



# Palestine Situation Report

October 25, 2024

## Background

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

## Overview

On October 7, 2024, the UN Human Rights Office expressed deep alarm over the civilian casualties caused by intensified strikes, shelling, and ground operations conducted by the Israeli military in northern Gaza as of October 6. These operations coincided with new military actions in Jabalia and additional forced displacement orders for Palestinians in the area. Reports indicated heavy Israeli airstrikes and ground shelling in Beit Lahia and Jabalia, including the Jabalia Refugee Camp. Attacks targeted residential buildings and a sports club that sheltered internally displaced persons (IDPs), resulting in numerous deaths, including children. The Israeli military repositioned troops from Rafah to encircle Jabalia, trapping residents and restricting access to essential resources. Evacuation orders compelled civilians to move south to the overcrowded humanitarian zone in Mawasi.<sup>1</sup>

On October 13, Muhannad Hadi, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, voiced serious concerns for over 400,000 people in northern Gaza facing increased pressure to evacuate southward. Since October 1, Israeli authorities have imposed severe restrictions on essential supplies, closing the Erez crossings and issuing multiple evacuation orders on October 7, 9, and 12. Consequently, more than 50,000 Palestinians have been displaced from Jabalia, with many remaining stranded in their homes amid escalating hostilities. Hadi noted that military operations in the region have led to the closure of essential services, including water wells, bakeries, medical facilities, and shelters. This disruption has resulted in the suspension of protection services, malnutrition treatment, and temporary learning spaces, while hospitals report a surge in trauma injuries due to the bombardment.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [OHCHR Press release on the situation in North Gaza – 07 October 2024, October 2024 | UN](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Civilians in northern Gaza cut off from supplies and services critical for survival, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

A new assessment released by the UNDP and the UNESCWA predicts that poverty in Palestine will increase to 74% in 2024, impacting around 4.1 million people, including 2.61 million newly impoverished Palestinians. The report also estimates a 35% GDP for the same year, with unemployment potentially rising to 50%.<sup>3</sup>

Food security in Gaza is at a breaking point. Food aid entering Gaza has reached its lowest level in months, and commercial goods are arriving only in minimal quantities. In the north, severe restrictions have left many without access to essential food supplies, while the situation in central and southern Gaza is also critical due to insecurity, looting, and supply shortages.<sup>4</sup> If the war on Gaza continues and humanitarian assistance remains restricted, catastrophic acute food insecurity and concerning levels of acute malnutrition will persist. Many vulnerable households cannot relocate, residing in temporary camps with a staggering density of nearly 40,000 people per square kilometer. Recent evacuation orders and intensified military offensives have disrupted humanitarian operations, limiting access to food, water, and medicine. The upcoming winter season is expected to bring colder temperatures, rain, and potential flooding, further exacerbating acute malnutrition, particularly in densely populated areas at high risk of epidemics.<sup>5</sup>

## Violence in Gaza and the West Bank

### Gaza

As of October 24, the hostilities in Gaza killed 42,847 Palestinians,<sup>6</sup> including 16,735 men, 7,216 women, 13,319 children, and 3,447 elderly. The attacks injured 100,544 Palestinians,<sup>7</sup> including 27,177 men, 14,213 women, 12,561 children (and 46,331 uncategorized cases).<sup>8</sup> Among the child fatalities, 786 children were under one year of age, making up approximately 6% of the children whose full identification details have been documented by the Ministry of Health (MoH). As of October 7, 2024, the MoH reported that the hostilities killed one or both parents of 35,055 children over the past year.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [New UN report: Impacts of war have set back development in Gaza by as much as 69 years. October 2024 | UNDP](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip. October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for September - October 2024 and Projection for November 2024 - April 2025. October 2024 | IPC](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Health ministry in Gaza says war death toll at 42,847. October 2024 | Alarabiya](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Health ministry in Gaza says war death toll at 42,847. October 2024 | Alarabiya](#)

<sup>8</sup> [The Health Cluster's Unified Dashboard . October 2024](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip. October 2024 | OCHA](#)

On October 6, the Israeli military announced the launch of a military operation in Jabalia on the night of October 5. Since October 1, Israel has also intensified its siege on northern Gaza. Heavy fighting continued to be reported in and around Jabalia.<sup>10</sup> On October 20, Israeli forces struck tens of homes in Jabalia, Beit Lahia, and Beit Hanoun, according to the Palestinian Civil Defence. Despite efforts, coordination requests to rescue injured and trapped people in inaccessible areas have failed. Tens of bodies remain buried under the rubble, and dozens were still scattered in the streets of Jabalia.<sup>11</sup>

