infectious diseases, including over 577,000 cases of **acute watery diarrhea** and 995,000 cases of **acute respiratory infections**. According to UNRWA, Gaza is experiencing a significant increase in hepatitis cases, with 800 to 1,000 new cases reported weekly from UNRWA health centers and shelters. Hepatitis A cases surged from 85 before the war to nearly 40,000 since the hostilities began.²⁹ The enclave also faces a growing burden of non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions, affecting hundreds of thousands of individuals.³⁰

Doctors Without Borders has warned that Nasser Hospital, the largest medical facility in southern Gaza, is at risk as fighting draws nearer. The hospital, which cares for approximately 550 patients, including newborns and those with severe burns and trauma injuries, faces critical threats. Al-Aqsa Hospital is overwhelmed with 550-600 patients, exceeding its pre-war capacity of 220 beds. Evacuation orders in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah have displaced about 190,000 Palestinians, exacerbating Gaza's health system crisis.³¹

On August 16, the Ministry of Health reported the **first case of polio** in the southern governorates in Deir Al Balah, affecting a 10-month-old child who had not received any

²⁶ [Israeli authorities demolish East Jerusalem home, entire community at risk, August 2024 | NRC](#)

²⁷ [UNRWA Situation Report #127 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, August 2024 | UNRWA](#)

²⁸ [Humanitarian Situation Update #202 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

²⁹ [Gaza's displaced people face a new peril: Hepatitis A outbreak, July 2024 | UNRWA](#)

³⁰ [300 Days of War: Health Crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, August 2024 | Health Cluster](#)

³¹ [Gaza: Nasser Hospital must be protected as health facilities cope with a deadly July, July 2024 | MSF](#)

polio vaccinations. Doctors suspected polio symptoms, and after conducting necessary tests in Amman, Jordan, the infection was confirmed to be caused by a vaccine-derived polio strain.³²

Two rounds of a polio vaccination campaign are planned for late August and September 2024 in Gaza to prevent the spread of variant type 2 poliovirus. **WHO and UNICEF have called for seven-day humanitarian pauses in the hostilities to allow safe access to health facilities for vaccination.** Over 640,000 children under ten will receive the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 in each round. The campaign involves 708 teams and 2,700 health workers. With Gaza's health systems severely disrupted, achieving at least 95% coverage is crucial to prevent polio's resurgence after 25 polio-free years.³³

Education

Since the beginning of the war, all higher education institutions in the Gaza Strip have closed, depriving some 88,000 students of the ability to attend their universities.³⁴ As of July 30, 2024, all 625,000 students enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Gaza have lost a full academic year, and 39,000 students were forced to miss the Tawjihi exams (taken in the senior year of secondary school and vital for determining university admittance) for the first time in decades, jeopardizing their transition to higher education and increasing the likelihood that many may never return to school. School buildings are now shelters for displaced families, and playgrounds are covered with tents and tarps. As of July 30, 9,211 students and 397 educational staff members have been killed, while 14,237 students and 2,246 teachers have been injured since October 7.³⁵ Recent data showed that in 2023, 47% of youth (ages 18-29) in the West Bank were not engaged in employment or education/training, including 34% males and 61% females.³⁶

The Education Cluster's most recent assessment of school damages reported that 93% of schools sustained some degree of damage. **At least 85% of schools will require full reconstruction or significant rehabilitation** to become functional again. Among the damaged schools, 33% are operated by UNRWA. Three hundred forty-four schools

³² [Palestinian Ministry of Health, August 2024](#)

³³ [Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip, August 2024 | WHO](#)

³⁴ [On the occasion of the International Youth Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics \(PCBS\) issues a press release highlighting the situation of the youth in the Palestinian society, August 2024 | PCBS](#)

³⁵ [A year of silence in Gaza's classrooms: the urgent need for educational revival \(3 August 2024\), August 2024 | ReliefWeb](#)

