



# Palestine Situation Report

September 26, 2024

## Background

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

## Overview

A recent UNCTAD report highlighted that the military operations in Gaza devastated the remaining infrastructure and is creating an unprecedented humanitarian and environmental crisis. The gross domestic product in Gaza plummeted by 81% in the last quarter of 2023, and unemployment skyrocketed to 79%. Before October 2023, 80% of Gazans relied on international aid. By year's end, multidimensional poverty had affected the entire population. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the quarterly gross domestic product contracted by 19%, with unemployment reaching 32% due to increased violence and intensification of the long-standing restrictions on movement and access.<sup>1</sup>

On September 11, six UNRWA staff members were killed when two airstrikes struck a school and its surrounding area in Nuseirat, located in the central region of Gaza. This marks the highest death toll ever among UNRWA staff in a single incident. Among those killed were the shelter's manager, and team members assisting displaced individuals. The school, sheltering around 12,000 people—primarily women and children—has been hit five times since the war began.<sup>2</sup>

On September 10, the UN Human Rights Office denounced deadly Israeli military strikes conducted the night prior in an area unilaterally designated as a humanitarian zone. The area was crowded with tents sheltering internally displaced people in the Mawasi area of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. The attack, which involved the use of explosive weapons in a densely populated area, killed at least 19 civilians and wounded 60 others.<sup>3</sup> The UN Secretary-General strongly condemned the Israeli air strikes, which

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<sup>1</sup> [Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory Note by the UNCTAD secretariat](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://x.com/UNRWA/status/1833967285171630128>

<sup>3</sup> [UN Human Rights in Occupied Palestinian Territory, September 2024 | UN](#)

killed civilians, including women and children, stating that displaced Palestinians had moved there seeking safety after being instructed to do so by Israeli authorities.<sup>4</sup>

On September 9, UNOSAT released the Gaza Strip Road Network Comprehensive Damage Assessment. It identified approximately 1,190 kilometers of roads destroyed, 415 kilometers severely damaged, and 1,440 kilometers moderately affected. In total, about 68% of Gaza's road network has been impacted by the hostilities, including both destroyed and damaged roads.<sup>5</sup>

The International Rescue Committee reported that **some children without surviving family members are living alone in hospitals** due to the absence of alternative care options. According to an April 2024 UN survey, **41% of families in Gaza have been taking care of children who are not their own since October**, a rate significantly higher than the usual emergency range of 3-5%. UNICEF estimates that up to 19,000 children have been orphaned.<sup>6</sup>

According to UNICEF, all of Gaza's nearly 1.1 million children urgently need humanitarian assistance to survive, with most now displaced within an area smaller than 50 square kilometers. Widespread hunger and acute malnutrition persist, and thousands of children have experienced severe rights violations.<sup>7</sup>

## Violence in Gaza and the West Bank

### Gaza

Israeli bombardment from the air and land continues across the Gaza Strip, leading to additional civilian casualties, displacement, and damage to homes and civilian infrastructure. Ground operations are ongoing, particularly in Beit Hanoun, southwest Gaza City, eastern Khan Younis, Deir al Balah, and both eastern and southern Rafah, where heavy fighting is reported.<sup>8</sup> As of September 22, at least 41,431 Palestinians have been reported killed and 95,818 others wounded, with over 10,000 believed to be buried under the rubble of destroyed homes.

Since the beginning of the Gaza war, there have been 464 incidents affecting UNRWA premises, including at least 74 involving military use or interference. A total of 190

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<sup>4</sup> [Secretary-General Condemns Deadly Israeli Air Strikes in Khan Younis, Gaza, September 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>5</sup> [UNOSAT Gaza Strip Road Network Comprehensive Damage Assessment - August 2024 | UNOSAT](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Gaza: The IRC warns of alarming gap in care for unaccompanied and separated children in Gaza, August 2024 | IRC.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell's opening remarks at the second regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board, September 2024 | UNICEF](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #218 | Gaza Strip, OCHA](#)

UNRWA installations have been impacted by munitions or armed actor interference. UNRWA estimates that at least 563 internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in its installations have been killed and at least 1,790 injured.<sup>9</sup>