On October 13 and 14, two significant mass casualty incidents occurred in the Deir Al Balah governorate. On October 13, an Israeli shelling targeted the Al Mufti UNRWA school in An Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 22 Palestinians, including 15 children, and injuring 80 others. The school was sheltering over 6,200 IDPs. The following day, an Israeli airstrike struck the courtyard of Al Aqsa hospital, where IDPs were taking refuge,<sup>12</sup> resulting in five deaths and 65 injuries. Since March 2024, Al-Aqsa Hospital compound, supported by Médecins Sans Frontières, has endured seven attacks, including three in September. The strikes caused the tents to catch fire while people were sleeping, and the hospital treated 40 patients, among them ten children and eight women, many suffering from severe burns. Due to overwhelming demand, 25 additional patients had to be referred elsewhere.<sup>13</sup>

Between October 17 and 19, at least three mass casualty incidents occurred in North Gaza governorate. On October 17, Israeli strikes hit Abu Hussein UNRWA school, which was sheltering IDPs in Jabalia refugee camp. The attack killed 28 Palestinians and injured 160 others.<sup>14</sup> This attack marked the third time in one week that Israeli forces targeted an UNRWA school, this time in Jabalia. According to UNRWA, scores of Palestinians were killed, including many children who had sought shelter in the building.<sup>15</sup>

On October 19, Israeli airstrikes simultaneously struck several houses belonging to three families in Jabalia refugee camp, killing 33 Palestinians, including women and children. Dozens were injured, with many reported missing under the rubble. Later that day, the Israeli military hit a residential block in the Beit Lahia Project area, where five families and newly displaced individuals from Jabalia were sheltering. This attack killed 87 Palestinians, with people trapped under rubble, and over 40 others injured.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Gaza: MSF treats victims of Israeli strike on Al-Aqsa Hospital compound, October 2024 | MSF](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Philippe Lazzarini, X](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

## The West Bank

Between October 7, 2023 and October 21, 2024, Israeli military operations and settler violence killed 759 Palestinians in the West Bank, including 581 men, 165 children, and 13 women. Along with injuring 6,455 others.<sup>17</sup> Among these, Israeli forces killed 715 Palestinians, Israeli settlers killed 12, and seven cases remain unclear regarding whether the attackers were Israeli forces or settlers. During the same period, OCHA reported approximately 1,536 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, with 152 resulting in Palestinian casualties, 1,226 causing damage to Palestinian property, and 158 leading to both casualties and property damage.<sup>18</sup>

## Displacement and Shelter

### Gaza

The United Nations reports that about 1.9 million people, or nearly 90% of Gaza's population, are currently internally displaced due to the ongoing war. Many of these individuals have been displaced multiple times, with some experiencing up to 10 displacements or more throughout the war.<sup>19</sup>

Since October 6, 2024, it is estimated that more than 60,000 people were displaced from North Gaza to Gaza City. This included over 1,000 individuals, primarily women and children, who were displaced via Salah Al-Din Road to northern and western Gaza City on October 19. Additionally, approximately 4,000 people were displaced from Jabalia to Beit Hanoun, along with others relocating from an UNRWA school and two UNRWA shelters in Jabalia to Beit Lahia.<sup>20</sup> On October 11, UNFPA reported that 9,175 pregnant women in Gaza were being forced to move again due to new evacuation orders, impacting three hospitals and putting the lives of newborns in incubators and women facing pregnancy complications at serious risk.<sup>21</sup>

As of October 15, the Israeli military has issued more than 65 forced displacement orders, with five of those orders occurring since October 1, 2024. Currently, approximately 84% of the Gaza Strip is under evacuation orders, excluding any that have been revoked. October's orders impact around 70 square kilometers, which is about 19% of the Strip, and include regions previously ordered to evacuate. Initial estimates from the UN and its partners indicate that at least 75,000 people have been

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<sup>17</sup> [The Health Cluster's Unified Dashboard](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #232 | West Bank, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>19</sup> [UNRWA Situation Report #145 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, October 2024 | UNRWA](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>21</sup> [9,175 pregnant women are being forced to move again in Gaza, October 2024 | UNFPA](#)

displaced in the previous ten days, primarily from the northern areas. While only about 100 individuals have managed to move southward through the Salah Al-Din or Al Rashid roads, the recent evacuation orders affect numerous critical service facilities, including 16 health facilities, tens of WASH facilities, 28 schools sheltering IDPs, and one bakery.<sup>22</sup>