³⁶ [On the occasion of the International Youth Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics \(PCBS\) issues a press release highlighting the situation of the youth in the Palestinian society, August 2024 | PCBS](#)

that have been directly hit by munitions before the war served some 371,430 students and 13,832 teachers (representing 59% of the total student population and 60% of the teaching staff). Another 133 schools that have also suffered damage had served roughly 153,756 students and 5,741 teachers (about 25% of both student and teaching populations). Additionally, 54% of the schools used as shelters for IDPs have been directly hit. The Education Cluster has reported **multiple incidents of schools being repurposed for military uses by Israeli forces**, including detention, interrogation, and military bases, with satellite images further evidencing such uses.³⁷

Education supplies, which are crucial for the resumption of schooling, continue to be labeled as non-humanitarian items and are repeatedly denied entry into Gaza. On July 28, three trucks carrying UNICEF education supplies, which were initially approved for entry, were denied entry and forced to turn back to Al Arish.³⁸

Humanitarian Aid

Between August 1 and 15, of the 109 planned humanitarian missions to northern Gaza coordinated with Israeli authorities, only 46 were facilitated, 37 were denied, 19 were impeded, and seven were canceled due to logistical, operational, or security reasons. In southern Gaza, out of 177 planned missions, only 96 were facilitated, 46 were denied, 19 were impeded, and 16 were canceled.³⁹

On August 7, Nadi Salem Awad Salout, a staff member of World Central Kitchen, was killed by an Israeli airstrike near Deir Al Balah. The airstrike, which involved seven missiles targeting multiple buildings, caused fatal injuries to Nadi from shrapnel. At the time of the attack, he was alone in his vehicle, returning home from work at one of WCK's warehouses.⁴⁰ Since 2023, the deadliest year for humanitarians, 172 aid workers were killed globally by August 2024. Over half of these deaths occurred in Gaza between October and December, primarily due to airstrikes. By August 2024, **289 aid workers in Gaza, mainly UNRWA staff, had been killed**, including some while on duty.⁴¹

The Erez West (Zakim) entry point has been closed for maintenance since August 2, redirecting humanitarian supplies to the Erez crossing. **Over the past three months, aid cargo entering Gaza via Kerem Shalom crossing dropped by more than 80%**, from a daily average of 127 trucks in April to about 23 trucks per day in July. The proportion of aid cargo entering Gaza through Kerem Shalom has also decreased significantly, with only 29% of aid delivered through this crossing, as more of the aid

³⁷ [Verification of damages to schools - Update # 5 July 2024 | Education Cluster](#)

³⁸ [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 22 July-4 August 2024. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

³⁹ [Humanitarian Situation Update #205 | Gaza Strip. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁴⁰ [A Tribute to Nadi. August 2024 | World Central Kitchen](#)

⁴¹ [Humanitarian Situation Update #206 | Gaza Strip. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

flow has been shifted to first Zakim and now Erez. Overall, **humanitarian aid entering Gaza has more than halved since the Rafah ground operation began and the abrupt closure of Rafah crossing in early May**, declining from a daily average of 169 trucks in April to less than 80 trucks per day in June and July.⁴²

The NRC observed that ongoing hostilities in Gaza have caused a severe cash shortage, worsening the hardships in the region's cash-dependent economy. Limited internet access and unequal access to mobile phones further complicate cashless banking, exacerbating the crisis. This shortage also hampers humanitarian operations, making aid delivery more difficult. The inability to meet operational costs restricts aid distribution, undermines cash assistance programs, and further complicates reconstruction and recovery efforts.⁴³ Anera's own operations have been impacted by the profound difficulties in securing cash to pay for operating costs.