## The West Bank

On August 27, Israeli forces launched a large-scale military operation in the northern West Bank governorates of Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarm, and Qalqilya. By August 29, ISF had withdrawn from Tulkarm and Tubas, shifting focus to Jenin refugee camp and city. As of September 1, the operation resulted in 29 Palestinians killed and more than 50 injured. Jenin Camp was placed under curfew, with residents cut off from essential services and supplies. Extensive damage, including property destruction and road bulldozing, was reported in Jenin and surrounding areas.<sup>10</sup>

For two days starting September 10, Israeli forces conducted operations in the Tubas and Tulkarm governorates, resulting in the deaths of 11 Palestinians, including one child and one woman. The operation involved both air and ground forces and included exchanges of fire with Palestinians, leading to significant infrastructure damage, displacement of residents, and prolonged disruptions to electricity and water services.<sup>11</sup> As of August 28, Israeli airstrikes have killed 136 Palestinians and injured 41, with 135 deaths occurring in the northern governorates. In comparison, from 2020 to October 2023, six Palestinians were killed in airstrikes, all in 2023.<sup>12</sup>

Between October 7, 2023, and September 16, 2024, a total of **689 Palestinians were killed** in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, along with two individuals who died from wounds sustained before October 7. Among those killed, 671 were attributed to Israeli forces, 11 to Israeli settlers, and seven cases remain unclear regarding the perpetrators. During the same period, OCHA recorded approximately 1,360 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Of these, about 130 resulted in Palestinian fatalities and injuries.<sup>13</sup>

## Displacement and Shelter

### Gaza

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<sup>9</sup> [UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell's opening remarks at the second regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board, September 2024 | UNICEF](#)

<sup>10</sup> [UNRWA Situation Report #133 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, September 2024 | UNRWA](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #219 | West Bank, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #210 | West Bank, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #219 | West Bank, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

At least 1.9 million people, or nine in ten residents across the Gaza Strip, are internally displaced, including many who have been displaced multiple times, with some experiencing displacement up to 10 times or more. At least 370,000 housing units in Gaza have been damaged, including 79,000 of which have been completely destroyed. **The estimated cost of damage to critical civilian infrastructure is around \$18.5 billion**, with 72% attributed to housing, 19% to public services infrastructure (such as water, health, and education), and 9% to commercial and industrial buildings.<sup>14</sup>

On August 29 and 30, the Israeli military announced that residents and displaced people could return to specific areas in southern Deir Al Balah and western Khan Younis, which had previously been under expulsion orders. These areas, impacted by evacuation orders issued on August 16, 21, and 25, included vital service facilities and water wells. Since October, over 86% of Gaza's territory has been affected by expulsion orders, including more than 40 issued since January 2024. As of August 30, hundreds of thousands of displaced families are confined to a 47 square kilometer area in Mawasi, representing about 13% of Gaza's total land area. This region is severely overcrowded and lacks essential infrastructure and services.<sup>15</sup>

On August 21 and 22, the Israeli military issued three evacuation orders affecting 15 neighborhoods in Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis.<sup>16</sup> **Between August 19 and 24, the Israeli army issued five new expulsion orders, the highest number in a single week since the war began.** Between August 23 and 25, the Israeli military issued three new evacuation orders affecting over 19 neighborhoods in northern Gaza and Deir Al Balah, displacing over 8,000 people, many of whom were staying in 13 IDP sites. Sixteen evacuation orders were issued in August, affecting around 12% of Gaza's population (258,000 people). The orders in Deir Al Balah displaced humanitarian staff from various UN agencies, NGOs, and service providers, hindering their ability to deliver essential services. The August 25 order impacted 15 UN and NGO premises and four UN warehouses.<sup>17</sup>

On September 9, the Israeli military issued a new evacuation order affecting four neighborhoods in northwest Beit Lahia and Jabalya in northern Gaza. This is the first such order since August 25. Residents who had already faced previous evacuation orders were instructed to move southward. As of October 7, over 28,000 people lived in these areas, many already displaced by earlier orders and ongoing hostilities.<sup>18</sup> As of September 16, over 55 evacuation orders remain in effect, impacting more than 85% of