## The West Bank

A total of 285 Palestinian families, comprising 1,669 individuals, including 807 children, were displaced from Bedouin and herding communities across the West Bank due to attacks by Israeli settlers and existing access restrictions.<sup>23</sup> Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities destroyed, confiscated, sealed, or forced the demolition of 1,829 Palestinian structures across the West Bank, displacing 4,611 Palestinians, among them approximately 1,923 children. The demolished structures included 82 donor-funded buildings that had been provided as humanitarian assistance. Additionally, more than 2,800 Palestinians, including over 1,100 children, were displaced due to home demolitions during operations by Israeli forces, with the majority (89%) occurring in Jenin refugee camp and the Tulkarem and Nur Shams refugee camps in Tulkarem.<sup>24</sup>

The Peace Now organization reported that since October 2023, at least 43 new outposts—primarily agricultural farms focused on land takeover and the systematic expulsion of Palestinians—have been established, a sharp increase from an annual average of fewer than seven since 1996. Unauthorized roads, estimated to span dozens of kilometers, have been constructed to support new outposts and expand control over additional land. The Higher Planning Council advanced plans for 8,681 housing units in settlements, while 24,193 dunams were declared as "state land," accounting for nearly half of all land designated as such since the 1993 Oslo Accords. The cabinet formalized five new settlements by converting illegal outposts to official status and designated three outposts as "neighborhoods" of existing settlements. Seventy illegal outposts were recognized as eligible for funding and infrastructure, and the government doubled the Ministry of Settlement's budget, adding 302 million shekels to the Settlement Division. A further 7 billion shekels were allocated for settlement roads and 409 million for unique projects in the settlements, despite cuts to the state budget. An additional 75 million shekels were directed to illegal outposts, including 39 million for illegal shepherding farms, some linked to settler violence.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #232 | West Bank, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #230 | West Bank, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>25</sup> [War and Annexation, How the Israeli Government Changed the West Bank During the First Year of War, October 2024 | Peace Now](#)

## Health

According to the Health Cluster, of Gaza's 36 hospitals, 32 suffered damage and 19 are non-functional as of October 17. Out of 132 primary health care centers, 77 are not functioning, and 4 of the 14 field hospitals are non-operational. The hostilities resulted in over 669,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea, 1.1 million acute respiratory infections, 132,000 cases of acute jaundice, and 225,000 cases of skin diseases. The health situation deteriorated further with the identification of eight cases of acute flaccid paralysis and one cVDPV2 positive case, as well as 18 cases of suspected measles cases. Non-communicable diseases and malnutrition patients continued to suffer over the past year, with over 220,000 cases of high blood pressure and more than 2,000 cancer diagnoses each year, including 122 children. Additionally, over 485,000 people suffered from mental health disorders, 45,000 lived with cardiovascular disease, and over 60,000 had diabetes. More than 1,000 Palestinians required kidney dialysis to survive, and over 35 children died from malnutrition. Additionally, more than 5,400 patients were admitted for treatment due to severe acute malnutrition (SAM), including over 200 patients with medical complications related to SAM.<sup>26</sup>

OCHA reported that on October 18, Israeli airstrikes directly hit Al Awda and Indonesian hospitals, two of the last three hospitals operating in North Gaza governorate. In the preceding two weeks, Israeli forces urged these hospitals to evacuate, but patients had no place to go, leading to injuries among patients, medical personnel, and IDPs. The Indonesian hospital experienced power outages and supply deficiencies, which led to the deaths of two patients and forced medical staff to flee for their lives; this facility is now out of operation. Currently, Kamal Adwan Hospital is treating two-thirds of the over 370 hospitalized patients in North Gaza, mostly suffering from trauma, but it is struggling with significant shortages of beds, medications, medical supplies, and fuel.<sup>27</sup>

On October 19, Al Awda Health and Community Association reported that hospitals faced severe shortages of medical and non-medical supplies, crippling their ability to care for patients. Healthcare professionals were also displaced, worsening the medical crisis. Israeli operations specifically targeted healthcare facilities; on October 19, Al-Awda Hospital was bombed, injuring several staff members, including one in critical condition. The association called for the provision of fuel, medical supplies, and the transfer of qualified medical teams from southern Gaza to northern hospitals, which struggled to cope with increasing casualties from ongoing hostilities.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> [Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Year of Crisis - Health Cluster Overview, October 2024 | ReliefWeb.](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Attacks on hospitals in northern Gaza, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Al Awda Health and Community Association, October 2024 | Facebook](#)