Since May 3, the NRC has been unable to transport aid from crossing points to its warehouses in Gaza, leaving an estimated 488 assistance pallets stranded at the Kerem Shalom crossing for the past three months. After three months, on August 3 some NRC relief items were finally transported to their warehouse by the Logistics Cluster.⁴⁴

Food Security and Nutrition

Gaza is facing a severe food security crisis, with over 57% of its agricultural land damaged by the hostilities. Nearly 33% of greenhouses, 46% of wells, and 65% of solar panels used in agriculture have been destroyed. Large-scale displacement has significantly increased food prices and disrupted local food production. Restoring agricultural production will be a lengthy process, potentially requiring up to 14 years to clear unexploded ordnance and rehabilitate land.⁴⁵ The subsequent widespread starvation conditions have claimed 34 lives. Around 3,500 children are currently at risk of death from malnutrition.⁴⁶

There is a critical need to increase hot meal capacity due to ongoing displacements. Community kitchens in central and southern areas struggle with unstable humanitarian cargo, food, and fuel shortages. Since July 22, multiple evacuation orders in Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis have forced the relocation of four kitchens and the closure of 19 food delivery points. Additionally, about 1,400 metric tons of food in a Deir Al Balah

⁴² [Humanitarian Situation Update #202 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁴³ [Gaza's cash liquidity crisis, July 2024 | NRC](#)

⁴⁴ [On-the-record update #7 on situation in Gaza, Palestine, August 2024 | NRC](#)

⁴⁵ [With Famine Imminent, Action Against Hunger is Increasing Aid to Farmers, July 2024 | Action Against Hunger](#)

⁴⁶ [On the occasion of the International Youth Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics \(PCBS\) issues a press release highlighting the situation of the youth in the Palestinian society, August 2024 | PCBS](#)

warehouse became inaccessible, leaving only one World Food Programme warehouse with 3,000 metric tons of commodities, which is insufficient for August's needs.⁴⁷

High food prices and liquidity challenges persist in Gaza, with the market structure changing due to the emergence of "thieves' markets" where stolen goods are sold. Despite intermittent fuel availability, 12 of 18 bakeries remained operational as of July 29, with closures mainly in Rafah due to security issues. Fuel shortages between July 8-19 led to the temporary closure of two bakeries in Gaza City. The economic crisis, marked by inflation exceeding 153% year-on-year in April 2024, has severely impacted purchasing power.⁴⁸

According to OCHA, as of early August, multiple evacuation orders in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah have disrupted food distribution, with at least 20 distribution points, 18 meal provision points, and two warehouses affected. Thirteen of these were closed, and five were relocated, with staff displacement worsening the situation. Food supply stocks are insufficient for August, and insecurity, damaged roads, and access limitations along the main humanitarian route have led to critical shortages. The passage of fuel and supplies remains blocked, threatening essential services. The lack of seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs hamper local food production, and the missed agricultural season may devastate livelihoods. Northern Gaza has seen a near-total absence of protein sources, including meat and poultry, with only a few expensive vegetables available.⁴⁹

Water & Sanitation

Even before the hostilities, approximately 180 locations in Gaza were identified as high risk for flooding due to an inadequate stormwater drainage network. The situation has worsened due to extensive damage to wastewater networks, storm drainage, and canals, compounded by blockages from debris and rubbish. In heavily affected areas such as Khan Younis, where over 80% of infrastructure is compromised, significant clogging and flooding have occurred, with raw sewage accumulating in streets and IDP sites, particularly in densely populated areas like Mawasi. The WASH Cluster has warned that during the rainy season, this deterioration poses a dual threat of increased flooding and water source contamination, leading to serious public health risks.⁵⁰

OCHA highlighted that the lack of generators, alternative energy sources, and fuel and spare parts shortages severely hamper water production and sewage pumping across Gaza, leading to significant health risks. Sewage flooding between Zawayda and Nuseirat Refugee Camp is particularly problematic due to the Sawarha pumping

⁴⁷ [Humanitarian Situation Update #205 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁴⁸ [Gaza food supply assessment, as of July 31, 2024, July 2024 | FEWS NET](#)

⁴⁹ [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 22 July-4 August 2024, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁵⁰ [Humanitarian Situation Update #202 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

station's lack of fuel and parts. Due to bombardments, the Deir Al Balah and South Gaza desalination plants were closed on July 27. Israeli forces reportedly damaged the Canada reservoir in Rafah, a critical water facility for 150,000 people. WASH actors struggle to manage sludge removal and sewage flooding due to a lack of vacuum trucks. The depletion of chlorine reserves, now consumed at twice the pre-war rate, urgently requires new imports for water purification.⁵¹