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<sup>14</sup> [UNRWA Situation Report #133 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. September 2024 | UNRWA](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #211 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #208 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #209 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

Gaza's population. The latest evacuation order was issued in northern Gaza on September 14. Repeated displacements are separating families and eroding social protection systems, particularly for women and children.<sup>19</sup>

The severe lack of shelter materials and non-food items in central and southern Gaza hampers the Shelter Cluster's response due to access and logistical issues and the breakdown of law and order. The closure of the Kerem Shalom crossing obstructs the delivery of humanitarian items. Restrictions on transporting shelter materials between northern and southern Gaza prevent partners from addressing needs as they arise. Additionally, recurrent displacement and access impediments hinder comprehensive needs assessments and response efforts.<sup>20</sup>

According to UNFPA, the war on Gaza is severely impacting women and girls who face trauma, repeated displacement, and fear. Limited access to food, clean water, sanitation, and health care, along with inadequate waste management, traps people in a cycle of suffering, increasing vulnerability to malnutrition, disease, and infection. Pregnant and breastfeeding women, along with their newborns, are especially at risk. Approximately 43,580 pregnant women have been displaced at least once. Each evacuation order disrupts lives, making survival uncertain and complicating access to essential maternal health services.<sup>21</sup>

## The West Bank

OCHA and the UNRWA conducted a preliminary assessment in Tulkarm Refugee Camp following a two-day operation by Israeli forces on September 10 and 11. The assessment team observed significant damage, believed to be caused by shoulder-fired explosive projectiles and explosives. **Nearly 40 residential structures were destroyed, displacing around 200 individuals, including 90 children, while at least 500 additional structures sustained damage.**<sup>22</sup>

Between October 7, 2023, and September 16, 2024, Israeli authorities demolished, confiscated, or forced the demolition of 1,697 Palestinian structures in the West Bank, displacing over 4,400 Palestinians, including about 1,850 children. This represents more than three times the number of people displaced during the same period before October 7, when approximately 1,370 Palestinians were displaced, including 640 children. Among the structures demolished after October 7 were over 700 inhabited buildings, more than 300 agricultural structures, over 100 water, sanitation, and

<sup>19</sup> [Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, September 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 19 August - 1 September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #217 | Gaza Strip, OCHA](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sudan, Ukraine, Nigeria, Typhoon Yagi, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

hygiene facilities, and 200 livelihood-related structures.<sup>23</sup> Additionally, around 28 incidents of demolitions and destruction of infrastructure, primarily in Tulkarm and Jenin, have significantly affected water, sewage, and electricity infrastructure, impacting entire neighborhoods and beyond.<sup>24</sup>

Since October 7, 2023, OCHA recorded approximately 1,360 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Of these, about 1,231 caused property damage. During this period, a total of 277 Palestinian households, comprising 1,628 individuals, including 794 children, have been displaced in incidents involving Israeli settlers.<sup>25</sup> In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Palestinians also face significant violence and movement restrictions that hinder access to schools, work, family, and health facilities, including 73,000 pregnant women.<sup>26</sup> The Israeli forces have besieged Palestinian cities and villages by encircling them with military checkpoints of different types and sizes. The number of checkpoints increased from 567 on October 7, which included 77 significant checkpoints and 490 smaller ones, such as earth mounds, cement barriers, and iron gates, to nearly 700 in February.<sup>27</sup>

Before October 2023, 171,000 Palestinians from the West Bank were employed in Israel and settlements, with their incomes contributing to one-third of overall demand. However, since the onset of the hostilities, 90% of these workers have lost their jobs, and additional restrictions and closures have prevented another 67,000 workers from reaching their workplaces outside their governorates of residence. In the fourth quarter of 2023, unemployment in the West Bank surged to 32%, up from 12.9% in the third quarter of 2023. **More than 200,000 jobs have been lost**, primarily in Israel and settlements.<sup>28</sup>