On October 21, the director of Kamal Adwan reported that blood units had been exhausted and medical crews had been working tirelessly without food. Several patients succumbed to their wounds due to capacity constraints, while other injured individuals lay in the streets with no possibility of rescue. Meanwhile, communication challenges from internet outages hindered efforts to assess conditions at the Indonesian and Al Awda hospitals.<sup>29</sup> On the same day, UNRWA reported that none of their medical points were functional, noting that their medical teams were prepared but urgently needed medical supplies to provide care.<sup>30</sup>

On October 14, the second round of the polio vaccination campaign commenced in the middle area of the Gaza Strip, aiming to vaccinate around 590,000 children under ten years old with a second dose of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) over the following 12 days. This follows a successful first round from September 1-12, which vaccinated over 559,000 children, or about 95% of the eligible population. The campaign is organized by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, UNRWA, UNICEF, and other partners, as part of emergency efforts to halt a polio outbreak detected in July 2024.<sup>31</sup>

As of September 27, the health cluster recorded 1,128 attacks on health services, with 504 occurring in Gaza and 624 in the West Bank. These included 551 attacks on facilities and 779 that resulted in fatalities. Additionally, 383 health workers were detained, 551 attacks impacted health transportation, 1,000 injuries were reported, and 81 patients were detained.<sup>32</sup>

The WHO Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) September report assessed 35 hospitals in Gaza. Of these, 49% were partially functioning, 26 were partially damaged, and five were fully damaged. The bed capacity in hospitals was highly inadequate, as follows: 75% of hospitals did not have enough intensive care beds, 80% did not have maternity beds, 91% lacked incubator beds, 82% lacked general inpatient beds, and 75% had inadequate emergency room beds. Basic amenities such as sanitation and water were also lacking; 94% of hospitals had insufficient sanitation facilities, 71% lacked proper hand hygiene facilities, 76% did not have adequate water, 82% of hospitals lacked sufficient personal protective equipment, and all hospitals lacked sufficient means to implement proper environmental cleaning practices.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>30</sup> [UNRWA, October 2024 | X](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Second round of polio vaccination begins in the Gaza Strip – UNRWA, October 2024 | UNRWA.](#)

<sup>32</sup> [The Health Cluster's Unified Dashboard , September 2024](#)

<sup>33</sup> [HeRAMS Gaza SNAPSHOT SEPTEMBER 2024 | WHO](#)

The HeRAMS report highlighted that health information management systems were affected, with facility-based disease reporting systems not meeting standards in 81% of hospitals and facility-based information systems below standard in 88% of hospitals. Eighty-eight percent of hospitals lacked sufficient cold chain capacity. Power was another critical issue, with 100% of hospitals experiencing unreliable power and depending on generators. Communication and transportation capacities were also insufficient; 88% of hospitals lacked proper communication equipment, and 94% had inadequate means for patient transportation. Waste management was critically under-resourced; 94% of hospitals lacked proper waste segregation practices, 88% had inadequate disposal methods for infectious waste and sharps, 88% lacked sufficient means for the safe final disposal of infectious waste, and 71% relied on off-site disposal for collected medical waste.<sup>34</sup>

## Education

Since October 2023, approximately 19,000 children have become orphaned, with another 20,000 children unaccounted for. If classes resume in September 2025, students would have lost competencies equivalent to three to four years of schooling. This loss would prevent elementary students from achieving minimum basic literacy and numeracy. Similar learning deficits would impact higher education levels, starting from Grade 4. Based on the number of learning days lost, projections indicate that trauma and well-being effects from the current war on Gaza may result in at least an additional year of learning loss.<sup>35</sup>

By September 24, 2024, fatalities included at least 10,310 students and 410 teachers. Over 19,110 students and 2,460 teachers were injured. Hostilities had displaced at least 19,000 students by September 9. By 26 September, fatalities included more than 650 university students and 110 educators. More than 625,000 school-age children in Gaza had gone a full year without formal education, and an estimated 58,000 children could not start first grade for the 2024 academic year. By May, all 12 higher education institutions in Gaza had been destroyed or damaged, affecting 90,000 students. An August UNICEF report estimated that over one million Gazan children needed mental health and psychosocial support. By 30 March, at least 88% of school buildings (477 out of 564) had been directly hit or damaged, rising to 93% when including likely damaged schools. From November 2023 to July 2024, direct attacks against schools, 60% of which served as displacement shelters, trended upward, with 378 schools hit by