Gaza City is grappling with 150,000 tons of accumulated waste. The municipality warns that this massive buildup significantly increases the risk of disease and epidemics.⁵² The bombardment in Gaza has led to the collapse of the solid waste management system, with over 140 temporary dumping sites established since October 7. Despite collecting approximately 680 tons of waste daily from Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al Balah, this is only 60% of the 1,100 tons generated daily. UNDP collected 90,000 tons of waste in 2024, highlighting in a recent assessment that major landfills were reduced from two to zero, with 72 temporary large and 63 small dumping sites created as alternatives. Waste collection vehicles decreased from 251 to 51, large waste transfer vehicles from 10 to zero, and waste containers from 7,300 to 1,300. Landfill machinery units dropped from 18 to 2. In medical waste management, collection vehicles fell from five to one (damaged but functional), autoclaves in hospitals from 12 to one, and disinfection microwaves from two to zero.⁵³

According to the WASH Cluster, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility manages water chlorination in Gaza using contingency reserves of sodium hydrochloride. However, these reserves are expected to last only one month, raising concerns about the ability to maintain water disinfection. The situation is further complicated by the need to double the chlorine concentration to 12% due to degradation from prolonged storage and rising temperatures. Efforts to import sodium hydrochloride into Gaza face significant obstacles, and no shipments have arrived due to ongoing access impediments.⁵⁴

On July 29, the Khan Younis Municipality urgently appealed for international help due to a severe shortage of machinery, with over 14 of 26 vehicles destroyed by ongoing aggressions.⁵⁵ On July 27, the Israeli military allegedly destroyed a crucial water production and distribution facility in the Tal Al Sultan area of Rafah governorate. This facility included a 3,000-cubic-meter blending and distribution reservoir and three water pumping stations. The WASH Cluster reported that the destruction appears to have been targeted, severely impacting water treatment and distribution now and

⁵¹ [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 22 July-4 August 2024. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁵² [Municipality of Gaza. August 2024](#)

⁵³ [UNDP/PAPP's Emergency Response to solid waste management. July 2024 | UNDP](#)

⁵⁴ [Humanitarian Situation Update #205 | Gaza Strip. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁵⁵ [Khan Younis Municipality. July 2024](#)

during recovery. Before the war, the reservoir served 150,000 people and many more during the mass displacement period in Rafah.⁵⁶

Between July 22 and 28, no fuel was delivered to WASH facilities in northern Gaza, threatening the shutdown of water wells, water trucking, and wastewater pumping, which affected hundreds of thousands of people. Due to access constraints and infrastructural damage, water supply throughout Gaza remained critically low, averaging 98,272 cubic meters per day, or about one-fourth of the potential capacity of 378,500 cubic meters per day, according to the WASH Cluster.⁵⁷

Anera's Response

Anera's response to the war on Gaza has been comprehensive and impactful, focusing on addressing immediate needs and providing critical support. The organization has distributed **37.2 million meals** to support food security for those affected. Additionally, the organization has coordinated the delivery of 857 truckloads of aid, including essential medicines and healthcare supplies amounting to **6.9 million treatments**. And Anera has provided 23,056 blankets, 3,058 tents, 5,380 mattresses, and 38,159 hygiene kits to support displaced individuals needing immediate support.

Recognizing the specific needs of women and children, Anera has distributed 58,264 menstrual packs to maintain dignity and hygiene. The organization has also organized 262 health clinic days, offering free healthcare services close to shelters to improve accessibility for those in need. To address the psychological impact of the war, Anera has conducted 466 psychosocial sessions for children, helping them cope with the trauma and stress they continue to endure.

Through these efforts, Anera addresses the immediate humanitarian needs and works towards long-term recovery and support for affected communities. The extensive aid highlights the organization's commitment to alleviating the suffering of those impacted by the Gaza war and supporting pathways to recovery.

⁵⁶ [Humanitarian Situation Update #199 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

⁵⁷ [Humanitarian Situation Update #199 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)