## Health

As of August 25, 17 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional, with three in North Gaza, seven in Gaza City, four in Khan Younis, and three in Deir al Balah. Following an evacuation order on August 25, most patients and displaced people at the Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al Balah fled due to intensified hostilities. Nine of 14 field hospitals are operational, with five only partially functional. Additionally, only 44% of primary healthcare centers (58 out of 132) and medical points (126 out of 285) provide minimal services.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #219 | West Bank, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #213 | West Bank, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #219 | West Bank, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #217 | Gaza Strip, OCHA](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Methods to Address West Bank Cities' Economic Losses since the Start of the Gaza War | MAS](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory Note by the UNCTAD secretariat](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #211 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

The Health Cluster documented **1,039 attacks on health facilities and personnel** since October 7, including 535 in the West Bank and 504 in the Gaza Strip. These attacks include 504 incidents affecting facilities, 459 impacting health transport, and 775 resulting in fatalities. Additionally, 370 health workers have been detained, 1,000 individuals have sustained injuries, 488 ambulances have been affected, and 78 patients have been detained.<sup>30</sup> Recent WHO missions to deliver fuel to northern Gaza saw only two of six approved. Hospitals are struggling due to fuel shortages, staff deficits, and damage from ongoing hostilities. Gaza has recorded over a million cases of acute upper respiratory infections, 600,000 cases of diarrheal diseases, 105,000 cases of scabies, 70,000 cases of skin diseases, and 105,000 cases of Hepatitis A, all exacerbated by severe water and sanitation issues.<sup>31</sup>

**Seventy percent of medications and 83% of health supplies have been depleted from stockpiles.**<sup>32</sup> About 50% of essential medicines are unavailable in Gaza, and primary health-care centers are critically low on insulin. Routine vaccines, including Bacille Calmette-Guérin for tuberculosis and DTP for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, are nearly exhausted, increasing newborn risks. On September 9, the director of the Indonesian Hospital reported that the facility had to suspend several services due to severe diesel fuel shortages. The Palestine Red Crescent Society also noted that its teams in Gaza and North Gaza governorates are operating at minimal capacity due to critical fuel shortages that have persisted for nearly three weeks.<sup>33</sup>

As of September 12, out of over 14,000 patients for whom medical evacuation has been requested since October 2023, just over 5,000 — approximately 35% — have been successfully evacuated abroad. **Since the closure of the Rafah crossing in May 2024, only 219 patients have been permitted to leave Gaza by Israeli authorities.**<sup>34</sup>

The third and final phase of the **polio vaccination campaign** took place in northern Gaza from September 10 to 12. Over 231 teams were deployed across the North Gaza and Gaza governorates, successfully immunizing 112,311 children during this three-day effort. The first round of the campaign has officially concluded, with the second round scheduled to begin in four weeks to administer the second vaccine dose. Following the successful completion of four days of vaccination in southern Gaza on September 8, five health facilities continue offering polio vaccines to ensure no child is overlooked. As of

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<sup>30</sup> [Attacks on Health dashboard. August 2024 | Health Cluster](#)

<sup>31</sup> [UN Geneva Press Briefing - 30 August 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #220 | Gaza Strip](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip. September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sudan, Ukraine, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

September 13, over 560,000 children under ten years old have been vaccinated against polio in this emergency campaign.<sup>35</sup>

A WHO analysis of trauma rehabilitation needs in Gaza as of July 2024 found that at least **22,500 people, or 25% of total injuries, require ongoing rehabilitation**, primarily for significant extremity injuries, with estimates ranging from 13,455 to 17,550, mostly involving lower limb injuries. There are estimated to be **3,105 to 4,050 limb amputations**, compounded by a lack of operational prosthetic and orthotic services. Additionally, around 2,000 individuals are expected to suffer from spinal cord and severe traumatic brain injuries, facing increased risks due to disrupted rehabilitation services. The number of burn injuries requiring rehabilitation is at least 2,000, exacerbated by displacement and increased fire risks. Furthermore, **the demand for assistive products such as wheelchairs and crutches far exceeds the available supply**, with essential stocks exhausted. The existing rehabilitation infrastructure has been severely damaged, and many rehabilitation professionals have been displaced, while tens of thousands of individuals with pre-existing conditions also lack access to critical services.<sup>36</sup>