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<sup>34</sup> [HeRAMS Gaza SNAPSHOT SEPTEMBER 2024 | WHO](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Palestinian Education Under Attack in Gaza: Restoration, Recovery, Rights and Responsibilities in and through Education, September 2024 | University of Cambridge](#)



September 2024. Direct attacks continued, with ten schools affected from September 1–23.<sup>36</sup>

Before the current war on Gaza, approximately 13% of children aged 5 to 17 in Palestine had at least one functional disability, but only 25% reported that schools met their needs. Additionally, 76.4% lacked public transportation access, contributing to a 71% illiteracy rate among disabled individuals and 43% of children with disabilities aged 3-17 being out of school. Challenges for children and young people with disabilities have intensified due to inaccessible shelters, loss of assistive devices, and lack of essential services. Since the current war began, over 10 children per day have lost one or both legs. The full extent of new physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities among children remains unknown due to the health system's collapse and ongoing displacement. Severe restrictions by Israeli authorities on goods entering Gaza have left assistive devices unavailable, isolating children with disabilities. It is estimated that around 12% of children in Gaza may develop stuttering and other communication-related issues during this war. The war on Gaza has severely affected over 690,000 menstruating women and adolescent girls in Gaza, who lack essential supplies for menstrual hygiene and water. Reports show that 95% of girls cannot use toilets safely during displacement. Poor menstrual health and hygiene access hinder their education and well-being, while inadequate space and security in shelters further exacerbate these challenges.<sup>37</sup>

## Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian access across the Gaza Strip remains critically limited, particularly for aid missions trying to reach over 400,000 people in the North Gaza (175,000) and Gaza governorates (256,000). From October 1 to 21, of 448 planned aid movements requiring coordination with the Israeli military, 45% (201) were denied, 36% (162) were facilitated, 15% (67) were impeded, and 4% (18) were canceled due to logistical and security challenges. This includes 70 coordinated aid movements intended for North Gaza and the Gaza governorates via Al Rashid checkpoint, with only 6% ( ) successfully facilitated by Israeli authorities. Between October 6 and 21, Israeli authorities denied 29 coordination requests for critical aid missions to Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahia, impeded six, and facilitated 13. Denied movements included a critical mission to rescue approximately 40 people trapped under rubble in the Falouja area of Jabalia, which has faced repeated denials since October 18. On October 20, the transport of essential life-saving supplies, including blood, anesthesia, food parcels, and fuel to Kamal Adwan Hospital was also denied.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> [PALESTINE One year of hostilities: impact on education in Gaza, October 2024 | ACAPS](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Palestinian Education Under Attack in Gaza: Restoration, Recovery, Rights and Responsibilities in and through Education, September 2024 | University of Cambridge](#)

<sup>38</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #231 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

## Food Security and Livelihoods

### Gaza

According to the fourth Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, as of October 2024, the entire Strip was classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

Approximately 1.84 million people in the Gaza Strip faced high levels of acute food insecurity, including nearly 133,000 in catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) and 664,000 in IPC Phase 4. Acute malnutrition reached serious levels (IPC AMN Phase 3), ten times higher than before hostilities escalated. The population in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) is expected to nearly triple in the coming months. From November 2024 to April 2025, nearly 2 million people—over 90% of the population—are projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, including 345,000 (16%) in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and 876,000 (41%) in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).<sup>39</sup>

The latest assessment by the FAO and UNOSAT showed that as of September 1, 68% of Gaza's cropland—10,183 hectares (ha)—has been damaged. This marks an increase from 57% (8,660 ha) in May and 43% (6,694 ha) in February 2024. Specifically, 71% of orchards and other trees, 67% of field crops, and 59% of vegetables have suffered damage. Satellite images reveal that heavy vehicle tracks, razing, shelling, and other war-related pressures have significantly harmed Gaza's agricultural infrastructure, with 1,188 agricultural wells (53%) and 578 hectares of greenhouses (44%) affected. Khan Younis had the largest area of damaged cropland, totaling 2,589 hectares (62%), while North Gaza reported the highest proportion of damage at 78%. The Port of Gaza City has faced severe damage, resulting in the destruction of most fishing boats. Rafah has seen a sharp increase in damaged greenhouses, rising by 183% from 44 hectares in April to 124.7 hectares in September 2024, representing 28% of its total greenhouses. The livestock sector has experienced dramatic losses, with nearly 95% (about 15,000) of cattle dying and almost all calves slaughtered. Approximately 43% of sheep (less than 25,000 heads) and 37% of goats (about 3,000 heads) remain alive. The poultry sector has suffered significantly, with only 1% (approximately 34,000) of birds surviving.<sup>40</sup>

On October 13, five bakeries in Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis were forced to close due to a shortage of flour. In September, approximately 1.4 million people—nearly 70% of Gaza's total population—did not receive their monthly food rations, essential for the survival of hundreds of thousands of families.<sup>41</sup> On October 12, WFP reported that escalating violence in northern Gaza has critically impacted food security, as all main

<sup>39</sup> [Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for September - October 2024 and Projection for November 2024 - April 2025, October 2024 | IPC](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Agricultural Damage Assessment in the Gaza Strip from October 7th 2023 to September 1st 2024, October 2024 | FAO & UNOSAT](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

crossings into the area have been closed and no food aid has entered since October 1. Airstrikes and military operations have forced the shutdown of food distribution points, kitchens, and bakeries, including the last functioning bakery in northern Gaza, which was destroyed by an explosive munition. By October 12, WFP had already distributed its last remaining supplies in Gaza City and in the north. Overall, aid entering Gaza is at its lowest level in months, with WFP bringing in only 4% of the food required to sustain one million people. In southern and central Gaza, food distributions are also halted, and bakeries are struggling to secure wheat flour, with only a few hot meal kitchens providing meals to those who can access them.<sup>42</sup>

As of October 9, aid entering Gaza has dropped to its lowest level in months, leading the WFP to suspend food parcel distribution. Despite 100,000 tons of food positioned in various corridors (Jordan, Ashdod, Egypt), enough to sustain over a million people for five months, border closures and security issues have severely hindered delivery. The situation in northern Gaza is worsening, with the whole area under evacuation orders and WFP unable to reach families amid ongoing military operations.<sup>43</sup>

## The West Bank

More than 160,000 people have lost their work permits for Israel, leaving many families without income. WFP estimates that the violence and its spillover from Gaza could increase food insecurity in the West Bank, pushing at least 600,000 people into hunger, compared to 352,000 at the start of 2023.<sup>44</sup>

Since October 2023, Israeli authorities have largely restricted Palestinian access to farmlands located behind the Barrier and near Israeli settlements. In 2021, the agricultural sector produced around 108,000 tons of olives and 23,000 tons of olive oil, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. However, for the 2024 season, the Ministry of Agriculture projects a decline in production to 81,200 tons of olives and 17,700 tons of olive oil, severely affecting the families' livelihoods.<sup>45</sup>

On October 14, in a joint statement, 14 diplomatic missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah called on Israel to ensure a successful olive harvest in the West Bank, a vital economic and cultural event for Palestinians. The statement highlighted that the olive sector contributes millions of dollars annually to the Palestinian economy and supports around 90,000 families. However, violence from Israeli settlers and movement restrictions have severely impacted the harvest, leaving 96,000 dunams of olive groves unharvested in 2023. The statement urged Israel to protect Palestinian farmers, prevent settler

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<sup>42</sup> [Critical food aid lifelines into northern Gaza severed. October 2024 | WFP](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Gaza updates: Hunger deepens as aid plummets. October 2024 | WFP](#)

<sup>44</sup> [Gaza updates: Hunger deepens as aid plummets. October 2024 | WFP](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #228 | West Bank, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

harassment, and ensure access to olive groves, particularly in areas near illegal settlements.<sup>46</sup>

During this olive harvest season, Palestinian farmers across the West Bank are encountering increased risks and challenges due to access restrictions and widespread settler attacks, which significantly undermine their livelihoods and expose them to physical harm. Since the beginning of October 2024, OCHA has documented 51 settler-related incidents, occurring in 57 communities throughout the West Bank. Most of these incidents are connected to the olive harvest season, during which Israeli settlers have attacked Palestinians, prevented their access to land, and damaged trees, as well as stolen crops and harvesting tools. Between October 1 and 14, Israeli settlers have burned, sawed off, or otherwise vandalized approximately 600 olive trees and saplings around 15 communities throughout the West Bank.<sup>47</sup>