Health partners are struggling to access health facilities in northern Gaza, which are at risk of becoming non-functional due to severe fuel and supply shortages. Persistent obstacles at the Kerem Shalom crossing are causing widespread shortages of medical supplies throughout the Gaza Strip. Additionally, the absence of a systematic mechanism for the medical evacuation of critically ill and injured patients from Gaza is leading to a growing waiting list and worsening clinical conditions for many patients.<sup>37</sup>

## Education

Officially, the Ministry of Education opened the new school year on September 9 amidst closures and ongoing hostilities against the people of Gaza and the West Bank. Over 600,000 students in Gaza are deprived of their right to continue their education. Some 90% of the 307 government school buildings are destroyed. Beyond Gaza, the situation facing education systems in Jerusalem, Area C of the West Bank, and other city centers and refugee camps, remains challenging, as evidenced by the recent attacks in Jenin, Tulkarem, and their camps.<sup>38</sup>

Over 10,000 students were killed, 15,000 were injured, and 19,000 were forced to leave Gaza, while 400 teachers were killed in Gaza over the past year. Due to these conditions,

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<sup>35</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #217 | Gaza Strip. OCHA](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Estimating Trauma Rehabilitation Needs in Gaza using Injury Data from Emergency Medical Teams. July 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 19 August - 1 September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>38</sup> [The Ministry of Education: "The school year will begin tomorrow, and despite the ongoing hostilities, the march of education will continue." September 2024 | MoE](#)



39,000 students were unable to take their final secondary exams, and 58,000 children were prevented from starting their first grade.<sup>39</sup> UNRWA operates nearly 200 schools in Gaza, all of which have been closed since October due to the ongoing hostilities. Many of these schools are currently being used as shelters.<sup>40</sup>

The Education Cluster reported that evacuation orders issued between June and August led to the closure of 31 temporary learning spaces in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis, affecting 3,979 students and resulting in the loss of educational opportunities.<sup>41</sup>

Since October 7, 2023, about **782,000 students have been impacted by access restrictions, Israeli operations, and settler-related violence in the West Bank**. Currently, at least 58 schools — 50 in Area C and eight in East Jerusalem — serving approximately 6,500 students are facing pending demolition or stop-work orders.<sup>42</sup>

## Humanitarian Aid

In the first two weeks of September, only 37 out of 94 planned humanitarian missions coordinated with Israeli authorities for northern Gaza were facilitated, representing a mere 39%. Only 50% of the 243 coordinated humanitarian movements in southern Gaza were successfully carried out. **OCHA has been unable to access northern Gaza for 28 days**. Aid convoys face life-threatening conditions, including being fired upon or delayed for hours in war-affected zones.<sup>43</sup> In August, 46% of coordinated humanitarian efforts in Gaza faced denials or obstacles, marking it the most challenging month for humanitarian access since January 2024.<sup>44</sup>

Humanitarian access in Gaza remains severely hindered, with mission denials by Israeli authorities nearly doubling in August compared to July (105 vs. 53). Contributing factors include ongoing hostilities, lack of internal security, attacks on aid convoys, unexploded ordnance, destroyed roads, and challenging conditions at Israeli checkpoints. The facilitated missions in southern Gaza dropped by 28%, from 250 to 179 in August. Mission denials rose by 140% in northern Gaza, from 30 to 72.<sup>45</sup>

Aid operations in Gaza are severely impacted by network outages, with local mobile network operators and internet service providers facing challenges due to movement restrictions, damaged infrastructure, and a lack of fuel and spare parts. The Emergency

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<sup>39</sup> [A new school year begins amid the ruins of an unfinished one. September 2024 Ministry of Education](#)

<sup>40</sup> [UNRWA. September 2024](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #208 | Gaza Strip. August 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #219 | West Bank. September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General. September 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>44</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #221 | Gaza Strip. September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip. September 2024 | OCHA](#)

Telecommunications Cluster is also facing difficulties due to restrictions on importing equipment. Since October 7, 2023, only limited imports have been approved by Israeli authorities. The limited communication services disrupt humanitarian aid delivery and pose risks for Gaza residents in accessing services and receiving evacuation orders.<sup>46</sup>