The WFP reports a 32% drop in Palestine's GDP in Q1 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023, with all sectors declining. Key sectors saw a 34% decline in mining, manufacturing, electricity, and water—27% in the West Bank and a staggering 94% in Gaza. Construction fell by 49%, while agriculture, forestry, and fishing dropped by 29% (11% in the West Bank, 93% in Gaza). From Q3 2023 to Q2 2024, Palestine's GDP decreased by 33%, dropping from \$4,018 million to \$2,690 million. The West Bank's economy shrank by 22%, while Gaza's collapsed by 86%. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) surged 51% from pre-war levels, and the unemployment rate soared to 35%, up from 13% before the war. Employment in the West Bank fell by 27%, dropping from 868,000 to 632,000. In Gaza, nearly the entire population now lives in poverty, increasing from 64% pre-war. The West Bank's short-term poverty rate more than doubled, rising from 12% to 28% by mid-2024.<sup>48</sup>

## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Gaza is experiencing a year-long power cut from Israel and Gaza's only power plant. Nearly 85% of water and sanitation facilities are currently out of service, leading to a drastic reduction in water supply, untreated wastewater discharge into the sea, and sewage leakage into populated areas.<sup>49</sup> According to the 2023 flood risk assessment and the current population distribution, many IDPs are located near flooding hotspots, raising significant public health concerns amidst the ongoing war's devastation. The Health and WASH Clusters have identified several potential public health risks related to flooding, including injuries and drowning from rapid water accumulation, disruption

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<sup>46</sup> [Diplomatic missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah call on Israel to ensure successful olive harvest for the Palestinians, October 2024 | UK in Jerusalem](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #230 | West Bank, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

<sup>48</sup> [Market Monitor - Palestine, October 2024 | WFP](#)

<sup>49</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #229 | Gaza Strip, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

of healthcare services due to the proximity of 114 out of 242 (47%) of health points to flood-prone areas, and increased waterborne diseases from contaminated supplies. Additionally, stagnant water can promote vector-borne diseases like West Nile Fever, while damaged sanitation infrastructure raises the risk of disease transmission. The potential for snakebites in agricultural regions and exacerbated mental health issues due to flooding stress further heighten the vulnerable populations' health risks.<sup>50</sup>

The military operations by Israeli forces have resulted in the destruction of over 20,000 meters of water pipelines, sewer networks, and stormwater drainage systems in the West Bank. This damage has severely strained the response capacity of WASH cluster partners, compromising access to clean drinking water, wastewater management, and solid waste disposal for nearly 92,000 people. Thousands have been left without reliable access to water and sanitation services. The WASH cluster has prepared emergency plans for water, sanitation, solid waste, and flood response, requiring an estimated \$1.8 million. They warn that limited response capacity could increase the risk of flooding, stormwater contamination, and severe public health risks, including heightened exposure to waterborne diseases.<sup>51</sup>

## Anera's Response

As of October 24, Anera has delivered vital humanitarian assistance, reaching an impressive scale. The organization has provided 43,762,384 meals, including food parcels, fresh produce, hot meals, and bread, to support the nutritional and food security needs of displaced families in Gaza.

In its logistical efforts, Anera has successfully deployed 1,046 truckloads of aid, each containing approximately 14 to 15 pallets of essential supplies. In the healthcare sector, Anera has facilitated 6,974,806 treatments, ensuring access to critical medicines and healthcare supplies for displaced Palestinians.

To enhance the living conditions of displaced individuals, Anera has distributed 28,056 blankets to provide warmth and comfort. In addressing water scarcity, the organization has delivered 1,248,741 gallons of water, alongside 8,404 mattresses to ensure proper rest and recovery.

Anera is also supporting public health and hygiene through the distribution of 40,604 hygiene kits and 58,264 menstrual packs, aimed at safeguarding the health of vulnerable populations. The organization has also conducted 436 health clinic days, offering free healthcare and treatments at or near shelters. Additionally, Anera has conducted 474

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<sup>50</sup> [Potential Flood Impact on Public Health in Gaza Strip - September 2024 | ReliefWeb](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Humanitarian Situation Update #228 | West Bank, October 2024 | OCHA](#)

psychosocial sessions, featuring guided self-expression activities for children to support their emotional well-being during this time of displacement and vulnerability.