On September 9, a team of twelve UN staff members, with their movement fully coordinated with the Israeli Defense Forces and details shared in advance, was en route to North Gaza to support the third phase of the Gaza Strip-wide polio vaccination campaign. At a checkpoint, the convoy was held at gunpoint while senior UN officials negotiated with Israeli authorities to de-escalate. Two staff members were eventually questioned and released. After seven and a half hours at the checkpoint, the convoy returned to base without completing its mission.<sup>47</sup> The World Food Programme also announced that it has temporarily suspended staff movements after one of its convoys was attacked on August 28.<sup>48</sup>

## Food Security and Livelihoods

The military operations have severely impacted Gaza's agricultural sector, with **damage or destruction affecting 80% to 96% of agricultural assets** by early 2024. This includes vital elements such as irrigation systems, livestock farms, orchards, farmland, machinery, storage facilities, and research stations.<sup>49</sup> On August 30, UNOSAT and FAO released the Gaza Strip Cropland Damage Analysis. The assessment revealed that 68% of permanent crop fields showed a significant reduction in health and density in August 2024, compared to the average of the previous seven years. The analysis also noted a 4% rise in cropland damage since the last assessment in July 2024. Additionally, Deir Al Balah Governorate experienced a 5% increase in damage to orchards, other trees, field crops, and vegetables since July 2024. In the Gaza Governorate, cropland destruction increased from 73% in July 2024 to 75% in August 2024.<sup>50</sup>

In July, the amount of humanitarian food assistance entering southern Gaza was one of the lowest since October 2023, when a complete siege was imposed.<sup>51</sup> In August, more than one million people in south and central Gaza received no food rations. For September, families will receive only one food parcel, resulting in two food parcels per month per family, with wheat flour prioritized for bakeries. As of September 2, 14 bakeries supported by humanitarian partners were operational in Gaza, including four in Gaza City, two in Jabalia, seven in Deir Al Balah, and one recently reopened in Khan

<sup>46</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #215 | Gaza Strip, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Mr. Muhannad Hadi on the security incident affecting a UN convoy at Al Rashid Checkpoint in Gaza, September | OCHA](#)

<sup>48</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #211 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>49</sup> [Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory Note by the UNCTAD secretariat](#)

<sup>50</sup> [UNOSAT - FAO Gaza Strip Cropland Damage Assessment - August 2024 | UNOSAT & FAO](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #208 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

Younis after almost eight months of closure due to hostilities. Israeli evacuation orders have led to approximately 70 kitchens suspending or relocating their cooked meal services. Consequently, **about 450,000 cooked meals were provided daily by 130 kitchens by the end of August**, a 35% decrease from the 700,000 meals supplied by over 200 kitchens in early July.<sup>52</sup>

The World Food Program reported that on September 14, five out of six bakeries ceased operations for 12 hours due to fuel shortages. Four bakeries resumed limited operations the following day after the WFP reallocated reserve fuel from its warehouse in northern Gaza. One bakery remains closed, and the fuel supply would last only two more days at this reduced capacity. If fuel is not allowed into the north, all five remaining bakeries will be forced to shut down.<sup>53</sup>

The energy crisis is expected to worsen with winter, forcing displaced families to burn wood from waste, which impacts food preparation and exacerbates health and environmental issues. In northern Gaza, a three-month halt in commercial supplies has caused severe shortages of protein sources and high vegetable prices. Animal feed and veterinary material shortages affect local meat and dairy production, while the lack of seeds and fertilizers hinders agricultural recovery. Limited humanitarian supplies and warehouse access complicate the transport and storage of nutrition supplies, and continuous displacement disrupts access to nutrition sites and service delivery, making it difficult to monitor and address malnutrition, particularly among children.<sup>54</sup>

A UNICEF assessment conducted in July found that only 1% of children in northern Gaza and 6% in the south received the recommended dietary diversity. Foods such as meat, fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and eggs were largely inaccessible. In July, the number of children diagnosed with acute malnutrition through mid-upper arm circumference screenings increased by over 300% in northern Gaza and by 156% in the south compared to May. 14,750 children aged 6-59 months were diagnosed with acute malnutrition out of 239,580 children screened since January 2024. The Nutrition Cluster reported that between 9% and 10% of pregnant and breastfeeding women screened in June and July were found to be acutely malnourished.<sup>55</sup>

The World Food Programme faces significant challenges in Gaza due to intensifying conflict, damaged roads, and limited border crossings, resulting in reduced food aid deliveries. In the past two months, WFP has only been able to bring in half of the required food assistance, leading to smaller food parcels for families amid ongoing hunger. WFP is warning that the **deteriorating roads will become impassable**

<sup>52</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #214 | Gaza Strip, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>53</sup> [Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, September 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 19 August - 1 September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>55</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #208 | Gaza Strip, August 2024 | OCHA](#)

**with the upcoming rainy season**, making it critical to repair them to ensure continued food deliveries. Most Palestinians in Gaza are displaced and living in vulnerable conditions, heightening concerns about disease outbreaks.<sup>56</sup>

Disruptions to productive activities, delays in deliveries, and trade interruptions have resulted in shortages of essential imports, including food and production inputs, which have fueled inflationary pressures. After the October 2023 shock, consumer prices in Gaza rose by 33% in the fourth quarter of 2023 — food prices increased by 39%, while fuel and gas prices surged by 143%. According to PCBS data, inflation in Palestine reached 6% in 2023, with 4.8% in the West Bank and 9.7% in Gaza. Consequently, household welfare has been undermined by higher prices, increasing unemployment, and declining incomes, impacting poverty and food insecurity.<sup>57</sup>

## Water and Sanitation

On August 26, Israeli forced evacuation orders in Deir Al Balah resulted in the loss of access to 15 out of 18 groundwater wells, resulting in a 75% reduction in groundwater production, from 12,000 to 3,000 cubic meters per day for the remainder of the month. From August 19 to September 1, the Gaza Strip produced an average of 114,901 cubic meters of water daily, about 30% of the potential production capacity of 378,500 cubic meters. This shortfall left hundreds of thousands of people with insufficient water resources. Additionally, water is lost due to infrastructure leaks, damage, and spillage during transport and at collection points. Fuel shortages and persistent traffic congestion in the Mawasi area, where many internally displaced persons reside, further hindering the efficiency of water distribution.<sup>58</sup>

Since October 2023, the destruction in Gaza has included 97 water wells, 13 primary sewage pumps, 57 generators for wells, 204 waste collection vehicles, and 255,000 meters of water and sewage lines. **As winter approaches, the significant damage to rainwater and sewage networks could lead to severe flooding, particularly in Jabalia Camp and Beit Lahia**, where humanitarian needs are already immense.<sup>59</sup>

The WASH Cluster has raised concerns about the dramatic rise in the cost of essential hygiene items in Gaza. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, **the price of soap increased by 1,177% and shampoo by 490%** in July compared to the previous year. The WASH Cluster warns that the lack of affordable hygiene products

<sup>56</sup> [Food operations in Gaza face growing challenges as ongoing conflict keeps hunger needs high. August 2024 | WFP](#)

<sup>57</sup> [Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory Note by the UNCTAD secretariat](#)

<sup>58</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #214 | Gaza Strip. September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>59</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #212 | Gaza Strip. September 2024 | OCHA](#)

and limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities pose a growing risk to health, particularly for displaced families in overcrowded shelters and displacement sites. Critical facilities such as health centers, community kitchens, child-protection spaces, nutrition centers, and schools struggle to maintain safe and sanitary conditions. These challenges are expected to worsen with the onset of winter.<sup>60</sup>

Transportation of essential items to northern Gaza, crucial for managing flooding in stormwater basins, is being repeatedly blocked by Israeli authorities. Fuel accessibility issues severely affect operations, with fuel stations for solid waste management and previously deconflicted temporary dumping sites largely inaccessible. A significant shortage of personal protective equipment for solid waste collection workers also exists. Additionally, the flow of water from the main transmission line from Israel is at 80% of capacity, with several critical water facilities recently lost, necessitating urgent repairs to restore total capacity.<sup>61</sup>

## Anera's Response

Since October 7, Anera has launched its most extensive emergency intervention in Gaza. The organization has distributed over **40.5 million meals**, including food parcels, fresh produce, hot meals, and bread. Anera delivered **978 truckloads of aid**, each carrying 14 to 15 pallets. The organization also distributed more than 6.97 million treatments of medicines, and healthcare supplies. Additionally, Anera provided 28,056 blankets, 3,058 tents, and 8,404 mattresses to displaced families. Hygiene support included 40,144 hygiene kits and 58,264 menstrual packs. Anera offered health services through 358 health clinic days, and held 466 psychosocial sessions for children, focusing on guided self-expression activities. Since Anera's last published situation report on August 22, the organization has supported the displaced population through:

**Water Distributions:** From August 22 to September 24, Anera distributed 666,815 gallons (2,525 cubic meters) of water to benefit an estimated 585,120 displaced people living in informal shelters across Deir Al Balah and Mawasi, Khan Younis. Daily deliveries ranged between 40 to 80 cubic meters, ensuring access to clean water amidst the challenging situation in Gaza. These efforts were supported by key partners, including UNICEF and Islamic Relief USA, who provided resources to sustain consistent water supplies throughout the period. The most significant distributions occurred on days when Anera delivered 60 to 80 cubic meters, helping ease the strain on shelters housing thousands of displaced individuals.

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<sup>60</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #214 | Gaza Strip, September 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>61</sup> [Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 19 August - 1 September 2024 | OCHA](#)

**Food Distributions:** Anera provided 2,423,050 meals between August 22 and September 24 through hot meals, fresh produce baskets, and food parcels, ensuring essential nutrition for displaced families facing food insecurity. Of this total, 1,018,500 hot meals were prepared and distributed across Northern Gaza, Mawasi, Khan Younis, and Deir Al Balah through Anera's network of community kitchens, also known as tekias. These meals included rice, meat, and bread, with support from donors like Islamic Relief USA, who contributed meat to enhance meal preparations. On September 24, Anera distributed 42,000 hot meals; on September 23, another 35,400 hot meals were provided to displaced families.

Additionally, Anera distributed 31,500 fresh produce baskets, supporting 900,900 meals. These baskets, containing fruits, vegetables, and other essential food items, were delivered to displaced families in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Deir Al Balah, helping ensure balanced nutrition during this extended period of displacement.

Alongside hot meals and fresh produce, Anera distributed food parcels, contributing 404,650 meals. These food parcels contained essential staples such as flour and canned goods and were supported by partners such as World Central Kitchen and the UAE, targeting displaced individuals, particularly in Northern Gaza and Gaza City.

**Health Services:** Anera's health clinics across Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah were critical in providing care to displaced populations during this time. Between August 22 and September 24, Anera's wound management and noncommunicable disease clinics treated over 4,100 patients. The Khan Younis wound management clinic saw the most significant number of patients, with regular daily services treating new injuries and follow-ups. In addition to physical healthcare, the clinics offered psychosocial support and hygiene promotion sessions, which benefitted displaced families. Clinics also diagnosed several cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, primarily among children and pregnant women, helping connect patients to urgent nutritional support.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items:** Anera distributed shelter materials and non-food items to displaced families over the past month. These distributions included tarps, mattresses, blankets, and hygiene kits, which helped improve living conditions in informal shelters. A total of 3,024 mattresses and 5,000 blankets were distributed, primarily to displaced families in the north and Gaza City, with support from MAUSA. Additionally, Anera provided 135 tarps and over 205 UNICEF hygiene kits to families living in tents, ensuring they had access to safe shelter and essential hygiene supplies. Hygiene promotion sessions accompanied these distributions, reinforcing the importance of clean water and hygiene practices to prevent disease outbreaks.

**Economic Empowerment:** On September 1, Anera launched the Ajram women empowerment intervention in northern Gaza through a women-led cash-for-work program. In this initiative, Anera provided raw materials for women to prepare and distribute pies, pastries, and other baked goods. This program provides economic opportunities for women while supporting the food needs of displaced families. Over the following weeks, this intervention successfully empowered women and contributed to the local food distribution efforts, demonstrating the value of integrating economic development into humanitarian responses.